

Urban and peri-urban wetlands:





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Task description



Thematic Work Area 2: Strategic, Emerging & Ongoing Issues Lower Priority Tasks

Task No. 2.7:

Planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands – guidance

Task description



Task 2.7

In the light of advice from Contracting Parties through their STRP National Focal Points on issues concerning urban wetlands and peri-urban wetlands that would benefit from additional scientific and technical guidance, consider the preparation of guidance for Contracting Parties and consider ways to disseminate information to Contracting Parties on managing urban and peri-urban wetlands, in accordance with an ecosystem approach, and taking into account issues such as climate change, ecosystem services, food production, human health and livelihoods.

Task synergies



TWA4:

Wetlands and human health

TWA6:

Wetlands and water resource management

TWA9:

Wetlands and agriculture

TWA2:

Task 2.7 Planning and Management of urban and peri-urban wetlands

TWA2:

Task 2.5 Economic sector issues

TWA2:

Task 2.6 Poverty Reduction

TWA8:

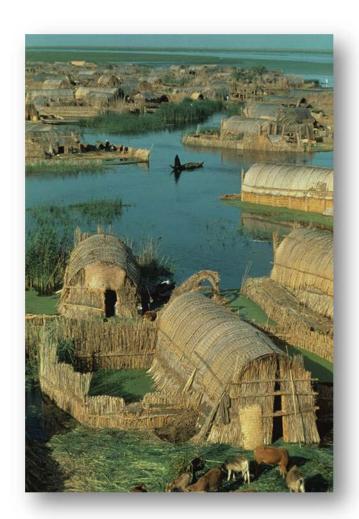
Wetland management, restoration, mitigation, compensation

Wetlands & humans are intrinsically linked



Civilisation dawned in the fertile crescent of Mesopotamia

- The establishment of urban settlements depended on wetlands
- Wetlands provided vital resources for urban areas



Wetland ecosystem services in urban areas



Humans living in urban settlements benefit from ecosystem services











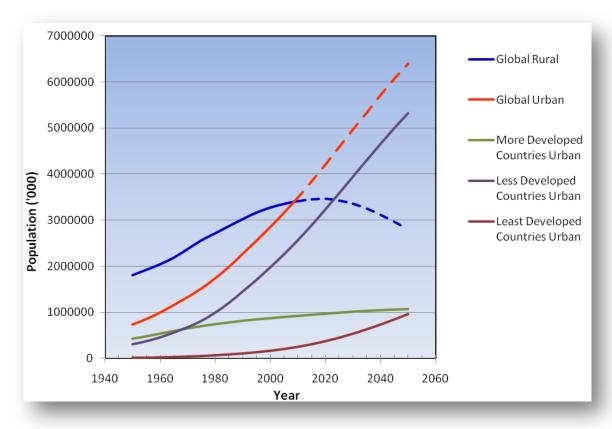






The majority of humans now live in urban areas

- Shift from rural communities to urban settlement
- Rate of growth expected to continue
- Accelerating shift in less developed countries



The pressure of urbanization



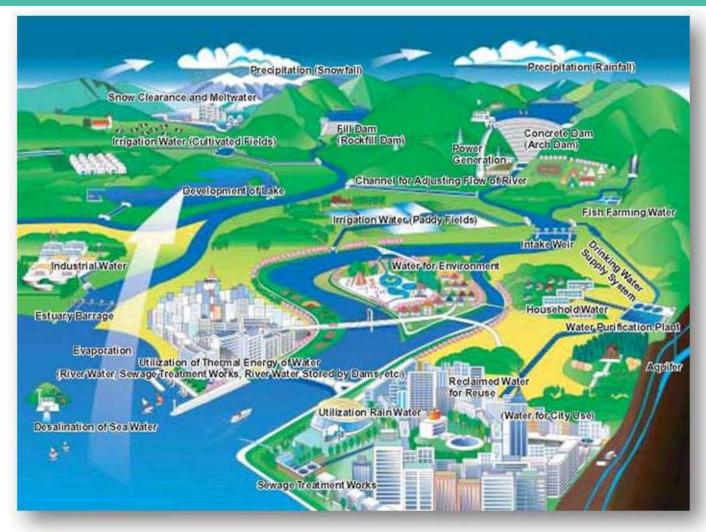
Many human activities now threaten wetland ecosystems

- Direct loss of habitat
- Pollution of water
- Reduction in water resources
- Contribute to climate change









Impacts on wetland ecosystems occur within and beyond city boundaries

Progress to date



- Expert Workshop held in Naivasha, Kenya on 16-17th November 2009 supported by UN HABITAT and Ramsar Convention.
- Approximately 30 participants from around the world including urban planners and managers and wetland experts attended the Workshop.
- Report produced summarizing the issues relating to urban development and wetland management and outlines the stages to take this initiative forward.
- Invited Workshop was held on the 19-20th February 2010 in Gland,
 Switzerland, in advance of the STRP mid-term workshops including wetland and urban planning experts.
- Workshop concluded that a set of **Overarching principles** are required to provide the framework for future progress.
- Outline of a draft resolution and technical annex circulated to experts for comment in September 2010.
- Participation in CBD COP including City Biodiversity Summit and side event on Wetlands and Urbanization.

Progress to date



Overarching principles

Agreement of joint UN HABITAT-Ramsar overarching principles which define the philosophical and conceptual approach to urban planning, development and management and the protection, enhancement and conservation of wetland biodiversity. To address such elements as:

- No further degradation or loss of wetlands as a result of urban development or management.
- Wetlands should be considered as essential water management infrastructure.
- Wetlands should be restored and created as elements of urban infrastructure in order to optimise ecosystem service delivery.
- The wise use of wetlands should be considered as a key component within sustainable human settlements.

Wetland technical guidance

- Illustrative guidance on the protection and conservation of existing wetlands within the context of urban development.
- Illustrative guidance on the utility of wetlands as essential water management infrastructure within urban settlements.
- Case studies

Target audiences

- Overarching principles aimed at National Governments
- Guidance aimed at Local Government level



Urban development guidance

- How to inform existing networks, associations and organisations.
- How to raise awareness, deliver successful information exchange and capacity build.
- How to develop exemplars of sustainable urban and wetland management.
- Case studies



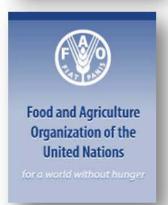


Progress to date



Working and developing relationships with many parties . . .

























Wetlands offer unique possibilities



However, wetlands have traditionally been seen as an

obstacle to urbanization:

- Health
- Flooding
- Drainage
- Biodiversity





Wetlands offer unique possibilities



Yet wetlands have the potential to offer solutions to a

range of urban issues:

- Health
- Flooding
- Drainage
- Biodiversity





Wetlands are unique among ecosystems



The presence of water at or near their surface makes wetlands unique among ecosystems. Consequently, wetlands can provide:

- Water management infrastructure
- Sustainable sanitation solutions
- Low cost alternatives to traditional engineering
- Multiple benefits to a range of stakeholders

The key issue for urban planners and managers to consider is how can they change their perspective on wetlands and see them as a key solution provider.



A change of perspective



The key issue for the biodiversity or wetland conservation sector is to promote wetlands which:

- Use biodiversity to deliver solutions
- Utilise common and widespread species and do not have to be populated by charismatic or iconic species
- Depend on biodiversity at range of levels from the microbial to the ecosystem
- Deliver many ecosystem services

But which fundamentally increase the total stock of wetlands in urban areas.



The challenges ahead



Wetlands provide both opportunities and challenges within urban environments

- There are opportunities for joint implementation of MEA resolutions – CBD, Ramsar, UN-Habitat
- There is a need to create capacities within local planning authorities
- Wetland wise use principles need to be nested in urban planning processes
- There is a need to develop good communication tools
- Best practice case studies need to be developed and disseminated
- We need to work towards best practices for urban planning and wetland management

The immediate challenges ahead!



Break out groups

Objectives:

- Based on your experiences can we define the problem?
 (30 minutes)
 - Drivers
 - Impacts
 - Barriers
- Based on your experiences can we define the solution?
 (30 minutes)
 - Hypothetical
 - Theoretical
 - Best practice examples

The immediate challenges ahead!



Break out groups

Instructions:

- Break into groups
- Appoint a rapporteur
- Appoint a time-keeper
- Summarize discussion for reporting back
- Limit reporting back to
 10 minutes per group

