Ramsar
Convention
on Wetlands

Why wetlands matter, a global perspective

Dr Flore Lafaye de Micheaux
Senior advisor for Europe
Secretariat, Convention on Wetlands

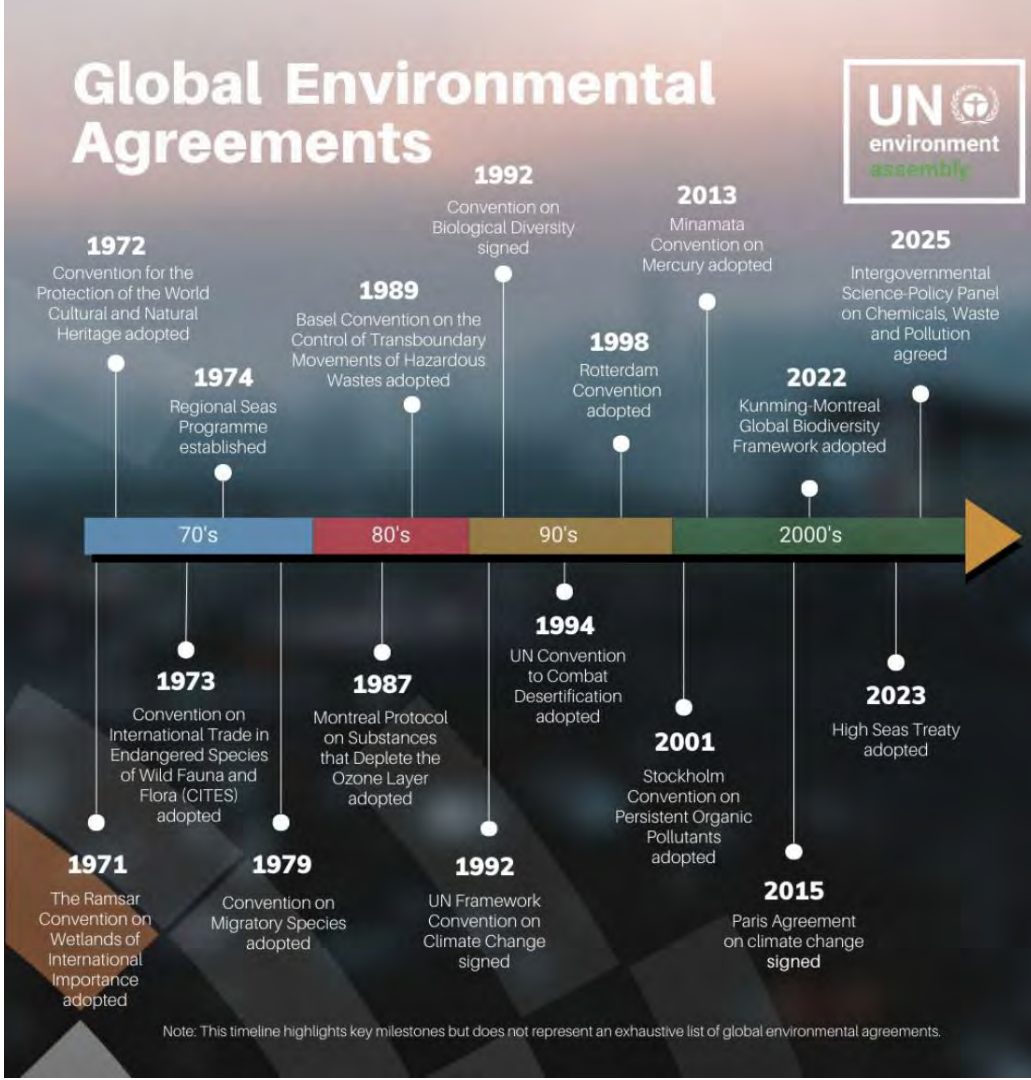
www.ramsar.org


LAGUNE DE LA SOMONE
AIRE MARINE PROTEGEE
DE LA SOMONE
POSTE DE CONTROLE
AIRE MARINE PROTEGEE
SOMONE
DIRECTION DES AIRES MARINES COMMUNAUTAIRES PROTEGEES - SENEGAL -


REPUBLIQUE DU SENEGAL
MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DE LA TRANSITION ECOLOGIQUE
DIRECTION DES AIRES MARINES COMMUNAUTAIRES PROTEGEES
AIRE MARINE PROTEGEES DE SOMONE
DIRECTION DES AIRES MARINES COMMUNAUTAIRES PROTEGEES - SENEGAL -
ACCÉS À L'AMP DE LA SOMONE
OBJET
ACTIVITES
TARIFICATIONS
VISITE PARTIE LAGUNAIRE A PARTIR DE 10ANS PAR PERSONNE
6.500F CFA
(permis : 2.000F cfa / pirogue 4.500F)
VISITE SENTIER ECOLOGIQUE PAR PERSONNE
1.500F CFA
VISITE PARTIE TERRESTRE PAR PERSONNE
1.500F CFA
SORTIE DE GROUPE OU ACCÉS À LA PLAGE
Car : 3.000F
Minicar : 3.000F
Groupe 10 Personnes 3.000F
Bus: 6.000F
1 Client Paye 10.000f Lui Seul Dans La Pirogue
La Surfacturation Est Interdite
Pour Toute Information Passer Au Poste De Contrôle
De 06 À 9ans Il Paie 2.000f Au Piroguier


FAO

MEA Timeline to date – The Convention on Wetlands is the oldest.



Ramsar
Convention on Wetlands

Wetlands are essential to climate, water and biodiversity resilience

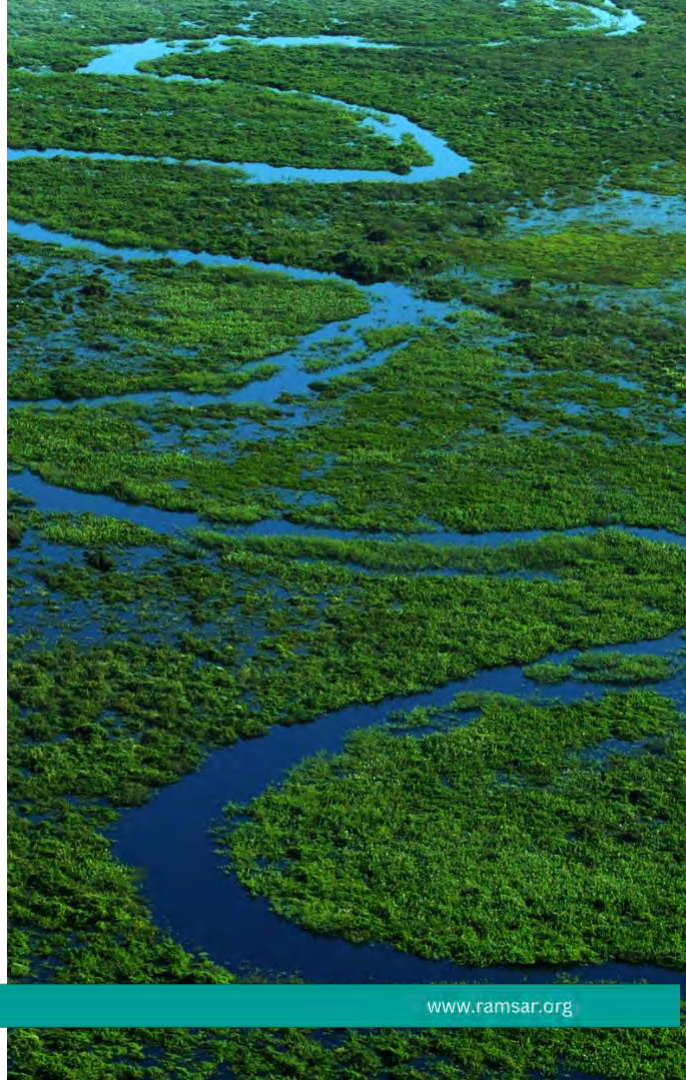
Supply nearly all our freshwater, storing and ensuring its quality

Protect against flooding and storms, resilience against drought

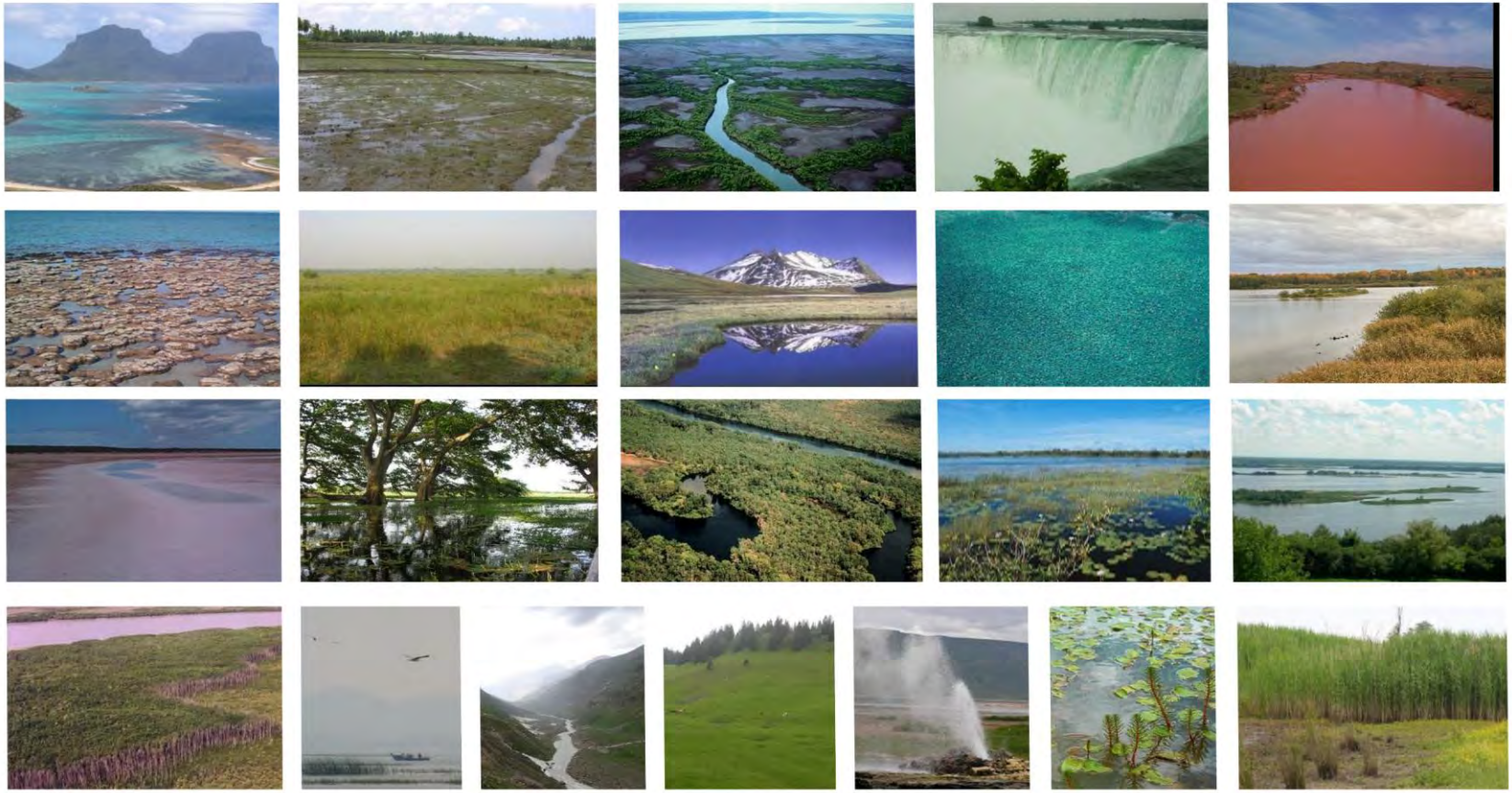
World's number one ecosystem for storing carbon

Support diverse habitats that reinforce ecosystem connectivity and functions

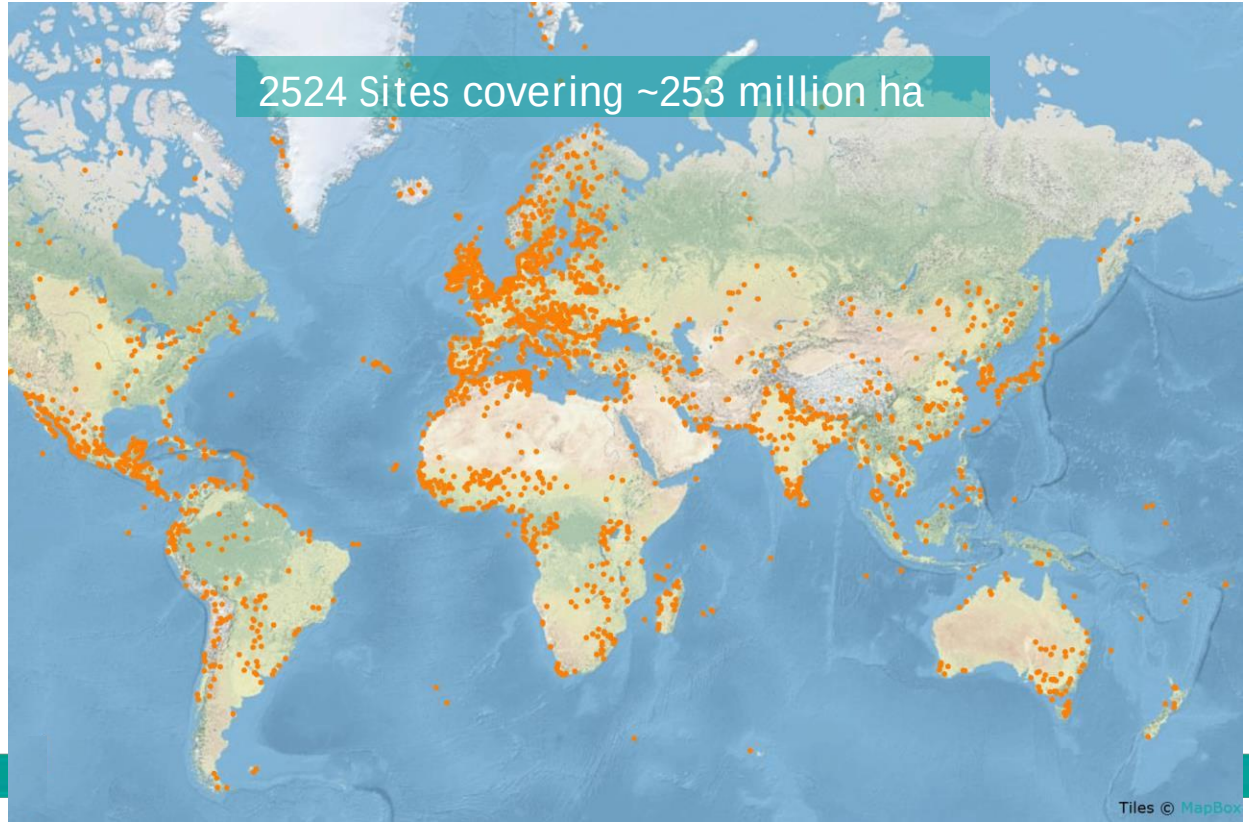
Provide food and livelihoods, and various tangible and non-tangible ecosystem services (sacred spaces)



Wetlands are foundational infrastructure for the hydrological cycle

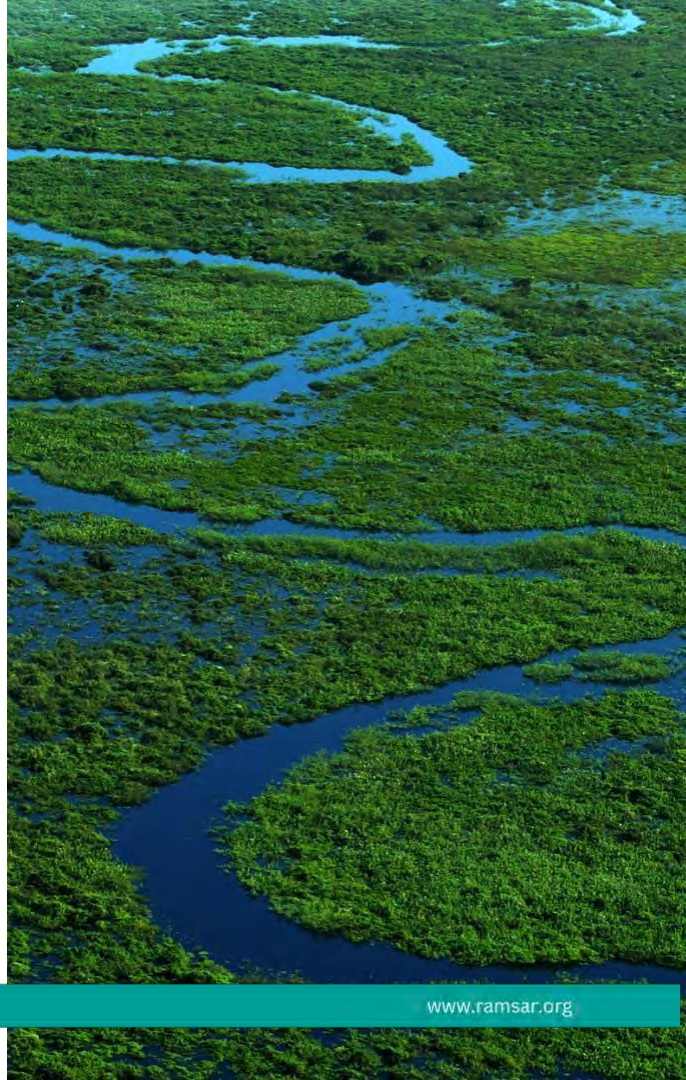


Wetlands of International Importance -
“Ramsar Sites”



Bodies of the Convention

The Convention provides policy guidance and tools to enable national governments to effectively manage their wetlands.



Implementation of the Convention

The Convention is implemented by its governance bodies, Ramsar Regional Initiatives, International Organisation Partners (IOPs), and Partnerships with other MEAs, but most importantly by Contracting Parties.

Implementation through series of non-binding texts, including:

- **Convention text**: legal text outlining aims, objectives, processes of Convention
- **List of Resolutions and Recommendations**: adopted during COPs
- **Strategic Plan**: framework with goals and implementation targets
- **Rules of procedure**: managing organisation of meetings

Insights from the Global Wetlands Outlook 2025

Wetlands have declined by 0.52% per year since 1970, with 411 million ha lost

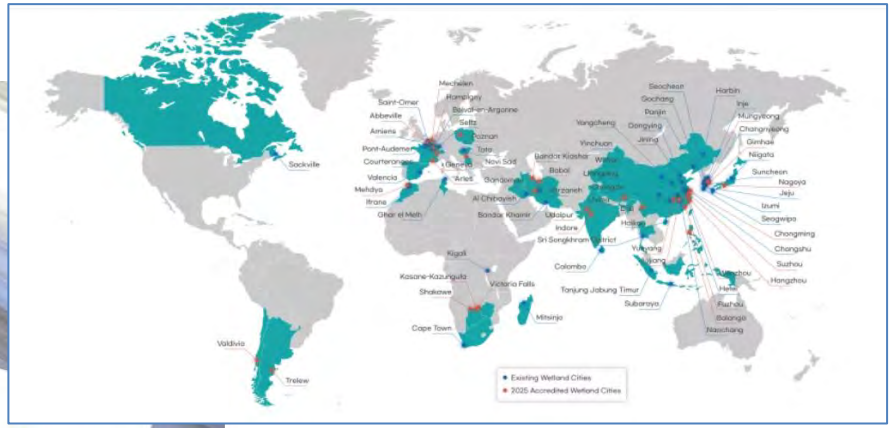
At least 22% of wetlands have disappeared since 1970 and ~25% of those remaining are degraded

Wetlands (1,425 million ha) generate USD 7.98–39.01 trillion in ecosystem services each year

Effectively managed remaining wetlands could provide USD 205 trillion in services by 2050

Involve cities and urban citizens - Wetland city accreditation

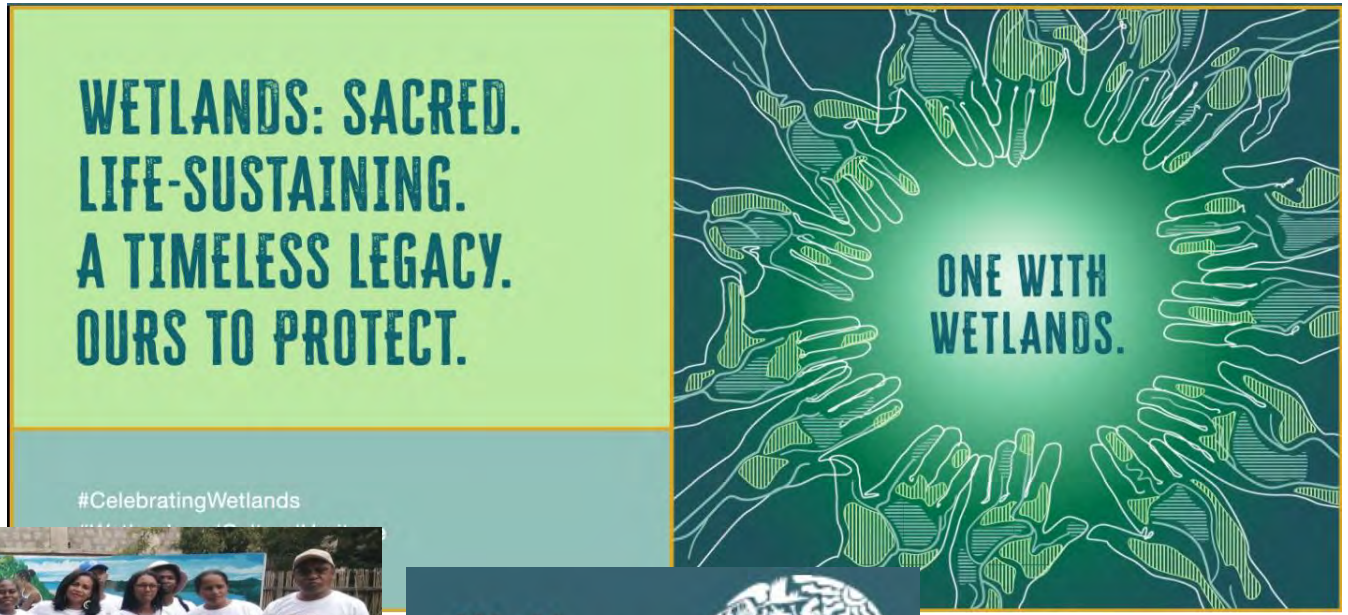
A family photo of all the representatives of the Accredited Wetland Cities



74 cities are now internationally recognized as Wetland Cities

Engage with citizens, private sector and broad audience

UN World Wetlands Day on 2nd February



Wetlands as Nature-Based Solutions

Wetlands capture, store and release water

Peatland rewetting stabilizes water systems and stores carbon

Mangroves reduce storm impacts and saline intrusion

Constructed wetlands provide water treatment, filter pollutants and improve water quality

Provide these services at a fraction of the cost of man-made solutions

Thank You

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Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook 3:

Main findings and key messages

Anis Guelmami guelmami@tourduvalat.org

The Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory

Consolidates the knowledge on wetlands at pan-Mediterranean level

- Analyze **status** and **trends** of Mediterranean Wetlands
- Encourage political decisions favorable for their **protection**, **restoration** and **wise use**
- Transfer **recommendations** and **key messages** for decision-makers, wetland managers, CSOs and the public at large

The Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory

Consolidates the knowledge on wetlands at pan-Mediterranean level

- ***28 MedWet countries***
- ***Set of indicators feeding a DPSIR framework***

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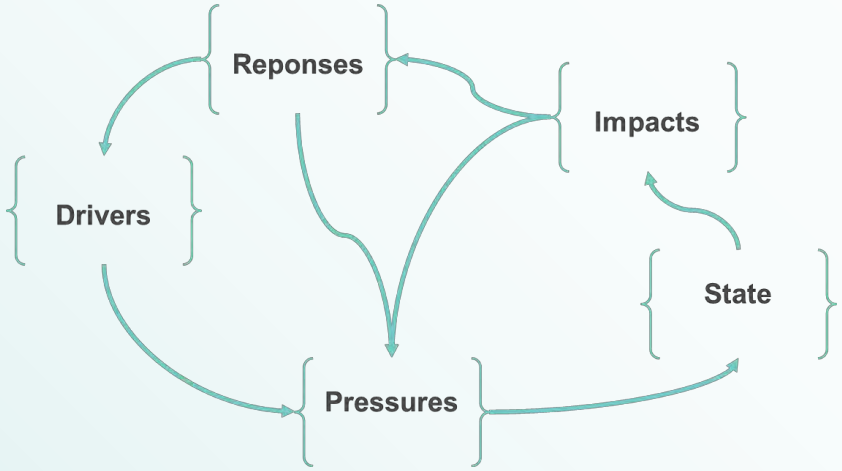
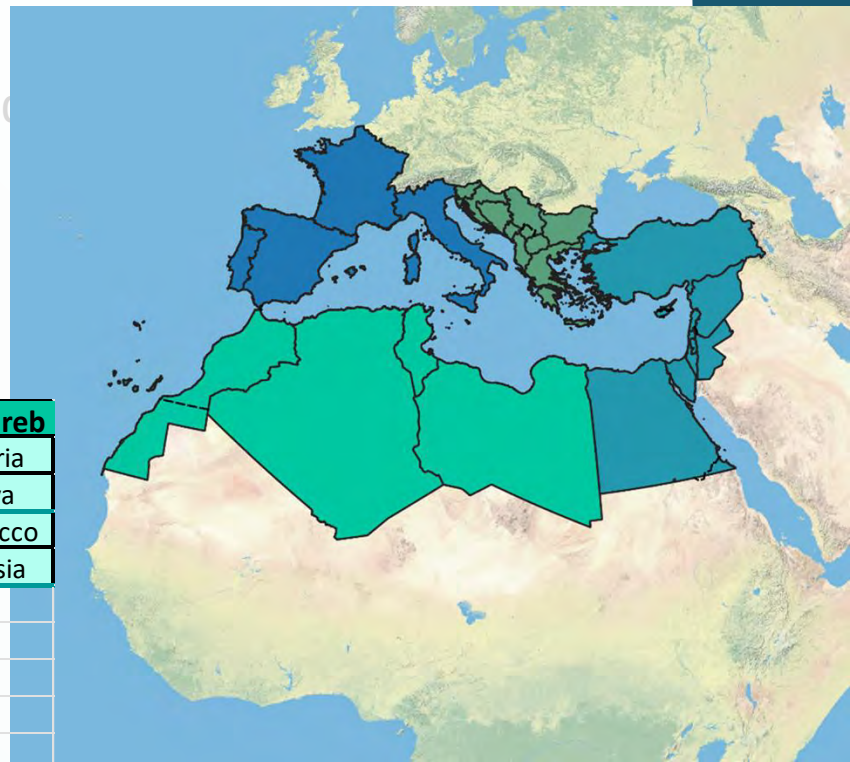


Middle East	South-West Europe	Balkans	Maghreb
Cyprus	Andorra	Albania	Algeria
Egypt	France	Bosnia &	Libya
Israel	Italy	Bulgaria	Morocco
Jordan	Malta	Croatia	Tunisia
Lebanon	Monaco	Greece	
Palestine	Spain	Montenegro	
Syria	Portugal	North Macedonia	
Türkiye		Serbia	
		Slovenia	



The Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory

Consolidates the knowledge on wetlands at pan-Mediterranean level

- *28 MedWet countries*
- *Set of indicators feeding a DPSIR framework*

Connected to

Regional agreements

Mediterranean Action Plan
Barcelona Convention

EEA

Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory

Global agreements

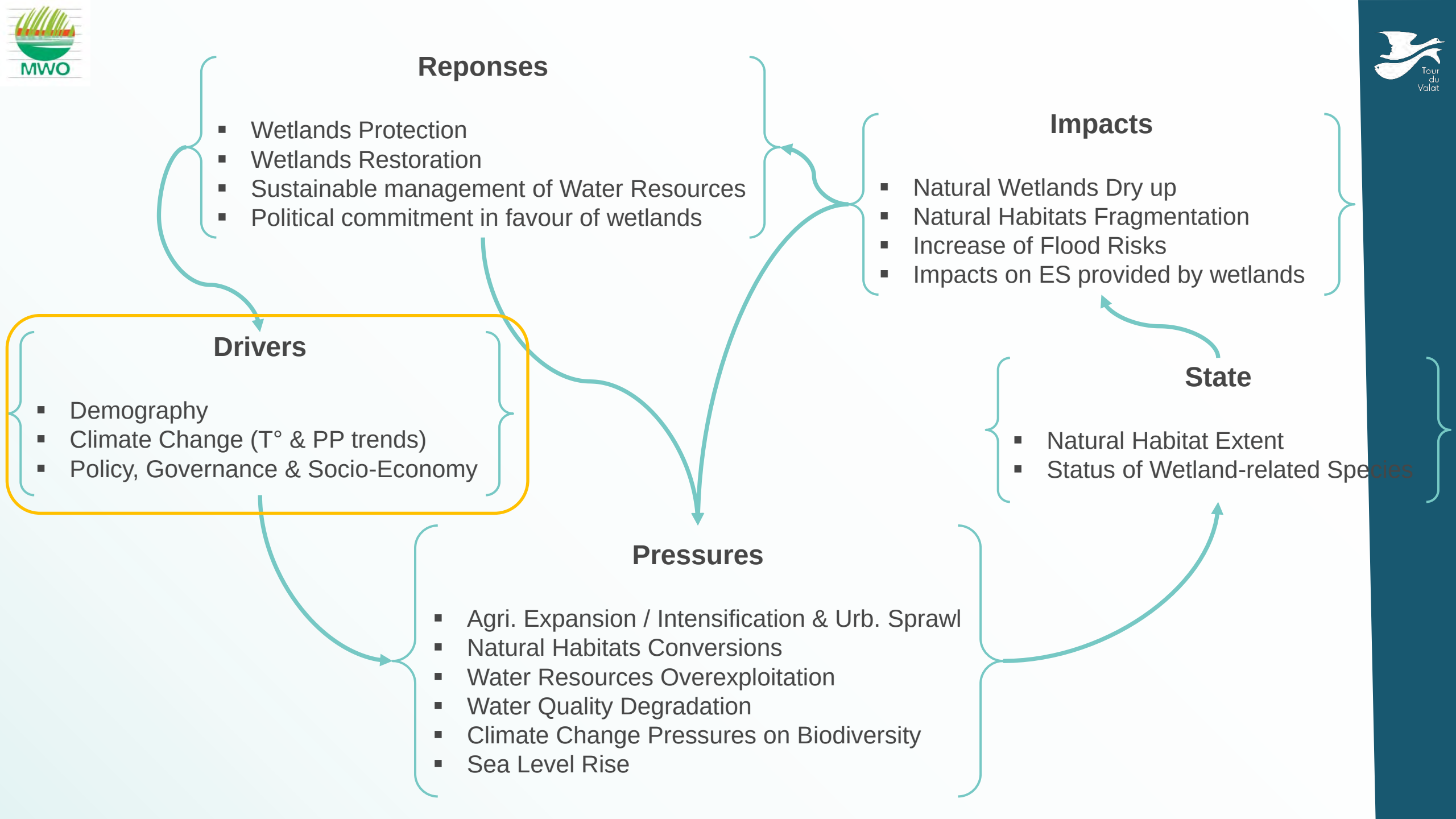
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Ramsar

Convention on Biological Diversity

Wetlands Monitoring

Regional Scale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Wetlands Restoration
Sustainable management of Water Resources
Political commitment in favour of wetlands
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Natural Habitats Fragmentation
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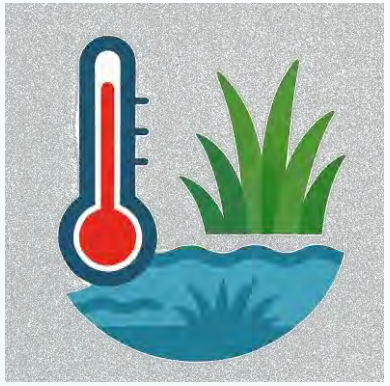
Climate Change Pressures on Biodiversity
Sea Level Rise

A Region under tension

400 M People live near a wetland

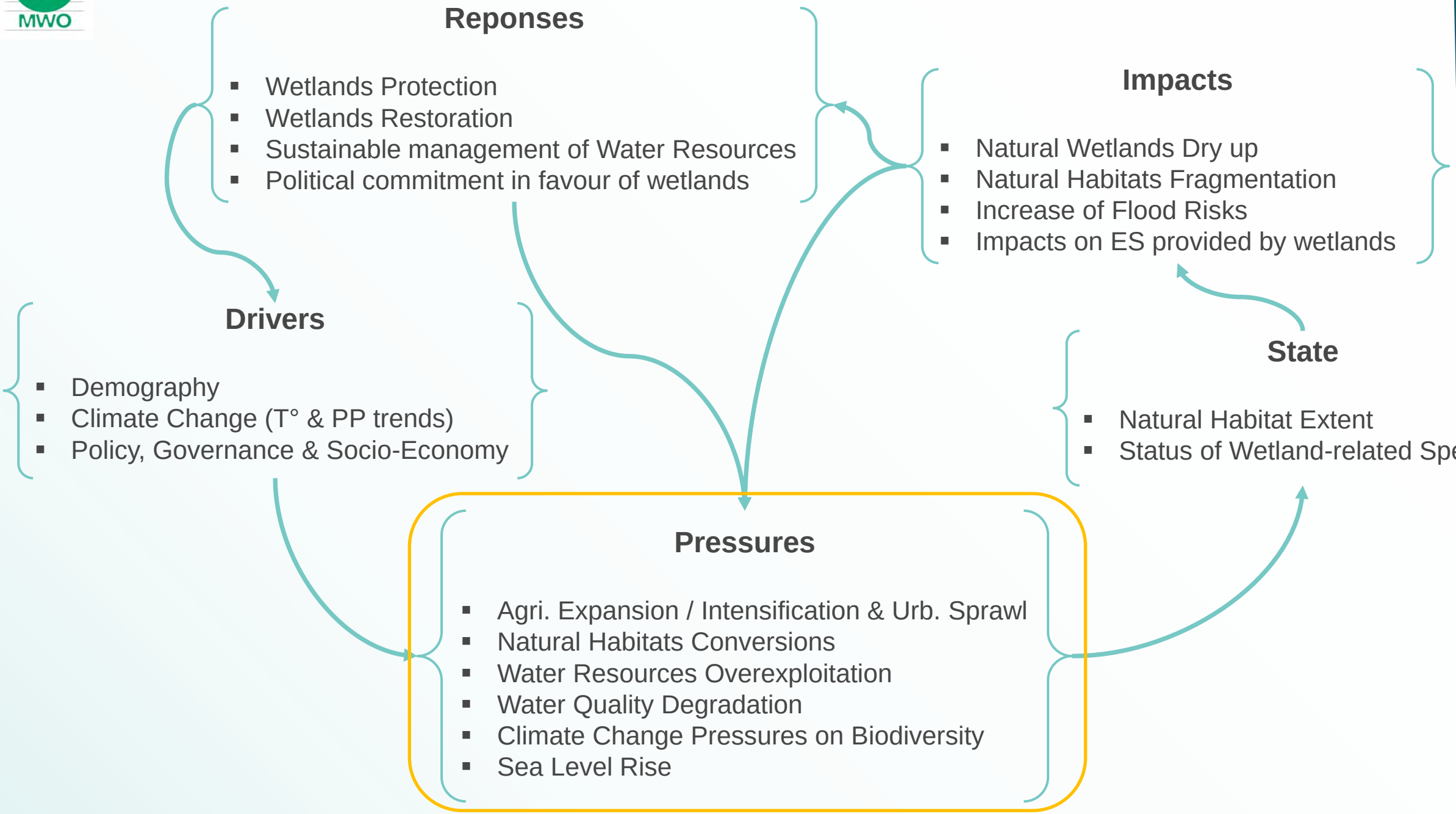
Population density is **258 inhabit./km²**
(4 times the regional average)



By 2100

+1.7°C to **+5.2°C**

-1% to **-5%**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Agriculture & Urban pressures

Trends around wetland ecosystems

+ 44%

Built-up areas around wetlands since 2000

30 %

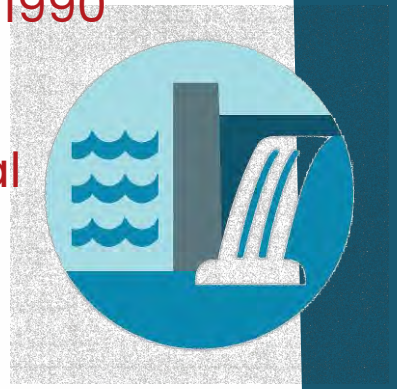
Of wetlands functional area is used for agriculture

Growing pressure on water resources

Since 1990

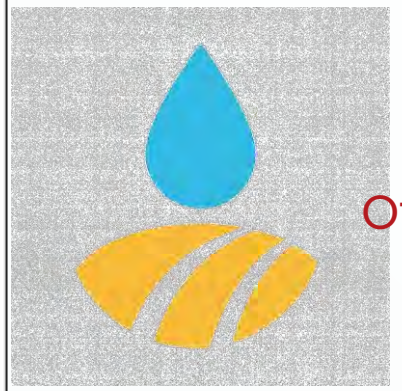
+ 25%

Surface area of artificial reservoirs



1/4

Of cultivated lands are irrigated



2/3

Of water abstractions are for irrigation

Sea Level Rise

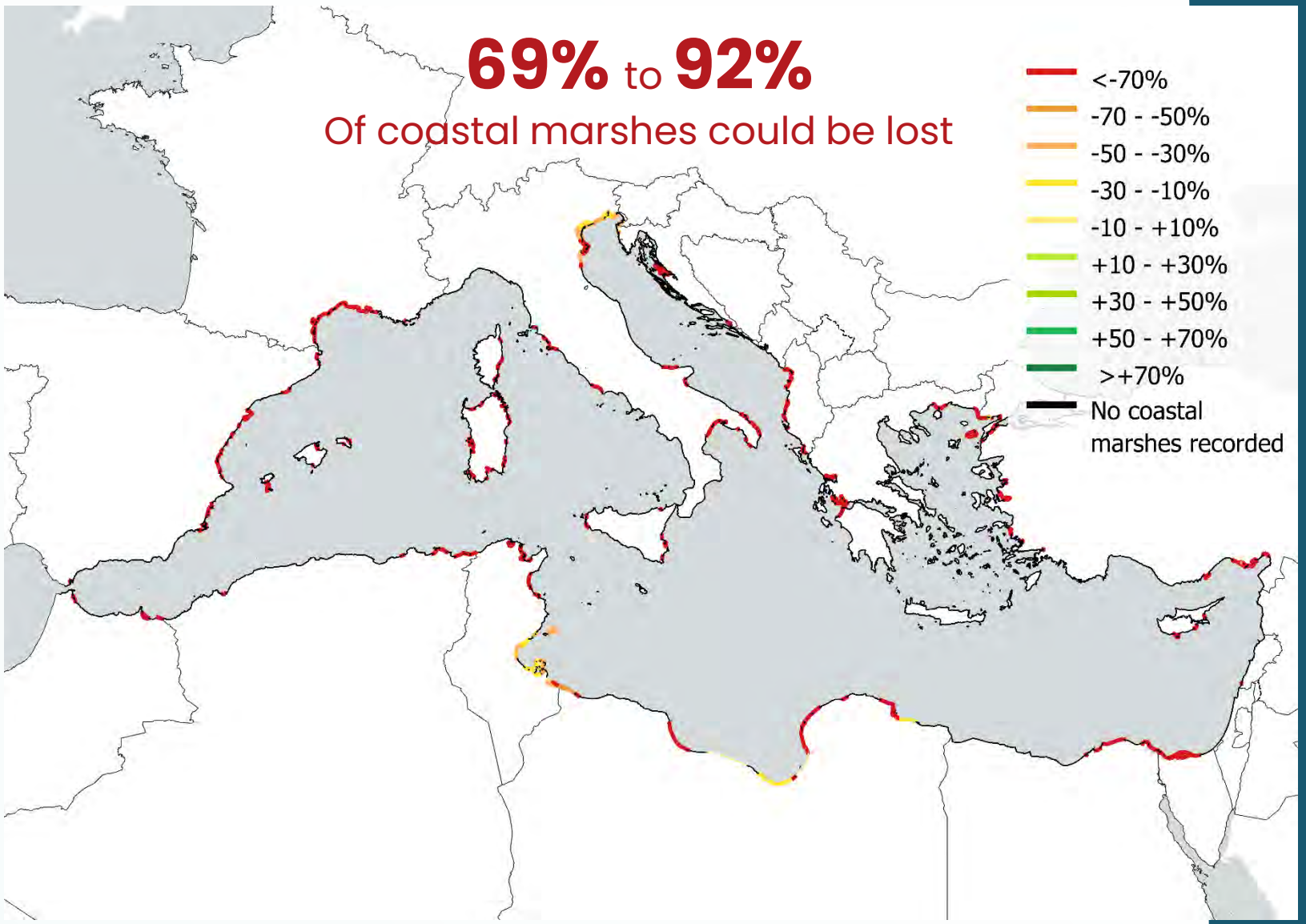
By 2100

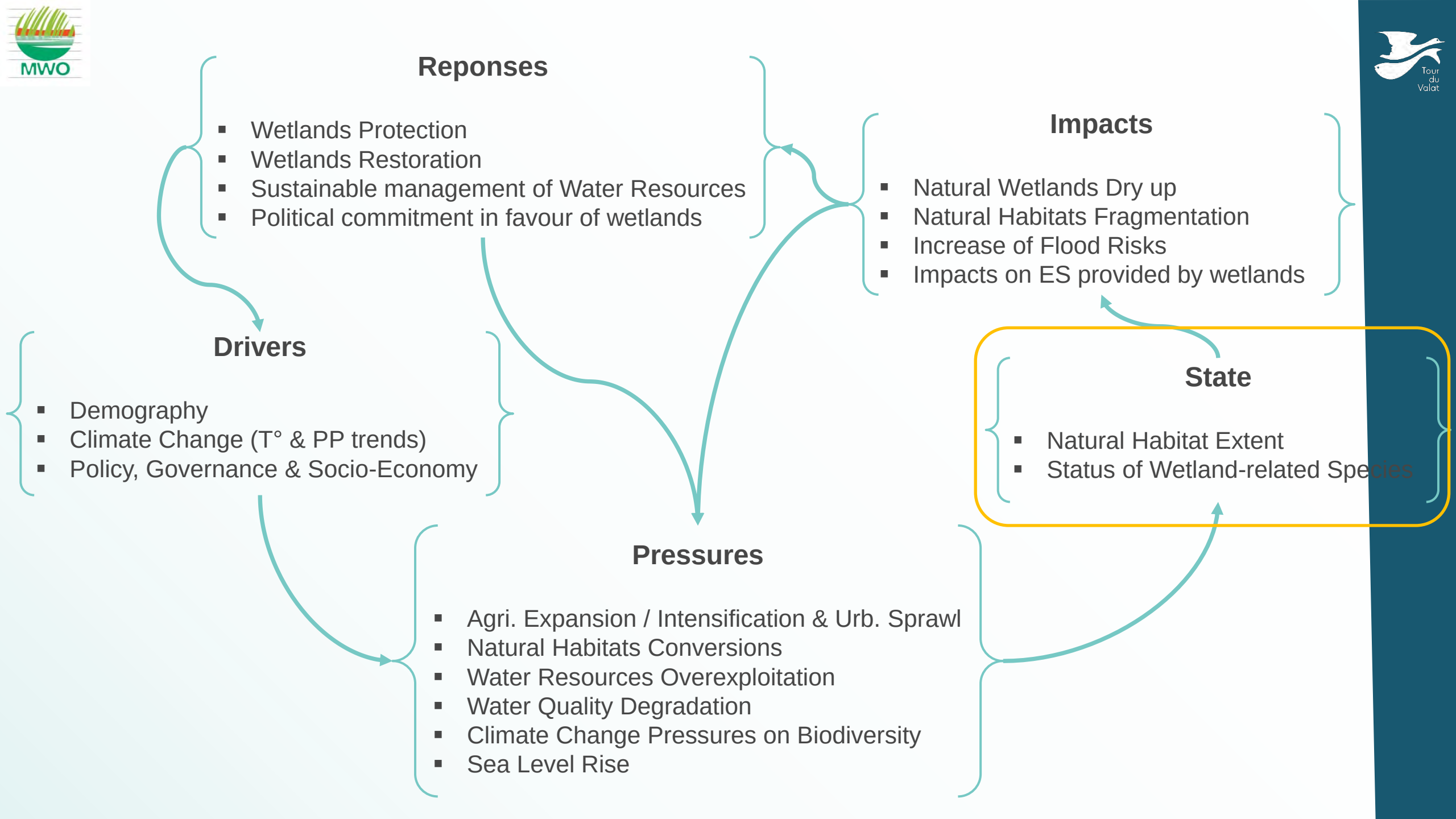
+0.34 m to **+1.06 m**

Sea Level Rise

69% to **92%**

Of coastal marshes could be lost

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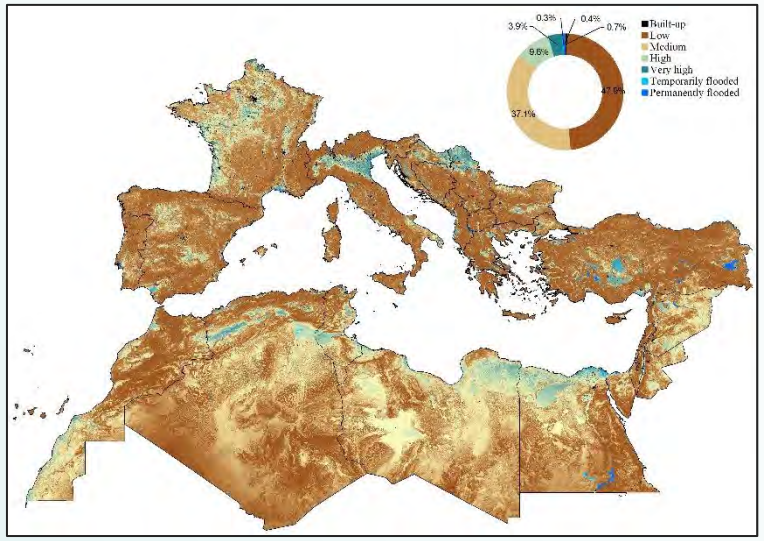
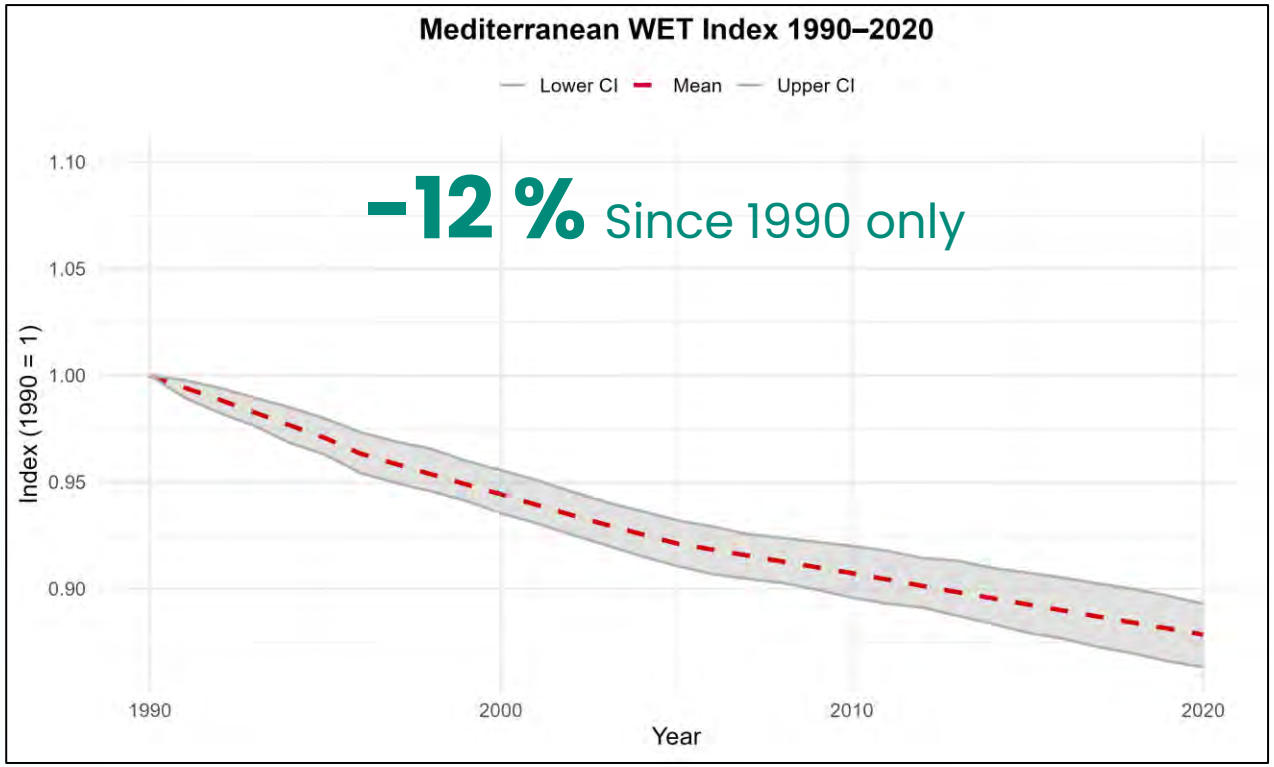
Continued loss in wetland area and ecological quality

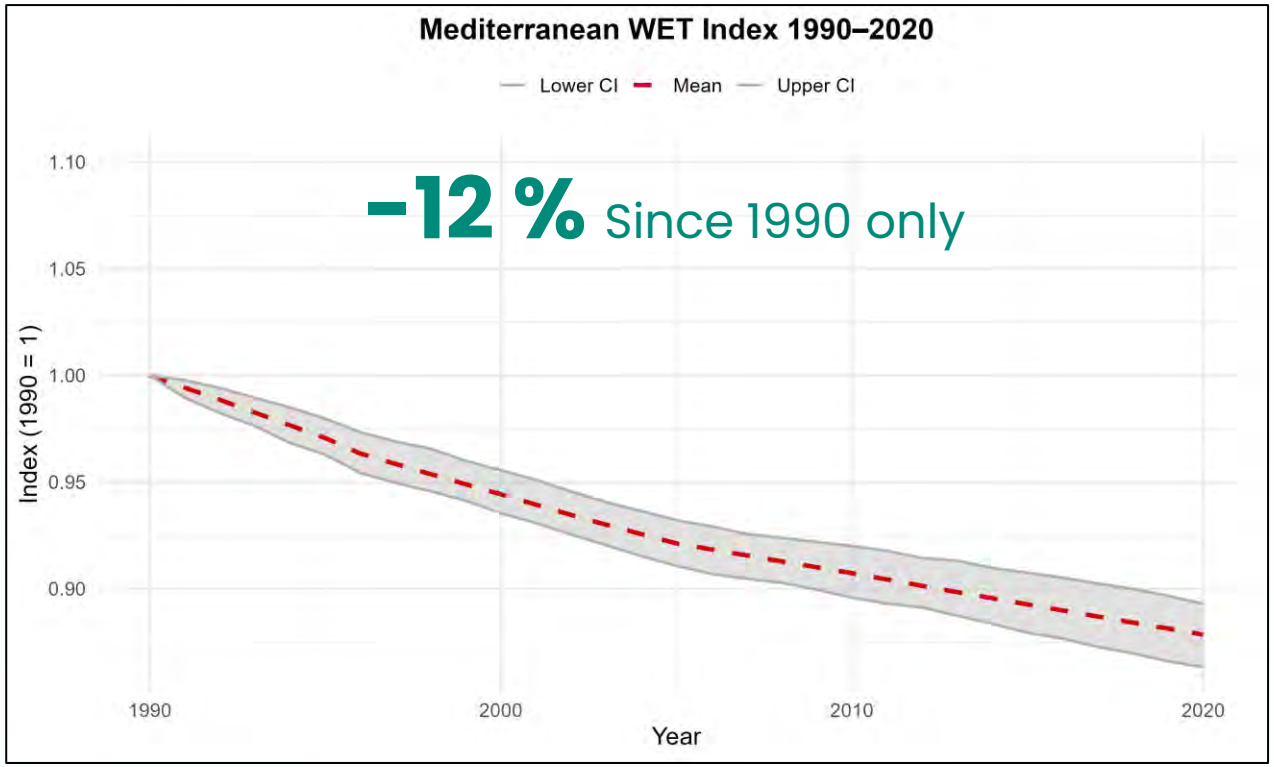
56 % Of historical wetlands have potentially **disappeared**

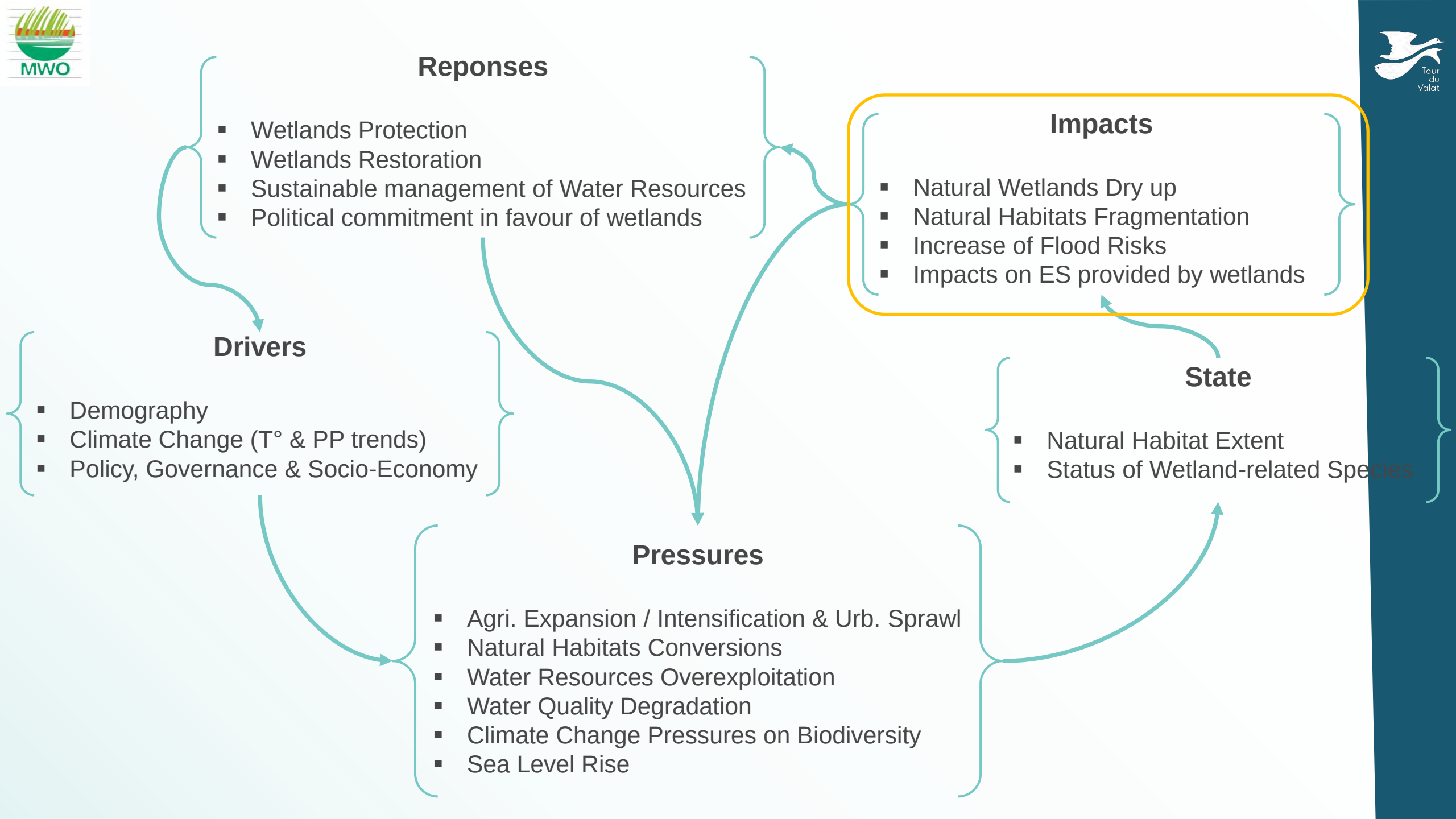




Continued loss in wetland area and ecological quality

40% Of wetland-related species in a **worrying conservation status**

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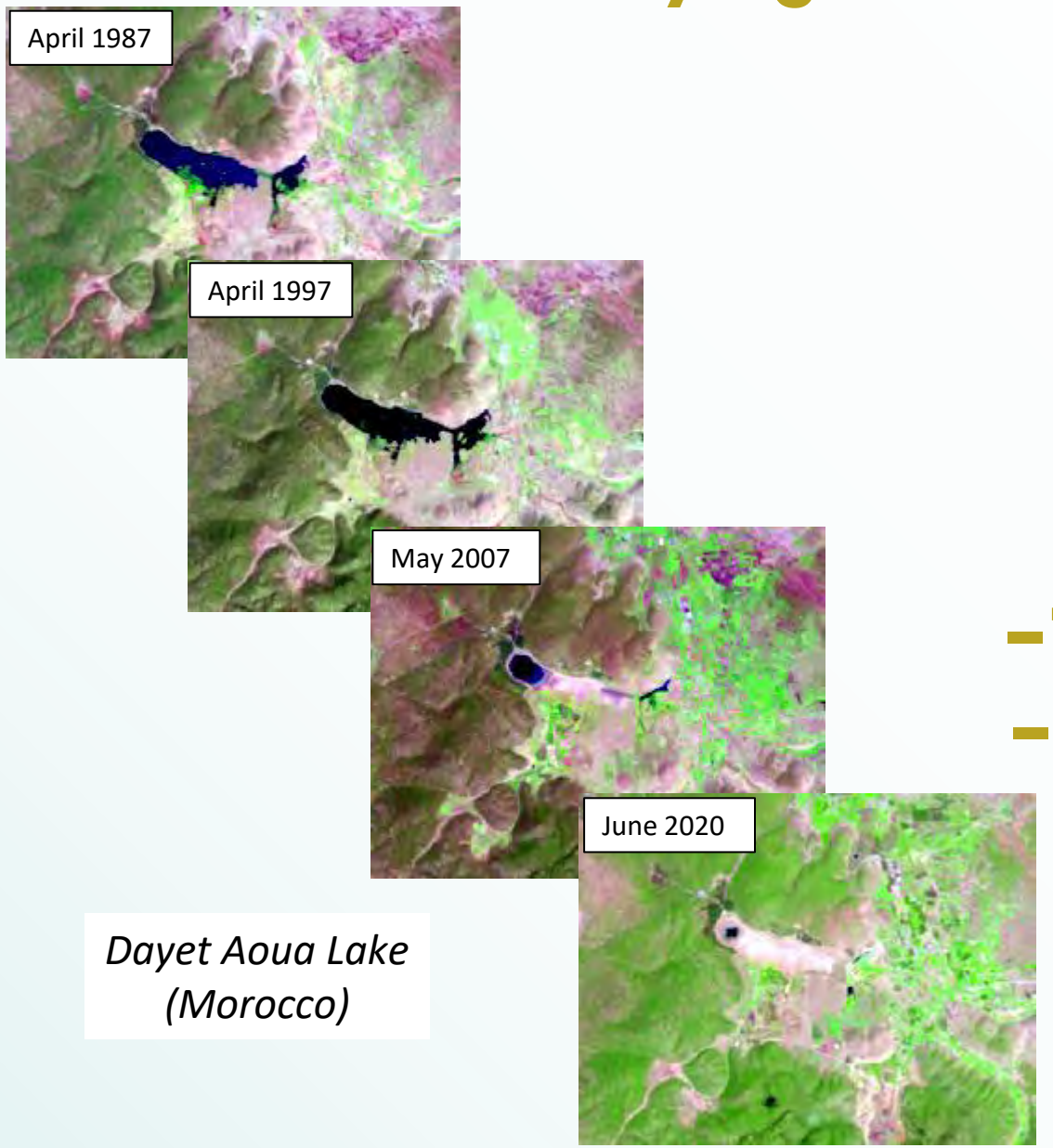
Continued loss in wetland area and ecological quality

Drying of surface water areas



Dayet Aoua Lake (Morocco)

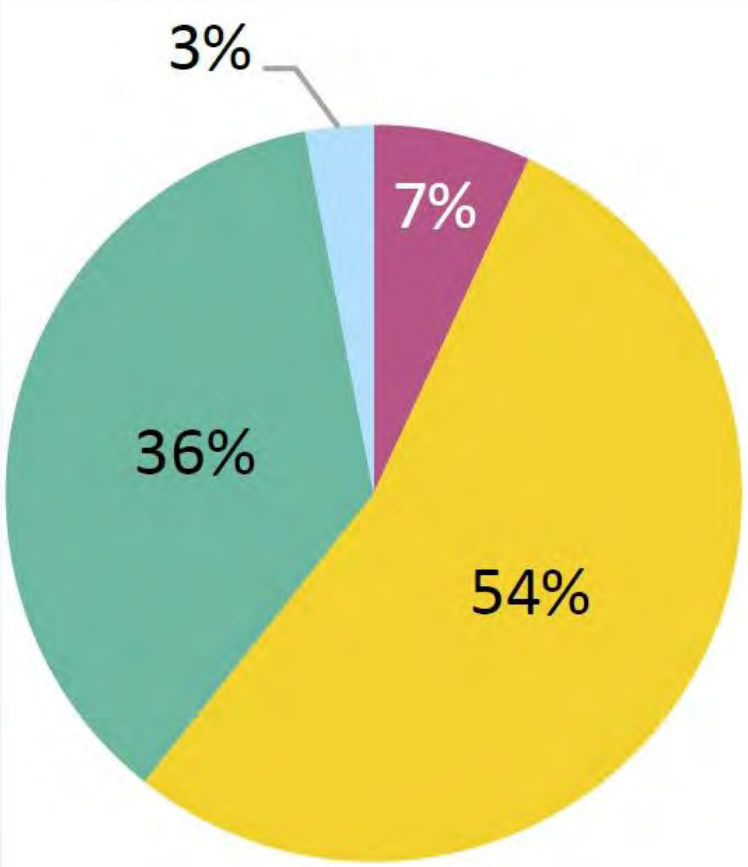
Since 1984

-12 % In permanently flooded inland marshes

-10 % In temporarily flooded coastal lagoons

Continued loss in wetland area and ecological quality

Land Conversion



Since 1990

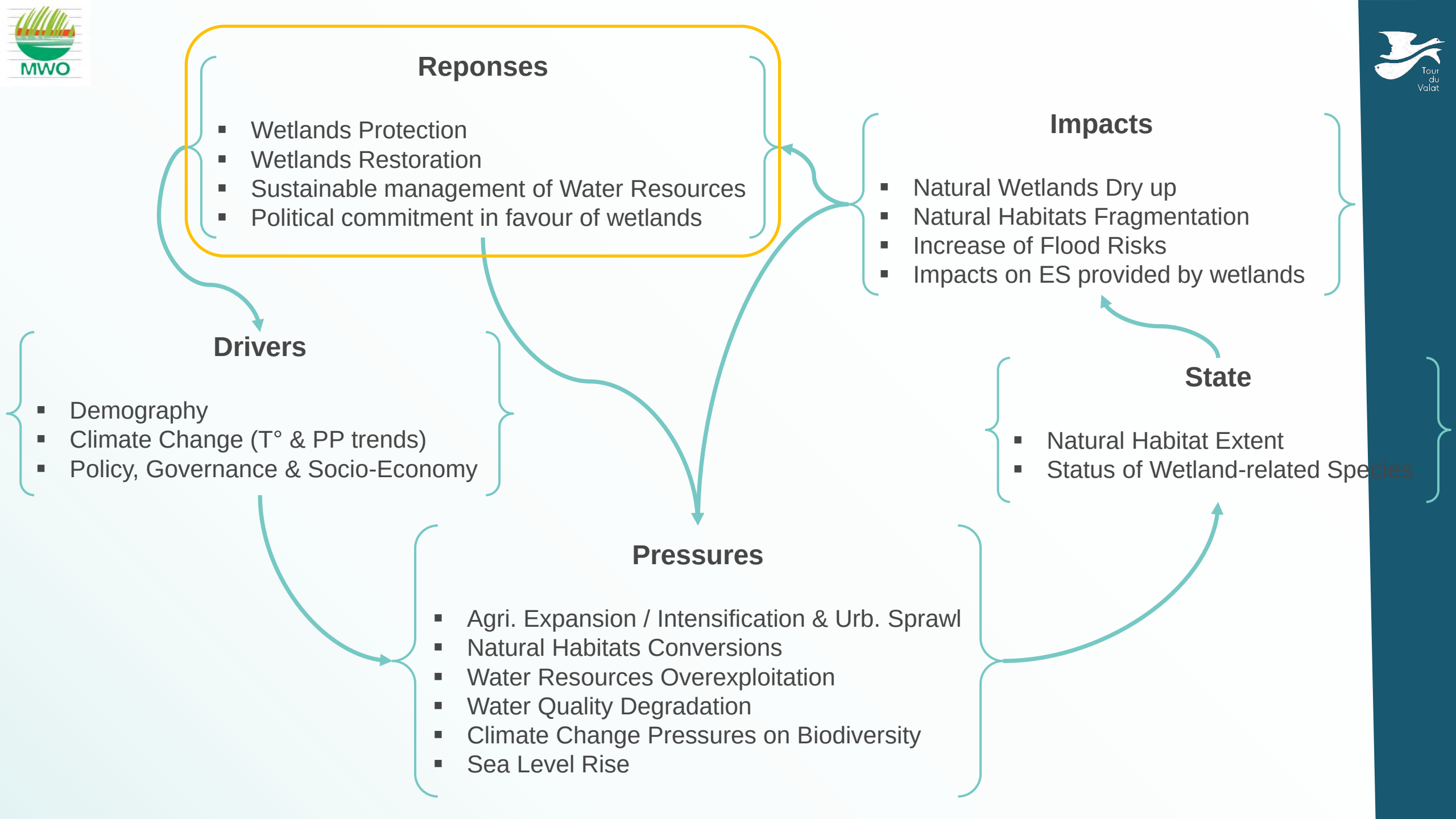
- Nat. Wet. to Urb.
- Nat. Wet. to Agri.
- Nat. Wet. to Art. Wet.
- Nat. Wet. to Sea

Continued loss in wetland area and ecological quality

Rivers' fragmentation

Rivers ecological connectivity

95% Of the total length of major rivers is impacted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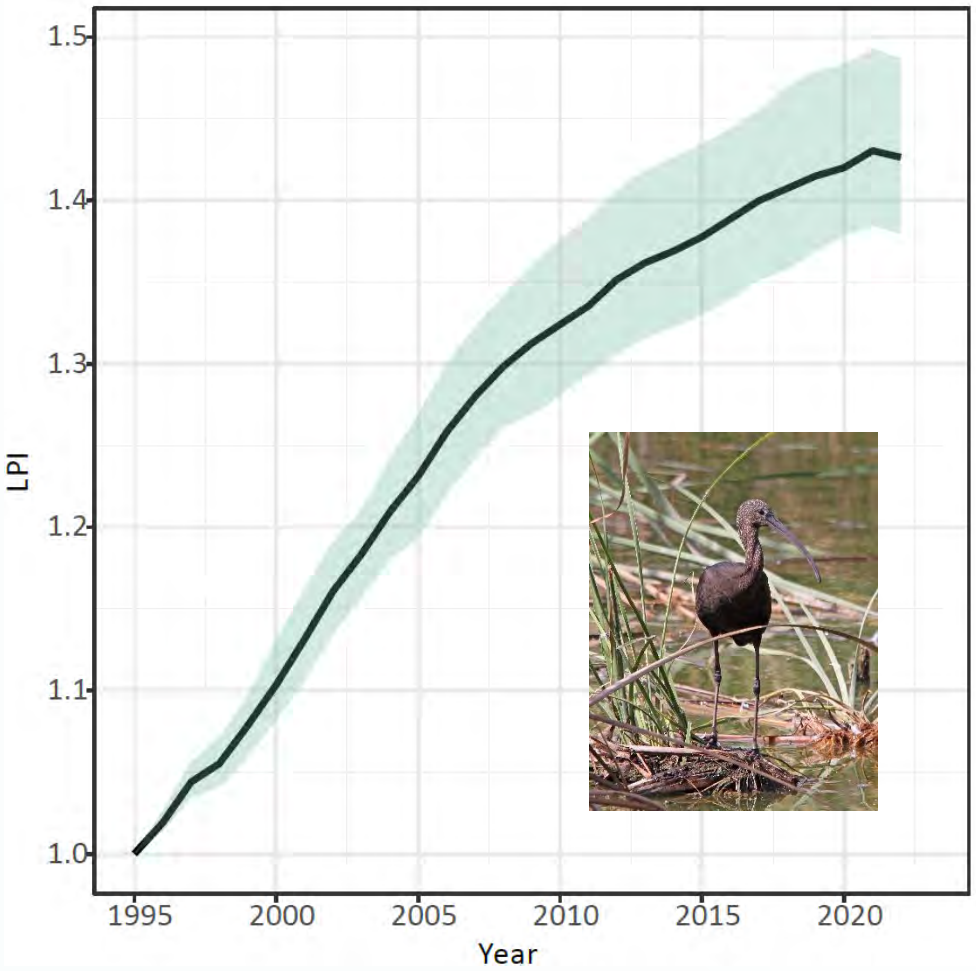
Responses and Positive Developments

Protection

36% Of Mediterranean wetland habitats are protected



+ 43% Increase in wintering waterbird abundance 1995-2022

Responses and Positive Developments

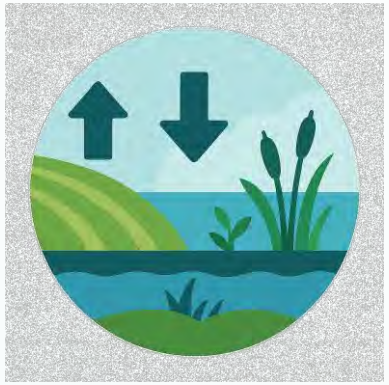
Protection

36% Of Mediterranean wetland habitats are protected

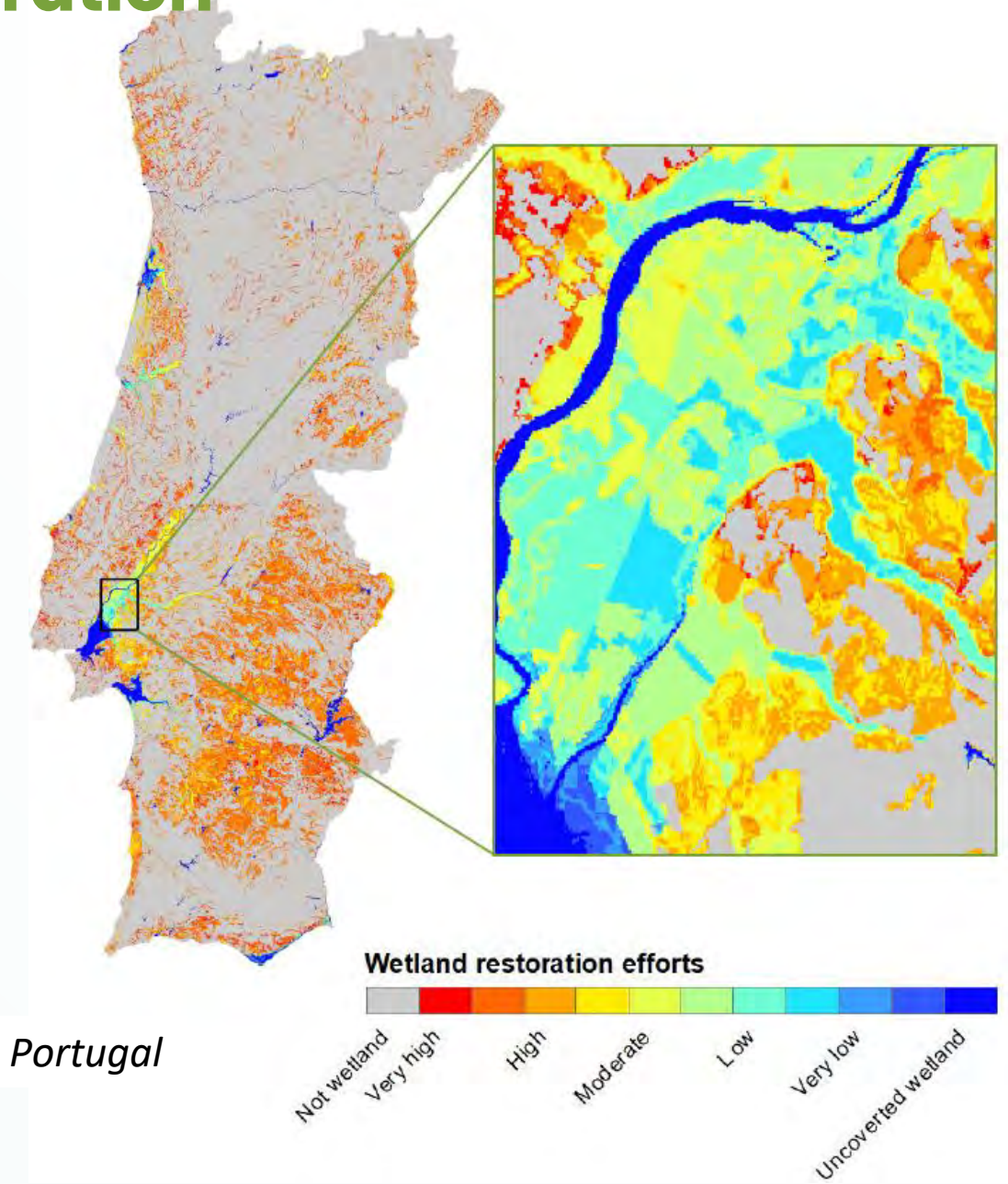
161 Key wetlands for waterbirds have yet to be designated as Ramsar Sites

Responses and Positive Developments

Restauration



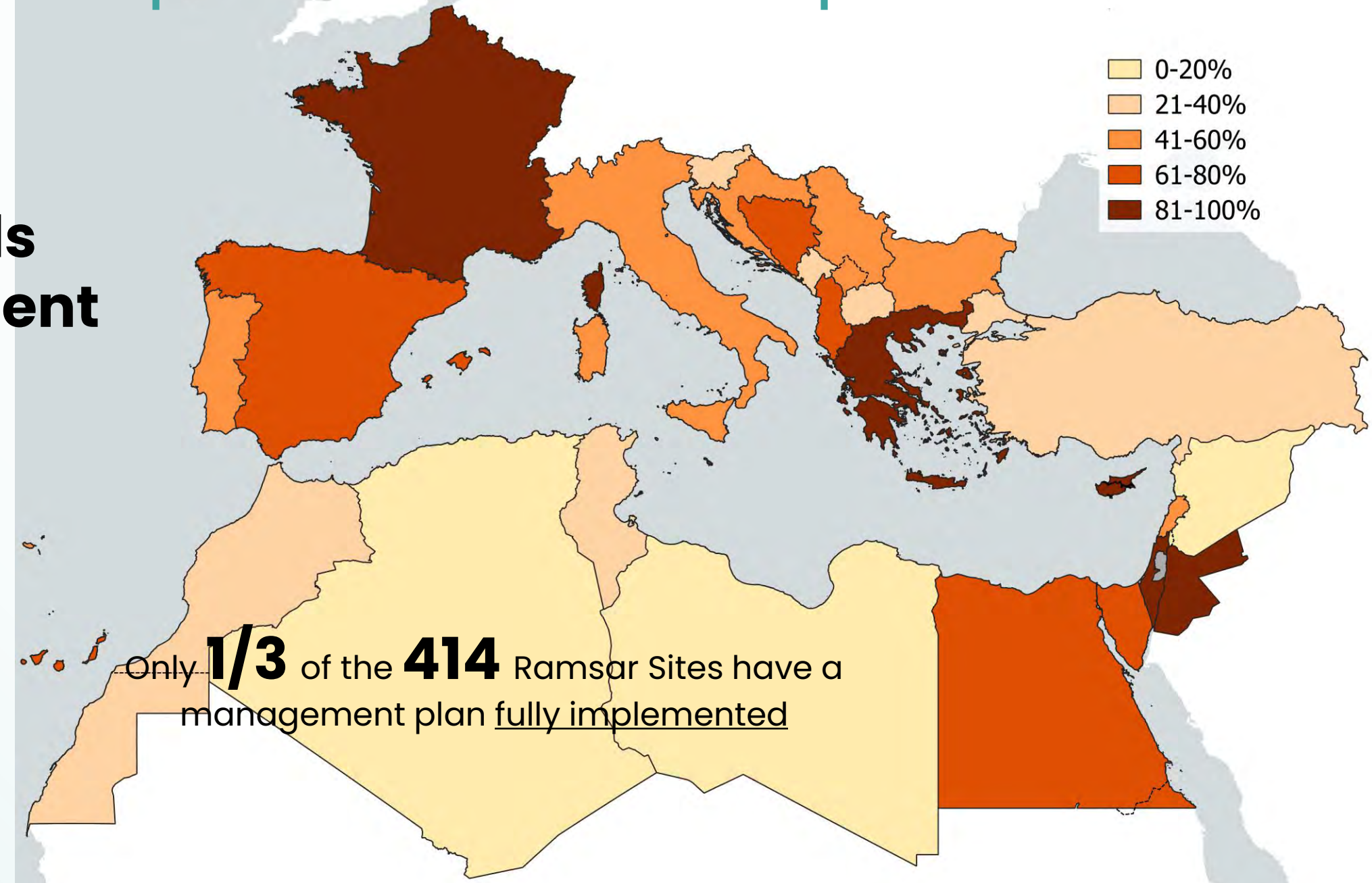
88 000 km² Of lost wetland habitats in northern Mediterranean countries could be restored with low efforts



Portugal

Responses and Positive Developments

Wetlands management

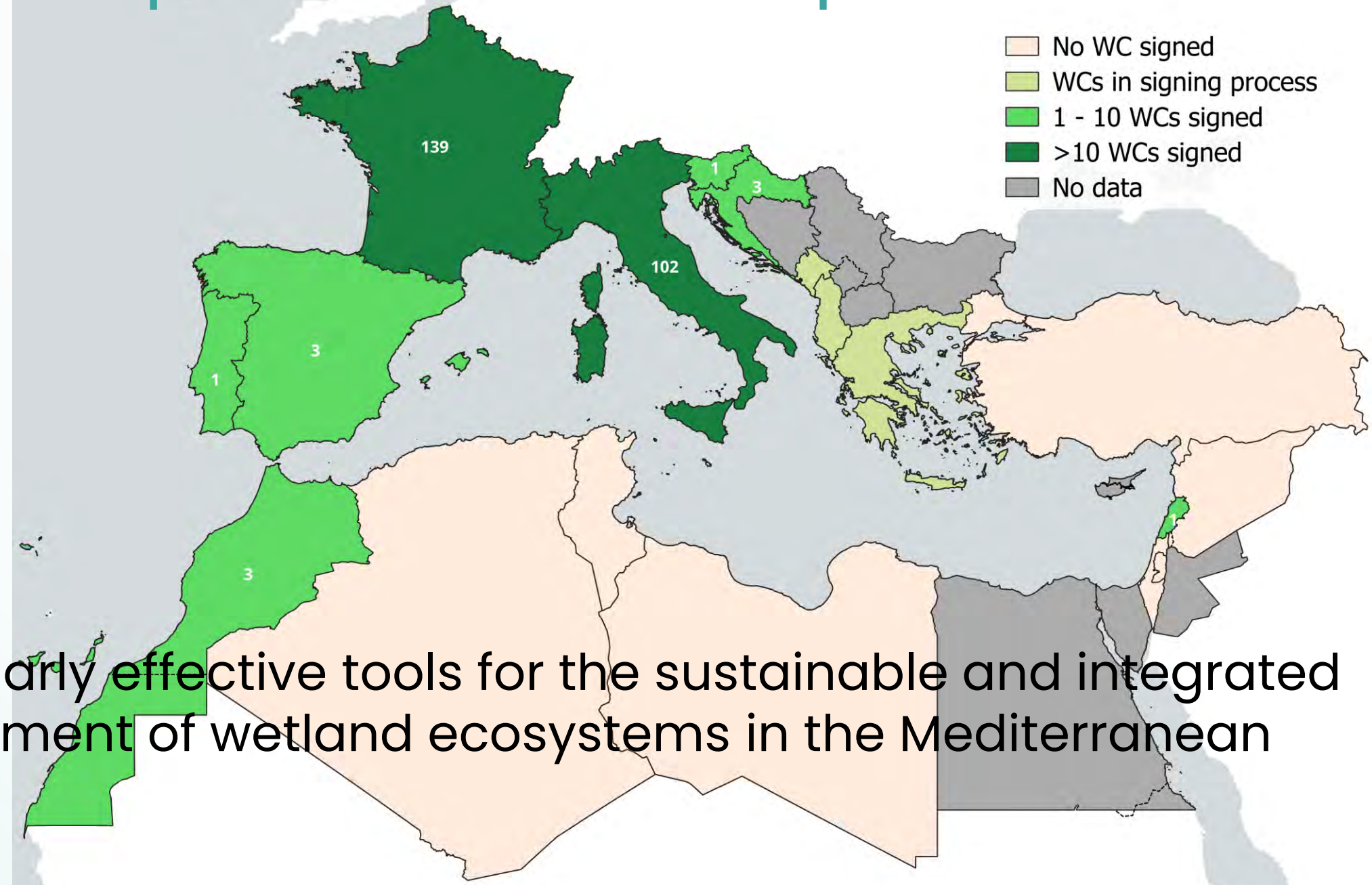


Only **1/3** of the **414** Ramsar Sites have a management plan fully implemented

Responses and Positive Developments

253

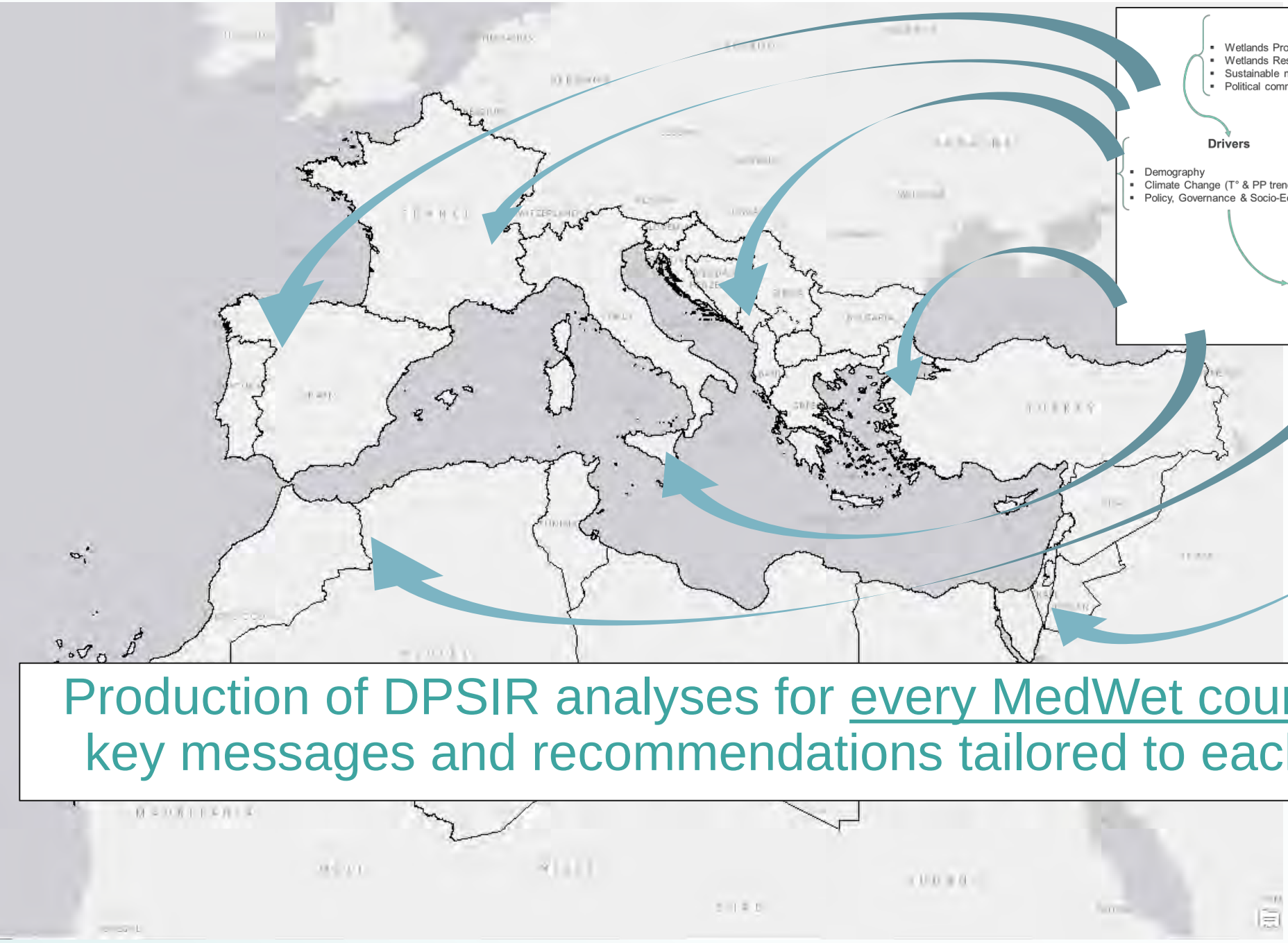
Wetland Contracts

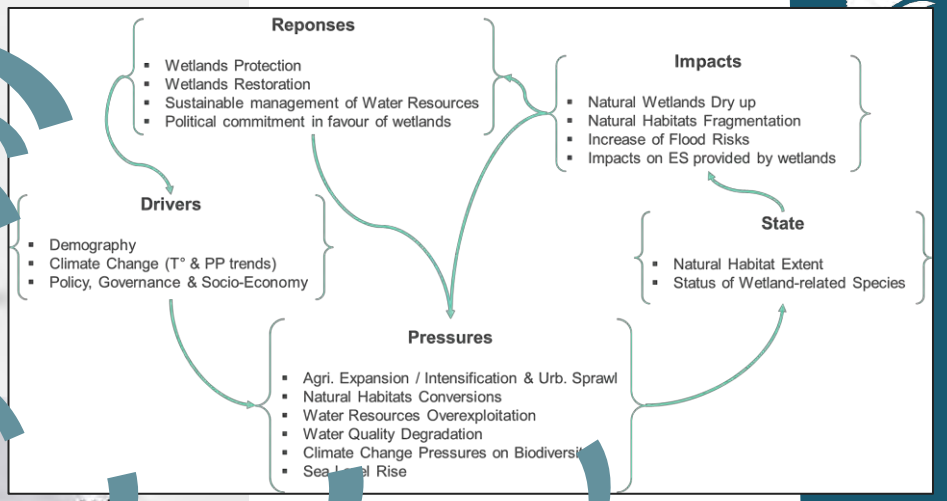


Are particularly effective tools for the sustainable and integrated management of wetland ecosystems in the Mediterranean

5 Levers for Action

Downscale to National Scales





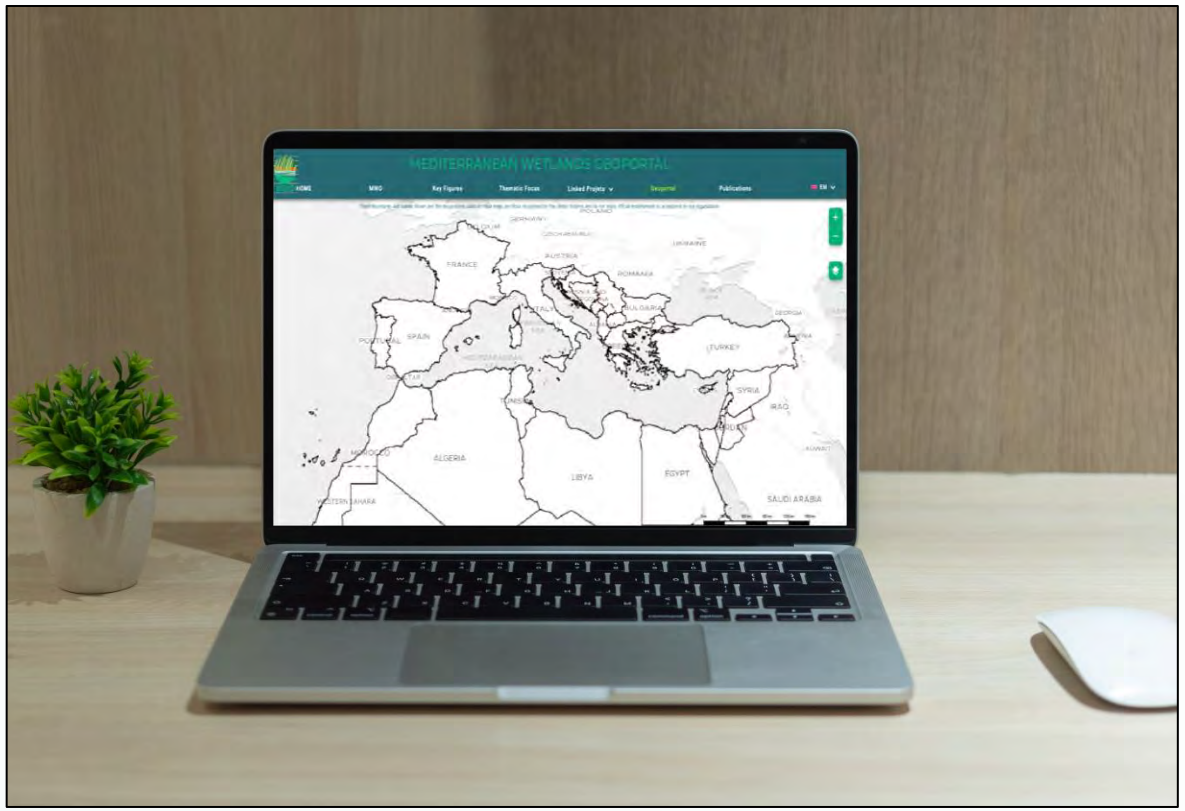
Production of DPSIR analyses for every MedWet country and drafting of key messages and recommendations tailored to each national context

Dissemination & Outreach

Mediterranean Wetlands Geoportal

A tool for disseminating and sharing knowledge

https://MedWetlands.org/Geoportal



MWO-3 Report *English*

MWO-3 Report *French*

Thank you

شكرًا

Merci

Gracias

Grazie

Tour du Valat | Le Sambuc, 13200 Arles - France
www.tourduvalat.org / www.medwetlands.org
Anis Guelmami | Tel. +33 4 90 97 06 32 / Email guelmami@tourduvalat.org

FUNDACIÓN GLOBAL NATURE

Biodiversity

Wetlands

Farmlands

We cultivate the value of Nature
The Nature Restoration Law: challenges

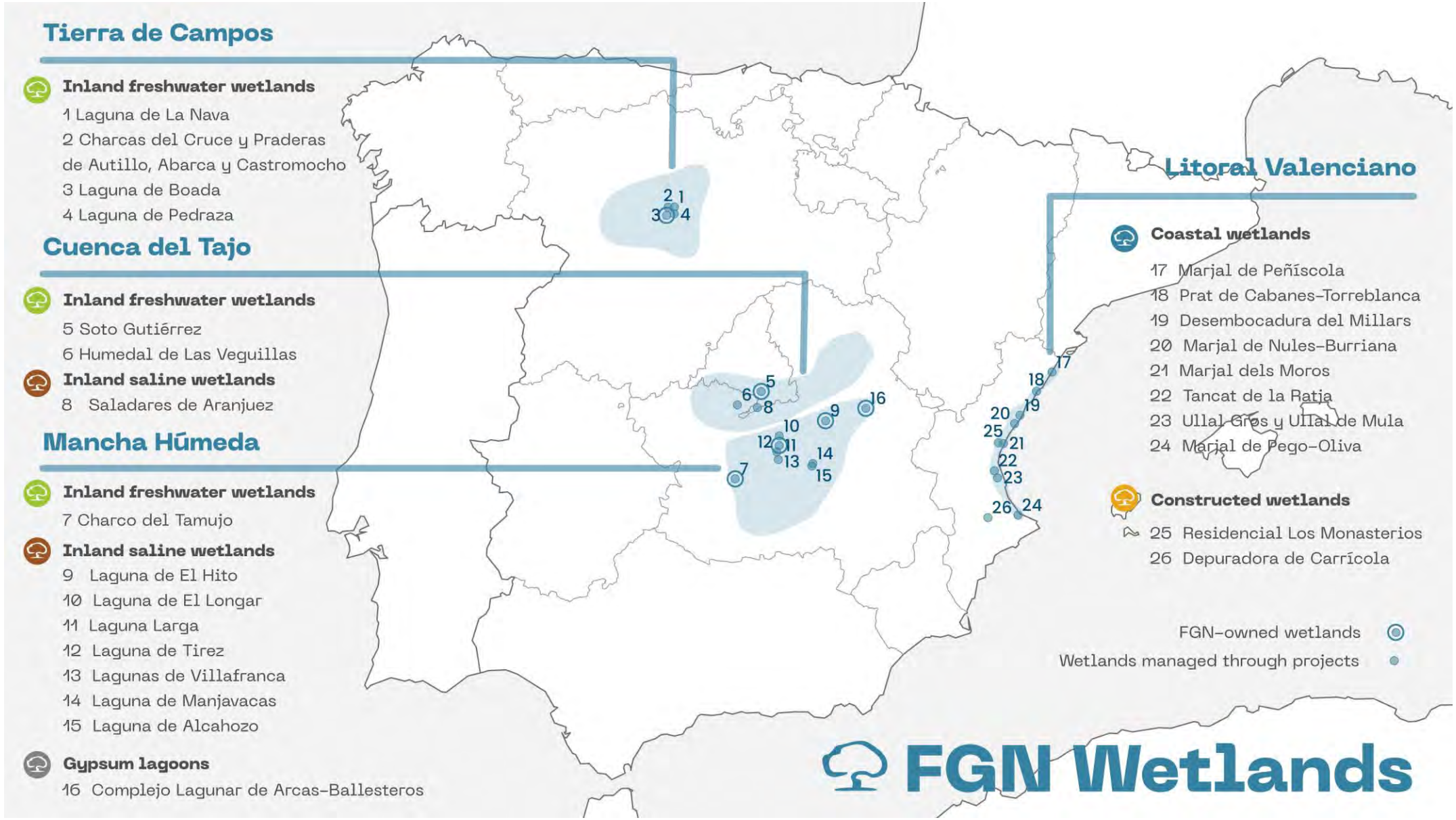
Spanish private foundation; 32 years.

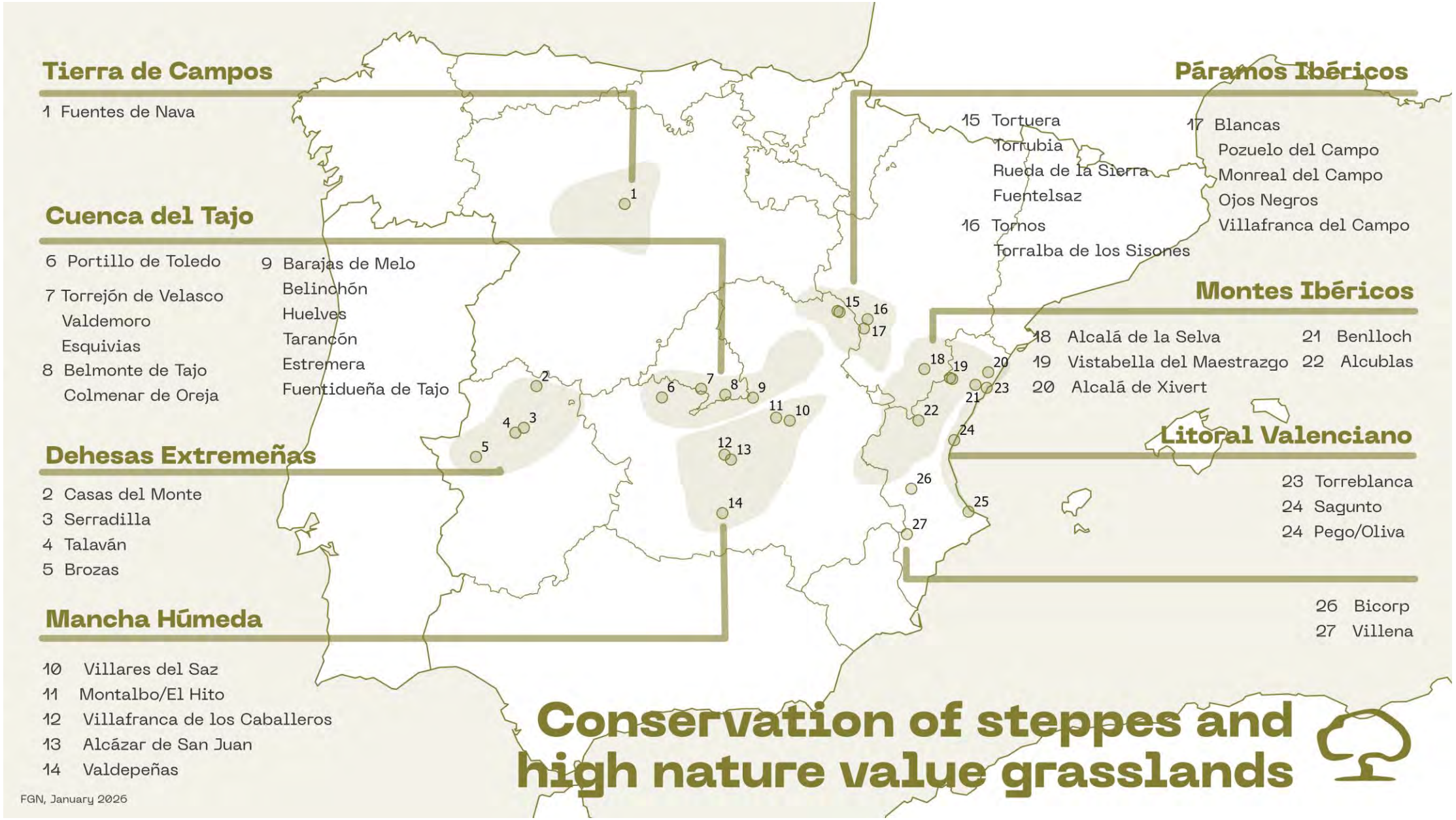
Our goal is to restore landscapes and protect biodiversity.

Applied research to define measures & MRV

Funding
New tools & ESG Strategies (indicators)

Governance
Private – Public partnerships


Tierra de Campos
Inland freshwater wetlands
1 Laguna de La Nava
2 Charcas del Cruce y Praderas de Autillo, Abarca y Castromocho
3 Laguna de Boada
4 Laguna de Pedraza
Cuenca del Tajo
Inland freshwater wetlands
5 Soto Gutiérrez
6 Humedal de Las Veguillas
Inland saline wetlands
8 Saladares de Aranjuez
Mancha Húmeda
Inland freshwater wetlands
7 Charco del Tamujo
Inland saline wetlands
9 Laguna de El Hito
10 Laguna de El Longar
11 Laguna Larga
12 Laguna de Tirez
13 Lagunas de Villafranca
14 Laguna de Manjavacas
15 Laguna de Alcahozo
Gypsum lagoons
16 Complejo Lagunar de Arcas-Ballesteros
Litoral Valenciano
Coastal wetlands
17 Marjal de Peñíscola
18 Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca
19 Desembocadura del Millars
20 Marjal de Nules-Burriana
21 Marjal dels Moros
22 Tancat de la Ratja
23 Ullal Gros y Ullal de Mula
24 Marjal de Pego-Oliva
Constructed wetlands
25 Residencial Los Monasterios
26 Depuradora de Carrícola
FGN-owned wetlands
Wetlands managed through projects
FGN Wetlands


Tierra de Campos
1 Fuentes de Nava
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7 Torrejón de Velasco
Valdemoro
Esquivias
8 Belmonte de Tajo
Colmenar de Oreja
9 Barajas de Melo
Belinchón
Huelves
Tarancón
Estremera
Fuentidueña de Tajo
Dehesas Extremeñas
2 Casas del Monte
3 Serradilla
4 Talaván
5 Brozas
Mancha Húmeda
10 Villares del Saz
11 Montalbo/El Hito
12 Villafranca de los Caballeros
13 Alcázar de San Juan
14 Valdepeñas
Páramos Ibéricos
15 Tortuera
Torrubia
Rueda de la Sierra
Fuentelsaz
16 Tornos
Torralba de los Sisones
17 Blancas
Pozuelo del Campo
Monreal del Campo
Ojos Negros
Villafranca del Campo
Montes Ibéricos
18 Alcalá de la Selva
19 Vistabella del Maestrazgo
20 Alcalá de Xivert
21 Benlloch
22 Alcublas
Litoral Valenciano
23 Torreblanca
24 Sagunto
24 Pego/Oliva
26 Bicorp
27 Villena
Conservation of steppes and high nature value grasslands
FGN, January 2026

Blended finance
Need of a basic public line at national, regional & local level: grants, legislation and accepted metrics methodologies

10 of the 26 LIFE projects FGN has carried out aim at the conservation of wetlands + the new LIFE HumedalES

Nombre	Inicio	Fin	Ubicación
LIFE AWOM	01/01/2025	31/12/2029	27 Humedales ruta migratoria de carricerín cejudo
LIFE El Hito	01/10/2021	31/12/2024	Laguna de El Hito
LIFE Wetlands4Climate	01/10/2020	31/10/2024	Diversos humedales Mediterráneos
LIFE Paludicola	01/10/2017	31/12/2021	La Nava, Mancha, Albufera y otros
LIFE Albufera	01/10/2013	30/09/2016	Parque Natural de l'Albufera
LIFE Humedales de La Mancha	01/10/2011	30/11/2016	27 humedales de La Mancha
LIFE Canal de Castilla	01/10/2006	30/09/2010	Lagunas del Canal de Castilla
LIFE Carricerín Nava-Campos	01/06/2002	31/05/2006	ZEPA La Nava-Campos
LIFE Living Lakes	01/07/2001	31/10/2004	Boada, Laguna La Nava
LIFE Humedales de Villacañas	01/10/1999	31/12/2002	Castilla-La Mancha

Natura 2000 sites

ES0000161 – Laguna de El Hito
ES4140136 – Laguna de La Nava
ES0000216 – La Nava-Campos Sur
ES4250010 – Humedales de La Mancha
ES0000147 – Marjal de Pego-Oliva
ES0000148 – Marjal dels Moros
ES0000060 – Prat de Cabanes i Torreblanca
ES0000470 – Marjal dels Moros (ZEPA)
ES0000471 – l'Albufera (ZEPA)
ES0000487 – Marjal de Pego-Oliva (ZEPA)
ES0000023 – L'Albufera
ES0000205 – Lagunas del Canal de Castilla

HIC

1310 – Salicornia y otras especies anuales colonizadoras de fangos y arenas
1320 – Praderas de Spartina (Spartinion maritimae)
1410 – Prados salinos mediterráneos (Juncetalia maritimi)
1420 – Matorrales halófilos mediterráneos y termoatlánticos (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)
1430 – Matorrales halonitrófilos (Pegano-Salsoletea)
1510 – Estepas salinas mediterráneas (Limonietalia)
1520 – Vegetación gipsófila ibérica (Gypsophiletalia)
3140 – Aguas oligomesotróficas con vegetación bentónica de Chara spp.
3150 – Lagos eutróficos naturales con vegetación Magnopotamion o Hydrocharition
3170 – Charcas temporales mediterráneas
3260 – Cursos de agua con vegetación de Ranunculion fluitantis
4090 – Brezales oro-mediterráneos endémicos
6220 – Pseudoestepas con gramíneas y anuales de Thero-Brachypodietea
6420 – Pastizales húmedos altos mediterráneos del Molinion-Holoschoenion
6430 – Comunidades altas higrófilas herbáceas
7210 – Turberas calcáreas con Cladium mariscus
92A0 – Galerías de Salix alba y Populus alba
92D0 – Bosques de ribera del sur (Nerio-Tamaricetea)
9340 – Bosques de Quercus ilex y Quercus rotundifolia
1150 – Lagunas costeras

Example: an umbrella species, the Aquatic Warbler

LIFE23-NAT-NL-LIFE AWOM – Aquatic Warblers on the Move. 2025 –2029.

Multinational, aimed at restoring 819 ha in the EU, 300 ha in Senegal and 27 key wetlands for the species.

LIFE16/NAT/ES/000168 – LIFE Paludicola. 2017 – 2020

Habitats restoration in the migratory stops in Spain

LIFE02/NAT/E/008616 – Carricerín Nava-Campos. 2002 –2006

Restoration of La Nava-Campos Natura 2000 site

Example: reflooding of Fuentes de Nava, Boada and Pedraza wetlands (Palencia, Castilla y León)

Example: hypersaline temporary wetlands in central Spain. El Hito (Cuenca, Castilla–La Mancha)

El Hito, main hits

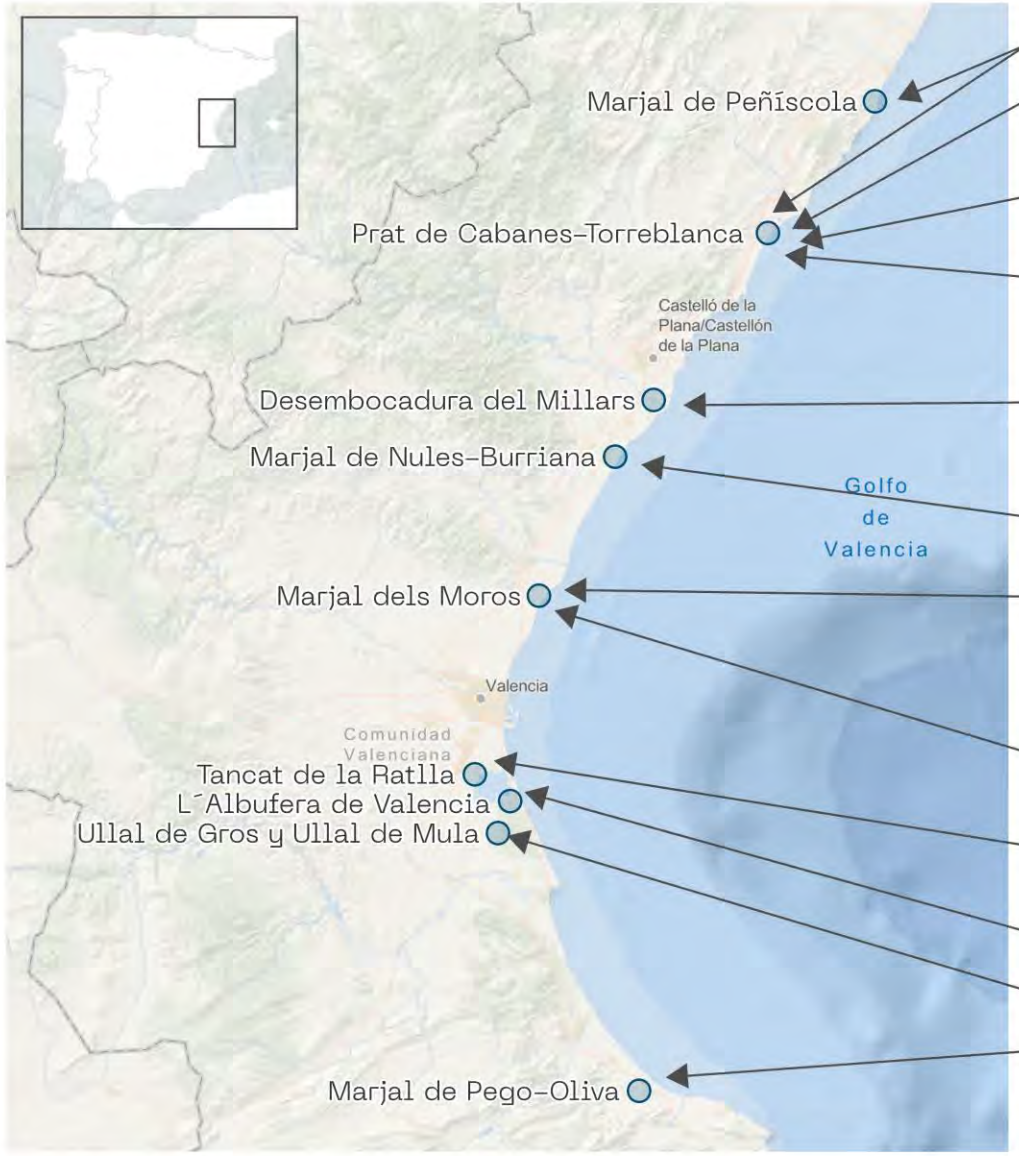
- 387 ha purchased. Conversion of more than 40 ha of agricultural land and pastures into priority habitats
- Elimination of livestock sheds
- 497 ha agreed for overseeding in crane areas (27 farmers, 100% of those in the Nature Reserve)
- 250,000 albardines (Lygeum spartium) planted
- 46 villages visited with the itinerant exhibition, reaching almost 20,000 people

- 10,000 m^3 of debris removed (more than 100 trucks)
- 13.7 km of fence removed
- >10 km of roads restored, >10 km of marked power lines
- a grasshopper and two beetles described new to science
- streaming camera

Example: reflooding of Ballesteros lagoons (Cuenca, Castilla–La Mancha) Started in January 2026

Purchase of 274 ha, the whole Natura 2000 site, plantation of 250.000 masiegas (*Cladium mariscus*), and other restoration actions

Mediterranean corridor
Coastal wetlands



Municipal agreements

Private. Fundación Santander, Dunes restoration

Other small-scale, one-off private funding

Green firebreaks. La Caixa &Caixa Castelló Foundations

Consortium of the Mijares River estuary agreement (Almazora, Burriana y Vila- real municipalities)

Nules municipality agreement

Carbon credits: 4 private companies & DINFE: Donnors Iniciative for Fresh Ecosystems (Prince Albert II Foundation

Regenrative Fund for Nature. Kering, INDITEX

Regional Government, CMA-CGM Ibérica SAU

DANONE-Lanjarón

Probably, water footprint offsets

FGN: extensive livestock farming to improve the habitat of marsh birds

For all:

7 out of the 26 LIFE projects devoleped by FGN have or are being implemented partially in this corridor.

1. LIFE24-IPN-ES-LIFE "HumedalES"

2. LIFE23-NAT-NL-LIFE "AWOM (Aquatic warbler on the move)"

3. LIFE19/CCM/ES/001235 "Wetlands4Climate"

4. LIFE 19/ENV/ES/000197 "RenaturWat"

5. LIFE16/NAT/ES/168 "Paludicola"

6. LIFE12/ENV/ES/000685 LIFE "Albufera"

7. INTERREG MED EcoSustain

National Ministry for the Ecological Transition: Fundación Biodiversidad

Regional Government: Regional Agreement for the conservation of wetlands in the Natura 2000 network.

Financial mechanisms for wetland conservation in the Mediterranean Corridor

FGN: January 2026

Actions

Restoration of infrastructures and hydrological management

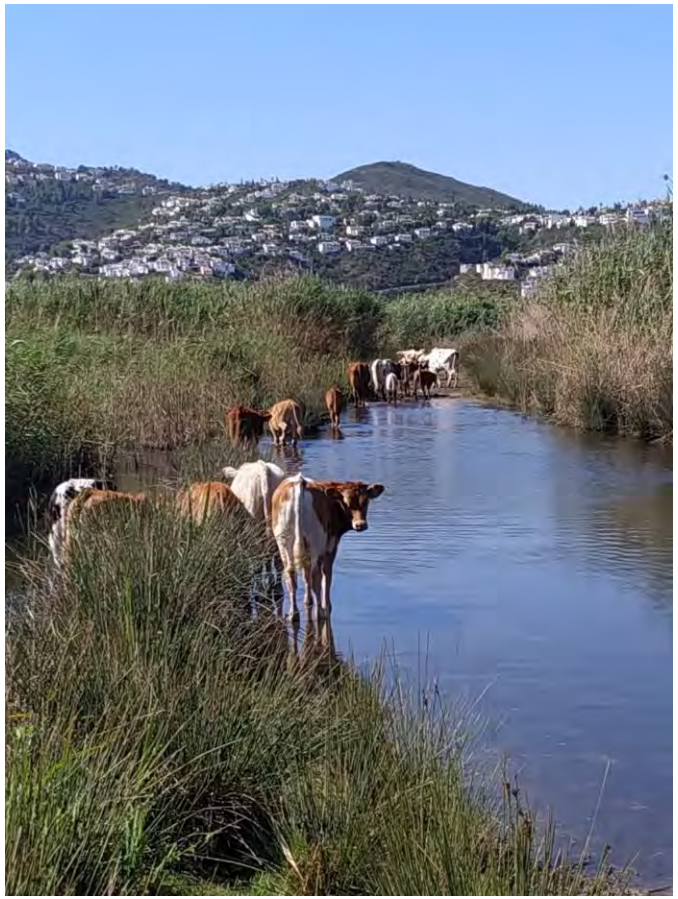
Soil stripping and soil mudding (decapado y fangueos)

Mowing of Helophytes & composting

- Reed mowing and harvesting with an amphibious machine
- Planting of other macrophytes
- Extensive livestock grazing to keep reeds at bay
- Chopping of helophytes with a tractor
- Secondary use of compost, given to farmers

Controlled grazing with local farmers after reeds opening

- Extensive livestock grazing to keep reeds at bay



Fundación Global Nature

Green firebreaks in wetlands
Recovery of traditional rice plots among reeds

Adaptation to climate change
Restoration and protection of the dunes and the coast

The National Parador of El Saler was saved from the effects of Storm “Gloria” thanks to the creation of “malladas”, buffer, depressed areas among the dunes.

Agreements with municipalities

Coastal municipalities see other ecosystem services far beyond the landscape, tourist uses and biodiversity outcomes. They value these restoration works because of many other services, such as the control of fires, wild boar refuges (less accidents), illegal dumps, floods, mosquitoes, etc...

Peñíscola, Torreblanca and some others to come.

New financing tools aimed at the business sector

Business sector (ESG– CSRD)
Water footprint, biodiversity metrics, carbon credits, sustainable sourcing, offset measures…

Voluntary carbon markets

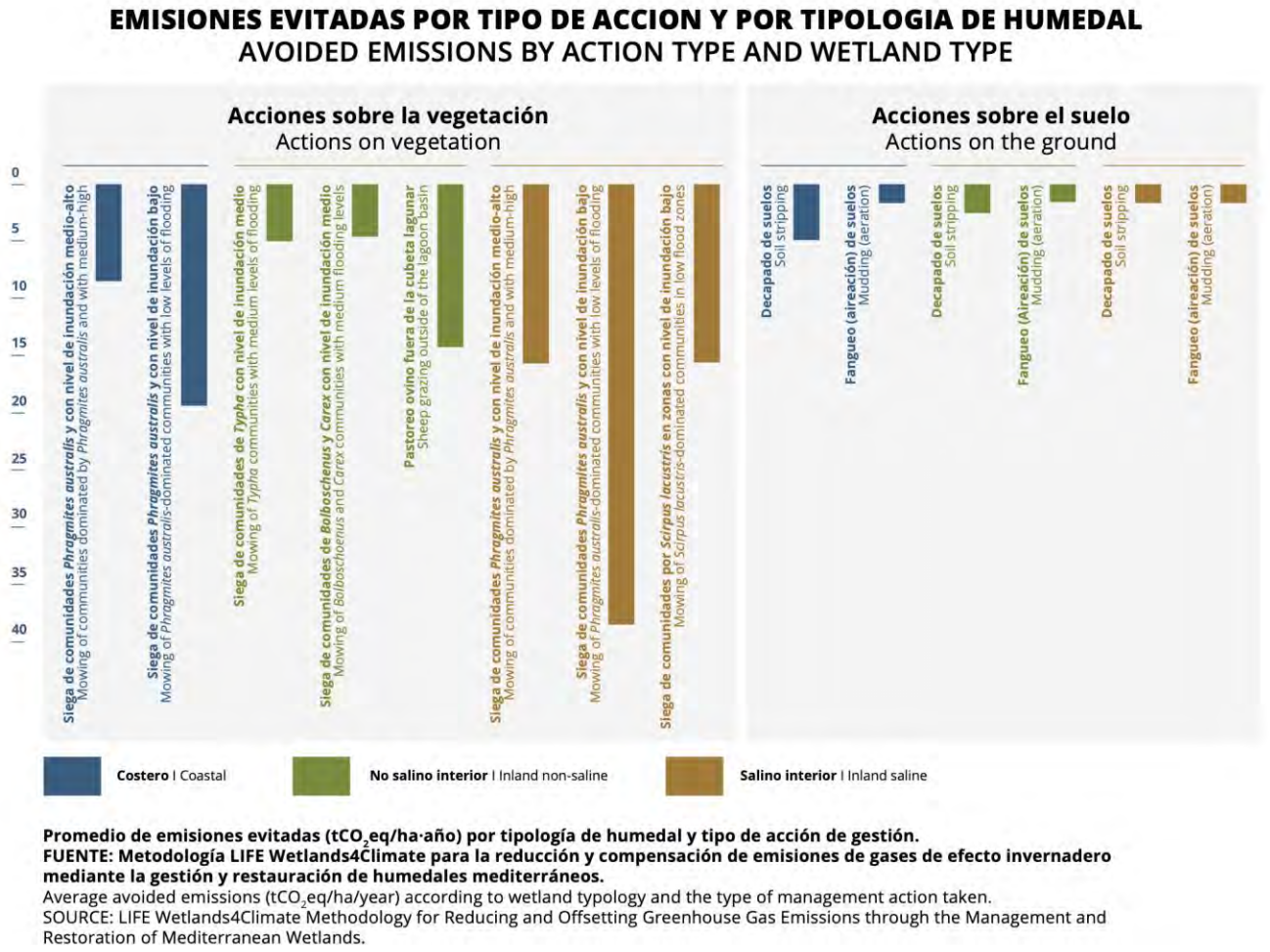
The most efficient action: mowing reeds in low flood conditions:

- up to 24.29 tCO2eq/ha·year in coastal wetlands
- up to 38 tCO2eq/ha·year in saline wetlands.

CO_2 CH_4

C storage

C emissions



Promedio de emisiones evitadas (tCO_2eq/ha·año) por tipología de humedal y tipo de acción de gestión.
FUENTE: Metodología LIFE Wetlands4Climate para la reducción y compensación de emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero mediante la gestión y restauración de humedales mediterráneos.
Average avoided emissions (tCO_2eq/ha/year) according to wetland typology and the type of management action taken.
SOURCE: LIFE Wetlands4Climate Methodology for Reducing and Offsetting Greenhouse Gas Emissions through the Management and Restoration of Mediterranean Wetlands.

LIFE Wetlands4Climate: Key Results achieved

Methodology for the reduction and compensation of GHG emissions with the management/restoration of Mediterranean wetlands

www.wetlands4climate.eu

Methodology for reducing and offsetting greenhouse gas emissions through the management/restoration of mediterranean wetlands (ESP /ENG)

Handbook for adding a climate-mitigation perspective to wetland management and restoration (ENG)

Download

Backed by the Academy and Science

Inclusion of Mediterranean wetlands in the CRCF Carbon Removal Certification Framework

LIFE Wetlands for Climate / Sale of carbon credits.

Marjal del Moro, Sagunto (Valencia)

The active management and restoration of wetlands fixes more than 3,690 tonnes of CO_2 equivalent mitigated.

Vegetation mowing the most effective action (up to 38 t CO_2eq/ha·year in saline wetlands).

Sale of the first carbon credits (1,500 t) generated in a Mediterranean wetland restoration project, in the Marjal del Moro, in Sagunto.

Companies that have already bought these credits: **Naturgy, Zumavesa, Saggas and Ecoalf**

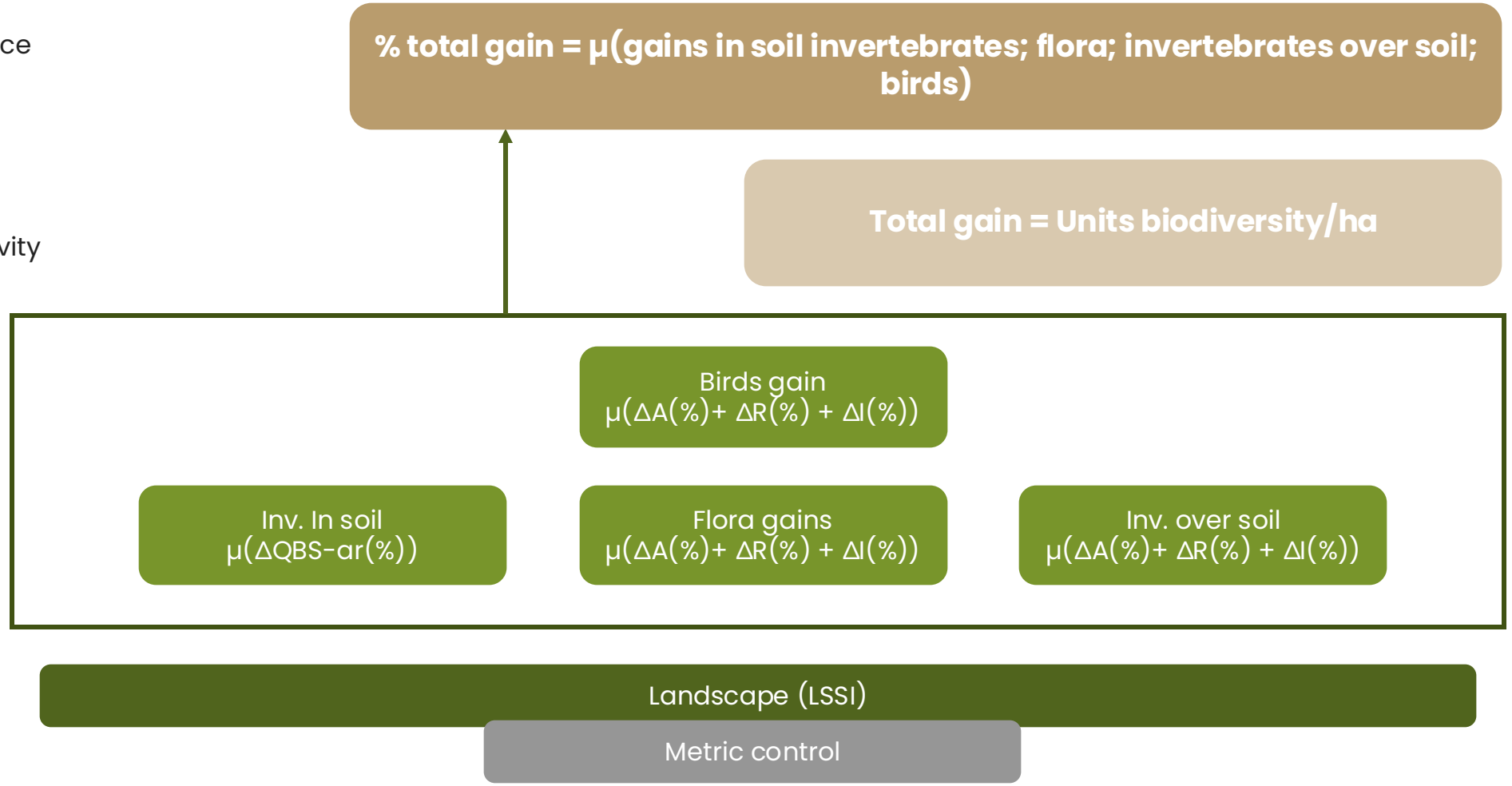
Water footprint, example: purchase and restoration of Soto Gutiérrez wetland (META and Microsoft)

Probably, it will also be applied also to co-fund the reflooding of Ballesteros wetlands

Biodiversity metrics for the business sector

3 basic indicators + landscape connectivity:

1) Abundance
2) Richness
3) Interest
4) Connectivity



Applied for Nestlé, Energy and other companies, and now in adaptation to wetlands

Projects	What we assess	Biodiversity Gain
Fallow lands compensatory measures. Cuenca	• Fallow land with spontaneous vegetation vs cereal	32,54%
Fallow lands compensatory measures. Teruel	• Different types vs cereal	Average (70.96%) Old (45.21%). Leguminos mixture (74,71%). Sown (72.49%).
Fallow lands. Others	• Fallow land with spontaneous vegetation vs cereal	41.53%
Nestlé Cereals Iberia	• Fallow land with a mixture of sown seeds vs cereal	76%

Science, transfer and connection with the local population

Backed by the Science and the Academia

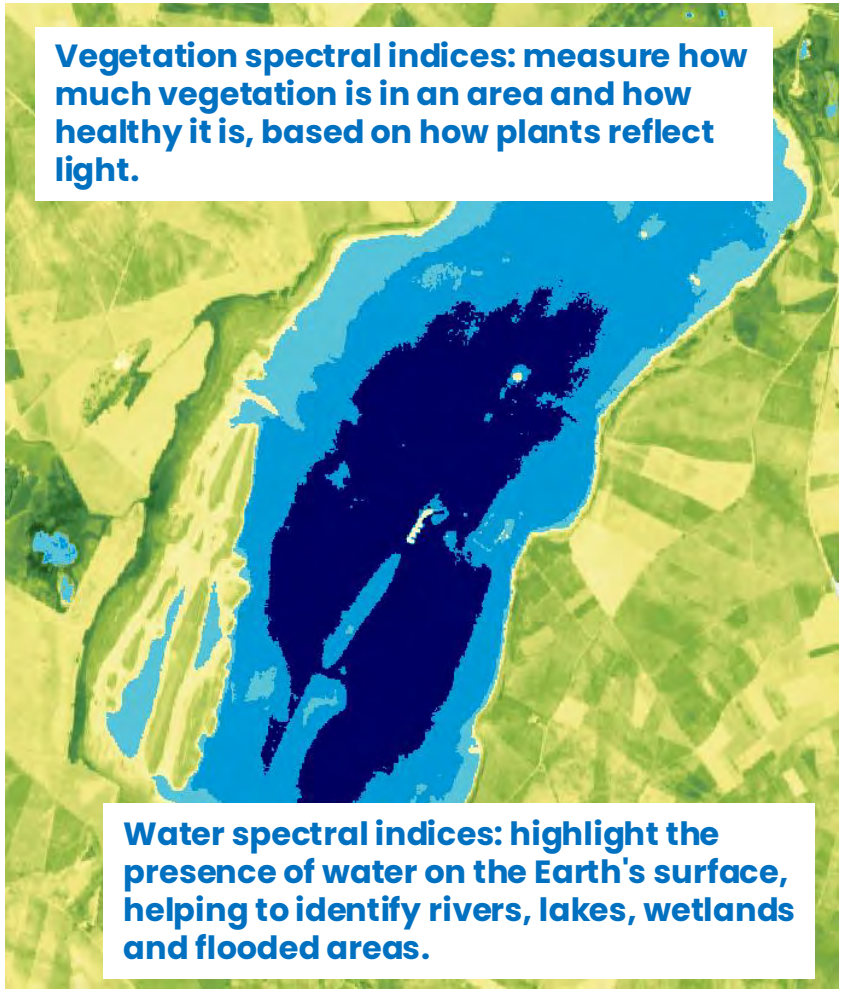
Shared and scaled up in Networks

Wetlands inventory, mapping and viewer

Earth Observation tool for monitoring indicators and dynamics of surface waters in wetland ecosystems.

Developed on Google Earth Engine: a Google online platform that allows large amounts of geospatial data, such as satellite imagery, to be analyzed and visualized to study and monitor the environment and changes on Earth.

Spectral indices: mathematical algorithms that are applied to satellite imagery to highlight or measure certain parameters.



Vegetation spectral indices: measure how much vegetation is in an area and how healthy it is, based on how plants reflect light.

Water spectral indices: highlight the presence of water on the Earth's surface, helping to identify rivers, lakes, wetlands and flooded areas.

Let´s not forget local communities

We cultivate the value of Nature