



**Environmental Protection of
International River Basins
(EPIRB)**

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by Hulla and Co. Human Dynamics KG

Inception Report



Component B – Development of an integrated transboundary RBMP of the Prut Basin within the limits of Ukraine and Moldova

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Table of Contents

Introduction	4
1. Implementation Strategy	4
1.1. General Approach	4
1.1.1. Pressures and Impacts analysis.....	5
1.1.2. Water bodies at risk.....	6
1.1.3. Environmental Objectives.....	7
1.1.4. Programme of Measures	8
1.1.5. Economic Analysis and Prioritised Measures	9
1.1.6. Draft River Basin Management Plan.....	11
1.1.7. Integrated transboundary Prut River Basin Management Plan	12
1.2. The related inputs and outputs.....	12
2. Timetable	13
3. Staffing.....	13

INTRODUCTION

This Inception Report was realized within the *Contract for combining Moldovan part of the Prut RBMP with the Ukrainian part to be provided by the UA contractor and thus producing an integrated transboundary River Basin Management Plan of the Prut Basin (PRBMP) within the limits of Ukraine and Moldova* signed on March 14, 2014 between Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG (Client) and Institute of Ecology and Geography of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova (IEG ASM) (Contractor).

This Inception Report describes the Strategy to be implemented by the IEG ASM team for *Development of an integrated transboundary River Basin Management Plan of the Prut Basin within the limits of Ukraine and Moldova* for the European Union Project “*Environmental Protection of the International River Basins*” (EPIBR). The Implementation Strategy is based on the approaches and methodology proposed in the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Contract, Technical Proposal of the IEG ASM, Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the guidelines for WFD implementation, Moldavian Laws, Normative Acts and Strategies. The final result of the contract will consist of combination of two reports on PRBMP (Moldavian part and Ukrainian part) and creation of a common PRBMP of two countries.

The Inception Report includes the description of the realization concepts and approaches of Contract main phases and deliverables, the input and output of the project as well as the timeline for planned activities and staffing for Contract implementation.

1. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

1.1. General Approach

The elaboration of the Prut River Basin District Management Plan has as the legal support Water Law nr. 272 of 23.12.2011 which entered into force on 26.10.2013 and the Regulation on the procedure for the management plan drafting and revising, approved by the Republic of Moldova Government Decision no. 866 of 01.11.2013.

One of the key objectives of the Water Law, stipulated in its first article, is to prevent further deterioration, protects and improvement of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystems.

Water Law and normative documents drawn up in accordance with it serve as support in reforming the system of management of water resources by:

- Developing management plans for water resources in the river basin districts;
- Achieving and maintaining good status of surface water and groundwater;
- Defining five classes of surface water quality taking into account a wide set of chemical, microbiological and hydrobiological parameters;
- Establishment of protection zones located within the river basin district;

- Establishment of environmental objectives;
- Realization of economic analysis of water use taking into account the principle of recovery of costs of water services;
- Taking measures to gradually reduce wastewater discharges, emissions and losses of priority hazardous substances etc.

Thus, these activities will be carried out through the development of river basin management plans, including the Management Plan of the Prut river basin district.

The purpose of present project is the development and presentation of integrated transboundary Prut River Basin Management Plan for confirmation at basin, national and regional level. The main phases and deliverable of the project are shown in table 1.

Table 1. Main Phases of the Project

Phase	Deliverables
Phase-1: Identification of Pressures and Impacts and water bodies at risk	Pressures and Impacts report
	Water bodies at risk report
Phase-2: Identification of National and Basin Wide Program of Measures	Environmental Objectives report
	Programme of Measures report
	Economic Analysis and prioritised measures report
Phase-3: Draft Development of River Basin Management Plan	Draft River Basin Management Plan
	Integrated transboundary Prut River Basin Management Plan (MD-UA)

1.1.1. Pressures and Impacts analysis

One of the most important components of the contract is assessment of pressures and impacts caused to water bodies by human activity. In general, this evaluation has been already made and integrated in *River Basin Analysis in Prut River Basin key area of Republic of Moldova Report*, but is limited to a general characteristic of human activity in the Prut River basin. Also, previous report was made before surface and groundwater bodies' identification, and does not contain pressures and impacts analysis for each water body. This activity is planned for realization as a first step of present project and will be based on the methodology proposed by the WFD (Art. 5, Annex 2/1.4), WFD Guidance documents No. 3 (Analysis of pressures and impacts), No. 4 (Identification and Designation of Heavily Modified and Artificial Water Bodies), No. 13 (Overall approach to the classification of ecological status and ecological potential), as well as the Provisions of Water law nr.272 form 23.12.2012 and secondary legislation as well methodology for identification, delineation and classification of SWB, approved by regulation nr.881 from 07.11.2013 Normative Acts of the Republic of Moldova.

Based upon *River Basin Analysis in Prut River Basin key area of Republic of Moldova Report* and *Joint Field Survey (JFS)* results from 2013, a pressures and impact assessment will be

made for those water bodies which were identified, delineated and mapped in the previous step. According to the Act 2.2 report - Water Body Identification and Typology, 109 Surface WBs were identified in the Prut pilot basin. Using the System A delineation, water bodies 'at risk' will be identified and agreed with EPIRB project team and beneficiary based on the agreed risk criteria (hydro-biological, hydro-morphological and chemical). At this stage, in order to reduce number of WBs without reference to System B, the water bodies will be clustered and amalgamated in accordance to source and category of risk. Reclassification of water bodies will be made in collaboration with EPIRB team experts who will produce surveillance and operational monitoring plans (SW and GW) for the pilot sub-basin and identify information gaps to be addressed in the Joint Field Survey (investigative) to be implemented by the EPIRB project in summer 2014. Once the pressures and impacts and 'at risk' water bodies and water body groups have been identified and significance pressures determined the contractor will, in consultation with the beneficiary, identify basic and supplementary and supporting measures to be included in a confined and a full Programme of Measures. The IEG ASM team will work closely with Key Experts of EPIBR on aggregation/grouping of such a large number of Water Bodies in groups. In case of no data availability the pressure and impact analysis will be based on such approaches like interpolation of available data or modelling for nutrient loads with MONERIS (in case of a surface water body is situated between two monitoring sites) or applying expert judgements and knowledge about the actual situation in the field or using recommendation from Moldavian Normative Acts.

During the pressure and impact analysis a special attention will be paid to the surface water bodies, which correspond with Prut River main tributaries and which are heavily modified by hydro-morphological alterations especially by flow regulation and exploitation of reservoirs. These activities influence negatively on ecological status of water bodies and create difficulties to identify Maximum Ecological Potential for these water bodies. Another problem, which will be analysed in more detail, is assessment of impact of insufficient treated wastewater from industry and agriculture. Taking in consideration that the territory of the Republic of Moldova (together with Prut River Basin) is a subject to frequent droughts and is characterized by insufficient water resources especially in the Southern part, the methods for assessment and maintaining of at least a minimum flow for waters body for a stable ecological situation will be identified and applied.

Processing and analysis of data regarding pressures and impacts on ecological conditions of groundwater and surface water bodies will be analysed by experts' team with the aim of identification of Significant Water Management Issues and basin wide threats to surface and ground water status and for future grouping of water bodies which is planned as a part of next deliverable.

1.1.2. Water bodies at risk

Preliminary classification of Surface water bodies included identification of water bodies in natural conditions, as heavily modified and as artificial water bodies. Previous delineation of surface water bodies showed 109 surface water bodies (85 river water bodies with 64 HMWB and 28 lake water bodies from which 23 are considered HMWB). To group the existed water bodies "Risk" criteria are planned to be used, they include hydro-biological, hydro-morphological and chemical parameters. The GIS data collated for *River Basin Analysis in Prut River Basin key area of Republic of Moldova* report and delineation of Water Bodies reports will represent a GIS basis for evaluation, identification and mapping of water bodies and water body groups at risk.

The final classification of water bodies, with an updated WB groups and definition of reference conditions will be developed and refined after the JFS which will be conducted in summer (August-September) 2014.

In addition to official documents used for pressures and impact analysis (No. 3 Pressures and impacts), for realization of present step following Guidance Document will be used: No. 2 (Identification of water bodies), No. 7 (Monitoring under the Water Framework Directive), No. 9 (Implementing the Geographical Information System Elements (GIS) of the Water Framework Directive), No. 10 (River and lakes – Typology, reference conditions and classification, the at Risk Assessment guidelines to be produced by the EPIRB team).

For a successful implementation of planned activities IEG ASM will work closely with the EPIRB team. All steps will be discussed, revised, modified and completed by the Contractor expert's team basing on consultations and recommendation of EPIRB team and beneficiary. After identification of water bodies at risk IEG ASM team will make recommendations regarding environmental objectives in the short to medium term, with the long-term aim of all waters meeting good status.

1.1.3. Environmental Objectives

After identification and classification of surface and groundwater bodies of the Prut River Basin, the objectives and measures will be identified and proposed for achieving a good water status which will be targeted particularly on following concepts:

1) The surface water and groundwater management within basin limits to a certain reference state, which represents the ecological and socio-economic value of water resources.

2) The basic purpose achieved for all surface water bodies should be in "good ecological status", including "good ecological status" and "good chemical status", and, for artificial and heavily modified water bodies is "good ecological potential" and "good chemical status".

3) The basic purpose achieved for all groundwater should be in "good groundwater status", including "good chemical status" and "quantitative status".

4) Reference status of water bodies within the borders of Moldova is achieved through stages of management program, developed in accordance with the Water Law.

5) In order to achieve the water body reference status, water body, water body basin including protected areas, water body infrastructure, constructions for protection against destructive effects of waters and for special use of water are considered a natural and socio-economic unitary management complex.

6) Steps for achieving the good status of transboundary water bodies are established in common with neighboring countries through bilateral and multilateral engagements of the Republic of Moldova.

7) Confirmation of the actual state of water bodies is done on the basis of water monitoring data in accordance with Moldavian Water Law.

Environmental objectives for surface water bodies to be achieved until 2021 (Prut river basin management plan will come into force in December 2015) will stipulate:

- "good status" for natural water bodies;
- "good ecological potential" for heavily modified and artificial water bodies;
- "good chemical and quantitative status" for groundwater bodies;
- "no deterioration status" of water bodies;
- achieving the objectives for protected areas.

Identification of environmental objectives will be done on the basis of ecological status/ecological potential, chemical status of water bodies.

For water bodies, where achieving environmental objectives is not possible until 2021 and 2027 because of technical feasibility, disproportionate costs or natural conditions, exceptions from achieving environmental objectives will be proposed, which will be clearly justified and argued. As a result of the assessments which will be realized, exceptions from the environmental objectives will be applied to surface water bodies and groundwater bodies. The environmental objectives for all water bodies will be achieved in future planning cycles, the first of these is cycle until 2027 (2021-2027).

The Contractor intends to work closely with „Apele Moldovei” Agency and Basin Management Authority of the State „Apele Moldovei” during specification of the good ecological or chemical status of surface water bodies and good chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies delineated in the Prut River Basin. At the same time the technical feasibility and methods of achieving the environmental objectives for heavily modified water bodies, as well as exemptions to the environmental objectives defined according to WFD Article 4 will be specified for this first planning cycle in consultation with the beneficiaries.

The environmental objectives set for preventing deterioration of water body status in Prut River Basin, as well as achieving good status for all surface and groundwater bodies with exemptions, will be finalized in the deliverable, which will be used in the next phase of developing the Plan of Management.

1.1.4. Programme of Measures

Performance of Programme of Measures will be based on obtaining, collection and systematization of information in accordance with WFD Article 11/3 and 4, Moldavian Water Law (Article 19) and Normative Acts concerning Programme of Measures with politics and strategies on sustainable water use Government Decision 866 from 01.11.2013.

The main activities that will be undertaken under the project are:

- a) assessment of the quality and quantity of water resources in the Prut river basin;
- b) assessment of risks: water scarcity, droughts, floods, pollution, dam breaks (Costești-Stânca Reservoir), assessment of the costs of prevention, reduction or mitigation of such risks;
- c) identification of areas with a high risk of pollution from diffuse sources;
- d) analysis of existing protected areas and buffer zones established in accordance with legislation, identifying the need for establishment of new areas or amending existing ones;
- e) special water use priorities (in nutrition, irrigation, industry, etc.), measures to address risks and problems identified according to existing standards;
- f) other relevant issues.

Developing Programme of Measures will be done in consultation with the central organ of public administration in environmental protection (Ministry of Environment) and then Management Plan will be approved by the Government.

Among the "Basic measures" that within the limits of the Prut River basin are imposed (on the territory of Moldova), according to Article 11 from WFD, Moldavian Water Law, which came into force on October 10, 2013 and Economic Analysis, the following are the most relevant:

- Emission control based on "the best available technologies";
- Recovery of costs for water services and the sanitation facilities;
- Control of water catchments;
- Control on the discharges from point sources, etc.;

Among the "supplementary measures" the following can be noticed:

- Improving the methodology for calculating of environmental damage through pollution;
- Identification of unauthorized water catchments, the tightening control on the existing water catchments (together with the "Apele Moldovei" Agency);
- Promotion of efficient technologies and practices for management of water resources;
- Promotion of rehabilitation and construction of water supply systems projects, wastewater treatment and sewage stations;
- Educational measures, etc.

1.1.5. Economic Analysis

Economic Analysis will be focusing on collecting and systematizing information on macroeconomic and demographic indicators, water management categories. Data processing and economic analysis of water use over time and identification of trends of water demand, the degree of public connection to water supply system, sewage, treatment plants, identification of financial and economic mechanism in the field of water services, payment system, etc.

Economic Analysis regarding the use and protection of water resources will focus on some basic principles, which are stipulated in both the Water Law and the WFD:

- a) the water users and the polluter pays (upgrade and update the methodology of calculation of cost and damage);
- b) full recovery of costs related to the use of water¹;
- c) optimization of economic, environmental and sanitary performances of sources and water supply installations, which is the second priority of the Ministry of Environment;
- d) promotion of decentralization and local financial autonomy in the management of water resources;
- e) the control of rational use and protection of water resources;
- f) norming water consumption and wastewater discharges;
- g) the prevention of accidental and critical situations.

Economic and financial tools, proposed within Management Plan, for regulating of use and management of water resources will be:

- 1) adjustment of fees for water consumption applied to the primary users, who have own sources and water supply installations ;
- 2) differentiation of tariffs for water applied secondary water users, which are supplied by primary users and / or operators of water supply services and sewerage;
- 3) payments for water pollution;
- 4) application of fines for violation of legislation of the use and protection of water and hydraulic utilities and manufacturing facilities;
- 5) damages caused surface water and groundwater, resources and water supply systems, sewerage networks and hydrotechnical installations;
- 6) subsidies for the expansion and modernization of water supply and sanitation.

Table 2. Quantitatively and qualitatively structure of the type of contributions and tariffs proposed

QUANTITY	QUALITY
Fees for water consumption, including water fund, for the bottling, the irrigation and the hydropower needs	Penalties for collection, use and unauthorized discharge of water
Tariffs for communal services of capture, pumping and transport of drinking and technological water	Payments for receipt of untreated wastewater to municipal treatment stations
Payments for normative, overstocks and	Contributions for wastewater discharge in

accidental pollution of water resources	natural basins
Tariffs for harnessing of the water potential with the assurance of the conditions for practicing aquaculture, sport fishing and recreation	Penalties and recovery actions of the damage for violation of legislation of use of fisheries resources
Penalties for violations from the rules for use and exploitation of the resource	Actions for recovery of the damages caused water resources

In Republic of Moldova, water consumption tax system is regulated by Title VIII of the Fiscal Code¹. According to initial version (16.06.1993) of the Environmental Protection Law, these fees were intended to complete extra budgetary environmental funds, being in contradiction with the provisions of the State Budget Law. Subsequently, after approval of the Fiscal Code (1997) they were excluded as sources of the environmental funds forming and passed to the local administration budget.

According to the Natural Resources Law, payments for use of natural resources reflects monetary compensation by the beneficiary of public expenditure for exploration, conservation and restoration of water resources. In case of the normative using of water, payment is included in the cost price of goods produced and services rendered, and in the case of overstocks using, is levied from the net income of the beneficiary after payment of income tax.

1.1.6. Draft River Basin Management Plan

The third phase of this project will be dedicated to the development, presentation and approval of the Prut River Basin Management Plan. The first activity within this phase will consist of combination of reports made during previous stages, as well, results of Field Surveys and all existing information collected and collated during the project and, respectively, creation of the draft of PRBMP. During the draft PRBMP development the following documents will be taken into account: the Water Framework Directive as well as the Moldovan legislation requirements, (Moldavian Water Law, approved by Government Decision #272 from 23.11.2011; by-law regulation #866, 01.11.2013, on approving procedure for drafting and revising the Management Plan for the river basin districts; the State Programme of Development of Water Management and Hydromelioration in Republic of Moldova for 2011-2012, approved by Government Decision #751 from 10.05.2011; and others). The PRBMP draft will be presented to the project expert team, and through public consultation procedure, to the stakeholders and all interested persons for analysis, evaluation and proposal of recommendations regarding quality and improvement draft of PRBMP. Depending on the feedback from the public consultation and the experts' team, draft will be reviewed, completed and modified. After PRBMP completing and approving, work team will select the necessary information from PRBMP for the Danube RBMP.

¹ Fiscal code of Republic of Moldova (No. 67 of 05.05.2005). Title VIII. Taxes on natural resources. In: Monitorul Oficial no. 080 of 10.06.2005..

1.1.7. Integrated transboundary Prut River Basin Management Plan

The finality of the project consists of development of the Prut River Basin Management Plan for two countries: Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. Performing of this activity is planned for the last phase of the project, and will be finished in April 2015. Development of this plan will be made by integrating of the two Management Plans (by Ukraine and Moldova) for the Prut river basin. At this stage, a great value has a successful relationship between responsible persons for Prut River Basin Management Plan from both countries. The quality of the integrated and transboundary Prut River Basin Management Plan depends on the quality of the reports made by two teams. Institute of Ecology and Geography assumes responsibility to perform consultations with the Ukrainian team who will be in charge of RBMP development for successful completion of the present project.

1.2. The related inputs and outputs

As starting material for Development of draft Prut River Basin Management Plan (in the limit of the Republic of Moldova) will represent the initial report on analysis of Prut river basin (An analysis of the Prut river basin in the territories of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova) and, also, delineation, mapping and classification of water bodies reports ("Surface water bodies identification and typology in the Prut River Basin" and "Identification, characterization and delineation of groundwater bodies in the Prut River Basin" prepared under the EPIRB project). Of a special importance and as primary materials cartographic materials developed in the process of performing the Prut river basin analysis report (Component A – River basin Analysis in Prut River basin key area of Republic of Moldova) will serve. During the process of preparing the Management Plan, a reclassification of water bodies will be made according to a new methodology (quality of water bodies - the chemical and ecological status). One of the most important activities will be assessment of human pressure on water resources, in more details - pressure caused by agricultural activities and industrial activities. The aim of these activities will be the calculation of economic damage, caused to water resources, and evaluation degree of assurance of population with water resources. Calculation of the pressure and assessing of the economic damage will be based on statistical data collected from the National Bureau of Statistics, the State Environmental Inspectorate, the State Hydrometeorological Service and Agency "Moldova Waters". The goal of the project consist of presenting the intermediate reports: Inception Report, Pressures and Impacts report, Water bodies at risk report, Environmental objectives report, Programme of Measures report, Economic Analysis and prioritised measures report, draft Prut River Basin Management Plan and will finish with integrated transboundary Prut River Basin Management Plan within the limits of Ukraine and Moldova.

2. TIMETABLE

The project duration is estimated to be of 12 months, as described in the table presented below. The assignment is divided into three phases with the following general schedule:

Summary of the work schedule of deliverables for the Prut RBMP

Deliverable	Max. No. of pages excl. Appendices	Language of deliverable	Start date	Due date for draft report	Finalization
Deliverable- 1: Inception Report	10	English	17.03.2014	24.03.2014	07.04.2014
Deliverable- 2: Pressures and Impacts report	60	Romanian/ English	24.03.2014	12.05.2014	09.06.2014
Deliverable 3: Water bodies at risk report	60	Romanian/ English	12.05.2014	20.07.2014	11.08.2014
Deliverable 4: Environmental objectives	15	Romanian/ English	20.07.2014	18.08.2014	01.09.2014
Deliverable 5: Programme of Measures	60	Romanian/ English	18.08.2014	30.09.2014	31.10.2014
Deliverable-6: Economic Analysis and prioritised measures report	45	Romanian/ English	18.08.2014	15.09.2014	12.10.2014
Deliverable-7: Draft River Basin Management Plan	200	Romanian/ English	15.09.2014	31.01.2015	28.02.2015
Deliverable-8: Combined Transboundary River Basin Management Plan (MD-UA)	300	English	28.02.2015	31.03.2015	20.04.2015

The approximate timeline and description of the deliverables for each Phase:

Planned activities	2014												2015			
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		
Inception report	■	■														
Finalization of Deliverable 1: Inception report	■	■														
Identification of Pressures and Impacts	■	■	■	■	■											
Collection and collation on additional or missing data	■	■														
Analysis of pressures and impacts		■	■	■												
Identification of significant water management issues			■	■												
Draft of Pressures and Impacts report				■	■											
Finalization of Deliverable 2: Pressures and Impacts report					■											
Identification and delineation of water bodies at risk				■	■	■	■	■								
Preliminary identification of the surface and groundwater water bodies at risk				■	■	■	■	■								
Determination of typology and classification of water bodies groups basing on criteria					■	■										
Revision and finalization of delineation of water bodies, water bodies groups						■	■									

3. STAFFING

For the development of draft River Basin Management Plan, Institute of Ecology and Geography of Academy of Sciences of Moldova has a team of national experts in the management and protection of natural resources. The WFD introduced a new legislative approach in the management and protection of water resources, an approach that is not based on national or political borders but on hydrological and natural geographic units: river basins. Through the proposed actions in this project Republic of Moldova wishes to comply with European legislation in this area. The main team, called Advisory Committee is made up of experienced specialists whose role is to coordinate the development of the management plan and reports to monitor the project activities and outcomes.

Advisory Committee

Expert	Field of expertise	Project Responsibility
Mr. Bejan I.	Dr., Senior Scientific Researcher Research fields: human geography, land use, GIS, Key-expert	Team Leader/Task Manager, Managing the assignment, including: leading the team, drafting contracts, reports, quality control of deliverables
Mr. Boboc N.	Ass. Prof., Dr, Research fields: geomorphology and evolutionary geography, landscape ecology, water resources, risk phenomena, GIS, Key-expert	Senior advisor on river basin planning, Methodological support, compilation of reports, quality control of individual experts work
Mr. Melniciuc O.	Ass. Prof., Dr., Coordinating Scientific Researcher Research fields: surface hydrology, floods, water resources, Key-expert	Senior advisor on river basin planning, Methodological support, compilation of reports, quality control of individual experts work
Mr. Bacal P.	doctor in geography, PhA at the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, leader scientist researchers at the Moldavian Academy of Science, national consultant of UNDP Moldova, Key-expert	Environmental policy, management and economics expert, Economic assessment of Program of Measures

Advisory Committee will work with the executive team that will be composed of experts who will be involved at different stages of development of the contract deliverables.

Executive team

Expert	Field of expertise	Project Responsibility
Mr. Castravet T.	Senior Scientific Researcher Research fields: landscape ecology, GIS, Non-key expert	GIS/DB, environmental assessments and information, GIS analysis of WBs, update of thematic maps
Mrs. Jeleapov A.	Junior Scientific Researcher Research fields: water resources, floods, mapping and remote sensing of water bodies, GIS, hydrologic and hydrodynamic modeling Non-key expert	Water resources and River basin management, assessment of water resources, pressures and impacts on water bodies and identification of water bodies at risk
Mr. Titu P.	Senior Scientific Researcher Research fields: landscape ecology, GIS, Non-key expert	Field data collection Review and update of hydrogeology and geology parts of RBA and water bodies at risk
Mrs. Angheluta V.	Junior Scientific Researcher Research fields: mapping and remote sensing of landscape, GIS, Non-key expert	Field data collection Review and update of RBA and water bodies at risk with regards to aquatic ecosystems and wetlands; contribution to pressure/impact/risk assessment