

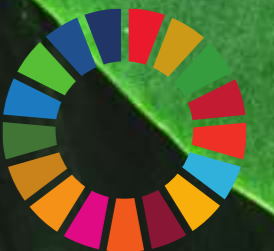
# Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Why does it matter for Development Cooperation?

Dr. Musonda Mumba  
Secretary General Convention  
on Wetlands

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SDC Learning Journey

21 March 2024



# Lets Talk about the Value of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

**Ecosystem Services:** are the direct and indirect contributions ecosystems (known as natural capital) provide for human wellbeing and quality of life.









# Tourism and Science





**Science - Climate Regulation, Provisioning Services  
Rwenzori Mountain, Uganda**



# Lesotho Highlands







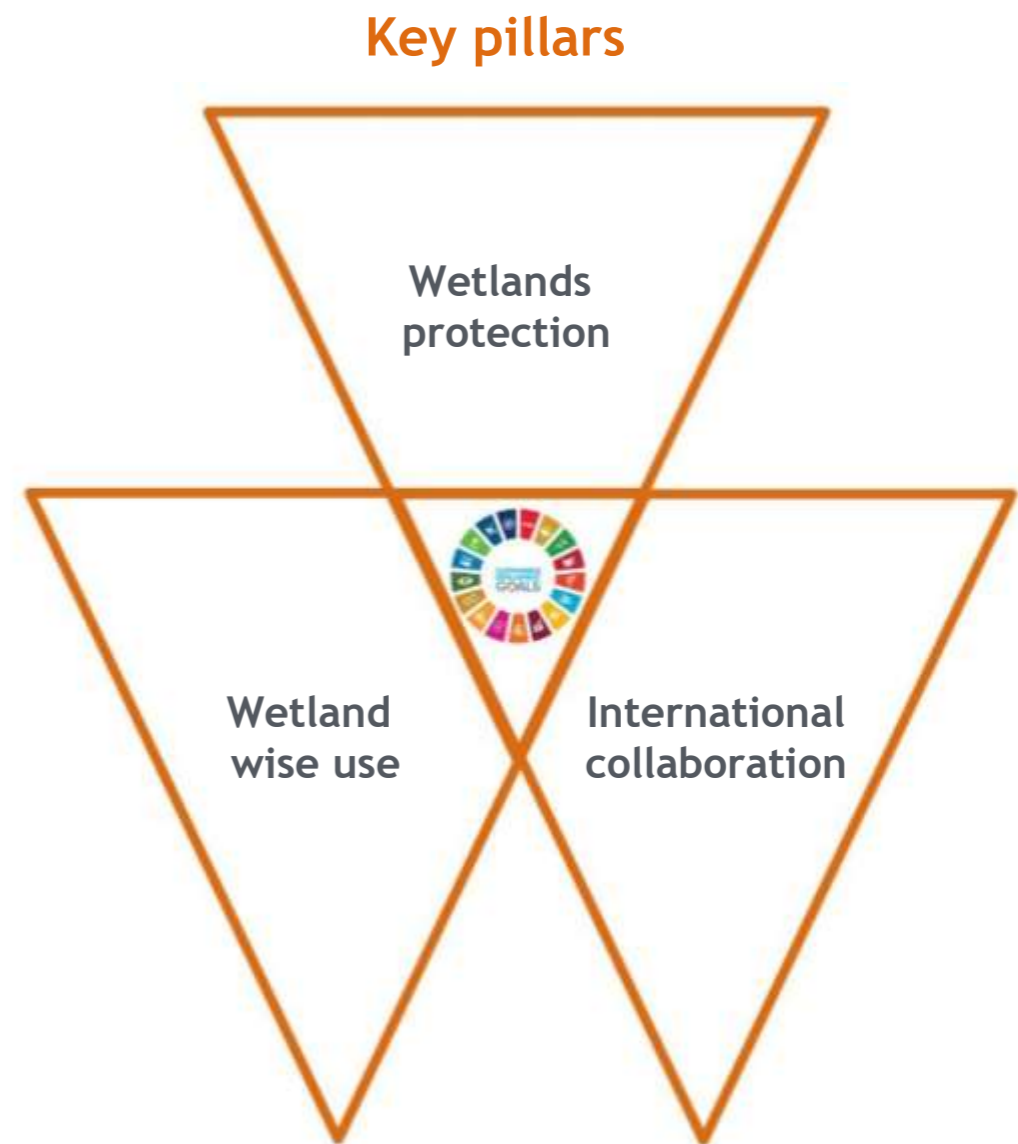
**Johannesburg - Gauteng Province  
South Africa**



# Introduction to the Convention on Wetlands

**172 Contracting Parties committed to the protection and sustainable use of wetland ecosystems**

- Est 1971: Oldest Multilateral Environmental Agreement
- International framework and commitment to protect all wetlands
- Largest network of protected areas  
Parties designate Wetlands of International Importance: over 2,500 sites, more than 2.6 million Km<sup>2</sup> to date
- Critical contributions for all SDGs





# What are wetlands?



Land areas that are flooded with water, either seasonally or permanently



Inland wetlands: marshes, ponds, lakes, fens, rivers, flood plains and swamps



Coastal wetlands: mangroves, saltwater marshes, estuaries, lagoons - even coral reefs



Man-made wetlands include fish ponds, saltpans, rice paddies



# Wetlands sustain life



Drinking water

Flood protection

Jobs

Food Production

Climate regulation

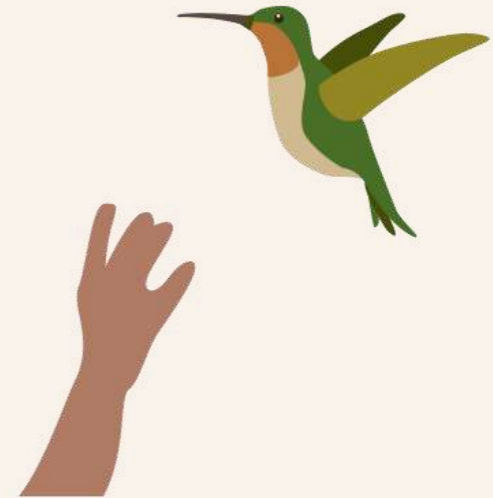
Biodiversity



# World Wetlands Day

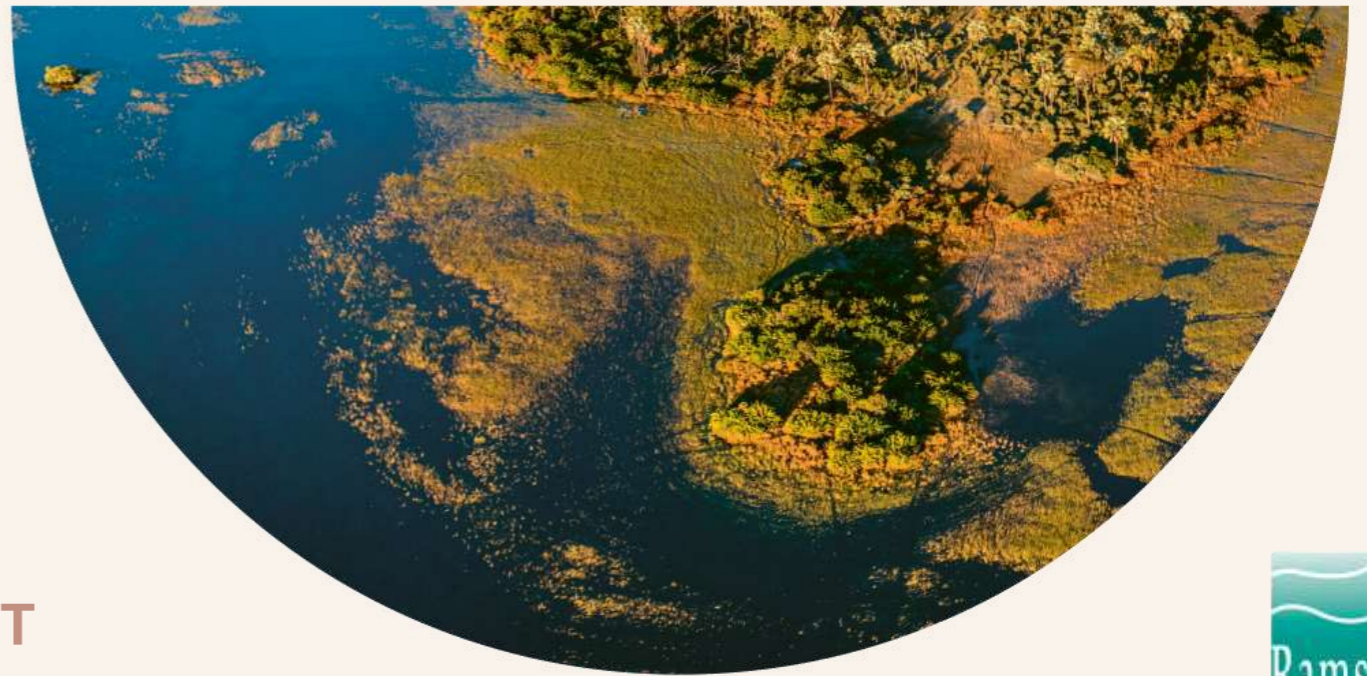
2 February 2024

Wetlands and Human Wellbeing



# Life interlaced Wetlands and people

CARE – NURTURE – SUPPORT





# Wetlands: our most valuable ecosystem

Wetlands provide almost all the world's freshwater

- Wetlands maintain the global water cycle, removing harmful waste and purifying sources
- With global water insecurity set to affect 52% of the global population by 2050, protecting wetlands is critical to all SDGs
- Degradation - land use change has been the largest driver of wetland loss since 1970. Agriculture has damaged more than half of wetlands of international importance.





# Wetlands: our most valuable ecosystem

Wetlands are our most powerful solution for overcoming the climate emergency

- Largest terrestrial and most efficient carbon stores
- Peatlands store 30% of the world's soil carbon
- Stopping and reversing wetland loss is critical to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement





# Wetlands: our most valuable ecosystem

They are the most biodiverse ecosystems

- Wetlands cover just 7% of the earth's surface, but host 40% of species
- Since 1970, 81% of inland wetland species and 36% of coastal and marine species have declined
- 25% of wetlands dependent species face threat of extinction





# Wetlands: our most valuable ecosystem

Wetlands offer unmatched opportunities for delivering on global commitments relating to biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development...





# Implementing the Convention on Wetlands for achieving all SDGs

## SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

The Ramsar Convention works in partnership with other MEAs to support governments in achieving the SDGs.

## SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Effective management of transboundary wetlands contributes to peace and security.

## SDG 15 – LIFE ON LAND

40% of all the world's species live and breed in wetlands.

## SDG 14 – LIFE BELOW WATER

Healthy and productive oceans rely on well functioning coastal and marine wetlands.

## SDG 13 – CLIMATE ACTION

Peatlands cover only 3% of global land but store twice as much carbon as the entire world's forest biomass.

## SDG 12 – RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

Wetland areas properly managed can sustainably support increased demands for water in all sectors.

## SDG 11 – SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES

Urban wetlands play a vital role in making cities safe, resilient and sustainable.

## SDG 10 – REDUCED INEQUALITY

Healthy wetlands mitigate the risk to an estimated 5 billion people living with poor access to water by 2050.

## SDG 9 – INDUSTRY, INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Healthy wetlands form a natural buffer against the increasing number of natural disasters.

## SDG 1 – NO POVERTY

More than a billion people depend on wetlands for a living.

## SDG 2 – ZERO HUNGER

Rice, grown in wetland paddies, is the staple diet of 3.5 billion people.

## SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH & WELL BEING

Half of international tourists seek relaxation in wetland areas, especially coastal zones.

## SDG 4 – QUALITY EDUCATION

Safe water access enhances educational opportunities, especially for girls.

## SDG 5 – GENDER EQUALITY

Women play a central role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water.

## SDG 6 – CLEAN WATER & SANITATION

Almost all of the world's consumption of freshwater is drawn either directly or indirectly from wetlands.

## SDG 7 – AFFORDABLE & CLEAN ENERGY

Sustainable upstream water management can provide affordable and clean energy.

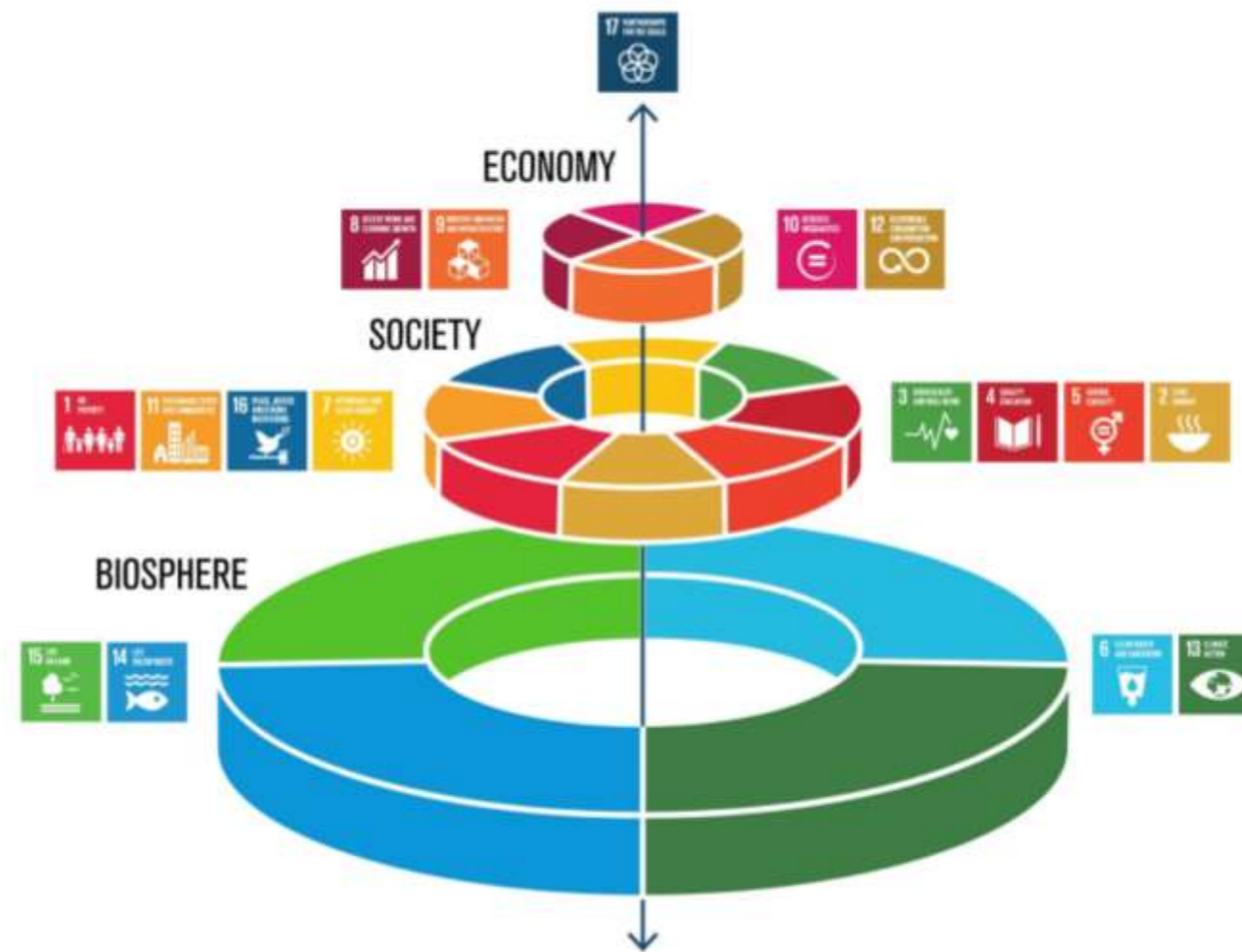
## SDG 8 – DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH

Wetlands sustain 266 million jobs in wetland tourism and travel.





# A healthy biosphere is the foundation of sustainable development







**The Interconnectedness of  
Wetland Ecosystems with the wider landscape**



# Examples from the Field





Mexico









Texicoco Ramsar Site



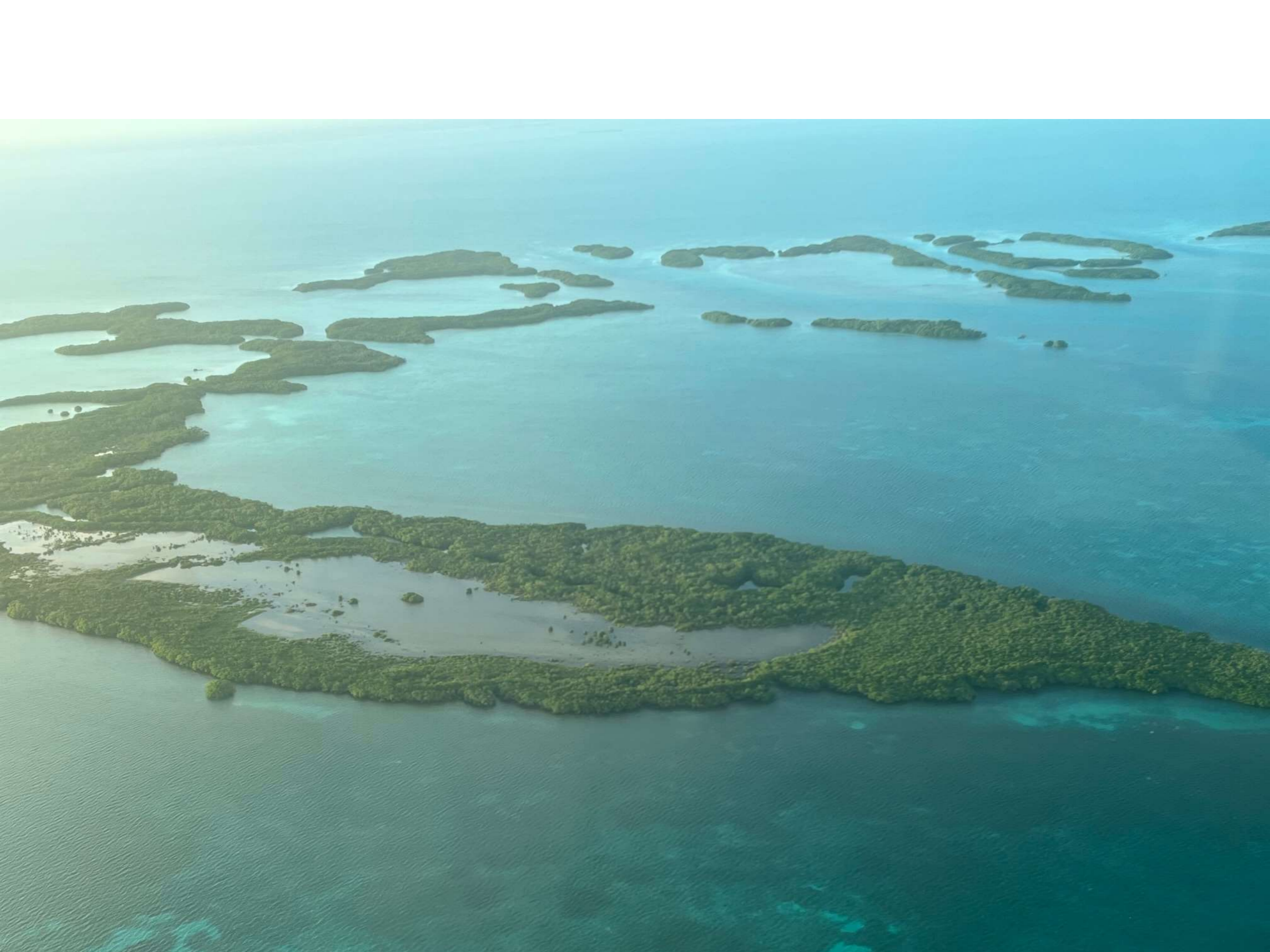




# Belize













# Uzbekistan





# The Silk Road



ITALY

GREECE

Istanbul

TURKEY

EGYPT

Damascus

Baghdad

Tehran

Baku

TBILISI

SIGHNAGHI & KVEMO MAGHARO

KHIVA

BUKHARA

SAMARKAND

IRAN

Balkh

TASHKENT

MATHURA

INDIA

SARNATH

Kashgar

TURPAN

DUNHUANG

JIAYUGUAN

TIANSHUI

ZHANGYE

XI'AN

CHINA

MONGOLIA

BLACK SEA

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

ARABIAN SEA

BAY OF BENGAL



# Tudakul Lake Ramsar Site

## Why connectivity matters





**Kazakhstan**

Syr Darya  
River

**Aral  
Sea**



**Kazakhstan**

**Uzbekistan**

50 m

50 km

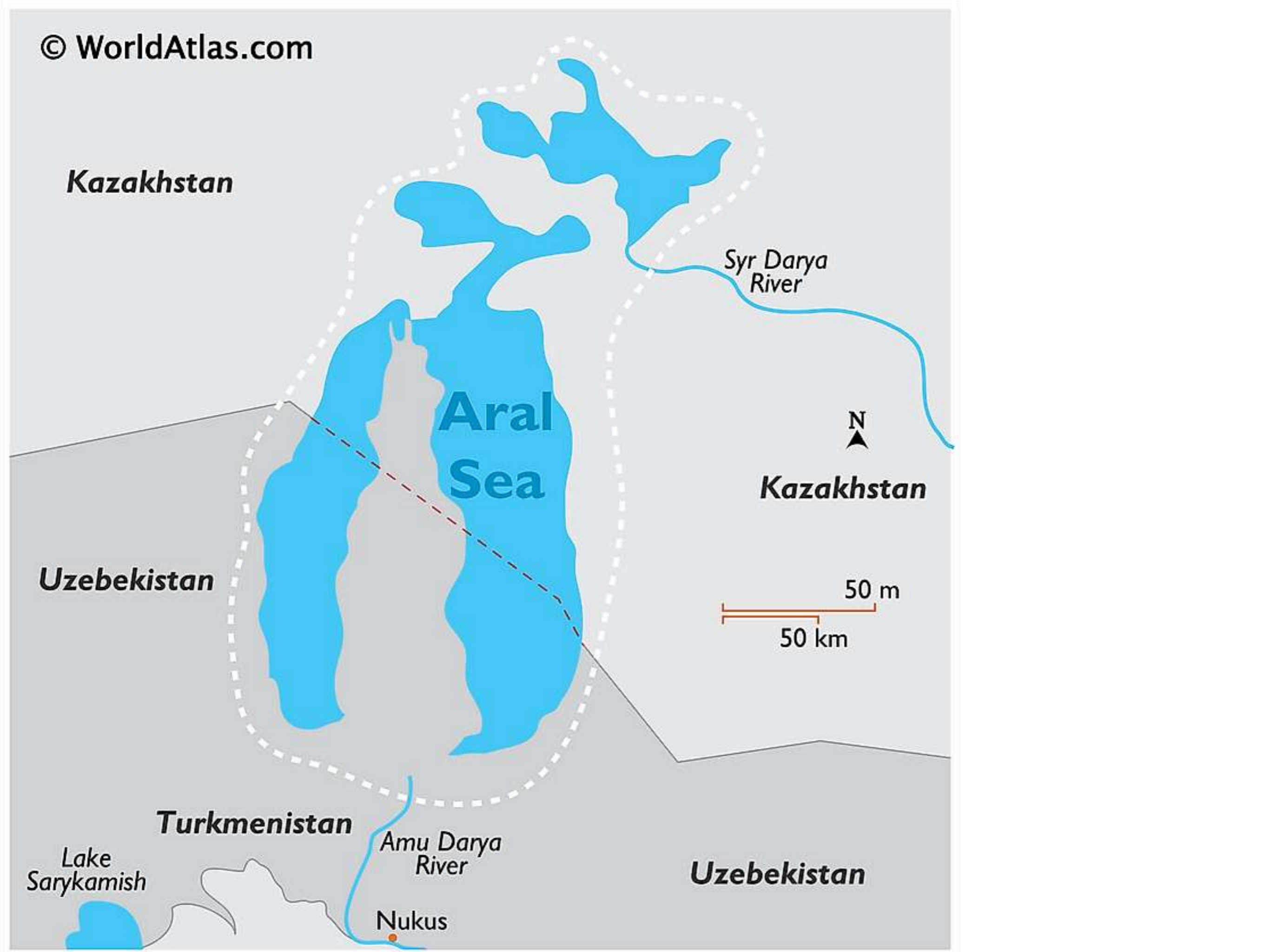
**Turkmenistan**

Lake  
Sarykamish

Amu Darya  
River

**Uzbekistan**

Nukus













**What is the TRUE Value  
and cost of Losing an/any  
Ecosystem Service(s)?**

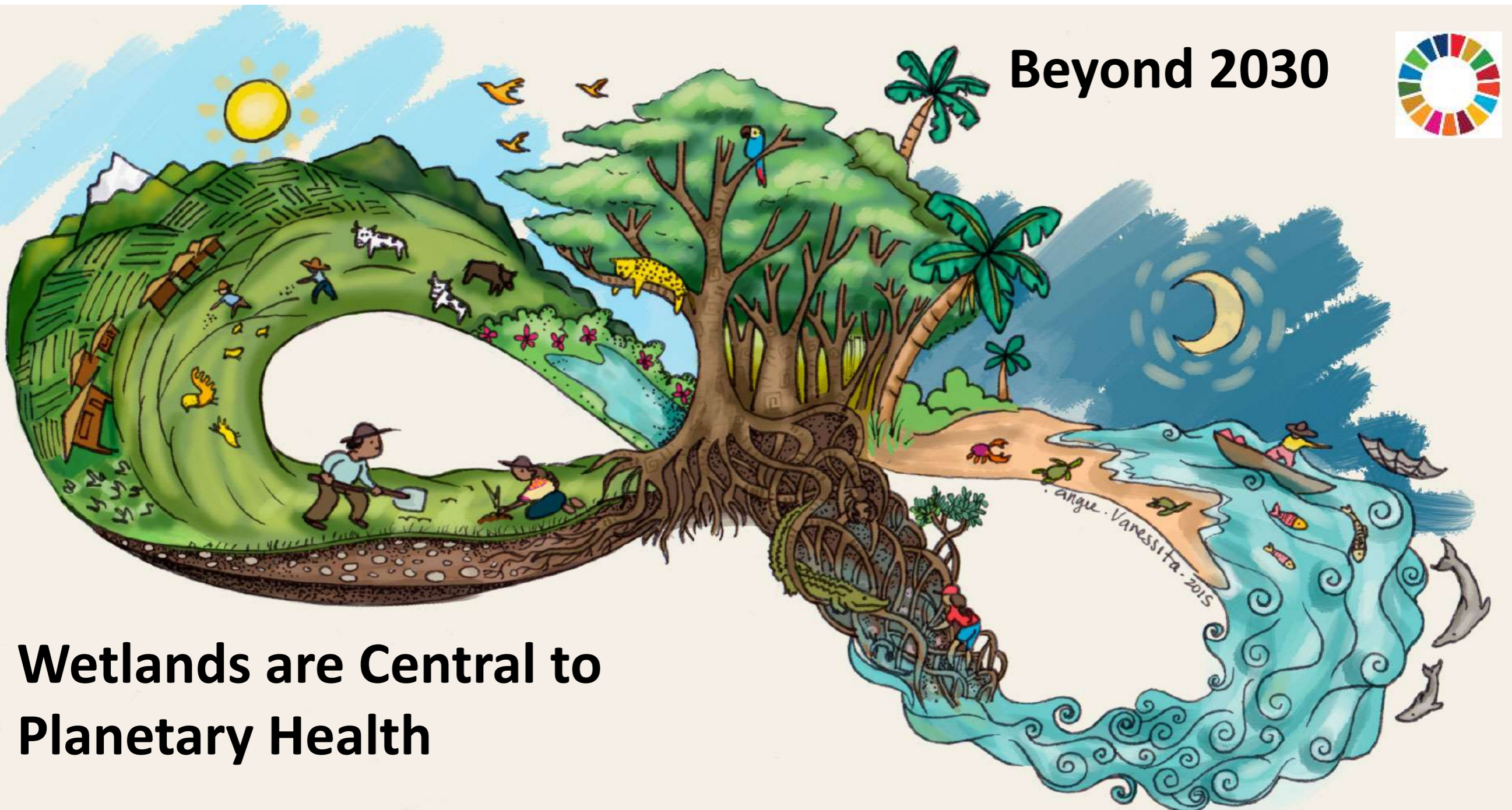


# Why the Multilateral Process matters for all Rio Conventions and BEYOND





**Beyond 2030**



**Wetlands are Central to  
Planetary Health**