



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

**Asia Regional Workshop on Scientific and Technical Support for
Implementation of the Ramsar Convention**

Changwon Hotel, Changwon, Republic of Korea
7-11 October 2013

Briefing Note for agenda item 15

Economics of Wetland Ecosystem Services

Working Session 7: Economics of Wetland Ecosystem Services

Friday 11 October, 8.30-12.30

Objectives

- Introduce the STRP work programme under the thematic work area -“Wetlands and Ecosystem Services / Benefits;”
- Share the outcomes of the TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity): Water and Wetlands Assessment;
- Introduce a toolkit on ecosystem services site-based assessment;
- Share the guidelines on “Valuation of wetland ecosystem services’ through an interactive case study based session;” and
- Feedback on user needs on tools, knowledge, methodology and data required to support integration of ecosystem service values in wetland management planning and implementation.

Background

In 2005, the wise use of wetlands definition was updated to include ecosystem benefits/services, enabling linking the benefits derived by humans from wetland ecosystems to ecosystem components and processes which are responsible for delivery of these services within a common framework. A key conclusion drawn from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment – Water and Wetland Synthesis was the fact that despite delivering a range of ecosystem services, wetlands have continued to degrade largely due to policy decisions that fail to internalize and factor in the values of wetland ecosystem services in a manner that supports their retention or rehabilitation. Incomplete knowledge of the value of these services can lead to perverse incentive systems which favour degradation and conversion of wetlands without considering the consequent loss of human welfare and impacts on human health and overall well-being.

Quantifying and valuation of wetland ecosystem services in a way that makes them comparable with the returns derived from alternative uses can facilitate improved policy and decision making. The TEEB – Water and Wetlands (The Economics of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity) synthesis, published in 2012, provides pathways for explicitly recognizing, valuing, and capturing ecosystem services benefits to address the ‘economic invisibility’ of ecosystem services in societal policy and decision making. In the 11th Conference of the Parties meeting of the Convention (2012), the Economics of Wetland Ecosystem Services was established as a distinct thematic area, aimed, *inter alia*, at addressing the key results under Ramsar’s Strategic Area 1.4 (cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services), with the following high priority tasks:

1. Conduct a user needs analysis for Ramsar Parties and wetland (site) managers on tools, knowledge, methodology and data required to support integration of ecosystem service values in planning and decision making;
2. Conduct a scoping review of the advancements in ecosystem services (description/recognition, valuation, capture) to support the wise use of wetlands, in particular cross-sectoral integration;
3. Develop a guide to guidance on best practices for integrating ecosystem services values within the response options for wetland management;
4. Conduct a scoping review of technical aspects of relevance to the Ramsar Convention in the finance, banking, investment, insurance and other economic sectors (currently being rolled into implementation of 3); and
5. Develop an assessment mechanism for the contribution of wetland services/benefits to national GDPs.

Feedback requested from participants

1. Case studies on the use of wetland ecosystem services for management (including but not limited to

- valuation);
2. Specific user needs knowledge, methodology, tools, data or others to assist in integration of wetland ecosystem service values in site management planning, implementation and policy making.

Background materials

1. TEEB: Water for Wetlands Report available at: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-pubs-teeb-report/main/ramsar/1-30%5E26149_4000_0.
2. STRP technical report: Valuing Wetlands Available at: http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/lib/lib_rtr03.pdf.

Schedule

8.30 – 8.45

Introduction to STRP Tasks on Wetlands and Ecosystem Services

8.45 – 9.35

Presentation: The Economics of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity (TEEB) – Water and Wetlands

9.35 – 10.05

Facilitated discussion on use of TEEB: Water and Wetlands Assessment outcomes for site management

- Guiding questions
 - How does the TEEB approach based on recognizing, valuing and capturing wetland ecosystem values assists in management planning?
 - What support needs are required to help wetland managers integrate ecosystem service values in wetland management planning and decision making?

10.05 – 10.25

Coffee Break

10.25 – 11.05

Introduction to TESSA: Toolkit for Ecosystem Services Site Based Assessment

11.05 – 12.05

Applying Guidelines for Valuing Benefits Derived from Wetland Ecosystem Services

12.05 – 12.35

Feedback and session conclusions

- Guiding questions:
 - How do we increase relevance of STRP work on economics of ecosystem services?
 - How can NFPs support implementation of tasks?
 - What tasks are of specific interest and why?