

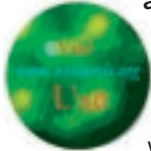
## An International, National and Local Approach

Wetlands International is a global organisation. Our expertise enables us, in collaboration with our partners, to anticipate and propose new actions at a strategic level to deliver innovative conservation actions and results. Demonstrations include the Global Peatland Initiative, the Niger Basin Initiative and the Asian Wetland Inventory.

The balance between the work done at international, national and local level is outlined in this review. Close collaboration with our major Partners and with members assist us in determining and maintaining this balance. Examples of our international, national and local activities include:

- *International with specific regional targeting:* expert input to technical panels of Conventions; coordination of waterbird monitoring; technical support to and coordination of flyway Agreements (e.g. AEWA); Ramsar Database Service; strategic wetland inventory (e.g. Asian Wetland Inventory).
- *National:* drafting national wetland policies and strategies; inventory; enabling waterbird monitoring; technical support at regional level to Convention Focal Points; pilot projects and enabling national capacity building; transboundary catchment management planning.
- *Local:* sustainable use demonstration projects; catalytic capacity building in key Ramsar Sites and other key wetland areas; wetland restoration; public education and outreach.

The targeting of our work is determined by user needs and by applying agreed criteria which reflect the core objectives of Wetlands international



**Wetlands International launched its third edition (global) website in November 2001 under the new web address (domain) [www.wetlands.org](http://www.wetlands.org).** Like our organization in microcosm, the website has gone through a number of iterations, but now we're settling down and getting down to business. First of all, we're consolidating. All three previous regional websites and the previous global site are being merged to provide a truly global source of information. Not only is it the place to find out about Wetlands International, but increasingly as it should, it is becoming a major source of information on wetlands. From wetland inventory, Ramsar sites, peatlands, and waterbirds, to sustainable use and the values and functions of wetlands, and more, we intend to cover it. Visit, bookmark and use: [www.wetlands.org](http://www.wetlands.org).

For more information contact:

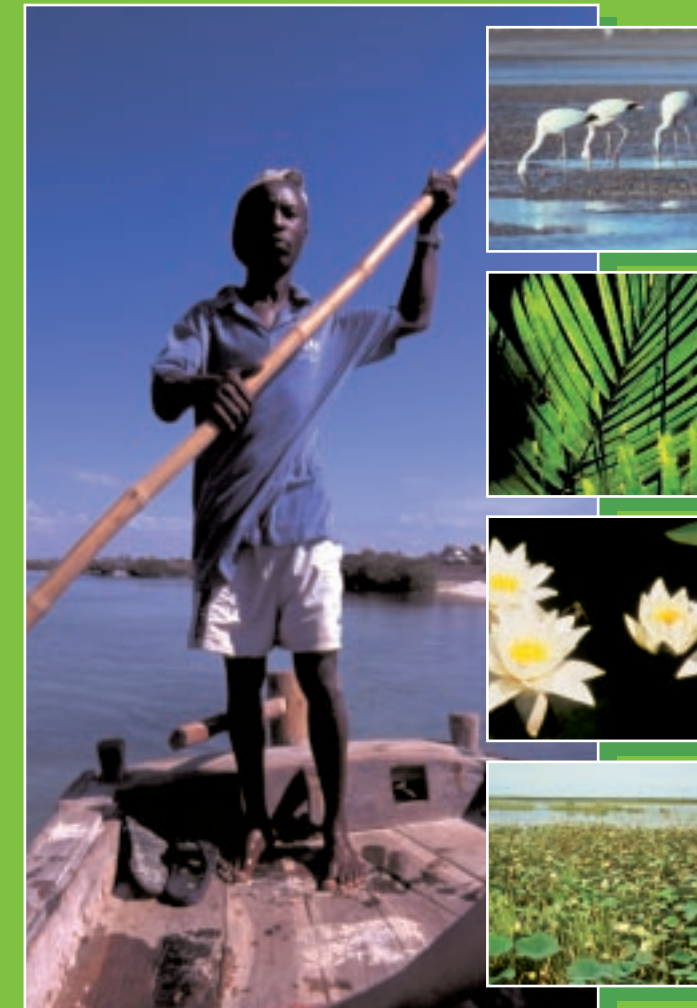


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# Wetlands International

## Annual Review 2001



## Member Countries

Albania  
Algeria  
Argentina  
Australia  
Austria  
Bangladesh  
Belarus  
Belgium  
Bénin  
Brazil  
Bulgaria  
Canada  
China, P.R.  
Croatia  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Ecuador  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
The Gambia  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
Guinea, Republic de  
Hungary  
India  
Indonesia  
Iran, Islamic Rep.  
Ireland  
Italy  
Japan  
Kazakhstan  
Kenya  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Macedonia, FYR  
Mauritania  
Mexico  
The Netherlands  
Norway  
Pakistan  
Peru  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Senegal  
Slovak Republic  
Slovenia  
South Africa  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Togo  
Tunisia  
Ukraine  
United Kingdom  
United States of America

# Wetlands International

Wetlands International is a wetland conservation organisation, with offices in 16 countries and over 40 years' experience in wetland conservation activities. Its mission is to sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and bio-diversity for future generations through research, information exchange, and conservation activities worldwide.

A major part of the activities of Wetlands International focuses on raising awareness through publications, the internet ([www.wetlands.org](http://www.wetlands.org)) and other media. This means targeting policy developers and decision-makers in particular, and then assisting in policy building, capacity building, and training.

As millions of people depend on the continued existence of wetlands, and ignorance of their importance is still leading to world-wide depletion, it is in everybody's interests that as much sound scientific information as possible is made available. This not only serves as a basis for developing national and international policies but also provides detailed technical information that can be used at the community level to support conservation activities such as wetland restoration. Wetlands International not only provides valuable information, it also assists on a practical level by providing training programmes and helping to implement and manage the projects that are developed. This extensive work can only be carried out in partnership with other organisations.

## Office locations



## Board of Directors Elected in 2001

Ernesto Eduardo Briones, Ecuador  
Kevin Erwin, United States of America  
Max Finlayson (President), Australia  
Chris Gordon, Ghana  
Munjurul H. Khan, Bangladesh  
Daizaburo Kuroda, Japan  
James Kushlan, United States of America  
Stew Morrison (Chair of the Board of Directors), Bahamas/Canada  
Luis Naranjo, Colombia  
Stefan Pihl, Denmark

Christine Prietto, Australia  
Dave Pritchard, United Kingdom  
Jin Puchun, P.R. China  
Victor Pulido, Peru  
Alison Russell French, Australia  
Jean-Paul Taris, France  
Tatsuichi Tsujii, Japan  
Gerald van Voorst, Netherlands  
Giuseppe Raaphorst, Permanent Observer of the Host Country, Netherlands

## From the President

Welcome to this 2001 review of Wetlands International activities around the globe.

We should all recognise that 2001 was a watershed year for Wetlands International. We have demonstrated that we are a mature organisation and able to assess our strengths and weaknesses and take major decisions to ensure our relevance in a rapidly changing world. We have developed a new program structure that builds on our past successes and recognises the need for change.

These changes are far-reaching and are intended to focus our efforts. We have refined our strategic vision; this is an important step and we intend to promote this further. The strategic vision provides a base for addressing the challenges and opportunities that we face. Our organizational changes provide the mechanisms to support these efforts and ensure that our staff are fully engaged and valued.

We have reaffirmed the importance of the Board of Members and the Specialist Groups. We have also reaffirmed our commitment to addressing globally relevant wetland conservation and management issues with an emphasis on science and the delivery of results.

Some people may lament the changes. We have many past successes and we are proud of these. However, we need to ensure that the future provides us with more opportunities. In making these changes we have agreed that it is not business as usual.

To ensure that our new vision and operating procedures are effective we need to support our staff in offices around the world. The work done by our staff will ensure that Wetlands International remains relevant. Therefore, we need to look forward in unison with our staff. Whilst we look forward let us also look back and recognise the effort of our staff - without their input and support we would not have been able to make these necessary changes.

Thank you and I look forward to working with you all as we put our words into practice.

**Max Finlayson**  
President



## 3rd Board of Members Meeting 29 November-2 December 2001

Almost 200 wetland experts from 50 countries gathered in Wageningen, The Netherlands to review the operational development of Wetlands International and adopt a new strategy, governance and executive structure that will serve the organization for at least the next 10 years. Significant changes to the governance and executive structures were agreed at the meeting and are now being implemented. These include:

1. The Board of Members will be re-constituted to allow this body to become the ultimate strategic and programmatic decision making group. The Board of Members will determine overall global policy and strategy, and set the level of annual membership dues.
2. The Board of Members will elect the Board of Directors to represent and manage the organisation. The Board of Directors will be mandated by the Board of Members to appoint new members. The Board of Directors will be the body that is legally responsible for Wetlands International.
3. Regional Councils of The Americas, Africa Europe Middle East and Asia Pacific will close their operational legal status and governance and day to day management responsibility will be transferred to the Board of Directors.
4. Through the International Director all Wetlands International staff will now be accountable to the Board of Members through the Board of Directors.

Chris Kalden was appointed as President of the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau in 1992 in St Petersburg Florida and after 9 years of dedicated service to both IWRB and Wetlands International Chris has handed over the reigns of President to Max Finlayson.



Chris played a major role in the creation of Wetlands International in 1995 and in the past 2 years he has provided the leadership, drive and energy to persuade the many different stakeholder groups that governance and executive change was vital for the future success of the organization. This has taken hard work, dedication and courage and the decisions taken at the Board of Members meeting are a fitting tribute to his excellent negotiation skills and sense of the achievable. Chris's commitment to wetlands conservation will ensure that he keeps close contacts with Wetlands International. On behalf of the Wetlands International network we wish him all the best in the future.

# Global Programmes

## Global Strategy 2002-2005

An overall global strategy was prepared and submitted to the Board of Members meeting in November 2001. The strategy will be finalised in early 2002 with four Programme Action Plans dealing with Biodiversity (species including all the waterbird related work), Wetland Resources and Inventory, Capacity Building and Wise Use.

### Waterbird Monitoring

The monitoring of waterbird populations is one of Wetlands International's key areas of work. Among a wide range of activities highlights included:

- Continued development and finalisation of a standard global database for data storage and handling
- A Memorandum of Understanding concluded with Patuxent Wildlife Research Centre of the US Geological Survey to stimulate a number of co-operative activities including the exchange of waterbird census data and working towards the compatibility of databases
- An overview was published, funded by Ducks Unlimited USA, summarising data from ten years of waterbird censuses in South America



### Flyways

#### American Pacific Flyway Project

An outline was published for this project, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS/DML). The project focuses on integrated conservation and management of the migratory waterbirds in Central America and along the Pacific Coast of South America. In July 2001 the draft proposal was discussed and welcomed at a workshop organised by the USFWS. The proposal will, in the first half of 2002, be redrafted and submitted for funding.

#### African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement; AEWA/GEF PDF B project and Central Asian Indian Flyway

Wetlands International prepared the draft AEWA Conservation Guidelines and is working on the Conservation Status update. Reviews of training, communications and best practices have been undertaken. Proposals for eleven demonstration projects across the whole African/Eurasian area have been developed. A workshop addressing the issues involved in developing a network of critical sites for migratory waterbirds was held in Wageningen, in June.

Two Outreach workshops for the AEWA/GEF project were held in Bahrain in January (Arabic States) and in Uzbekistan in August (Central Asian States). The last workshop coincided with the first meeting of representatives of the Range States of the Central Asian Indian Flyway



### Support to conventions

#### Bonn Convention on Migratory Species

Wetlands International participated in the Scientific Council meeting. The aims and objectives of CMS were presented with respect to global flyway conservation at the North American Ducks Unlimited International Conference on waterfowl.



#### Convention on Biological Diversity

The principal work was co-leadership of the CBD / Ramsar River Basin Initiative first Technical Design Workshop (Wageningen, April 2001), led by the Global Environment Centre and the Ramsar Bureau. WI also contributed to the planning of the Joint Programme of Work for Biodiversity of Inland Waters - a CBD / Ramsar joint activity which leads into the SBSTTA meetings in late 2002.



#### Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Wetlands International continues to maintain the Ramsar Sites Database and the associated Directory of Wetlands of International Importance (see [http://www.wetlands.org/RDB/ramsar\\_sites\\_dir.html](http://www.wetlands.org/RDB/ramsar_sites_dir.html)), as a contracted service to the Convention Bureau. Considerable work was contributed to the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), including Guidelines on designation of under-represented wetland types (Peatland and Wet Grassland). WI also acts as one of two focal points for Millennium Ecosystem Assessment matters (the other being the Chair of the WI Inventory and Monitoring Specialist Group).



#### Lead poisoning in waterbirds

Wetlands International published the third update report on this important issue. It compiles information from over 70 countries and organisations on the issue of lead poisoning in waterbirds and the policies towards the use of alternatives such as steel shot.



### Global Peatland Initiative

The Global Peatland Initiative (GPI) started in April with seed funding (Euro 707,000) from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS/DML). The GPI is managed by a Steering Committee involving Wetlands International, Alterra, International Peat Society (IPS), International Mires Conservation Group (IMCG) and IUCN-Netherlands Committee.

The programme's aim is to support and enhance the participation of countries in transition and developing countries in international conservation and wise use of peatlands. The GPI supports and

complements the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GAP) currently under development by Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP).

At the end of 2001, 22 projects totalling Euro 700,000 had been awarded under the GPI, including peatland inventory projects in South America and Southern Africa, Peatland management oriented projects in Indonesia, Thailand and Russia, peatland restoration projects in Belarus, and other projects focussed on data gathering for climate stability and feeding results into the Ramsar and CBD Convention processes.

For more information please go to <http://www.wetlands.org/projects/GPI/>

### Netherlands assisted (DGIS) Global Programme on Wise Use of Wetlands

The DGIS (Directorate-General for International Cooperation) provided approximately 2.5 million Euro, under a programme fund Agreement, to Wetlands International, to be completed by June 2002. The Agreement included funds earmarked for the Global Peatland Initiative, reported in more detail elsewhere in this Report. At the time of writing, the majority of approved activities were in the initial stage of implementation, and agreement holders have not yet submitted the first technical reports, mostly due from March onwards. Some results have already been delivered, including the successful Ramsar Convention / Convention on Biological Diversity River Basin Initiative Technical Design Workshop, held in Wageningen in April 2001.

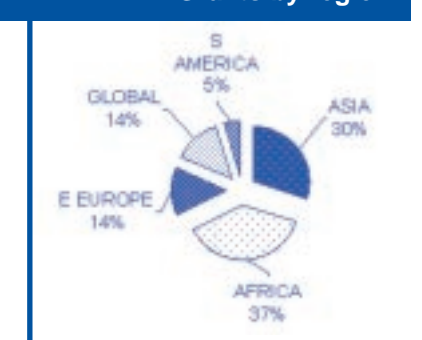
A total of 36 grant agreements were made, of which 8 were implemented by Wetlands International offices. Allowing an open process of application by any competent organisation to Wetlands International was a good way of getting quality ideas and activities funded. This distribution emphasises the very strong partnership established between WI and other appropriate organisations, and fulfils the expectations that DGIS funds would enable WI to deliver results in active association with major NGO partners and others.

Wetlands International (and major Partners) have learnt a great deal from this novel relationship with a major donor. The key benefits have been better focused collaboration with our partners and a series of results (to be achieved mainly in 2002) that strengthen our ability to address poverty alleviation through sustainable partnerships. For further information see our website.

#### Distribution of projects

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Asia                        | 2 |
| Baltics                     | 1 |
| Belarus                     | 3 |
| Bulgaria                    | 1 |
| China                       | 1 |
| East Africa                 | 1 |
| Ecuador/South America       | 1 |
| Europe                      | 1 |
| Global                      | 9 |
| Indonesia                   | 2 |
| Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia | 1 |
| Malaysia                    | 1 |
| Poland                      | 2 |
| Russia                      | 2 |
| Slovak Republic             | 1 |
| Southern Africa             | 2 |
| Thailand                    | 1 |
| Venezuela                   | 1 |
| West Africa                 | 1 |
| Zambia                      | 1 |

#### Grants by region



## The International Waterbird Census in the Western Palearctic and Southwest Asia in 2001

2001 was a year of consolidation for the International Waterbird Census in the region coordinated from the Wageningen office. Funding was secured which has enabled us to complete the long-awaited data management upgrade in early 2002. Data from 50 countries were collated in the first phase of production of a report on IWC in the region in the years 1997, 98 and 99, and another successful fund-raising effort allowed work to resume on the global Waterbird Population Estimates publication.

The annual Census took place as usual in January and early indications are that excellent coverage was achieved. Counts took place in Egypt for the first time in over 10 years and the census was carried out in Lebanon for the first time. Many countries had submitted high-quality data from January 2002 by the end of the year.

A feasibility study on the so-called Gap-filling Census was published, exploring the possibility of greatly extending coverage by IWC in the region in one season to gain an idea of the number of waterbirds which are missed in years of normal census effort. The report provides a framework for such a census in the future, but the high cost of this work reduces its level of priority for the time being.

Results from IWC were reported at a number of meetings, notably the European Ornithologists' Union Conference in Groningen in August 2001, and at a workshop in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, promoting work at a flyway level in the Central Asian-Indian flyway.

Finally, links with BirdLife International's Important Bird Areas (IBA) project were initiated through the AEWA GEF African-Eurasian Flyways project.



# AFRICA

Africa is a focal area for development for Wetlands International, and 2001 was a year in which a number of new initiatives were discussed and proposals put together, with a view to their further development and launch in 2002. These included:

- Joint wetland programme with the Direction des Parcs Nationaux, Senegal
- Joint wetland programme with INIDA, Cape Verde
- A community wetlands project covering Senegal, Mali and Guinea-Bissau
- A major new programme - the Niger Basin Initiative
- New initiatives for conserving the Black Crowned Crane and Black Stork
- A joint proposal for the wetlands of western Madagascar
- East Africa programme developments
- Supporting national networks in carrying out the African Waterbird Census
- Recruitment of a Junior Expert from The Netherlands to work on West Africa Programme Development in 2002

However, 2001 was also a year of project implementation, especially in West Africa, where several exciting initiatives are underway, including:

## West Africa sub-regional capacity-building project

- This major project is in its last year, so a number of training materials, reports and other outputs were worked on for publication in 2002, including a Wetland Education and Public Awareness Strategy for West Africa
- A wide range of field surveys and training courses were supported in early 2001, including the first wetland training course for Liberia



## Wetland and waterbird project, Guinea-Bissau

- A complete waterbird survey was carried out in the Bijagos Archipelago in January 2001, plus a field training programme and a range of site surveys



## Inner Niger Delta project, Mali

- Environmental awareness tools, including booklets and T-shirts, developed for primary schools and women's groups, and a booklet on bird migration, which explains the importance of the delta on an international scale
- Training course in data quality enhancement for national waterbird census network
- Selection of sites (flooded forests, flooded pastures, ponds) for implementing management plans, using land use mapping of natural resources
- Studies on the exploitation and marketing of waterbirds and other fauna have resulted in drawing up of action plans in favour of some species
- Maps realised from satellite images for high and weak floods have shown correlations between flood level and the inundation area of the delta
- Studies on impact of upstream dams have shown some negative effects on fish production
- Monthly waterbird counts have shown the status of many species and the relation between their number and flood levels
- Elaboration of a National Wetland Programme for Mali



## Community Wetland Initiatives in Senegal, Mali & Guinea-Bissau

- A community-based project with site action at four diverse sites in Senegal, plus Varela Bay in Guinea-Bissau and villages in Mali's Inner Niger Delta
- Strong collaboration with women's groups in all sites

## East African Wetland Management Training Course

- After intensive preparation by a consortium of partners led by RIZA, the first course was held at Naivasha, Kenya in September 2001



## Niger Basin Initiative (NBI)

- The NBI was launched in May 2001 through a coalition of Wetlands International, WWF and the Nigerian Conservation Foundation
- Its goal is to secure a dynamic river system for the Niger Basin, which comprises a full array of regionally typical habitats, species and ecosystem functions, in support of environmental security and poverty alleviation

## AEWA-GEF PDF B Project Activities

- Project development workshops and other activities were organised for an ecotourism project in Mauritania's Banc d'Arguin, a trans-frontier wetland project in the Saloum Delta (Senegal/The Gambia) and a local management project in Niger's Namga-Kokorou wetlands
- A draft training strategy was developed for the project

## African Waterbird Census

- Continued high participation from a wide range of African countries
- Support provided to new participants, including Djibouti

## Black Crowned Crane Programme

- Surveys of trade in cranes were held in Mali and Nigeria
- A species conservation action plan was developed for publication in 2002

## Black Stork Conservation Project

- This project supported by the Ramsar Bureau was launched for the development of a conservation action plan in Africa for this migratory bird



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# Asia

Within the Asia region Wetlands International undertook a wide range of activities in 2001 to promote, facilitate and implement wetland

conservation at international, national and local levels. This was accomplished through the regional Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur and at the country and subregional levels through offices in Phnom Penh, Beijing, New Delhi, Tokyo, Bogor and Hat Yai.

Three major region wide programmes underpin our work in Asia.

## Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy: 2001-2005

Following successful completion of the first phase of the strategy a long-term implementation framework was launched in 2001. Outputs included:



- Publication of the Strategy - hard copy and on the website
- Production of posters and brochures in five languages (English, Chinese, Bahasa Indonesia, Russian, Hindi), display panels to promote the Strategy

## Asian Waterbird Census

- The annual regional census was conducted in January 2001. Information collected during the census is being collated as part of a major analysis of counts made during 1997-2001
- Two issues of the AWC newsletters have been produced and disseminated to the volunteer network
- Updates can be found at <http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/awc/awcmain.html>



## Asian Wetland Inventory

- Development of the manual and draft datasheet prototypes
- Implementation of pilot projects in Japan and Cambodia
- Increased national interest expressed at the East Asian Sub-regional Meeting on the Convention on Wetlands, Bangkok, October 2001
- Presented and promoted the AWI at:
  - The Asian Wetland Symposium (27-30 August 2001, Penang, Malaysia)
  - The International Workshop on Climate Change and Wetland Conservation (20-21 September 2001, Kushiro, Japan)



Updated information can be found at <http://www.wetlands.org/inventory&/awi/default.htm>

## Asian Wetland Symposium 2001 - "Bringing partnerships into good wetland practices" in Penang, Malaysia in August

This symposium was successfully organised with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, Malaysia, University Sains Malaysia and the Ramsar Centre Japan. Attended by over 340 people from 30 countries, the symposium covered a range of topics, including: the role of women, climate change, inventory and migratory waterbirds and wetlands.

## Promotion of Migratory Species conservation and CMS in Asia

Under a one-year project with the CMS Secretariat, meetings have been held with government agencies in Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and South Korea aimed at increasing awareness of international frameworks to deal with the conservation of migratory species, the CMS and its agreements.

## China

Wetlands International-China undertook a package of activities in 2001 to promote, facilitate and implement wetland conservation at national and local level.

- A successful tender for Public Awareness, Environmental Education and Outreach in Wetland Areas under the UNDP/GEF Wetland Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in the China project was submitted along with the Global Environmental Centre and the Ramsar Convention Bureau
- Published the first volume of a Reconnaissance Report on Identification of Important Wetland and Marine Areas for Biodiversity Conservation in the Yellow sea



# ASIA

- Compiled training materials on wetlands, sustainable development strategy and environmental protection
- Set up a wetlands training team composed of national and international experts
- Organised an International Workshop on Conservation of Wetlands and Wise Use, in Korla City, Xingjiang Autonomous Region for 134 participants

## Cambodia

- Conducted a preliminary assessment of Coral Reef and Seagrass in Cambodia
- Continued working on the development of a Management Plan for Boeng Chhmar Ramsar site on the northern shore of Tonle Sap lake
- Collaborated with UNDP to conduct a Socio-economic and livelihood study at three core Areas of Tonle Sap Biosphere reserve
- Collaborated with UNDP to organise a Stakeholder Workshop on Community Fisheries

## Indonesia

- Developed and supported community groups to maintain coastal area management in the Indramayu Community Empowerment in Coastal Area Management and Conservation project
- Under the Greater Berbak Sembilang Conservation Project developed a management plan for the National park and worked to build capacity and awareness for the Government Management Units of the Parks and for the Community
- Organised a Seminar on "Citarum-river Watershed Management" focusing not only on managing the watershed, but also discussing the pollution problem along the river

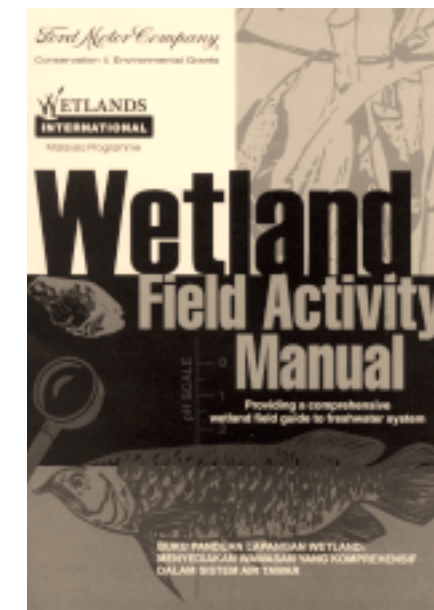


## Japan

- Convened an International Workshop on Climate Change and Wetland Conservation in Kushiro
- Published a list of 500 important wetlands in Japan
- Published and distributed a tool for providing public awareness on the function of peat bogs and moors
- Formed a committee for Wetland CEPA action plans in Japan
- Conducted tidal flats and sea-grass beds surveys in Japan

## Malaysia

- Produced a report and presented the findings to Johor State Government on the possible Ramsar designation of Sungai Pulai mangrove area
- Produced a CD-ROM: Guide to the Endemic and Globally Threatened Flora and Fauna of Tasek Bera Ramsar site
- Produced Wetland Field Activity Manual, a comprehensive wetland field guide to freshwater systems
- Completion of Semelai (SABOT) Ecotourism office at Tasek Bera Ramsar site funded by UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme



## South Asia

- Completed the project on economic valuation of Harike wetland highlighting the use and non-use values of the wetland, efficiency of resource utilization and strategies for allocation of resources to ensure sustainable development of the wetland

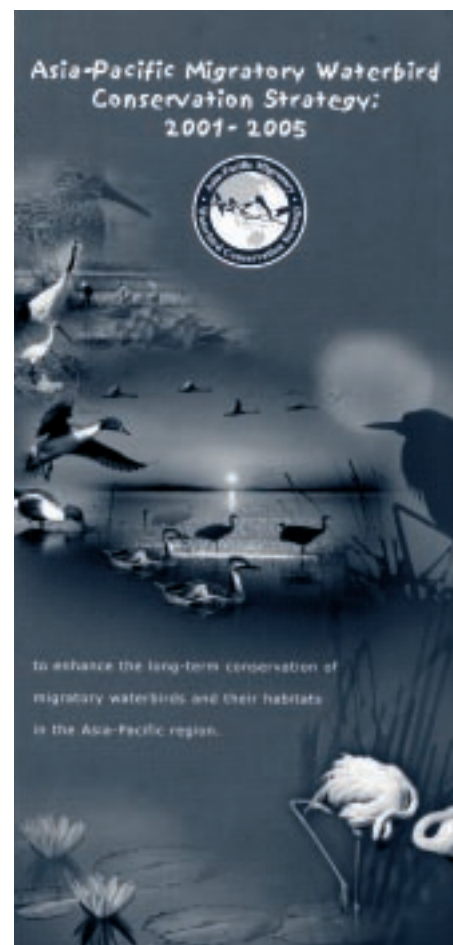


- Formulated an action plan for the conservation and management of wetlands of Gujarat based on a study carried out for two years with World Bank assistance
- Provided technical support to Chilika Development Authority for hydrological intervention to restore Chilika Lagoon through the ongoing project on Hydrobiological Monitoring
- Designed and implemented demonstration projects relating to integrated fish farming, low cost sanitation, alternate energy sources, control of jhum cultivation and watershed management to reduce pressure on the Loktak lake and providing alternate income to the local communities
- Developed a database on hydrological regimes, limnological features, catchment area, fisheries and communities of Loktak lake for use of stakeholder departments and concerned agencies
- Organized six training courses for Loktak lake communities and self-help groups on fisheries and watershed management
- Organized international workshops on Management of Phumdis of Loktak Lake and Sustainable Development of Chilika Lagoon

# ASIA

## Thailand

- Coordinated a training programme on "Participatory Community Enhancement for Wetland Conservation and Management". The programme also included a literature review of the status of Kuan Kee Sian, Thale Noi Non-Hunting Area, Thailand's first Ramsar site
- Carried out a status review of Kuan Kee Sian wetlands with the Prince of Songkla University
- Began development of a Wetland Education Kit
- Began a Training Needs Analysis for Phru Khuan Khreng Peatswamp Forest under the Global Peatland Initiative



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## GEF African/Eurasian Waterbird Flyways project

Under this major project undertaking, key outputs included:

- Regional Outreach Workshops held in Bahrain and Uzbekistan to establish the status of migratory waterbird and wetland conservation in the Middle East and Central Asia respectively
- Stakeholder workshops held in 11 different countries to develop proposals for demonstration projects that will be implemented in the planned full GEF project
- Proposals for 11 different demonstration project proposals across the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) area completed and reviewed
- An International Workshop to help identify the principles and practical methodology for the development of a network of critical sites for migratory waterbirds across the AEWA area



## ETC/NPB Partnership

As a member of the the European Environment Agency (EEA) European Topic Centre on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (ETC/NPB) Team, Wetlands International is providing expertise on wetlands for input into EEA reports, for the development of Wetland Biodiversity indicators and Monitoring. In 2001 subvention wetland biodiversity indicators have been proposed based on data held by Wetlands International or accessible through the Wetlands International network.



## Russia programme

Work continued on facilitating activities in the sphere of policy and legislation development and improving wetland data management systems, compilation of a national wetland inventory and enhancing knowledge and awareness of target groups.

Specific outputs included:

- A Training Course on Conservation and Management of Wetlands in May for wetland policy makers and scientists from Russian administrative authorities



## In 2001 the European wing of Wetlands International continued to manage and coordinate a number of programmes and projects from its offices in Wageningen, Moscow and Kiev.

Region wide outputs included:

## Review of European Wetland Inventory Information

The review of European national-scale wetland inventory information being conducted as part of the RIZA-funded "Pilot study towards a pan-European wetland inventory" entered its final phase in 2001.

After contributing to the European analysis to the "GROWI" wetland review in 1998, the study revisited the datasets of all 47 European countries. Previous contacts were renewed and new ones forged, promising inventory leads that had come to light were investigated, and new information materials were screened and assessed. Preliminary findings were presented at the 4th European regional meeting on the Ramsar Convention, Bled, Slovenia, October 2001. This was coupled with an appeal to the informed delegates and their colleagues back home, to make a final review of "their" relevant chapter (containing the wetland inventory information uncovered for their country). The response was heartening, with significant and useful commentary being provided and new information coming to light. The report on the results of the Review is scheduled for issue in 2002.



- Implementation of the Strategy for Waterbird and Wetland Conservation in the Central Asian Flyway including the development of a draft action plan
- Publication of Wetlands in Russia Volume 3 containing a Shadow List of 166 wetland sites

## Black Sea Programme

- Conducted the First Working Meeting of the Ukrainian River Network - an association of Ukrainian organisations working on conservation, wise use and restoration of small rivers; a draft 2001-2002 Ukrainian River Network's Work Plan was adopted
- Elaborated a Draft of the Directory of Azov-Black Sea Coastal Wetlands
- In co-operation with the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine prepared the first draft of the national wetland strategy

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# Oceania

In Oceania Wetlands International has a small team of three staff but with a large brief. In addition to the offices in Canberra and Brisbane, a new office was opened in Suva, Fiji. The Suva Office is hosted by the South Pacific Program of the World Wide Fund for Nature. This arrangement enables more effective wetland conservation work in the island nations of Melanesia (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia).

Wetlands International was active in three spheres of work in 2001:



## Community-based conservation of marine biodiversity with an emphasis on coral reefs, and fishes of reefs, mangroves and estuaries in Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

A key initiative was the commencement of a three year project on the development of a socially and ecologically sustainable network of locally managed marine protected areas for the Mamose region of north coast Papua New Guinea. A second major project is addressing capacity building and integrated coastal zone management of Madang Lagoon, Papua New Guinea.

## Promoting international cooperation for conservation of the most important and most threatened shorebird staging areas in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

Wetlands International is responsible for promoting implementation for the East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Action Plan: 2001-2005. This includes servicing a Network of 29 sites across nine countries in the Flyway.

## Building a scientific case for appropriate water allocation and land management strategies to protect summer-flooded wetlands of inland Australia which are globally important for waterbird populations.

Key activities included waterbird surveys, fieldwork for wetland inventories in northern and central Australia, advice on wetland management and strategic input into State and National wetland inventory projects.

Specifically in the new Fiji office activities included:

- Locally-managed marine protected area network development for the north coast of Papua New Guinea
- Participation in a "learning portfolio" of locally managed marine protected areas across Asia-Pacific (for more info: [www.fosonline.org](http://www.fosonline.org))
- Wetland managers training courses in Fiji and Vanuatu
- Ramsar Convention promotion and wetland site inventory in Melanesia



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# Americas

## The Neotropical Waterbird Monitoring Program (NWMP)

After the first 10 years of the Neotropical Waterbird Monitoring Program, WI undertook a broad review of the strengths and limitations of the program with the purpose to reinforce its functioning within the Neotropical Region.

The NWMP was begun in 1990 by the IWRB (today Wetlands International), to provide information on variations in population sizes and distributions of waterbirds in the Neotropics. It began in southern South America (Argentina, Chile and Uruguay), with geographical coverage increasingly expanding to the north, to reach Colombia and Ecuador in 1995.

During 2001 WI, in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited Inc. (USA), published a report covering the first period of the NWMP: "The Neotropical Waterbird Census. The first 10 years: 1990-1999". This new publication includes an analysis of the value of the program as a conservation and wildlife management tool.

## The South American Wetland Assessment

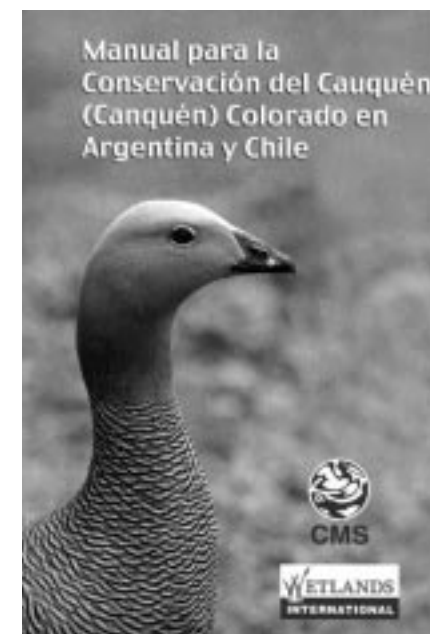
After almost 8 years of work the second half of 2001 saw the publication of the South American Wetland Assessment (SAWA) Executive Summary. This new publication includes a CD-ROM with the full 1000+ page Assessment report and contains a



wealth of information from every country in South America, including an appendix with a very extensive bibliography compiled on the subject.

## Ruddy-headed goose project: A CMS species

During 2001 Wetlands International continued working in close cooperation with the Convention of on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS-UNEP). In the Americas this cooperation was reflected by the efforts to bring the Ruddy-headed Goose (*Chloephaga rubidiceps*) to a favorable conservation status, including the support of the convention to develop the project "Ruddy-headed Goose (*Chloephaga rubidiceps*) conservation in the austral region of Argentina and Chile.



As part of this project we have estimated the mainland population of this goose around 1000 individuals. The results of the project also showed that breeding Ruddy-headed geese were almost exclusively associated with wet marshes ("vegas") in the steppe zone, and that the introduction of the Patagonian fox (*Dusycion griseus*) to Tierra del Fuego seems to be the major factor causing the decline and subsequent lack of recovery of the population. Surveys in the wintering area were also very successful to better

understand the species' distribution and ecology during the non-reproductive period.

To close this successful project in 2001, WI published a "Manual for the conservation and management of the Ruddy-headed Goose in Argentina and Chile". This publication was broadly distributed to all actors involved with this endangered species in both countries.

## American Pacific Flyway Project

This flyway project, fully in line with Wetlands International involvement in many other flyway programmes, is aiming at a co-ordinated approach of the conservation and sustainable management of migratory waterbirds in central America and along the Pacific coast of South America.

In July 2001 the project was presented to a number of North American GOs and NGOs during a half day workshop in Washington. The comments were positive and further input is now being sought from a number of ornithological organisations, mainly BirdLife partners, in South America. Further discussions will take place at the All American BirdLife meeting in Ecuador early 2002. Redrafting will take place during 2002 for final submission for funding.

## Conservation status of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*)

As a result of a Cooperative Agreement between WI and the U.S. Geological Survey, field survey work was carried out in Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil during the austral summer of 2001. The data collected are now being used to estimate the species population size and to develop a habitat model. The results will help to produce conservation guidelines for this endangered grassland shorebird.

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# Specialist Groups

The Wetlands International Specialist Group family consists of 21 groups, of which 14 have had some reported activity in 2001. Five are thematic (1 inactive), the rest being based on waterbird groupings. These waterbird Specialist Groups are jointly also members of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and are also recognised by BirdLife International. Thus these waterbird Specialist Groups of Wetlands International are "Wetlands International/SSC/BI" Specialist Groups. The Wetlands International website contains full details of all Specialist Group activity at: <http://www.wetlands.org/networks/SGroups.htm>

## Meetings of the Specialist Groups

### Goose

The 6th Meeting was held in Roosta Estonia in April 2001. Two new task forces were created during the last annual meeting focussing on age ratio assessments across all goose species. The Bar-headed Goose Taskforce is species oriented.

### Wader

The Wader Study Group Annual General Meeting was held in Kollumerpomp, The Netherlands in September 2001. It was attended by 153 scientists and wader experts from 17 countries across the world. A technical workshop on farmland waders was held on 31 August which reviewed current knowledge of the conservation status and population trends of waders breeding and wintering on farmland in Europe.

### Swans

The Fourth International Swan Symposium of the Wetlands International Swan Specialist Group took place from 13-18 February 2001 in conjunction with the 18th Conference of the Trumpeter Swan Society. The Symposium was attended by 143 swan biologists from 16 countries: Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States.

The Symposium urged the continuation of efforts to support the global overviews on waterfowl populations by the International Waterfowl Censuses (IWC) and the Waterbird Population Estimates (WPE).

### Membership Changes in 2001

Wetlands International wishes to record its deep appreciation to Eileen Rees for 6 years hard work in leading the Swan Specialist Group. We would like to thank Eileen for all her efforts and continuous support to IWRB's and Wetlands International's activities on the conservation of wetlands and wetland species.



During the 4th International Swan Symposium (held at Airlie, Virginia from 13-18 February 2001), Dr Jan Beekman, of the Netherlands Institute of Ecology agreed to take on the role of Chair of the Swan Specialist Group.

With the stepping down of Herby Kalchreuter from the leadership of the Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group the end of an era has come. Herby (Prof. Dr Heribert Kalchreuter, European Wildlife Research Institute, Germany), led this small but active and highly focused research group for 23 years since 1979. The Specialist Group was unique in bridging the obvious gap between protection and hunting interests in that sustainable use principles were strongly adhered to by Herby. The annual Newsletter of the Group, aimed at the 100 or so members of the Group, contained many articles on conservation biology of woodcock and snipe.



In addition, his many books and articles, and in particular, the excellent Proceedings of the Fifth Woodcock and Snipe Workshop, published in 2000, did much to advance the practical cooperation between hunters and conservation specialists.

Herby is succeeded by Dr Yves Ferrand, (Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage, France) who we warmly welcome to the family of Specialist Group Coordinators.

## Specialist Group List of Publications 2001

### Flamingo

Newsletter Nr. 10, published May 2001  
<http://www.wetlands.org/networks/Flamingo/Flamingo-news.htm>

### Goose

Russian Goose and Swan Study Group Conference resolution:  
[http://www.wetlands.org/networks/Goose/Resol\\_MoscowJan2001.doc](http://www.wetlands.org/networks/Goose/Resol_MoscowJan2001.doc)

Proceedings of the 6th annual meeting (held in Estonia, April/May 2001) available from the Group direct

### Swan

February 2001 Conference Resolution  
[http://www.wetlands.org/networks/Swan/SympRec\\_2001.htm](http://www.wetlands.org/networks/Swan/SympRec_2001.htm)  
Proceedings and newsletters available direct from the Group

### Wader

August and December 2001 editions available direct from the Group, see  
<http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/wsg/index.html>

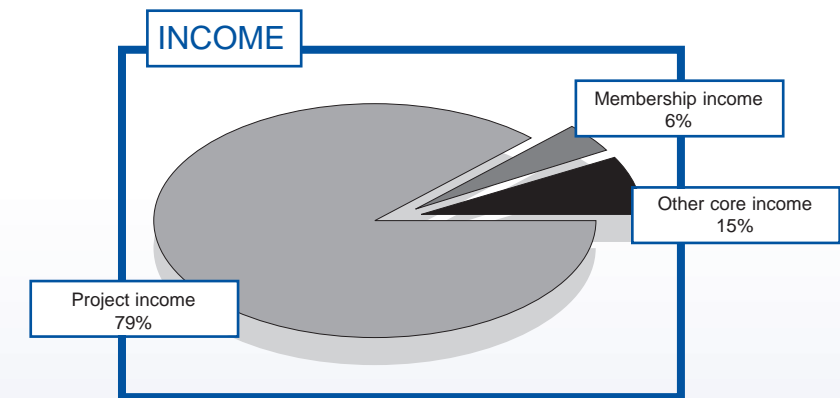
### Woodcock and Snipe

WSSG-Newsletter No. 26 is available direct from the Group

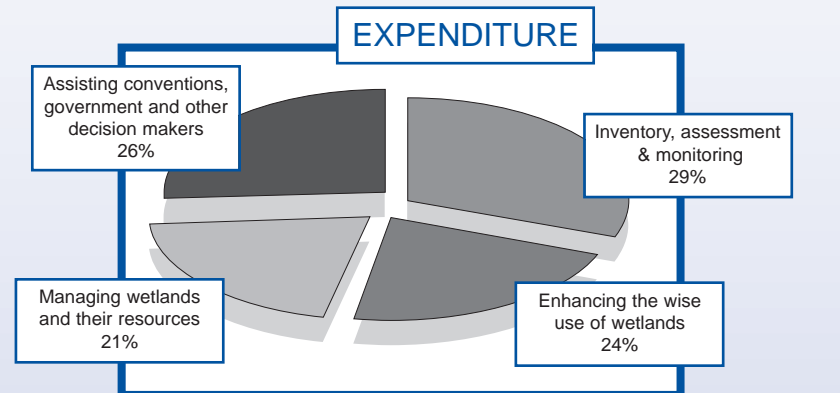
For more information go to:  
<http://www.wetlands.org/networks/SGroups.htm>

## 2001 Financial Information

Total financial support of over 5.700.000 EURO in 2001 was mainly received as project income and smaller amounts as core support to our programmes and as membership fees from contributing countries and organisations.



These funds were spent on global programme activities as shown.



Audited accounts for 2001 are available on request.

## Sponsor Overview 2001

Wetlands International is very grateful to the following organisations for supporting our programme activities in 2001:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alterra Research, the Netherlands</li> <li>American Forest, United States of America</li> <li>Asian Development Bank, Philippines</li> <li>Banrock Station Wines, Australia</li> <li>Beleidscommissie Remote Sensing (BCRS), the Netherlands</li> <li>BirdLife Netherlands / Vogelbescherming Nederland, The Netherlands</li> <li>British Association for Shooting &amp; Conservation, United Kingdom</li> <li>British Embassy, Senegal</li> <li>Bundesamt für Umwelt, Wald und Landschaft, Eidg. Forstdirektion, Bereich Wildtiere, Switzerland</li> <li>Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit, Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Germany</li> <li>Canadian International Development Agency</li> <li>Canadian Wildlife Service, Canada</li> <li>Common Wadden Sea Secretariat</li> <li>Danish Corporation for Environmental and Development (DANCED), Malaysia</li> <li>Danish Hunters Association, Denmark</li> <li>Darwin Initiative, United Kingdom</li> <li>Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Republic of South Africa</li> <li>Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom</li> <li>Deutscher Jagdschutz-Verband EV, Germany</li> <li>Dienst Landelijk Gebied, the Netherlands</li> <li>Directorate for Nature Management, Norway</li> <li>Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, United States of America</li> <li>Ducks Unlimited Inc., United States of America</li> <li>Embassy of Finland, Thailand</li> <li>English Nature, on behalf of JNCC/SNH/ICCW, United Kingdom</li> <li>Environment Australia, Biodiversity Group, Australia</li> <li>Environment Australia, Natural Heritage Trust, Australia</li> <li>Environment Canada, Canada</li> <li>European Commission, Dir-Gen. 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