



# RAMSAR WETLAND STATUS

# RAMSAR INFORMATION SHEET

## AGHANASHINI ESTUARY

Compiler: Karnataka Forest Department  
RAMSAR Administrative Authority: Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, GOI  
Boundaries: Delineated considering its total water spread (permanently flooded area of 4801 hectares)  
The boundary of the Site matches with the map of the Government of Karnataka.

## RAMSAR CRITERIA MET

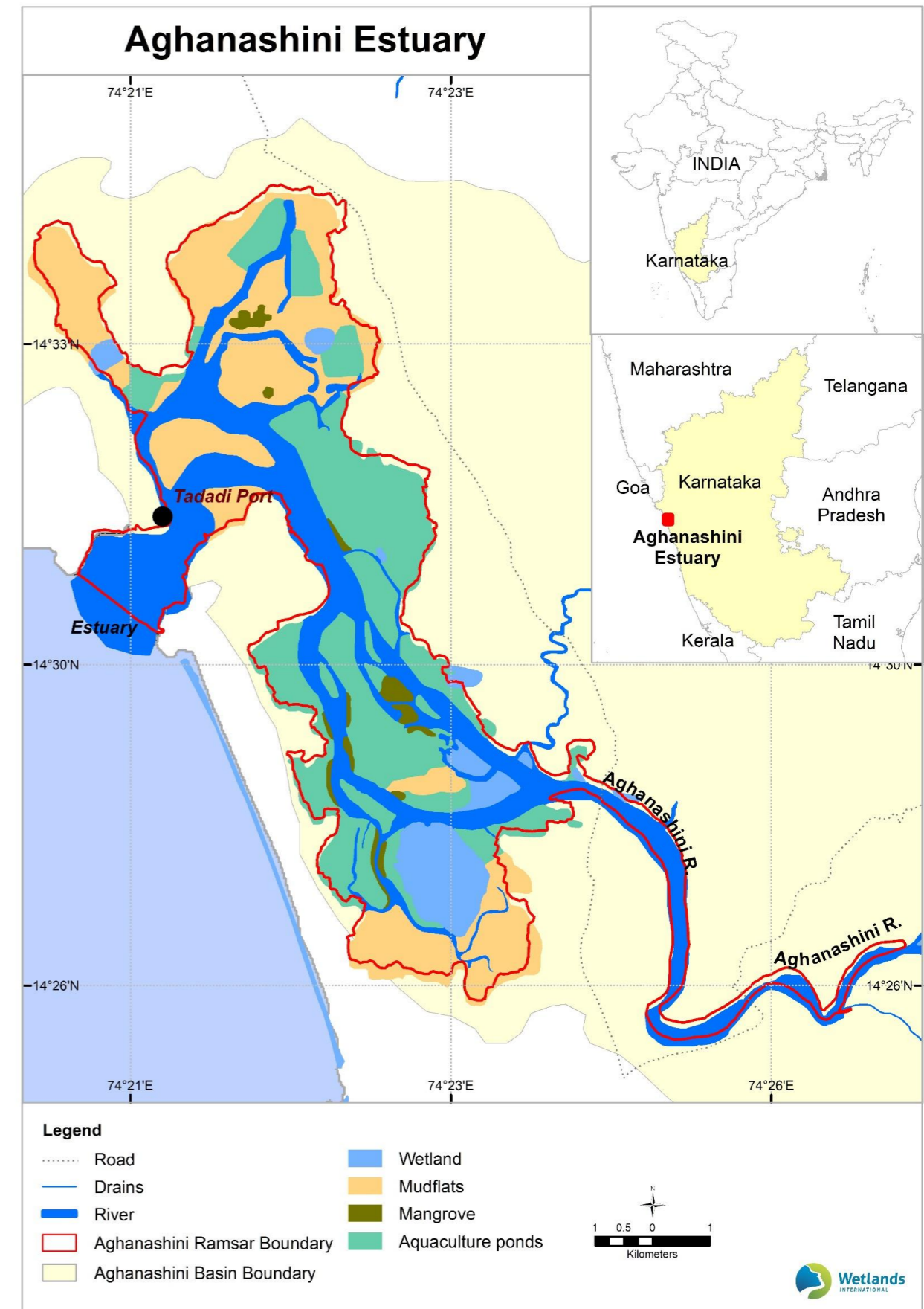
### Group B of the Criteria. Sites of international importance for conserving biological diversity

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities
- Criterion 3 : Biological diversity
- Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions
- Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds
- Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population
- Criterion 7 : Significant and representative fish
- Criterion 8 : Fish spawning grounds, etc.

### What wetland type(s) are in the site?

- A: Permanent shallow marine waters (Sea water) - 48ha
- D: Rocky marine shores (Kallu Pradesha) - 79ha
- E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores - 135ha
- F: Estuarine waters - 3923ha
- G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats - 616ha

**The Site is under the jurisdiction of the Karnataka Forest Department**





## Strategic Goals

### Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation

- Target 1: National/local policy strategies and plans
- Target 2: Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs
- Target 3: The public and private sectors & wise use of water and wetlands.
- Target 4: Invasive alien species and pathways

### Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network

- Target 5: The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored,
- Target 6: There is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network,
- Target 7: Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.

### Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands

- Target 8: National wetland inventories
- Target 9: Integrated resource management
- Target 10: The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples
- Target 11: Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated
- Target 12: Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands,
- Target 13: Enhanced sustainability of key sectors - water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries

### Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation

- Target 14: Scientific guidance and technical methodologies
- Target 15: Ramsar Regional Initiatives
- Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.
- Target 17: Financial and other resources for effectively implementing
- Target 18: International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.
- Target 19: Capacity building for implementation

# WISE USE OF WETLANDS

The wise use principle appreciates the fact that ecosystem services of the wetlands are to be utilized for human well-being and land-use change for development is bound to happen, but such utilization should be subjected to non disturbance of ecological character of the wetland and within the limits of sustainable development.

“Wise use of wetlands” is defined as “the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development”. Wise use therefore has at its heart the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and their resources, for the benefit of people and nature.

- The wise use guidelines encourage parties to:
1. Enact laws, adopt policies and establish institutions for wise use of wetlands.
  2. Educate and train people and spread public awareness regarding wise use approach and establish a mechanism for inventory management and monitoring.
  3. Take action on the field, ensuring their wise use and reverse any practice harming the wetland ecosystem.



# RAMSAR HANDBOOKS FOR WISE USE OF WETLANDS

## The Ramsar Convention 'toolkit' for the conservation and wise use of wetlands

### Convention pillar 1: Wise Use

- **Handbook 1 Wise use of wetlands** - Concepts and approaches for the wise use of wetlands
- **Handbook 2 National Wetland Policies** - Developing and implementing National Wetland Policies
- **Handbook 3 Laws and institutions** - Reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands
- **Handbook 4 Avian influenza and wetlands** - Guidance on control of and responses to highly pathogenic avian influenza
- **Handbook 5 Partnerships** - Key partnerships for implementation of the Ramsar Convention
- **Handbook 6 Wetland CEPA** - The Convention's Programme on communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2009-2015
- **Handbook 7 Participatory skills** - Establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands
- **Handbook 8 Water-related guidance** - An Integrated Framework for the Convention's water-related guidance
- **Handbook 9 River basin management** - Integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management
- **Handbook 10 Water allocation and management** - Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands
- **Handbook 11 Managing groundwater** - Managing groundwater to maintain wetland ecological character
- **Handbook 12 Coastal management** - Wetland issues in Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- **Handbook 13 Inventory, assessment and monitoring** - An Integrated Framework for wetland inventory, assessment, and monitoring
- **Handbook 14 Data and information needs** - A Framework for Ramsar data and information needs
- **Handbook 15 Wetland inventory** - A Ramsar framework for wetland inventory and ecological character description
- **Handbook 16 Impact assessment** - Guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment

### Convention pillar 2: Ramsar sites designation and management

- **Handbook 17 Designating Ramsar Sites** - Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance
- **Handbook 18 Managing wetlands** - Frameworks for managing Wetlands of International Importance and other wetlands
- **Handbook 19 Addressing change in wetland ecological character** - Addressing change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands

### Convention pillar 1: Wise Use

- **Handbook 20 International cooperation** - Guidelines and other support for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

## Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands

### Key partnerships for implementation of the Ramsar Convention

- Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions
- The Ramsar Convention's International Organization Partners
- Multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)
- UN agencies and programmes
- River basin commissions & authorities
- International Organization Partners
- Scientific, technical, and other organizations

- **Business Sector**

The **objectives** are:

- To improve environmentally sustainable business practices by increasing dialogue and understanding of the socio-economic benefits
- To expand the resource base of the Convention and its activities by developing mutually beneficial relationships
- To promote the engagement of the business sector directly in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.
- To facilitate dialogue between business and key stakeholders of wetlands, particularly governments and relevant communities
- To nurture and intensify the synergy between the ecological requirements for sustainable development and the socio-economic benefits derived from sound wetland management.
- To identify and apply methodologies for innovative compensation of wetland loss as far as possible in the same areas with the same ecological functions in accordance with the Convention.

The **expectations** are:

- to build an agreed strategy for best practices;
- to jointly carry out positive activities;
- to benefit mutually from the outcomes of joint activities.

### Criteria for identifying a potential private partner with the Ramsar Convention

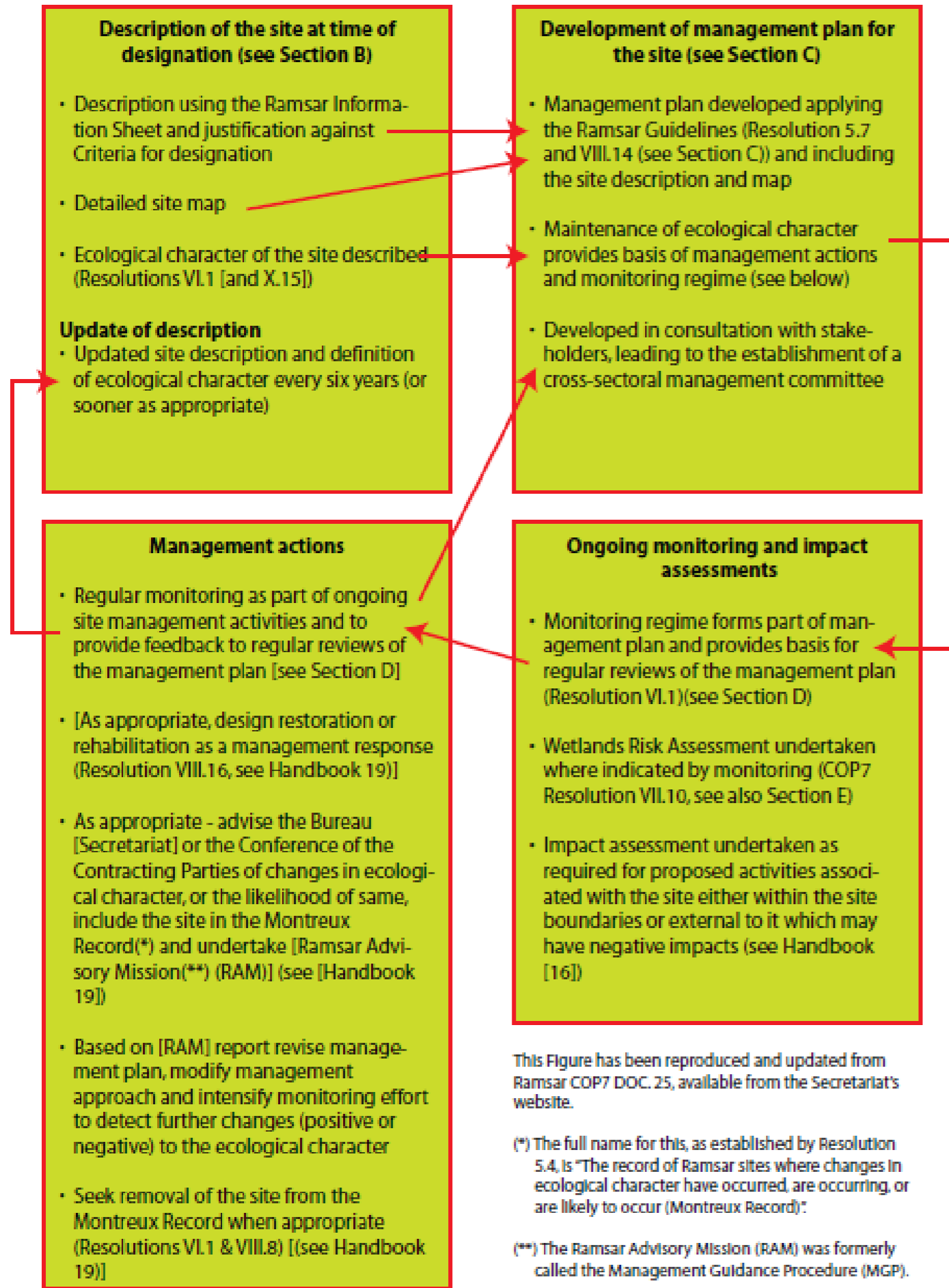
1. Commitment by the company, to strengthen, and in no way to undermine, the integrity and reputation of the Ramsar
2. Support for the mission of the Convention by the business entering in partnership with
3. Incorporate the concept of environmental sustainability into their existing business practices and to develop and adopt new strategies that include wetland conservation and wise use, amongst the main concerns of the company.

# Handbook 18 Managing wetlands

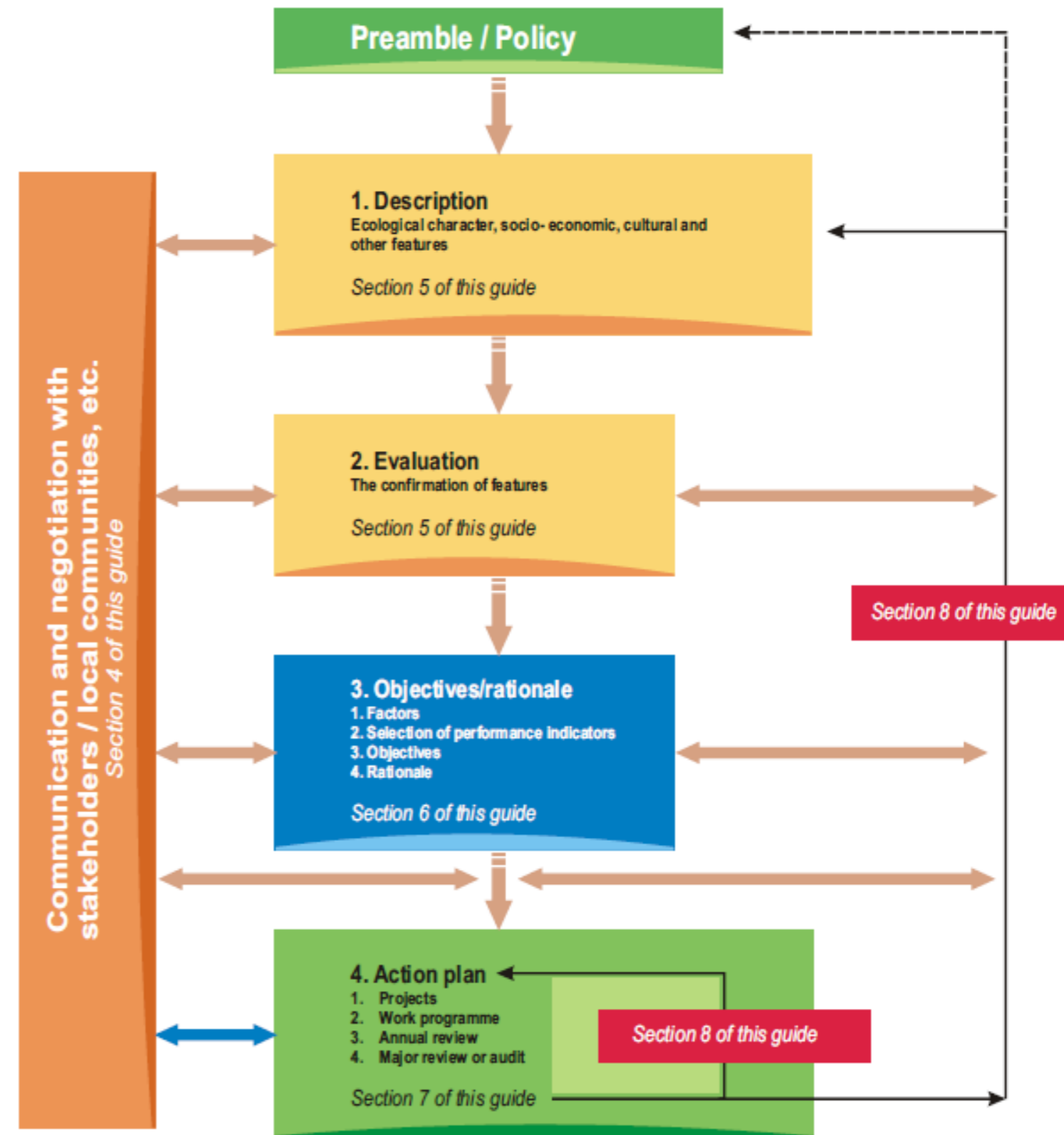
- Ramsar **site management plans** should be **integrated into the public development planning system** at local, regional or national level. The integration of site management plans into spatial and economic planning at the appropriate level will ensure implementation, public participation and local ownership. Furthermore, integration will enhance the possibility of local as well as external funding.
  - The guidelines also recognize that **site-based management planning should be one element of a multi-scalar approach** to wise use planning and management and should be linked with broad-scale landscape and ecosystem planning, including at the integrated river basin and coastal zone scales, because policy and planning decisions at these scales will affect the conservation and wise use of wetland sites.
  - To permit the wise use of their resources by people, **an overall agreement is essential between the various managers, owners, occupiers and other stakeholders.** The management planning process provides the mechanism to achieve this agreement.
  - A management plan, and the management planning process, should only be as large or complex as the site requires.
  - Often management planning should not be restricted to the defined site boundary, but rather should also take into account the wider context of planning and management, notably in the basin or coastal zone within which the site is located, which can be transboundary in nature. It is important to ensure that the site planning takes into account the external natural and human-induced factors and their influence on the site, and also to ensure that the management objectives for a site are taken into account in the wider planning processes.
1. Function I. To identify the objectives of site management
  2. Function II. To identify the factors that affect, or may affect, the features
  3. Function III. To resolve conflicts
  4. Function IV. To define the monitoring requirements
  5. Function V. To identify and describe the management required to achieve the objectives
  6. Function VI. To maintain continuity of effective management
  7. Function VII. To obtain resources
  8. Function VIII. To enable communication within and between sites, organizations and stakeholders
  9. Function IX. To demonstrate that management is effective and efficient
  10. Function X. To ensure compliance with local, national, and international policies



Figure 1. Summary diagram of the integrated package of Convention tools for the management of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands



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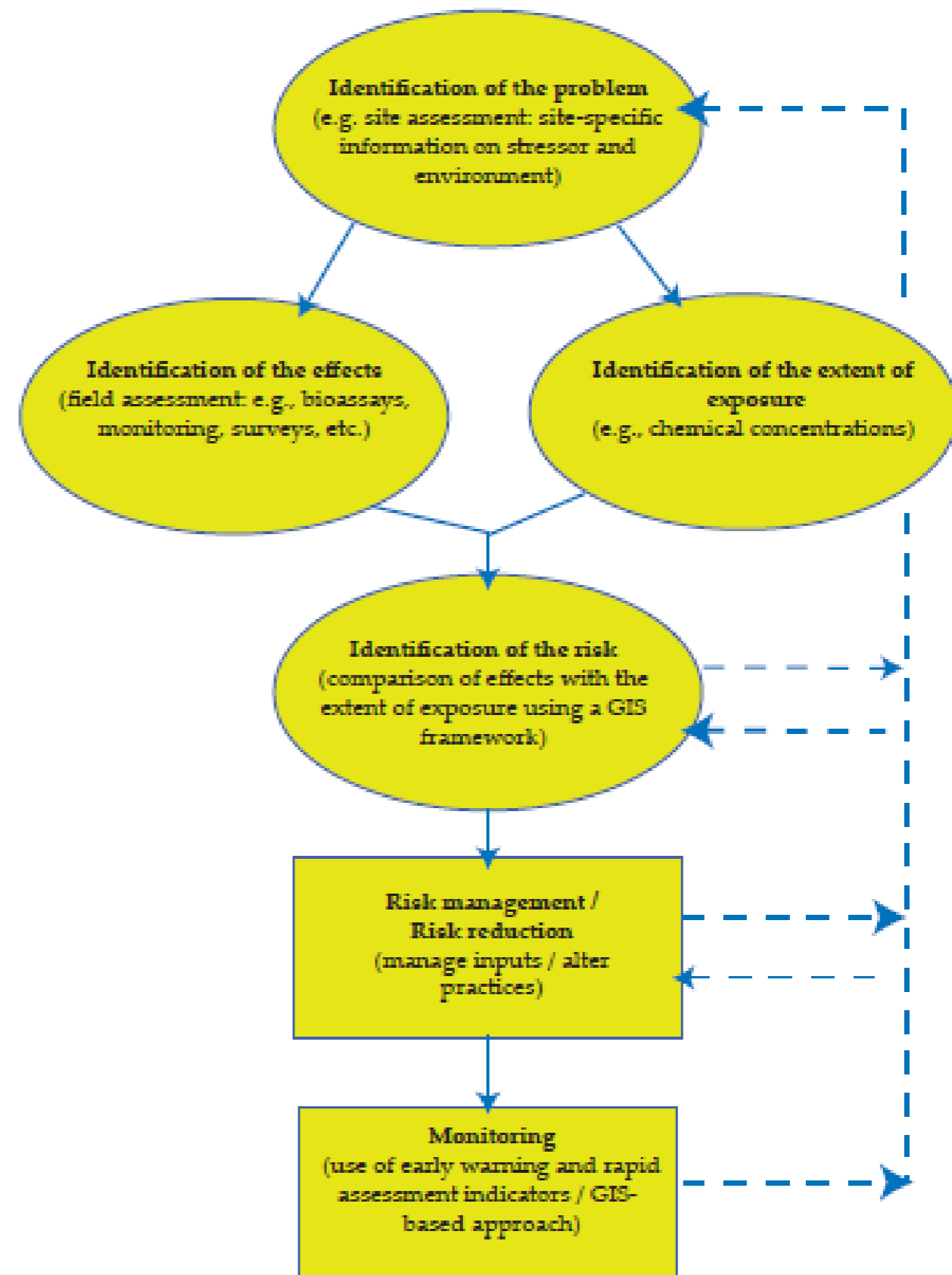
# Handbook 18 Managing wetlands

Contracting Parties are expected to manage their Ramsar Sites so as to maintain their ecological character and retain their essential functions and values for future generations.

## Wetland management strategies

- **Water management**
- **Habitat management**
- **Species management**
- **Management of socio-economic values and use**
- **Creating zones**

Figure 5. Suggested model of wetland risk assessment



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## Management units, zonation and buffer zones

- In general, the management planning process and management plan should cover the entire site. However, where a wetland site is composed of more than one discrete sub-site separated by areas of other land use (for example, discrete wetlands along the floodplain of a major river), **separate management plans for each sub-site may be appropriate**. However, such individual sub-site plans must fit under the umbrella of an overview plan that should be prepared before those for the sub-sites.
- When the Ramsar site itself does not include a buffer zone, it is generally appropriate for management planning purposes to identify and establish such [a] buffer zone around the core wetland area defined within a Ramsar site or other wetland. **The buffer zone should be that area surrounding the wetland within which land use activities may directly affect the ecological character of the wetland itself**, and the objective for land use within the buffer zone should be one of sustainable use through ecosystem management, consistent with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland. When a wetland site is composed of discrete sub-sites, a buffer zone should be defined for each, including, where appropriate, all the area between the sub-sites.
- As described in Section III, **the dependence of wetlands on water supply from outside the wetland** means that for the purposes of wetland management planning the **river basin or catchment area** of the coastal zone should be viewed in effect as a buffer zone for the wetland, since water and land-use in these extended areas indirectly affect the ecological character of the wetland. However, particularly in the case of a wetland within a very large river basin, basin-scale or **coastal zone management** may be seen as a third, outer zone for management purposes, and a more limited buffer zone immediately surrounding the wetland may still be a necessary management planning tool.
- Another approach to zonation, and one that is not mutually exclusive to the 'core/buffer zonation' approach, is that of establishing **zonation for a particular use of a site. An example could be the use and development of a wetland for ecotourism. Here zonation would be used to establish in which parts of a site ecotourism access can occur, where ecotourism infrastructure should be placed (e.g., the sensitive siting of a visitor centre), and from which parts of a site ecotourism should be excluded owing to the sensitivity of those parts of the ecosystem to disturbance**. Such zonation schemes will generally cut across core and buffer zones.

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## Planning for visitors, tourism and recreation

- Objectives, prescriptions and management projects should be developed for public access and tourism based upon an approach similar to that used for features. Public access and tourism are taken in their widest meaning and include anyone who visits the site for any reason other than official purposes. Access and tourism can make a significant contribution towards the costs of managing Ramsar Sites. Ramsar Sites can attract significant numbers of visitors, and this can often be of considerable benefit to the local, and even national, economy. **There should be a positive presumption in favour of providing access and appropriate facilities for visitors.**
- All activities carried out in a Ramsar site require planning, and the provision of interpretation is no exception. **Interpretation is concerned with providing information in an attempt to enhance the visitors' experience and to help them understand, and thus appreciate, the value of the protected area's environment and its features.** Interpretation is an essential tool that can be used for a variety of purposes. Interpretation is not an end in itself but a means, through influencing others, of helping to achieve organizational and site-specific objectives.

## Other considerations

- Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites
- Issues and recommendations for Contracting Parties concerning the management of sustainable fisheries in Ramsar Sites and other wetlands - aquaculture, rice cultivation, fishery & resource management, wetland ecosystem management, Conflicts and multi-purpose use, awareness, international cooperation & international agreements, status & fact sheets

## RESOLUTION XI.13

### Integrated Assessment of Wetland-Livelihood Interlinkages

The 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) released an Integrated Framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication.

The framework comprises of five elements:

1. Wetlands as settings for livelihood-ecological character interactions;
2. Linkages with external environment-vulnerability contexts;
3. Livelihood strategies;
4. Institutions and freedoms; and
5. Human well-being outcomes.

