

Studying the Formulation of the Management Plan for Gavkhouni Wetland with an Ecosystem Approach

Introduction: This study focuses on the formulation of a management plan for Gavkhouni Wetland in Iran, employing an ecosystem approach that aligns with the Ramsar Convention's guidelines for wetland management. The ecosystem approach emphasizes stakeholder participation and integrates ecological, social, and economic considerations to ensure sustainable management. The development of the management plan for Gavkhouni Wetland followed a five-stage process, which included gathering initial information through descriptive and library methods, conducting workshops with stakeholder representatives, and analyzing data to identify key issues and threats.

Material and Methods: The study identified four main categories of problems: water and soil resources, cultural-socio-economic factors, environmental issues, and management-policy challenges. Strategic goals and priority issues were established for each category, and a comprehensive organizational structure and monitoring program were developed as part of the plan.

Results and Discussion: The management plan emphasizes the importance of integrated water and soil resource management, sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, and the development of a unified management framework for the Gavkhouni basin. The plan also highlights the need for continuous monitoring and stakeholder engagement to ensure the long-term success of the program. However, challenges such as non-integrated management of the Zayandeh River basin and bureaucratic delays have hindered the implementation of the plan at higher levels.

Conclusion: The study concludes that the success of the management plan depends on its transition from being a static product to a dynamic process that adapts to ongoing environmental changes and stakeholder needs. The implementation of plan is essential for the revival and protection of Gavkhouni Wetland, which is a critical ecosystem in central Iran. The findings underscore the importance of adopting an ecosystem approach in wetland management, which not only addresses ecological concerns but also incorporates social and economic dimensions to achieve sustainable development.

Keywords: Indigenous life, Gavkhouni, participation