

Get involved

Share your priorities



A complex issue is not solved in 90 minutes. Your organization is active in the field? Share your materials and position in advance via email to office@wetlandsforum.net or join our online discussion forum via www.wetlandsforum.net.

Join us in Stockholm

Our discussion during the 2015 World Water Week will explore conflicts between policies regulating the use of African wetlands, reconcile different views and take stock of suggested solutions. You are attending the Water Week? Join us.¹⁾



Contribute to the Results Brief



Outcomes will be captured in a briefing to major stakeholders and as submission to the Sustainable Development Report 2016. Participants of the online discussion and event will be invited to contribute and comment.

"In the face of rising water demands for energy, agricultural, industrial and social development, securing sufficient water to sustain the life-supporting functions and services of the world's rivers, lakes and wetlands is among the most significant challenges of the 21st century."

*The Global Water Crisis:
InterAction Council, 2012*

WETLANDSFORUM.NET

WETLANDS FOR FOOD SECURITY SOLUTION OR ILLUSION?



Agricultural frontier, livelihood source and service provider – are we setting wetlands policies on a collision course?

Join the Wetlandsforum conversation at

**WORLD
WATER
WEEK**
in Stockholm,
August 23-28, 2015

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Find background materials, event information and our online discussion at <http://goo.gl/FUuFF3>



Photographs: Wetlandsforum.net | Fishermen: Ramsar Convention | "Swampy" Cartoon: ©aukeherrema.nl

¹⁾ For information on the World Water Week, registration, terms of participation and funding opportunities please consult the conveners' official website at www.worldwaterweek.org.



Why discuss wetlands policies?

Wetlands provide essential natural infrastructure for water regulation and disaster prevention, and support diverse livelihoods. Nevertheless, wetlands are exposed to immense pressures from pollution, urbanization, and expanding agriculture.

Ongoing decline of wetlands is aggravated by conflicts between policies for agricultural food production, economic development and wetlands conservation, often resulting in votes for short-term economic gains and vested interests at the expense of long-term sustainability.

Wetlands play an important role for the suggested Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on food security and poverty eradication, ecosystems and biodiversity, water and climate change adaptation. If disconnected, actions taken to achieve one goal can easily conflict with others.



As one prominent example, increasing attention to food security drives wetland conversions across Africa. But intensification of wetlands agriculture undermines local livelihoods and diminishes life-sustaining ecosystem services.

Meet us in Stockholm

To foster a more integrated approach to wetlands-related policy, strategy and investment, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the Nile Basin Capacity Building Network (NBCBN), the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education are delighted to announce the Wetlandsforum event “Wetlands for Food Security: Solution or Illusion?” to be held during the 2015 World Water Week.

Building bridges

Intensified use of wetlands in the future requires evidence-based policies and valuation of the full extent of ecosystem services they provide, as well as broad and integrated understanding of their ecological and social functions.

The event aims to build bridges between often disconnected communities promoting livelihoods in wetlands, ecosystem protection and economic development, respectively.

The event targets policy makers, government agencies, NGOs, private sector actors, development agencies and researchers involved with

- sustainable intensification of agriculture and food security;
- agricultural and associated investment;
- rural development and rural livelihoods;
- environmental protection and biodiversity;
- water resource management and green infrastructure; and
- wetland and landscape management.

Objectives

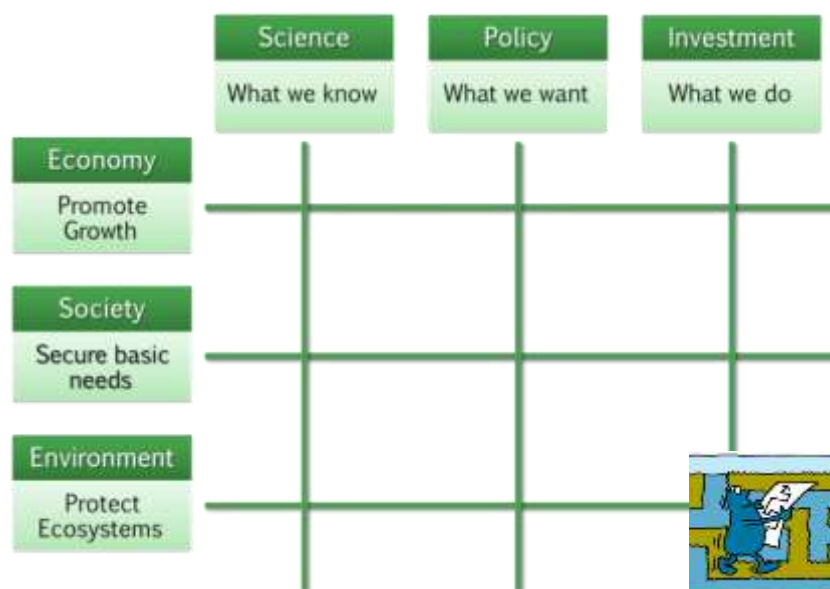


The event will showcase, contrast and integrate different perspectives on the role of wetlands for food production, water management, disaster prevention, climate resilience and biodiversity.

It will take stock of solutions suggested for African wetland management at local, national and regional scales and explore the contribution of networks and communities of practice to improve policies for sustainable wetland use.

In particular, the session aims to clarify the role of wetlands for achieving the post-2015 agenda and the relevance of the suggested SDG for wetlands management at the regional and local level.

- What did we learn from the MDG process?
- What do we need to do better in the SDGs?



Which piece of the puzzle are you working on? Share your insights and priorities in advance via email or via our online discussion fora.

