

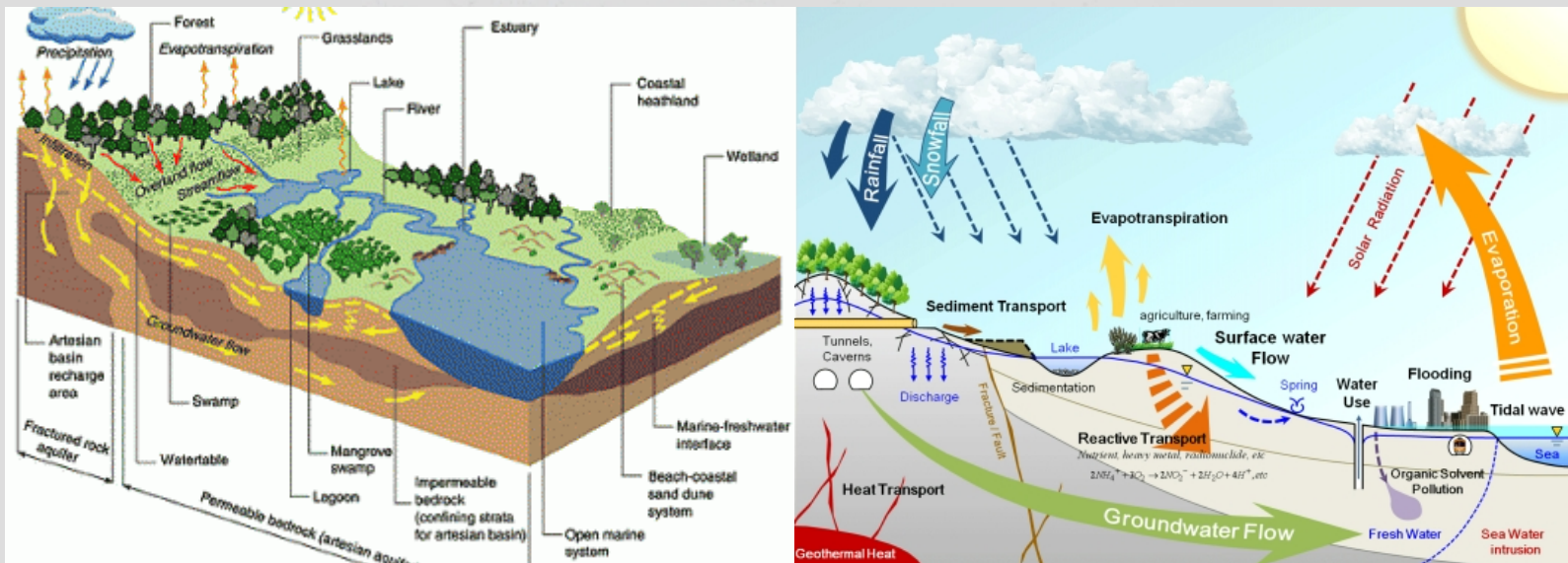


# **“Ecological character” of sites (and character changes) in the Bern / Emerald context**

***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**

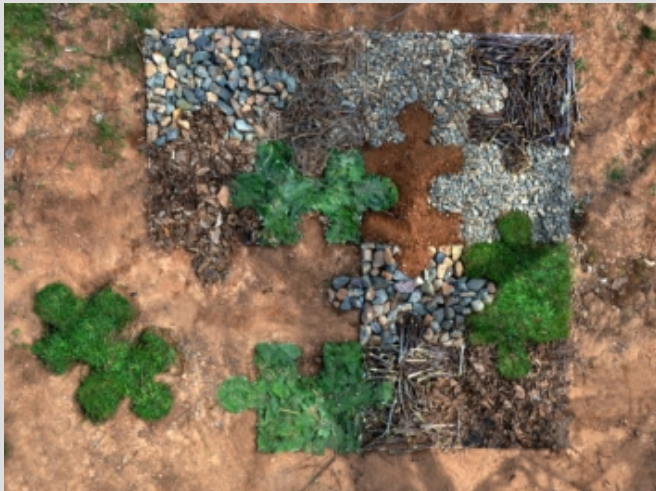


- Aligning with Natura 2000
- What do Parties need? (Para **3.6** of today's doc)



# Defining & detecting change in ecological character

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



# Responding to change / potential change



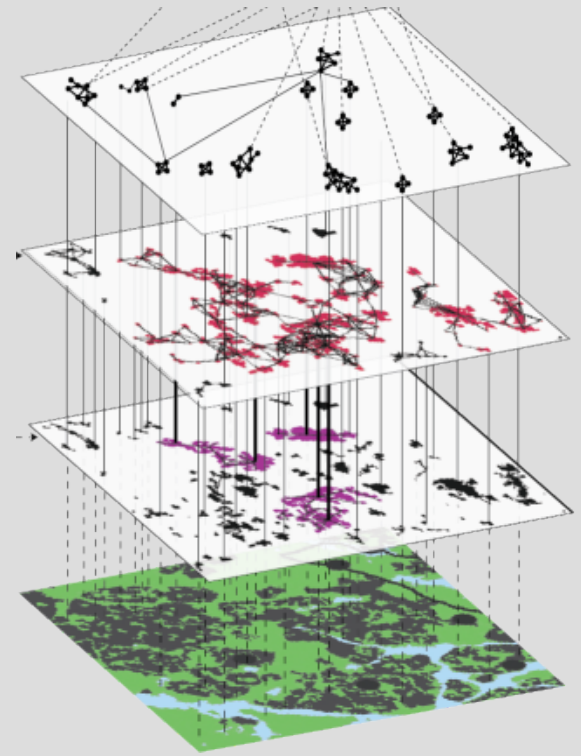
- Case files
- Risk management; solution-finding
- Avoid → mitigate → compensate
- Considerations at the network level



# Recommendation

## Develop guidance in 2018

- **Beginning with definitions & concepts**  
(as a basis for other possible elements listed in Section 11)
- **Drawing on a synthesis of lessons from past cases**



**Thank you !!**