



**NOTIFICATION**

**CASE-STUDIES: APPLICATION OF WATER FRAMEWORKS – POLICY  
INTERVENTIONS TO SUSTAINABLY USE INLAND WATERS**

Dear Madam/Sir:

Decision VII/4, paragraph 12, of the Conference of the Parties, urges Parties to share information and lessons learned from the application of national and regional policies, plans and best practices, from the application of water frameworks, including specific examples of successful policy interventions to conserve and sustainably use inland waters, and requests the Executive Secretary to summarize this and related available information for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

There is possibly no universal understanding of what a “water framework” should be, or contain. I propose a flexible interpretation of the term in order to achieve maximum information exchange and to ascertain more broadly what Parties are currently doing in this area. For the present purposes, a “water framework” might be loosely regarded as a policy or management setting which has, as its basis (framework), the objective of the sustainable use of (fresh) water. It is, in particular, a way of managing water across the various sectors that use it, whilst allowing sufficient allocation to sustain aquatic environments and the ecosystem services that they provide. Such frameworks can be applied at various levels, from regional, through national, to local. They can also often be applied at the sector or ecosystem level. Whilst the latter is the ideal scenario, experiences with the former can provide valuable insights. Attention should also be given to frameworks that address bilateral or multilateral requirements for trans-boundary water resources.

To this end, the Secretariat is requesting the submission of case studies that illustrate the application of “water frameworks”, or related approaches considered relevant, that demonstrate policy interventions that promote the conservation and sustainable use of inland waters. The submitted case studies should briefly explain the setting and background, the objectives of the framework or policy, constraints to policy implementation, key features related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, tools and monitoring processes used, and lessons learned.

To: the National Focal Points of the CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, Ramsar Conventions



Parties vary in terms of their institutional arrangements for the management of water. In many cases departments or Ministries are mandated to develop and implement policies regarding water use. In other cases, decisions are taken at the sector level (e.g., by the agriculture sector), and even by the private sector. Whatever the context, a water framework should be based upon, and contribute to, the sustainable use of water, ideally within an ecosystem based policy or management approach. Therefore, I ask you to seek and report case studies at any and all of these levels, as appropriate, including the experiences of the main users of water in this consideration.

I invite you to submit the information to the Secretariat not later than **30 April 2005**.

I thank you for your support to the work of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary