

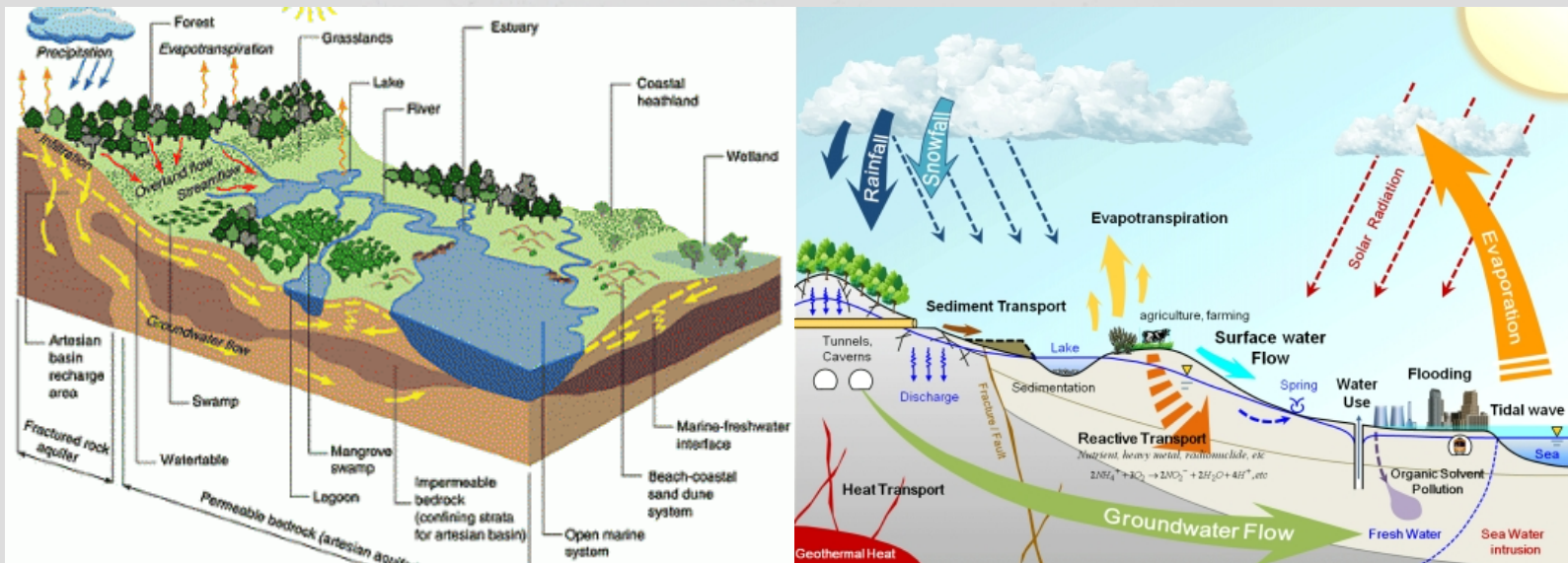


“Ecological character” of sites (and character changes) in the Bern / Emerald context

Dave Pritchard

Ecological character = (holistic) combination of attributes, features, functioning, significance etc of a site

Change in ecological character raises more complex questions



Purpose: addressing a gap in **Bern Convention guidance**

- **Notification of potential changes in ecological character of Emerald sites**
- **Reactive vs proactive measures**



- To support implementation of existing provisions
 - Resolution **No. 5 (1998)** (Art **4.2, 4.3**)
 - Convention Article **4.2**



- Aligning with Natura 2000
- What do Parties need? (Para **3.6** of today's doc)

Defining & describing ecological character

- No definition yet (for Bern)



4. SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1. GENERAL SITE CHARACTER:

Code	Habitat class	% cover
TOTAL HABITAT COVER		100 %

Other site characteristics:

4.2. QUALITY AND IMPORTANCE:

4.3. Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

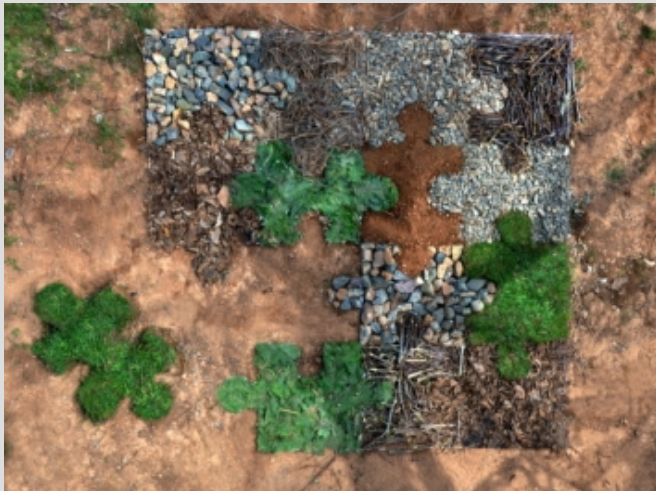
The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative impacts				Positive impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures (code)	Pollution (optional) (code)	Inside/outside (i / o / b)	Rank	Threats and pressures (code)	Pollution (optional) (code)	Inside/outside (i / o / b)

- **Conservation objective = maintenance of ecological character** (*not* international importance)
- **Choosing reference state, in context of natural variation**
- **Standard Data Form**

Defining & detecting change in ecological character

- What kinds of change?
- How much change is meaningful?
- Monitoring
- Assessing significance



Responding to change / potential change



- Case files
- Risk management; solution-finding
- Avoid → mitigate → compensate
- Considerations at the network level

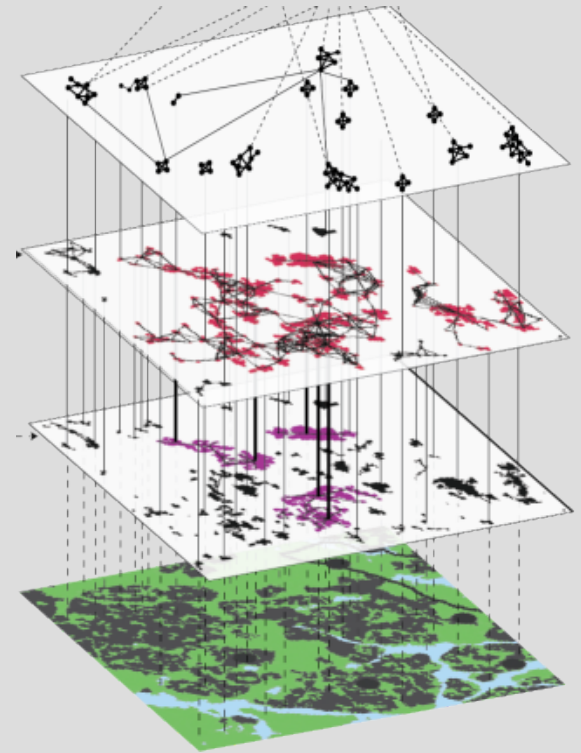


Recommendations

1. Consultation exercise

2. Develop guidance in 2018 *(subject to decision by SC 38)*

- Definitions & concepts
- Harmonisation
- Monitoring
- Risk assessment
- EIA/SEA
- Decision-making for responses
- Compensation principles
- Network issues



3. Synthesis of lessons from past cases

Thank you !!