

Notification

9 April 2001

Dear Madam/Sir:

The River Basin Initiative is a key element of the Joint Work Plan between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention, which was endorsed through decision V/2 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention held in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2000.

The River Basin Initiative is designed to assist countries to implement paragraph 9 of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems on adoption of watershed management, and to assist the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to implement paragraph 8 of the programme of work on compiling case studies on river basin management experiences and best practices.

The River Basin Initiative is now moving into the establishment phase and has received UNDP project development funding. The attached questionnaire is the first step in the “country needs assessment” process. A similar survey took place during the sixth meeting of the SBSTTA (12-16 March 2001) to collect the views of participants in the meeting.

I would appreciate it if you could kindly complete the attached questionnaire. It is designed to enable CBD National Focal Points and Ramsar Administrative Authorities to indicate their country’s needs and potential contribution to the Initiative. Please return the completed form to the River Basin Initiative Secretariat as indicated in the last page of the questionnaire by 15 May 2001.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

Enclosure: Questionnaire for CBD and Ramsar Contracting Parties on preliminary needs and contribution assessment on integrating wetlands, biodiversity and river basin management





RIVER BASIN INITIATIVE



PRELIMINARY NATIONAL NEEDS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ASSESSMENT on Integrating Biodiversity, Wetlands and River Basin Management

Questionnaire for CBD and Ramsar Contracting Parties

The River Basin Initiative operates under the framework of the Joint Work Plan between CBD and the Ramsar Convention. It aims to establish a global network to share information and link and support activities where the principles of integrated management of biodiversity, wetlands and river basins and water resources are demonstrated.

Your answers will provide an important contribution to the analysis of country needs and potential contributions that will assist the design and priority-setting to guide the Initiative's implementation, so as to meet national priorities.

Please provide answers to each of the questions below. The questions are designed for you to give your view as a Focal Point of CBD or Administrative Authority of the Ramsar Convention. For most answers you will need to tick just one box in each question or part of a question.

Please return the completed questionnaire to the RBI Secretariat (7A, Jalan 19/29, 46300 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, MALAYSIA. Fax: + 60 3 7957 7003 or E-mail yenyap@genet.po.my) in either electronic format or printed copy, by 20 April 2001. If you prefer to complete and return an electronic copy of the questionnaire by e-mail, it is available from the Ramsar Convention Web site <http://ramsar.org> or the CBD Web-site <http://www.biodiv.org>

Details of person completing the questionnaire

Name: _____

Division/Dept: _____

Organization/Agency: _____

Full postal address: _____

Country: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Which of the following roles do you undertake? Please tick one box in each category

CBD Focal Point: Yes or No

Ramsar Admin. Authority: Yes or No

Other: Please specify: _____

YOUR INFORMATION NEEDS

1. **Do you agree that there is a need for better integration of the management of biodiversity, wetlands and river basins/water resources in your country?** *Please tick only one box*

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Uncertain

If you disagree, please briefly explain why: _____

2. **Would provision of easily accessible information materials, supplemented by training and awareness activities, support work in integrating biodiversity, wetlands and river basins/water resources in your country?** *Please tick only one box*

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Uncertain

3. **What is your country's priority for information on each of the following topics, relating to the work of integrating biodiversity, wetlands and river basins?** *Please tick only one box (i.e. either High, Medium or Low priority) for each of the topics.*

Major categories of information	Priority:		
	High or	Medium or	Low
1. Policies and legal instruments towards integrated Biodiversity, Wetlands and/or River Basin Management, e.g. river basin policies, use of incentive measures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Institutional arrangements , e.g. establishment of river basin management authorities, benefit sharing mechanisms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Planning procedures and mechanisms for promoting ecosystem approach to integrated river basin or water resources management. Examples include strategic impact assessment, development project impact assessment, protected area management strategies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Community involvement in river basin or water resources management, e.g. local participation in planning, monitoring and management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Trans-boundary/International Cooperation , e.g. multinational river basin commissions; information exchange; networks for migratory species.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Management interventions demonstrations and guidance e.g. wetland or river restoration, flood control with wetlands, control of introduced/invasive species, mitigation measures of the impacts of water related projects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Monitoring and research , e.g. methods for rapid assessment of biodiversity or hydrology, development of criteria and indicators	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other topics (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SPECIFIC NEEDS

4. Please describe below any specific needs or problems that your country or organisation is facing where the River basin Initiative may be able to provide some assistance, e.g. specific site/river basin issue or policy or capacity building need.

METHODS OF INFORMATION PROVISION

5. How useful in accessing better information to meet your country needs would be the provision of information in each of the following formats? Please tick only one box (i.e. either Very useful, Useful or Not useful) for each of the topics.

Formats of information provision	Very useful	or	Useful	or	Not useful
1. Web sites	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
2. E-mail, e.g. list servers	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Printed manuals/reference materials	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Printed newsletters	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
5. CD-ROMs	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Workshops	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Training courses	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Study tours or visit to demonstration sites	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Other formats (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RIVER BASIN INITIATIVE

6. Would you be willing to share your country's experiences on integrating Wetlands, Biodiversity and River Basin Management with others through the River Basin Initiative? Yes or No
 If Yes,
 Please indicate the topics on which you could provide information and/or experience:

and how you could share such experience (e.g. provision of publications or case studies, arranging visits to projects, hosting training courses, arranging study tours etc.):

FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

7. **Are there other agencies or organisations in your country that you recommend that we contact for more information on needs and possible contributions?** Yes or No . *If yes, please give contact details (address or email):*

8. **Do you wish to be kept informed of future developments of the River Basin Initiative?**
Yes or No

9. **Please add here any further information or comments you wish to make concerning either the River Basin Initiative or your country's needs and potential contributions to the Initiative:**

Please return the completed questionnaire to the RBI Secretariat (7A, Jalan 19/29, 46300 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, MALAYSIA. Fax: + 60 3 7957 7003 or E-mail yenyap@genet.po.my) in either electronic format or printed copy, by 30 April 2001.

Thank you very much for your assistance in completing this questionnaire.