

# Implementing “ecological character” provisions for Emerald sites – basic guidance

*Dave Pritchard*

- **Shifting emphasis from designation to active protection**
- **Request from Standing Committee 37**
- **No new obligations – just advice on implementing existing ones, esp Resolution No. 5 (1998)**
- **15 guidelines**, and accompanying rationale for each

**1. Objective = maintain ecological character** *(paras 2.1 – 2.9)*

**2. Definition of ecological character in the Bern Convention context**  
*(paras 3.1 – 3.9)*



### 3. Describing an individual site's ecological character *(paras 3.10 – 3.15)*

**4. SITE DESCRIPTION**

4.1. GENERAL SITE CHARACTER:

Code	Habitat class	% cover
TOTAL HABITAT COVER		100 %

Other site characteristics:

4.2. QUALITY AND IMPORTANCE:

4.3. Threats, pressures and

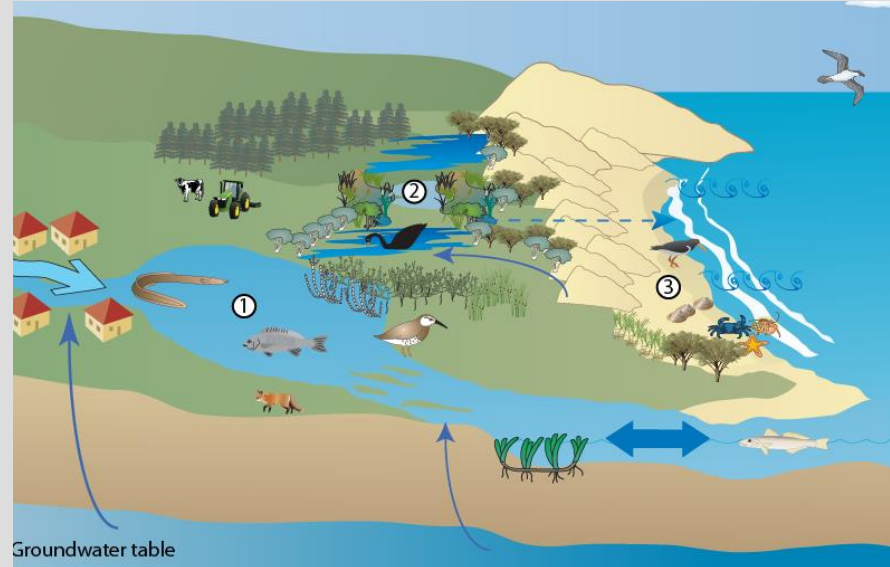
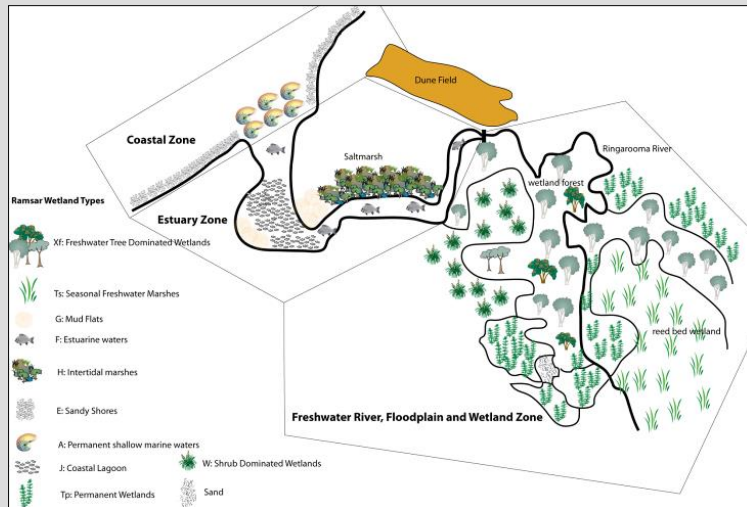
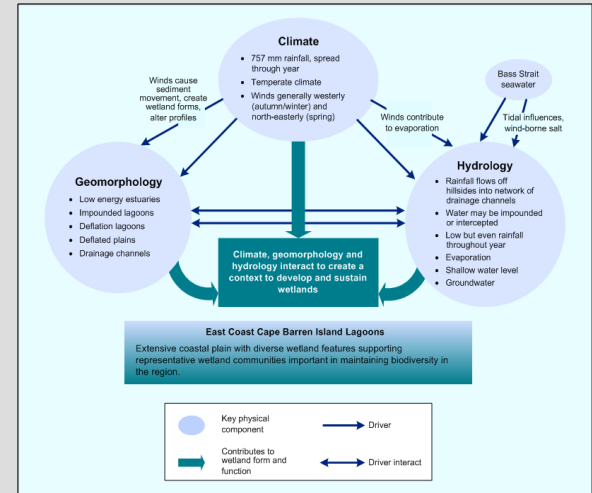
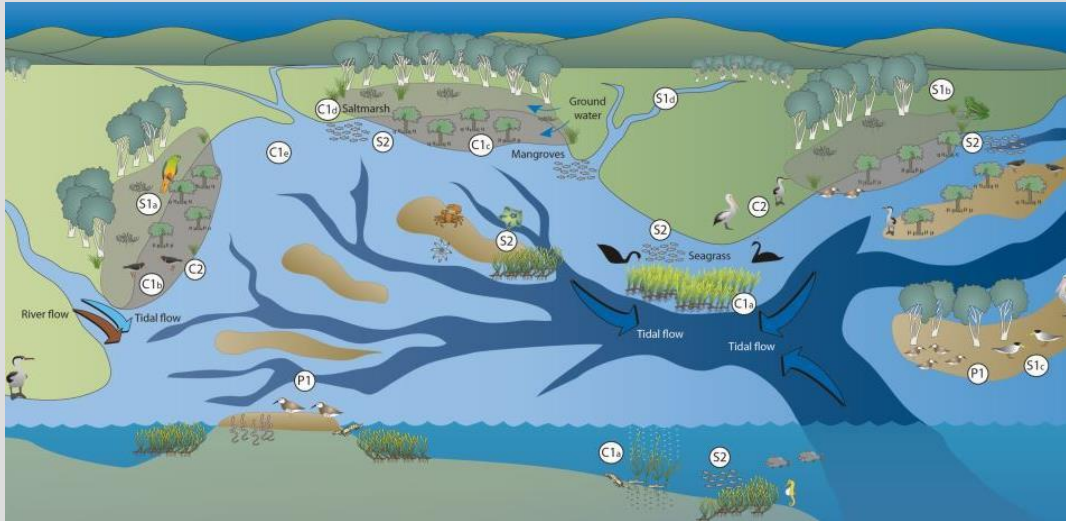
The most important impacts and activities with

Negative impacts			Positive impacts		
Rank	Threats and pressures (code)	Pollution (optional) (code)	Rank	Threats and pressures (code)	Pollution (optional) (code)
		Inside/outside (i / o / b)			Inside/outside (i / o / b)

- Using the Emerald Standard Data Form
- Itemised elements, plus overall site integrity and distinctiveness

### 4. Baselines and natural variability *(paras 3.16 – 3.18)*

# 5. Conceptual models *(paras 3.19 – 3.27)*



## **6. Defining *change* in ecological character of Emerald sites**

*(paras 4.1 – 4.9)*

## **7. Judging “substantial effect”**

*(paras 4.10 – 4.19)*

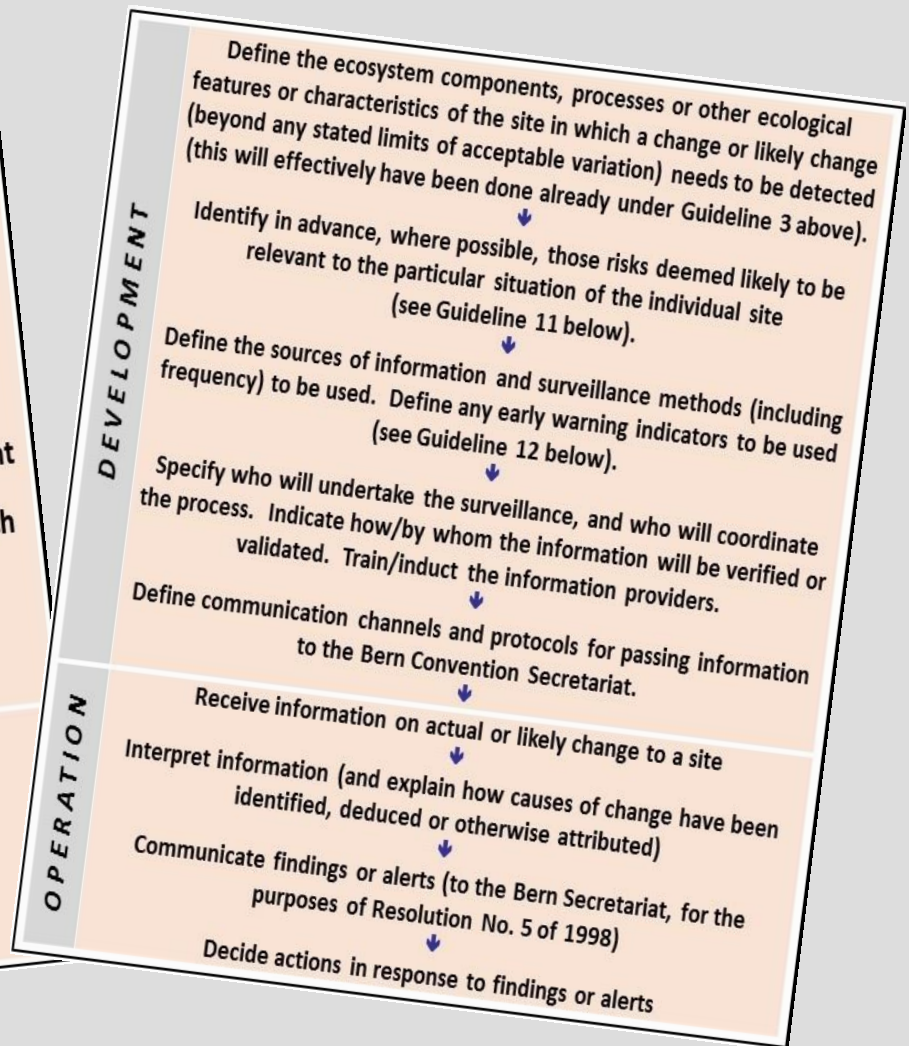
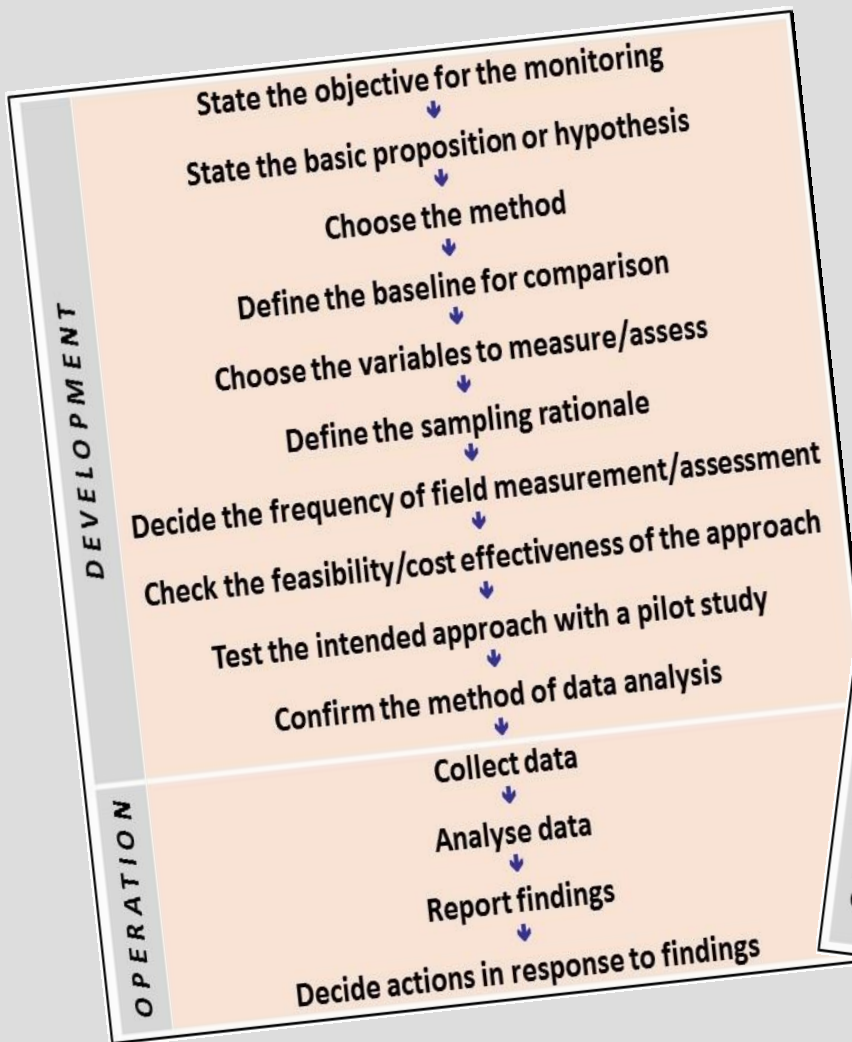
- **Precaution (“if in doubt, report”)**
- **Following established international norms**



**8. Making appropriate arrangements for monitoring** *(paras 5.1 – 5.7)*

**9. Monitoring progress against planned objectives** *(paras 5.8 & 5.11)*

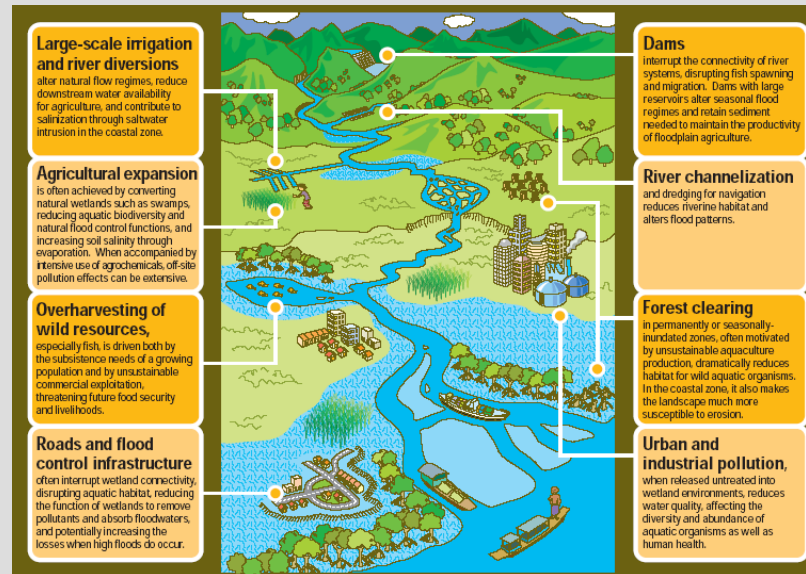
**10. Monitoring to pick up unplanned events (surveillance)** *(paras 5.9 – 5.11)*



- **Flexible according to circumstances & capacity**



## 11. Assessing risks *(para 5.12)*



## 12. Early warning indicators *(paras 5.13 – 5.22)*

- Judging “likelihood” of change

## 13. Impact assessment *(paras 6.1 – 6.5)*

- (Existing regimes)

## 14. Response options *(paras 6.6 – 6.18)*

avoid  
↓  
mitigate  
↓  
compensate



## 15. The case file system *(paras 7.1 – 7.12)*

- (Using these guidelines to reduce the need for opening a case file)



- **Support for Parties implementing existing provisions (no new ones)**
- **(Ramsar Parties and EU countries already doing it – this just translates to Bern/Emerald context)**
- **Support for the Convention bodies in assisting Parties e.g. with complaints & case files**

## **Group of Experts on PAEN (Oct 2018):**

***Agreed the guidance; and recommended:***

- **Test with example case file (Ukraine)**
- **Countries to check how guidance fits with their operating context**
- **Bureau to assess its use in their consideration of cases**

## **Proposed Committee decision:**

- **Take note of the guidance document**
- **Mandate the Secretariat to follow up the GoE recommendations**

**Thank you !!**