the 3 pillars of the Ramsar Convention

1. **Wise Use** (sustainable use) of all wetlands through national land-use planning, appropriate policies and legislation, management actions and public education

2. designation of suitable wetlands for the [List of Wetlands of International Importance](https://www.ramsar.org/wetland-international-importance) (Ramsar Sites) and ensuring their effective management to maintain their ecological character, provide training, undertake necessary research and monitoring

3. **International Cooperation** concerning transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems (and water catchments), shared species, and development projects that may affect wetland ecosystems
the **global water cycle** maintains and links all environmental components

*Ramsar* focuses on *Aquatic, Subterranean* and *Coastal marine* ecosystems
lakes are wetlands ...

the Ramsar classification of wetland types includes:

**marine/coastal wetlands:** coastal brackish/saline and freshwater lagoons \( (J, K) \)

**inland wetlands:** permanent and seasonal/intermittant freshwater, saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats (> 8 ha) \( (O, P, Q, R) \)

**human-made wetlands:** water storage areas (reservoirs/barrages/dams/impoundments generally over 8 ha) \( (6) \)
living lakes in Eastern Europe ...

are particularly numerous in the basins of:

Baltic, White and Barents seas
Black and Mediterranean seas
Anatolian plateau
Caspian sea and Persian gulf

Eastern Europe is arguably among the World’s regions most rich in lakes
lake ecosystem services

**provisioning:**
drinking water supply, fisheries, energy reservoir

**regulating:**
water retention, climate regulation, water purification, flood retention

**cultural:**
leisure, recreation, education, tourism, sport

**supporting:**
nutrient cycling, landscape, well-being
the need to pay for lake ecosystem services

**a step-wise approach:**

- identify services provided by our lake
- assess the costs to maintain them
- compare with the costs for technical solutions (for some services no technical solutions may be possible)
- value the lake ecosystem services
- establish payment schemes (public, private, public-private)
need for a catchment basin approach:
water quantity management (inflows, outflow, level)
water quality management (pollution, eutrophication, agriculture, urban, industrial)

changing climate: lake water stratification and mixing

the waterbody and its surroundings:
lake use management (fisheries, sports, transport, sanctuaries without disturbance)
lake shore management
healthy lake ecosystems make human societies healthy

Lake ecosystems have limits, often poor sanitation, industrial waste, excessive sewage inflow, and agricultural runoff surpass the cleansing capacity of lakes.

The costs of poor management can be high, thus management has to support both the health of lake ecosystems and the health of humans.

Closer cooperation between lake ecologists, water managers and health researchers is needed.
Ramsar Site criterias for lakes:

- representative, rare or unique examples
- important for biodiversity (endemics)
- threatened animals and plants
- hosting regularly 20’000 or more waterbirds
- hosting >1% of any biogeographical animal population
- important feeding, fraying, nursery, growing area for fish

designate lakes for the Ramsar List
### Ramsar Handbooks

17 volumes
(english, français, español)

available on CD

or directly via Internet:

www.ramsar.org/lib/lib_handbooks2006_e.htm

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working together for healthy living lakes

- firmly establish the regional lake network
- expand it to cover all 19 countries of Eastern Europe
- bring lake experience into the global Convention

6th European Ramsar Meeting **Stockholm** 3-7 May 2008
> special session on living lakes <