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13 September 2002

**NOTIFICATION**  
**CASE STUDIES ON WETLAND, WATERSHED, CATCHMENT AND**  
**RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT**

Dear Madam/Sir,

The River Basin Initiative is a key element of the Joint Work Plan between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), which was endorsed through decision V/2 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties recognized, in paragraph 3 of decision VI/2, the importance of the River Basin Initiative for implementation of the ecosystem approach and requested the Executive Secretary to strengthen collaboration with the Ramsar Convention on the implementation of the River Basin Initiative.

In paragraph 8(c) of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (decision IV/4), the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to compile case studies on watershed, catchment and river basin management experiences and practices, to synthesize the lessons emerging from these studies, and to disseminate that information through the clearing-house and other appropriate mechanisms.

The River Basin Initiative conducted a need and contribution assessment for integration of wetlands and biodiversity into river basin management (to guide the implementation of the initiative) amongst Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention starting in mid-March 2001. The questionnaire was prepared considering paragraph 8(c) of the CBD programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems. More than 150 responses from 90 countries were received primarily from the conventions' focal points. The major conclusion of the report was that 97 per cent of the respondents agreed that there was a need for better integration of the management of wetlands, biodiversity and river basins. The top priority topics for information sharing were: (1) community involvement in river basin or water resources management; (2) planning procedures and mechanisms; (3) monitoring and research; (4) policies and legal instruments; (5) management interventions; (6) transboundary/international cooperation; and (7) institutional arrangement.

To: All CBD National Focal Points and Ramsar Convention Administrative Authorities, and  
International Organisations



In response to the above decisions of the CBD Conference of the Parties and as a follow-up to the questionnaire on need and contribution Assessment, the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands are pleased to invite your Government/Organization to submit case studies on topics listed in the attached form, at your earliest convenience but no later than **20 October 2002** to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Case studies can be sent by mail, facsimile, or e-mail (coordinates are indicated in the attached form). Attached please find the topics and outline, which could be used as guidance for the preparation of case studies.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of our highest consideration.

[Original signed]

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Delmar Blasco  
Secretary General  
Ramsar Convention Bureau

[Original signed]

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Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary  
Convention on Biological Diversity

## **TOPICS AND OUTLINE FORMAT FOR CASE STUDIES ON INTEGRATING BIODIVERSITY, WETLAND AND WATERSHED/CATCHMENT/RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT**

Case studies may be at the basin, national (policy or programme) or international levels. They may describe both completed and on-going activities. If you have detailed case studies in other formats you are requested to prepare a summary of a maximum of three pages following the format, which is given on page 4 of this letter.

### **TOPICS**

#### **Planning procedures**

Planning procedures and mechanisms for promoting the integration of the ecosystem approach into river basin or water resources management. Examples include development project impact assessment (including water resource development projects (water supply and sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, flood control, navigation, groundwater extraction), watershed management that incorporate inland water biological diversity with special reference to examples that use the ecosystem-based approach to meet water management goals, protected area management strategies.

#### **Management interventions**

Management interventions demonstrations guidance e.g. wetland or river restoration and rehabilitation, flood control with wetlands, control of introduced invasive species and mitigation measures of the negative impacts and consequences on inland water ecosystems especially at the watershed, catchment and river basin level, mitigation measures of the impacts of water related projects.

#### **Community involvement**

Community involvement in river basin or water resources management, e.g. local participation in planning, monitoring and management.

#### **Monitoring and research**

Monitoring and research programmes e.g. methods for rapid assessment of biodiversity or hydrology, development of criteria and identification of indicators and inventory of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.

#### **Policies, legal instruments, and institutional arrangements**

Policies and legal instruments towards integrated biodiversity, wetland and/or river basin management, e.g. strategic impact assessment, river basin policies, use of incentive measures, and establishment of river basin management authorities.

#### **Transboundary/International Cooperation**

For example multinational river basin commissions; information exchange; networks for migratory species.

## OUTLINE

### **1. Introduction**

Provide a brief description of the focal matter of the case study. Describe the national context or the case study site/river basin (provide a location map if a site or river basin). Indicate the key agencies or stakeholders involved and the status of the work (completed/In progress /proposed)

### **2. Previous Management Strategy/Issues**

Briefly describe the past management of the area i.e. before the present situation described in the case study; its impacts on ecosystems, species and/or people; and the catalyst for change (e.g. a major event/issue or a general policy change)?

### **3. The New Approach and stakeholder involvement**

Describe the new approach adopted; the lead institution/s and how other agencies/stakeholders were involved; the resources needed and their sources.

### **4. Implementation /Achievements**

What has been achieved, the obstacles and opportunities.

### **5. Lessons learned**

What are the lessons learned/ information derived from the case study which can provide an example or guidance to others?

### **6. Documentation**

Describe any specific reports, manuals, videos or other documentation available which describes in more details to the case study along with contact details of key persons or agencies who may be able to provide additional information. Please send copies of any such materials if they are available.

**SEND THE CASE STUDIES (ALONG WITH ANY OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION) TO:**

**Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
393 St. Jacques Street West, Suite 300  
Montreal, Quebec,  
CANADA H2Y 1N2**

**Fax: +1 (514) 288 6588**

**E-mail: [secretariat@biodiv.org](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org)**