

# Wetlands International Annual Review 2010



# From the CEO

Throughout our extensive Strategy Review in 2010, our members and partners underlined the urgency of our mission and the relevance of our knowledge in helping to resolve the land and water resource conflicts of our time. We are greatly encouraged and appreciative of the enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by our stakeholders in each region during this process. As a result, we started 2011 with a new strategy in place that will make the organisation fit for the future and able to play a key role in securing the world's wetland resources.



In recent years, we have learnt that taking a focused approach to global policy issues enables us to exert significant influence on topics such as climate change mitigation and adaptation and biofuels. By feeding in our specialist knowledge (for example on peatlands) at key meetings or through NGO coalitions during 2010, we were able to influence the climate negotiations and the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity targets of the UN Biodiversity Convention (CBD). These policy developments will in turn translate into significant incentives for wetland conservation and restoration in the coming years.

Throughout 2010, we took significant steps to deepen our experiences in a number of key wetlands and basins in relation to biodiversity conservation, water resource management, poverty reduction, health, and disaster risk reduction. For example, our programme that touches on all these issues in the Inner Niger Delta of Mali bore fruit in 2010, and as a result, we have been able to influence water resource development planning in the Upper Niger Basin. You can read many other examples of our achievements in the following pages. It is encouraging to observe

Local fishermen walking on the mudflats of Bar al Hikman, Oman. By Pieter van Eijk (Wetlands International Headquarters)



that the cumulative knowledge gained from these long-term engagements with governments and communities in different regions has made us an increasingly attractive partner for research institutions, corporations and organisations in the water and aid and development sectors, who are seeking to take an ecosystem approach to their work.

In 2010, with the support of the UK government and inputs from many partners and stakeholders, we reviewed one of our oldest programmes, the International Waterbird Census. This long-term global monitoring system provides a valuable basis for managing waterbird populations and wetlands in the context of conservation and sustainable hunting. A reinvigorated partnership approach will allow us to pursue different financing opportunities and to improve efficiency and focus, while continuing to meet the main needs of stakeholders in governments, conventions and NGOs.

2010 was a tough year for most NGOs, as the economic crisis dramatically reduced available charitable funds, institutional grants and, in particular, resources for biodiversity-related work. Despite this situation, we successfully reached out to new donors and only needed to make very modest staff reductions in our headquarters. By focusing available resources on major programme development and entering into new alliances, particularly with the humanitarian sector, we secured several multi-region programmes for the coming years, as well as resources for investing in organisational development throughout our office network.

I would like to thank all our donors, members and partners for your continued active support of Wetlands International. Our collective efforts are of the utmost importance for the achievement of not only our own strategic goals, but also the CBD targets, greenhouse gas reductions and the Millennium Development Goals on water, health and the environment.



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Cover photo:  
Youngsters planting  
mangrove seedlings in  
Banten Bay, Indonesia on  
World Wetlands Day 2010.  
By Nyoman Suryadiputra  
(Wetlands International  
Indonesia)

The combined efforts of our teams across the Wetlands International network in 2010 led to some very positive outcomes at local, national and international levels. Below we highlight just a few of our main achievements.

## Our Achievements 2010



## Conserving wetland biodiversity

2010 was the International Year of Biodiversity, which culminated in the Nagoya conference on the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD). The Convention's goals for 2020 now recognise the importance of ecosystems in providing and regulating water supplies, thanks to the work of our team who worked for the whole year rallying support for this to be included. Countries that have ratified the biodiversity convention have committed themselves to specific targets for safeguarding ecosystems that are important for freshwater. Furthermore, they are committed to protecting and restoring a minimum of 15% of all degraded carbon-rich ecosystems, such as peatlands. More details on [wetlands.org/CBD](http://wetlands.org/CBD)

### Information tools for wetlands and waterbirds

For several decades we have coordinated the International Waterbird Census (IWC) which covers some 100 countries and draws on the work of some 15,000 volunteers. We have combined our data with those of BirdLife International, the Ramsar sites database and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and jointly developed the innovative Critical Site Network Tool (see [wetlands.org/csntool](http://wetlands.org/csntool)), launched in 2010. This web portal gives rapid access to information on hundreds of wetlands and their waterbird populations in Africa and Eurasia. For every site, summaries of the ecological requirements for site management are provided. Under the same initiative, we trained some 70 trainers in the Middle East, West Africa and Central Asia, using the newly developed Flyway Training Kit. These trainers in turn delivered national trainings, creating capacity among key people in authorities and institutes responsible for managing key sites and strengthening the IWC. More details on [wetlands.org/flywaykit](http://wetlands.org/flywaykit).

### Protecting the West African Manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*)

Manatees are large, herbivorous freshwater mammals that are a valuable indicator of healthy wetlands. They also help maintain the balance of aquatic plant life and river navigability. We work to protect this migratory species in the area stretching from Senegal to Sierra Leone in West Africa. In the Saloum Delta in Senegal and in Sierra Leone we have trained and supported several former manatee hunters to find alternative ways to make a living and help halt manatee hunting. In Niimi, the Gambia we have replaced the harpoons with a small boat for the entire community to use. As a result, the manatee hunters stopped hunting and started fishing, acting as guides for tourists, monitoring manatees and other species and increasing local awareness of the legends and folklore of the manatee. Barrier grills in dams along the Senegal River have been replaced and this prevented any fatal strandings of manatees in 2010, compared to many cases in previous years. Read more on [afrique.wetlands.org/manatee](http://afrique.wetlands.org/manatee)

The silvofishery approach, which restores abandoned aquaculture ponds through the combination of mangrove planting and diversified aquaculture, has lifted many people out of poverty in Ban Don Bay, Thailand. By Donnapat Tamornsuwan (Wetlands International Thailand)



Exchange ceremony in Niimi, The Gambia in which former manatee hunters handover their harpoons and get a pirogue in return to start fishing, manatee monitoring and other conservation activities. By Momar Sow (Wetlands International Africa)

## Sharing water for wetlands and people

The Inner Niger Delta is the lifeline for more than a million and a half people who depend on its natural resources for fish, grazing and rice cultivation. Our advocacy led to a revision of the Delta's Sustainable Development Programme, whose original draft plans included excessive diversion of floodwaters for upstream irrigated agriculture. This would have had disastrous impacts on people and nature downstream. The programme now includes a component for protecting natural resources and ecosystems; which will not only sustain globally significant biodiversity but also local livelihoods. The programme provides a single vision for the entire delta and has established a National Water Commission, which will take into account the needs of all the different water users and the range of benefits linked to periodic delta flooding. Wetlands International will assist the Commission with tools and knowledge from a decade of research on issues such as the links between flood patterns, biodiversity and human health. Moreover, during 2010 we continued to support women's groups in the delta villages through micro-credit schemes to restore flood forests and fish ponds, to promote bourgou cultivation and to set up kitchen gardens.

### Conflict mediation in the Kimana marshes (Kenya)

In southern Kenya, we worked to mitigate the increasing water stress in the Kimana region, below the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro. Due to droughts and an influx of farmers from other parts of the country, who have converted large tracts of the Kimana marshes, water stress is increasing. This is creating tensions between Maasai herdsman, the new farmer groups, wildlife and the conservation authorities of the Kimana National Park. Wetlands International was instrumental in establishing the Kimana Wetlands



In the Mahanadi Delta in Orissa State (India) farmers have increased their productivity by improved water provision due to a bigger say in water resource management. By Ritesh Kumar (Wetlands International South Asia)

Association, which consists of 80 members from different groups in the region. This group has devised a Wetlands Management Plan, which aims to tackle the issues that are creating conflict. The Association is now a recognised legal entity, giving Kimana's residents the power to influence decisions.

#### Improving water quality and food security in Orissa State (India)

In the Mahanadi Delta, in Orissa State, India we carried out an intensive field investigation of 19 typical floodplains and lakes to build knowledge on the role of wetlands in food and water security and in adapting to climate change. Our work, in partnership with government agencies, improved wetland management and has resulted in gains for some 360 households in 8 villages where agricultural productivity, income and resource management capacity have all been greatly improved by better water provision.

#### Promoting the sustainable use of wetlands

In drought and poverty stricken Malawi we supported local farmer groups to apply more sustainable agricultural techniques in and around the dambo seasonal wetlands. The farmers now prevent erosion and reduce water loss by using better tillage systems, reforestation, improved crop selection and joint water and forest management through village committees. About 2,445 farmers have diversified their crops through a seed distribution programme. In the hills around the dambos around 30,000 tree seedlings have been planted. Planting grasses on 47 hectares of surrounding hill side has consolidated the vegetation, allowing water to infiltrate these wetlands and to prevent surface runoff and erosion. This approach is being shared with other villages in the area through farmer to farmer exchanges.

#### Better grazing management in the Tibetan Plateau mountain peatlands

In China, we continued our work in the Rouergai marshes in the provinces of Maqu and Chang. These wetlands were drying up due to overgrazing by sheep and yaks. The loss of the grass and herb cover was leading to erosion and a decline of the water storage capacity of the loose organic peat soils. This desertification was increasing the poverty levels of Tibetan herders. Downstream, there has been evidence of increased floods in Eastern China, partly due to the loss of the water storage capacity of the Tibetan plateau. We worked with the government and local herders to introduce desertification control techniques and return heavily eroded grazing areas back to healthy wet grasslands. With the herder communities we planted 20,000 seedlings in 1,333 ha of heavily deserted areas and divided the grasslands into non-grazing and seasonal grazing areas. The communities are committed to this rotational grazing for the next 10 years in order to combat desertification and improve the pastures: cattle sheds have been constructed to reduce trampling. Local governments protect and restore additional parts of the plateau through closing off erosion gullies and fencing off and reseeding grassland. To alleviate the poverty of the local herders, family tourism has also been supported by providing solar heating facilities for guest houses. Our work in Ruoergai, has led the Chinese government to prioritize peatland restoration in its 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan and Aba Prefecture, part of the Ruoergai, has allocated 0.3% of its annual budget for wetland restoration.

#### Limiting the impacts of infrastructure development in the Arctic

Working with many experts in the Arctic, we carried out a key study on Arctic wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide, such as maintenance of permafrost, hydrology and water quality, as well as breeding and feeding for many migratory species. As well as coordinating this review



Blocking erosion gullies helps to restore the water storage capacity of the Ruergai (China) peatlands.  
By Chen Kelin (Wetlands International China)

we facilitated a dialogue between conservationists, wetland experts and Shell engineers on the wise use of Arctic wetlands. These activities have led two companies to move planned onshore oil rigs to locations that are less damaging to peatland hydrology. Read more on [wetlands.org/arctic](http://wetlands.org/arctic)

### Restoring and protecting mangroves

Mangrove forests provide coastal protection, are nurseries for fish and sequester carbon. Many coastal communities depend on them for their daily needs. Banten Bay and Pemalang are two coastal areas of the heavily-populated Java Island (in Indonesia), affected by mangrove clearance and pollution pressures. To help maintain the high biodiversity values of key sites, we enabled communities to plant some 20,000 mangrove seedlings in Pemalang, and almost 37,000 seedlings in Banten Bay, which had a survival rate of 60% after one year. Our silvofishery and poly-aquaculture approach restored degraded fish and shrimp ponds by combining mangrove tree planting with aquaculture. In Banten Bay this generated an average additional \$60 income per capita per month; a huge income increase for people in these poor coastal areas. In 2010, the Pemalang

District Government endorsed this approach and began to replicate it in neighbouring villages.

In Thailand, our team restored mangroves and degraded fish ponds with a similar silvofishery technique. Using 'Bio-rights' microcredit funds in Ban Don Bay, we lifted more than 100 fisher families out of poverty through small scale mangrove related livelihood activities, such as crab culture and bee keeping. We also set up a network for 14 villages in the area to get them involved in managing the mangroves and other coastal resources. In Krabi Province, we created the hydrological conditions for mangroves to naturally return to abandoned shrimp ponds. This low cost technique - called Ecological Mangrove Restoration (EMR) - creates a more varied and natural forest than standard replanting techniques, increasing the value for human use and for biodiversity. More on [wetlands.org/EMR](http://wetlands.org/EMR)

### Reducing mangrove losses in West Africa

The mangroves of coastal West Africa are threatened by many human activities including: shifting agriculture, infrastructure developments, harvesting fire wood and salt and fish smoking. In Guinea Bissau we introduced more fuel-efficient ovens for



Introducing solar salt production diminishes the pressure on mangroves as it replaces traditional techniques of boiling sea water with mangrove fire wood. By Richard DaCosta (Wetlands International Africa)

fish smoking to reduce the pressure on mangroves from this activity. A management committee oversees the new felling agreements. The ovens also reduce fire hazards and improve health by reducing smoke inhalation. They are already being replicated in neighbouring Guinea Conakry.

In Fogbo, Sierra Leone, we introduced solar salt production to replace traditional salt production which involves cooking sea water with mangrove firewood. This technique generates a 700% increase in yield and a much purer salt. As a result, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) decided to support the solar salt production. In Sierra Leone we are also seeking to diminish coastal overfishing by providing fishermen with opportunities to develop alternative livelihoods, such as sustainable fish smoking, animal husbandry and rice milling.

#### Cross-border mangrove conservation: the Charter for West Africa

In 2010, Ministers from Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry and Sierra Leone signed the Mangrove Charter committing themselves to their country-specific action plans to protect and restore their mangrove forests in the coming

years. The Charter now needs to be ratified by the parliaments of the six States and the appropriate legislation put in place. More on [afrique.wetlands.org/mangrovecharter](http://afrique.wetlands.org/mangrovecharter)

#### Influencing climate policies

As a result of many years of advocacy work, parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreed at the conference in Cancún, Mexico to include 'wetlands' for greenhouse gas emissions reporting under a post-Kyoto Protocol climate agreement. This was the only new category created. When a new climate deal is agreed, countries will be able to use wetland restoration as a way to meet their emissions reduction target. This new reporting category creates a huge incentive for restoring and managing wetlands, making it a very cost-effective option for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) decided to improve its methodological guidance for wetlands, particularly for peatlands. Currently, the IPCC figures on peatland emissions greatly underestimate the real level of carbon emissions from wetland loss. This now will be corrected.

One of our major goals in 2010 was drawing attention to the important role of ecosystems for climate change adaptation. Due to our interventions and evidence, the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund Board proposed revised criteria for submitting and describing proposals under the Adaptation Fund. From now on Environmental Assessments need to be applied to project proposals. This will help to prevent perverse infrastructural projects and will also lead to attention being given to the comparative benefits of ecosystem-based project proposals. Our lobbying work at the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) led to the Bamako Declaration which calls upon all African governments to use ecosystems to tackle and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

### Promoting natural solutions for climate adaptation

We also started working with authorities at the national level to ensure that the conservation and restoration of wetlands gets the support needed to play a role in climate change adaptation. Due to joint efforts with new partners an entire component dedicated to wetlands is underway in Argentina's National Adaptation Programme and its Regional Adaptation Plans, which include guidelines and priorities for the conservation and restoration of wetland areas, such as Tierra del Fuego and Mendoza. In Guinea Bissau, we supported the establishment of the National Climate Change Committee, which will oversee the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA).

### Catalysing capacity building in three continents

In 2010 we established a training programme for policy makers in Africa, Asia and Latin America on how to develop community-level and natural (ecosystem-based) solutions to the impacts of climate change. Working with our network of partners, we trained 51 trainers from local institutions in these three continents to deliver our training kit (available in English, Spanish and French) to a much wider group of people involved in climate change adaptation planning. These trainers delivered 7 national training courses involving 145 practitioners from 12 countries in these three continents. These courses have attracted interest from national governments and institutions (in Panama, Guatemala and Costa Rica) and from donors and NGOs (in Kenya and Uganda) who are looking to include it in their own curricula and training programmes. We also stimulated policy dialogues on these topics with journalists from 16 African countries, policy makers from five African countries and environmental authorities in Ecuador. More on [wetlands.org/ccakit](http://wetlands.org/ccakit)

### Preventing wetland loss from biofuels

Wetlands International played a key role in influencing the EU's biofuel policies. In 2010, our evidence

contributed to the decision that the European Union would not allow support for biofuels produced from palm oil plantations on recently logged (peat swamp) forests or for any biofuel produced on any drained peatland; even if conversion took place many years ago. This Renewable Energy Directive promotes the use of biofuels, such as palm oil, as an environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels; our intention is to make sure that its implementation complies with the original aims. More on [wetlands.org/eudirective](http://wetlands.org/eudirective)

We were also successful in influencing the UN 'Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which provides incentives for the production of biofuels. This support scheme now excludes all plantations on peatlands from CDM accreditation and related subsidies. More on [wetlands.org/cdm](http://wetlands.org/cdm)

With the exception of growers based in Indonesia and Malaysia, all the growers from other countries that are members of the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) adopted our policy of no further expansion of palm oil plantations on peatlands. Also, following our initiative the RSPO has established a Peatland Working Group as part of the Greenhouse Gas Working Group. This will identify options to reduce the sector's impacts on peatlands. We contributed to its scientific review of the impacts of oil palm plantations on peat, with evidence from the 'Quick Scan of Peatlands in Malaysia' which provides new data on the extent of palm oil plantations in Malaysia's tropical peat swamp forests. More on [wetlands.org/rspo](http://wetlands.org/rspo)



Argentina's National Adaptation Programme and its Regional Adaptation Plans dedicate an entire component to wetlands thanks to our work with partners. By Daniel E. Blanco (Wetlands International Latin America and the Caribbean)

# Office pages

## INDONESIA

We have been working in Indonesia since 1983 from our main office in Bogor, Java. When our Indonesian programme was set up it had a strong focus on wetland inventory and conservation for the protection of migratory waterbirds. However, since then we have increased our efforts to promote community-based sustainable use of wetlands, which regards local communities as the key actors in wetland conservation.

As part of our community-based approach, we have successfully initiated and implemented the concept of Bio-rights: a microcredit scheme that combines conservation with livelihood activities, providing an integrated mechanism for wetland restoration in Indonesia. Bio-rights has proven to be very effective: thousands of hectares of degraded mangrove and peatland areas have been restored, millions of trees planted and thousands of members of these community group have directly and indirectly improved their livelihoods. It also enabled the rapid restoration of thousands of hectares of mangroves under the Green Coast initiative, the response to the coastal devastation caused by the 2004 tsunami.

Our Indonesia team works in close partnership with the Government of Indonesia. During the last 10 years, we have actively supported and facilitated the government in relation to wetlands-related international conventions, including the Ramsar

Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). At the national level, we have actively supported the government in developing various policies and regulations to take the sustainable use of wetlands to a nationwide level.

### Main programmes

- Mangrove restoration, adapting to climate change/disaster risk reduction
- Restoration of degraded peatlands for climate mitigation, sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity
- East Asian and Australasian Flyway Partnership, National Secretariat for Migratory Birds, Avian Influenza surveillance

For more information visit: [wetlands.or.id](http://wetlands.or.id)

## CHINA

Our China office began with a focus on monitoring waterbirds within the extensive territory of the People's Republic of China, but in recent years has broadened its portfolio of work to include wetland capacity building, conservation and restoration. From our Beijing location, our team works across the country from the Tibetan Plateau in the west to coastal areas of the southeast.

The endangered Black Necked Crane is one of the flagship species for our work in China. We work through local partners and research institutes to

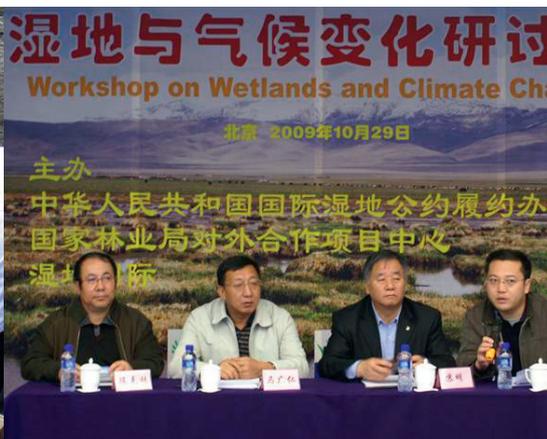
protect the Crane's homeland and wetland sites along their flyway: from breeding grounds to wintering sites. Local people are now aware of their importance and have been enabled to develop their own conservation activities.

Over the past years, our team has become strongly involved in the Tibetan Plateau - source of the great rivers in Asia, such as the Mekong, Yangtze and Yellow River. In the Ruergai and Altai high mountains we have restored water levels in hundreds of hectares of peatlands to reduce desertification and provided Tibetan herder families with sustainable energy sources and greenhouses to improve their livelihoods. This restoration brings benefits for biodiversity, reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and improves water storage, so helping to regulate river flows. We have helped local governments to develop a strategy and policies for the long-term wise use of these peatlands.

### Main programmes

- Peatland conservation and climate change adaptation in the Ruergai and Altai mountain areas
- Conservation of the Black Necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*)
- Wetland management centre in Hangzhou Bay
- Asian Wetlands School Network (WSN)

For more information visit: [wetwonder.org](http://wetwonder.org)



## JAPAN

Our Japan Office is located in Tokyo and over the years has built up expertise in two main areas: research on coastal regions and brackish waters and public awareness activities. Both are aimed at promoting the understanding and wise use of wetlands in Japan.

The Monitoring Sites 1000 Programme focuses on surveying two specific ecosystem types, coastal and inland. Through a new training course and hands-on survey materials we are fostering capable new survey leaders from the wider public for tidal flat benthos. More details can be found at [wetlands.org/tidaflatsurvey](http://wetlands.org/tidaflatsurvey)

Our Japan team is editing the “Inventory of the Culture and Technology of Wetlands in Japan”; an initiative that supports the Ramsar Convention’s CEPA (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness) programme, and will raise public awareness on the wise use of wetlands in Japan.

### Main programmes

- Monitoring Sites 1000, the Coastal Area and the Inland Waters Survey
- Guidebook and Training for Civilian Procedures for Researching Benthos Inhabiting Tidal Flats
- Inventory of the Culture and Technology of Wetlands in Japan

For more information visit: [japan.wetlands.org](http://japan.wetlands.org)

## MALAYSIA

Our Malaysian office has a long tradition of supporting policies and practices for the wise use of wetlands. Historically, our team here has played a key role in waterbird monitoring along the East Asian Australasian Flyway and also in coordinating the Asian Waterbird Census.

Our leading activities in Malaysia now include promoting ecotourism development, wetlands environmental education and providing technical input to local authorities on the management, restoration and sustainable use of peatlands and mangroves.

Over the past few years we have gained a lot of experience on peatland inventory and conservation in Malaysia and engaged in communications to support our work with the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil. We are developing a new peatland restoration action in neighbouring Brunei.

### Main programmes

- Peatland inventory and conservation in Peninsular Malaysia and on Borneo
- Promoting ecotourism activities as an alternative livelihood for communities
- Biodiversity conservation and mangrove restoration

For more information visit: [malaysia.wetlands.org](http://malaysia.wetlands.org)

## SOUTH ASIA

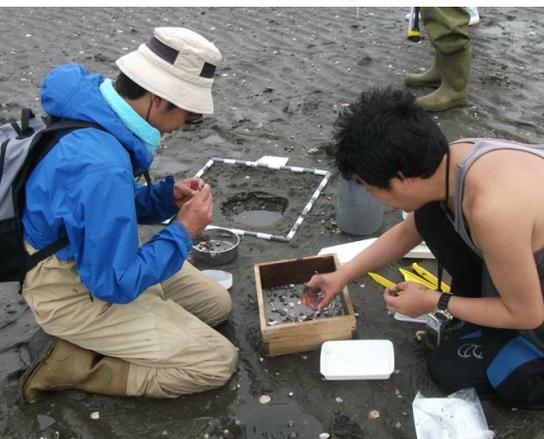
Our South Asia programme has its office in New Delhi and covers the region from Pakistan in the west, Bangladesh in the east and Sri Lanka and the Maldives in the south. It has a strong focus on lakes and rivers, as well as high mountain wetlands.

Our team is successful in working with different levels of government from the national to local. We have a strong focus on building the capacity of wetland management authorities and empowering local communities to influence decisions over water and wetland resource management. One example is the creation of a new Orissa State Wetland Authority, which is responsible for managing all the wetlands within the state.

We also catalysed the creation of the Loktak Development Authority in Manipur, which oversees the management of the Loktak Lake region. Beyond constituting the Authority, we have also jointly established a water management policy that balances all the different uses of lake water, including hydropower generation irrigation and domestic use, along with maintenance of habitat of the endangered ungulate, Sangai (*Rucervus eldi eldi*).

### Main programmes

- *Loktak Lake, Manipur*: Balancing ecological and human needs (hydropower and irrigation), Payment for Environmental Services





- *Mahanadi River and Delta, Orissa:* Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), Ecosystem services as basis for conservation action, management plan for Chilika Lake
- *Himalayas:* Decision-making tools for water management, building the wetland database
- *East Kolkata Wetlands, West Bengal:* Development of management plan and a wetland inventory system

For more information visit:  
[south-asia.wetlands.org](http://south-asia.wetlands.org)

## THAILAND

Our work in Thailand has a strong coastal focus: including mangrove rehabilitation and *silvofisheries*. Most of this work is done in the country's many national parks, which include Krabi and Laem Son. Our team works from our office hosted in the Songkla University and from two field offices.

Involving and providing incentives to local communities is a crucial aspect of our work in Thailand, whether it involves restoring degraded fish ponds or reversing environmental damage. Many of our projects have an alternative livelihoods component, which is facilitated through finance mechanisms, such as the Bio-rights approach.

Awareness-raising is another important part of our work; we achieve this through actively engaging in the World Wetlands Day celebrations held each year on

February 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Wetlands School Network (WSN), which arranges exchange visits for school children from 5 Asian countries.

## Main programmes

- Community-based conservation and restoration of coastal areas
- Bio-rights: Sustainable livelihoods and conservation
- Multi-stakeholder natural resource management
- Raising awareness of the benefits of wetlands for livelihoods and biodiversity

For more information visit:  
[thailand.wetlands.org](http://thailand.wetlands.org)

## OCEANIA

Our team in Oceania is made up of a small number of highly experienced wetland specialists who have worked extensively in Oceania, Asia and other regions of the world. It is divided across two offices: one in Canberra, Australia and the other in Suva on Fiji. Jointly they cover Australia and the Pacific Island region.

Our Canberra office supports the national and state governments by providing technical advice on wetlands and their biodiversity and collaborates in projects with them.

Through our Fiji office, which is hosted by the University of the South Pacific (Marine Studies Programme), we contribute to post-graduate training on wetlands and their biodiversity. We also assist

the Government of Fiji by providing technical advice on wetlands, their biodiversity and the national implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Most recently, we have carried out cutting-edge, cross-disciplinary research on the connections between biodiversity conservation and human health, which involved Fiji's government and development organisations.

## Main programmes

- Ecological character description of Australia's wetlands (national implementation of the Ramsar Convention)
- Wetlands and human health on Fiji
- Adapting to climate change in the Pacific Islands

For more information visit:  
[oceania.wetlands.org](http://oceania.wetlands.org)

## RUSSIA

Our Russian programme covers the entire Russian Federation. Recently, the coverage of our office expanded to include the former USSR States in Central Asia and Eastern Europe. The office is located in Moscow.

In such an enormous territory, the first focus of the programme was on compiling a national wetland inventory. The results were published in the six volumes of Wetlands in Russia series from 1998 to 2006. Our team also started coordinating the International Waterbird Census (IWC) within the Russian Federation. Further work was aimed at developing a



wetland conservation strategy, wetland policy and legislation for Russia, promoting inter-sectoral and transboundary cooperation in wetland conservation and wise use with Ukraine and Belarus and building awareness of the importance of wetlands.

Our work has resulted in positive policy changes in the Russian Federation, particularly with regard to peatland conservation. We have also produced many publications and conferences and run training courses that have built local capacity to conserve and manage wetlands. In the coming years, we will undertake a huge task of peatland restoration, with the aim of rehabilitating over 40,000 hectares of drained peatlands in the Moscow Region, which are very vulnerable to fire and were the cause of the huge smoke problems in the forest fires of 2010.

### Main programmes

- Wetland Inventory, International Waterbird Census (IWC)
- Moscow Oblast wetlands conservation
- Peatland restoration in Siberia and European part of the Russian Federation

For more information visit: [russia.wetlands.org](http://russia.wetlands.org) and [peatlands.ru](http://peatlands.ru)

### THE MEDITERRANEAN

Our Mediterranean Office is hosted by la Tour du Valat Research Centre in the Camargue in the south of France.

While our current programme started in 2009, we have been involved for many years in wetland conservation activities in the Mediterranean; for example through our involvement in the establishment of the MedWet regional initiative and development of the Mediterranean Wetland Inventory.

We have a strong focus on involving civil society in water management in countries in the South and East of the Mediterranean, where water resources are very limited and wetlands are under increasing stress. We currently work in Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco with civil society groups and local and national governments. This work includes introducing environmental quality standards and involving the inhabitants (especially women) of specific catchments in decision-making and conserving wetland biodiversity. We promote these approaches at the national and regional levels through participation in relevant networks and fora.

### Main programme

- Involving civil society in integrated water resource and wetlands management
- Mediterranean observatory

For more information visit: [wetlands.org/medwetwat](http://wetlands.org/medwetwat)

### LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Latin America and the Caribbean programme is run through our offices in Argentina and Panama. The focus

of the work of our office in Argentina has traditionally been focused in southern South America, and has included coordinating the Neotropical Waterbird Census in 10 countries of the region.

Over the years our team in Buenos Aires has built up its technical expertise on wetland inventory, the wise use and conservation of waterbirds, particularly migratory shorebirds, the sustainable harvesting of waterfowl and rice field management. More recently, our work has come to address freshwater fish conservation, peatlands and climate change.

With a new office in Panama we are now able to give more attention to Mesoamerica. This office has a strong thematic focus on livelihoods and coastal conservation, and works on climate change adaptation with communities in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

### Main programmes

- Neotropical Waterbird Census (NWC)
- Maintaining wetlands and livelihoods in the Parana Delta, Argentina
- Peatland conservation and wise use in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina
- Climate change adaptation & disaster risk reduction in Central America
- Community livelihoods in coastal areas in Central America

For more information visit: [lac.wetlands.org](http://lac.wetlands.org)

## AFRICA

Our Africa programme was established in 1998 and now covers the entire continent. The main office is located in Dakar, Senegal with subsidiary offices located in Mali (Bamako and Mopti), Guinea Bissau (Bissau) and Kenya (Nairobi). Initially, the programme worked on wetland management and waterbird monitoring related to the African Waterfowl Census (AfWC) and Important Bird Areas (IBA). Our focus lay on developing and implementing conservation action plans for threatened wetland waterbird species and increasing capacity for wetland management.

Our Africa team is a key partner in the West African Coastal Conservation Programme (PRCM), investing strongly in mangrove restoration and management, conserving the West African Manatee and continuing our migratory waterbird monitoring work in the six PRCM countries: Mauritania, Cape Verde, Senegal, the Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry and Sierra Leone. Since 2004, our work in Africa on linking livelihood enhancement to the wise use and conservation of wetlands has developed strongly, involving many demonstration projects across the region as well as influencing policy and capacity building.

A long term focal area for our work is Mali's Inner Niger Delta, where we work on influencing water allocation and management decisions, combined with livelihood

improvements, health and flood forest restoration. We have been working for a decade with the government and communities in this major floodplain wetland, home to millions of waterbirds and a vital lifeline for one and a half million people.

In the last few years we have developed our networks and projects in East Africa, for example strengthening community livelihoods in Kenya's Kimana wetlands at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro and introducing sustainable agriculture techniques and halting erosion in Malawi's seasonal dambo wetlands.

### Main programmes:

#### *In coastal West Africa (PRCM region):*

- Mangrove conservation
- Conservation of the West African Manatee (*Trichechus Senegalensis*)
- Migratory waterbird conservation
- Network for marine and coastal biodiversity - BIOMAC

#### *Niger Basin:*

- Impact of dams and climate change adaptation in the Inner Niger Delta
- Flood prediction tools for decision-making by the government (DECAID) and farmers, fishermen and pastoralists (OPIDIN)

#### *East Africa:*

- Wetlands and livelihood adaptation to climate change in Kenya
- Disaster risk reduction in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia

For more information visit:  
[africa.wetlands.org](http://africa.wetlands.org)



# Publications 2010

## ENGLISH

### State of World's Waterbirds 2010

Simon Delany, Szabolcs Nagy and Nick Davidson (comp.)

ISBN 978-90-5882-049-5

Available from: Headquarters

[www.wetlands.org/soww](http://www.wetlands.org/soww)

### Wetlands and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) - Understanding the Linkages

Wetlands International

Available from: Headquarters

[www.wetlands.org/washbooklet](http://www.wetlands.org/washbooklet)

### The Global Peatland CO<sub>2</sub> Picture - Peatland Status and Drainage Related Emissions in all Countries of the World (2010 update)

Hans Joosten (Greifswald University)

Available from: Headquarters

[www.wetlands.org/peatco2picture](http://www.wetlands.org/peatco2picture)

### A Quick Scan of Peatlands in Malaysia

Wetlands International Malaysia

Available from: Malaysia Office

[www.malaysia.wetlands.org](http://www.malaysia.wetlands.org)

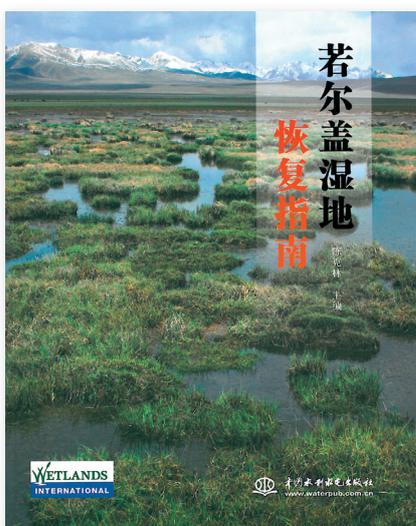
### Will the Inner Niger Delta shrivel up due to climate change and water use upstream? (English and French)

Leo Zwarts

Available from: Africa/Mali Office,

Attenburg & Wymenga

[www.wetlands.org/ind](http://www.wetlands.org/ind)



## SPANISH

### Endicamientos y Terraplenes en el Delta del Paraná: Situación, Efectos Ambientales y Marco Jurídico (Embankment in the Delta of Paraná: Situation, Environmental Effects and Legal Framework)

Daniel Blanco and Magdalena Mendez (eds)

ISBN 978-987-24710-3-3

Available from: LAC/Argentina Office

[www.lac.wetlands.org/indicamientosdeldelta](http://www.lac.wetlands.org/indicamientosdeldelta)

### Conservación de los Peces de la Cuenca del Plata en Argentina: Enfoques Metodológicos para su Evaluación y Manejo (Fish Conservation in La Plata Basin in Argentina: Methodological Approaches for Assessment and Management)

Jorge Cappato, Victoria de la Balze, Julieta Petean and Jorge Liotta (eds)

ISBN 978-987-24710-5-7

Available from: LAC/Argentina Office

[www.lac.wetlands.org/pecespab](http://www.lac.wetlands.org/pecespab)

### Bienes y Servicios Ecosistémicos de los Humedales del Delta del Paraná (Goods and Ecosystem Services of the Paraná Delta Wetlands)

Patricia Kandus, Natalia Morandeira and Facundo Schivo

ISBN 978-987-24710-2-6

Available from: LAC/Argentina Office

[www.lac.wetlands.org/bienesdeldelta](http://www.lac.wetlands.org/bienesdeldelta)

### Las Turberas de Tierra del Fuego y el Cambio Climático Global (Tierra del Fuego Peatlands and Global Climate Change)

Rodolfo Iturraspe

ISBN 978-987-24710-4-0

Available from: LAC/Argentina Office

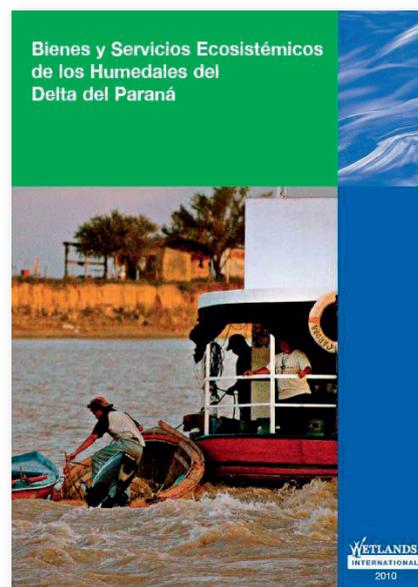
[www.lac.wetlands.org/turberasTdf](http://www.lac.wetlands.org/turberasTdf)

### Humedales y medios de vida en la cuenca baja del río Paz (Wetlands and Livelihoods in the Lower Basin of the Río Paz - English and Spanish)

Melibeia Gallo and Eduardo Rodríguez

Available from: LAC/Panama Office

[www.lac.wetlands.org/riopaz](http://www.lac.wetlands.org/riopaz)



### Dinámica Hidrológica en la Cuenca Baja del Río Paz (Hydrological dynamics of the Lower Río Paz Basin)

Eduardo Rodríguez Herrera

Available from: LAC/Panama Office

[www.lac.wetlands.org/riopaz](http://www.lac.wetlands.org/riopaz)

## BAHASA INDONESIA

### Panduan Pengelolaan Budidaya Tambak Ramah Lingkungan di Kawasan Pesisir (Guide to Environmentally Friendly Aquaculture Management in Coastal Areas)

Ita Sualia, Eko Budi Priyanto, dan I Nyoman N. Suryadiputra

Available from: Indonesia Office

[www.wetlands.or.id](http://www.wetlands.or.id)

## CHINESE

### Guide on Restoration of Ruoergai Wetlands

Chen Kelin, Zhang Xiaohong, Zhao Pinyou and Gu Haijun

ISBN 978-7-5084-7693-3

Available from: China Office

[www.wetwonder.org](http://www.wetwonder.org)

## JAPANESE

### Tidal Flat Benthos Survey Guidebook - Eastern Japan edition

Takao Suzuki, Shouchi Kimura and Taeko Kimura

Available from: Japan Office

[www.japan.wetlands.org](http://www.japan.wetlands.org)

# State of the World's Waterbirds 2010

The Status of the World's Waterbirds 2010 publication summarises what is known about the status of waterbird populations and what has changed in different parts of the world over the past forty years, with the help of a new waterbird indicator. It also reviews the main threats to waterbirds and their habitats as well as the conservation strategies to protect them.



Launched at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) conference in Nagoya, Japan, the publication features the newly developed waterbird indicator that uses the information collated from the four editions of the Waterbird Population Estimates. Key findings are that, although populations in Europe and North America increased over this period, globally 45% of waterbird populations are still in decline. In Asia this rises to 67%. Especially long distance migrants appear to be vulnerable.

It concludes that in regions where strong conservation and hunting legislation is implemented, such as North America and Europe, the status of waterbird populations is actually improving despite intense hunting. However, the rate of decline of waterbird populations is increasing in all other regions without such instruments.

The publication is available in PDF from [wetlands.org/SOWW](http://wetlands.org/SOWW) and hard copy from [wetlands.org/ShopSOWW](http://wetlands.org/ShopSOWW).



Our Taej Mundkur handing over a copy to Daizaburo Kuroda, Senior Councilor, Ministry of the Environment of Japan at the conference of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan in 2010. By Simba Chan.

## PORTUGUESE

### Processos Autónomos Locais de Adaptação aos Impactos das Mudanças Climáticas (Autonomous Local Processes of Adapting to Impacts of Climate Change)

Abilio Rachid Said, Apá Patrão da Costa, Herculano Nhaga and Hamilton Monteiro  
Available from: Africa Office  
[www.afrique.wetlands.org/adaptacaoGB](http://www.afrique.wetlands.org/adaptacaoGB)

## RUSSIAN

### Transboundary Russian-Ukrainian Wetlands in the Desna and Snov River Valleys

Fedotov, Yu.P., S.A. Kruglikov, Yu.V. Kuzmenko, T.N. Kuzmenko & S.M. Panchenko  
ISBN 978-5-903201-9308  
Available from: Russia Office  
[www.wetlands.org/RussiaPub](http://www.wetlands.org/RussiaPub)

## THAI

### Thailand's Shorebirds Guidebook

Samith Sutibut  
Available from: Thailand Office  
[www.thailand.wetlands.org](http://www.thailand.wetlands.org)

## UKRANIAN

### Methodical Recommendations on Integrated Water Resource Management, Wetland Biodiversity Conservation, Econet Development and Organic Agriculture

Wetlands International Black Sea Programme  
Available from: Black Sea Region Office  
[www.blacksearegion.wetlands.org](http://www.blacksearegion.wetlands.org)

# Financial Report of the Management Board

## Global Financial Overview

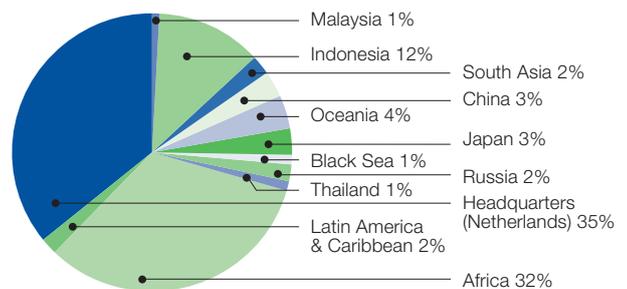
During 2010 total worldwide income through all offices, corrected for inter-office transfers, increased by 15% to Euro 11.9 M (2009: Euro 10.3). This comprised project income of Euro 9.9 M (2009: Euro 9.1 M), membership income of Euro 0.4 M (2008: Euro 0.5 M) and other income including interest and foreign exchange results of Euro 1.6 M (2009: Euro 0.8 M). Of the project income, headquarters raised 70 %, the other offices 30 % (2009: 65 vs. 35 %). The membership income of the Association Wetlands International, generated by approximately 30 member countries and NGOs active in international wetlands conservation, slightly decreased to Euro 0.4 M (2009: 0.5 M).

NOTE: Global financial data is derived from the audited financial statements of the Foundation and the Association based in the Netherlands, combined with the provisional or, where available, audited results prepared by the regional offices. A financial consolidation of worldwide data for all the regional offices is not required under the legal entity structure and the global data has been presented only for informational purposes. Owing to different accounting periods and accounting conventions certain estimates have been made in respect of some regional offices. The audited financial statements of the Foundation and the Association for 2008 are available from the headquarters office.

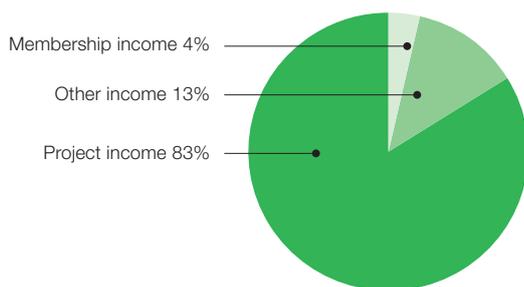
## Expenditure

As in previous years the implementation a substantial part of major projects secured through headquarters was sub-contracted to Wetlands International regional and national offices. In Chart 2 these are included in the regional figures. In 2010 a considerably larger part of the project expenditure was done by the regional and national offices: 65% compared to 49% in 2009, as a result of the strong devolvement policy. From these project budgets, external partner organisations execute significant parts of the projects.

**Chart 2.**  
Project expenditure  
by office



**Chart 1.**  
Global income  
by category



**Table 1.**  
Consolidated Income and  
Expenditure of Association and  
Foundation 2010

All amounts in thousand €

	2010 Actual	2010 Budget	2009 Actual
<b>INCOME</b>			
Project income	6.905	5.050	5.943
Membership fees	445	500	485
Other income	76	75	75
<b>Total income</b>	<b>7.426</b>	<b>5.625</b>	<b>6.503</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Project costs	6.195	4.610	5.411
Costs of generating funds	308	295	223
Management & administration	825	584	678
Surplus transferred to reserves	98	136	191
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>7.426</b>	<b>5.625</b>	<b>6.503</b>

## Summarised financial statement

All amounts in thousand €

	Balance at 31 December 2010 <b>Actual</b>	Balance at 31 December 2009 <b>Actual</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Computers and office equipment	411	361
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and bank	1.395	1.898
Receivables	1.127	684
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>2.933</b>	<b>2.943</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Creditors and accruals	1.661	1.769
<b>Reserves</b>		
General reserve	1.272	1.174
<b>Total liabilities and reserves</b>	<b>2.933</b>	<b>2.943</b>

**Table 2.**  
**Consolidated Summary Balance Sheet for Association and Foundation 2010**

# Climate Neutrality Report 2010

Many of our projects focus on reducing greenhouse gas emission from degraded wetlands and on sequestering carbon through the re-vegetation of a number of areas. In addition, we invest in becoming an organisation with a minimal carbon footprint. The headquarters off-sets all emissions from flights made by its staff according to the Gold Standard.

In 2010, we compensated 582.79 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> for flights for a total value of € 8,479.59. This means that 100% of the carbon emissions assigned to air travel by our headquarter staff are compensated for. The carbon is off-set through a GreenSeat wind farm project in the Taiwanese counties of Changua and Taichung. The Verified Emission Reduction (VER) is checked by the Soci t  G n rale de Surveillance under the Gold Standard.



# Supervisory Council & Board of Association, Member Organisations

## Management Board (MB)

Jane Madgwick  
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Chair of the MB*

Frank van der Valk  
*Chief Operations Officer*

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Kevin Erwin

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Yoshihiro Natori

## Member Organisations

### Government Members:

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United Kingdom

China  
Czech Republic

Denmark

Ecuador

Estonia

Finland

France

Germany

Greece

Hungary

India

Indonesia

Ireland

Japan

Kenya

Latvia

Republic of Macedonia

Malaysia

The Netherlands

Norway

Pakistan

Poland

Portugal

### Non-Governmental Members:

British Association  
for Shooting and  
Conservation (BASC)

Deutscher Jagdschutz  
Verband (DJV) / German  
Hunting Association

Federation of  
Associations for Hunting  
and Conservation of the  
EU (FACE)

Greek Biotope / Wetland  
Centre (EKBY)

National Association of  
Regional Game Councils  
(NARGC)

Nigerian Conservation  
Foundation (NCF)

Royal Society for the  
Protection of Birds  
(RSPB)

Dansk Ornitologisk  
Forening (DOF) / BirdLife  
Denmark

Vogelbescherming  
Nederland (VBN) /  
BirdLife The Netherlands

Schweizer Vogelschutz  
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Switzerland

Sveriges Ornitologiska  
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Sweden

# Donors

Wetlands International wishes to thank the following donors  
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African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)  
Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED)  
European Commission  
European Union  
Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)  
Global Environment Facility (GEF)  
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
World Bank

## National governments

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)  
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)  
Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)  
Chilika Development Authority  
Danish Ministry of Environment and Energy  
East Kolkata Wetland Management Authority  
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Dakar  
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Ukraine  
French Global Environment Facility (FFEM)  
French Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development  
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)  
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and  
Development (BMZ)  
Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE)  
Japan Ministry of the Environment (MoEJ)  
Japanese Ramsar Committee for Municipalities  
Loktak Development Authority  
The Netherlands Government Service for Land and Water  
Management (DLG)  
The Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food  
Quality (LNV)  
The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS)  
Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation  
(AECID)  
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency  
Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape  
(BUWAL)  
United States Agency for International Aid (USAID)

## Private sector, NGOs and research institutes

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Adessium  
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De Kootje Fundatiën  
East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership  
Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam  
Fondation Internationale du Banc d'Arguin (FIBA)  
Fondo para las Américas - Argentina  
Foundation of River & Watershed Environment Management  
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Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina  
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Shell  
Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN)  
World Agroforestry Center



## Mission:

To sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity

**Wetlands International is a global non-profit organisation dedicated to sustaining and restoring wetlands, their resources and biodiversity for future generations.**

**We work through 20 offices, supported by a headquarters based in The Netherlands.**

We work in over 100 countries to tackle the most pressing problems affecting wetlands. With the support of governmental and NGO members and donors, we promote and demonstrate the positive role that wetlands can play in addressing biodiversity loss, poverty and climate change.

Our work ranges from research and community-based field projects to advocacy with governments, corporations and international policy fora and conventions. Wetlands International works through partnerships and is supported by contributions from an extensive specialist expert network and tens of thousands of volunteers.

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