



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES

CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES

(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Convention on Wetlands

Mission Statement :

“The conservation and wise use of wetlands by national action and international cooperation as a means of achieving sustainable development throughout the world.”

Handbook # 4

Guidelines on

Integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management

(Annex to Resolution VII.18, 1999)

Institutional frameworks

Guidelines for Contracting Parties on:

- **Integrated river basin management**
- **Development and strengthening of policy and legislation for integrated water resources management**
- **Establishment of river basin management authorities and strengthening of institutional capacity**
- **Involvement of stakeholders, community participation and public awareness**

Wetlands perform hydrological functions

- mitigating flood impacts
 - reducing erosion
- recharging groundwater
- improving water quality

Guidelines for Contracting Parties relating to the:

- **Assessment and enhancement of the role of wetlands for water management**
- **Identification of current and future supply and demand for water**

Minimizing the impacts of land use and development projects on wetlands and their biodiversity

*Guidelines to assist Contracting Parties to
minimize the impacts of land use and development
projects on wetlands and their biodiversity*

*Guidelines for Contracting Parties relating to
reducing the impact of water development projects
on wetlands*

Maintenance of natural water regimes to maintain wetlands

Guidelines for Contracting Parties relating to
the maintenance of natural water regimes to maintain wetlands

Guidelines for Contracting Parties for
the protection and restoration of wetlands and their biodiversity

International cooperation

*Guidelines for Contracting Parties for the
management of shared river basins and
wetland systems*

*Guidance for Contracting Parties on
partnership with relevant conventions,
organizations and initiatives*

Shared river basins and wetland ecosystems

Countries sharing a drainage basin should

- **establish water quality and quantity monitoring networks**
 - **analyse jointly information on water use for different purposes**
 - **exchange information on measures for groundwater, upper catchments and wetland protection**
- **share information on mechanisms for flow regulation, navigation and flood prevention**

Ramsar's Toolkit : 9 handbooks

1
Wise Use

2 National wetland policy

3 Law & institutions

4 River basins

5 Local people

6 Education & public awareness

Site management

7
Ramsar site selection

8
Management plans
Monitoring
Ecological change
Risk assessment

International cooperation

9
Shared waters
Shared species
Partnerships
Sharing knowledge
Development assistance
Business sector