



Presentation from  
**2016 World Water  
Week in Stockholm**

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# Wetlands provide green solutions and carbon storage

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Acting Secretary General



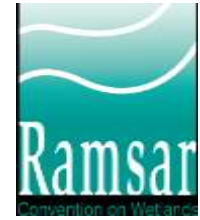
# Ramsar Convention overview



- Signed in 1971, Ramsar, Iran
- First international treaty to focus on a single ecosystem
- Provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources
- To date: 169 Contracting Parties
- Over 2,200 Ramsar Sites , covering more than 2.1 million km<sup>2</sup>

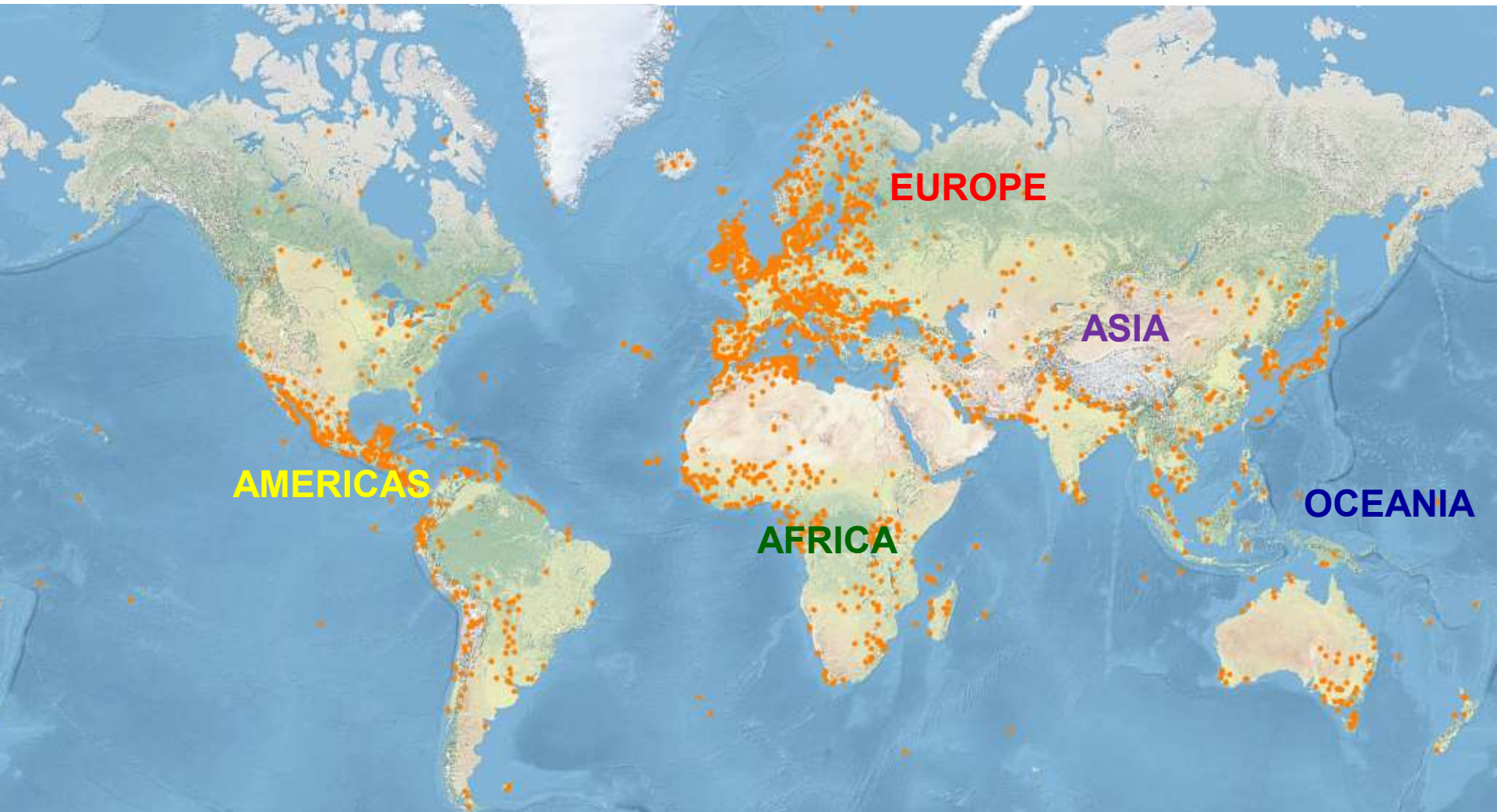


# Ramsar Convention on Wetlands



169 Contracting Parties

2,240 Ramsar Sites covering 215,240,112 ha





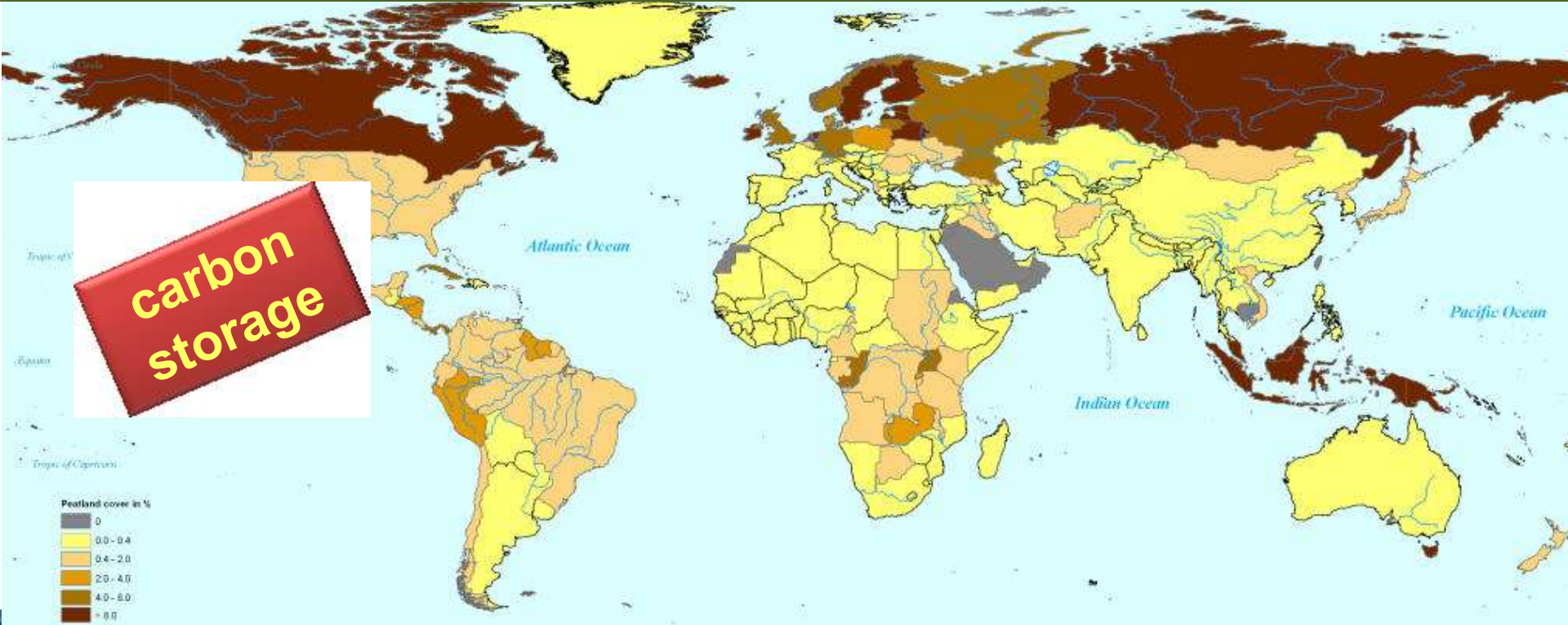
# Ramsar Convention overview



- Mission
  - “the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world”
  
- Three pillars
  - Wise Use
  - Ramsar Sites
  - International Cooperation



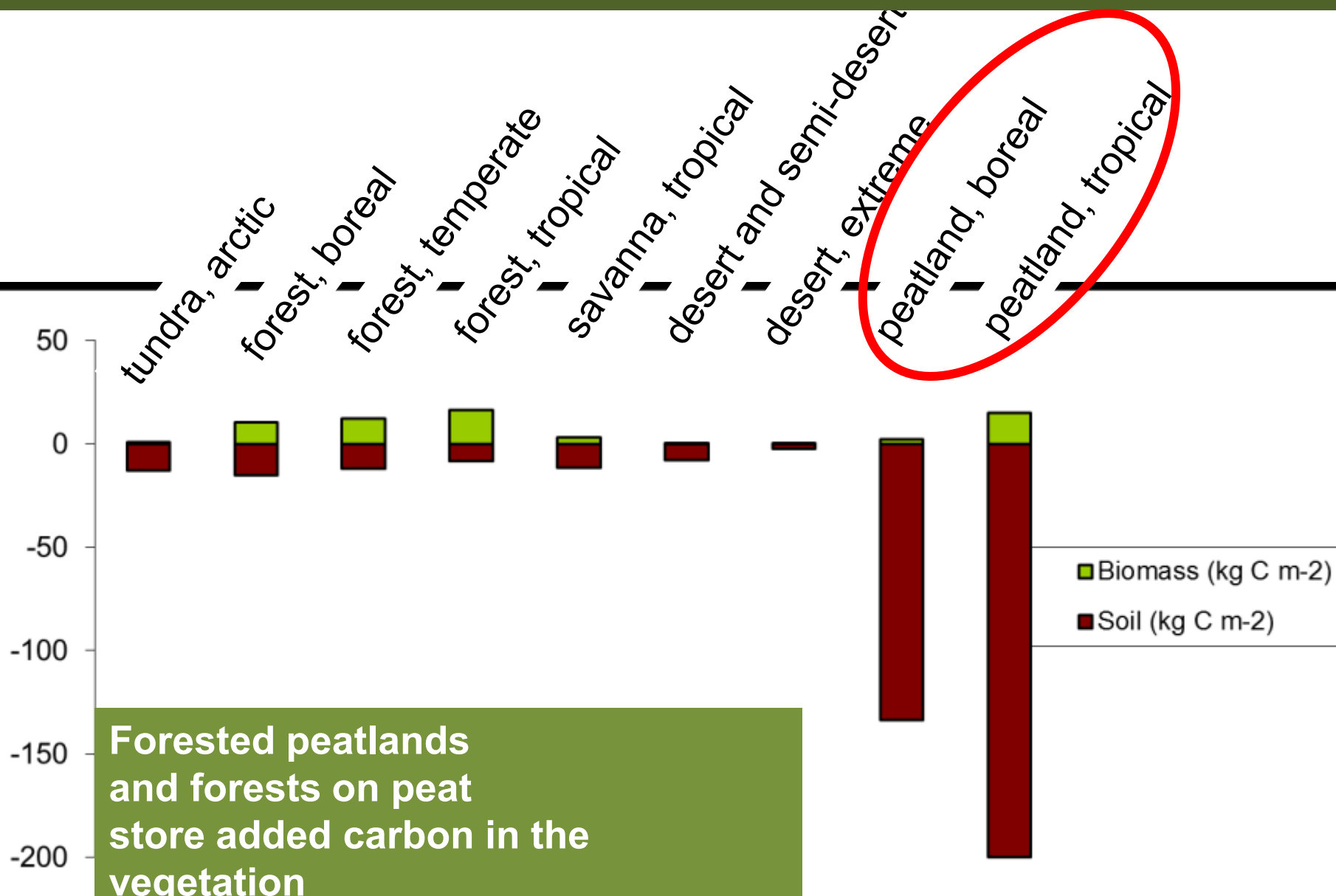
**Peatlands** cover 3% of the world's land area and store about 20% of the terrestrial carbon



**Peatlands** are the largest long-term terrestrial carbon store: more than twice the carbon than in all forests!

➤ 3.5 x more than other ecosystems in the

# Peatlands store more **carbon**, largely in their soil:





**Plantations (and farming) on *dried peatlands* are not sustainable**





*But keeping peatland forests wet, will ...*



**reduce greenhouse gas emissions**

**keep carbon stored in the soil where it is**

**maintain water storage and purifying functions**

**support and conserve biodiversity in the area**



***Deforestation, drainage and degradation of forests and peatlands  
- at large scale - often go hand in hand ...***





# Ramsar proposes solutions :



paludiculture >  
sustainable  
production  
in wet forests

*limit* drainage, degradation and deforestation of peatland forests (LULUCF)

*re-wet* drained peatland forests (REDD+)

*support* habitat and biodiversity restoration (CBD)

*use* Ramsar's "wise use concept" as a bridge