

Wetlands International Annual Review 2008



From the CEO

I am pleased to present the Annual Review 2008 of Wetlands International. The review charts the main achievements, as well as projects, publications of Wetlands International during 2008. Furthermore, it highlights our work on wetlands in relation to adapting to climate change as well as our Bio-rights micro-credit programme. As you can read in the Achievements and projects sections of this review, Wetlands International was highly active in all regions during 2008.

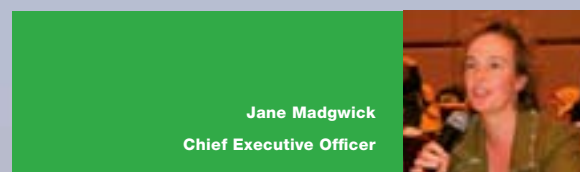
Significantly, we were able to bring critical information on the links between peatland degradation and CO₂ release to the world's attention - resulting in some unprecedented policy shifts by the European Union to limit the impact of biofuels on wetlands. Thanks to the support of a growing number of governments and NGOs, we have ensured that wetlands (and especially peatlands) are on the agenda of the critical climate dialogue and detailed negotiations occurring in 2009. We now need to further define and demonstrate credible solutions. In particular we need to demonstrate how wetland management and restoration can contribute significantly to climate mitigation and adaptation - and how governance and finance mechanisms can best support this. Our experience in facilitating community-based wetland management in different regions and our networks of members, partners and scientists will be invaluable in this respect.

The outcomes that we achieved in 2008 are important in themselves, but most are just steps towards much longer-term goals to bring about lasting benefits to people and nature. In this respect, we are especially pleased to have been able to support the training of hundreds of African government staff on the links between poverty reduction and wetland management and to help secure partnerships and finance for on-going work in this field. Another example comes from our role in developing the global wetlands knowledge-base. We took some important steps in 2008 to develop and apply web-based tools that support wetland planning and management at a range of geographical scales - such as the Critical Sites Network of the African-

Eurasian flyway. We see great potential to extend this partnership approach, bringing together wetland databases to provide integrated tools for conventions, national governments and wetland managers alike.

2008 was a year which also brought some important institutional developments. It was the final year of the 10 year residence of our headquarters in the Wageningen University buildings. Thanks to some financial assistance from the Netherlands government we were able to make arrangements to rent and fit-out a new, self-contained office just a few kilometres away in a woodland setting, near the Ede-Wageningen train station. This office provides an excellent working space for staff and is very convenient for visitors.

After some years of planning, we also established a new office in Panama, hosted by the Ramsar CREHO centre, to develop our partnerships and activities on 'wetlands and livelihoods' within Latin America and the Caribbean. We welcomed Julio Montes de Oca as the Programme Development Officer for this office. In Africa, we were delighted to appoint Ibrahima Thiam as Regional Director. During 2008 he restructured and expanded his team and relocated our regional Africa office in Dakar. During 2008 we also marked the retirement of two regional Heads of Office: Seydina Issa Sylla who had earlier played an important pioneering role for Wetlands International in West Africa - and Dibjo Sartono who enjoyed over a decade as Director of our Indonesian Programme, based in Bogor. We thank them both for their important contributions to the work and achievements of Wetlands International. In 2009, the headquarters warmly welcomed Frank van der Valk as Chief Operations Officer. Frank joined Wetlands International from Oxfam Netherlands and works alongside me in the Management Board.



Introduction to our organisation

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 regional 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.

Global map of our offices.

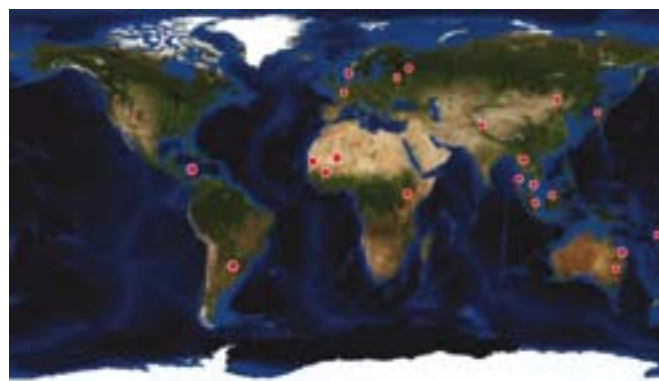


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The village of Palangka Raya, Indonesia where Wetlands International has a project office of the Central Kalimantan Peatlands Project (CKPP-www.ckpp.org). Photo: Marcel Silvius.



In line with its mission and strategic goals, Wetlands International has achieved a great deal during 2008. On the following pages we present the most outstanding achievements. They indicate the effectiveness of hands-on field work, capacity-building, network development and awareness-raising in conserving and restoring wetlands and their resources for the benefit of nature and people.

Wetlands International Global Achievements 2008





In Kalimantan, Indonesia, Wetlands International and partners have restored the drained peatlands by building dams and planting native tree species. Photo: Marcel Silvius.

Conserving and restoring wetlands

Our work in wetland restoration always aims to enhance the livelihoods of people who are connected to the wetlands. As poverty is one of the main causes of wetland degradation, Wetlands International aims at restoring the ecological status of wetlands and establishing the sustainable use of wetland resources. This is often linked to alternative livelihood development. One of the ways of achieving this is through the Biorights approach (see text box page 5).

Peatlands: CO₂ emissions and Orang-utans

In 2008, we continued our 2-year restoration programme in the logged and drained peatlands of Central Kalimantan.

To prevent further drainage of those former peat swamp forests, the Wetlands International-led Central Kalimantan Peatland Project (CKPP) built 12 large water control structures to block drainage channels. Together with communities we built a total of 24 dams in large channels and 260 smaller dams in ditches.

To speed up the process of revegetation we planted 1,600 hectares of former forest with native tree species. This all led to the rewetting and restoration of around 60,000 hectares of severely degraded peatlands, resulting in a strong reduction of fires as well as preventing some 230,000 tons (lowest estimation) of annual carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. The restoration has also allowed the area's forests to recover, benefitting endangered species such as the Orang-utan.

Mangroves for coastal protection

As a continuation of the Green Coast project to restore mangrove coasts in Asia, we carried out further coastal restoration projects in several countries (see page 22 for more information).

In Aceh, Indonesia, we led a partnership project to restore mangrove coasts to increase coastal resilience and help fish stocks to recover. Community groups organised by the programme planted more than 750,000 mangrove and other coastal trees with an average survival rate of 80%. This generated a total of 415 hectares of recovered coastal forest. In addition, the programme established 11 demonstration projects in degraded areas, demonstrating sustainable livelihood options to policy makers and local communities. For example, 25 ha of Temiga hill areas have been planted with 12,500 edible fruit trees of high economic value, including mango, rambutan, durian, and nutmeg.

In Malaysia, our office worked with the Sedili community in Johor to plant over 1,000 mangrove seedlings in a joint effort with the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment. In Thailand, our office introduced a new approach for mangrove restoration and natural hydrological restoration, implemented by local communities at Ban Taling Chan and Ban Lang Da, Nua Klong district, Krabi province of Thailand.

Wetlands International was also involved in coastal rehabilitation in Africa. In The Gambia, in a joint programme with IUCN, 9,000 mangrove seedlings were planted in two villages, to serve as demonstration sites. In Sierra Leone, we worked with the communities of Matainkay to replant six hectares with approximately 12,000 mangrove seedlings.

New Ramsar sites - a positive step for wetland protection

When wetlands are designated Ramsar sites, the relevant government is committed to the conservation and wise use of the site. Thanks to the research and policy work of the Argentina office, a new Ramsar Site has been designated in Argentina, so improving the conservation status of the key peatland areas of Tierra del Fuego.

In Banten Bay (Java), Indonesia children are made aware of the benefits of mangrove restoration for coastal protection against extreme weather events related to climate change. Photo: Yus Noor.

Bio-rights: uniting micro-credit and the environment

Bio-rights is a financing mechanism developed by Wetlands International to fight poverty and at the same time improve the environment. The idea is simple: community members receive a micro-credit, but instead of paying interest they perform environmental services. These services may vary from planting trees to help guarding a natural park or joining a fire brigade. Once the service has proven to be sustained over a longer period of time, the credit is turned into a definitive gift. The following example from Mali shows the effectiveness of the approach.

In the village of Severy in the Inner Niger Delta, micro-credits enabled a women's group to buy a rice husker. This no longer means labour intensive manual pounding of the rice to de-husk. For a little pay, other village members can use the husker while the women managing it make some money from it. In return for the credit, the women planted trees in the degraded floodplain forest. When flooded, these forests serve as nurseries for fish, while also providing shelter to people and animals during heavy weather.

The women took great care of the trees so that after one year more than 75% of them were still intact. This turned the initial credit - which they refunded by 100% - into a full payment. The women decided to invest the money into a revolving fund for the benefit of the whole village. Moreover, a neighbouring village started to plant Acacias as well, even without the external financial incentives. Furthermore, Bio-rights is now effectively included into a Malian national micro-credit system.



Women looking after their planted trees in the Inner Niger Delta, Mali.
Photo: Pieter van Eijk.

Read more on Bio-rights

The new publication of Wetlands International *'Bio-rights in theory and practice'* is available in English and Indonesian from www.wetlands.org/watchandread.

Working in partnership with the private sector and national government, Wetlands International has secured stronger protection for a very significant wetland habitat for Buff-breasted Sandpipers and other migratory shorebirds in Uruguay.

Work under the regional Wings over Wetlands partnership project, including a local demonstration project, contributed to designation of the first trans-boundary Ramsar site in Africa, Saloum-Niumi.

The China office succeeded in getting the Ruoergai Marshes, the enormous peat bog of half a million hectares on the eastern edge of the Tibetan Plateau (3,400 to 3,900 m. altitude), designated as a Ramsar site. Using a range of approaches, degraded peatlands in the Ruoergai system have been restored. Furthermore, the Ruoergai high altitude wetlands conservation committee was established to strengthen transboundary cooperation, and the local government has drafted a regulation to protect wetlands. Working together with partners in the EU-China biodiversity programme, the China office also implemented Integrated Management of Wetlands in the Ruoergai Plateau and the Altai Mountains. This supports biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Policy and advocacy work

During 2008, Wetlands International participated in conferences on climate change (UNFCCC), wetlands (Ramsar Convention), biodiversity (CBD) and waterbirds (AEWA). Although some of the resolutions did not generate as strong a position for wetlands as we had hoped, some very successful steps were made.

A new climate treaty

Wetlands International strongly advocates that CO₂ emissions from peatlands are taken into account in the new United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) climate treaty.

Wetlands International attended a number of UNFCCC meetings in 2008, including COP14 in Poznan and Climate Talks in Accra, providing delegations with critical information on the importance of peatland loss for greenhouse gas emissions. As a result, many countries now openly advocate the inclusion of peatlands in national CO₂ emission accounting. In addition, addressing peatland emissions in developing countries through the programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) is now on the agenda.

All this provides a strong basis for negotiations in Copenhagen in late 2009 on the new climate treaty which will replace the Kyoto Protocol.

New resolutions for Ramsar sites

Thanks to our advocacy and lobbying, the Ramsar Conference of Parties (COP10) in Korea adopted resolutions on Wetlands and Health and provided more clarity on the implementation of the 'Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Resolution'.

Moreover, Wetlands International guided the Contracting Parties to urge concerted action under Ramsar resolutions on climate change, biofuels and extractive industries. In addition, a comprehensive resolution on flyway conservation was adopted, recognising the importance of promoting international cooperation for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their inland and coastal habitats through local, national and international action.

New resolutions for wetland biodiversity

Some well-targeted advocacy by Wetlands International at the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) Conference of Parties (COP9) in May 2008 resulted in the approval of a resolution by the CBD regarding the role of wetlands in climate change adaptation and the impact of peatland degradation on climate change and biodiversity (Resolution IX-16).

Joining hands in working regionally

The Black Sea Office rallied support for a regional initiative on the wise use of coastal wetlands around the Black Sea from the Ministries of Environment of five Black Sea countries - Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine. An official proposal for

CEO Jane Madgwick is presenting the 'Invisible Connections - Why migrating shorebirds need the Yellow Sea' publication to the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention, Mr. Anada Tiéga at the Ramsar Conference in Changwon, Korea.



the creation of a regional initiative called BlackSeaWet was approved for funding by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Wetlands International South Asia brought together the governments of Bhutan, China, India and Nepal in the Himalayan Initiative for integrating high altitude wetlands in river basin management. The signing of the Delhi Declaration consolidated this Himalayan Initiative and led to the integrated strategy for the conservation of high altitude wetlands in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region.

No sustainable biofuels grown on wetlands

A major achievement of policy work on biofuels has been the successful influencing of the European Union Renewable Energy Directive. This new directive on renewable energy sets criteria for biofuel production and targets for biofuel use (10% of all fuel use by 2020). Thanks to our advocacy through a variety of networks, feedstocks produced on wetlands and on previously non-drained peatlands will not be labelled as renewable and thus cannot be supported under this directive within the EU. This strongly reduces the drive to convert more peatlands into palm oil plantations or marshes to sugarcane production.

Due to Wetlands International's participation, the Round table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) established a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Committee to develop new criteria that will require reduced GHG impact as part of a RSPO certification of palm oil. This is of particularly high relevance to peatland conservation and restoration, as 25% of all palm oil is produced on (former) peatland. Moreover, the chair of RSPO publicly acknowledged the importance of excluding peatlands from palm oil production.

Influencing national policies through partnerships

As a result of Wetlands International's cooperation on communications and advocacy with the East African Wildlife Society (EAWLS), Kenya has adopted a National Policy for the Conservation and Management of Wetlands.

Other partnership with national civil society organisations (CSOs) resulted in the recognition of wetland values in national policies in Ethiopia, Argentina, Benin and, to a limited extent, Ghana. During our Policy Making Dialogue meeting held in 2008, seven African countries committed themselves to Action Plans for developing and implementing wetlands strategies.

In Indonesia our policy influence is reflected in a proposal from the government to the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), recognising the threats to peat swamp forests, the links to poverty issues, and the need - and opportunities - to address these under the REDD programme.



Community members near Jambi (South Sumatra), Indonesia show the harvest made by their women's group enterprise. Photo: Yus Noor.



Wetlands International raises awareness of local communities on wetland and biodiversity conservation, like here in Guinea-Bissau. Photo: Wetlands International Guinea-Bissau.

Furthermore, the Green Coast initiative was very successful in 2008 in influencing the drafting of coastal policies and regulations at the provincial, district and village level in Aceh, Indonesia. It established a network of coastal NGOs in Aceh, called KuALA, which is active in policy and advocacy on coastal and marine issues.

Advocacy leading to reviewing dams

The National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) with support from Wetlands International, addressed the World Bank and the African Development Bank about taking poverty-environment issues properly into account in the evaluation of the Bujagali dam in Uganda. NAPE's advocacy led to an evaluation team being sent by the World Bank to investigate the possible negative impacts of the dam. On its recommendations, a committee was established to monitor the project's implementation. This includes NAPE and other NGOs, the government and the dam builder. It will also formulate the new sustainable management plan.

Information and knowledge about the negative impact of the planned Fomi Dam in Guinea on people and nature downstream has contributed to prompting a review. The original plan for a large and disruptive dam has now been revised by international donors. Our knowledge of the impacts is based on work with partners of our Mali Office and is captured in the Wetlands International publication '*The Niger: a Lifeline*'.

The Africa office (through the Freshwater Biodiversity project) launched its Gambian demonstration project. This brought stakeholders in water management and water use in the Gambian river basin together to plan the use of freshwater biodiversity data in the development and management of a dam in the river Gambia.

Biodiversity

Expanding the biodiversity scope

As our mission states, Wetlands International works to conserve wetland biological diversity. While waterbird conservation remains a core strength, our scope has expanded to address other groups. For example, Wetlands International Africa has supported the process of countries becoming signatories to the new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to conserve the West African Manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*) and Small Whales in Western Africa including Macronesia. This Memorandum is an aspect of the regional species agreements under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). Fifteen countries have signed up to this MoU, committing themselves to detailed action. Putting the MoU into action, Wetlands International Africa coordinated two manatee rescue missions along the banks of the Senegal River.

An updated population estimate for the endangered Ruddy-headed Goose was produced by the Argentina office. This served as a basis for the conservation of this species in Argentina and Chile and contributed to a new legal regulation by the province of Buenos Aires to prohibit austral geese hunting and to protect the endangered Ruddy-headed Goose.

Improving planning and building partnerships

Wetlands International Russia developed and implemented integrated land-use planning and wetland conservation measures in the Faustovskaya Floodplain of the Moskva River, regulating sport hunting for waterbirds in the Moskvoretsky Nature Reserve. Moreover, more suitable river floodplain hydrological regimes were implemented, as well as two pilot projects in the Moscow Oblast (region) showing the positive biodiversity impacts of such alternative water management strategies.

Wetlands International continued its active participation in the new East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership, assisting in improving the conservation measures applied to the Yellow Sea and other priority areas of the Flyway. One of the measures was supporting partner organisations in building their own national partnerships: Wetlands International assisted them in developing planning partnerships for migratory waterbird conservation.

Capacity Building

Under the Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Project (WPRP), the capacity building component has reached a total of 370 trainees from African governments through 7 regional and 6 national courses. The objective was to build their capacity to better understand the linkages between wetland management and poverty reduction. Measuring the impact of training is often difficult, but an indication of the success of the capacity-building is that seven participants have since represented their countries at the Ramsar Conference of Parties (COP10) in Korea.

Building and sharing knowledge

As an organisation, Wetlands International builds on scientific knowledge, which is shared with stakeholders. For example, decades of International Waterbird Census (IWC) data have been developed into an indicator for climate change. As a contribution to the 'Expert Group on Indicators of Impact of Climate Change on Biodiversity' this indicator highlights the potential impact of climate change in terms of shortened migration routes.

ICT for Himalayan wetlands

The Himalaya Initiative, in partnership with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), ARGEOPS and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), developed the 'Greater Himalayan Wetland Information System'. This web-based system has been presented as a prototype to regional stakeholders and brings together wetland-related information in the Himalayan Region based on the hierarchical structure of the Asian Wetland Inventory.



Mr. Mischenko raises awareness on the importance of peat forests in the Moscow region on local television. Photo: Irina Kamennova.



Shorebirds resting in the Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve, Yellow Sea near the city of Dandong, China. Photo: Jan van de Kam.

Preparation of an inventory in the Himalaya involved much work under difficult conditions. Nevertheless, the approach for a regional inventory of wetlands in the Himalayan Region was finalised with the Himalaya Initiative partners. It builds on the previously published Wetlands International Asian Wetland Inventory Approach (2001) and links the framework and structure of the inventory to remote sensing approaches, which can help to overcome the inhospitable terrain in the Himalayas, which is a major barrier to compiling an inventory.

Also in partnership with ICIMOD, plus the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UK), a vulnerability assessment method for wetlands in the Himalayan Region was developed. This method provides a simple and easy-to-use assessment tool suitable for application to a range of wetland types, which have differing values and which experience a range of threats.

Research locally, share globally

The inventory of wetlands in the Moscow Oblast of the Russian Federation was completed. It focused on the value of wetlands, including peatlands, as a critical source of water. Engaging in dialogue with government actors in water resources and conservation at the Oblast level, the Russia office promoted a region-wide wetlands wise use strategy, offering great potential for use elsewhere in the Russian Federation.

Finally, as part of a global exercise coordinated by Cambridge University, Wetlands International led an approach to forecast and define the most important scientific questions to tackle regarding freshwater ecosystem conservation. This resulted in a paper published in *Conservation Biology* in early 2009 'One Hundred Questions of Importance to the Conservation of Global Biological Diversity'. We anticipate that this paper will stimulate and guide biodiversity research on a global scale.

Projects 2008

GLOBAL (The Netherlands)

LIVELIHOODS

Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Project (WPRP)

Wetlands are integrated into poverty reduction policies by demonstrating the importance of wetlands for people, through research, field projects, capacity building and outreach.

Donor: Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS)

BIODIVERSITY

International Waterbird Census (IWC)

This ongoing programme collects and analyses monitoring data on millions of waterbirds from around 2,000 volunteers globally to produce the fourth edition of the tri-annual Waterbird Population Estimates (WPE). This project is being carried out throughout the world, with input from all our offices and our specialist groups.

Donor: United Kingdom: Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Netherlands: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Food Quality, Alterra Green World Research, Denmark: National Environmental Research Institute, Migratory Birds of the Western Palearctic (OMPO), African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), France: Ministry of the Environment, Forest and Nature Agency, Lynx Edicions

Wader Atlas

This project produced An atlas of Wader Populations in Africa and Western Eurasia and was being carried out with the support of our expert network (Wader Specialist Group).

Donor: Flemish Ministry for the Community

New FluBird Project (NFB)

The NFB project creates a Network for Early Warning of Influenza viruses in migratory birds in Europe. Wetlands International provides data and expertise on high risk bird species, coordinates surveillance in high risk sites and builds capacity for monitoring waterbirds.

Donor: European Commission

Global Avian Influenza Network for Surveillance (GAINS)

Wetlands International provides data on waterbirds (International Waterbird Census - IWC), to implement and coordinate surveillance in Egypt, Nigeria, Ukraine and India, together with our offices in Malaysia, India, Senegal, Ukraine and Argentina, to build capacity for monitoring waterbirds and to coordinate waterbird ringing activities in Asia.

Donor: USAID

Task Force Avian Influenza and Wild Birds

Wetlands International provides technical input to the task force that develops, amongst others, an early warning system on outbreaks of Avian Influenza (H5N1 hp).

Donor: Convention on Migratory Species and the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)

FLYWAYS

Wings over Wetlands (WoW)

This project improves the conservation of African-Eurasian migratory waterbirds by assisting countries in conservation of key wetland areas. The project identifies the critical network of wetland sites for migratory waterbirds, trains people and raises awareness about the conservation and wise use of migratory waterbirds and the wetlands they use in 119 Asian, European and African countries along the African Eurasian Flyway.

Donor: Global Environment Facility (GEF), African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, (AEWA), Germany: Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Sweden: Environmental Protection Agency, Danish Ministry of Environment and Energy, France: Ministry of the Environment, Forest and Nature Agency, Swiss government Agency - Bundesamt für Umwelt, Wald und Landschaft (BUWAL)

Contribution to African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)

Technical and organisational support is provided to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), covering 235 bird species depending on wetlands in 118 countries.

Donor: African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)

Follow the Bird

The Follow the Bird project demonstrates the vital importance of a network of good quality wetlands along migratory bird flyways and the link of these wetlands to livelihoods. It has equipped birds with satellite-transmitters, whose migration can be followed online at www.followthebird.org.

Donor: Shell

WATER MANAGEMENT

Guidelines on Agriculture, Wetlands and Water Resource Interactions Project

Interactions between agriculture and wetlands are addressed through guidelines for governments on how to strike a balance between the needs for agriculture and provision of food from wetlands and the other supporting services that wetlands provide.

Donor: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Food Quality, FAO - Netherlands Partnership Programme (FNPP)

WETwin

The role of wetlands in integrated water resources management (IWRM) is improved at the river basin level with the aim of improving the service functions of wetlands to communities, while preserving their ecology.

Donor: European Union Framework Programme 7

KNOWLEDGE BASE

Database on all wetlands of the Ramsar list

This project collates, manages and analyses data on all wetlands on the Ramsar List to underpin implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. This information is online available (<http://ramsar.wetlands.org/>).

Donor: Ramsar Convention on Wetlands





AFRICA

Coastal Wetland Initiatives within the Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Programme (PRCM) for West Africa

Wetlands conservation as well as the species that depend on them are included in governmental policies on coastal wetlands in Western Africa.

Donor: MAVA Foundation

Supporting wetlands wise use and conservation in Senegal

Awareness is raised on the importance of wetlands in Senegal through training sessions for journalists, technicians and civil society groups to support the government in the implementation of Senegal's wetlands-linked commitments under international conventions.

Donor: Royal Netherlands Embassy, Senegal

West African Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Network (BIOMAC)

The effectiveness of different coastal species and habitat conservation activities is improved through collection and exchange of data, capacity building, awareness raising and harmonisation of actions in West Africa.

Donor: Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Programme for West Africa (PRCM)

Sustainable Coastal Zone Management in Sierra Leone

The government of Sierra Leone is supported in the conservation of marine and coastal resources and biodiversity focusing on establishing the country's first Marine Protected Area, small scale conservation activities, communications and capacity building.

Donor: Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Programme for West Africa (PRCM)

Conservation of the West African Manatee

The manatee (*Trichechus Senegalensis*) and its habitat are protected, as outlined in the Regional Conservation Strategy for the West African Manatee. This includes applied research, a review of legislation and policy, education, and grassroots conservation activities.

Donor: Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Programme for West Africa (PRCM)

Integration of freshwater biodiversity in development processes

Water resource managers and environmental planners are provided with information on freshwater biodiversity for integration into development activities throughout Africa. It includes biodiversity surveys and a demonstration project in The Gambia River.

Donor: European Union through the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)

Poverty reduction in the Inner Niger Delta (PRPDIN)

Poverty is reduced and biodiversity protected through micro-credit (using the Biorights approach) for mostly female community members in restoring degraded wetlands in the Inner Niger Delta, Mali.

Donor: Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) through WPRP

Support the policy of local cooperative responsibility in agro-biodiversity management in the Inner Niger Delta, Mali

A shared vision is built on natural resource management in the Inner Niger Delta (Mali), focussing on research, training, awareness raising and policy.

Donor: UN food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Support for Integrated Water Resources Management for the Upper Niger Basin

The importance of an integrated assessment is demonstrated for decision-making on water management for the Upper Niger in Mali.

Donor: Netherlands Partners for Water

Conservation and Wise Use of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Guinea Bissau

International Bird Areas (IBA) in Guinea Bissau are protected and restored through work with communities and local NGOs.

Donor: Vogelbescherming Nederland (Netherlands Society for the Protection of Birds - VBN)



EUROPE

Black Sea Regional Initiative for the wise use of coastal wetlands (BlackSeaWet)

A regional initiative for wetland conservation is created made up of governments of countries around the Black Sea.

Donor: Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV)

Conservation in the Dnipro river corridor in Ukraine

An ecological corridor around the Dnipro river (Ukraine) is created through increasing awareness on ecological networks and biodiversity conservation among governmental bodies, NGOs, and schools.

Donor: Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV), Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (BBI-Matra Fund/Management Programme for International Biodiversity)

Development of an action plan for wetlands in the Moscow region

The authorities in the Moscow region (Russia) are supported in the sustainable use of water resources.

Donor: The Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, BBI-MATRA

Wetland conservation along the border of the Russian Federation with Belarus and Ukraine

Transboundary cooperation of different governments in wetland conservation is built around the borders of Russian Federation with Belarus and Ukraine.

Donor: The Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) - BBI Matra

Quickscan of peatlands in Eastern Europe

This Quick Scan gathers information on the status of peatlands in Eastern European countries for addressing the key problems.

Donor: Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV)

Engage civil society in water management in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Region

Dialogue between civil society is stimulated in order to reduce water conflicts and to promote sustainable management of wetland water resources in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region.

Donor: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Engage Civil Society in Water Management in Turkey

Local communities are supported in decision-making processes in Turkey to counter wetland degradation.

Donor: MAVA Foundation

NORTH ASIA

Integrated Management of Wetlands in Ruergai Plateau and Altai Mountains to support Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development Project

Mountain peatlands in the Ruergai Marshes on the Qinghai Tibetan Plateau and the Altai Mountains in Northwest China are managed in an integrated manner and practical ways are demonstrated of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services for human benefit.

Donor: European Commission

Wetland School Network Programme Popularised in Asian Countries along the East Asian-Australasian Waterbird Flyway

A wetland school network is built in five nations to promote wetland conservation and increase awareness on wetlands conservation and wise use among teachers and children in Asian, especially in East Asian and Southeast Asian regions.

Donor: Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE)

Enhancing the protection of Black-necked Crane in Dashanbao Nature Reserve of Yunnan Province through the community involvement and poverty reduction programme

The Black-necked Crane and its wintering habitat in Dashanbao, China are protected by providing local communities with alternative energy sources and by reducing human disturbances.

Donor: Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF)

Municipal governance, capacity and social responsibility in wetland biodiversity conservation: A demonstration in Anqing Municipality, Anhui Province

In the Anqing Municipality (China) a balanced approach to wetland biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction is developed to be demonstrated at provincial and national level.

Donor: European Commission

Yellow Sea Collaboration Proposal

This project analysed the strategic options of developing a regional collaborative program by China and South Korea for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and tidal flats in the Yellow Sea.

Donor: Australian Government (Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts)

Demonstration Project of Comprehensive Management Mechanism for Biodiversity Conservation in Headwaters of the Huai River Basin

Institutions and public participate extensively in creating a management mechanism for biodiversity conservation through learning from the experience of the European Union and developed countries and making a plan for biodiversity conservation for the Headwaters of the Huai River Basin (China).

Donor: European Commission



Monitoring-Site 1000 (Coastal area)

Conservation of biodiversity in China is monitored over the millennium together with Chinese environmental organisations.

Donor: Japanese Ministry of environment

Cultural values of Wetlands (Conducting Survey and Hosting Forums)

Hosting fora and symposiums, such as the forum of Cultural Values of Wetlands at the Ramsar Conference (COP10) in South Korea.

Donor: Japan Fund for Global Environment

Environmental Improvement Study on the Krikuchi Char

This study involved timber from forest thinning practices placed in levelled waters to create artificial feeding and breeding shallows, which has been monitored for efficiency.

Donor: Mitsui & Co., Ltd Environment Fund

Study Panel for the Control of *Ulva pertusa* (Sea Lettuce) in Yatsu-higata

A Study Panel for restoration and research of Yatsu-higata has been established, which is one of the last remaining tidal flats in urban Japan.

Donor: Japanese Ministry of Environment

National Seaweed and Tidal Flats Survey

A standardised methodology for the survey of tidal flat and seaweed beds is developed as part of Japan's Green Census Survey initiative.

Donor: Japanese Ministry of Environment

MOE Wise Use project

Awareness is raised and the concept of wetlands' Wise Use is promoted at conferences leading to newly-designated Japanese Ramsar Sites' certification and expansion, as well as raised public awareness through outreach.

Donor: Japanese Ministry of Environment

EAAFP

Japanese EAAFP project supports the Shorebird Site Network, the Crane Site Network and the Anatidae Site Network and development of their projects.

Donor: Japanese Ministry of Environment

International Collaboration Programme in Monitoring Site 1000 for Analysing Waterbird Migration in Asia

This programme analyses data on waterbirds (e.g. Asian Waterbird Census) to identify fluctuations in waterbird migration in Asia and its underlying causes.

Donor: Japanese Ministry of Environment

Development of Tidal Flat Survey Methodology and Guidebook

The survey method for eastern Japan was introduced through the 'Tidal Flat Survey Methodology and Guidebook' as well as through a complementary DVD.

Donor: Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund

Study for Development of tidal flat survey methodology with bio-index

This project developed a participatory survey methodology for tidal flat benthos that leads to the long-term monitoring of tidal flat sites in Japan.

Donor: Foundation of River & Watershed Environment Management

Web Site on Ramsar Site inside Japan for common use

Useful resources on the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands are provided to the public in Japan with updated information on nominated Ramsar sites and local restoration activities.

Donor: Meeting of Japanese Municipalities Involved with Wetlands Designated under the Ramsar Convention

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Green Coast II Aceh

This follow-up project in Tsunami affected areas in Aceh, Indonesia works with communities in degraded coastal areas through restoring coastal forest and marine resources, as well as improving communities' livelihoods. Moreover, it builds demonstration sites to show decision-makers the sustainable solutions to coastal ecosystem degradation.

Donor: OXFAM/Novib

Community Participation in Desa Krueng Tunoh's Coastal Wetlands restoration of Aceh Jaya District, Aceh.

The coastal wetland and Temega hill ecosystems of Krueng Tunong (Indonesia) are restored in order to improve the livelihoods of local people, reduce vulnerability to natural disasters and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Donor: Force of Nature Aid Foundation - Malaysia

Central Kalimantan Peatland Project (CKPP)

Dedicated to maintain and restore the great natural and economic values of Kalimantan's (Indonesia) tropical peatlands, the project is restoring the area and preventing huge CO₂ emissions by closing drainage canals, ending the drainage, replanting forests and developing sustainable livelihoods.

Donor: Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS)

Regional Programs for the Management of Sustainability (RPMS).

Training programmes are created focused on conflict management and demonstrate ways to discover common interests and build consensus in Indonesia.

Donor: Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS), Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV)



Berbak - Sembilang Poverty Alleviation and Wetlands (BSPA)

This demonstration project in a Sumatran (Indonesia) national park provides local people with sustainable livelihoods through improved wetland management.

Donor: Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) through WPRP

Develop capacity of Malaysia's Environmental NGOs in Integrated Water Resource Management

Empowerment of civil society, mobilisation of community action, using local knowledge and raising awareness among Malaysia's public sector for Integrated Water Resource Management.

Donor: Malaysian Environmental NGO - MENGO

Developing Community Based Mangrove Replanting and Monitoring in Sedili Kecil Mangrove, Johor

Degraded mangrove areas in Sedili Kecil are rehabilitated with community participation and support to local enterprises

Donor: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment through Forest Research Institute Malaysia

Status of peatlands in Malaysia: Its relation to CO₂ emissions and climate change

Information on the threats to peatlands and their carbon stocks is gathered and disseminated in Malaysia.

Donor: The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Thailand

Conservation & Sustainable use of the biodiversity at Sedili Kechil River Basin

The lessons learnt from Tasek Bera - Malaysia's first Ramsar site - are transferred to the Sedili Kechil River Basin.

Donor: UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme

Habitat and Biological Diversity Enhancement and Improvement

The wetlands on the golf greens of the Royal Selangor Golf Club (Malaysia) are improved.

Donor: Royal Selangor Golf Club

Asian Waterbird Census (AWC)

AWC is a regional programme under the umbrella of IWC (see GLOBAL) that promotes public participation in monitoring the distribution and populations of waterbirds and status of wetlands. It covers the region of Asia, from Afghanistan eastwards to Japan, Southeast Asia and Australasia.

Donor: Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund of Japan, The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Beijing, GAINS

Sharing experiences for improved peatland management planning and practice in South-east Asia

This is a first pilot project in Malaysia for peatland restoration that uses an integrated approach of conservation, restoration and development.

Donor: Ashden Trust.

Developing a Practical Guide on Coastal Mangrove Rehabilitation

The guidebook provides useful techniques and lessons learned from the current mangrove replanting sites in Malaysia and in neighbouring countries for local communities in mangrove restoration projects.

Donor: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment through Forest Research Institute Malaysia

A Rapid Biodiversity Assessment of the Mangrove Forests in the Proposed Tun Mustapha Park, Kudat Priority Conservation Area, Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion.

A comprehensive picture of the status of mangrove ecosystems is developed in the (proposed) Tun Mustapha Park, Kudat Priority Conservation Area, Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion in Malaysia.

Donor: WWF Malaysia

An Action Plan for the Peatlands within the Heart of Borneo (HOB) area in the context of rehabilitating degraded peatlands and reducing CO₂ emissions.

A peatland restoration plan is developed in Brunei, regional cooperation and partnerships between three countries are stimulated. Furthermore, the project builds capacity and raises government awareness for the prevention of CO₂ emissions, fires and haze.

Donor: British High Commission Kuala Lumpur

Environmental screening study of Sungai Seria & Estuary, Brunei

The Sungai Seria, Brunei and its surrounding wetlands are investigated as a first step to a more comprehensive assessment.

Donor: Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd

Supporting Community-Based Coastal Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation and the Kaper Estuary and Laem Son National Park, Ranong Province

Wise use and conservation of coastal wetlands in Thailand is stimulated for human development and biodiversity conservation.

Donor: IUCN Thailand

The Status of Peatlands in Thailand

The Thai National Wetlands Inventory is updated and measures for sustainable management of peatlands in Thailand are developed.

Donor: The Institute of Science and Technology

Wetlands and Poverty Reduction at Pattani Bay

A community coastal management plan is developed by local stakeholders and analyses wetland and poverty reduction policy at Pattani Bay, Thailand.

Donor: The Southern Border Provinces Administrative Center, Netherlands Embassy (Bangkok) and Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) through WPRP



Demonstrating Ecological Mangrove Restoration at Krabi Estuary

The mangroves at the Krabi Estuary (Thailand) wetlands are restored.

Donor: Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED) / United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)

An assessment of potential High Conservation Values in Northern Krabi Province, Thailand

Palm oil production is made more environmentally sustainable and socially responsible through cooperation with Thailand's Krabi Palm Oil Farmer Cooperatives Federation (KPOFCF) and participation in the Round Table for Sustainable Palm Oil Production (RSPO).

Donor: ProForest

Community-Based Management and restoration of coastal ecosystems at Tha Kham sub-district, Palian district, Trang province, Southern Thailand (Green Coast II)

The management of coastal ecosystems, mainly mangrove forest, in Thailand is improved through cross-sectoral development planning, and community involvement in restoration and resource-use.

Donor: OXFAM/Novib through Green Coast II

OCEANIA

Support to the 3rd Meeting of Partners of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership

The participation of developing country partners (and potential partners) is organised in the 3rd meeting of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership.

Donor: Australian Government (Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts)

Maintaining an Overview of the Ecological Character of Ramsar Sites in Australia: Development of a Rolling Review

A 'Rolling Review' mechanism is developed for ongoing reporting by site managers on the status of Australia's Ramsar sites, which provides a national overview and stimulates informed decisions on them.

Donor: Australian Government (Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts)

Developing National Migratory Waterbird Partnerships - The Philippines, Indonesia and Cambodia

Government partners of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership are assisted in developing national partnerships for migratory waterbird and wetland conservation in their countries.

Donor: Australian Government (Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts)

EAAF Secretariat

Hosting of the Secretariat for the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership.

Donor: Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea; Australian Government (Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts)

Support to NRM regional bodies

Natural resource management is improved through training and consultation at regional centres and important wetland sites in Australia.

Donor: Australian Government under the Natural Heritage Trust.

Broad Sound Coast Condition Assessment

Recommendations for investment in natural resource management are made based on research on wetland and waterbirds of the Broad Sound Basin, central Queensland, Australia.

Donor: Fitzroy Basin Association (through Central Queensland University)

National Aerial Survey

The first aerial survey of waterbirds across the Australian continent, conducted in October 2008, was designed and executed.

Donor: Australian Government (through University of New South Wales)

Technical advice on ecological character descriptions for Australian Ramsar sites

It provides technical advice to projects that are developing ecological descriptions of Ramsar Sites in Australia.

Donor: Australian Government, through State conservation agencies

Review of wetland mapping for the State of Queensland

Wetlands International Oceania provides a detailed technical review of large scale, state-wide mapping of wetlands prepared by the Queensland Government, Australia.

Donor: Queensland Environmental Protection Agency

Awareness of floodplain wetlands and waterbirds in the Channel Country

The project improved the awareness on the vast floodplain wetlands and internationally significant waterbird populations of the arid Channel Country bioregion, Lake Eyre Basin, Australia.

Donor: South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resource Management Board

Post-flood assessment of waterbird breeding in lakes of the Desert Uplands bioregion

Aerial and ground surveys were made that delivered the first documentation of breeding colonies of waterbirds in Lake Galilee (Australia) and other large wetlands of this biological region.

Donor: Queensland Environmental Protection Agency

Re-survey of changing wetlands and their waterbirds, south-western Australia

Experts are re-surveying wetlands in the south-west corner of the Australian continent where depth and salinity have consistently changed.

Donor: Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation



Broadsound Shorebird Surveys

This project conducts ground and boat surveys of migratory shorebirds in a remote intertidal system in Australia subject to coastal erosion.

Donor: Fitzroy Basin Association

Seasonal waterbird use of nationally important floodplain wetlands, Gulf Plains region

The development of management planning and ecotourism at Mutton Hole Wetlands (Australia) is supported in partnership with catchment, government and indigenous stakeholders.

Donor: Northern Gulf Resource Management Group

Review Panel for Ramsar documentation

A technical review is made by panel members of Ramsar Information Sheets and maps, and Ecological Character Descriptions for Australia's Ramsar sites.

Donor: Australian Government (Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts)

Shoalwater Assessment

This project investigates the condition of intertidal wetlands (including migratory shorebird populations), freshwater swamps and streams in the internationally important Shoalwater Bay wetlands, Australia.

Donor: Australian Government (Department of Defence)

Coastal wetlands and climate change on Fiji GEF WWF

Scientific input is provided to WWF-Fiji on adapting to and protection from climate change in mangrove and coral reef ecosystems.

Donor: WWF - Fiji

Fiji Seascapes Phase 2

This collaborative project improves the management of tropical coastal marine ecosystems, which is demonstrated at the Vatu-i-Ra and Cakau Levu Reefs in Fiji.

Donor: Wildlife Conservation Society

Samoa Fish

This project conducts a national training course on freshwater fish surveys, identification and conservation.

Donor: Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment, Samoa and JICA/MNRE Project for Enhancing Management Capacity for National Parks & National Reserves of Samoa

SOUTH ASIA

Poverty Alleviation of Communities in Mahanadi Delta through Conservation and Sustainable Use of Floodplain Wetlands

Poverty is alleviated through conservation and wise use of floodplain wetlands of the Mahanadi Delta, India.

Donor: WPRP Seed Funding Facility

Management Planning for Kolleru Lake , Andhra Pradesh

An integrated management plan for Kolleru Lake is formulated, which is a Ramsar site situated on east coast of India.

Donor: Forest Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh

Management Planning for East Kolkata Wetlands, West Bengal

An integrated management plan for East Kolkata Wetlands is formulated, which is a Ramsar site of West Bengal, India.

Donor: East Kolkata Wetland Management Authority, Government of West Bengal

Water Allocation Planning for Loktak Lake, Manipur

Water use is better harmonised between human and nature in the Loktak Lake, India.

Donor: Loktak Development Authority, Government of Manipur

Biodiversity conservation of Manipur Chindwin Corridor integrating hydrological processes and ecosystem services

This project develops strategies for conservation of critically endangered species in Manipur-Chindwin, India.

Donor: Conservation International

Support to Himalayan Initiative through application of Asian Wetland Inventory and stakeholder led catchment management in Bhutan, China, India and Nepal

The integration of wetlands into river basin management in the Hindu Kush Himalayas is realised through capacity building, policy and technical assistance.

Donor: European Union Asia Pro Eco



LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARRIBEAN

Buff-breasted Sandpiper habitat conservation in Uruguay (3rd year)

This project protects the (non-breeding) habitat of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) in Uruguay, working in partnership with Aves Uruguay, the Responsible Production Project (MGAP) and private land-owners in the surroundings of the Rocha lagoon, Uruguay.
[Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network \(WHSRN\)](#) and [National Fish & Wildlife Foundation \(NFWF\)](#)

Neotropical Waterbird Census Programme (NWC)

This long-term programme of waterbird monitoring started in 1990 and is based on simultaneous counts developed twice a year in 14 countries in South America.
[Canadian Wildlife Service \(CWS\)](#)

Neotropical Waterbird Census (NWC) database integration and mapping

The Neotropical Waterbird Census database 1990-2007 (waterbird count data from 14 countries of South America) is integrated and keysites maps for avian influenza monitoring are made.
[GAINS / Wildlife Conservation Society \(WCS\)](#) and [Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria \(INTA\)](#)

Rice fields use and threats to the Bobolink in north-eastern Argentina

The use of rice fields and threats to bobolinks (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) are investigated during the non-breeding season in central-east Santa Fe province, Argentina.
[Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act / USF&WS](#)

Workshop on Shorebird Conservation and Rice Cultivation in Northern South America

This project is aimed at the exchange of information between countries and development of guidelines for action towards 'green' rice cultivation.
[Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network \(WHSRN\)](#) and [National Fish & Wildlife Foundation \(NFWF\)](#)

Developing a Strategy for the Wise Use of Peatlands of Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

A strategy for the wise use of peatlands of Tierra del Fuego is developed, working in partnership with Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN), the National Ramsar Focal Point, the local government and other local actors.
[Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs \(DGIS\)](#) through [Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Project \(WPRP\)](#)

Ruddy-headed geese in Danger: Population status and conservation actions in Argentina and Chile

The conservation of the Ruddy-headed Goose (*Chloephaga rubidiceps*) population on mainland-Tierra del Fuego is improved through actions in Argentina and Chile.
[Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals \(CMS\)](#)

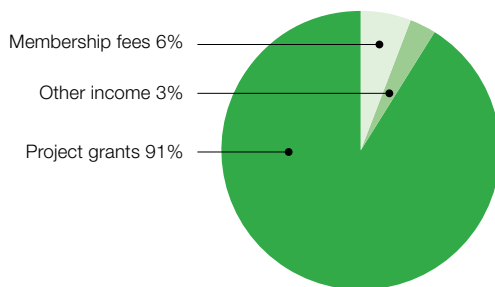
Financial Report of the Management Board

Global Financial Overview

During 2008 the total worldwide income through all offices - corrected for inter-office transfers - increased by 33% to € 14.7 million (2007: € 11.0M). This comprised project income of € 13.3M (2007: € 10.1M), Membership income of € 0.5M (2007: € 0.5M) and other income including interest and foreign exchange results of € 0.9M (2007: € 0.4M). Of the project income, headquarters raised 66 %, the other offices 34 %. The membership income of the Association Wetlands International, generated by approximately 30 member countries and NGOs active in international wetlands conservation, remained stable at € 0.5M.

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.

Chart 1.
Global income
by category



Expenditure

As in previous years the implementation a substantial part of major projects secured through headquarters was sub-contracted to Wetlands International Regional Offices. In Chart 2 these are included in the regional figures. In addition, external partner organisations execute parts of these projects. Chart 2 also shows the successful project development by Wetlands International Japan.

Financial Statements of the Foundation and the Association

A summary of key financial data of the Foundation and Association combined is provided as Table 1. Total project income for the Foundation was Euro 8,799 k, an increase of 3% on 2007. Because of the positive project results in combination with subsidies received to cover operational costs such as the relocation of headquarters, no contribution from the Association's membership fees was needed in 2008 to cover Foundation operating costs. Instead the very minimal reserve could be supplemented. The full audited Report and Financial Statements of the Association and the Foundation are available from the headquarters office.

Outlook for 2008

The on-going longer-term projects will be used as a basis to generate new projects, at headquarters and increasingly in the other offices. We will continue to execute these projects in collaboration with the many partners we have globally. We expect to maintain the healthy financial situation based on an efficient execution of the project portfolio and to use this situation to invest in building both the organisational strength and a responsible reserve in the organisation. In respect of future planning, the review of the Strategic Intent will be an important activity in 2010.

Jane Madgwick, CEO Wetlands International

Chart 2.
Project expenditure
by region

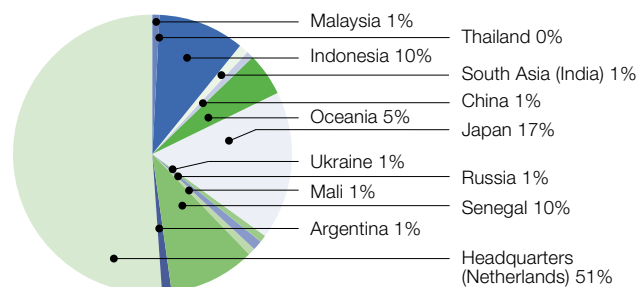


Table 1.
Combined summary of income and expenditure for Association and Foundation 2008

All amounts in thousand €

	2008	2008	2007
	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME			
Project income	8.799	8.229	8.537
Membership fees	516	510	525
Contribution from restructuring fund	0	0	10
Other income	82	70	49
Total income	9.397	8.809	9.121
EXPENDITURE			
Project costs	7.325	7.413	7.863
Operational costs	1.375	1.345	1.058
Surplus transferred to reserves	697	51	200
Total expenditure	9.397	8.809	9.121

Summarised financial statement

All amounts in thousand €

	Balance at 31 December 2008 Actual	Balance at 31 December 2007 Actual
ASSETS		
Fixed assets		
Computers and office equipment	370	14
Current assets		
Cash and bank	2.352	1.741
Deferred project costs	2.794	116
Receivables	366	255
Total Assets	5.852	2.126
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES		
Current liabilities		
Deferred project income	3.520	1.288
Creditors and accruals	1.324	516
Membership dues paid in advance	24	36
Reserves		
General reserve	984	286
Total liabilities and reserves	5.852	2.126

Table 2.
Combined summary balance sheet for Association and Foundation 2008

Publications 2008

ENGLISH

Invisible Connections: Why migrating shorebirds need the Yellow Sea

Van de Kam, J., P.F. Battley, B.J. McCaffery, D.I. Rogers, Jae-Sang
ISBN 978-90-5882-009-9
Obtainable from: Wetlands
International Headquarters,
www.wetlands.org

Biorights in Theory and Practice: A financing mechanism for linking poverty alleviation and environmental conservation

Pieter van Eijk, Ritesh Kumar
Obtainable from: Wetlands
International Headquarters,
www.wetlands.org

Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Integrating Ecosystem Conservation and Poverty Reduction Objectives in Wetlands

Sonali Senaratna Sellamuttu, Sanjiv de Silva, Sophie Nguyen Khoa and Jayampathy Samarakoon
ISBN 978-92-9090-695-7
Obtainable from: Wetlands
International Headquarters,
www.wetlands.org

Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People: Report on the Shoaxing City Symposium

Mike Ounsted, Jane Madgwick (eds.)
Obtainable from: Wetlands
International Headquarters,
www.wetlands.org

Biofuels in Africa - An assessment of risks and benefits for African wetlands

Sven Sielhorst, Jan Willem Molenaar, Don Offermans
Obtainable from: Wetlands
International Headquarters,
www.wetlands.org

Fact book for UN-FCCC policies on peat carbon emissions

Alex Kaat, Hans Joosten
Obtainable from: Wetlands
International Headquarters,
www.wetlands.org

Best Practice Guidelines on Restoration of Mangroves in Tsunami Affected Areas

Green Coast Project
Obtainable from: Wetlands
International Indonesia,
www.wetlands.org

Integration of High Altitude Wetlands into River Basin Management in the Hindu Kush Himalayas: Capacity Building Needs Assessment for Policy and Technical Support.

C.L. Trisal and Ritesh Kumar
ISBN 81-87408-04-9
Obtainable from: Wetlands
International South Asia

Migratory Shorebirds of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway:

Population Estimates and Internationally Important Sites
Bamford M., Watkins D., Bancroft W., Tischler G. and J. Wahl
ISBN 9789058820082
Obtainable from: Wetlands
International - Oceania. Canberra, Australia

Loktak Volume 4 (Special Issue on Water Management)

Wetlands International - South Asia,
Loktak Development Authority
Obtainable from: WISA Office

CHINESE

China Wetlands Encyclopedia

Chen Kelin, Lu Xianguo, Lu Jianjian etc.
ISBN 978-7-5304-3797-1/P.004
Obtainable from: Wetlands
International China

FRENCH

Effectifs et distribution des oiseaux d'eau en Afrique / Numbers & Distribution of Waterbirds in Africa (French & English)

Cheikh Hamallah Diagana, Tim Dodman
ISBN 90-5882-035-1, 978-90-5882-035-8

Obtainable from: Wetlands
International Africa,
afrique.wetlands.org

Niger Basin Atlas. Atlas du Bassin du Niger (French & English)

Aboubacar Awais & Sarah Humphrey
Obtainable from: WWF Niger /
Wetlands International Africa,
afrique.wetlands.org

Mieux connaître le Lamantin ouest africain Trichechus senegalensis

Wetlands International Africa / PRCM
Obtainable from: Wetlands
International Africa

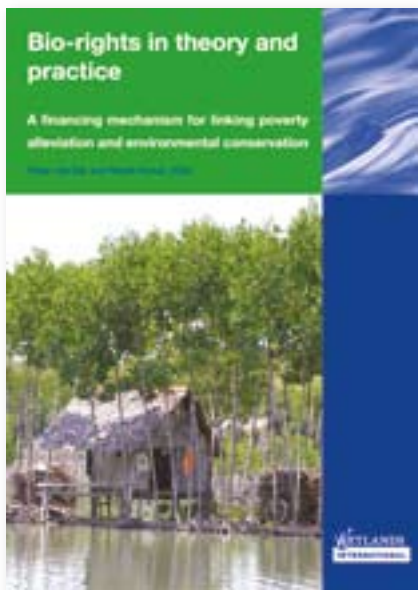
Les zones humides et les biocarburants au Sénégal

Pape Mawade Wade
Obtainable from: Wetlands
International Africa

Les biocarburants et les zones humides: une évaluation des risques et des avantages pour les zones humides d'Afrique

Sven Sielhorst, Jan Willem Molenaar, Don Offermans
Obtainable from: Wetlands
International Headquarters & Africa,
afrique.wetlands.org





INDONESIAN

Ekosistem Laguna Teluk Belukar: serta aspek sosial ekonomi masyarakat di Ds. Teluk Belukar, Kec. Gunungsitoli Utara, Kab. Nias, Provinsi Sumatera Utara (Laporan Teknis)

Ferry Hasudungan
Obtainable from: Wetlands International Indonesia Programme, www.wetlands.or.id

Panduan Burung Liar dan Flu Burung: Pengantar riset lapangan terapan dan teknik pengambilan contoh penyakit

Darrell Whitworth et al.
ISBN 978-979-16412-10, 1810-1119
Obtainable from: Wetlands International Indonesia Programme, www.wetlands.or.id

Tanya & Jawab: Seputar Gambut di Asia Tenggara, Khususnya di Indonesia (Buku saku)

Yus R. Noor, et. al.
Obtainable from: Wetlands International Indonesia Programme, www.wetlands.or.id

JAPANESE

Wetlands' - Culture and traditional practices

Wetlands International Japan
ISBN 978-4-9904238-3-4
Obtainable from: Wetlands International Japan

Tidal Flat Survey Methodology and Guidebook for Eastern Japan

Wetlands International Japan
ISBN 978-4-9904238-1-0
Obtainable from: Wetlands International Japan

RUSSIAN

Wetlands in the Moscow Region: natural, economic, historical and cultural aspects

Kamennova, I.E., Minaeva, T.Yu. & Rotshild, E.V. (Eds.)
ISBN 978-5-87317-545-1
Obtainable from: Wetlands International Russia, russia.wetlands.org

Vinogradovskaya Floodplain

Mischenko, A.
Obtainable from: Wetlands International Russia, russia.wetlands.org

SPANISH

Ecología no reproductiva y conservación del Charlatán (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) en el noreste de Argentina - Non-reproductive ecology and conservation of Bobolinks (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) in north-eastern Argentina

Daniel E. Blanco, Bernabé López-Lanús
ISBN 978-987-24710-0-2
Obtainable from: LAC office, lac.wetlands.org, www.wetlands.org

THAI

Policy, legal and institutional framework governing wetland resources at Pattani Bay

Parinya Bantito
Obtainable from: Wetlands International Thailand

UKRAINIAN

Biodiversity conservation, Econet Development and Integrated River Basin Management: Handbook for teachers and environmental NGOs

G.Kobenyok, O.Zakorko, G.Marushevskiy
Obtainable from: Wetlands International Black Sea office, www.wetlands.org, blacksearegion.wetlands.org

Biodiversity Conservation and Econet Development: Information handbook

G.Marushevskiy, V.Melnychuck, V.Kostyushin
Obtainable from: Wetlands International Black Sea office, www.wetlands.org, blacksearegion.wetlands.org

Dnipro River Ecological Corridor

Wetlands International Black Sea Programme
Obtainable from: Wetlands International Black Sea office, www.wetlands.org, blacksearegion.wetlands.org



Wetlands International's Specialist Groups

Core to Wetlands International's information gathering, analysis and transformation into knowledge is its network of voluntary experts. This forms the basis for the organisation's advice to governments and for communicating important challenges. As formal or informal networks of experts, the Specialist Groups provide information and advice in support of Wetlands International's programmes and projects.

Specialist Groups' contributions

The Specialist Groups have provided invaluable input on numerous occasions in 2008. The main contributions we can mention over this past year were the development and the fine-tuning of species' flyway maps, the establishing of an early warning system for avian influenza throughout the African Eurasian Flyway; the publishing of a book on the importance of the Yellow Sea for migratory birds, but also producing the Wader Atlas (see below). The year 2009 presents several opportunities especially for the Fresh Water Fish Specialist Group.

There are currently 20 Specialist Groups divided into fourteen for waterbird taxa, five thematic groups and one freshwater fish group, involving over 2,000 people overall. The Specialist Groups' focal point within Wetlands International is Mr. Nicolas Tubbs: nicolas.tubbs@wetlands.org. For more information, see www.wetlands.org/specialistgroups.

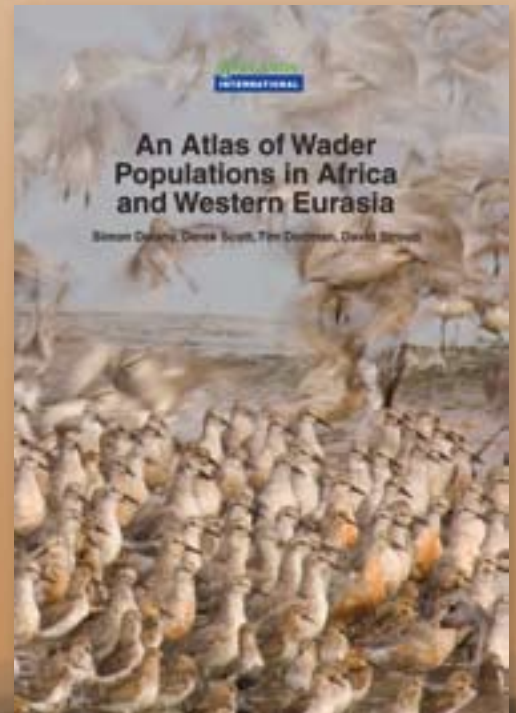
The Wader Atlas

An Atlas of Wader Populations in Africa and Western Eurasia

The Wader Atlas is a clear example of how specialist groups work within our global organisation. Only with the data and analyses of the Wader Study Group, this atlas could be produced. The result is a milestone publication presenting all the current knowledge of the numbers, distribution and movements of waders in the Africa-Western Eurasia region.

Built on ten years of study, the Wader Atlas is a beautifully illustrated book, providing trends, maps and detailed information on these remarkable groups of birds.

For more information and how to order go to: www.wetlands.org/waderatlas.



Wetlands for adapting to climate change

Many types of wetlands contribute greatly to our resilience to the various impacts of climate change. Based on years of research, Wetlands International works in the field and at the policy level to maintain and improve this important function of wetlands in adapting to climate change.

In different ways wetlands attenuate the impacts of climate change. Marshes and lakes store more water than any other ecosystem; they are increasingly crucial to store excessive water caused by less predictable and more extreme precipitation and by melting glaciers. Coastal wetlands like mangrove forests can reduce the impacts of waves and storms. Furthermore, they can cope to some extent with sea level rise by accumulating silt and prevent erosion.

Our organisation has built its expertise through field projects in coastal, mountain and arid regions that proved how wetlands in attenuating extreme precipitation, glacier melt and of coastal storms. One of the many examples is the GreenCoast approach, that effectively restored mangroves and improved livelihoods of people in Tsunami-affected areas in five countries in Southeast Asia (see page 4 and www.greencoasts.org).

Nevertheless, many government plans aimed at adapting to climate change such as building dams, reservoirs and levees to control river run off do not consider the associated impacts on vulnerable communities and ecosystems. These inappropriately designed approaches can actually lead to the loss of many wetland areas and their services. To prevent this, Wetlands International works on the influencing of policies at the global and national level.

International conferences

In 2008, Wetlands International demonstrated its field work during side events at international conferences, as well as through films on the web and other materials (see www.wetlands.org/adaptation). This contributed to the recognition of the importance of wetlands for adaptation to climate change in Decision IX/16 of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the inclusion of

wetlands in national adaptation policies in Ramsar Convention Resolution (X-24). Furthermore, Wetlands International will continue its advocacy at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and build partnerships that help amplify our message and vision on this topic.

National adaptation policies

On the national level, we continue to engage in dialogue with southern civil society organisations on the status of adaptation issues. Furthermore, our organisation supports these NGOs in efforts to make wetlands an important part of national climate change adaptation planning. Also, we assist governments mainly in the global South through capacity building of officials and advice on the potential of using and strengthening the adaptive role of a country's wetlands.

Expanding science base

Moreover, Wetlands International works to expand its science base on the role of various wetlands in attenuating the range of expected impacts of climate change. Therefore, our organisation implements a global series of field and research projects. For example:

In China (Ruoergai) and India, (Jhelum Basin, Kashmir) the role of wetlands in accommodating to glacial melt and regulating water flows is assessed. In Ecuador, Peru and Colombia, investigation is focused on how high altitude wetlands like Páramos reduce the impacts of climate change (melting glaciers, changing precipitation). In West Africa and in Indonesia the potential of mangrove coasts for protection against extreme storms and sea level rise is further investigated.

In Mali the role of the floodplains of the Inner Niger Delta in regulating extreme river flows is demonstrated. Also, how it continuously provides sufficient water to people in this arid region, even when rainfall becomes less predictable and evaporation will rise. In Senegal, we will look at the impacts of higher temperatures on the arid and semi-arid regions and the role of natural and artificial wetlands (reservoirs) to attenuate these impacts.

These planted mangrove seedlings will grow into a coastal forest protecting the village of Grong-grong Capah in the District of Pidie, Aceh Province, Indonesia.
Photo: Muhammad Ilman.



Supervisory Council's visit to the Central Kalimantan Peatlands Project in Indonesia

The members of the Supervisory Council of Wetlands International visited the field project in the peatlands of Central Kalimantan, Indonesia on the occasion of their 36th meeting in November 2008. This Central Kalimantan Peatlands Projects (CKPP) is headed by Wetlands International working in partnership with several partners, such as WWF Indonesia and the University of Palangka Raya. Myself and my colleagues of the Council took a closer look at the project, which restores the degraded peatlands and peat swamp forests, and protects the remaining ones in Mawas and Sebangau.

When visiting the project site, we were well informed on the causes of the degradation of the peat forests and swamp. These causes are conversion into agricultural land (such as by the failed Mega Rice Project), legal and illegal logging using big transportation canals that lower the groundwater level or dry the peat swamp, and fires from the ecological sensitivity caused by all the above.

Exploring the Indonesian peat swamp in the project's fast motor boat, we first arrived at a field station of partner WWF-Indonesia. The station is used to block the drainage canals and reforest the area, which started in 2005. Blocking canals is the way to lift the water table, particularly in the dry season, and to re-wet the peat soil preventing it from burning. The reforestation program analysed the best tree species to plant, created nurseries for them and finally planted them in the area. The strategy of canal blockings and re-planting has shown its effectiveness: the project area has been untouched by fires since 2006, even though the surrounding areas did suffer burning. Moving on, the motor boat took us to the second site crossing the swamps. There we saw how the



local communities are involved. With support from the University of Palangka Raya, many workshops and training courses have been organised to make local people more aware of the causes and impacts of peatland degradation. The project also established community-based fire brigades in different villages, and developed an early warning system for quick reaction by these brigades. Their members are trained and equipped with communication tools and fire fighting equipment, such as water pumps.

Personally, I was quite impressed by two specific aspects of the project. First of all, the project uses scientific knowledge in, for example, hydrological restoration, such as canal blocking (dams) and choosing proper indigenous peat swamp tree species for reforestation. Moreover, the local population is very much involved and participate enthusiastically. The project creates great incentives, in particular using tree species with commercial value for reforestation - and the community members are stimulated to further re-planting. Another great example are the well-equipped community-based fire brigades that actively fight the peat fires. Finally, the project takes its work to a higher level through the cooperation with communities, local as well as central governments, researchers, and NGOs.

For more information see www.ckpp.org.

Supervisory Council members visiting the Central Kalimantan Peatlands Project (CKPP) sites in Borneo, Indonesia. Photo: Marcel Silvius.

Alue Dohong (Wetlands International Central Kalimantan office) introduces the members of a community fire brigade equipped and trained by the project to the Supervisory Council members. Photo: Marcel Silvius.



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Wetlands International goes climate neutral

Wetlands International is reducing the ecological footprint of its work with the aim of becoming a completely climate neutral organisation. Therefore, the Environmental Footprint Group (EFG) dedicated to the task of making Wetlands International climate neutral has started to offset its flight emissions.

Starting with the headquarters, it has signed the agreement to offset all emissions of flights booked by its staff according to the Gold Standard. The Climate Neutral Group will organise the offsetting programme by investing in alternative energies (wind energy) of an amount equal to the emissions of flying. The estimated annual emissions of between 550 and 600 tonnes carbon dioxide are now compensated through additional wind farm capacity in Asia for a price of €15 per tonne.

Furthermore, Wetlands International will expand the compensation to other emissions and other parts of the global organisation as soon as administratively feasible. This is only the start of the effort to reduce our footprint. Our ambition is not only to compensate but to prevent emissions and also other environmental impacts. This is materialised in another ambition for 2009: to reduce the emissions by for instance investing in teleconferencing and a policy to promote the use of alternatives for flying.

Moreover, we want to increase the environmental sustainable/friendly operation of our offices and give more visibility to this; for instance by a standard sustainability report in the Annual Review.



Wetlands International headquarters senior staff and heads of the other offices in front of the new building in Ede, The Netherlands.



Donors

Wetlands International wishes to thank the following donors
for their contributions to our projects:

Intergovernmental organisations

African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)
European Commission
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Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Ramsar / Wetlands for the Future
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - India Programme
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Argentina: Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA)
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Thailand: Institute of Science and Technology
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Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network / NFWF
Wildlife Conservation Society
World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF - Global, Malaysia, Fiji)

Mission:

To sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity for future generations.

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