This document is set up so that you can use it as your electronic journal - e-journal. Each of the reflections and activities that you are asked to complete as you work through the materials in this unit is recreated in this document with space to record your answers and your ideas. Feel free to add to the journal in any way, or change it to reflect your approach to the journal work. The writing in *italics* is placed as a guide, feel free to delete it when you begin to write your responses.

If you are asked to complete an activity, it will be important to complete these activities because they will be directly assessed as part of your journal work.

**1. Tropical Wetlands**

*(Use these spaces to make notes on the issues you discuss. Expand them to fit the amount of writing you want or need to include.)*

**1.1 What are wetlands?**

**Activity**

Before you begin the readings and start working through the online material, jot down some notes about what your current concept of a wetland is.

*(Use this space to write ideas.)*

**Activity**

On completion of this topic, review this definition to see whether your ideas have changed.

*(Use this space to write your own ideas of what a wetland is now you have finished this topic.)*

**Activity**

How does the US EPA definition of a wetland compare with the Ramsar definition.

*(Use this space to note similarities and differences in the definitions.)*

**1.2 Why are wetlands valuable?**
**Activity**
The Ramsar website describes the values of wetlands. Describe how Ramsar expresses the values of wetlands.

*(Use this space to make a brief list. It might be useful to list these as functions, products and attributes.)*

### 1.3 Reflections

**Reflection Point**
How does the Ramsar definition fit with your own view of what a wetland is?

*(Use this space to write a reflection of similarities or differences.)*

**Reflection Point**
Are there any habitats that you would not have thought were wetlands, but are included in the Ramsar definition?

*(Use this space to list any habitats)*

**Reflection Point**
What do you see as the advantages of such a broad definition of wetlands? What do you see as the disadvantages.

*(Use this space to write your reflection.)*

**Reflection Point**
If wetlands are so important then why is wetland loss not such an issue of concern. Why have we allowed so much wetland to be lost?

*(Use this space to write your reflection.)*

### 2. Inventory and Classification

*(Use these spaces to make notes on the issues you discuss. Expand them to fit the amount of writing you want or need to include.)*

#### 2.1 What is the purpose of wetlands inventory?

**Activity**
What is the aim of wetland inventory?

*(Note the main aims here as you read through the essential reading and websites in this section.)*

**Activity**
What types of information are used in a wetland inventory?
(Note the main types of information that you see used in inventories as you read through the essential reading and websites in this section. Note that these may be technologically complex or quite simple.)

**Activity**
What is the purpose of a wetland inventory? What are they used for?

(Use this space to write your opinions on this issue.)

2.2 What is the minimum information set for inventory?

**Activity**
How might the information in the directory of important wetlands in Australia be used for conservation management agencies?

(Use this space to write your opinions on this issue.)

2.3 What is the purpose of wetlands classification?

**Activity**
What is the purpose of a wetland classification? What are they used for?

(Use this space to write your opinions on this issue.)

**Activity**
Some argue that an effective classification should use locally recognised terms for wetland types whilst others feel that this would diminish its broader usefulness? What are your thoughts on this?

(Use this space to write your opinions on this issue.)

2.3 What are the main types of wetlands classification?

**Activity**
Use the following table to compare and contrast aspects of the Finlayson, Ramsar and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Similarities</th>
<th>Differences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finlayson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramsar bureau</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.4 Reflections
Reflection Point
What do you think would be the minimum set of information required for wetland inventory in the tropics?

(Use this space to write your ideas.)

Reflection Point
If you were preparing an inventory of wetlands for the Department of Transport and Works (road construction), what would be the most important information to include in the inventory? What about for national park management?

(Use this space to write your ideas.)

Reflection Point
Which of the classification types reviewed in this section seems to be the most useful or make most sense to you?

(Use this space to write your ideas.)

Reflection Point
Why do you think that there has been so much debate over which classification system to use?

(Use this space to write your ideas.)

3. Ecological Character

3.1 What can be surveyed?

Activity
The essential reading - Pidgeon (2000) – summarises a range of different sampling procedures. What are the limitations of each method, and how appropriate do you think each one is in northern Australia?

(Use the following table to list your ideas.)

3.2 Reflections

Reflection Point
List some survey techniques for sampling wetland vegetation, invertebrates and fish?

(Use this space to write your list.)

Reflection Point
Are all these groups equally useful for wetland characterisation?

(Use this space to write your ideas.)

4. Management Issues

4.1 What are the important management issues?
**Activity**
What do you consider to be the pressing management issues for tropical wetlands from your reading to date?

*(Use this space to write your ideas.)*

**Reflection Point**
What are the main management issues for tropical wetlands?

*(Use this space to write your ideas.)*

**Reflection Point**
What are the main management issues for wetlands in northern Australia?

*(Use this space to write your ideas.)*

**Reflection Point**
How do the issues in northern Australia differ from those in other tropical regions? Can you account for the differences?

*(Use this space to write your ideas on this issue.)*

**Reflection Point**
What issues seem more widespread?

*(Use this space to write your ideas on this issue.)*

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**5. Monitoring Change**

**Activity**
Provide examples of when survey, surveillance and monitoring would be appropriate for one of the management issues discussed in the module ‘Management Issues’.

*(Use the following table for your examples.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Management Issue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Survey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surveillance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**5.2 Reflections**

**Reflection Point**
In your experience, do you know of any monitoring programs that have neglected any of the steps outlined in Finlayson’s framework for a monitoring program? Were these programs successful?
6. Management Plans

6.1 Reflections

Reflection Point
Do you think the guidelines for management plans by the Ramsar Bureau clearly outline the components of a good management plan?

(Use this space to write your ideas on this issue.)

Reflection Point
What do you think would be necessary to develop and implement a wetlands management plan?

(Use this space to write your ideas on this issue.)