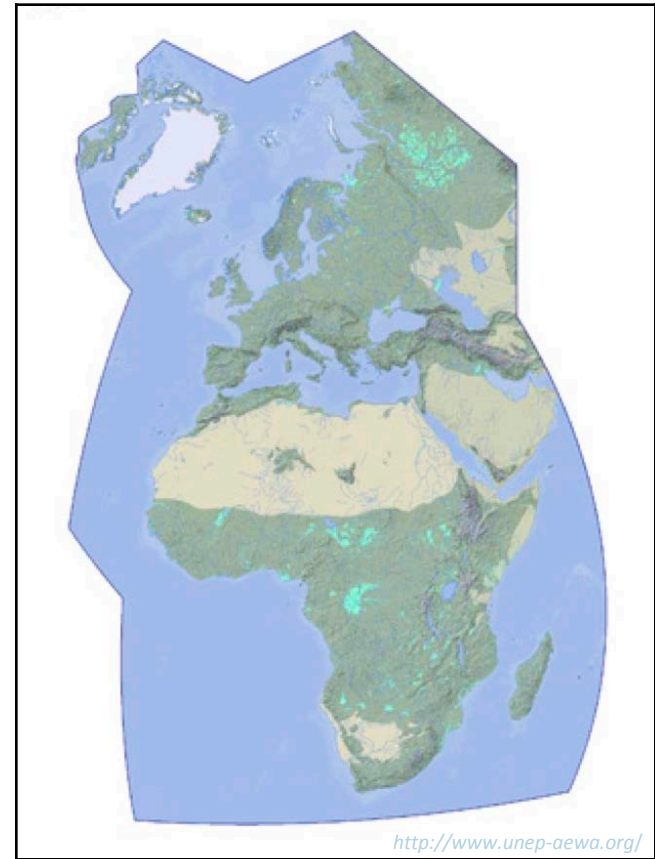


***CONSERVING AND MANAGING MIGRATORY WATERBIRD
POPULATIONS AT THE FLYWAY LEVEL:
THE COMPLEMENTARY ROLES OF, AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN, THE
RAMSAR CONVENTION AND THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN WATERBIRD
AGREEMENT***



Melissa Lewis, Tilburg University

- *1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat:*
global scope, 169 Parties.
- *1995 Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA):*
119 range states, 75 of which are Parties (compared to 112 Ramsar Parties in this region).



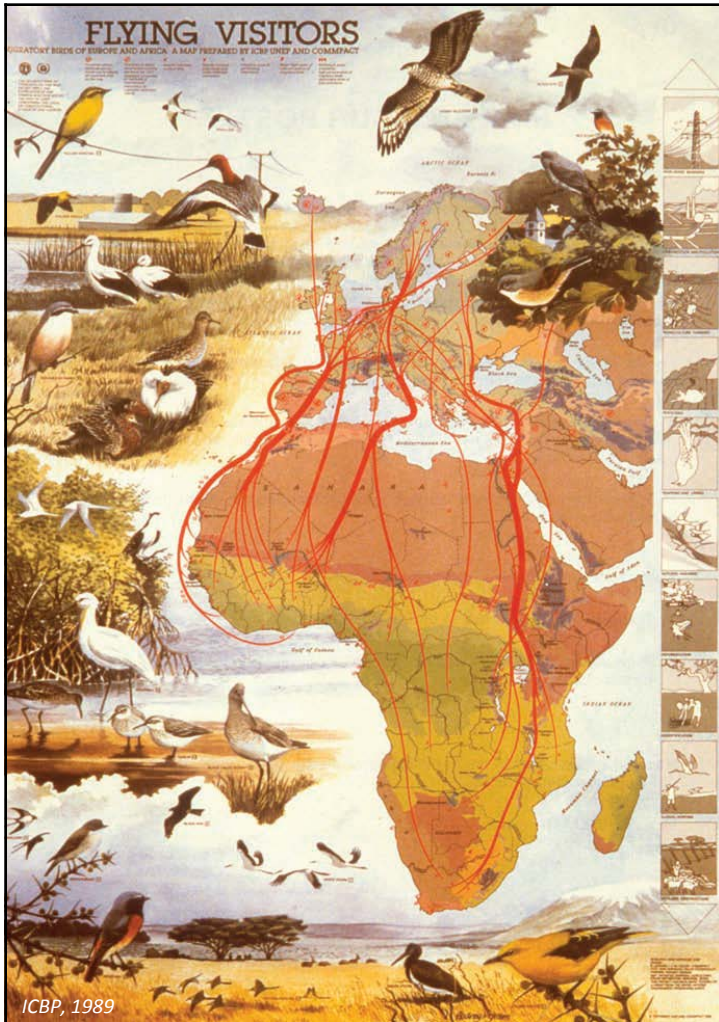
➔ *Purpose of exploring respective roles?*

Priority measures for waterbird conservation

- Habitat conservation measures.
- Measures aimed at addressing ‘species threats’ .
- Ancillary measures (filling gaps in data, training, public awareness etc.)

Habitat conservation

- Identification, protection and management of networks of key sites.



- Broader landscape measures.



- Not restricted to wetlands.

Criteria for designating Ramsar Sites

➔ NB in identifying critical sites for waterbirds

Group A: Sites containing representative, rare or unique wetland types

Group B: Sites of international importance for conserving biological diversity

- *Criteria based on species and ecological communities*

- *Specific criteria based on waterbirds*

Criterion 5:

A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds.

Criterion 6:

A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.

- *Specific criteria based on fish*

- *Specific criteria based on other taxa*

Ramsar Site designations based on the waterbird-specific criteria (5 & 6)

Region	% of total number of Ramsar Sites designated on criterion 5 and/or 6	% of total area of Ramsar Sites designated on criterion 5 and/or 6	Number of Parties with <u>no</u> criterion 5 or 6 designations
Europe	47%	83%	7
Africa	42%	49%	13
Asia	50%	82%	8
Neotropics	34%	70%	10
North America	40%	65%	0
Oceania	58%	87%	6
Total	45%	64%	44

July 2015

- No obligation to designate on the basis of Criterion 5 or 6 specifically.
- No obligation to apply a flyway approach to designations (although this has been encouraged in COP's interpretation of Art. 5).

AEWA's role in the international designation of key sites?

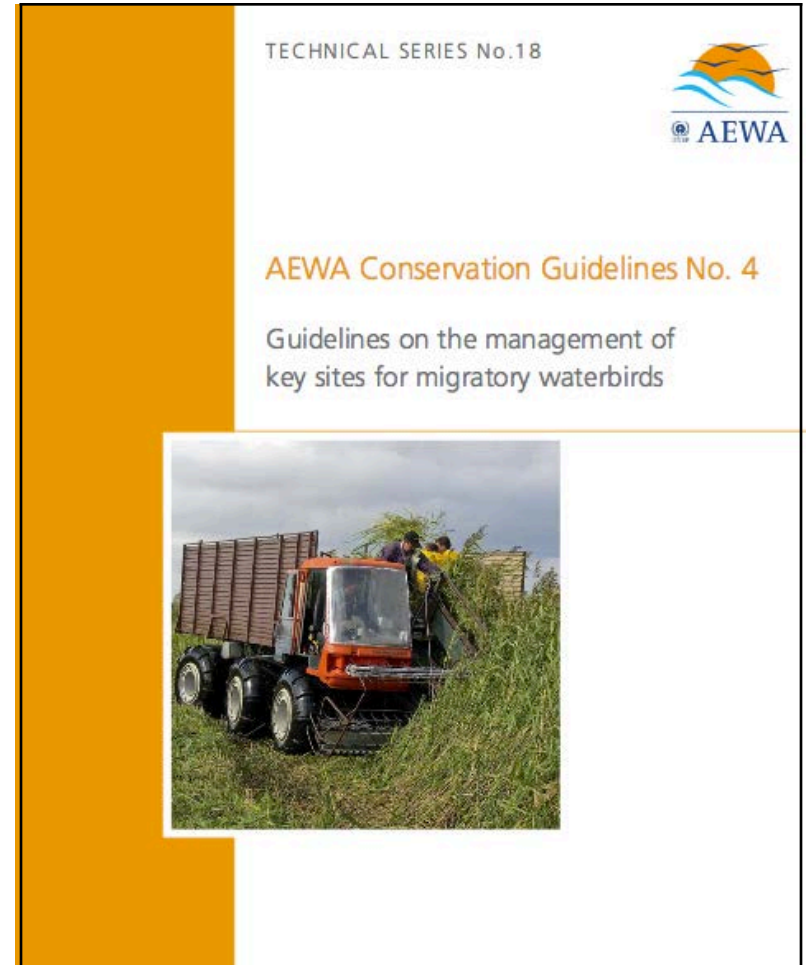
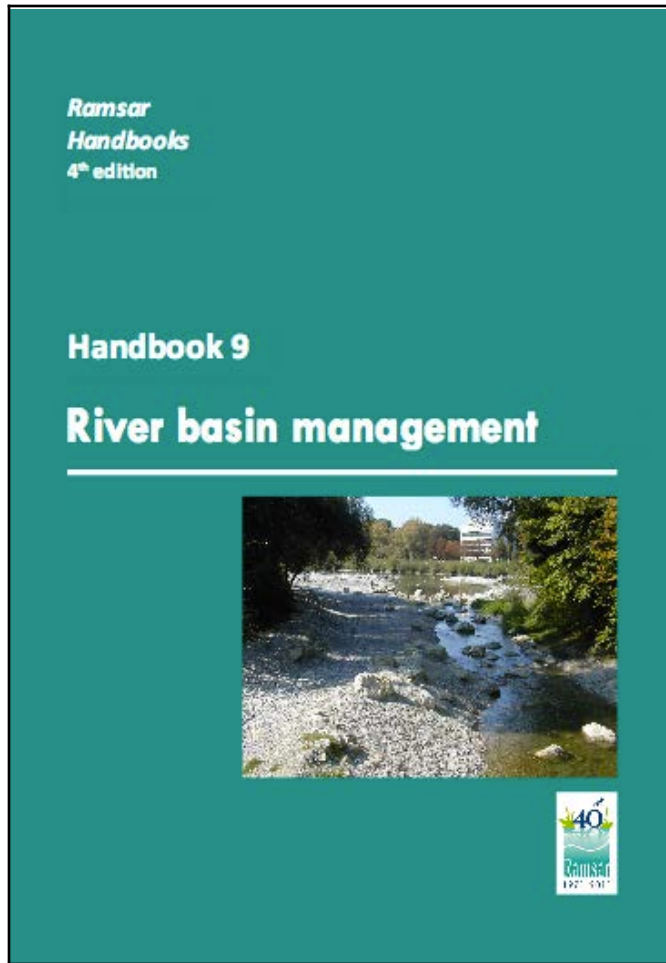
- Art. III(2)(c): Parties shall 'coordinate their efforts to ensure that a network of suitable habitats is maintained or, where appropriate, re-established throughout the entire range of each migratory waterbird species concerned'.
- No mechanism for international designation of 'AEWA sites'.
- Role in promoting the use of designation mechanisms provided by other treaties (and mixtures thereof) to designate linked sites along flyways?

Management of key sites and other habitats

- Ramsar Art. 3(1): Parties shall 'formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of the wetlands included in the List, and as far as possible the wise use of wetlands in their territory'. (*NB: maintenance of ecological character.*)
- AEWA: More detailed habitat provisions in legal text, though significant overlap with Ramsar wise use guidance.

 Distinctions?

Ramsar: Well-positioned to promote ecosystem approaches & build bridges with other sectors.



AEWA: Well-positioned to support species-based approaches to management.

Measures to address species threats

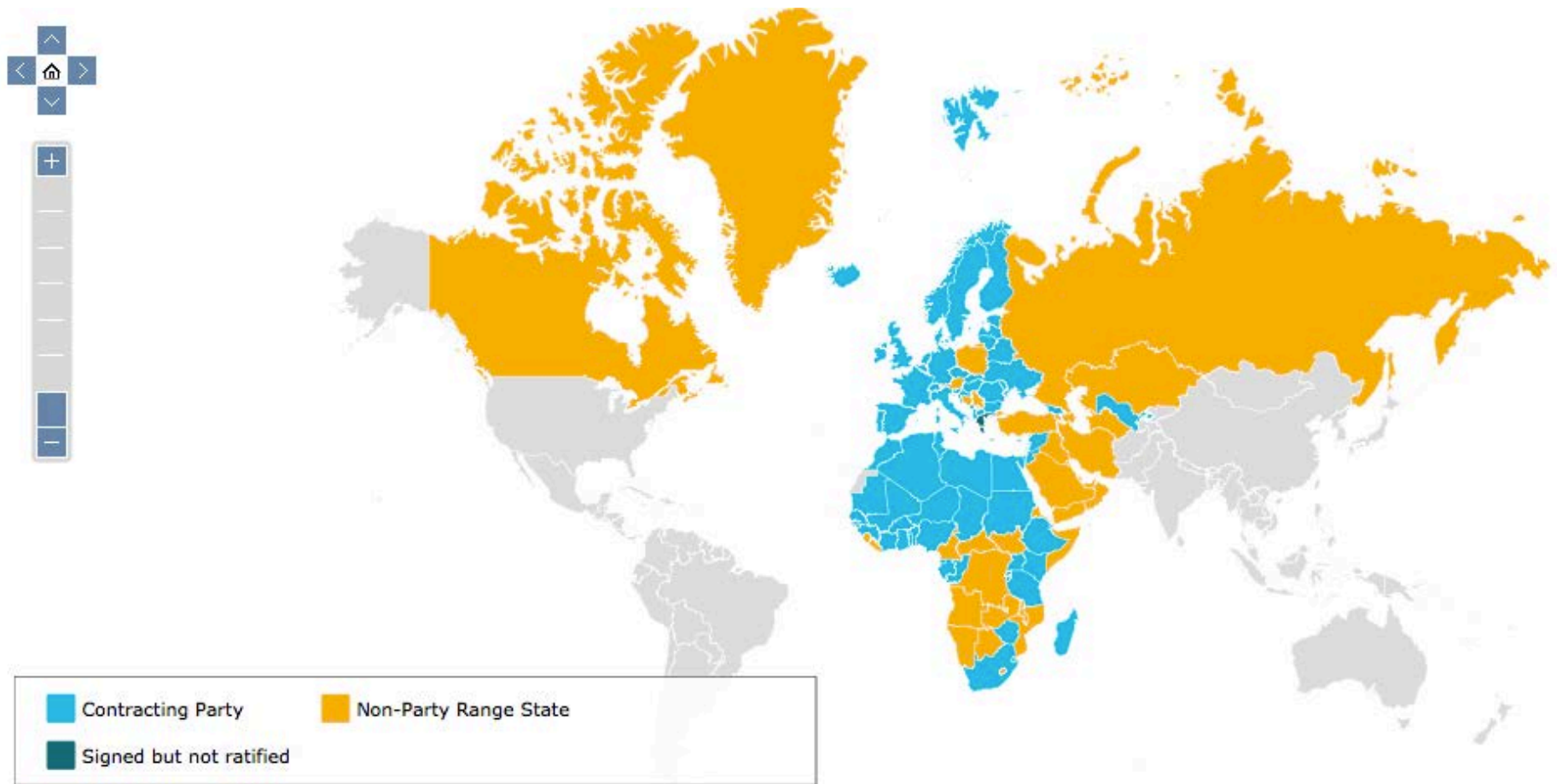


- Ramsar

- Duty arising from Art. 3(1)?
- Art. 5: Parties shall 'endeavour to co-ordinate and support present and future policies and regulations concerning the conservation of wetlands and their flora and fauna'.

- AEWAs

- Detailed provisions and guidance on measures to address species threats, and provision of institutions to coordinate such measures.
- Means of implementing Ramsar Art. 5.



<http://www.unep-aewa.org/>

➔ Lessons AEWA might learn from Ramsar for attracting cooperation from developing countries?

Other lessons AEWAs could learn from Ramsar's experiences?

