

Secretary Goal C:  
Ramsar - Target II

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(11)

UK - High Priority Task recog. 15.3.  
for Ramsar. 16/10

In response to the United Kingdom's intervention yesterday,

concerning paragraph 32 of SBOT/17/2/Add.3, and the lack of a  
global map of extent of wetland ecosystems, <sup>Some</sup> there are such maps  
in existence, <sup>they tend to hide a wealth of sites.</sup> but they are recognizably at too coarse a scale to  
to be sufficiently accurate for this purpose <sup>and greatly underestimate wetland extent</sup>

advances in satellite imagery, notably synthetic aperture radar (SAR) sensors,  
and Europe Space Agency's Sentinel 2 satellite.  
Improved mapping is possible but at some cost.

One reason for accuracy problems in mapping wetlands is that, unlike  
for example forests, they are <sup>at all</sup> not static and can be rather  
elusive. Many vary greatly <sup>in size</sup> seasonally, and between years, and  
can be largely dry for significant periods. Visual imagery from  
satellites can completely miss such wetlands <sup>without on the ground knowledge</sup>, and also generally  
misses forested wetlands as it sees them as forests and not  
the wet bits underneath.

And would welcome support in preparing this.

It should form a key platform for the planned Global Wetland Observing System (GWSOS)

We strongly agree on the need for ~~a~~ better wetland mapping

not just for assessing adequate representation under Target II, but  
also as a sound baseline for monitoring wetland change -

which sadly ~~remains~~ <sup>generally</sup> a <sup>evolutionary</sup> <sup>ecosystem services</sup> <sup>restoration</sup> <sup>information</sup> <sup>urgently</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>inform</sup> <sup>our</sup> <sup>upcoming</sup> <sup>'State of the World's Wetlands'</sup> <sup>report</sup>  
and a baseline for addressing wetland loss. Information which we need <sup>urgently</sup> to inform our  
upcoming 'State of the World's Wetlands' report.

But there is an alternative <sup>more 'bottom-up'</sup> approach to global wetland mapping,  
and that is <sup>through</sup> National Wetland Inventory. But that also ~~remains~~ <sup>is</sup> remains  
patchy, although improving. A 'Global Review of Wetland Inventory'  
reported that only 7% of countries had such inventory. But in  
the National Reports to Ramsar COP11 <sup>last year</sup> some 43% of Parties now  
report such inventory. Progress - but still some way to go.

Thank you, <sup>Mr.</sup> ~~Mr.~~ Chair

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