

The effectiveness of wetland restoration and identifying threats via monitoring wetland use intensity – case study from Rwanda

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# Introduction



- Rwandan wetlands are integral to both, national development action plans and nature protection frameworks
- Anthropogenic pressure leads to an intensification of wetland use
- In 2008, a national wetland inventory with the attributes 'unconditional use', 'conditional use' and 'protected' was created
- To prioritize and plan interventions and to monitor the effectiveness of protection measures, up-to-date country-wide information is needed
- The project DeMo-Wetlands demonstrated how European Copernicus data can be used for wetland inventory and monitoring













# Wetland types and uses











# Copernicus









### **Wetland Geo-Information**









# Support of SDG monitoring & reporting



SDG indicator 6.6.1 – sub-indicator 1: Spatial extent of water-related ecosystems

**VILE BASIN INITIATIV** 







# Wetland use intensity

**Purpose:** Assessment of wetland status and identification of threats.

**Input data:** Sentinel-2 and Sentinel-1 time series.

- **Methodology:** The used algorithm for time series analysis (mean absolute spectral dynamics) was modified from Franke et al. 2012 to adopt to wetland ecosystems.
- **<u>Result:</u>** The Wetland Use Intensity layer differentiates intensively used areas such as agriculturally used areas, from less intensively used areas, natural/semi-natural areas and permanent water.









#### Results





### **Interactive map**



#### https://www.remote-sensing-solutions.com/DemosWetland/DeMo-Wetlands.html

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# Wetland use "footprint"







german

cooperation



# Wetland use "footprint"





MEAN ABSOLUTE SPECTRAL DYNAMIC [DN]





# Key actionable recommendations





- The Nile Basin Initiative is covering a large area. To get the full picture continuously, make use of the freely available
  Copernicus data that can support many NBI activities.
- Wetlands can be observed at high temporal resolution, which allows to go far beyond land cover information
- Mapping the land use intensity is an innovative mean that can support the priorisation of protection measures, identify threads, and to control the impact of protection measures (e.g. peatland restoration)







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