Summary of *WET-EcoServices*

WET-EcoServices is designed for inland palustrine wetlands, i.e. marshes, floodplains, vleis and seeps. It has been developed to help assess the goods and services that individual wetlands provide in order to allow for more informed planning and decision-making. The process of applying *WET-EcoServices* begins with the characterisation of hydrogeomorphic wetland types (e.g. floodplain, hillslope seep etc.) based primarily on interpretation of aerial photographs. Individual wetlands are then assessed either at a desktop assessment level (Level 1) or at a rapid field assessment level (Level 2) where 15 benefits are assessed. Regulatory and supporting benefits (e.g. toxicant removal, sediment trapping, erosion control and flood attenuation) and cultural and provisioning benefits (e.g. tourism and recreation, provision of water and natural resources such as reeds for human use) are included. In a Level 1 assessment, ecosystem services are assigned to a particular wetland based on existing knowledge of the features associated with different hydro-geomorphic (HGM) types since different HGM types offer different ecosystem services. For example, floodplains characteristically contribute effectively to the attenuation of floods while unchannelled valley bottom wetlands effectively trap sediments. A Level 2 assessment is undertaken based on a desktop synthesis of available data followed by a rapid field assessment (2-5 hours per hydro-geomorphic unit depending on the size and complexity of the unit). Each of 15 benefits may be assessed based on a list of characteristics (e.g. slope of the wetland, pattern of flow through the wetland, toxicant sources in the wetland's catchment etc.) that are relevant to the particular benefit. Each characteristic used in the system has an information box which provides the rationale for the choice of characteristics and has directions on how to assign scores. Therefore the logic behind the system is open to scrutiny. Finally, the system prompts the user to identify any threats to the benefits currently being supplied or any opportunities for enhancing these benefits.