

Processes to review implementation of Ramsar Convention



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

1. Context of overall implementation

2. Article 3.2 of the Convention

Article 3.2 case files

Montreux Record

Ramsar Advisory Missions (formerly Ramsar Monitoring Procedure)

3. Article 8.2 of the Convention

Implementation overview



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

National reports

- Structure is highly linked to Strategic Plan
- Specifically designed to aid implementation assessment
- High reporting rate. At COP12 = 82% of 168 Parties

Implementation overview



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National reports

- Regional summaries – prepared for and discussed within Regional group meetings at each COP

The logo for the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) features the word "Ramsar" in a stylized font with a sun and water elements, and the text "Punta del Este 2015 - COP12" and "Wetlands for our future" below it.

12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to
the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Ramsar COP12 DOC.13 Rev.1
English only

Regional overview of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic
Plan in Oceania

- Overall – process gives clear understanding of overall levels of implementation and future needs

'Compliance' processes



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(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

1. Ramsar Sites

- Article 3.2
- Montreux Record
- Ramsar Advisory Missions

2. International co-operation

3. Wise-use of all wetlands

} No compliance
processes

Article 3.2



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Each Contracting Party shall arrange to be informed at the earliest possible time if the **ecological character of any wetland ... included in the List has changed, is changing or is likely to change** as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. Information on such changes shall be passed without delay to the [Secretariat].

Article 3.2 files



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(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

- Parties report Article 3.2 cases to Secretariat
- Third Parties can also report cases to Secretariat – then dialogue with Party
- Case files opened by Secretariat whilst issues remain unresolved
- Report to each COP on status of sites ‘at threat’ (Article 8.2 Report)
- Parties now asked to provide info on all open file cases for each Standing Committee meeting
- 144 open Article 3.2 files at COP 12 (2015)

Montreux Record



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

- Established at COP 4 (1990)
- "The Montreux Record is the principal tool of the Convention for highlighting those sites where an adverse change in ecological character has occurred, is occurring, or is likely to occur, and which are therefore in need of priority conservation attention."
- "A Contracting Party may request inclusion of a site in the Montreux Record, because of potential or actual adverse change in its ecological character, in order to draw attention to the need for action or support."

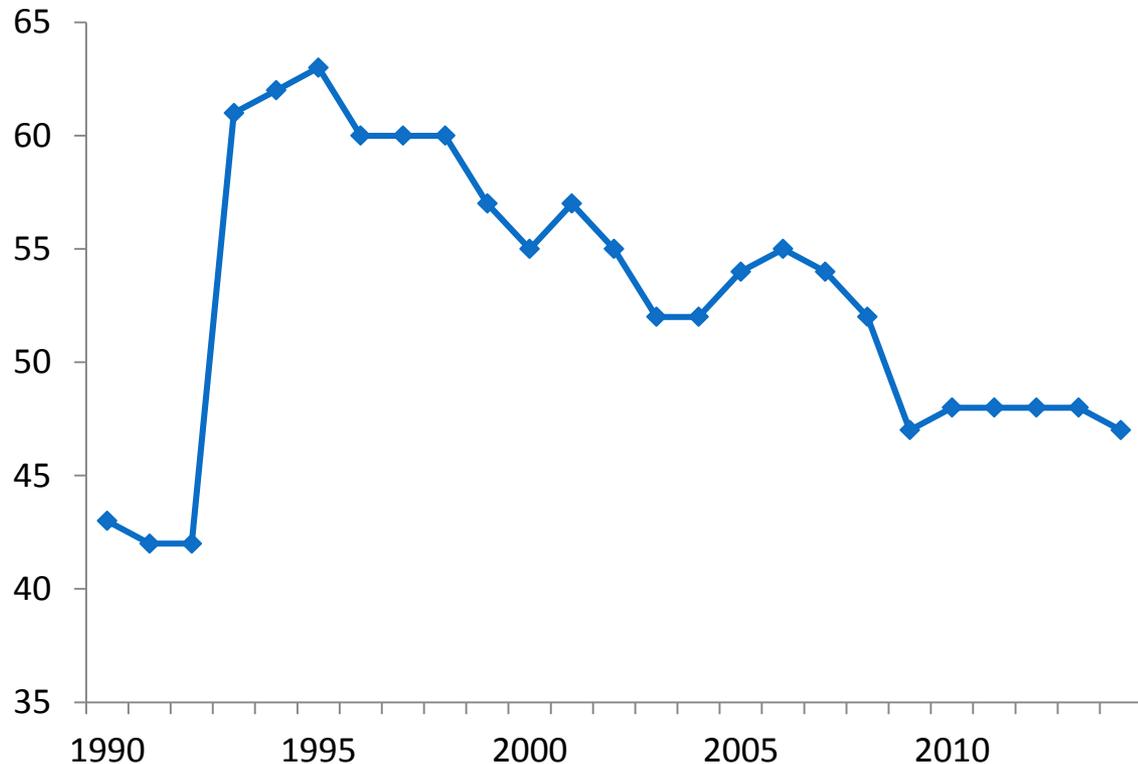
Montreux Record



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
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- List of Ramsar Sites 'in trouble'
- Unfortunately seen as 'black list'
- Self-reported by CP
- Not an effective process
- No new additions >2010

Number of Ramsar Sites on Montreux Record



Ramsar Advisory Missions



- Established 1988
- Missions to 79 Ramsar Sites
- At the request of Contracting Party
- Solutions focus using best expertise from within Ramsar family
- At least two experts but now typically multi-disciplinary teams
- Missions often joint with other MEAs/IGOs (e.g. Berne, AEWa, WHC, IUCN)



Ramsar Advisory Missions



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- Form and size of mission tailored to specific issues but typically:
 - Site visit(s) by team
 - Public meeting with interested third parties
 - Draft report prepared by mission team
 - Draft sent to Party for comment/correction of factual mistakes
 - Post-consultation report published on web-site
 - Secretariat works with Party to assist follow up and implementation of recommendations

Ramsar Advisory Missions



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Cost issues

- Variable - according to complexity of issues
- Voluntarily funded often by Parties or international organisations
- Funding a major limitation

Ramsar Advisory Missions



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Reviewing the review process

- Formerly called *Monitoring Procedure and Management Guidance Procedure*
- 'Learning from doing'

Article 8.2



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

The continuing [Secretariat] duties shall be, *inter alia*:

- to maintain the List of Wetlands of International Importance and to be informed by the Contracting Parties of any [changes] in accordance with paragraph 5 of Article 2;
- to be informed by the Contracting Parties of any changes in the ecological character of wetlands included in the List provided in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 3;
- **to forward notification of any alterations to the List, or changes in character of wetlands included therein, to all Contracting Parties and to arrange for these matters to be discussed at the next Conference;**
- to make known to the Contracting Party concerned, [COP] recommendations in respect of such alterations to the List or of changes in the character of wetlands included therein.

Article 8.2



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- **'State of the Ramsar Site Network'** report to each COP
- Core duty of Secretary General
- Standing COP agenda item
- Summary given for each Contracting Party
- Includes list of all open Article 3.2 cases
- COP can make recommendations



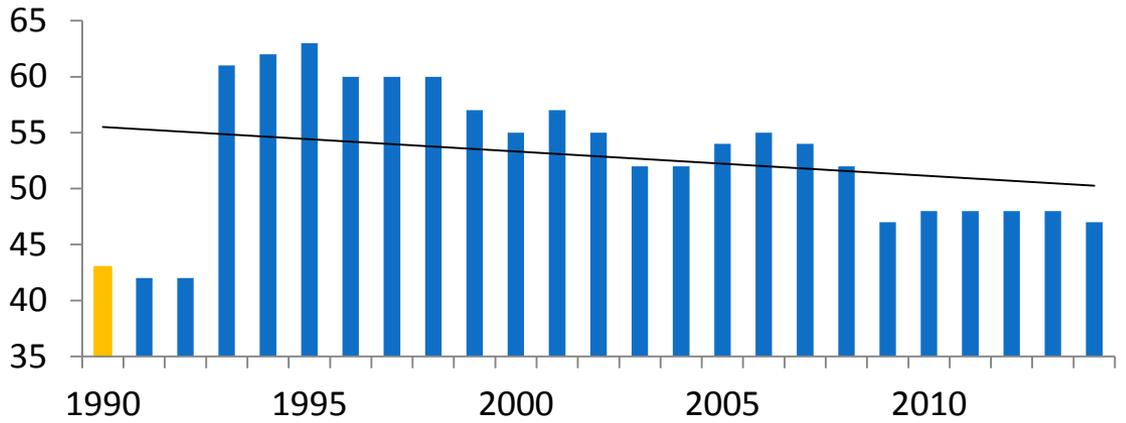
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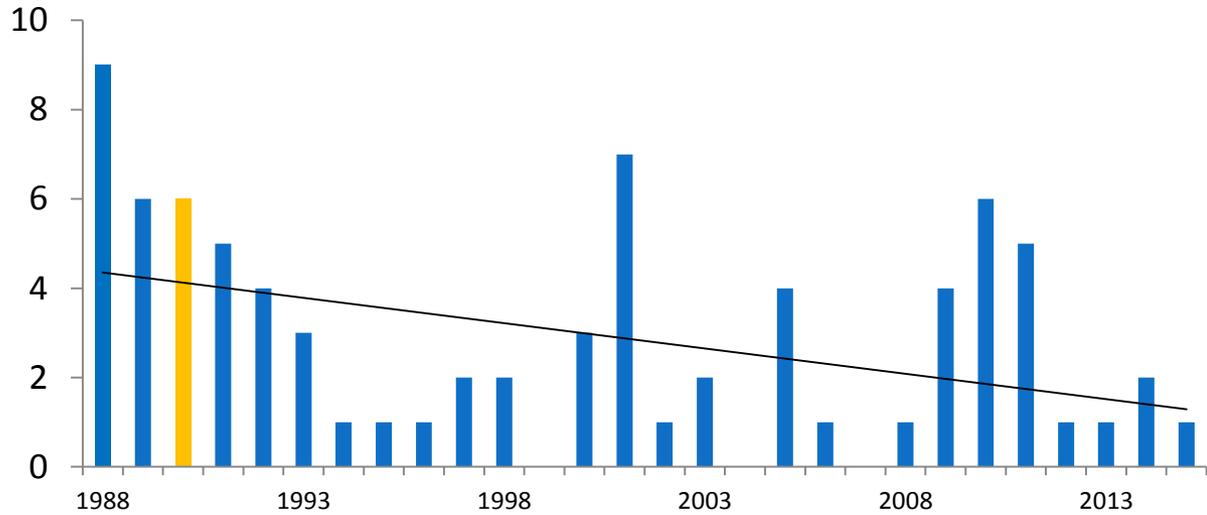
Ramsar COP12 DOC.7

Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 concerning the List of
Wetlands of International Importance

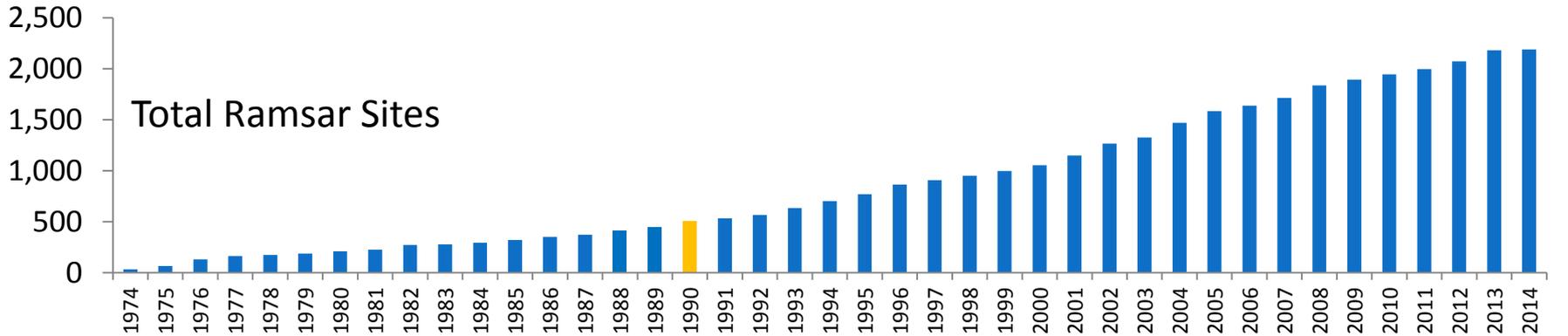
Montreux Record listed Sites



Ramsar Advisory Missions



Total Ramsar Sites

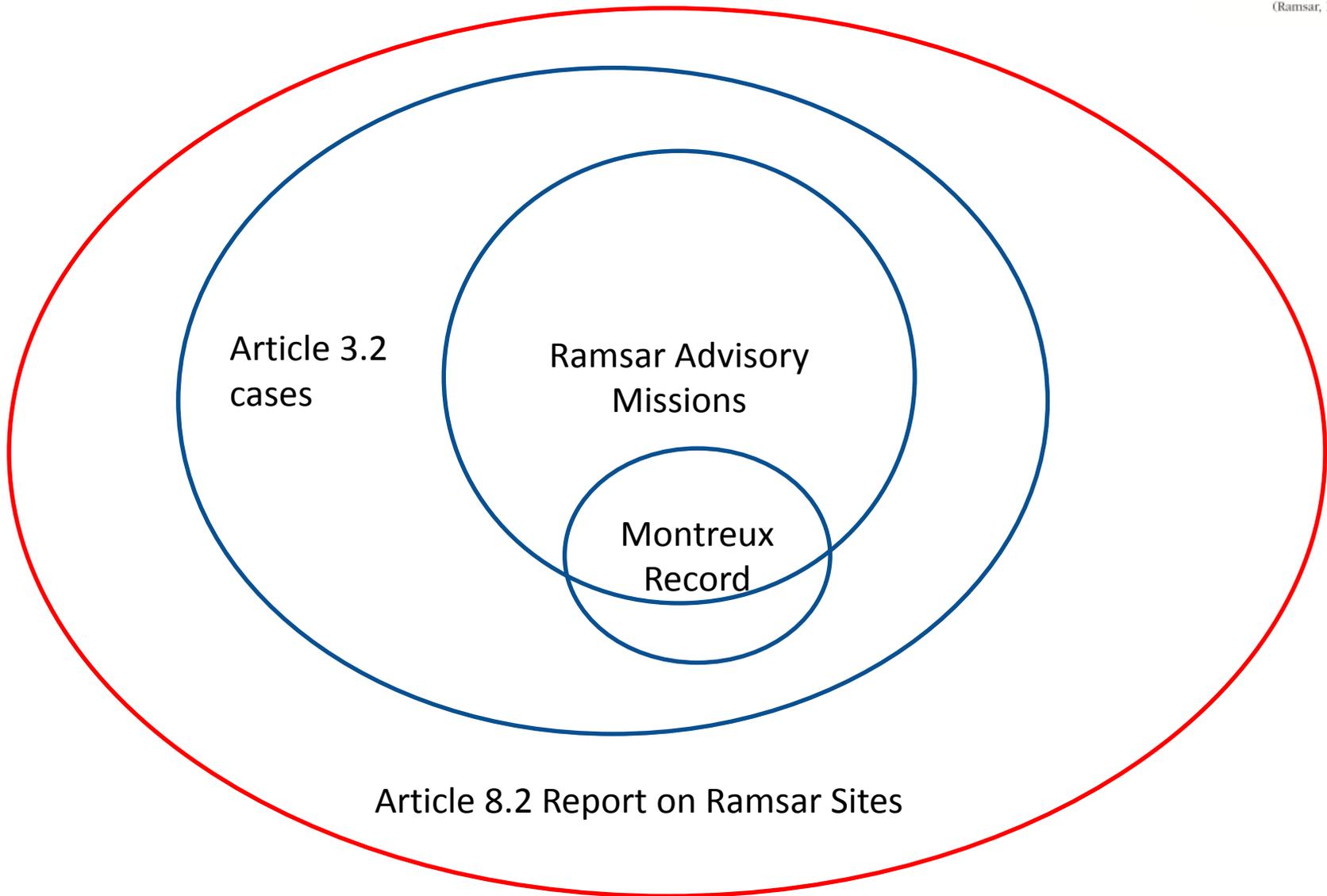


Summary



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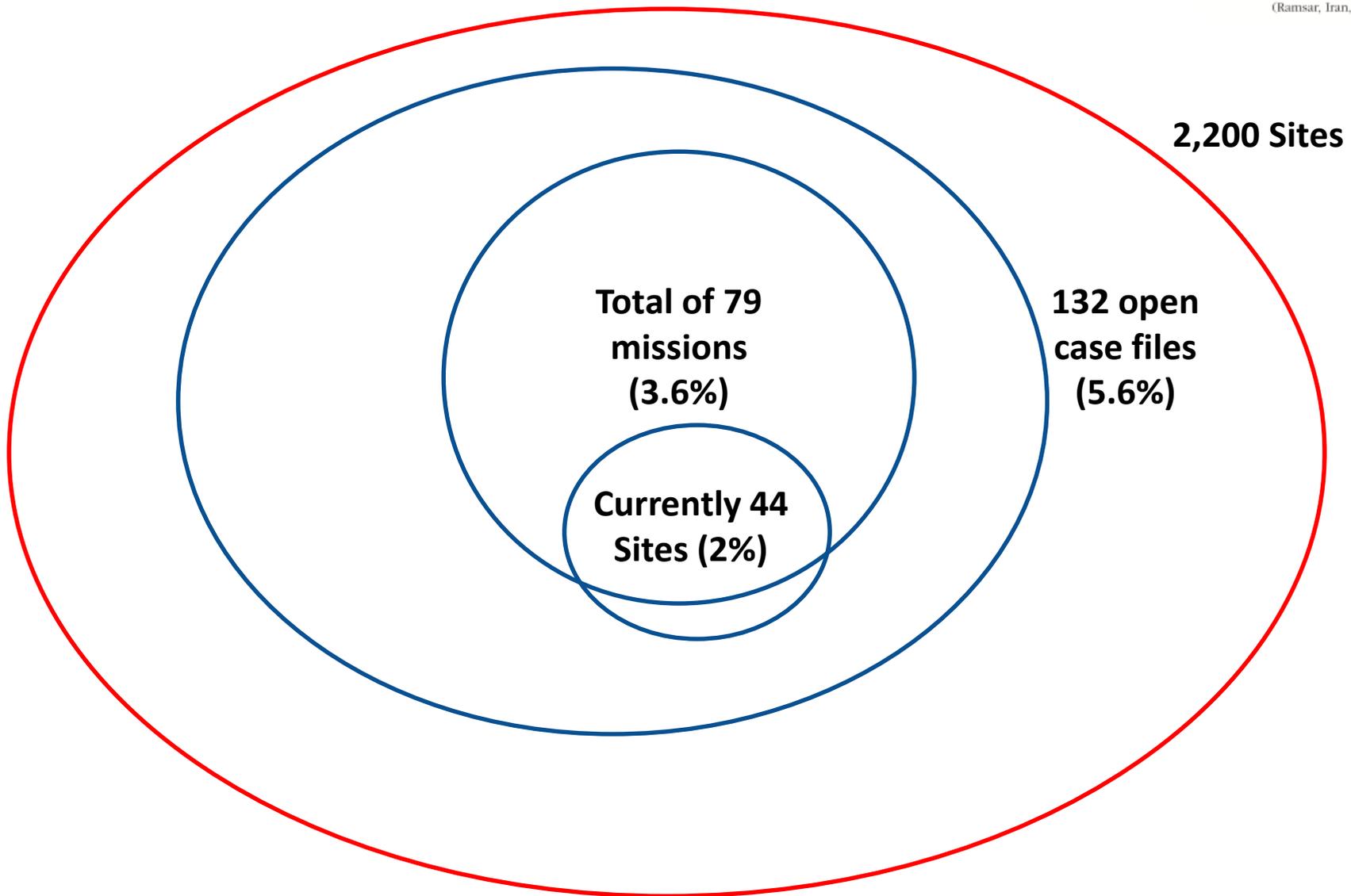


Summary



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Summary



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	Contract. Party	Third parties	Secretariat	Funding
National reporting	✓		✓ Produces regional syntheses	National + Core budget (Secretariat time)
Article 3.2 cases	✓	✓	✓ compiles	Core budget (Secretariat time)
Montreux Record	✓		✓ Maintenance of list	Core budget (Secretariat time)
Ramsar Advisory Missions	✓	✓	✓	Voluntary contributions
Secretary General's Article 8.2 Report to COP			✓	Core budget (Secretariat time)

Summary: strengths & weaknesses



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

	Strength	Weakness
National reporting	Parties self report Data used to generate other info products	Parties self report
Article 3.2 cases	Allows sustained dialogue with Party on specific issues	Criteria historically inconsistent & probably too inclusive Process unclear re Ramsar governance
Montreux Record	Process wasn't linked through to Article 3.2	Seen as 'black list' Requires Parties to self-list
Ramsar Advisory Missions	Focussed on finding solutions Inclusive of multiple views Uses best expertise within Ramsar family	Costly, unbudgeted and demanding of Secretariat time Demand exceeds resources
Secretary General's Article 8.2 COP report	Holistic global overview	Reporting mechanism only Little structured follow-through