



The need for an integrated, ecosystem-based approach to management

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Wetlands International – European Association

Promoting conservation and sustainable use of wetlands for people and nature, by linking science, policy and practice at European scale, nationally and locally.



Sustainable
Eel Group



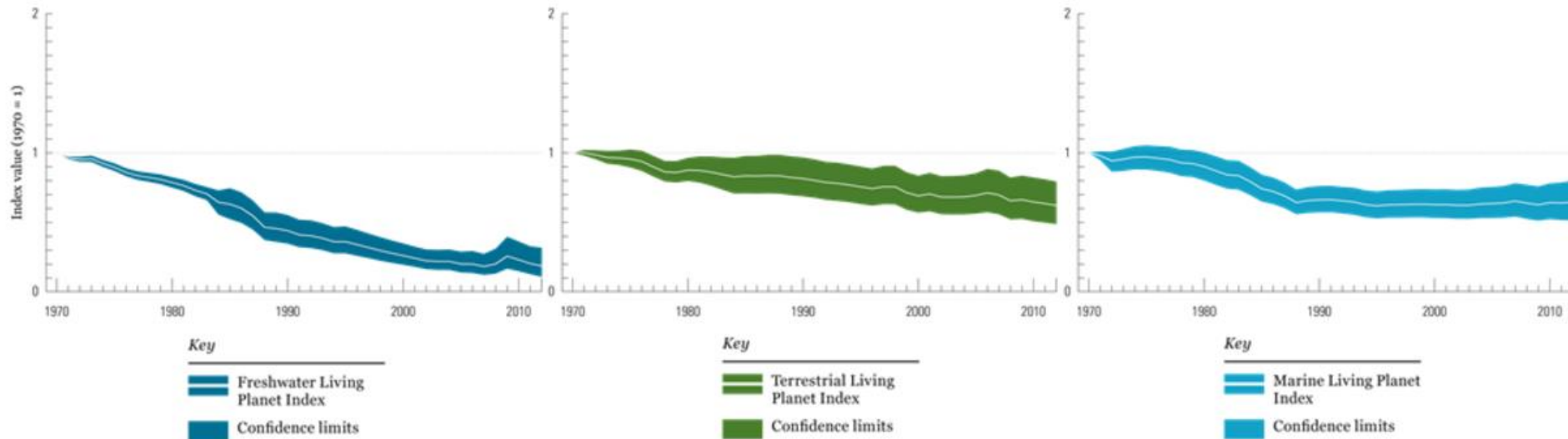
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The status of wetlands worldwide

Global losses of wetlands are **at least 64%** since 1900.

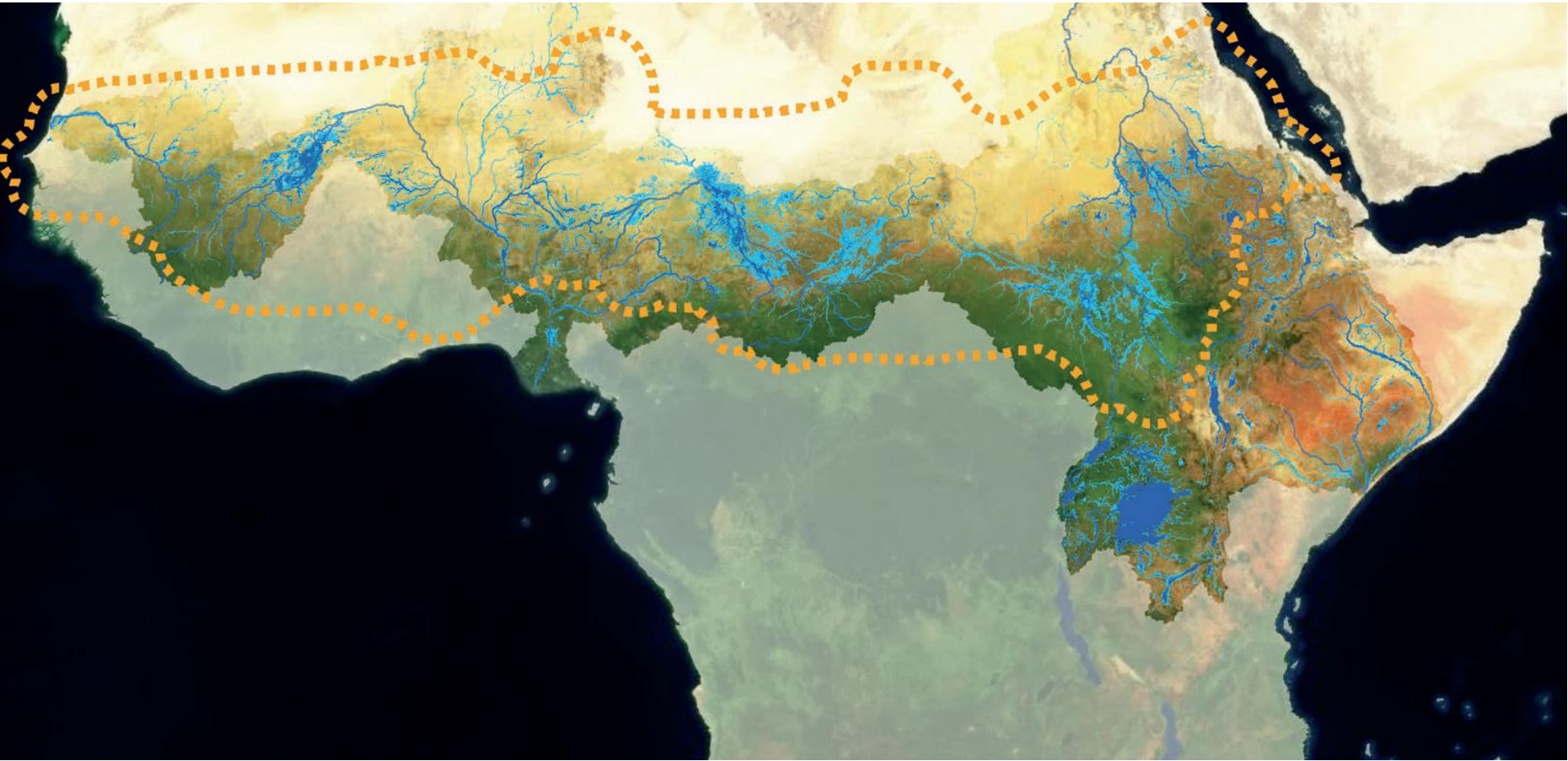
The Living Planet Index report shows that freshwater species populations have suffered an **81% decline since 1970**, most commonly due to **habitat loss and degradation**



Not just special places but water systems

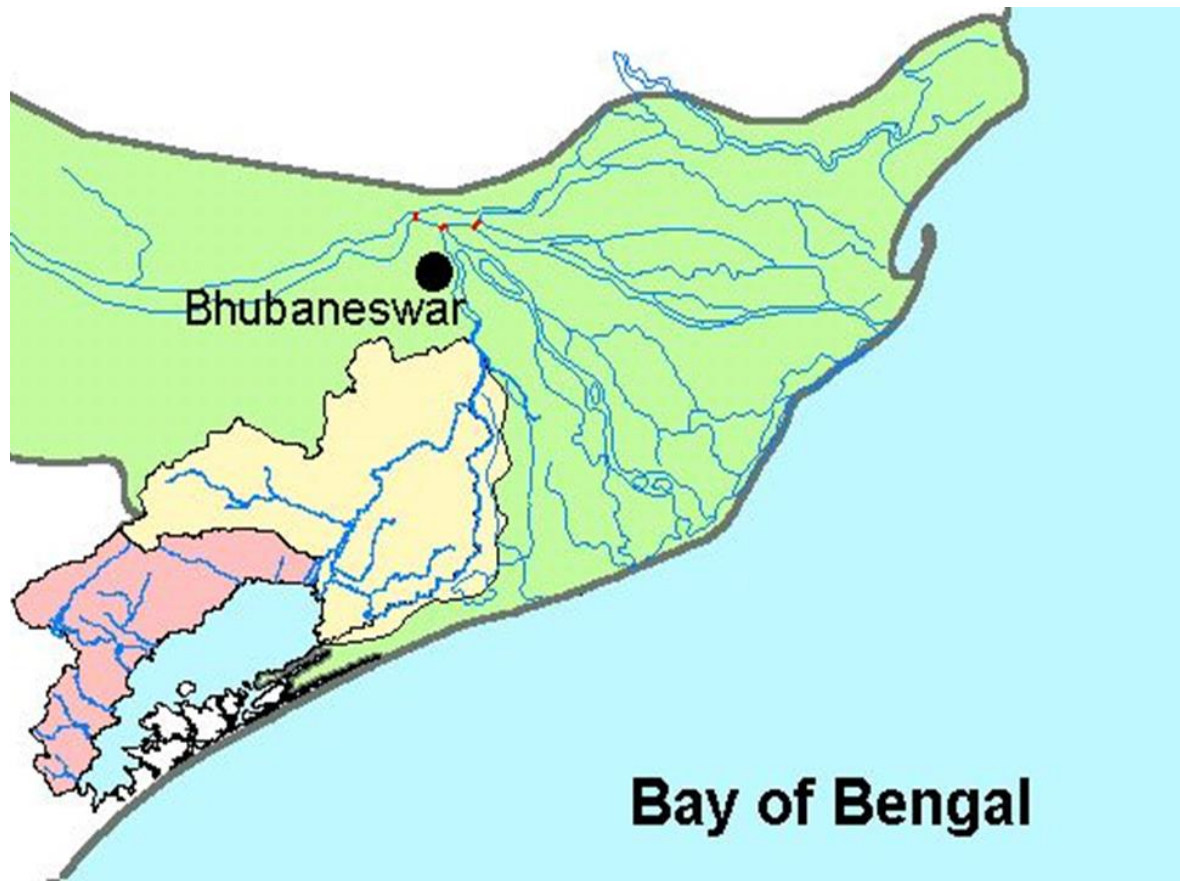


Important to see the bigger picture



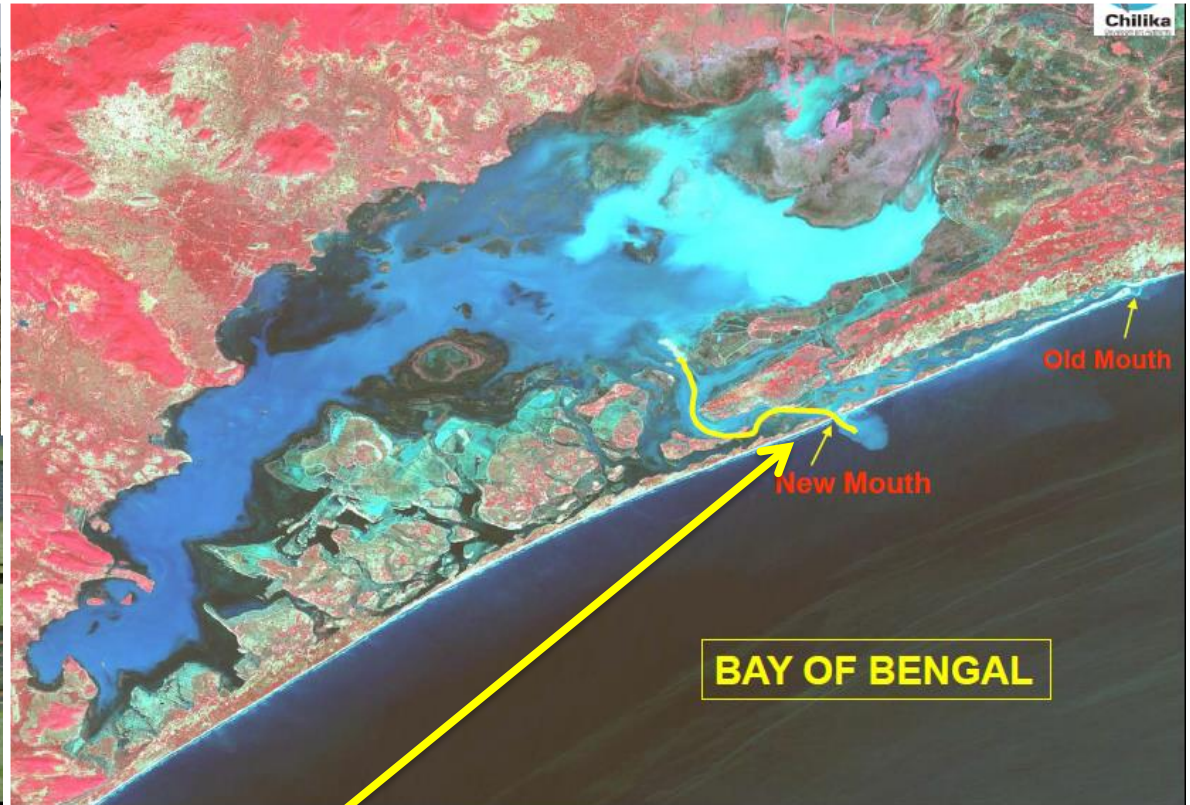
What does an integrated approach mean?

Example: Chilika Lagoon, Mahanadi delta, India



Reversing the decline in productivity of Chilika Lake, India

Ecological collapse: 400,000 farmers & 200,000 fishers affected



Re-connection with the sea

with Chilika Development Authority

How to save Europe's last intact wetlands?

e.g. Sava floodplains, Croatia



An aerial photograph of a river valley. A river flows through the bottom of the frame, bordered by green grassy banks. Above the river is a town with many buildings, including a prominent church with a tall spire. The town is surrounded by a patchwork of green and brown agricultural fields. In the background, there are rolling hills and a forested ridge. The sky is overcast.

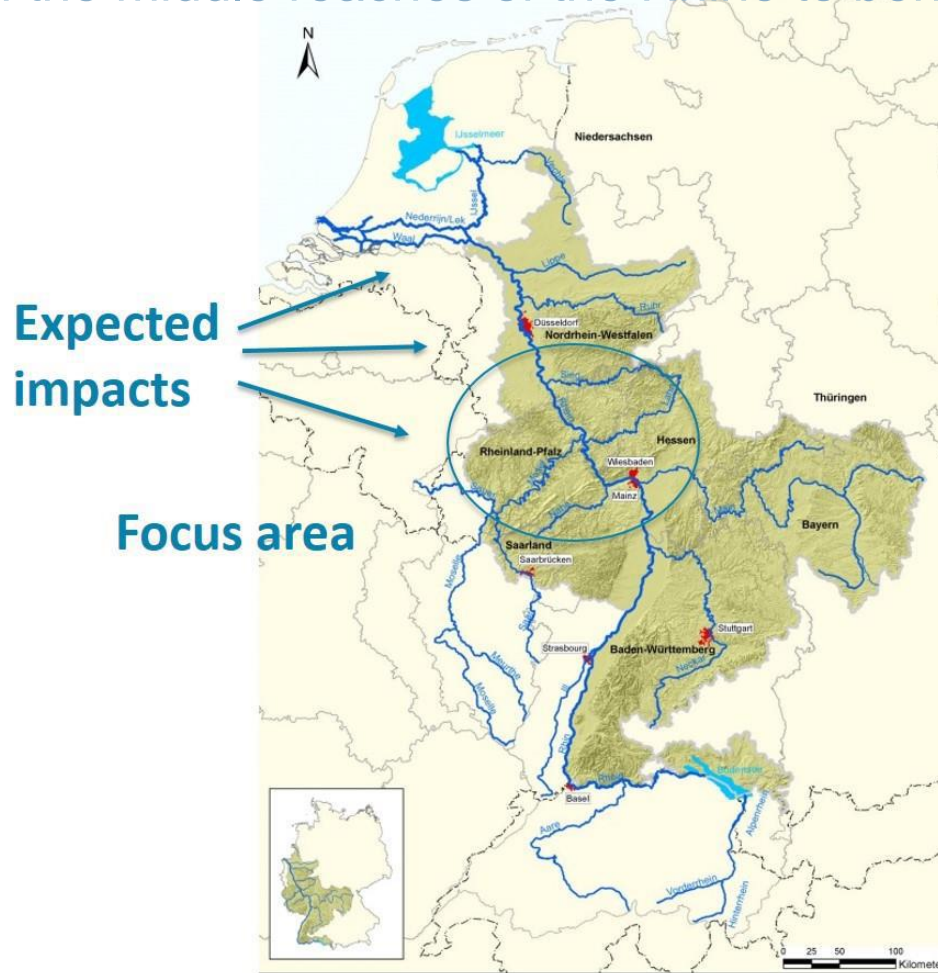
Land-use in the catchment

Loss of functional floodplains

© Eef Silver

Restoration of the sponge function in wetland soils

- Action in the middle reaches of the Rhine to benefit those downstream



© Flussgebietsgemeinschaft Rhein

Eels in trouble! Multiple causes.



The **AMBER Project**
now estimates around
1.8 Mio barriers in
European Rivers



Hope from joined up solutions?

- Beyond a traditional conservation approach
- Commercial, celebrity chefs, trade, wildlife trafficking, energy giants, barrier removal

SUSTAINABLE EEL GROUP



Sustainable Eel Group is a Europe wide conservation and science led organisation working with partner bodies and individuals to accelerate the eel's recovery.



Sustainable harvest: reedbeds and fens



Poland

New project led by partners of the European Association



CLEAR  ANCE



CLEARANCE

Brussels Declaration 12.9.2018

Restoring riparian wetlands for clean water and agriculture – policy recommendations for the European Water Framework Directive, Fitness Check and review process, as well as the Common Agricultural Policy review process

Forest-peat fires 2010

Photo: NASA, 9 August, 2010

Moscow, August 01, 2010

+36°C

MOSCOW

SAMARA





Thanks for listening!

