Guideline for Resolution Wetlands land Conflict

Trespassing on areas controlled by the Department of Environment has become a continuous phenomenon. The weakness of the organization and the lack of awareness of the importance of biodiversity led to the fact that the authorities, which were legally supposed to support the Department of Environment, helped to the erosion of the regions. Although considerable changes have taken place during recent years, the conflict between the limited livelihoods of a few still dominates the broader social benefits. Unfortunately, the significance of biodiversity conservation and the role of conservation areas have not been adequately informed. In many cases, inhabitants around these areas, especially the wetlands, consider the guardians of these regions enemies. Due to the lack of title deeds, confronting the illegal trespassing on areas by commencing an action faces many problems. Therefore, it is necessary to pay special attention to this issue in the first step for promoting the ecological management of the country's wetlands. Resolving conflicts at the beginning of the implementation of wetland management will prevent subsequent effective disputes in the future. It will also lead to a more efficient wetland management program.

At first glance, it may seem that to gain the environment right and preserve the wetland integrity we should take advantage of all the potentials. However, it should be noted that this guideline has been prepared in the framework of ecological management. Therefore, it proposes the resolution of land disputes regarding this framework. Accordingly, it is necessary to consider reducing and resolving the disputes, especially with the local community, from this point of view, because local people are supposed to essentially contribute to rehabilitating and preserving the wetland. Of course, this does not mean that we should not react to the old or new trespasses. Rather, it means that the land issue must be regarded in a broader and longer-term framework. The goal should not merely include consolidating land ownership of the environment, but also creating cooperation opportunities.

Although it is difficult to turn conflict into a condition of cooperation, appropriate solutions can be fulfilled at any stage if an ecological approach and the belief in the necessity of the local community participation are applied from the starting point.

Accordingly, first, it is necessary to identify the land dispute status and to raise the awareness of the significance of the rehabilitation and conservation of wetlands by evaluating the other parties.