

Rapid Cultural Inventories for Wetlands

This brief provides an overview of Rapid Cultural Inventories and how they can benefit the management of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands. If you are interested in collaborating with the [Secretariat's Culture & Livelihoods Team](#) to undertake or participate in a Rapid Cultural Inventory for Wetlands please contact Mariam Kenza Ali, Manager for Culture & Livelihoods, Ramsar Secretariat, at culture@ramsar.org

What are Rapid Cultural Inventories?

Rapid Cultural Inventories for Wetlands are a simple, quick and practical way to identify, document and make available information about notable cultural values and practices associated with wetland areas. They can be undertaken at a variety of scales. The information they provide supports both the conservation of cultural heritage and the Ramsar Convention's aim of integrating cultural aspects in the management of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands.

Why undertake an inventory?

Currently, there is limited information available on cultural values and practices relating to Ramsar Sites and other wetlands. Rapid Cultural Inventories can benefit wetland conservation and wise use (as well as cultural heritage conservation) by:

- ✓ Identifying and documenting the cultural values and practices related to a Ramsar Site or wetland area.
- ✓ Bringing to light the powerful role that these values and practices can play in wetland conservation and wise use.
- ✓ Empowering wetland managers and other stakeholders to integrate cultural values and practices in day-to-day wetland management, for example by reinstating traditional management activities where these are more effective than other methods.

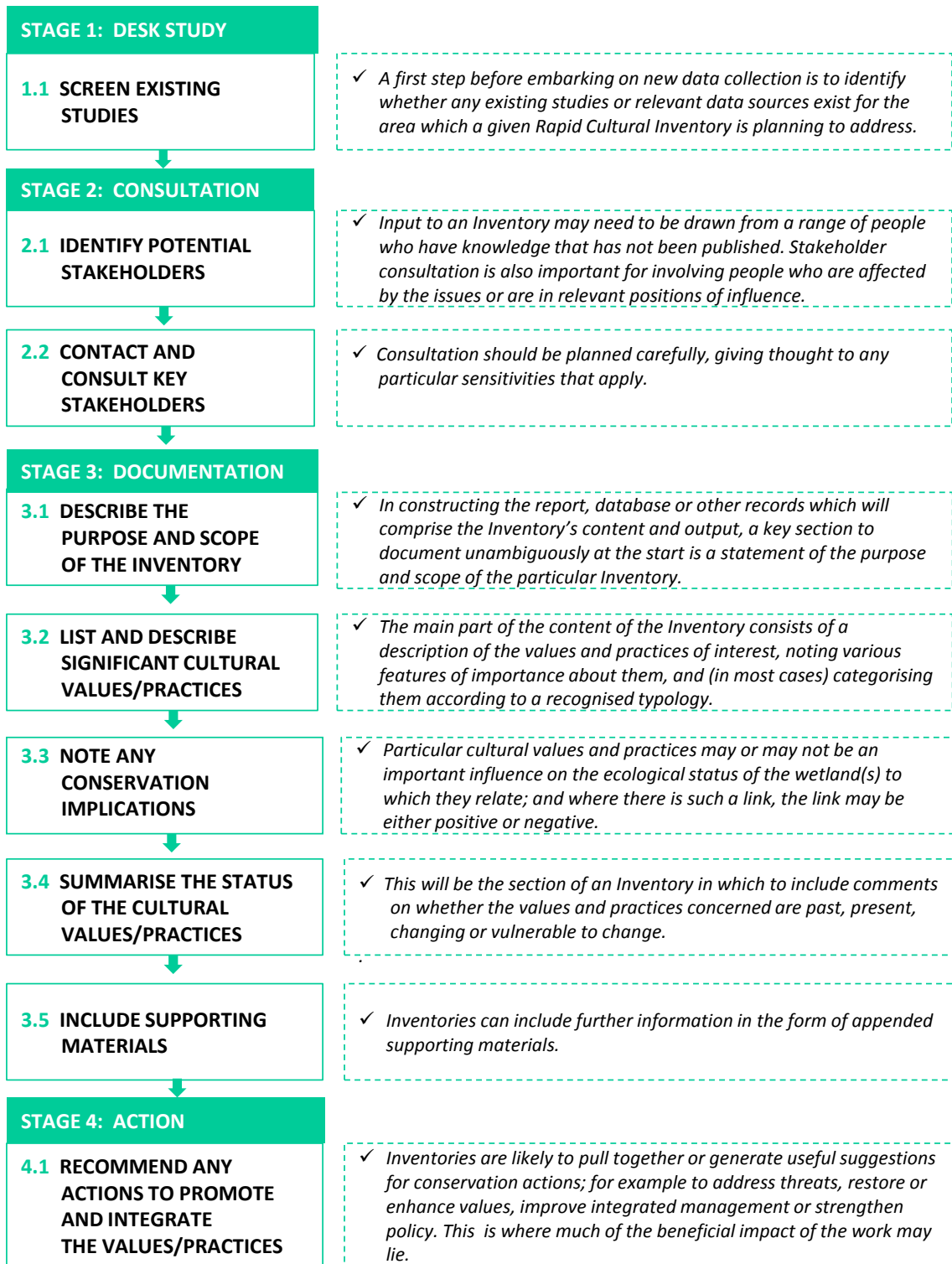
How will they work in practice?

Rapid Cultural Inventories can be undertaken independently by wetland management authorities, Ramsar Regional Initiatives, International Organisation Partners, community groups, non-government organisations, researchers and other stakeholders.

These inventories are applicable at site, river basin, national and regional levels. The scope can include historical or contemporary values and practices. Inventories should make use of and ideally expand upon any relevant information already recorded in the *Ramsar Information Sheets*, and draw upon relevant existing cultural studies.

The process for Rapid Cultural Inventories for Wetlands is outlined below (see the short [Guidance for Rapid Cultural Inventories for Wetlands](#) for more details.)

Overview: Rapid Cultural Inventories for Wetlands



Rapid Cultural Inventories & the Ramsar Convention

Rapid Cultural Inventories support the implementation of a number of Resolutions on cultural issues, including on taking the cultural values of wetlands into account in policy, strategies and management (**Resolutions VIII.19** and **IX.21**), and on strengthening local communities and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands (**Resolution VII.8**).

These inventories also support the implementation of **Target 10** in **Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2016-2024**, which promotes the documentation and full integration of the traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities in wetland management.