

Interactive comment on “Data for wetlandscapes and their changes around the world” by Navid Ghajarnia et al.

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Question by Anonymous Referee #1: The manuscript is generally very important because it summarizes the state of wetlands worldwide. But, though it is not the intention of the manuscript, the question is: Could it help to manage wetlands at a regional scale?

Response: Thanks for your feedback. The main idea in this research is to support and encourage large-scale studies of geographical, hydrological, hydroclimate and land use conditions and changes over the whole wetlandscapes, at different sites around the world that enables cross-regional comparisons. The introduced sites in the wetlandscape change database (WetCID) are located in different regions, with seven sites

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in Northern Europe (sites 1-7), seven in the Amazon and Caribbean region (sites 20 and 23-27), four in North America (sites 10, 15, 18, and 19), three in the Middle East (sites 12, 13, and 16), two in the Mediterranean region (sites 11 and 14), two in Siberia (sites 8 and 9), and two more in other parts of the world (Northern Africa and East Asia). As such, regional change patterns and characteristics can be identified, specifically over regions with higher number of sites. It can also highlight regional knowledge gaps or data availability as critical obstacles towards proper management of wetlands which is a first step to fulfill such shortcomings (e.g. lack of open data sources identifies for sites 13, 16, and 17 in the MENA region reported in lines 192-193 or lack of information regarding observed changes at sites 2 and 5 in North Europe reported in lines 198-199). Moreover, given the fact that this is a work in progress and the database can be updated with small time investment as information from new sites become available, more comprehensive regional evaluations can be expected from future versions of the WetCID.

In order to address this comment and clarify it in the manuscript for similar interested audiences and WetCID users, the following parts of the manuscript are revised while lines 54-55 and 347-349 already discuss the above question in the submitted version.

After the paragraph in lines 195-202 and before Figure 2, the following sentences are added: “Furthermore, the wetlandscapes of WetCID are located in different regions of the world, with seven sites in Northern Europe (sites 1-7), seven in the Amazon and Caribbean region (sites 20 and 23-27), four in North America (sites 10, 15, 18, and 19), three in the Middle East (sites 12, 13, and 16), two in the Mediterranean region (sites 11 and 14), two in Siberia (sites 8 and 9), and two more in other parts of the world (Northern Africa and East Asia). As such, regional patterns and characteristics can be identified, and regional strategies developed, e.g., to enhance the availability of data and information, and determine further research needed to bridge region-specific knowledge gaps and decide on relevant management plans for each region’s wetland ecosystems. Such regional characterizations and assessments can be initialized with

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the current version of WetCID and further updated as more data for already included and possible additional regional wetlandscapes become available in future database versions.”

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