

5th Edition of World Congress on

# Geology & Earth Science

September 09-11, 2024 at Lisbon, Portugal





### SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

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#### The neglect of ponds in international law must change

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This study is focused on the most numerous freshwater habitats globally – ponds. Ponds are becoming increasingly recognized as being important for rare, endemic and endangered species, owing to the high levels of biodiversity they support and their role in ecosystem services. Paradoxically, ponds remain largely overlooked and widely excluded from policies that might protect them. Size and permanence – two characteristics highly important for their legal protection, are not precisely and universally defined in theory and in international legal documents.

International legislative frameworks do not seem to provide global, comprehensive, or detailed protection of ponds as significant and widespread habitats. On the contrary, these documents safeguard only fragmentary small water bodies – either by protecting certain types of ponds or only those that are parts of larger protected or catchment areas. Also, pondscapes are not specifically recognized as forms in need of legal protection.

In this study, the complexity of the legal protection of ponds is presented, followed by recommendations. Legal protection and recommendations should be transformed into legal norms, and given their number and involvedness be presented within a single, unique convention that would specifically address the protection of ponds globally. This type of protection would be the most effective legal tool. However, the procedure necessary for the adoption of a new convention appears to be a rather time consuming task. An additional way to protect ponds could be to amend the Ramsar convention. On a national level, this could be achieved by the introduction of biodiversity strategies, as well as action and management plans.

#### **Biography:**

Dr. Vera Stanković obtained hers BSc and MSc (Biology - Ecology) and hers PhD (Ecology - Biodiversity Protection) from the University of Belgrade and diploma in Studies in Innovation and Specialization of knowledge, module - Environmental Law, at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade. Her PhD research was based on the ecological study of invasive plant species on Ramsar sites and the need for legal protection of these sites from IAS. She is employed at the Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research in Belgrade. She is now working on research on the ecology of invasive plant species and the legal protection of biodiversity. She has published various papers in peer reviewed journals.

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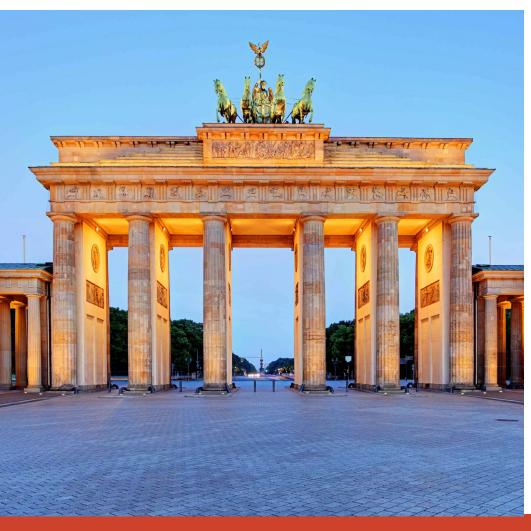
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## **Geology & Earth Science**

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