

# Global Newsletter - Oct 2006

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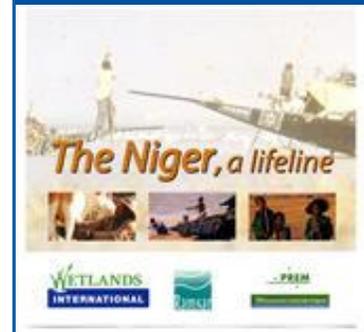


## First digital Wetlands Newsletter!

We proudly present the first Wetlands International digital newsletter. It will provide you with up to date news and backgrounds on a regular basis. You have been subscribed because you are one of our primary contacts or because you were subscribed to our former printed newsletter. We hope you want to stay informed via this digital source of information. In this newsletter, we highlight climate change. Please forward this newsletter to people who might be interested. If you want to unsubscribe or change your subscription please click on the link. For feed back; email to [post@wetlands.org](mailto:post@wetlands.org). [Link](#)

## Beautiful DVD on the Inner Niger Delta

Wetlands International just released a DVD about the Inner Niger Delta in Mali. The DVD shows the beautiful nature and the way of life of the million people in the area. It highlights the dilemma between building dams and conserving the delta as it is. The film is for sale at [NHBS.com](http://NHBS.com). This month, subscribers of this newsletter can receive a free copy. Send an email with 'Niger-DVD' in the header and only your postal address in the mail to [post@wetlands.org](mailto:post@wetlands.org). [Link](#)



## Annual Review 2005

The Annual Review 2005 is now available. The review presents an illustrated and explaining overview of all the 100 projects and publications of



### Burning wetlands cause climate change

Burning wetlands, it sounds like a contradiction. But sadly it is a reality in Indonesia. Currently, large areas of Sumatra and Kalimantan are on fire. These used to be beautiful rainforests, growing on a thick layer of peat. However, millions of hectares have been drained to enable logging and agriculture. The now dry peat decomposes. In the dry season, a burning cigarette is enough to start huge peat fires, lasting for weeks, causing enormous emissions of greenhouse gases. Wetlands International conducts several projects in Indonesia to stop these apocalyptic processes. Next month, the organisation will attend the UN climate summit in Nairobi to address the issue. [Link](#)



### Satellite tracking migration for avian flu assessment

Autumn has begun and bird migration has started. So has the unease about avian influenza. In the coming year, the French organisation Cirad together with Wetlands International will deploy satellite transmitters on a number of Gargeney ducks (*Anas querquedula*). With this amazing technique, we will be able to map the migration of this species in detail for the first time. This information will help us to predict how avian influenza might spread over the continents and how likely contacts between poultry and wild birds are. This research is also a great opportunity to learn more about the behaviour of migrating waterbirds in general. [Link](#)

### Climate change will cause water problems

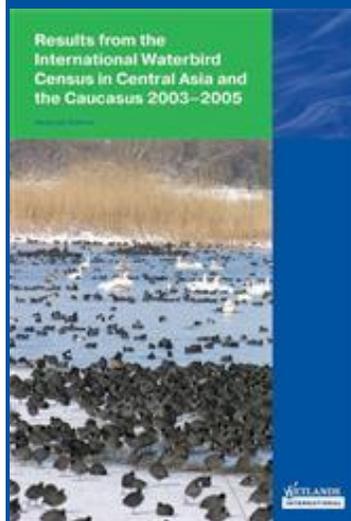
Climate change will cause both desertification and floods. By 2050, five times as much land is likely to be under "extreme" drought as now and there will be 200 million climate refugees. These are some of the conclusions in a study by the British relief organization 'Tearfund', which can be downloaded from [tearfund.org](http://tearfund.org). Wetlands International shares these grim conclusions but adds a call for the conservation and restoration of wetlands. Wetlands store the largest fresh water resources, purify them, and mitigate floods and droughts. These functions will become more and more essential as the climate is becoming more extreme. [Link](#)

2005. Some of our activities are highlighted with more extended articles. An excellent way to get to know or better understand our global organization. Go to the link below to download a digital version or to order a printed copy. [Link](#)

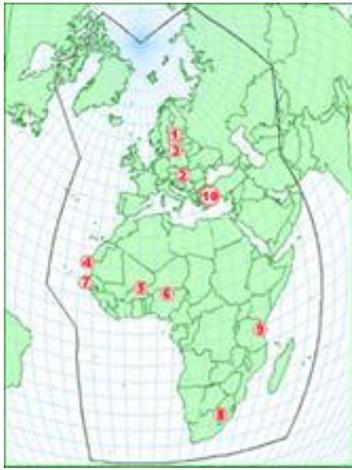


### Overview of waterbirds in Central Asia

This publication presents for the first time a real overview of waterbirds in Central Asia and the Caucasus. It is the result of the activities of dozens of experts and volunteers, counting millions of waterbirds in nine countries. The result is priceless. Click on the link for the full report: "Results from the International Waterbird Census in Central Asia and the Caucasus 2003-2005" [Link](#)



"Without tackling the destruction of



### Project of the Month: Wings Over Wetlands

The project Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) started this summer. Under this project, we work on the African-Eurasian flyway to conserve migratory waterbirds. This is done by assisting countries along the flyway to protect critical wetland areas. We also train government staff, start demonstration projects and advocate in favour of conservation and policy measures. Wings Over Wetlands is led by Wetlands International and the UN, and has several partners like Birdlife International, the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, Ramsar Convention, and many national partners. The project runs until the end of 2010. [Link](#)



### Wetlands without frogs?

A fungal disease that threatens to wipe out many amphibians is thriving because of climate change. This is stated by a study published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society. The fungal disease chytrid fungus is already credited with wiping out frogs and toads in large numbers in Australia and South America. One third of the world's amphibians species are in danger of extinction; many due to this fungus. [Link](#)

peatlands in Indonesia, all global efforts to reduce climate change will be useless."

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