

12th International Living Lakes Conference
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Lakes, Climate Change and the key role of the Ramsar Convention



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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)*



Worldwide...

1759 Wetlands of international importance
(At least 30% under the classification of Lakes)



Ramsar Sites



Living Lakes



Some examples:

Europe: Balaton, Baikal, Constance, Nava, Peipsi, Uluabat

Africa: Saint Lucia, Victoria

Americas: Titicaca, Pantanal

Asia: Biwa, Maduganga, Tengiz

...will become Ramsar Sites?

Lake Bolsena, Garda, Maggiore, Orta, Pidiluco, Trasimeno, Vico

Lake ecosystem services...

provisioning:

drinking water supply, fisheries, energy reservoir

regulating:

water retention, climate regulation, water purification,
flood retention

cultural:

leisure, recreation, education, tourism

supporting:

nutrient cycling



Effects of climate change...

Wetlands are the most vulnerable ecosystems

- **changes:**

- in distribution of water
- in physical, chemical, biological water properties
- species distribution

- **Loss of biodiversity and proliferation of invasive species**

- **increase of :**

- people vulnerability
- water abstraction
- general pressure on wetlands



Addressing the problem...

Wetlands are critically important for mitigation and adaptation to Climate Change

- **First Priority:** Reduce the vulnerability of wetlands and surrounding human settlements
- **Second Priority:** Protect and restore ecosystems that provide critical resources and services
- **Third Priority:** Close the gap between water supply and demand, achieve **high efficiency** in water resources management

The Ramsar Convention responds...

The Ramsar Scientific Technical Review Panel (STRP)

Draft Resolution X.24 to COP10 « It encourages Parties to ensure that the value of wetlands in Climate Change mitigation and adaptation is recognized... »

Joint Liaison Group (JLG)

between UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD and Ramsar

The Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG)

between CBD, Ramsar, CMS, CITES and WH Convention

Restoration Projects: Ramsar, the International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN) and Danone



Thank you! Grazie!

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watch this space: www.ramsar.org

