



A diverse and
sustainable world



IUCN
World
Conservation
Congress
Barcelona 2008

Authors

David Allen, IUCN Species Programme

Dr. Oliver Springate-Baginski, Overseas
Development Group, University of East
Anglia

Presentation

Presentation from the Water Pavilion at the IUCN World Conservation Congress,
Barcelona 2008

©The Author(s), all rights reserved



Freshwater Biodiversity Unit, IUCN Species Programme
Overseas Development Group, University of East Anglia

Good Practice Toolkit for Integrated Wetland Assessment

integrating species assessment, livelihoods assessment and ecosystem service valuation for improved wetland planning and management



- 3 year project funded by Darwin Initiative
- partners include ODG, IUCN offices
- aim is to improve protection of wetlands
- key output is the **IWA toolkit**
- process and methods for site-level assessment

wetland biodiversity under threat

- 50% loss of global wetlands in the 20th. century
- loss and degradation of habitats
- over-exploited resources
- development and population growth
- introduced invasive species
- under-studied, undervalued





wetlands: understudied & undervalued

- wetlands generate multiple benefits for many people
- yet their economic values tend to be underestimated or ignored
- perceived to be no *benefit* to wetland conservation, and no *cost* to wetland degradation and loss
- wetlands people & species often marginalised in decision-making





constraints of traditional assessment

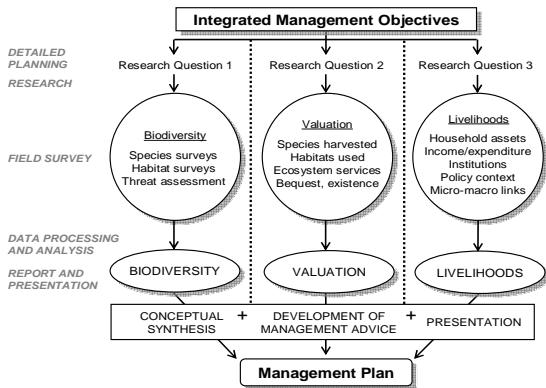
- compelling reasons for policy makers to protect watersheds
- yet the case is often weakly made and fails to inform policy
- traditional assessments focus on single aspects:
 - conservation status of species
 - livelihoods benefits
 - economic benefits from keeping wetlands intact
- rarely do arguments draw on combined information from all three types of assessment
- improved wetlands policy and management requires a more comprehensive information base



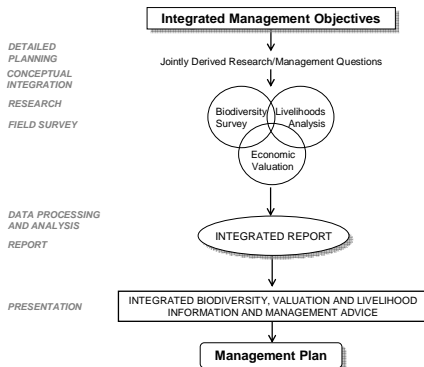
why integrated assessment process?

- wetlands ecosystems are some of the most valuable yet under-valued ecosystems
- wetlands are being over-exploited, degraded and converted in pursuit of more 'productive' or 'profitable' options
- degradation typically harms local people who depend on wetland commons, yet may be economically sub-optimal and unsustainable
- *integrated* assessment provides a powerful - and much needed – influence on decision-making

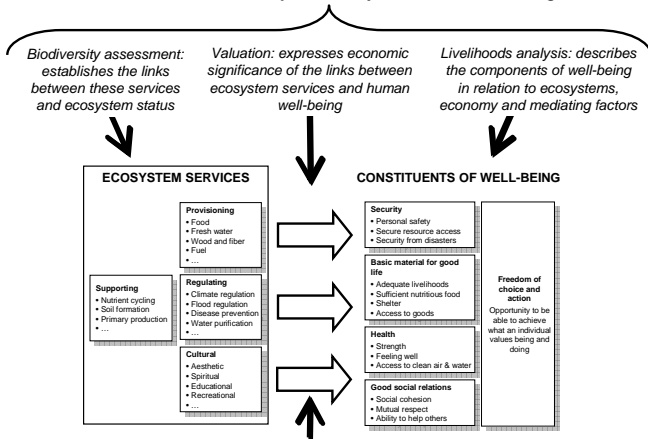
'Dis-integrated' assessment process



Integrated assessment process



Integrated assessment:
*describes the links between wetland ecosystems,
 livelihoods, economic productivity and human well-being*



Mediation by socio-economic factors such as institutions, markets and policies

Challenges

- disciplinary boundaries and jargon. Those working in one discipline may not appreciate the value or relevance of work in another
- practical challenges of bringing together people from different disciplines
- lack of existing models and tools for integrated work



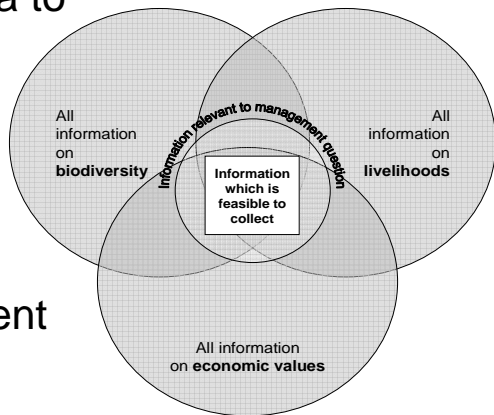
Benefits and synergies

- improves insights for each aspect
- a more holistic picture of the full value of a wetland than collected studies from each respective discipline can provide
- more systematic fieldwork, optimising resources and investigators time, and reducing respondent fatigue

Stage	Steps
A. Preparation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Form and train the multi-disciplinary team2. Undertake a trial assessment3. Identifying the information required4. Planning within the constraints5. Collate secondary data and existing literature
B. Field assessment	<ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Conducting the fieldwork
C. Analysis, Write-up and Presentation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Integrated data management and storage9. Integrated data analysis10. Integrated presentation of results

which data should be collected?

- Should provide adequate data to answer questions identified
- Should be the subset of all information which forms intersection of biodiversity / livelihood / economic values relevant to overall management issue
- Should be feasible to collect



integrated assessment process

Physical:

- Geology
- Seasonal hydrological regime

Biodiversity:

- Fish,
- Forests
- Etc.

Value of ecosystem services (including to 'distant' users)

- Fish
- Irrigation water
- Hydroelectricity

Local livelihood systems:

- Fishery
- NTFP

Institutions:

- Fishery policies and governance
- Markets



case study assessments



Stung Treng Ramsar Site,
Cambodia

Mtanza-Msona Village,
Tanzania



- integrated assessment toolkit
- case study assessments
- training/awareness seminars
- local language summaries & policy briefs
- national & site level dialogues



- making the case for investing in wetland conservation and strengthening justification for conservation measures
- prioritising current wetland users (and losers from wetland loss) in conservation and development decisions
- influencing infrastructure decisions which would degrade or destroy wetlands and wetland-based livelihoods



- *confirms significance of wetland biodiversity*
- *substantial wetland dependence of poor*
- *substantial value of wetland ecosystem services*
- *wetlands under threat from 'development' and poorly regulated commercial exploitation*
- *integrated wetland assessment can promote improved policy and governance processes*

Tools for assessing

- biodiversity
- livelihoods
- environmental economics

Techniques for integrating

- data analysis, mapping, presenting outputs





Thanks!

The *Toolkit* will be available in December 2008

Contact:

Freshwater Biodiversity Unit

IUCN Species Programme, Cambridge, UK

david.allen@iucn.org | species@iucn.org





Thanks!