



## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/13  
31 January 2006

ENGLISH ONLY

---

### CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Eighth meeting  
Curitiba, Brazil, 20-31 March 2006  
Item 26 of the annotated agenda\*

#### BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS

*- tools to assess the function and health of inland water ecosystems and the socio-economic and cultural values of biological diversity of inland waters*

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. Decision VII/4, paragraph 18, welcomed the work on the Guidelines on Rapid Assessment of Biological Diversity of Inland Water Ecosystems. In the inter-sessional period, this work has advanced and is now published for the information of Parties in CBD Technical Series Number 22 (scheduled to be available for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties).
2. Paragraph 21 of the same decision recognized that those guidelines are focused on biological factors and, more specifically, on species-level assessments, and that they only touch on ecosystem-level and socio-economic and cultural aspects relating to the conservation and use of biological diversity, and requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention and other relevant organizations, to develop a complementary set of tools to assess the function and health of inland water ecosystems and the socio-economic and cultural values of biological diversity of inland waters to be presented as information paper to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.
3. This document describes the work undertaken by the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, in the inter-sessional period, and the progress achieved in relation to this request.
4. Section II briefly describes how tools to assess the function and health of inland water ecosystems have been developed. Section III refers to work on the development of tools for the valuation of socio-economic and cultural aspects of the biodiversity of inland water ecosystems.
5. Both of these sets of tools, or guidelines, have been published, or are in press, elsewhere (as described below). Therefore, as a measure to reduce the wastage of paper, the Secretariat has not attempted to duplicate this information here.

---

\* UNEP/CBD/COP/8/1.

## **II TOOLS TO ASSESS ECOSYSTEM LEVEL FUNCTIONS AND HEALTH OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS**

6. The guidelines for the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems presented for the consideration of the eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/5 (to which decision VII/4 paragraph 18 refers) have now been enhanced to include better reference to ecosystem level approaches. The process by which this was achieved is explained in the CBD Technical Series 22 and the technical outcomes are also included.

7. In addition to the tools contained in CBD Technical Series 22, the Ramsar Convention continues to make significant progress towards tools for assessing the functions and health of wetlands (which includes all inland water ecosystems). In particular this work relates to progress in assessing the ecological character of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, assessing changes in that ecological character using appropriate analytical tools, indicators, and an overall framework for inventory, assessment and monitoring. Particular note is made of the additional information resources available through the following resolutions of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention (November 2005):

- i) Resolution IX.1: Additional scientific and technical guidance for implementing the Ramsar wise use concept ([http://www.ramsar.org/res/key\\_res\\_ix\\_01\\_e.doc](http://www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_ix_01_e.doc))
- ii) Resolution IX.1 Annex A: A Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character ([http://www.ramsar.org/res/key\\_res\\_ix\\_01\\_annexa\\_e.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_ix_01_annexa_e.htm))
- iii) Resolution IX.1 Annex D: Ecological "outcome-oriented" indicators for assessing the implementation effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention ([http://www.ramsar.org/res/key\\_res\\_ix\\_01\\_annexd\\_e.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_ix_01_annexd_e.htm))
- iv) Resolution IX.1 Annex E: An Integrated Framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring (IF-WIAM) ([http://www.ramsar.org/res/key\\_res\\_ix\\_01\\_annexe\\_e.doc](http://www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_ix_01_annexe_e.doc)).

8. These tools and approaches are applicable to all inland water ecosystems.

9. Further work on methods for describing the ecological character of wetlands was instructed by Ramsar COP9 as a high priority for the work of the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) during 2006-2008.

## **III. TOOLS TO ASSESS THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL VALUES OF THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS**

10. In the 2003-2005 inter-sessional period, the Ramsar Convention, through its STRP, has developed guidelines for assessing the socio-economic and cultural values of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems. Members of the CBD Secretariat contributed to this process.

11. These guidelines are to be published by the Ramsar Secretariat, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as Ramsar Technical Report Number 3 ("Guidelines for valuing wetland goods and services"). It is anticipated that this publication may be ready for distribution at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties or shortly thereafter.

12. For the information of Parties the draft table of contents of these guidelines is shown in the annex in order to provide an insight into the subjects covered in advance of their publication.
13. Further information on the status of publication is available from either Secretariat.

*Annex*

**DRAFT TABLE OF CONTENTS OF THE “GUIDELINES FOR VALUING WETLAND GOODS AND SERVICES”  
(Ramsar Technical Report Number 3)**

- 1. Background and Purpose**
  - 1.1 Why these guidelines?
  - 1.2 What is valuation ?
  - 1.3 Why is wetland valuation important ?
  - 1.4 When should wetland valuation be undertaken ?
  - 1.5 How can wetland valuation be used ?
  - 1.6 How to implement these guidelines
- 2. Framework for Wetland Valuation and Overview of Guidelines**
  - 2.1 Framework for integrated assessment and valuation of wetland goods and services
  - 2.2 Brief description of the steps proposed in these guidelines
- 3. Inventory of Wetland Goods and Services**
  - 3.1 Identification and selection of wetland goods and services
  - 3.2 Indicators to quantify the capacity of wetlands to provide goods and services on a sustainable bases
- 4. Valuation of Wetland Goods and Services**
  - 4.1 Total value and types of value
  - 4.2 Ecological value (importance) of wetland goods and services
  - 4.3 Socio-cultural value (importance) of wetland goods and services
  - 4.4 Economic value (importance) of wetland goods and services
  - 4.5 Monetary valuation of wetland goods and services
- 5. Communicating Wetland Values**
- 6. Implementation: Case Studies on the use of Valuation in Planning & Decision Making**
  - 6.1 Economic value and management strategies of El Tamarindo mangroves, El Salvador
  - 6.2 The importance of integrating wetland values into land and development decisions – Nakivubo Urban Wetland, Uganda
  - 6.3 Total value of Zhalong Wetland, China

**References**

**Appendices**

- Annex 1: Methods for policy analysis  
Annex 2: Methods for stakeholder analysis  
Annex 3: Overview of case studies on wetland valuation  
Annex 4: List of relevant websites

-----