



Safeguarding and restoring wetlands for people and nature

By safeguarding and restoring wetlands, we reduce the impacts of floods and droughts and build resilience to climate change.

Why wetlands?

Wetlands occur wherever water meets land. They exist in every country and in every climatic zone, from the polar regions to the tropics, and from high altitudes to dry regions.

Wetland types include mangroves, peatlands and marshes, rivers and lakes, deltas, floodplains and flood forests, rice-fields, and even coral reefs.

We are driven by the knowledge that safeguarding and restoring wetlands is urgent and vital for water security, biodiversity, climate regulation, sustainable development and human health.

Peatlands store twice as much carbon as all the world's forests.
Freshwater wetlands are home to more than 40% of the world's species.

Who we are

We have operated as a global network since 1996 and are the leading not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wetlands.

We are a science-based organisation and trusted partner of local communities, governments and the private sector, with expertise in managing water for people and nature.



Wetlands are sources of **freshwater**



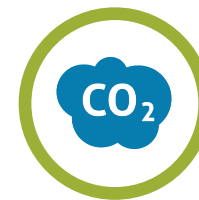
They **protect** our shores



They are the engines of **local economies**



They provide plentiful **food and fish**



They are Earth's natural **carbon stores**



They support abundant and **unique nature**

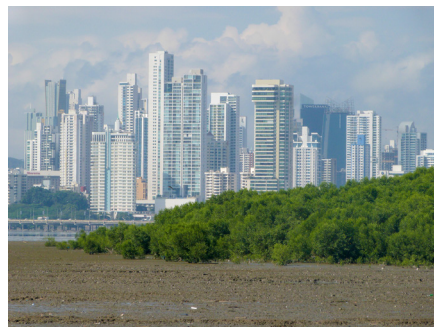
Some examples of our work



Rewetting peatlands in the Tver region, north of Moscow

Connecting knowledge, policy and practice

During the extremely dry summer of 2010, fires on drained peatlands covered Moscow in a haze, leading to the deaths of over 50,000 people. We provided technical support to the Russian Federation to **restore 40,000 hectares of drained peatlands**, preventing further loss of lives and health problems, locking carbon emissions in the ground and enabling local biodiversity to recover. This work will extend to other areas, and new sustainable uses of re-wetted peatland will develop.



Mangroves protect the city of Panama

Enabling uptake of nature-based solutions

As part of the Dutch 'Building with Nature' consortium, we work with water engineering companies and knowledge institutions to harness the forces of nature to benefit environment, economy and society. We have enabled uptake of this approach along coasts and in cities in Indonesia, Panama, Suriname and elsewhere. Through a public-private partnership, we are introducing a combination of ecosystem restoration and engineering solutions that will **protect 70,000 people** along an eroding coast in Indonesia's Demak district.



The 2017 Camel Caravan walking through Isiolo county, Kenya

Facilitating water dialogues

Since 2014, we established a communication platform that facilitated dialogue between those whose livelihoods depend on the Ewaso Ngiro River, which flows from the glacier of Mount Kenya. This resulted in communities organising Camel Caravans that have connected people upstream and downstream enabling them to share concerns about the impacts of development projects and deforestation. The Caravans have **raised awareness of water needs and initiated dialogues** with governments, local authorities, and the private sector.



Sun setting over the Pantanal wetland

Safeguarding water systems in the landscape

The Paraná and Paraguay Rivers connect a wetland system that stretches 3,400 km, covering 18% of South America. It includes iconic wetlands like the Pantanal in Brazil, the Iberá Marshes and Paraná Delta in Argentina, which are home to a vast array of biodiversity. In the face of growing development threats, we are enabling uptake of **alternative sustainable development pathways**, preventing the fragmentation of the river system and bringing one million hectares of wetlands under sustainable management.

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Wetlands and the Sustainable Development Goals

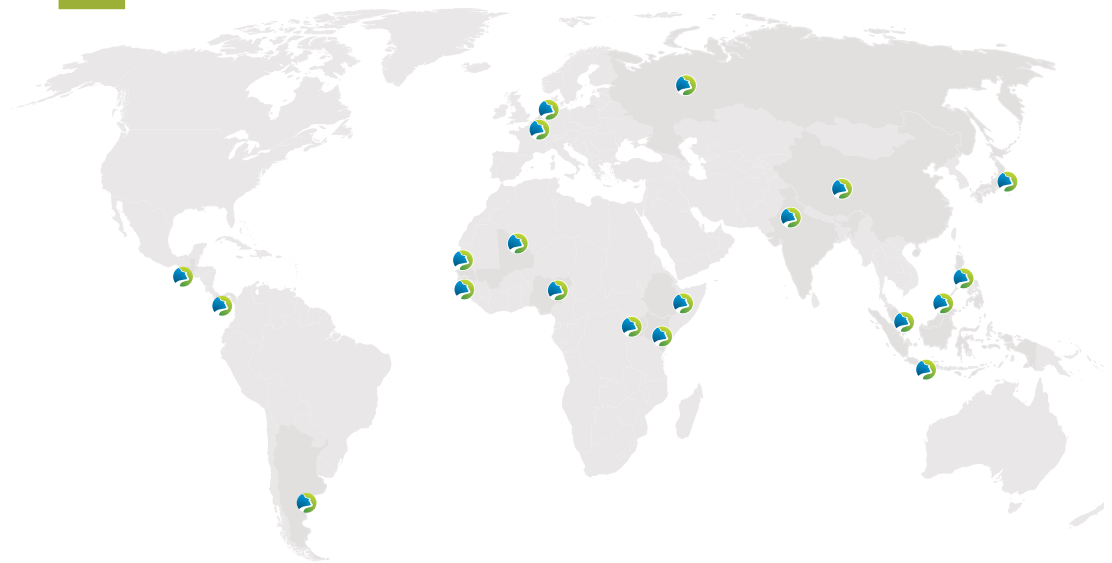
The world has committed to Agenda 2030: 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Climate Agreement. Providing water for all, ending poverty and hunger, reducing water-related disasters and adapting to climate change all depend on healthy wetlands.

Business-as-usual approaches will not achieve these outcomes, and **innovative solutions are needed to safeguard development progress and conserve nature.** Our skills, experience and partnerships can help to turn these goals into action on the ground.



The interventions of our five areas of work: Healthy Wetland Nature, Vulnerable Coasts and Deltas, Major Rivers, Sahelian Floodplains and Peatlands, contribute to achieving the targets for many of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our offices



How we finance our work

The funds for our programmes come from a broad set of institutional donors, trusts, foundations, corporates and individuals. Government and Non-Governmental Organisation membership via our global Association and regular donations from Supporters provide essential resources to develop these programmes and to inform policies worldwide.

Organisations and individuals can become Supporters providing regular financial support, while governments and Non-Governmental Organisations can become Members, officially joining us in pursuing our mission.

www.wetlands.org/join

