



THE GOULANDRIS NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
GREEK BIOTOPE/WETLAND CENTRE

Training: Wetland Inventory using Information Systems

It includes field working and hands-on activities for acquiring skills on the use of remote sensing, databases and GIS.



The Training in Wetland Inventory using Information Systems is a new product that the Goulandris Natural History Museum – Greek Biotope/Wetland Centre (EKBY) is developing in the frame of the Life 3rd Countries project “Capacity Building on Conservation of ALbanian WETland Ecosystems” (ALWET) (contract number LIFE03TCY/AL/000004)¹.

The training subject matter “wetland inventory using information systems” falls in the wider area of management techniques and aims to provide the trainees with the most up-to-date methods on data recording, storage, retrieval, processing and presentation.

Overall training objective:

“To build capacities of scientists involved in nature conservation in order to advance their knowledge and make them capable to undertake wetland inventories using modern technology tools such as remote sensing, databases and GIS and in line with the Convention’s on Wetlands (Ramsar) inventory framework and the MedWet’s inventory method.”

¹ “Capacity Building on Conservation of ALbanian WETland Ecosystems (ALWET)” is a three years project started in January 2004. It is jointly executed by the Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology ECAT –Tirana (beneficiary) and the Goulandris Natural History Museum – Greek Biotope/Wetland Centre (EKBY). The project is co-financed by the European Commission and the Directorate General of Forestry and Pastures of Albania with the support of the Ministry of Environment of Albania. The overall project objective is to built capacities, transfer know-how and establish the basis for the maintenance of national wetland archives, as a primary prerequisite for wetland conservation in Albania.

Given that, the training subject matter combines different fields of knowledge (i.e. wetlands, databases, GIS) the **training is divided into three strongly interrelated modules: i) Wetland Inventory, ii) Databases, and iii) GIS**. The “Wetland Inventory” module provides the theoretical basis on the subject, including Remote Sensing as the key data source, and further documents the use of modern information systems as a means for wetland assessment. The “Databases” and “GIS” modules focus on tools that promote effectiveness and efficiency in inventory implementation and data dissemination.

In line with the guidance on training of the Convention on Wetlands (COP9 DOC 16)², a **Training Needs Analysis (TNA)** (Hatziordanou and Fitoka 2005) was carried out in Albania prior to the training development. TNA findings combined with the existing experience of EKBY in wetland inventories and use of modern technology tools, were the basis of the training design.

For the **training design** a step-model approach was followed including: definition of training general and specific objectives, target audience and content; development of instructional activities and selection of appropriate teaching methods; development of wrap-up and evaluation segments, design of teaching plan and of training follow-up.

The training has been designed in order to: a) meet the ALWET project priorities and b) enable its application in similar cases in the future. To this end a series of **training seminars**, addressed to Albanian scientists, were organised and a **training package** is being developed.

The training seminars in ALWET project



In the ALWET project, the training targeted the following groups: employees of i) central and regional services, ii) educational and research institutions, and iii) NGOs (environmental and others), whose duties involve aspects of wetland conservation and management. Based on the Training Needs Analysis findings, two different **training seminars** for i) **beginners** and ii) more **advanced** participants, have been designed offering in both cases the necessary knowledge and skills to scientists with education in the conservation of renewable natural resources or in information systems. Furthermore a seminar for **training trainers** has been designed for a limited number of advanced level scientists.

² Rationale for proposals for A Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the updating of wise use and ecological character definitions (COP9 DR1 Annex A) (see Appendix 1)

Training Package on “Wetland Inventory using Information Systems”

The Training Package on “Wetland Inventory using Information Systems” consists of material for both the trainer and trainee and contains support material for carrying out the proposed activities. In particular, it consists of:

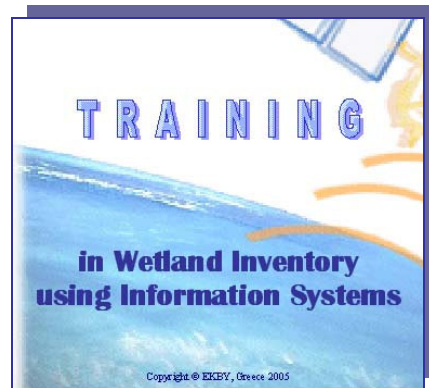
Basic texts: They are the main source of information on the teaching subject-matter and point to sources for further reading (e.g. bibliography, websites).

Activity Sheets: They present the learning activities that have been developed to help the trainee to absorb the knowledge provided and assimilate the teaching subject-matter. In cases which the curriculum is divided in beginners and advanced level the corresponding Activity Sheets include different exercises for the two levels. Specific written instructions and guidelines are provided in the Activity Sheets for the trainee to follow (i.e. which data set to use);

Support material: It is a means for undertaking an activity. It provides the trainee with the required data sets and with information (handouts) that help him / her to carry out worksheet activities and, consequently, to understand and absorb the knowledge provided. It is of two types a) data sets and b) handouts and will be stored in a DVD-ROM. The trainee’s use of the support material is determined and guided. These will be included in the trainer’s guides.

Trainer’s guides: It is to be used by the trainers. The main part of the Trainer’s guide regards the provision of specific instructions on carrying out the corresponding activities assigned to each thematic unit of the three training modules and the provision of suggestions on how to use and make the most of the educational material. Moreover knowledge evaluation tests and forms for the evaluation of the training events and specification on the activity performance (i.e.: hardware and software requirements) are included.

Given that, the training package includes guidelines on the planning and implementation of a wetland inventory according to the Ramsar inventory framework and the MedWet method, it is believed that its wide use could serve as a means for achieving the goal of data compatibility among inventories undertaken by different bodies and countries in the Mediterranean.



The full training package is planned to be released at the end of June 2006 and will be made available to interested organizations through the internet.

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