



The Convention on Wetlands

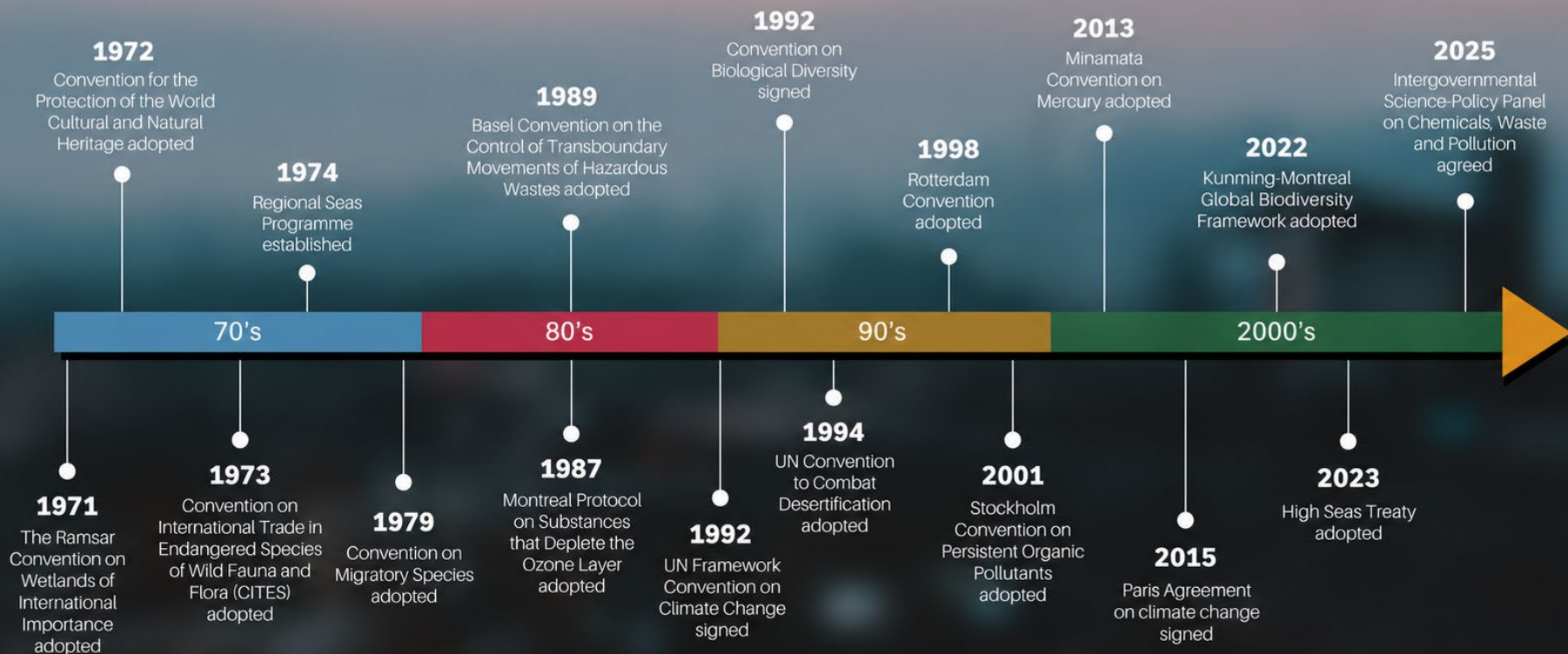
Dr Musonda Mumba

Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands

www.ramsar.org



Global Environmental Agreements



Note: This timeline highlights key milestones but does not represent an exhaustive list of global environmental agreements.

What are wetlands?



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



Inland wetlands: rivers, lakes, marshes, ponds, peatlands, floodplains and swamps.



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



Human-made wetlands include fishponds, salt pans, rice paddies.

Wetlands sustain life



Drinking water

Flood protection

Jobs

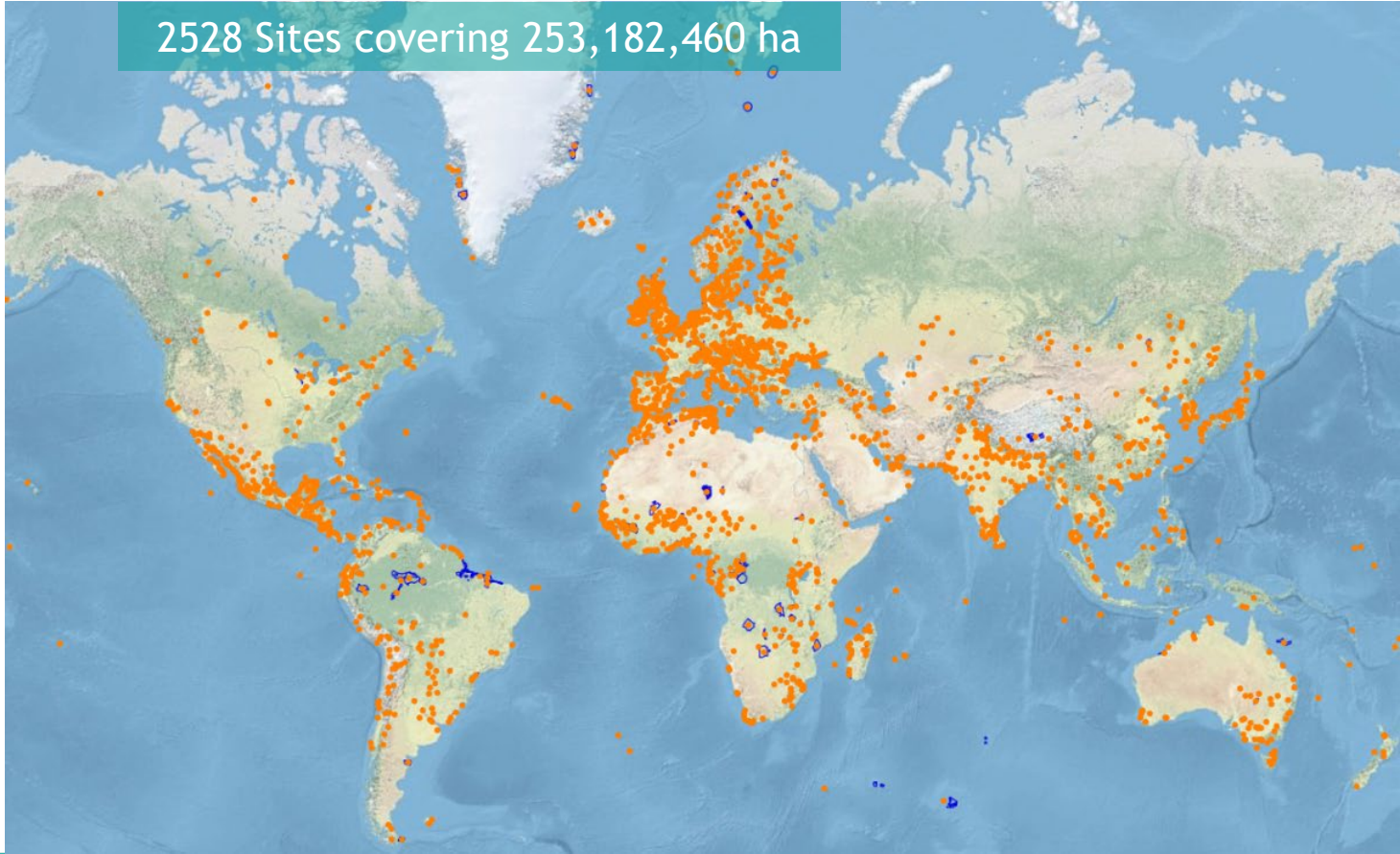
Food Production

Climate regulation

Biodiversity

Wetlands of International Importance - “Ramsar Sites”

2528 Sites covering 253,182,460 ha



Bodies of the Convention





Protecting wetlands for our common future

23-31 July 2025



Mosi-O-Tunya Falls (Formerly Victoria Falls)



GLOBAL WETLAND OUTLOOK 2025

Valuing, conserving,
restoring and
financing wetlands



“Wetlands deliver ecosystem services worth up to \$39 trillion annually – more than any other type of ecosystem.”



Guidance for Implementing a Structured Process for National Wetland Inventory

Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands



www.ramsar.org



Wetland City Accreditation



Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards

- ...for Innovation
- ...for Young Wetland Champions
- Ramsar Wetland Indigenous Peoples Conservation and Wise Use Award
- Receive the Evian Special Prize of USD 10,000, provided by Danone, and were honored at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15) in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe



Proven synergies, delivering impact today

- ➔ Biodiversity & restoration alignment
 - 6th Joint Work Plan 2024-2030 with CBD
 - EU Nature Restoration Regulation; connection to Resolution XV.15
- ➔ Wetlands as cross-cutting policy connector
 - UN Water & UN Rio Conventions
 - EU Water Resilience Strategy
 - Paris Agreement: Wetland carbon stock & flux inventories
- ➔ Multilateral cooperation & governance
 - Working with other MEAs
 - UN International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development (2018 – 2028)
 - UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)



Stronger synergies, shaping our shared future

- ➔ Improve natural capital valuation and integration in decision-making
- ➔ Wetlands deliver value across
 - Biodiversity resilience
 - Climate adaptation & disaster risk reduction
 - Water security & livelihoods
 - Culture & identity
 - Economies & societies

*Investing in our wetlands is
investing in our future.*



2 February - World Wetlands Day (WWD)



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.

Wetlands
and the
SDGs

Some Country Examples

Ghana







**Awulae Kwasi Amakyi III – Western
Amanzule**

Belize







Mexico



Mexicana Youth, Texicoco





Texicoco Ramsar Site





A Not-So-short Personal Journey

From Intern to Secretary General



A – NOT – So- short Personal Journey

1995: Biologist Govt of Zambia

1998: Intern at Convention Wetlands

2000 - 2001: WWF Int.

2001 - 2005: PhD in Wetlands Hydrology, UCL

2006 - 2008: WWF (UK) + East Africa

2008 - 2021: United Nations (UNEP & UNDP)

2022: Back to the Convention on Wetlands

A Not-So-short Personal Journey

Honouring the journey
WHO has inspired,
influenced or guided
you?



1998



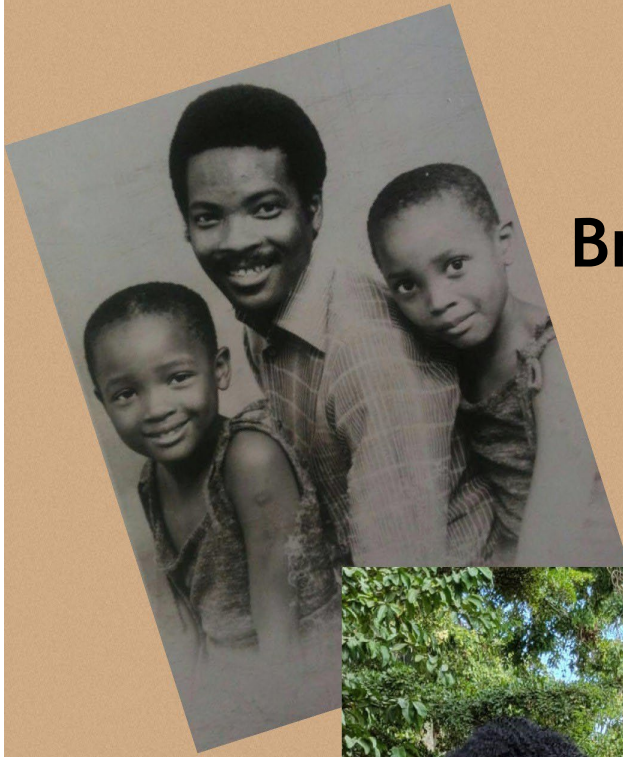
2023



A Not-So-short Personal Journey

**Inspiration from
Family**

My Father Bright Mumba





Meeting with
the amazing
Mary
Robinson

Climate
COP25
Madrid, Spain



Thank You

www.ramsar.org