SC48-25

Evaluating and ensuring the effective management and conservation of Ramsar Sites

Submitted by Thailand

Action requested:
* Standing Committee is invited to consider and endorse the Draft Resolution concerning the effective management of Ramsar Sites, with any eventual amendments, for submission to COP12.

Background

1. One of the cornerstones of the implementation of the Ramsar Convention is the process by which Contracting Parties identify priority wetlands within their territories, include them in the List of Wetlands of International Importance, and ensure their long-term management and conservation.

2. To achieve the final element of this, Ramsar Site managers must be able to anticipate new management issues and respond to them rapidly and effectively. To make this possible, they should conduct regular and open evaluations of the effectiveness of the Site's management.

3. Over 90 types of Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) assessment tools are being used worldwide, including the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) published by WWF and the World Bank in 2003. Two subsequent studies found the METT suitable for evaluating the management effectiveness of Ramsar Sites.

4. In June 2014, a workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand hosted by the Government of Thailand and supported by the Government of the R.O. Korea, Gyeongnam Province (R.O. Korea) and the Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia to further consider the adoption by the Ramsar Convention of a PAME tool for use at Ramsar Sites, and in particular the METT. Participants acknowledged that certain Contracting Parties had already adopted their own PAME tool, and started to develop a Ramsar-adapted METT (R-METT) for other Parties to use.

About the Draft Resolution

5. The Draft Resolution invites Ramsar Contracting Parties to use this R-METT tool to evaluate the management effectiveness of their Ramsar Sites if they have not already adopted another PAME tool, and to report on the results of the evaluation to the Ramsar Secretariat as part of their National Report prior to each Conference of Parties.

6.   Supporting the DR is an annex showing the R-METT data sheets, and an information paper with more detail on how the R-METT was chosen and developed.

7.   The R-METT comprises four data sheets which are adapted from the METT, and one data sheet adapted from another PAME tool, the IUCN Conservation Assessment for World Heritage Sites. Together these sheets cover the six elements of the management effectiveness cycle: the context, planning, inputs, process, outputs, and outcomes of management.

Draft Resolution XII.__

Evaluating and ensuring the effective management and conservation of Ramsar Sites

1. THANKING the Government of Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Gyeongnam Province (ROK) and the Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia for their generous sponsorship and organization of a workshop in Bangkok in June 2014 that laid the ground for the text of this Resolution;

2. RECALLING Article 3.1 of the Convention, which states that "Contracting Parties shall formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of the wetlands included in the List [of Wetlands of International Importance]";

3. RECALLING that the designation of a wetland for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) is one of the various components of a long-term international commitment to its conservation and wise use, in order to maintain its ecological character as well as the ecosystem services and benefits it provides;

4. RECALLING that Resolution 5.7 *Management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands* called for Contracting Parties to establish appropriate legal and administrative structures for the application of management plans, funding for the implementation of the plans, and training of the necessary staff;

5. APPRECIATING the guidance detailed in Resolution VIII.14 *New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands*, which calls for the development of management plans with clear objectives using simple and measurable indicators for each Ramsar Site, and which also highlights the importance of adaptive management, including both planning and evaluation, to create effective management outcomes;

6. RECALLING that Strategy 2.5 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009 – 2015 (Resolution X.1) called on Contracting Parties to "Review existing Ramsar sites to determine the effectiveness of management arrangements, in line with the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance*";

7. NOTING however that not all Contracting Parties have in place tools for effective management planning;

8. RECALLING that Annex E of Resolution IX.1 provided an integrated framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring, but AWARE that there is currently no agreed process for evaluating the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management and its outcomes;

9. NOTING the adoption and use of Protected Area Management Evaluation (PAME) tools by networks of protected areas such as World Heritage Sites and ASEAN Heritage Parks, and by institutions with a role in supporting their effective management, such as the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility;

10. FURTHER NOTING the Convention on Biological Diversity's Decision X/31 of 2010, that called for the institutionalization of management effectiveness assessment, for 60% of the total area of protected areas to be assessed by 2015, and for the results of the assessments to be implemented; and

11. ALSO RECALLING CBD Decision XI/24 which invited the Ramsar Convention and other partners to align their activities to best support the implementation of national work programmes on protected areas, including the development and implementation of management effectiveness evaluations for protected areas and ecological networks;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Ramsar Site management planning:

12. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to ensure that the Ramsar Site management authority and managers develop and maintain an integrated system of planning, management and evaluation which promotes the wise use of Sites;

13. URGES Ramsar Site management authorities and managers to assess and measure the full range of services that their Site provides (such as the storage, treatment and provision of water, support to the livelihoods and health of human communities, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation, tourism and education) and to prioritize the maintenance of these services in their management processes;

14. DIRECTS the Ramsar Secretariat and its scientific and technical bodies and officers, within available resources, to summarize the management planning guidelines adopted in Resolution VIII.14 for wide distribution and INVITES Contracting Parties to support the translation of the summary into languages which are not official languages of the Ramsar Convention;

15. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to support mechanisms such as networks of Site managers that communicate among themselves virtually and where possible in regular meetings, and establish such networks where they are not already in place, to enable Ramsar Site managers to share experiences and discuss issues of common concern, and REQUESTS that they transmit the views of the networks and Ramsar Site managers to the Ramsar Secretariat;

16. URGES Contracting Parties to encourage Ramsar Site managers to use Ramsar communication tools including websites and social media to exchange and promote good practice on wetland management practice more widely;

Evaluating the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management:

17. EMPHASIZES the importance of evaluating the management effectiveness of Ramsar Sites and of adopting appropriate Protected Area Management Evaluation (PAME) tools for effective management; and URGES the Ramsar Secretariat, Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), International Organization Partners (IOPs), Ramsar Regional Centres and other Partners to support the Contracting Parties in their efforts;

18. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties that have not already adopted a PAME tool for their Ramsar Sites to consider using the Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT), which has been developed by the Ramsar Convention and which is annexed to this Resolution;

19. URGES Ramsar Site managers to evaluate the effectiveness of the management of each of their Ramsar Sites in collaboration with stakeholders, using a PAME tool that they have already adopted or the R-METT;

20. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to report the results of any evaluation of the effectiveness of Ramsar Sites in Section 4 of the National Report prior to each Conference of Contracting Parties of the Convention;

21. ENCOURAGES Site managers who use R-METT to complement their use of the R-METT by monitoring and evaluating management outcomes in line with the *Integrated Framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring* approved as Annex E of Resolution IX.1, and relevant guidelines and good practices identified by Ramsar partners;

22. URGES the Secretariat to collaborate with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC) to incorporate Ramsar Site management effectiveness evaluations into the Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME), in order to support regional and national reporting on Ramsar Site management effectiveness.

Annex 1

Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT)

1.   The process by which Ramsar Contracting Parties identify wetlands within their territories for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance, and then ensure the long-term management and conservation of those 'Ramsar Sites', is one of the cornerstones of the implementation of the Convention. As of 2014, over 2,100 Sites had been designated, making this the largest network of wetland conservation areas worldwide.

2.   For the wise use of Ramsar Sites to be ensured, Site managers must be able to anticipate new issues and to respond to them rapidly and effectively. To make this possible, they should conduct regular and open assessments of the effectiveness of the management of the Site, and learn from both successes and failures. The Ramsar Convention acknowledges the importance of management effectiveness evaluation through Resolution IX.1 Annex D, which provides ecological 'outcome-oriented' indicators for assessing the implementation effectiveness of the Convention.

3.   A range of Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) assessment tools are available. One of the longest-serving of these is the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) published by WWF and the World Bank in 2003[1]. In 2005[2] and 2008[3], studies found the METT suitable to evaluate the management effectiveness of Ramsar Sites.

4.   In June 2014, a workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand, to look further into the Ramsar Convention adopting a PAME tool for use at Ramsar Sites. It was hosted by the Government of Thailand and supported by the Government of the R.O. Korea, Gyeongnam Province (R.O. Korea) and the Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia; participants included National Focal Points from each of the Ramsar regions as well as STRP Focal Points and other Ramsar partners. They acknowledged that certain Contracting Parties had already adopted a PAME tool, and recommended that others adopt a Ramsar-adapted version of the METT for use at their Ramsar Sites.

5.   The Ramsar-adapted METT, or R-METT, comprises the following sections:

   • *Data Sheet 1a: Reporting Progress at Ramsar Sites*. This records basic information about the Site, such as its name, size and location.

   • *Data Sheet 1b: Identifying and describing values from the Ecological Character Description and the Ramsar Information Sheet.* This provides information on the ecological character of the Site including the ecosystem services that it provides, and the Criteria under which the Site qualifies as a Wetland of International Importance.

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[1] Anon., 2007. *Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool Reporting Progress at Protected Area Sites:* Second Edition. WWF International and World Bank.
[2] Chatterjee, A. and Pittock, J. 2005. *Piloting the management effectiveness tracking tool in Ramsar sites. A report from WWF to the Ramsar Convention and its Scientific and Technical Review Panel*. WWF. Gland, Switzerland.
[3] UNEP-WCMC, 2008. *Effectively managing the world's wetlands: An analysis of applications of the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool in Ramsar sites*. UNEP-WCMC. Cambridge, U.K.

- *Data Sheet 2: National and International Designations*. This records information on international designations: i.e. UNESCO World Heritage, Man and Biosphere sites and Ramsar wetland sites.

- *Data Sheet 3: Ramsar Sites Threats*. This provides a generic list of threats which Ramsar Sites can face.

- *Data Sheet 4: Assessment form*. The assessment is structured around 35 questions presented in table format which includes three columns for recording details of the assessment, all of which should be completed.

- *Data Sheet 5: Trends in Ramsar Ecological Character (including ecosystem services and community benefits)[4]* This section provides information on trends over the past five years in the ecological character of the Site including the ecosystem services that it provides, and the Criteria under which the Site qualifies as a Ramsar Site.

6. Data Sheets 1 to 4 are adapted from the METT[1], but Data Sheet 5 is adapted from the IUCN Conservation Assessment[4] for World Heritage Sites. While Data Sheets 1 to 4 focus mainly on the **context**, **planning**, **inputs**, **process** and **outputs** sections of the management effectiveness cycle[5], Data Sheet 5 focuses on **outcomes**.

7. Ramsar Contracting Parties are invited to use this R-METT to evaluate the management effectiveness of their Ramsar Sites if they have not already adopted a PAME tool, and to report on the results of the evaluation to the Ramsar Secretariat as part of their National Report prior to each meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties.

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[4] IUCN, 2012, *IUCN Conservation Outlook Assessments - Guidelines for their application to natural World Heritage Sites. Version 1.3*. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland.
[5] Hockings, M., Stolton, S., Dudley, N., Leverington, F. and Courrau, J., 2006. *Evaluating effectiveness: a framework for assessing the management of protected areas.* Second edition. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

Data Sheet 1a: Reporting Progress at Ramsar Sites

Name, affiliation and contact details for person responsible for completing the METT (email etc.)				
Date assessment carried out				
Name of Ramsar Site		Country:		
Date when Ramsar Site listed:		Total Area of Ramsar Site (ha):		
Ramsar Site number (see http://ramsar.wetlands.org/Database)		WDPA Ramsar Site code (see www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/)		
Location of Ramsar Site (province and if possible map reference of centre point)				
List any other International Designations e.g. World Heritage (and fill in section 2 where relevant):				
Ownership details (please tick all that apply):	State	Private	Community	Other
Management Authority:				
Number of staff:	Permanent		Temporary	
Total annual budget (US$) for Ramsar Site– excluding staff salary costs:	Recurrent (operational) funds:		Project/ other supplementary funds:	
Under which Ramsar criteria was the site designated?				
List the management objectives of the Ramsar Site	Management objective 1: Management objective 2: etc.			
No. of people involved in completing assessment				
Including: (tick boxes)	PA manager ☐	PA staff ☐	Other PA agency staff ☐	NGO ☐
	Local community ☐	Donors ☐	External experts ☐	Other ☐
	Ramsar Site manager ☐		Government representative ☐	
Please note if assessment was carried out in association with a particular project, on behalf of an organisation or donor.				

Data Sheet 1b: Identifying and describing values from the Ecological Character Description and the Ramsar Information Sheet

No.	Key values	Description	Ramsar Criterion
PART A: RAMSAR CRITERIA – reflects the criteria used for site designation			
1i	e.g. Only known breeding area for the New Zealand crane	e.g. Large freshwater wetland areas immediately above high tide provide nesting sites and food for rearing chicks. Island location means no interference from feral animals or from vehicles.	e.g. Criterion 2

Vn°	Key values	Description	ECD group
PART B - OTHER IMPORTANT FEATURES – from the Ecological Character Description or other knowledge of site managers.			
Vx	Key area for community- based fishing industry	Provides primary food source for local population of approx. 2000 villagers	Ecological services and benefits

Data Sheet 2: National and International Designations

Nationally designated Protected Areas which fall within the boundaries of the Ramsar Site (add extra columns as required):					
Name	Designation	IUCN category	Area (ha)	Date of Establishment	WDPA code

UNESCO World Heritage site (see: whc.unesco.org/en/list)				
Site name	Site area (ha)	Date Listed	Geographical co-ordinates	WDPA Code
Criteria for designation (i.e. criteria i to x)				
Statement of Outstanding Universal Value				

UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves (see: www.unesco.org/mab/wnbrs.shtml)						
Site name	Date listed	Site area (ha):				Geographical co-ordinates
		Total:	Core:	Buffer:	Transition	
Criteria for designation						
Fulfillment of three functions of MAB (conservation, development and logistic support.)						

Please list other designations (i.e. ASEAN Heritage, Natura 2000) and any supporting information below	
Name:	Details:

Data Sheet 3: Ramsar Sites Threats:

Please tick all relevant existing threats as either of high, medium or low significance. Note that some of the activities listed are not always threats – only tick them if they threaten the site's integrity in some way. Threats ranked as of high significance are those which are seriously degrading values; medium are those threats having some negative impact and those characterized as low are threats which are present but not seriously impacting values or N/A where the threat is not present or not applicable in the Ramsar Site.

1.   Residential and commercial development within a Ramsar Site
Threats from human settlements or other non-agricultural land uses with a substantial footprint

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				1.1 Housing and settlement	
				1.2 Commercial and industrial areas	
				1.3 Tourism and recreation infrastructure	

2. Agriculture and aquaculture within a Ramsar Site
Threats from farming and grazing as a result of agricultural expansion and intensification, including silviculture, mariculture and aquaculture

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				2.1 Annual and perennial non-timber crop cultivation	
				2.1a Drug cultivation	
				2.2 Wood and pulp plantations	
				2.3 Livestock farming and grazing	
				2.4 Marine and freshwater aquaculture	

3. Energy production and mining within a Ramsar Site
Threats from production of non-biological resources

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				3.1 Oil and gas drilling	
				3.2 Mining and quarrying	
				3.3 Energy generation, including from hydropower dams, wind farms and solar panels	

4. Transportation and service corridors within a Ramsar Site
Threats from long narrow transport corridors and the vehicles that use them including associated wildlife mortality

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				4.1 Roads and railroads (include road-killed animals)	
				4.2 Utility and service lines (e.g. electricity cables, telephone lines,)	
				4.3 Shipping lanes and canals	
				4.4 Flight paths	

5. Biological resource use and harm within a Ramsar Site
Threats from consumptive use of "wild" biological resources including both deliberate and unintentional harvesting effects; also persecution or control of specific species (note this includes hunting and killing of animals)

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				5.1 Hunting, killing and collecting terrestrial (native) animals (including killing of animals as a result of human/wildlife conflict)	
				5.2 Gathering terrestrial (native) plants or plant products (non-timber)	
				5.3 Logging and wood harvesting	
				5.4 Fishing, killing and harvesting (native) aquatic resources	

6. Human intrusions and disturbance within a Ramsar Site

Threats from human activities that alter, destroy or disturb habitats and species associated with non-consumptive uses of biological resources

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				6.1 Recreational activities and tourism	
				6.2 War, civil unrest and military exercises	
				6.3 Research, education and other work-related activities in Ramsar Site	
				6.4 Activities of site managers (e.g. construction or vehicle use, artificial watering points and dams)	
				6.5 Deliberate vandalism, destructive activities or threats to protected area staff and visitors	

7. Natural system modifications

Threats from other actions that convert or degrade habitat or change the way the ecosystem functions.

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				7a1 Habitat clearing	
				7.1 Fire and fire suppression (including arson)	
				7.2 Dams, hydrological modification and water management/use	
				7.3a Increased fragmentation within Ramsar Site	
				7.3b Isolation from other natural habitat (e.g. deforestation, dams without effective aquatic wildlife passages)	
				7.3c Other 'edge effects' on park values	
				7.3d Loss of keystone species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc)	

7a. Hydrological change

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				13.1 Dams within or upstream of site altering hydrological regime	
				13.2 Water extraction/diversion within site or catchment	
				13.3 Excess ponding of water in site (e.g. for flood storage)	
				13.4 Loss of hydrological connectivity (e.g. via stop banks)	
				13.5 Drought conditions	

8. Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Threats from terrestrial and aquatic non-native and native plants, animals, pathogens/microbes or genetic materials that have or are predicted to have harmful effects on biodiversity following introduction, spread and/or increase

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				8.1 Invasive non-native/alien plants (weeds)	
				8.1a Invasive non-native/alien animals	
				8.1b Pathogens (non-native or native but creating new/increased problems)	
				8.2 Introduced genetic material (e.g. genetically modified organisms)	

9. Pollution entering or generated within Ramsar Site

Threats from introduction of exotic and/or excess materials or energy from point and non-point sources

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				9.1 Household sewage and urban waste water	
				9.1a Sewage and waste water from Ramsar Site facilities (e.g. toilets, hotels etc)	
				9.2 Industrial, mining and military effluents and discharges (e.g. unnatural temperatures, de-oxygenated, higher salinity, other pollution)	
				9.3 Agricultural and forestry effluents (e.g. excess fertilizers or pesticides)	
				9.4 Garbage and solid waste	
				9.5 Air-borne pollutants	
				9.6 Excess energy (e.g. heat pollution, lights etc)	

10. Geological events

Geological events may be part of natural disturbance regimes in many ecosystems but they can be a threat if a species or habitat is damaged and has lost its resilience and is vulnerable to disturbance. Management capacity to respond to some of these changes may be limited.

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				10.1 Volcanoes	
				10.2 Earthquakes/Tsunamis	
				10.3 Avalanches/ Landslides	
				10.4 Erosion and siltation/ deposition (e.g. shoreline or riverbed changes)	

11. Climate change and severe weather

Threats from long-term climatic changes which may be linked to global warming and other severe climatic/weather events outside of the natural range of variation

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				11.1 Habitat shifting and alteration	
				11.2 Droughts	
				11.3 Temperature extremes	
				11.4 Storms and flooding	

12. Specific cultural and social threats

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				12.1 Loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge and/or management practices	
				12.2 Natural deterioration of important cultural site values	
				12.3 Destruction of cultural heritage buildings, gardens, sites etc	

Data Sheet 4: Assessment form

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
1. Legal status Does the Ramsar Site have legal status (or in the case of private reserves is covered by a covenant or similar)? *Context*	The Ramsar Site is not gazetted/covenanted	0			
	There is agreement that the Ramsar Site should be gazetted/covenanted but the process has not yet begun	1			
	The Ramsar Site is in the process of being gazetted/covenanted but the process is still incomplete (includes sites designated under international conventions, such as Ramsar, or local/traditional law such as community conserved areas, which do not yet have national legal status or covenant)	2			
	The Ramsar Site has been formally gazetted/covenanted	3			
2. Ramsar Site regulations Are regulations in place to control land use and activities (e.g. hunting)? *Planning*	There are no regulations for controlling land use and activities in the Ramsar Site	0			
	Some regulations for controlling land use and activities in the Ramsar Site exist but these are major weaknesses	1			
	Regulations for controlling land use and activities in the Ramsar Site exist but there are some weaknesses or gaps	2			
	Regulations for controlling inappropriate land use and activities in the Ramsar Site exist and provide an excellent basis for management	3			
3. Law enforcement Can staff (i.e. those with responsibility for managing the site) enforce Ramsar Site rules well enough? *Input*	The staff have no effective capacity/resources to enforce Ramsar Site legislation and regulations	0			
	There are major deficiencies in staff capacity/resources to enforce Ramsar Site legislation and regulations (e.g. lack of skills, no patrol budget, lack of institutional support)	1			
	The staff have acceptable capacity/resources to enforce Ramsar Site legislation and regulations but some deficiencies remain	2			
	The staff have excellent capacity/resources to enforce Ramsar Site legislation and regulations	3			
4. Ramsar Site objectives Is management undertaken according	No firm objectives have been agreed for the Ramsar Site	0			
	The Ramsar Site has agreed objectives, but is not managed according to these objectives	1			
	The Ramsar Site has agreed objectives, but is only partially managed according to these objectives	2			

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
to agreed objectives? *Planning*	The Ramsar Site has agreed objectives and is managed to meet these objectives	3			
5. Ramsar Site design Is the Ramsar Site the right size and shape to protect species, habitats, ecological processes and water catchments of key conservation concern? *Planning*	Inadequacies in Ramsar Site design mean achieving the major objectives of the Ramsar Site is very difficult	0			
	Inadequacies in Ramsar Site design mean that achievement of major objectives is difficult but some mitigating actions are being taken (e.g. agreements with adjacent land owners for wildlife corridors or introduction of appropriate catchment management)	1			
	Ramsar Site design is not significantly constraining achievement of objectives, but could be improved (e.g. with respect to larger scale ecological processes)	2			
	Ramsar Site design helps achievement of objectives; it is appropriate for species and habitat conservation; and maintains ecological processes such as surface and groundwater flows at a catchment scale, natural disturbance patterns etc	3			
6. Ramsar Site boundary demarcation Is the boundary known and demarcated? *Process*	The boundary of the Ramsar Site is not known by the management authority or local residents/neighbouring land users	0			
	The boundary of the Ramsar Site is known by the management authority but is not known by local residents/neighbouring land users	1			
	The boundary of the Ramsar Site is known by both the management authority and local residents/neighbouring land users but is not appropriately demarcated	2			
	The boundary of the Ramsar Site is known by the management authority and local residents/neighbouring land users and is appropriately demarcated	3			
7. Management plan Is there a management plan and is it being implemented? *Planning*	There is no management plan for the Ramsar Site	0			
	A management plan is being prepared or has been prepared but is not being implemented	1			
	A management plan exists but it is only being partially implemented because of funding constraints or other problems	2			
	A management plan exists and is being implemented	3			
Additional points: *Planning*					

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
7a. Planning process	The planning process allows adequate opportunity for key stakeholders to influence the management plan	+1			
7b. Planning process	There is an established schedule and process for periodic review and updating of the management plan	+1			
7c. Planning process	The results of monitoring, research and evaluation are routinely incorporated into planning	+1			
8. Regular work plan Is there a regular work plan and is it being implemented *Planning/Outputs*	No regular work plan exists	0			
	A regular work plan exists but few of the activities are implemented	1			
	A regular work plan exists and many activities are implemented	2			
	A regular work plan exists and all activities are implemented	3			
9. Resource inventory Do you have enough information to manage the area? *Input*	There is little or no information available on the critical habitats, species and cultural values of the Ramsar Site	0			
	Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the Ramsar Site is not sufficient to support planning and decision making	1			
	Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the Ramsar Site is sufficient for most key areas of planning and decision making	2			
	Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the Ramsar Site is sufficient to support all areas of planning and decision making	3			
10. Protection systems Are systems in place to control access/resource use in the Ramsar Site? *Process/Outcome*	Protection systems (patrols, permits etc) do not exist or are not effective in controlling access/resource use	0			
	Protection systems are only partially effective in controlling access/resource use	1			
	Protection systems are moderately effective in controlling access/resource use	2			
	Protection systems are largely or wholly effective in controlling access/ resource use	3			
11. Research Is there a programme	There is no survey or research work taking place in the Ramsar Site	0			
	There is a small amount of survey and research work but it is not directed towards the needs of Ramsar Site management	1			

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
of management-orientated survey and research work? *Process*	There is considerable survey and research work but it is not directed towards the needs of Ramsar Site management	2			
	There is a comprehensive, integrated programme of survey and research work, which is relevant to management needs	3			
12. Resource management Is active resource management being undertaken? *Process*	Active resource management is not being undertaken	0			
	Very few of the requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values are being implemented	1			
	Many of the requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and, cultural values are being implemented but some key issues are not being addressed	2			
	Requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and, cultural values are being substantially or fully implemented	3			
13. Staff numbers Are there enough people employed to manage the Ramsar Site? *Inputs*	There are no staff	0			
	Staff numbers are inadequate for critical management activities	1			
	Staff numbers are below optimum level for critical management activities	2			
	Staff numbers are adequate for the management needs of the Ramsar Site	3			
14. Staff training Are staff adequately trained to fulfil management objectives? *Inputs/Process*	Staff lack the skills needed for Ramsar Site management	0			
	Staff training and skills are low relative to the needs of the Ramsar Site	1			
	Staff training and skills are adequate, but could be further improved to fully achieve the objectives of management	2			
	Staff training and skills are aligned with the management needs of the Ramsar Site	3			
15. Current budget Is the current budget sufficient?	There is no budget for management of the Ramsar Site	0			
	The available budget is inadequate for basic management needs and presents a serious constraint to the capacity to manage	1			
	The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to fully achieve effective management	2			

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
Inputs	The available budget is sufficient and meets the full management needs of the Ramsar Site	3			
16. Security of budget Is the budget secure? *Inputs*	There is no secure budget for the Ramsar Site and management is wholly reliant on outside or highly variable funding	0			
	There is very little secure budget and the Ramsar Site could not function adequately without outside funding	1			
	There is a reasonably secure core budget for regular operation of the Ramsar Site but many innovations and initiatives are reliant on outside funding	2			
	There is a secure budget for the Ramsar Site and its management needs	3			
17. Management of budget Is the budget managed to meet critical management needs? *Process*	Budget management is very poor and significantly undermines effectiveness (e.g. late release of budget in financial year)	0			
	Budget management is poor and constrains effectiveness	1			
	Budget management is adequate but could be improved	2			
	Budget management is excellent and meets management needs	3			
18. Equipment Is equipment sufficient for management needs? *Input*	There are little or no equipment and facilities for management needs	0			
	There are some equipment and facilities but these are inadequate for most management needs	1			
	There are equipment and facilities, but still some gaps that constrain management	2			
	There are adequate equipment and facilities	3			
19. Maintenance of equipment Is equipment adequately maintained? *Process*	There is little or no maintenance of equipment and facilities	0			
	There is some *ad hoc* maintenance of equipment and facilities	1			
	There is basic maintenance of equipment and facilities	2			
	Equipment and facilities are well maintained	3			

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
20. Education and awareness Is there a planned education programme linked to the objectives and needs? *Process*	There is no education and awareness programme	0			
	There is a limited and *ad hoc* education and awareness programme	1			
	There is an education and awareness programme but it only partly meets needs and could be improved	2			
	There is an appropriate and fully implemented education and awareness programme	3			
21. Planning for land and water use Does land and water use planning recognise the Ramsar Site and aid the achievement of objectives? *Planning*	Adjacent land and water use planning does not take into account the needs of the Ramsar Site and activities/policies are detrimental to the survival of the area	0			
	Adjacent land and water use planning does not take into account the long term needs of the Ramsar Site, but activities are not detrimental the area	1			
	Adjacent land and water use planning partially takes into account the long term needs of the Ramsar Site	2			
	Adjacent land and water use planning fully takes into account the long term needs of the Ramsar Site	3			
Additional points: Land and water planning					
21a: Land and water planning for habitat conservation	Planning and management in the catchment or landscape containing the Ramsar Site incorporates provision for adequate environmental conditions (e.g. volume, quality and timing of water flow, air pollution levels etc) to sustain relevant habitats.	+1			
21b: Land and water planning for connectivity	Management of corridors linking the Ramsar Site provides for wildlife passage to key habitats outside the Ramsar Site (e.g. to allow migratory fish to travel between freshwater spawning sites and the sea, or to allow animal migration).	+1			
21c: Land and water planning for ecosystem services & species conservation	"Planning addresses ecosystem-specific needs and/or the needs of particular species of concern at an ecosystem scale (e.g. volume, quality and timing of freshwater flow to sustain particular species, fire management to maintain savannah habitats etc.)"	+1			
22. State and commercial neighbours	There is no contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users	0			
	There is contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users but little or no cooperation	1			

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
Is there co-operation with adjacent land and water users? *Process*	There is contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users, but only some co-operation	2			
	There is regular contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users, and substantial co-operation on management	3			
23. Indigenous people Do indigenous and traditional peoples resident or regularly using the Ramsar Site have input to management decisions? *Process*	Indigenous and traditional peoples have no input into decisions relating to the management of the Ramsar Site	0			
	Indigenous and traditional peoples have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management	1			
	Indigenous and traditional peoples directly contribute to some relevant decisions relating to management but their involvement could be improved	2			
	Indigenous and traditional peoples directly participate in all relevant decisions relating to management, e.g. co-management	3			
24. Local communities Do local communities resident or near the Ramsar Site have input to management decisions? *Process*	Local communities have no input into decisions relating to the management of the Ramsar Site	0			
	Local communities have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management	1			
	Local communities directly contribute to some relevant decisions relating to management but their involvement could be improved	2			
	Local communities directly participate in all relevant decisions relating to management, e.g. co-management	3			
Additional points *Local communities/indigenous people*					
24 a. Impact on communities	There is open communication and trust between local and/or indigenous people, stakeholders and Ramsar Site managers	+1			
24b. Impact on communities	Programmes to enhance community welfare, while conserving Ramsar Site resources, are being implemented	+1			
24c. Impact on communities	Local and/or indigenous people actively support the Ramsar Site	+1			
25. Economic benefit Is the Ramsar Site	The Ramsar Site does not deliver any economic benefits to local communities	0			
	Potential economic benefits are recognised and plans to realise these are being developed	1			

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
providing economic benefits to local communities, e.g. income, employment, payment for environmental services? *Outcomes*	There is some flow of economic benefits to local communities	2			
	There is a major flow of economic benefits to local communities from activities associated with the Ramsar Site	3			
26. Monitoring and evaluation Are management activities monitored against performance? *Planning/Process*	There is no monitoring and evaluation in the Ramsar Site	0			
	There is some *ad hoc* monitoring and evaluation, but no overall strategy and/or no regular collection of results	1			
	There is an agreed and implemented monitoring and evaluation system but results do not feed back into management	2			
	A good monitoring and evaluation system exists, is well implemented and used in adaptive management	3			
27. Visitor facilities Are visitor facilities adequate? *Outputs*	There are no visitor facilities and services despite an identified need	0			
	Visitor facilities and services are inappropriate for current levels of visitation	1			
	Visitor facilities and services are adequate for current levels of visitation but could be improved	2			
	Visitor facilities and services are excellent for current levels of visitation	3			
28. Commercial tourism operators Do commercial tour operators contribute to Ramsar Site management? *Process*	There is little or no contact between managers and tourism operators using the Ramsar Site	0			
	There is contact between managers and tourism operators but this is largely confined to administrative or regulatory matters	1			
	There is limited co-operation between managers and tourism operators to enhance visitor experiences and maintain Ramsar Site values	2			
	There is good co-operation between managers and tourism operators to enhance visitor experiences, and maintain Ramsar Site values	3			
29. Fees If fees (i.e. entry fees	Although fees are theoretically applied, they are not collected	0			
	Fees are collected, but make no contribution to the Ramsar Site or its environs	1			

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
or fines) are applied, do they help Ramsar Site management? *Inputs/Process*	Fees are collected, and make some contribution to the Ramsar Site and its environs	2			
	Fees are collected and make a substantial contribution to the Ramsar Site and its environs	3			
30. Condition of key management targets What is the condition of the important values of the Ramsar Site as compared to when it was first designated? (this answer should be a conclusion from datasheet 5) *Outcomes*	Many important biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded	0			
	Some biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded	1			
	Some biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are being partially degraded but the most important values have not been significantly impacted	2			
	Biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are predominantly intact	3			
Additional Points: Condition of values					
30a: Condition of values	The assessment of the condition of values is based on research and/or monitoring	+1			
30b: Condition of values	Specific management programmes are being implemented to address threats to biodiversity, ecological and cultural values	+1			
30c: Condition of values	Activities to maintain key biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are a routine part of management	+1			
Additional questions specific to Ramsar Sites:					
31: Ecological Character Description	Work on the description of the ecological character of the Ramsar Site has not begun	0			
	Work has begun to create a description of the ecological character of the Ramsar Site, but no draft is yet available	1			
	A description of the ecological character of the site has been drafted, but is incomplete or out of date	2			
	A description of the ecological character of the site has been completed	3			
32: Cross sectorial	No cross-sectorial management committee is in place	0			

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
Management Committee	Potential stakeholders for the creation of a cross-sectorial management committee have been identified, but no management committee has been established	1			
	A management committee has been established, but is not significantly involved in the management of the site	2			
	A functioning cross-sectorial management committee is in place	3			
33. Communication mechanisms with Ramsar administrative authority	There are no mechanisms in place for communication between the Ramsar Administrative authority and site managers	0			
	Communication between the Ramsar Administrative authority and site managers exists but is ad-hoc and poorly developed	1			
	Communication mechanisms are in place but could be improved	2			
	Mechanisms are in place for communication between the Ramsar Administrative authority and site managers and function well	3			

34. Of the 33 questions above, please list in order of importance the five that reflect the major constraints to effective management of your Ramsar Site	Question number	Why is this a major constraint to effective management

35. Of the 33 questions above, please list in order of importance the five greatest strengths of your current management of your Ramsar Site	Question number	Why do you think this has become a strength of current management? (e.g. due to manager's efforts or government commitment?

Data Sheet 5: Trends in Ramsar Ecological Character (including ecosystem services and community benefits)

Key values for the Ramsar Site should be copied from Datasheet 1a., then indicate the current condition of the value and the trend over the past five years

Note: The current state of values is assessed against five ratings: **Good, Low Concern, High Concern, Critical** and **Data Deficient.** The baseline for the assessment should be the condition at the time of designation, with reference to the best-recorded historical conservation state. Trend is assessed in relation to whether the condition of a value is **Improving, Stable, Deteriorating** or **Data Deficient,** and is intended to be snapshot of recent developments over the last three years.

PART A: RAMSAR CRITERIA – reflects the criteria used for site designation	Assessment					Trend			
Values	Justification of assessment	Good	Low Concern	High Concern	Critical	Data deficient	I	S	D	DD
PART B - OTHER IMPORTANT FEATURES – from the Ecological Character Description or other knowledge of site managers.										
Assessment of the overall current state and trend of Ramsar Site ecological character:										