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**Side Event**  
**Conservation of Coastal Ecosystems and the**  
**development of the “Global Coastal Forum”**  
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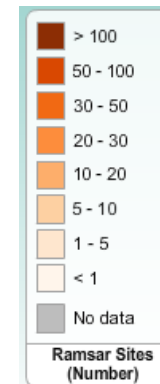
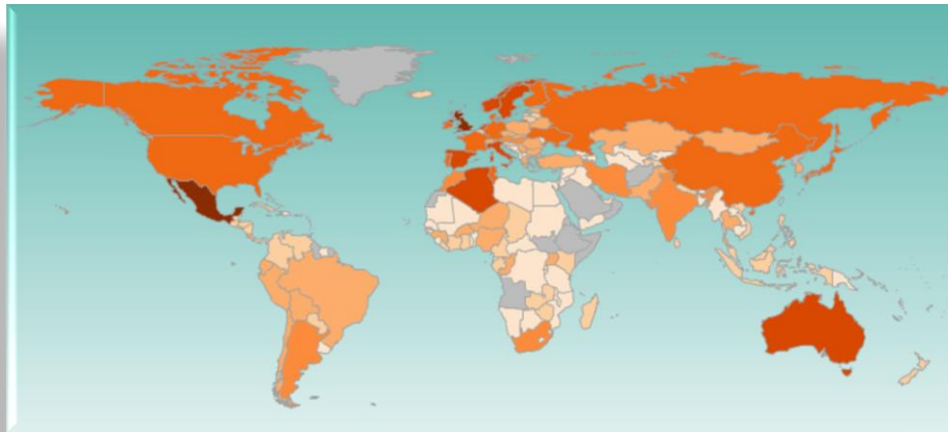


# Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, to which 169 States are now Parties, provides the global legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of all wetlands.
- These wetlands include marine and coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, tidal flats, coral reefs and sea grass meadows.
- It also includes inland wetland types such as lakes and rivers that connect our lands to our coasts and are therefore important for the health of our oceans.
- The Convention thus provides a fundamental platform from which to achieve SDG14 and its targets.



# Ramsar Sites in numbers:



**2,289**  
**Sites**  
**designated**

# Status of Coastal Wetlands

- Even that coral reefs, mangroves and other coastal wetlands provide many ecosystem services, 75% of the world's coral reefs are at risk, and 10% are already damaged beyond repair.
- Mangroves covers have declined 20% in last 25 years due mainly to conversion and coastal development and 67% of global mangroves have been lost in the past century.
- Intertidal wetlands, mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass beds are wetland types that are under-represented and vulnerable in the Convention.
- Need to reverse this trend and ensure that mangroves and coral reefs continue to provide their essential benefits to people.



# Instruments for Contracting Parties

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- Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024. In principle almost all of the Ramsar Convention's agenda is applicable to coastal zones as much as it is to inland areas (Aichi Targets and SDGs).
- Guidelines from relevant decisions adopted by the Contracting Parties over the years related on ICZM, designation of mangroves, coral reefs and other under represented coastal wetlands, fisheries resources, disaster risk reduction.
- The *Principles and Guidelines* are intended to assist Contracting Parties in ensuring that the role, values and functions of coastal wetlands are taken into account by all of those responsible.



# Instruments for Contracting Parties

- The conservation, management and restoration are thus essential components of the path to achieve SDG14 and of the whole 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- The Parties to the Convention on Wetlands have committed to reporting on the extent of their wetlands starting in 2018:
  - source of validated data to help us monitor the state of the world's wetlands
  - measure progress on the implementation of SDG14 on oceans and SDG6 on water
  - will release the Global Wetlands Outlook: State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People, at the next Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to take place in Dubai in 2018.



# Other initiatives

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## The Communities of Ocean Action

Established as one of the key outcomes of the Ocean Conference to which the Ramsar Secretariat act as the focal point for mangroves:

- Provides a crucial opportunity to follow up on the Voluntary Commitments made during the Oceans Conference in June 2017.
- Of the roughly 1,400 Voluntary Commitments, some 91 are related to the management, protection and restoration of mangroves and related ecosystems such as seagrass beds.



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# Thank you

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