Release of IMET 2.2 – Technical note

Elements of evolution from IMET 1, IMET 2.0 & IMET 2.1 to IMET 2.2

The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Program (BIOPAMA) is delighted to present the latest version of the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET). Building on lessons learned from users on the ground in sites around the world, this new 2.2 release offers many new features to improve assessments and to increase the focus on achieving better outcomes for protected areas. IMET is a fully-featured, in-depth decision support tool for evaluation of both marine and terrestrial protected areas, helping protected area managers understand how to get the best results, based on an analytical approach. Join us on 15 July for this one-hour webinar to learn more about IMET, including its installation and use.

Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) is a state-of-the-art survey-based instrument for management evaluation. Constant evolution and improvement of IMET aims to address the needs of protected areas and various stakeholders engaged in the management process of protected areas. This is possible through collaboration of various expert groups (IT, statistics, conservation etc.), lessons learned from day-to-day practices and IMET coaches' feedbacks. Constant improvements do not invalidate previous assessments but allow to put them in a better context, increase their readability and relevance.

Current release of IMET features a number of improvements, which were designed to improve the interaction of users with the software but also to provide additional functionalities.

Improved software quality

- Automatic updates: future improvements/modifications will be automatically downloaded and installed when the tool is launched.
- Export/import (in JSON): users will now have an option to share assessment of their protected area with other users, to receive other assessments and compare the results.
- Carrying forward: it will no longer be required to start from scratch. Users will now have an option to pre-fill new IMET assessment with the data from previous ones.
- Improved flexibility: the new release allows conducting an assessment for any protected area, including those without WDPA ID. In that case, the system in place will facilitate subsequent WDPA registration process.
- Integration with the Analysis report: automatic transfer of the key elements of conservation between Context of intervention, Evaluation and Analysis report,
- Improved functionalities: it is no longer needed to provide the same information twice. Automatic transfer of the priority elements of management between the elements of the management cycle (Management context, Inputs, Process, Outcomes)
- Introduction of the PAME Analysis Report module: new reporting features are automatically generated, editable for reporting and printable

- Automated inclusion of DOPA and Copernicus indicators into the IMET Analysis Report
- Higher stability and reliability
- Improved maintenance
- Improved layout
- Merging of conflicting or duplicate assessments (e.g., same PA and same year)
- User-friendly and ergonomic:
  - more visually attractive
  - improved visualisation
  - export and printing functions for parts of the assessment (data, tables, graphs and maps) or for the whole assessment
  - easier navigation between the different sections
  - scrolling functions

Improved quality of the PAME assessment

- Refinement of indicators
  - merging of 2 indicators ('*status and trends of key elements'*) for easier use and greater understanding.
  - repositioning of two context indicators (*Climate change and Ecosystem services*), as already included in status and trends of key elements.
  - relocation of the '*Area domination*' indicator from 'Process' to 'Output'
- improvement of statistical parameters by slightly modifying cluster coefficients, based on the assessments undertaken so far
- improvement of instructions and comments including their simplification for better understanding

Languages

- Two additional languages Spanish, and Portuguese, in addition to English and French
- Improved quality and readability of French and English versions

Analysis report

- Automatic generation of an IMET analysis report to support overall assessment and improve planning and management accordingly. *The IMET Analysis Report has been based on the foundation of PAME Analysis Report which can be created after any PAME assessment (irrespectively of the tool used). The final version of the PAME Analysis Report is available and will be used for the BIOPAMA Small Technical Grants for Assessments (STGA). An improved version of the PAME Analysis Report will be released early next year and the IMET Analysis Report will be updated accordingly.*

Forthcoming software updates (predicted for the coming months)

- Advancements in automated inclusion of DOPA and Copernicus indicators into the IMET Context assessment (improved automated pre-filling functions prior to new IMET assessments) and into the IMET Analysis Report
- Adaptation of the current IMET Analysis Report to the final template of the PAME Analysis Report (once agreed)
- Additional visualization tools and improved software functionalities and ergonomics

- New module on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
- IMET simplified version for Community Based Areas (CBAs)
- IT versions of the IMET modules on "*Law enforcement*" and on "*Governance of ecosystem services*", currently available in Excel
- Release of the "IMET Automated Scaling-up Module", to support and guide PA staff and National Authorities in performing analysis at system level (Transboundary Protected Areas; Landscape/ National/ Regional Protected Areas Networks) by merging and comparing IMET assessments in/from different protected areas
- Strong focus on Webinars, Tutorials and Training, with particular emphasis on "*Analysis*" and on "*Planning & Monitoring*"
- … and more