



11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands: home and destination”

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Avoiding, mitigating, and compensating for loss and degradation of wetlands in national laws and policies

Information paper prepared by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel

1. In Resolution X.10 (2008), the Contracting Parties called for the development of “guidance on mitigation of and compensation for losses of wetland area and wetland values, in the context of Resolution X.16 on *A Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character.*”
2. This paper has been prepared by the STRP to provide supporting information to Draft Resolution XI.9, “An Integrated Framework and guidelines for avoiding, mitigating and compensating for wetland losses,” which was developed by the STRP in response to that Resolution. It provides examples of the variety of approaches that Contracting Parties have taken in adopting the “avoid-mitigate-compensate” sequence in laws and policies throughout the Ramsar regions.
3. It is important to note, however, that the selection of examples is not intended to represent endorsement or any comment on the level of implementation on the ground, but simply to demonstrate the widespread adoption of the avoid-mitigate-compensate approach in all the Ramsar regions
4. The attached paper was prepared by Prof. Royal C. Gardner, STRP Invited Expert 2009-2012 and Director, Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy, Stetson University College of Law, USA; Marcela Bonells, J.D. Candidate, Stetson University College of Law; Erin Okuno, J.D. Candidate, Stetson University College of Law; and Juan Manuel Zarama, LL.M. Candidate, Stetson University College of Law, and was published in April 2012 as no. 3 in the STRP’s series of Briefing Notes.

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