Secretary General: Donald - Target 11. Nick Davidson, davidson@un.org.

In response to the United Nations' initiative yesterday, in paragraph 32 of SBTMT/2/Add.3, and the need for a global map of extent and distribution of wetlands, I refer to a recent Global Wetland Convention. As to the challenge of the Convention, I refer to the importance of wetlands and their unique role in the environment. The Convention provides a framework for the protection and sustainable use of wetlands, and aims to promote international cooperation and cooperation in the management of wetlands. The Convention is an important tool for achieving the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Our concern for accuracy problems in mapping wetlands is that, unlike forests, they are very dynamic and can be difficult to map. Wetlands vary greatly seasonally, and can be highly dry for significant periods. Visual imagery from satellite can completely miss such wetlands, and also greatly misleads forested wetlands as it sees them as forests. It is essential to map the wetlands accurately, and we look forward to your cooperation in mapping.

We strongly agree on the need for a better wetland mapping tool. This is a sound baseline for monitoring wetland change. A recent study estimates a reduction in 'Wetland Coverage' and a need for addressing wetland restoration towards Target 14 of the UN Decade for Action.

A comprehensive view is required to inform our upcoming 'State of the World's Wetlands' report.

But there is a fundamental approach to global wetland mapping, which is a National Wetland Inventory. But there are also national wetland, although improving. A Global Review of Wetland Inventory reported that only 7% of countries had such inventory. But in its National Reports, to Ramsar COP9, some 68% of Parties' new report on inventory. Progress - but still some way to go.

Thank you, Minister Chat.

Ramsar - 16 Oct 2013, PM Session