



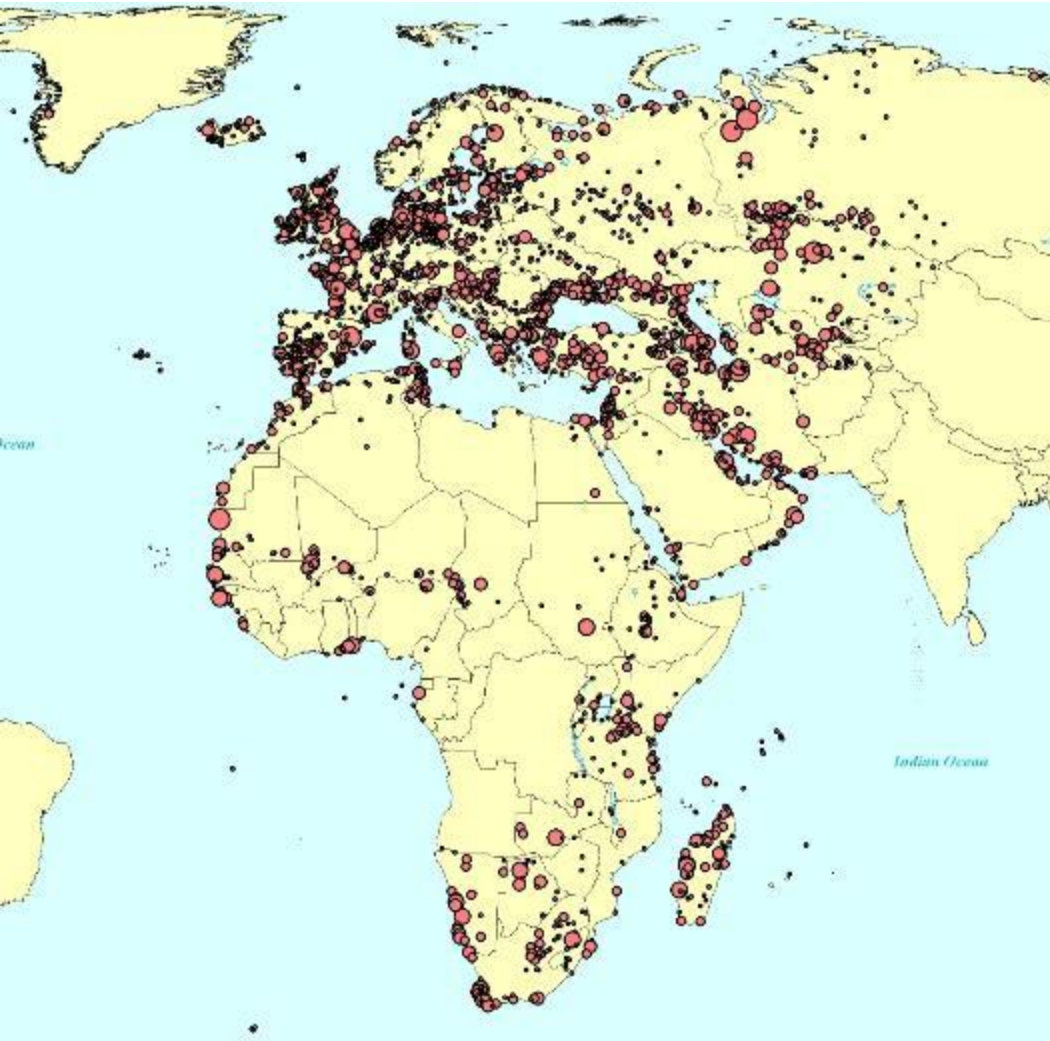
A Climate resilient site network in the African-Eurasian Flyway

Wetlands International



Waterbirds depend on healthy wetland landscapes

There are more than 3,000 Critical Sites in the African-Eurasian Flyway



- Migratory waterbirds depend on internationally important wetlands 'Critical Sites' for their annual migrations
- They migrate between Western Eurasia and Africa and within Africa or Eurasia
- Many Critical Sites have little or no protection -
- Climate change will reduce the availability of water at some sites & increase it at others

Climate Resilient Flyways Project

A comprehensive and coherent flyway network is a key AEWA target



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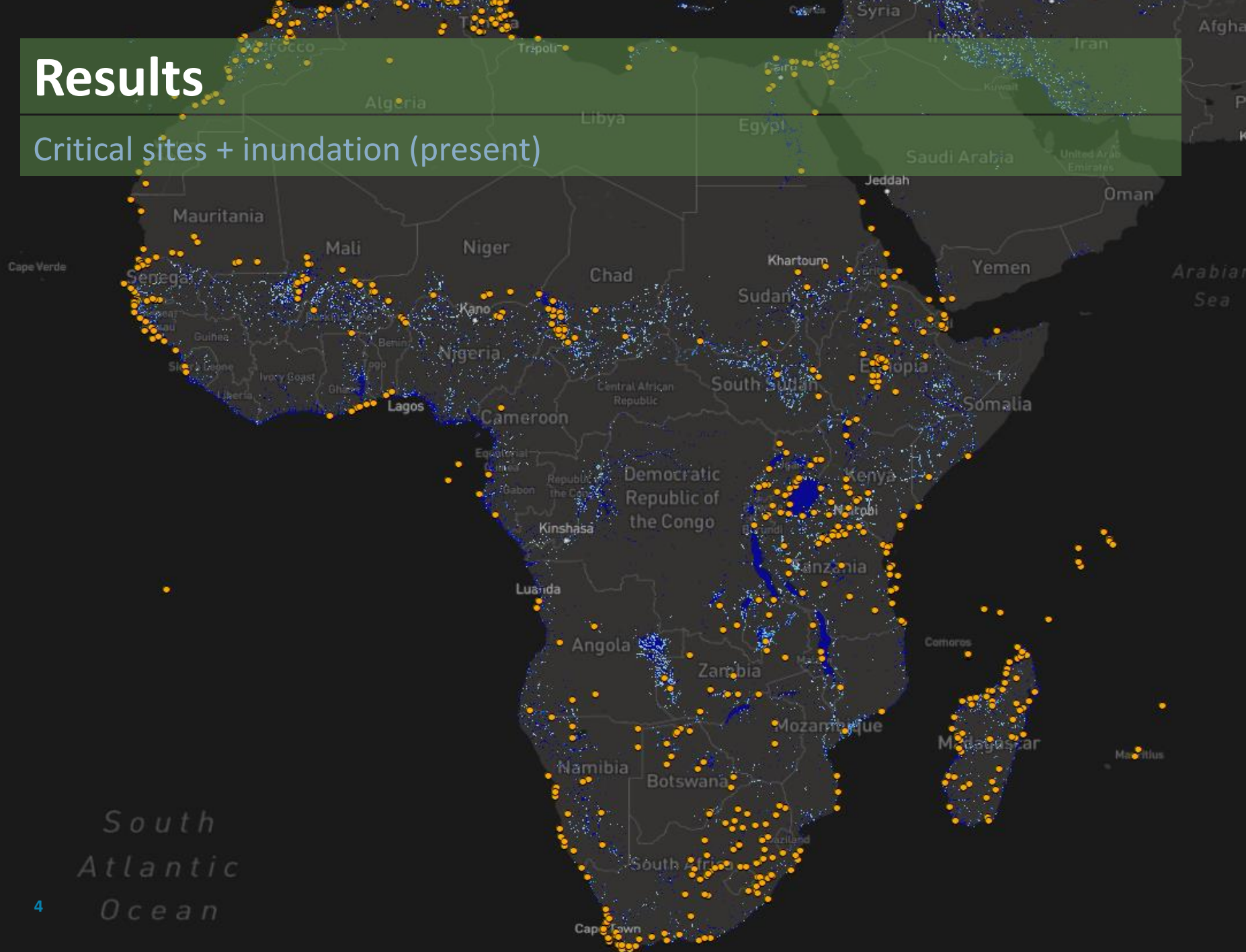


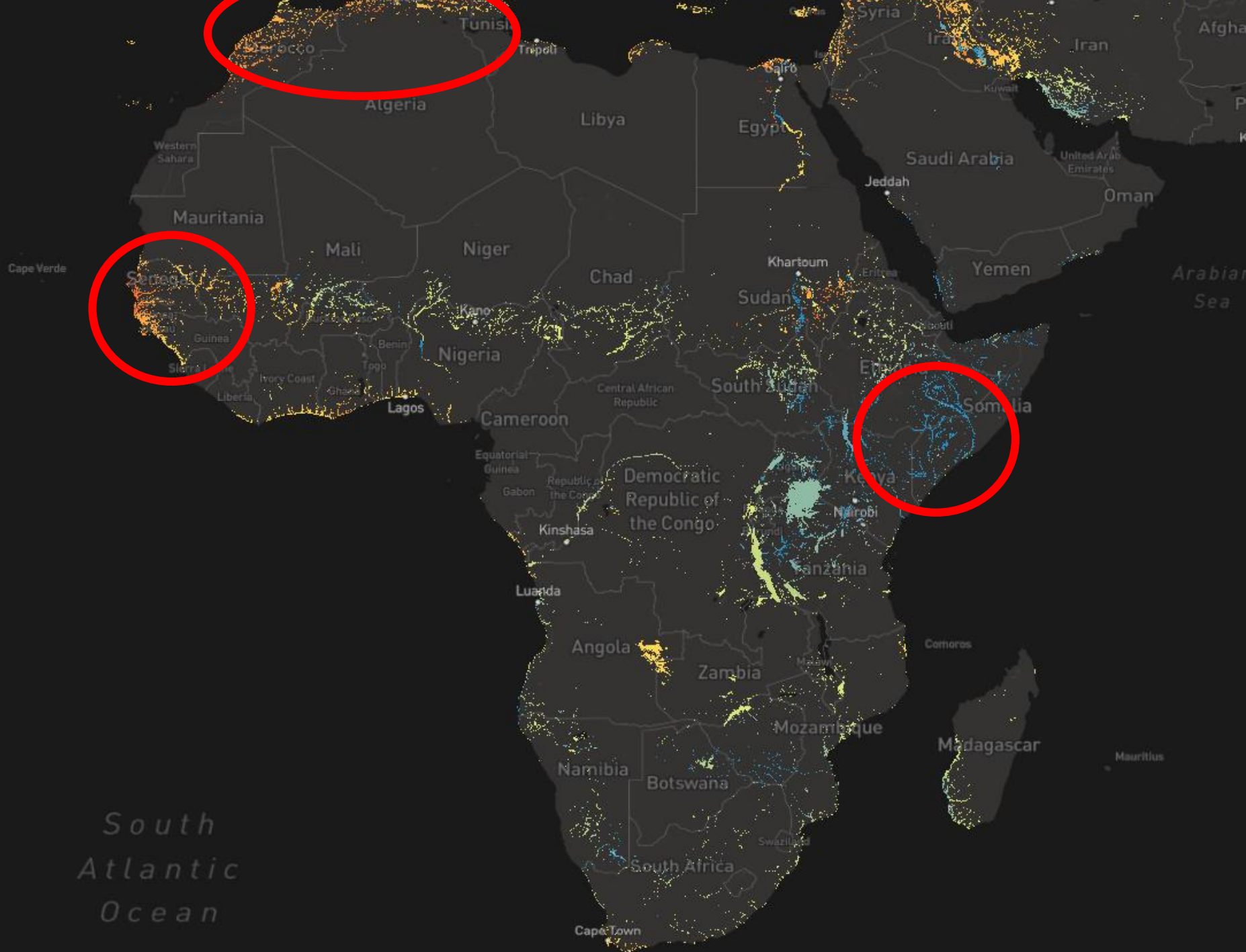
based on a decision of the German Bundestag

- Assess the vulnerability of Critical Sites in the African-Eurasian Flyway to climate change and identify priority sites for adaptation measures.
- Demonstration landscape level restoration projects in Ethiopia and Mali.
- Convince conventions, governments and donors to prioritise management and investment in critical site networks.

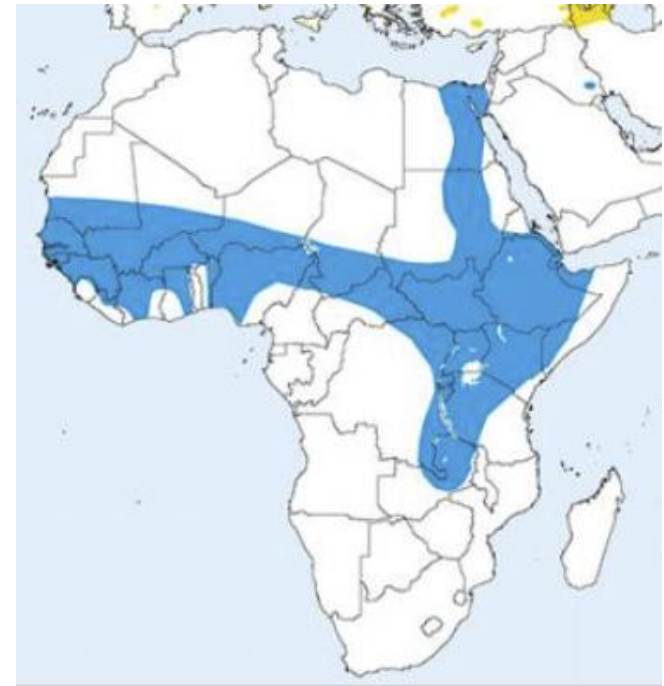
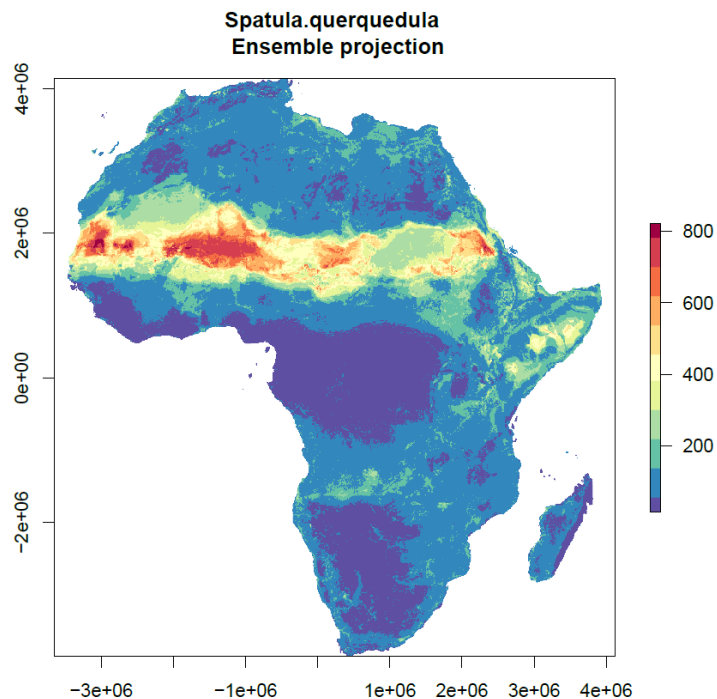
Results

Critical sites + inundation (present)



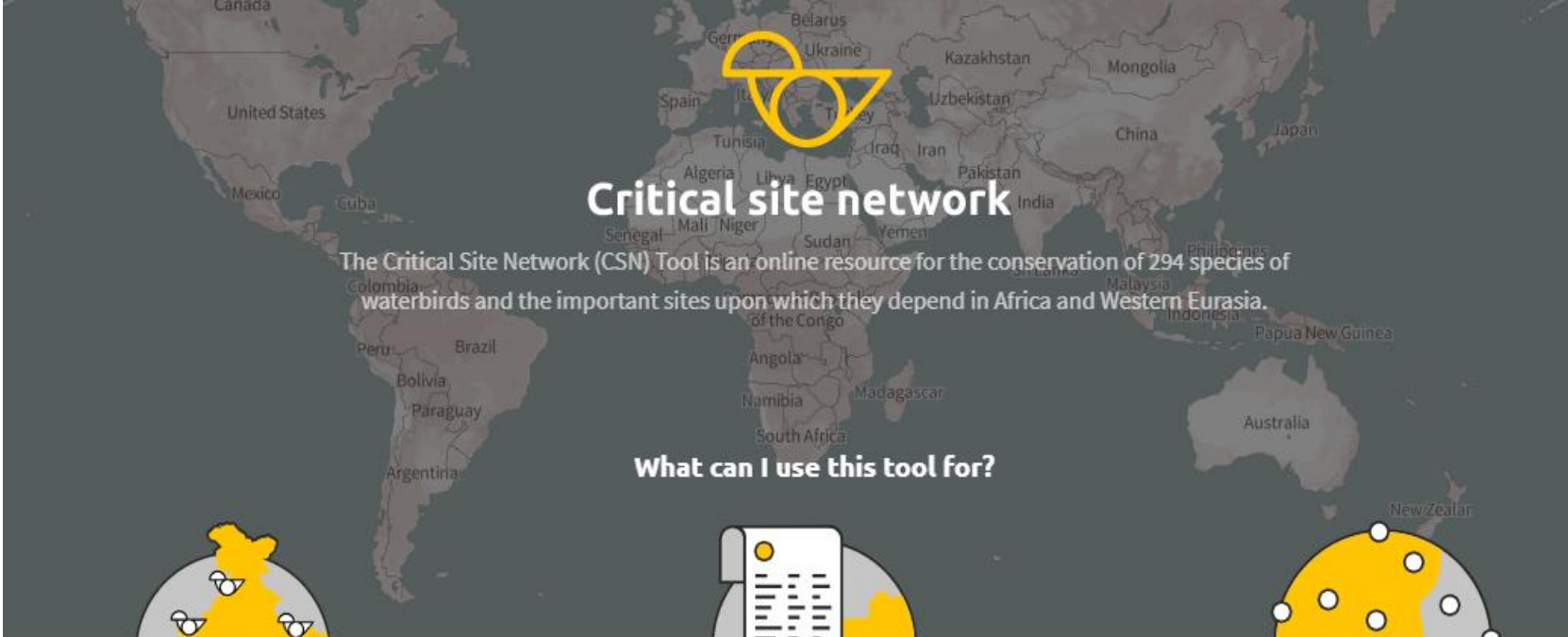


Modelling species distribution to predict changes in their distribution



Critical Site Network Tool 2.0


<http://criticalsites.wetlands.org>




Critical site network

The Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool is an online resource for the conservation of 294 species of waterbirds and the important sites upon which they depend in Africa and Western Eurasia.


What can I use this tool for?



**Search for a country
and see all the occurring species**



**See the data
for a particular site**



**Search for a species
and see its critical sites**

Effective conservation requires landscape scale action

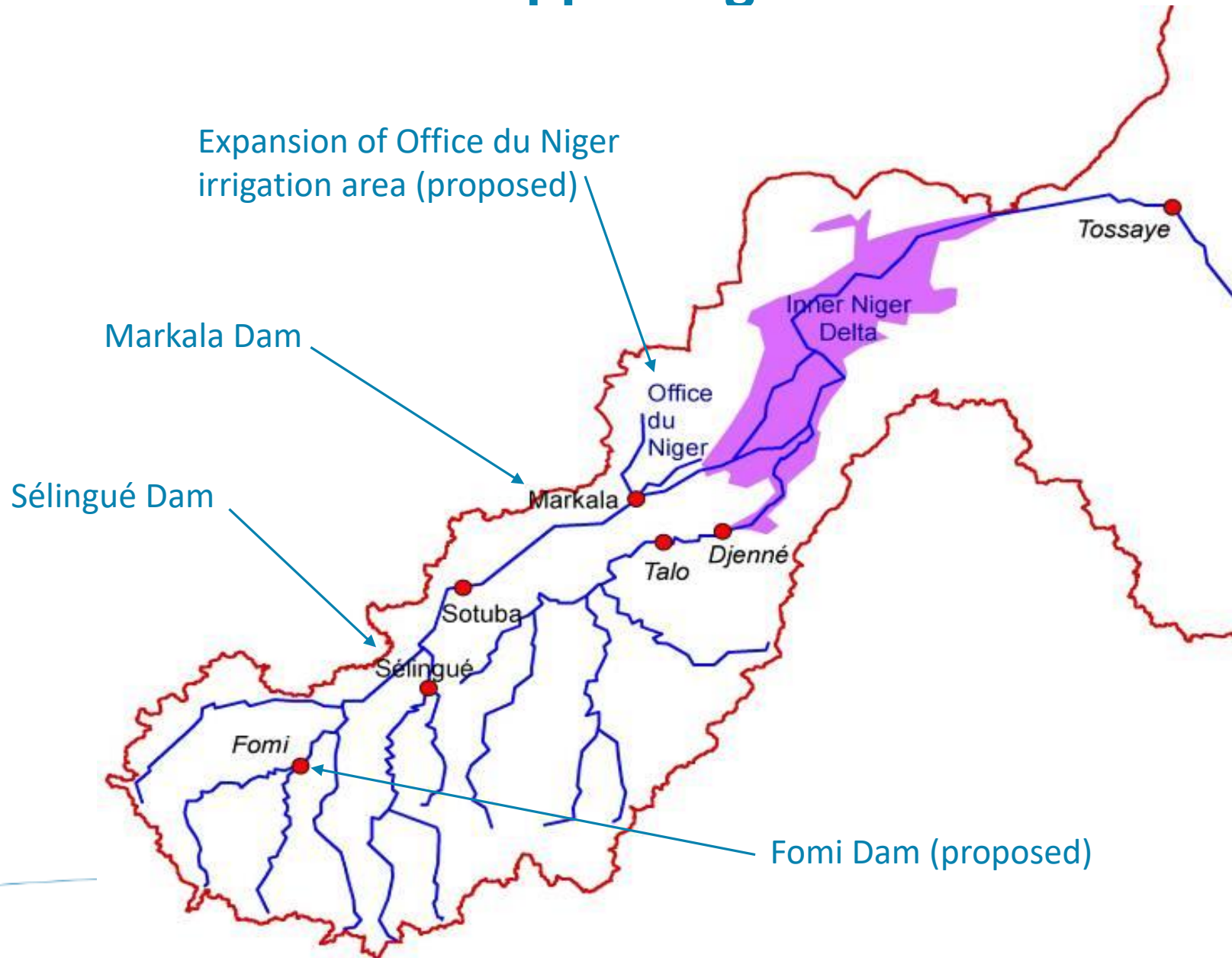
Site-based conservation is not enough

- Protecting waterbird populations in a changing climate requires a comprehensive network of healthy wetland sites in countries across the flyway.
- Effective conservation requires working at a landscape scale that recognises the impact of upstream activities.
- Critical Sites must be integrated into broader societal, economic development, climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and plans.

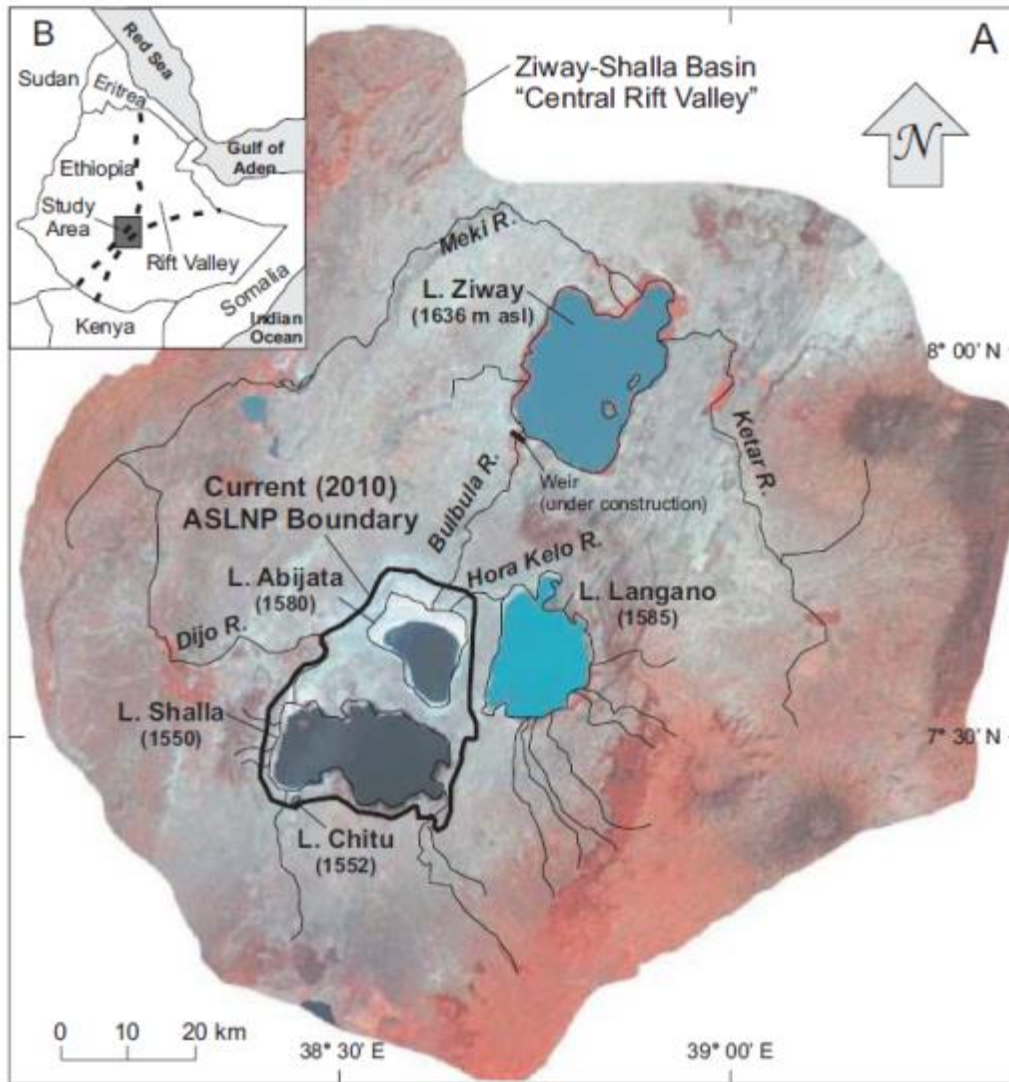
Mali's Inner Niger Delta



Infrastructure in Mali's Upper Niger Basin

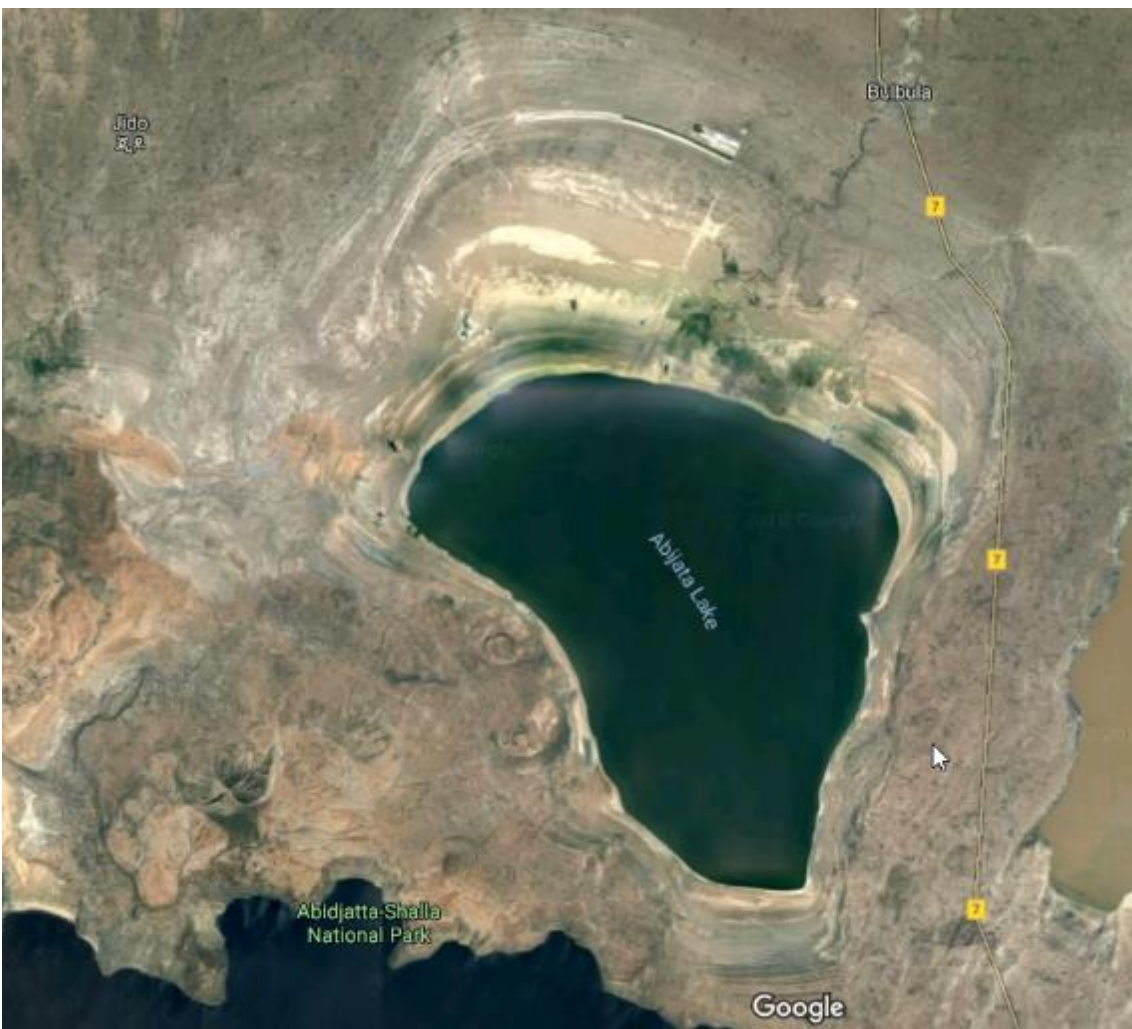


Ethiopia's Central Rift Valley Lakes



- Ziway-Shalla basin overview
- 4 large lakes
- Lake Ziway supplies water to Lake Abijatta
- Lake Abijatta is the most important critical site in Ethiopia – once hosting 200,000 Lesser Flamingos

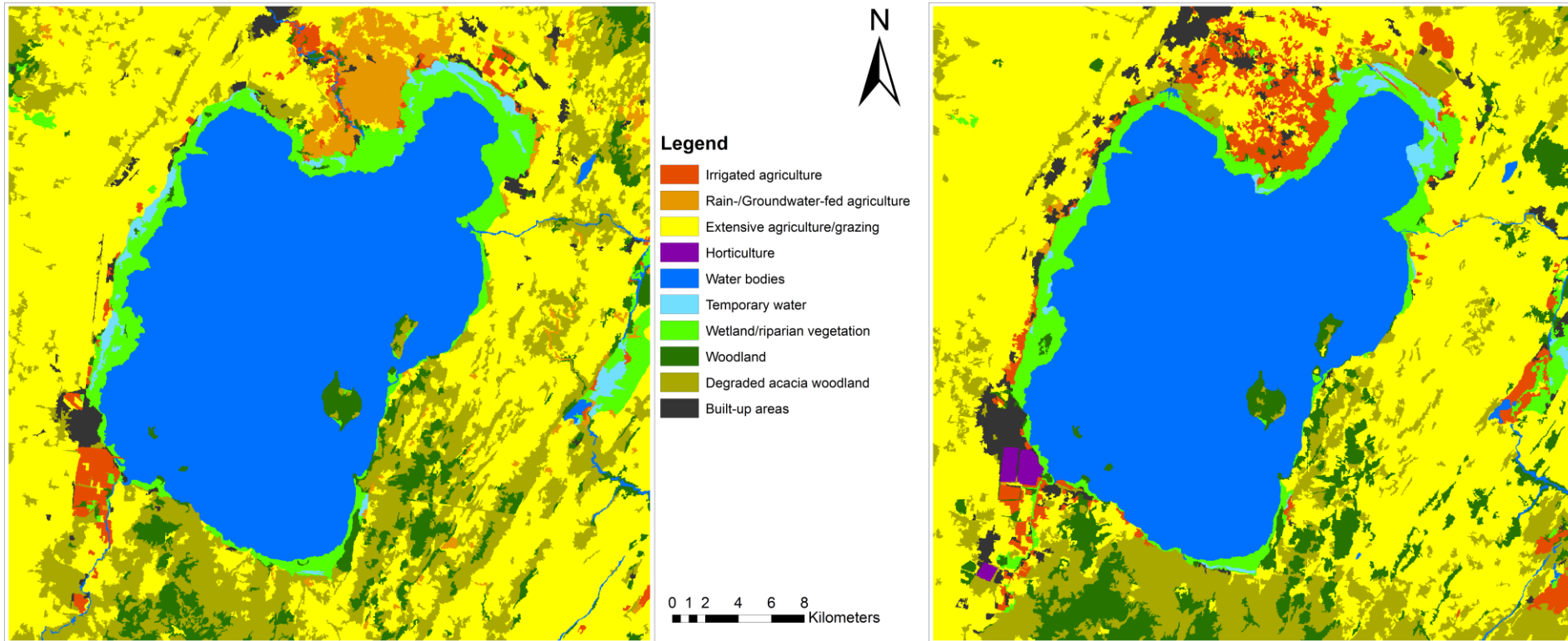
Lake Abijatta is disappearing



- Volume and area decreased over 34% in a period of 15 years
- Lake Abijatta is at risk of drying up within 10 years

Ethiopia landscape approach

Changes in land use 2000 to 2015



Lake Ziway

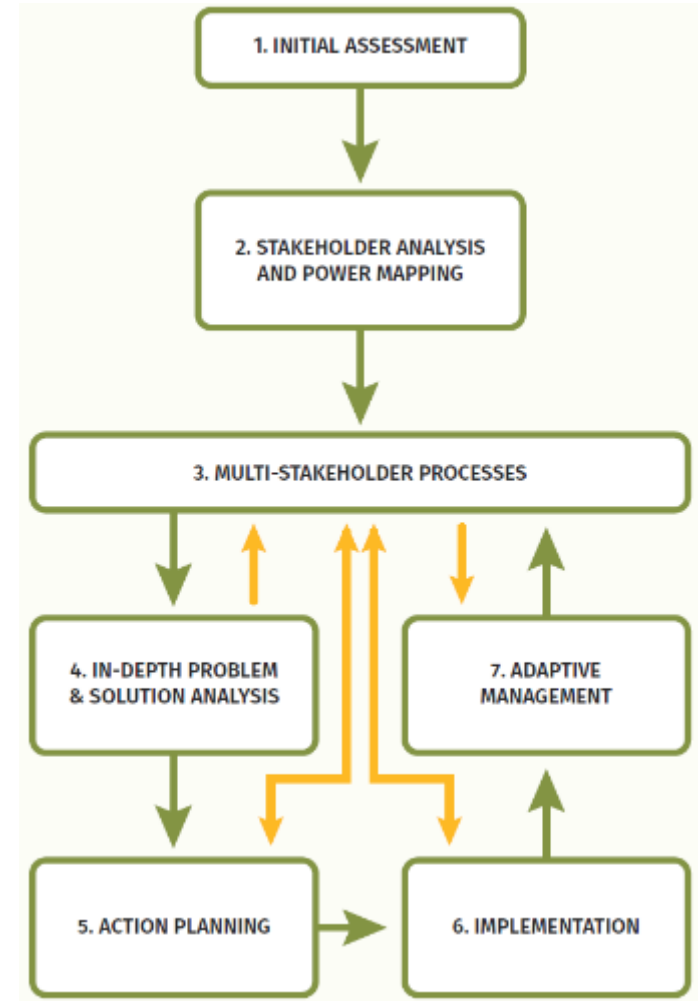
5000 pumps and counting



Integrated landscape approach

In 7 steps

1. Look upstream – not just the critical site
2. Identify who is having an impact on water and who is being impacted
3. Engage the major stakeholders – form a coalition of the willing
4. Undertake studies to identify the role of stakeholders and possible solutions
5. Develop a shared vision and figure out solutions together
6. Implement solutions to address key challenges – while securing short-term successes
7. Use monitoring and evaluation to adapt and improve the likelihood of success



Community-based restoration of Critical Sites

Resources important to waterbirds and people

Mali Inner Niger Delta

- 1,500 hectares of bourgou fields
- 75 hectares of floodplain forests



Ethiopia Lake Abijatta

- Community-based climate change adaption
- 400 hectares degraded land



Training courses in Mali and Ethiopia

For national focal points of AEWA & Ramsar Convention in Africa

Participants will learn how to:

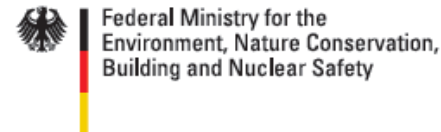
- implement AEWA Resolutions 5.13 and 6.6 at national level
- use the CSN Tool 2.0 for screening Critical Sites vulnerable to climate change
- assess the contribution of Critical Sites to ecosystem-based climate change adaptation
- identify areas where wetland restoration can serve multiple climate change adaptation purposes
- conserve and sustain these areas by implementing an integrated wetland landscape approach

Thank You

We invite your participation to expand this approach to conserving Critical Sites



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