A FRAMEWORK FOR GUIDELINES TO MANAGE AGRICULTURE-WETLANDS INTERACTION (GAWI)

UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
Ramsar Convention
Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet)
Wageningen University and Research Centre
Wetlands International

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Background: The need

The request for a framework for the dissemination of good agriculture related practices in wetlands was made by the Ramsar COP8 in Valencia November 2002 through the Resolution VIII. 34 on: Agriculture, wetlands and water resource management.

Request to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)

Good agriculture-related practice, site-specific and crop-specific information and policies that demonstrate sustainable use of wetlands for agriculture.
Target group

Guidance is needed at both the policy/planning level as well as at practical level.


**Guidance at the practical level should receive priority:** Developers working with wetlands in basins; A wide range of potential users from national and provincial government officers and wetland managers to Non-Governmental Organizations; specialised international organisations; international and regional financial organisations and banks; large-scale commercial farmers.

Stakeholders on the site level will be the direct beneficiaries. Mobilized for carrying out the necessary case studies

**Additional guidance at the policy/planning level**, specifically addressing water resources allocation with regard to agriculture and the environment.
Focus

- Enhance the positive role that sustainable agricultural practices may have vis-à-vis the conservation and wise use of wetlands;
- Minimize the adverse impacts of agricultural practices on wetland conservation and sustainable use goals; and
- Include examples based on wetland-type specific needs and priorities that take into account the variety of agricultural systems

*Optimize livelihood services of wetlands (not only crops by agriculture but enhance the diversified services and maximize output without reducing ecological values)*
Challenge approach

Relate cause to effect and describe response & feedback mechanism

Flowchart for each challenge

- Relative location of wetlands
- Wetlands and agriculture
- Decision making environment
- Socio-economic
- Legal/institutional
- Organisation of agriculture
- Type of agricultural activity
- Extent of threat
Challenge examples

- Sustaining integrity of the wetland under conditions of increasingly more intensive agriculture.

- Reorganize agriculture to preserve wetland while keeping agricultural incomes at level.
Case Studies

Work in five to ten sites/countries ensuring, coverage of different geographical and wetland-agriculture systems contexts. The objectives are twofold:

- Conduct action-oriented (pilot) research on establishing wise and multiple productive use of wetland-agriculture systems;
- Engage local stakeholders and national policy makers in the design, development, and eventual implementation of wise and multi-purpose wetland management practices and strategies.

These pilot projects will:
- Contribute to the knowledge and data-base of the clearing house mechanism;
Lead to the formulation and testing of wise and multiple use management plans and strategies for wetland-agriculture systems, and the documentation of their lessons;
- Culminate into country-owned programme proposals for the mainstreaming and up-scaling of wise and multiple use of wetland-agriculture policies and strategies.
GAWI project goal

To promote synergies between agriculture, wetlands and water resources management through the development and implementation of guidance on the joint management of agricultural and wetland systems for food production, poverty reduction, livelihoods support and environmental sustainability.

The project has three purposes:

- Develop a supporting framework and associated guidelines for the sustainable management of different types of wetland-agriculture systems impacted by the full range of water resources, agricultural and wetland policies, systems, and practices;
- Build capacity to implement the guidelines;
- Promote the use of the guidelines.
<table>
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<th>Output</th>
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| WP I. Knowledge consolidation and guidance | - Analysis and documentation  
- Event with experts |
| WP II. Guidelines | o Preparation of outline of framework  
 o Evaluated, refined and finalised technical guidelines |
| WP III: Field work | o Experiences and data to be inserted into final Guidelines  
 National wetland and agriculture programmes |
| WP IV: Outreach and dissemination | o Policy briefs, media communication, target group communications  
 o Scientific publications |
| WP V. Capacity Building | o Provide working environment for 3 PhD students  
 o Project related workshops |
Institutional collaboration

Fostering Expert Consultation:
The project outputs include a Framework Document, Technical Report, Policy Assessment and Position Paper, as well as the final Guidelines themselves. These outputs will be delivered through a comprehensive process of expert / practitioner collaboration and consultation with the aim of achieving a broad consent.

Fostering Institutional Collaboration:
The project provides for three distinct mechanisms that are explicitly designed to foster a broad collaboration among partners operating in the field of the wise use and management of wetland-agriculture systems.
Milestones for project implementation:

- Final project proposal and Terms of Reference ready by December 2005
- Outline contents of guidance framework ready by March 2006 (WWF4)
- Expert workshop completed by September 2006
- Draft guidelines ready by December 2006
- Implementation strategy prepared by March 2007
- Pilot implementation studies completed by June 2008
- Presentation of final guidelines by December 2008 (Ramsar COP10)
- Dissemination of main project outputs by March 2009