



Checklist For BioInvestment Areas: Preliminary Selection

Doug Dodge, presenting
Ministry Of Natural Resources
Peterborough, Ontario



First Principle:

The process for identification serves the "Purpose" of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement"

... to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem"

COMMENT: All three papers met this criterion.



Second Principle:

"Biodiversity" is a component.

Some Elements:

- pools of diverse collections of species
- native species and native gene pools
- species in distress, locally, regionally, globally
- not 'unchanging' [petting zoo]
- self-sustaining or potential to be so
- potential reservoir for material to re-establish other areas



COMMENT:

- 'Biodiversity' was a strong element in each paper
- 'Native species /native gene pools' and 'Self-sustaining' need stronger consideration



Third Principle:

"Function" and "Connection" are included.

Some Components:

- centres of organization : foci of energy production, accumulation, and net output of 'living stuff'
- areas for special functions, e g breeding, incubation, calving, hatching, care-of-young
- migration corridors
- spatial and temporal connections in the eco-basin context
- 'positioned' by landforms of special interests



COMMENT:

- 'Function' and 'Connection' are implied in all papers
- 'Physical Integrity' strong in Nearshore Terrestrial
- More and specific references to the components are needed



Fourth Principle: Uses, Real and Potential, have been considered.

- teaching
- research
- experimental management
- surveillance and monitoring .. data rich
- public support

COMMENT:

Self-evident, but needs specific referencing



Fifth Principle: **Avoid the following [as the only reasons to designate]:**

- more is better
- big is best
- looks pretty at sunset
- economically important

COMMENT: Successfully 'avoided'



GENERAL OBSERVATIONS/COMMENTS:

1. The process of identifying potential BIAs needs a general overarching classification system in which the different classes of BIAs can be interlocked and nested. This system is essential in order for the Parties, their non-government partners and the IJC to set priorities for securement. The Eco-Regions proposed by Reid and Holland [1997] in their 1996 SOLEC paper is a place to start.



2. The multiplicity of classification systems for coastal wetlands has created chaos. The wetlands gurus need some nudging toward finding a single system that fits, as a start, the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.

3. For the element of 'Connection', the analyses for all three types of BIAs should be extended down the St Lawrence to tidewater.



Next Steps:

- Bring together the 3 BIA papers and their zonings.
- Establish locally-based assessments to identify for each area:
 - ▶ Important biological communities & species
 - ▶ Important physiographic features
 - ▶ Key processes supporting bio-diversity
 - ▶ Key Stresses affecting biodiversity, the “threats”
 - ▶ What is needed to provide protection, effect change
 - ▶ Who can, should effect the needed changes