

International course

Wetlands, integrated water resources management and food security



Promoting the value of wetlands for conservation, food security and climate change resilience
Wageningen, The Netherlands, 04 - 22 June 2018



Wetlands for us We have learned that restoring and maintaining wetlands is often cheaper than man-made solutions to guarantee water and food security. Without wetlands, the water cycle, carbon cycle and nutrient cycle would be significantly altered. Did you know for instance that 40% of wetland habitats have been lost over the last 40 years? Ramsar COP12 opened with this reminder in June 2015, challenging delegates to address long-standing misperceptions in many sectors about the services wetlands provide to humans and about the need to value these services for improved decision making. Investing in your wetlands, thus reinstalling their often degraded functions and services, might financially even be very attractive and benefit local or national economies!

Despite their values, wetlands have been, and continue to be lost or degraded. At the same time policies, agreements and decisions often do not sufficiently take into account interconnections and interdependencies between wetlands and water uses, wetlands and food security and wetlands and climate change resilience.

Food security, water management and climate change resilience all call for a cross cutting and inclusive approach involving all relevant stakeholders and sectors. This requires persons who, next to technical knowledge, possess other skills such as facilitating processes involving different sectors and stakeholders, dealing with conflict and negotiation skills. In addition, it requires advocacy and lobbying skills to advocate the important role of wetlands in integrated water resources management. In short, there is a need for more wetland stewards safeguarding water and food security!

Us for wetlands! As a wetland steward, whether you are a policymaker, a planner, researcher or site

Fee:	3,900 Euro
Deadline subscription:	23 April 2018
Deadline NFP (KOP) / MENA fellowships:	18 October 2017

manager, you know that one of the difficulties to use water wisely, is the division of management responsibilities between different administrative authorities. This often results in fragmented and competitive approaches in water management and food security decisions.



This course is based on the premise that as a wetland steward you need solid background on what integrated water resources management is, what wetlands are, the different types of wetlands, what services they provide and the role the Ramsar Convention plays.

To be able to act as a (more professional) water steward and to advocate for wetlands, you will also need to know how to facilitate multi-stakeholder processes, how to communicate the importance of wetlands for food security to different sectors, how to express the service of wetlands in the context of climate change resilience and how to value this in monetary terms. Apply for this course if you wish to become a better wetland steward and optimize your negotiation skills!

This course aims you to.....

- have a greater understanding of the essence of integrated water resources management and water or wetland stewardship;
- have a better understanding of the interactions between wetlands and food security and the role wetlands play in climate change resilience;
- be better equipped to understand how to value wetland services in monetary terms;
- be better able to express the values of wetlands from different perspectives;
- improve your skills to facilitate multi-stakeholder processes;
- have improved your communication, lobby and advocacy skills;
- know better how to deal with conflict.



This course is for you

This course is beneficial for mid-career professionals of government departments, non- governmental and civil society organisations, businesses, development agencies, universities and colleges of higher education, and other professionals responsible for water and food security.

Requirements for applicants

- Have at least a Bachelor level qualification or equivalent educational background;
- Have at least two years of professional experience as a wetland manager and/or in water management and/or food security and/or climate change resilience;
- Be currently involved with (some of) the topics of the course;
- Be fluent in spoken and written English.

The training will make use of approaches consistent with Ramsar's wise use principles and will draw upon the expertise of Wageningen University and Research, but also other international and national governmental, non-governmental and private sector organisations. Our

training programmes have been endorsed by the Ramsar Secretariat since 2004, and this training is one of them!

Further practical information

- **For application**, the procedure is:
 - 1) **Apply at the website of:**
Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation: www.wur.eu/cdi. Early application is recommended as some procedures to finalise subscription (f.e. funding, visa) can take some time.
 - 2) The Netherlands Fellowship Programmes (NFP) and NICHE entered a new phase as per **01 August 2017** and will continue as 'Kennisonontwikkelingsprogramma' (KOP). Under the new KOP programme, provisionally NFP fellowships will be available for [28 countries](#). CDI can provide you with the full instructions and the web address for registration in ATLAS. ATLAS is the online application form for an NFP/MENA Fellowship. Please check the eligibility criteria at www.nuffic.nl/nfp or www.nuffic.nl/mena. Please be aware that this application process takes time and effort, and requires several documents. We therefore recommend that you start as soon as possible. Since the number scholarships available is limited, an application may not always lead to a positive result.
- NFP/MENA **Fellowships include** travel and full board and lodging.
- **Fee** includes all course related costs (materials, excursions, administration).
- Participants will be awarded with a **Certificate** of attendance. The programme of the course might be changed to incorporate new insights.

Apply! Not tomorrow, but do it today...