

## Online short course **Wetland Management**

See [http://www.unesco-ihe.org/education/short\\_courses/online\\_courses/wetlands\\_management](http://www.unesco-ihe.org/education/short_courses/online_courses/wetlands_management)

### Objectives of the course

*focus on elaboration of wetland management plans*

Wetlands perform vital functions in the water cycle and are important for flood management, climate and biodiversity. They also sustain the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people. However, wetlands all over the world are under threat. Deterioration of wetlands is generally the result of human interference. Riparian populations often depend on exploitation of the wetlands, e.g. through harvesting of fish, plants or other wetland products or through agriculture in wetland areas. The concept of "wise use" of wetlands as defined by the Ramsar Convention implies that human usage on a sustainable basis is compatible with wetland conservation and protection. Sound policies, strategies and management plans for sustainable use and conservation of wetlands must be based on solid knowledge and understanding of their ecological and socio-economic functions and processes.



Objectives of the online Wetland Management course are:

- Understanding the ecological structure and functions of wetlands
- Understanding the importance of wetlands to the communities and other stakeholders involved
- Being aware of options for sustainable use of wetlands
- Knowing how to write a wetland management plan for conservation and wise use

### Why take this online course?

- through innovative learning methodologies you will learn how to develop a wetland management plan according to the Ramsar Guidelines
- you can follow the course from your home or workplace, with ample opportunities for communication with trainers and other participants
- you will meet (inter)national wetland professionals and become part of an international network with participants from different regions, sectors and disciplinary backgrounds
- you will get access to up-to-date knowledge and expertise that you can share with your fellow-participants and your colleagues

### Target group

*wetland management professionals*

The course is designed for professionals actively involved in wetland management. They may be working as national park or reserve officers, environmental or water management officers in local, regional or national governments, as staff of NGO, or as junior university lecturers, etc., and who do not have the time to take a course that lasts several weeks abroad.

### Course content and time schedule

*online learning, 4 months, 8 hours per week (total study load 140 hours)*

Currently, the Wetland Management online module is offered in full distance learning mode. Participants complete the course in a period of four months (16 weeks) with a workload of 140 hours. A participant is expected to spend about 9 hours a week on average through reading, discussion and assignments. The course is sub-divided into 5 subjects and a written assignment.

Within the course, each subject starts and ends on a specified day. Generally, a subject takes 3-4 weeks. Within this period, the participant is free to study in his or her own time. Questions with regard to the subject can be posted on the discussion forum, eliciting responses from fellow participants. The teachers also regularly comment on the questions posted on this forum.

Developed and implemented under the **POWER** partnership with the following partners:

- Makerere University (Uganda)
- Rijkswaterstaat-RIZA (The Netherlands)
- UNESCO-IHE (The Netherlands)

<i>Schedule of the online Wetland Management course.</i>		
Subject	Key questions	Period
1. Introduction to wetland management	Why do we need to manage wetlands?	Week 1 - 2
2. Wetland ecosystem	How do wetland systems function ecologically and hydrologically?	Week 3 - 6
3. Wetland communities	What are wetland communities and how can they participate in wetland management?	Week 7 - 10
4. Strategic and operational planning	What options are available for sustainable wetland management and how can a sound management plan be written?	Week 11 - 14
5. Formulation of wetland management plans (individual paper)	Get hands-on training in writing a wetland management plan	Week 15 - 18

Each subject ends with a tutor assignment for which participants have to use their newly acquired knowledge and interact with the teacher and the other participants using the discussion platform of the I-learning Environment. The final mark for the course is based on tutor assignments, contribution to discussion assignments and the final paper. After completion, participants will receive a 'certificate of attendance' jointly issued by UNESCO-IHE, Makerere University and Rijkswaterstaat-RIZA.

### Innovative learning

*the best of traditional and distance-learning combined*

- The course can be followed at any location, as long as participants have an Internet connection.
- By means of the I-Learning Environment participants can download training material and communicate with trainers and participants.
- The course offers new learning methods; challenging lectures combined with group interaction and multi-point discussions.
- The course focuses on long-life learning where professionals can combine these challenges with daily work and the possibility to directly apply acquired knowledge and skills.



Innovative Learning

### Fee

The online course fee is 550 Euro, which includes access to the I-Learning Environment and its training materials and training support. Group discounts are possible.

### Entry requirements

Participants are expected to be professionally or academically involved in wetland management or conservation and have sufficient English language skills. For the internet-based component of the course, participants must have access to a computer with 512 kilobits per second (kbps) downstream internet connection or better.

See and feel the I-Learning Environment at [www.lms.ihe.nl](http://www.lms.ihe.nl) (login irbmdemo; password: 2005)

### More information and registration

For more information on the course, contact [e.hes@unesco-ihe.org](mailto:e.hes@unesco-ihe.org) or see UNESCO-IHE's website ([http://www.unesco-ihe.org/education/short\\_courses/online\\_courses/wetlands\\_management](http://www.unesco-ihe.org/education/short_courses/online_courses/wetlands_management)) where you can also download registration forms and see information about the other online courses available.