

TRAINING: TEEB FOR WATER AND WETLANDS

Workshop Report

Following on from the Kigali Wetlands Forum held in Kigali in July 2013, a subsequent meeting focussing on the valuation of wetlands was held in Kampala between 25 and 27th November. The meeting was organised by UNESCO-IHE in collaboration with the local host, the Ramsar Centre for East Africa (RAMCEA), and UNEP-TEEB Office, the International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN) Netherlands Committee and the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP). The workshop was built around the Ramsar and UNEP TEEB for water and wetlands report (Russi et al., 2013). Globally wetlands are declining, facing pressures of conversion for agriculture, encroachment from informal settlements, poor landscape planning and piecemeal degradation, the services wetlands provide are being overlooked. The TEEB for water and wetlands report has highlighted not only the value of wetlands, but how to assess their value. It is a milestone for wise planning for wetland management.

The Kampala workshop brought about 50 participants (**Annex 1**) from 15 African countries. Geographical spread focused on East Africa, but also included key partners from Southern and Western Africa. Potential participants were nominated by UNESCO-IHE, RAMSAR, RAMCEA, UNEP, NBCBN and Cap-Net. Participation was based on a selection process that focussed on the potential for further dissemination of material and concepts of wetland valuation and wise use. Two places were reserved for "future wetlands managers" and awarded to deserving students from Makerere University (**Annex 2**). Funding for the workshop was provided thanks to the generous support of the Government of Norway, DGIS Netherlands, the Nile Basin Capacity Building Network and Cap-Net. The ambition of the workshop was to help the African wetland community make the most of their wetlands and the compelling economic case for their protection and maintenance in the interests of the multiple sectors that depend on them.

The meeting was opened by Paul Mafabi, the Director of the Ramsar Centre for East Africa, and closed by Honorable Flavia M. Nabugere, Minister of State Environment, The Republic of Uganda. This high level representation from the Government of Uganda illustrates the importance of wetlands to Uganda, and the desire to protect and optimise their value not only in the direct provisioning service they provide, but in the often unseen regulation service for local, regional and global ecosystem functioning. In between the opening and closing, the workshop focussed on the three modules of the TEEB for wetlands report:

Module 1 on TEEB and its role in water and wetlands provided an overview of the origins and objectives of the TEEB initiative since its launch in 2007, and highlighted two recent products of particular relevance, the "TEEB for Water and Wetlands" report (February 2013) and the "Guidance Manual for TEEB Country Studies" (May 2013);

Module 2 on improving measurement and assessment for better governance and wise use, seeking to explain the importance of measuring the benefits provided by water and wetlands, present the key indicators for that, and explaining the uses, advantages and limitations of monetary valuation for wise use of wetlands; and

Module 3 on integrating the value of water and wetlands into decision-making, presenting the most important policy tools toward the wise use of wetlands, their respective advantages and disadvantages.

The workshop programme was designed to be interactive, with time for exercises and discussion. This approach benefited from the knowledge and experience of the team of resource persons (**Annex 3**), and included examples drawn from first hand understanding of African wetlands, their uses and the pressures they face. Participants shared their own knowledge, and identified key research questions needed to better understand the link between wetland management, valuation and policy.

The workshop evaluation (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DSW8SBH>) indicated a generally high level of satisfaction with the workshop (**Annex 4**), although many respondents suggested a need for a greater amount of time to help with the understanding and application of the different techniques for valuation. The resource team reflected on this immediately after the workshop, also concluding that a follow up workshop would be best served by 5 days,

including a half or full day in the field, and to include some more detail on what techniques to use in particular circumstances.

The logistics of the workshop were well planned, although the lead-in time was tight. The venue (Africana Hotel, Kampala) was well suited to the needs of the workshop. Financial arrangements worked out with efficient use of budget. The success of the workshop was dependent on the intense "behind the scenes" activities and dedication and professionalism of Lucy Iyango (RAMCEA) and Ellen Pfeiffer (UNESCO-IHE) and their effective liaison.

Delft, 10th December 2013

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Online Information:

- Photo gallery: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/99271034@N06/sets/72157638284167425/>
- Blog article written by Andrew Farmer; <http://www.teebweb.org/challenges-and-opportunities-in-taking-account-of-ecosystem-values-in-africa/>
- News article : <http://www.teebweb.org/water-and-wetlands-training-demonstrates-vital-role-of-valuation-in-policy-and-decision-making-for-the-wise-use-of-wetlands/>

Reference:

- Russi D, ten Brink P, Farmer A, Badura T, Coates D, Förster J, Kumar R, Davidson N (2013) The economics of ecosystems and biodiversity for water and wetlands. IEEP, London and Brussels; Ramsar Secretariat, Gland

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Participant List
- Annex 2: Workshop Report Makerere
- Annex 3: Workshop Programme Brochure
- Annex 4: Summary Workshop Evaluation



Papyrus wetlands: Under threat, undervalued.