



Join the Conversation

## Wetlands for Food Security: Solution or Illusion?

Wetlandsforum Debate @Stockholm World Water Week 2015

23 August 2015, 16-17:30, Pillar Hall, Stockholm Conference Center

Join us via Live Stream: <http://bit.ly/1TJu2kC>

([http://siwi-mediahub.creo.tv/world-water-week/2015-water-for-development/wetlands\\_for\\_food\\_security\\_solution\\_or\\_illusion](http://siwi-mediahub.creo.tv/world-water-week/2015-water-for-development/wetlands_for_food_security_solution_or_illusion))

*Wetlands play an important role in achieving several of the suggested Sustainable Development Goals. Nevertheless, wetlands are under immense pressures from pollution, urbanization, and conversion to agriculture. The event will explore the conflicts in policies regulating the use of African wetlands, reconcile different views and take stock of suggested solutions.*

### Why wetlands policies?



Wetlands play an important role for several of the suggested Sustainable Development Goals, including those on food security and poverty eradication, ecosystems and biodiversity, water and climate change adaptation. If disconnected, actions taken to achieve one goal can easily set it on a collision course with other legitimate priorities. As one prominent example, increasing attention to food security drives wetland conversions across Africa. But intensification of wetlands agriculture for food production undermines local livelihoods and diminishes important ecosystem services.

The goal of the event is to showcase and reconcile policy conflicts around wetlands. Inspired by electoral TV debates, speakers will argue the case for different priorities: Should Wetlands policies first and foremost prioritize the rights and livelihoods of communities living in and depending on wetlands? Are wetlands too important an asset for economic development and food security to ignore their potential for large-scale agricultural investment? Or is the global value of wetlands as ecosystem service providers too important to risk their destruction?

The seminar aims to build bridges between often disconnected communities for human development in wetlands, ecosystem protection, and agricultural investments and promote a fruitful dialogue to improve policies for sustainable wetland use. In particular, the session aims to clarify the role of wetlands for achieving the post-2015 agenda. What did we learn from the MDG process, what do we need to do better post 2015?

## Programme

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

Moderator: Dipak Gyawali, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation

With viewpoints by

- Benard Onyango Opa, National Environmental Management Authority, Kenya
- Serah Munguti, Africa Water Community of Practice (AfriWater CoP)
- Ania Grobicki, Secretariat Ramsar Convention
- Claudia Ringler, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- Adrian Wood, University Huddersfield/Wetlands Action
- Matthew McCartney, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- Juan-Carlos Sanchez, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Teddy Tindamanyare, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda
- Representative of African land policy and agricultural investment (tbc)

16:00 Welcome by the moderator

16:05 Opening statements on policy priorities:

- Wetlands for People: protecting rights and livelihoods of wetland communities
- Wetlands for Growth: realizing the agricultural investment potential of wetlands
- Wetlands for the Planet: safeguarding crucial ecosystem services

16:15 Debate Round 1: Wetlands for food production – what can they offer, what is the price?

16:35 Debate Round 2: Wetlands and the SDGs – how big is the “natural infrastructure gap” to meet them all?

16:55 Audience Round

17:15 Summary and closing statements: What did we learn?

17:30 Close of event

	Science What we know	Policy What we want	Investment What we do
Wetlands for Growth Development First			
Wetlands for People Humans First			
Wetlands for the Planet Conservation First			

## For whom?

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.

## Not in Stockholm?

**Share your priorities online:** 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](mailto:office@wetlandsforum.net) or join our online discussion forum via [www.wetlandsforum.net](http://www.wetlandsforum.net).

**Join us via Live Stream:** Watch the livestream at [http://siwi-mediahub.creo.tv/world-water-week/2015-water-for-development/wetlands\\_for\\_food\\_security\\_solution\\_or\\_illusion](http://siwi-mediahub.creo.tv/world-water-week/2015-water-for-development/wetlands_for_food_security_solution_or_illusion) and text your questions and comments during the session.

**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 debate will be invited to contribute and comment.

## Registration

The debate will take place on Sunday, 23 August 2015, 16:00-17:30, Pillar Hall, Stockholm Conference Center, as part of the 2015 Stockholm World Water Week.

For registration and more information on the 2015 Stockholm World Water Week, see [www.worldwaterweek.org](http://www.worldwaterweek.org).

## More information

SWWW Event Page: <http://programme.worldwaterweek.org/event/5014>  
Download the Concept Note: <http://bit.ly/1lrQrh9>  
Download the Event Flyer: <http://bit.ly/1T6u7hW>  
Background Materials: <http://bit.ly/1BDmNWi>

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