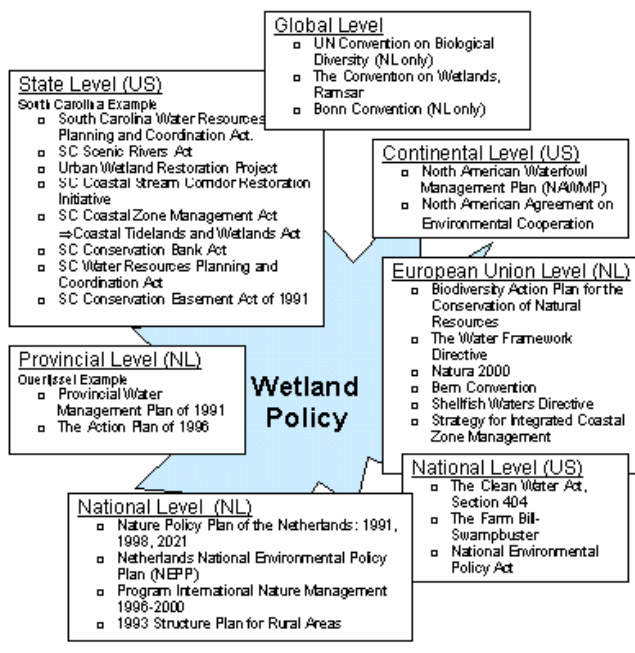


Global Issues-- National Policies

Comparing Wetlands Protection Policies and Perceptions in the Netherlands and the United States

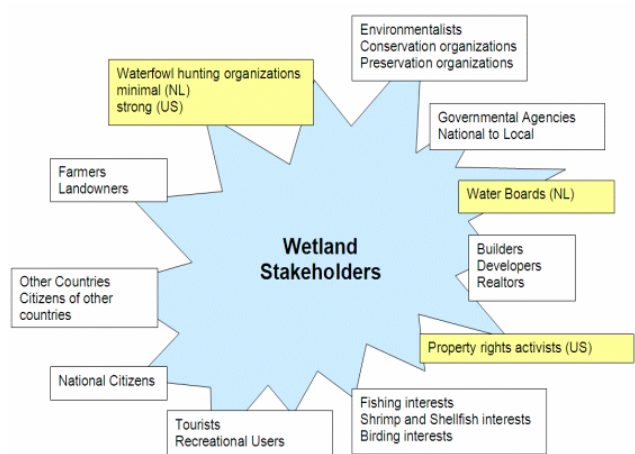
Introduction

Wetlands protection is a global goal requiring action on lower levels, including National, State or Provincial, and municipal. Global plans and programs require a network of national and sub-national policy definition and enforcement. This poster compares the policies in place in the United States to those in the Netherlands, highlighting differences between the two countries regarding wetlands protection. This overview includes perceptions of wetlands, threats to wetlands, goals for wetland protection and variations in stakeholders. Understanding how perceptions differ in the two countries can inform future policy-making strategy, helping to create increasingly successful and effective policies.



Perceptions

- ❑ Wetlands are worthless
- ❑ Wetlands are sources of disease
- ❑ The landscape can be re-made



Threats

Ecological

- ❑ Water depletion and desiccation (NL)
- ❑ Flooding (NL)
- ❑ Pollution (NL and US)
- ❑ Transformation (US)

Societal

- ❑ Controlling water (NL)
- ❑ Population density (NL)
- ❑ Definition of wetland (US)
- ❑ Criteria for measuring success (US)
- ❑ Private property rights issues (US)

Goals

Netherlands: National Ecological Network
 United States: No Net Loss

Conclusions

Both countries have policy regarding wetlands, but both countries experience other factors that challenge the goals of these policies. In the Netherlands, a lack of trust in freely roaming water is a problem compounded by a lack of overall space in the country. Wetlands protection in any form deals with space, and the constraints against space for a densely populated area can be much different than those of a sparsely populated region. In the United States there is no real system of checks and balances to assure "no net loss". Most importantly a complete baseline wetland inventory of the United States has not occurred. This means that no data exists from which to measure potential wetland losses or gains. In both countries, proper implementation of existing policy is necessary to insure achievement of wetland related goals.



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