

Issue: Inland water

Section: Assessments

Introduction

Activity 1: Identify and inventory inland waters

Component 1: Identify inland waters

Direct Obligation

- Each EU Member to propose a list of sites indicating which natural habitat types in Annex I it hosts: [EU Habitats, Article 4](#)
- For EU Member, inland water is defined as all standing or flowing water on the surface of the land, and all groundwater on the landward side of the baseline from which the breadth of territorial waters is measured: [EU Water, Article 2](#)

COMMENTARY

Annex 1 of [EU Habitats](#) includes freshwater habitats.

Component 2: Compile inland water inventories

Direct Obligation

- EU Members to ensure the establishment of registers of all areas lying within each river basin district which have been designated as requiring special protection of their surface water and groundwater or for the conservation of habitats and species directly depending on water: [EU Water, Article 6](#)

Activity 2: Designate sites

Component 1: Designate sites

Component 2: Designate sites of specific ecosystems

Component 3: Make use of the Ramsar Information Sheet

Component 4: Follow-up on the designation of sites

Activity 3: Develop methods for assessments

Activity 4: Develop targets for assessment

Activity 5: Assess, monitor and research inland waters

Component 1: Assess inland waters

Component 2: Monitor inland waters

- EU Members to ensure the establishment of programmes for the monitoring of water status in order to establish a coherent and comprehensive overview of water status within each river basin district: [EU Water, Article 8 \(1\)](#)

Component 3: Undertake research on inland waters

- Each EU Member to ensure the establishment for each river basin district, or for the part of an international river basin district within its territory, of a programme of measures: [EU Water, Article 11](#)

Activity 6: Develop and Apply Indicators

Activity 7: Prepare national reports and provide information

Component 1: Prepare national reports

Component 2: Provide information on the ecological character of inland waters

Activity 8: Implement impact assessment

Component 1: Implement impact assessment

Component 2: Provide information on impact assessment

Activity 9: Collaborate with global assessments

Activity 10: Carry out assessments of alien species

Component 1: Identify alien species and assess the risks from them

Component 2: Provide information on alien species

Activity 11: Carry out assessments of traditional knowledge

Component 1: Carry out assessments of traditional knowledge

Component 2: Provide information on traditional knowledge

Activity 12: Carry out assessments of tourism

Activity 13: Carry out assessments of technology

Activity 14: Carry out taxonomic work

Section: Communication, education and public awareness

Introduction

Activity 1: Communicate inland water issues to stakeholders

Activity 2: Communicate inland water issues to the wider public

- EU Members to ensure that, for each river basin district, they publish and make available an interim overview of significant management issues and draft copies of the management plan: [EU Water, Article 14 \(1b & c\)](#)

Activity 3: Provide training for inland waters

Activity 4: Participate in international education and training initiatives

Activity 5: Provide information on education and training

Activity 6: Institutional requirements regarding CEPA

Section: Cooperation

Introduction

Activity 1: Cooperate on transboundary inland waters

Activity 2: Cooperate in the framework of the Ramsar Convention

Component 1: Cooperate in the framework of the Ramsar Convention (general obligations)

- Regarding migratory bird species, EU Member to pay attention to the protection of wetlands and particularly to wetlands of international importance: [EU Birds, Article 4.](#)

Component 2: Cooperate in the framework of the Ramsar Convention in specific regions

Activity 3: Cooperate in international initiatives other than Ramsar

Component 1: Cooperate in international initiatives other than Ramsar (general obligations)

- A coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation to be set up under the title Natura 2000, including natural standing and running freshwater habitat types: [EU Habitats, Article 3](#)
- The EU Water Directive provides, coordinates integrates, and further develops the overall principles and structures for protection and sustainable use of water in the EU in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity: [EU Water, Paragraph 18](#)

Component 2: Cooperate on technology issues in international initiatives other than Ramsar

Component 3: Cooperate through information exchange in international initiatives other than Ramsar

Component 4: Cooperate in international initiatives other than Ramsar in specific regions

Activity 4: Cooperate nationally

Section: Legislative measures and national policies

Introduction

Activity 1: Develop, review and enforce legislation

Component 1: Develop, review and enforce legislation

Component 2: Develop, review and enforce species-related legislation

- Each Party to take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species and the conservation of endangered natural habitats: [Bern Convention, Article 4 \(1\)](#)

Activity 2: Develop and review policy measures

Component 1: Develop and review policy measures

Component 2: Develop and review policy measures for specific inland water ecosystems

Component 3: Develop and review policy measures for species

Activity 3: Develop and implement National Wetland Policies

Activity 4: Work with National Wetland Committees

Activity 5: Institutional requirements as to conventions

Section: Provision of resources

Introduction

Activity 1: Provide development assistance

Component 1: Provide development assistance

Component 2: Provide development assistance for inland waters in specific regions

Component 3: Integrate inland water concerns into development programmes

Activity 2: Provide technology

Activity 3: Include inland waters in requests for assistance

Activity 4: Build capacity

Activity 5: Provide resources domestically

Activity 6: Institutional requirements related to funding

Activity 7: Ensure funding for assessments

Component 1: Ensure funding of national assessments

Component 2: Provide resources for global assessments

Activity 8: Support the Ramsar Convention and other institutions' work

Component 1: Support the Ramsar Conventions' work

Component 2: Support other institutions' work on inland waters

Section: Management

Activity 1: Conserve and sustainably use inland waters (general obligations)

- EU Members to take the requisite measures to preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Article 1: [EU Birds Directive, Article 3](#)

Component 1: Conserve and sustainably use inland waters (general obligations)

- An effective and coherent water policy must take account of the vulnerability of coastal aquatic ecosystems: [EU Water, Paragraph 17](#)

Component 2: Conserve and sustainably use Wetlands of International Importance

- EU Members to take similar measures for regularly occurring migratory species as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes; paying particular attention to the protection of wetlands and particularly to wetlands of international importance: [EU Birds Directive, Article 4 \(2\)](#)

Component 3: Conserve and sustainably use specific inland water ecosystems (general obligations)

- Parties to provide strict protection for Siberian Cranes and to identify and conserve the wetland habitats essential for their survival: [MoU on the Siberian Crane \(no. 1\)](#)

Component 4: Conserve and sustainably use inland waters for fish and fisheries

Activity 2: Develop management planning

- Integrate objectives for conservation of biological and landscape diversity objectives into all aspects of water management, including reducing discharges and run-off of polluting substances: [PEBLDS \(no. 2.3\)](#)

Activity 3: Manage inland waters at the catchment or basin level

- Members to implement measures necessary to prevent or limit the input of pollutants into groundwater and to prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater: [EU Water, Article 4 \(bi\)](#)
- Members to produce a river basin management plan for each of their river basin districts: [EU Water, Article 13 \(1\)](#)

Activity 4: Establish and manage inland water protected areas

Activity 5: Restore inland water ecosystems

Activity 6: Ensure appropriate water allocation for inland waters

Activity 7: Manage inland water-dependent species

Activity 8: Manage invasive species

Activity 9: Work with indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders

Component 1: Work with indigenous and local communities

Component 2: Work with other stakeholders

Section: Cross-cutting obligations

Introduction

Activity 1: Implement targets for inland waters

Activity 2: Implement inland water-related activities on forests

Activity 3: Implement inland water-related activities on mountain biodiversity

Activity 4: Implement inland water-related activities on drylands

Activity 5: Implement inland water-related activities on agriculture

Activity 6: Implement inland water-related activities on sustainable use

Activity 7: Implement inland water-related activities on protected areas

Activity 8: Implement inland water-related activities on the ecosystem approach

Activity 9: Implement inland water-related activities on invasive species

Activity 10: Implement inland water-related activities on traditional knowledge

Section: Economic instruments

Activity 1: Develop incentive measures

Activity 2: Use economic valuation and other market-based mechanisms