research for a sustainable future

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Identifying and conserving important freshwater areas – Australian Ramsar sites

Prof Max Finlayson, Charles Sturt Univ
Dr Jamie Pittock, The Australian National Univ

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Lack of a systematic approach - unlike what has been done for terrestrial (IBRA) and marine under the NRS. Current 65 sites not representative of wetland types.

- Directory of important wetlands out of date; national wetland inventory not done; some analysis of importance for waterbirds; reluctance of states to list sites; sampling effort biases; cultural values not included

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Promises of systematic action to mitigate threats but not delivered (e.g. eflows, invasive species, climate change adaptation)

-eflows monitoring agreed – press release

-defensiveness about probs – data gaps

-ecosystem services analyses lagging

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Some positive trends in non-government action: Indigenous Protected Areas, private land Ramsar sites, growing engagement of conservation land and water trusts in ownership and management

- **Reluctance of jurisdictions to support NGO initiatives for Ramsar listing**
- **assessment of representativeness needed**

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Require:

-Standardised/comparable wetland classifications and inventory

-Assessment of importance of sites against Ramsar criteria for listing – sampling bias

-Support for private initiatives

-Systematic assessment and measurement of status, including ecosystem services

-Restoration of degraded sites – eflows, invasives, removal of weirs

-Horizon scan / foresight

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Thank you

Kakadu NP