

An aerial photograph showing a village of stilt houses built in a mangrove wetland. The houses are clustered along a dirt road that curves through the dense green mangrove forest. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding greenery. The text 'THE SOURCE' is written in large, bold, white, italicized letters. Below it, '2022 Annual Review of Wetlands International' is written in a smaller, white, italicized font. Two decorative wavy lines, one blue and one yellow, curve across the bottom of the image.

THE SOURCE
*2022 Annual Review of
Wetlands International*



Wetlands
INTERNATIONAL



**WETLANDS
INTERNATIONAL
IS THE ONLY GLOBAL
NOT-FOR-PROFIT
ORGANISATION
DEDICATED TO THE
CONSERVATION
AND RESTORATION
OF WETLANDS**

What are wetlands?

Wetlands occur wherever water meets land – mangroves, peatlands, marshes, rivers, lakes, deltas, floodplains, flooded forests, rice-fields, and even coral reefs. Wetlands exist in every country across the world and every type of region – polar, tropical, wet, dry, high and low altitude.

Healthy wetlands are key to restoring nature and healing our climate, yet the world has lost up to 65% of its original wetlands. Urgent action is needed to reverse this decline and revive these natural wonders.

Our Vision

A world where wetlands are treasured and nurtured for their beauty, the life they support and the resources they provide.

Our Mission

To inspire and mobilise society to safeguard and restore wetlands for people and nature.

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FROM OUR CEO

*Jane Madgwick,
Chief Executive Officer, Wetlands International*

2022 was a significant year for the world's wetlands and we are starting to see broad recognition and increased investments in wetland conservation and restoration, as a central part of efforts to address the climate and biodiversity crises. Guided by our Strategic Intent, we continued to leverage the benefits of our local presence, technical expertise and partnerships, and connected this with influencing global dialogues, policies, and investments to accelerate the transformation of major wetland landscapes for resilience.

Receiving global recognition through the UN for leading one of the first, best ecological restoration programmes – in the mangrove coast of Demak, Indonesia – is testament to the ability of Wetlands International to design and curate complex, science-based landscape transformations through equally complex local and global partnerships and finance streams. Such initiatives are increasingly becoming global models and sources of inspiration. This example proved that it is possible to turn around even the most severe wetland degradation in just a few years, provided that the plan is based on a sound understanding of the causes and that a systems approach to restoration is taken and driven by all local stakeholders.

Throughout 2022, we brought evidence, proposed science-based targets and showcased proven pathways for upscaling action for wetlands to the global policy fora of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the UN Climate Convention and Convention on Biological Diversity - to bring to the fore the role of freshwater and coastal wetlands as the critical water systems linking land and sea. The evident increased emphasis on wetlands - especially peatlands and mangroves - in the dialogues and commitments on climate mitigation and adaptation, and the inclusion of wetlands in the eventual Global Biodiversity Framework for 2030, are together an absolute triumph. Equally, the "Mangrove Breakthrough" that was announced by the UN High Level Climate Champions in 2022 will drive massive investment and mobilisation of state and non-state actors, was inspired and based on data from the Global Mangrove Watch that Wetlands International convened, as well as our work as part of the powerful Global Mangrove Alliance.



Jane Madgwick, CEO, Wetlands International



Start of the Blue Nile, Ethiopia

This shows the value of bringing together systems of actors to address global challenges – Wetlands International has an excellent track record and platform from which to convene actors in this way. The participation and dialogues in these global fora also pointed to some new opportunities, including the rapidly growing demand to better connect actions for climate and nature. Wetlands can be an excellent entry point for countries, companies, cities and citizens committed to nature and climate positive transitions, by virtue of their central role as carbon sinks, in capturing, storing and regulating water and nutrients and in adaptation to climate change.

The report on achievements in 2022, put in the context of our longer-term goals, highlight that progress is not always linear and programmes need to be highly adaptive. We are grateful to be working closely in partnership with major donors who provide a long-term financial commitment to our ambitious goals and give good space for us to innovate in driving towards our ambitions. In addition to our major donors, I am grateful to our members, partners and supporters working tirelessly to safeguard and restore wetlands for people and

nature. We also invested in new staff functions and capacity development across our office network, laying a strong foundation for the work yet to be done.

As I write this piece, I recently started my new role as the first Executive Director of the Global Commons Alliance - a growing, science-based coalition that aims to engage and equip companies, countries, cities and citizens so that they become effective stewards of the interconnected systems (water, nature, land, air and ocean) on which life depends upon. There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to avoid dangerous tipping points and instead secure an environmentally safe and socially equitable future for our planet. I believe that Wetlands International and its extensive set of collaborators and supporters, have an important role to play in this urgent transition and I am proud to continue my involvement as a Counsellor of Honour.

Thank you for your continued interest and active support.

HIGHLIGHTS

“Wetlands 4 Resilience”

A new 10-year partnership with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

In December we secured a new partnership with Sida to upscale healthy, biodiverse, and well-managed wetland landscapes globally by 2030. The ten-year ambition is to influence countries, institutions and sectors to shift approaches, policies and investments towards the regeneration of wetland landscapes. This responds to and helps to mobilise and bring substance to the existing global agendas set by Conventions and the SDGs. Specifically, we will fill the current knowledge and capacity gap on how to address wetlands and water resiliency in landscape regeneration processes, by designing and sharing a tested, accessible, step-wise approach.

By showing and sharing results from a set of major wetland landscapes in frontrunner countries for wetland commitments, we aim to inspire, mobilise and upscale the global community to drive action forward for wetland recovery and resilience building. Further, we aim to influence the global community to set a conducive environment to facilitate capacity development, policies and investments for wetland landscapes worldwide. This will ultimately bring positive impact for biodiversity and vulnerable communities that depend on healthy wetland landscapes for their well-being and climate resilience.

We will focus on large, iconic wetland landscapes and on influencing key processes - changes we would like to see happen - to create suitable conditions for wetland biodiversity and ecosystem functioning to recover, so building resilience at a landscape scale, as a foundation for sustainable development.

In the long-term, the programme will benefit tens of millions of people who live in or nearby these large wetland landscapes; vulnerable lakes, rivers and deltas. By enhancing the supply and demand for holistic wetland landscape restoration, we will enable synergies to be realised between biodiversity conservation, healthy ecosystems and human rights, resulting in greater resilience to socio-economic shocks and climate change.

Defining benchmark conditions for Voluntary Carbon Markets

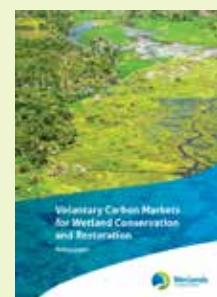
We published a timely report which reflects on the larger debate of using voluntary carbon markets for land-use projects and defines benchmark conditions for channelling carbon finance to wetland interventions. Social-environmental integrity is the all-decisive touchstone for climate and market success. A supply of high-quality credits which are fair, equitable, and accepted by the leading carbon credit verification bodies needs to be secured along with the responsible corporate climate action.

Wetlands International has long supported efforts to amplify financing to safeguard and restore wetlands. There is now increasing interest among governments as well as non-state actors in using carbon finance to help innovate and roll out Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) in general, and wetland habitats in particular.

Private sector funding must be mobilised at scale and at speed, and carbon markets offer a unique opportunity to channel investment into wetlands. We are committed to securing a transparent, equitable, and just carbon market to sustain, safeguard, and restore our precious wetlands.

Read our report and position on voluntary carbon markets:

<https://www.wetlands.org/publications/the-voluntary-carbon-market-for-safeguarding-and-restoring-our-wetlands/>



Building with Nature in Indonesia

UN recognises Building with Nature Indonesia with World Restoration Flagship award

The United Nations recognised the Building with Nature Indonesia initiative to protect Indonesia's coast against flooding as one of its inaugural World Restoration Flagships. The project was selected as one of 10 pioneering efforts to revive the natural world, for its success in restoring mangrove forests to form a natural barrier against the sea, and improving the livelihoods of local communities.

The announcement came as leaders gathered in Montreal, Canada for the UN Biodiversity Conference, where governments from around the world agreed to a new set of goals for nature over the next decade.

The project was a joint effort between Wetlands International and the Indonesian government, and part of a larger collaboration that aims to advance the application of the Building with Nature approach, integrating Nature-Based Solutions in the design and implementation of water infrastructure practice, to boost the local economy, community resilience and biodiversity enhancement.

Instead of simply planting mangroves, the initiative applied an innovative approach using semi-permeable sea walls made of natural materials to trap mud and sediments. Mangroves then regrow naturally, with a survival rate of 70 percent – significantly higher than the 15-20 percent of planted mangroves. The work will increase the resilience of 70,000 people to impacts of climate change.

For more information:

<https://www.wetlands.org/news/un-recognises-building-with-nature-indonesias-efforts-with-world-restoration-flagship-award/>

<https://www.wetlands.org/publications/building-with-nature-in-indonesia-restoring-an-eroding-coastline-and-inspiring-action-at-scale-2015-2021/>


Facilitating sharing of best mangrove conservation and restoration practices in Africa

Wetlands International facilitated the development of strategic partnerships between the Atlantic Coast and the Western Indian Ocean region to enable collaboration and mainstream best mangrove conservation and restoration practices in Africa. The first of two learning exchanges was held in Senegal in March and the second in Tanzania in October. The exchanges so far have helped to:

- Provide a platform for peer-to-peer exchanges around strategies for mangrove conservation, including lessons and best policy practices on mangrove governance, restoration, community engagement, innovation and financing, policy, monitoring impact and community resilience;
- Disseminate best practice mangrove restoration approaches and tools, for example to inspire upscaling of Ecological Mangrove Restoration (EMR), which generally survives and functions better than conventional mass tree planting which fails in approximately 80% of all mangrove restoration initiatives. With EMR a broader set of interventions is implemented that put in place socio-economic and biophysical (hydrological and ecological) enabling conditions for mangrove to grow back naturally. It is essential to create those conditions at scale in order to yield meaningful results across wider landscapes.
- Reinforce networks developed in the first phase of the exchanges.

The exchanges brought together participants representing communities, policymakers, civil society organisations, and researchers from 11 countries (Kenya, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and The Gambia). Development Partners from the Swedish International Development Agency's Africa Regional Office were also involved.

For more information:

 <https://www.wetlands.org/blog/wetlands-international-mangrove-conservation-and-restoration-practice-in-africa/>



Plenary at COP14

Special members, partners and supporters event at Ramsar COP14

Wetlands International organised a special event for members, partners and supporters on the sidelines of the Ramsar COP14 in November in Geneva, an opportunity to meet again in-person in an informal setting and to share insights into promising initiatives and collaborations around the world that are scaling up wetland recovery for people and nature.

There was widespread recognition of the opportunity to ensure the inclusion of wetlands in the Global Biodiversity Framework to be agreed at CBD COP15 later in the year, through the Resolutions of Ramsar COP14. Speakers and participants also discussed the urgency and need for better collaboration and stronger partnerships on scaling up action for biodiverse, healthy wetlands, and the critical role of Wetlands International in convening such action.

With more than 100 people attending from government, civil society, academia and staff from around the network, we heard from André Hoffmann, prominent business leader, champion of wetlands and philanthropist; Jerker Tamelander, Director of Science and Policy of the Ramsar Secretariat; and Guangchun Lei, representative of the Chinese government and Chair of Ramsar STRP.

From the perspective of



"Efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in recent decades have been insufficient and global temperatures are expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C in the next 20 years unless there are rapid, sustained and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Similarly, the state of the world's biodiversity is rapidly deteriorating, with more species than ever threatened with extinction which, together with the increasing impacts of climate change (such as droughts and floods), threatens the livelihoods of all people, especially the most vulnerable.

One of the causes of global biodiversity loss is that for centuries the world's wetlands have been considered unusable, and have been rapidly drained for other purposes. Where wetlands still exist, they play a key role. Both for biodiversity and, as a result, the ecosystem services they provide, and for climate change mitigation.

The destruction of wetlands can lead to a net emission of greenhouse gases, but more importantly when the great capacity of wetlands to produce biomass is destroyed, they do not bind carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Wetlands International is a leading global organisation for wetland conservation through its focus on protecting and restoring these areas that are especially important to the vulnerable and often marginalised communities living in and around them."



Representatives of the Global Mangrove Alliance receive the Food Planet Prize


Global Mangrove Alliance wins the Food Planet Prize

The Global Mangrove Alliance - of which Wetlands International is a founding member - received one of two USD 2 million 2022 Food Planet Prizes, to further work towards our Alliance goal to Halt Loss, Restore Half, and Double Protection of mangroves globally by 2030 and help support on-the-groundwork linked to food security through our National Chapters initiative.

The Food Planet Prize awards initiatives that solve the dilemma of feeding a growing world population while saving a planet in peril, with the aim of rapidly scaling up their initiatives.

Mangrove deforestation has resulted in a steep decline in mangrove crabs and fish, hurting communities' ability to sustain themselves and their families. With support from GMA member organisations, communities around the world are taking up mangrove conservation leadership, replanting mangroves, and ensuring that resource harvesting is sustainable. As a result, crabs and fish are returning and mangrove beekeeping and other alternative livelihood programs have arisen in some communities, furthering the benefits community members can receive from the coastal ecosystems.

For more information:

 <https://www.mangrovealliance.org/news/winning-the-food-planet-prize/>

 <https://www.wetlands.org/news/global-mangrove-alliance-wins-the-food-planet-prize/>

FROM THE SUPERVISORY COUNCIL (AND BOARD OF THE ASSOCIATION)

Jan Ernst de Groot, Chair
Miguel Ángel Jorge, Vice-Chair

2022 was overall a very positive year for wetlands with these precious ecosystems achieving high profile attention in a series of global summits, culminating in the inclusion of targets and key language highlighting the critical importance of wetlands and inland waters in the Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in December under the Convention for Biological Diversity. We would like to recognise the key role played by our staff and our partners who advocated tirelessly for wetlands throughout the year.

Nevertheless, this last year brought challenges, too. The world was still confronting Covid at the start of the year. The war in Ukraine meant we paused our activities in Russia, and the energy and cost of living crisis has affected staff, partners, communities and our funders alike.

The Council and Board of Association met regularly in 2022, maintaining close relations with the CEO and Management Team through our regular meetings. During our June Council meeting, held in Stirling, Scotland, we were able to see first-hand the critical roles played by peatland in preserving biodiversity, storing water and mitigating climate change.

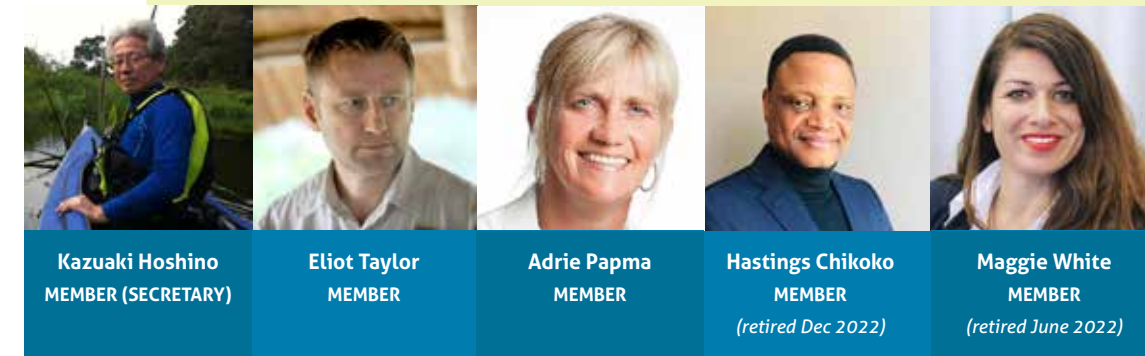
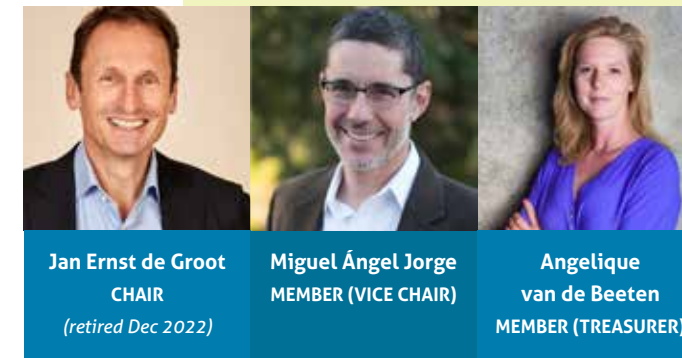
In Scotland, we met representatives of the Government, the 'National Trust for Scotland' and engaged companies such as Diageo. The Council visited a peatland restoration site at Flanders Moss where we were guided by 'Nature Scotland' staff and saw other sites nearby where restoration is just starting as part of a national programme of action across

Scotland to restore 250,000 hectares of degraded peatlands by 2030. We were pleased that Wetlands International is supporting this ambition, with knowledge and practical work on the ground. We'd like to thank Hans Schutten (Programme Head Climate Ready Land-use) who facilitated the meetings and visit for the Council.



Supervisory Council field visit to Flanders Moss, Scotland

Wetlands International Supervisory Council



In addition to its responsibility to supervise the implementation of the organisation's strategy, annual accounts and the annual review, the Council provided guidance to the CEO and Management Team on a range of key issues, in particular on a renewed fundraising strategy and on strengthening the organisation's human resources approach.

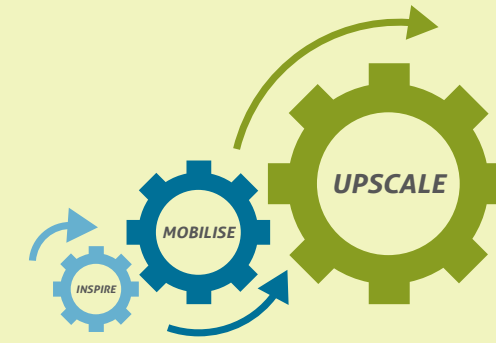
We were delighted to see that progress was made in our international programmes, and in our organisational capacities and systems, made possible by the support provided by the COMON Foundation, the Dutch Postcode Lottery, and the effective giving platform Effectiv Spenden. Flexible funding is key for the organisation and enables us to take larger steps towards the goals laid out in our Strategic Intent, such as mobilising vehicles for upscaling such as the Mangrove Breakthrough. We also started a new long-term partnership on 'Wetlands for Resilience' with the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), which complements our work on the '4 Returns' approach and will make accessible knowledge and tools for wetland landscape restoration to a wide range of collaborators. On behalf of the entire organisation, we would like to thank our partners for their support and trust in Wetlands International.

In 2022 we were delighted that Miguel Ángel Jorge accepted the role of Vice Chair. We also said goodbye to two members, Maggie White and Hastings Chikoko, after three years of service. Our thanks go to them for the support and inspiration that they provided.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my return to Wetlands International this past year and was struck by the major progress the organisation has made since 2016. I unfortunately had to resign as Chair in December, due to accepting a new senior role at my company. I would like to wish the remaining members of the Supervisory Council and Board of Association all the best in helping Wetlands International succeed in its mission to inspire and mobilise society to safeguard and restore wetlands for people and nature. I will continue to support from the sidelines." **Jan Ernst de Groot, Chair**

STRATEGIC INTENT 2020-2030

Over 2020-2030 Wetlands International aims to safeguard and restore tens of millions of hectares of wetlands, bringing multiple returns for nature and people. Our theory of change encapsulates the three main phases of our work: to inspire, mobilise and upscale. These are the key ingredients of our organisational strategy for the period 2020-2030.



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

INSPIRE

- We:
- Share insights and knowledge
 - Encourage innovation
 - Influence agendas

MOBILISE

- We:
- Enable dialogues
 - Build coalitions around shared vision
 - Identify and pilot landscape solutions

UPSCALE

- We:
- Design integrated landscape scale plans
 - Transform policies and attract investments
 - Improve standards and behaviours of companies

For this period, we are orientating our work to achieve three, interconnected global impacts: healthy wetlands, resilient wetland communities, and reduced climate risks.

Our vision, targets and strategic interventions are shaped according to landscapes. We focus on three broad categories of wetland landscapes: Coasts and Deltas, rivers and lakes, and peatlands. "Streams" of work are defined according to the specific contexts of these wetland landscape types.

We measure our progress across these three streams according to the following three interconnected global impacts and six outcomes.



Healthy Wetlands



Wetland habitats and functions safeguarded and restored

We aim to help conserve a selection of the most intact wetland ecosystems and restore others within a full range of wetland types across the world. We also aim to restore other freshwater systems, peatlands, deltas and coastal ecosystems for their intrinsic, cultural and ecosystem-service values. We will prioritise ecological networks that connect landscapes, such as flyways and swim-ways.



Wetland species recovered

Building on our long track record for waterbird conservation, we will contribute to the conservation of wetland biodiversity by working on selected flagship species and groups of species linked to specific habitats.

Resilient Communities



Water and food secured for wetland communities

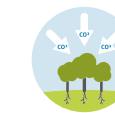
We aim to prevent further wetland loss and degradation that undermines the natural productivity and water storage capacities of peatlands, floodplains, mangrove forests, deltas and lakes. We aim to improve and diversify the livelihoods of people dependent on wetlands, and promote best practices in agriculture and aquaculture, integrating wetland values into the local economy.



Reduced societal conflict and displacement from wetlands

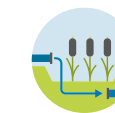
We will in particular strive to resolve situations where deterioration of wetlands - caused by upstream abstraction, climate change or population growth - contributes to loss of livelihoods, human displacement, conflict and migration. Where necessary, we will use peacebuilding and conflict resolution measures to address imbalanced power relations between stakeholders, building capacity for vulnerable and marginalised people to defend their rights to water and wetland resources.

Reduced Climate Risks



Wetland carbon stores secured and enhanced

We aim to bring wetlands into activities to adapt to and mitigate climate change, which is otherwise a threat to the integrity of all wetlands. Improving the condition of peatlands, river systems and coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, salt marshes and seagrass beds will also reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases and return many to their role as carbon sinks.



Wetland Nature-based Solutions integrated into infrastructure developments

We aim to steer urban water infrastructure investment and land use planning towards using wetlands to meet challenges such as water insecurity and flooding that are conventionally addressed by civil engineering - an approach that often causes further loss and deterioration of wetlands.

ACHIEVEMENTS

This chapter presents our 2022 achievements. These are organised along our three streams of work (Coasts and Deltas, Rivers and Lakes, and Peatlands) and in relation to the ambitions laid out in our Strategic Intent 2020-2030.

The section below summarises progress in 2022 towards the 10-year targets.

OUR SCORING SYSTEM

On track to exceed target (we will achieve the target before 2030)



We expect to achieve the target by 2030



Substantial progress, but more time is needed to reach our target



So far, there is no significant overall progress



The situation is deteriorating and we can't manage to make improvements



All of our achievements are the result of our Wetlands International teams working around the world with our many partners in local, national and international networks across the world. The achievements selected below are part of a long-term results framework and build partly on activities already started in previous years.

We highlight those achievements where Wetlands International's role or contribution has been significant.

Our progress

At the end of 2022, we have achieved important results building a solid foundation for future mobilisation and upscaling towards our 2030 targets. Shaping, collating and sharing knowledge, building capacity, developing partnerships with governments and non-state actors to scale up, and securing funding to support our work - are critical to our long-term success and central to our upscaling strategy.

Large-scale, partnership-based, long-term wetland landscape initiatives are now underway in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America which will ultimately secure conservation and development benefits for people and nature across millions of hectares. Sometimes the number of hectares we have directly safeguarded and restored so far is relatively small, but designed to trigger landscape-scale impact through the mobilisation of other actors. Where possible we mention the indirect landscape-scale impact we envision.

In the last quarter of 2022, we capitalised on global convention meetings (Ramsar COP14, UNFCCC COP27, and CBD COP15) to drive impact by positioning wetlands more than ever as a crucial solution to the intertwined challenges of

climate change and biodiversity loss. The inclusion of wetland targets in the CBD's Global Biodiversity Framework, resulting from engaging in diverse lobby groups, makes Wetlands International more relevant than ever and provides significant leverage for public and private sector investments in the coming decade.

We are proud of the results that were achieved at global, regional, national and local level. Highlights include:

Impact Area - Healthy Wetlands

- Our influential 2022 State of the World's Mangroves report that led to the launch of the Mangrove Breakthrough at COP27 aiming to leverage USD 4 billion to secure the future of 15 million hectares of mangroves globally by 2030.
- A new 10 year partnership with the Swedish International Development Agency to upscale healthy, biodiverse, and well managed wetland landscapes globally by 2030, contributing to climate resilience and environmental, social and economic sustainability.
- A new Ramsar protected Wetland in Argentina, covering an area of 350.000 hectares of valuable peatlands, a key step towards its conservation.

Impact Area - Resilient Wetland Communities

- We reached 143,000 coastal zone and natural resource management professionals, raising awareness about the contribution of mangroves to food security and opportunities for improving production systems through large-scale mangrove restoration.
- We worked with land users to implement better management practices on more than 46,000 hectares of

floodplain habitats under production (largely cattle raising / livestock) in the Paraná Delta in Argentina and the Pantanal wetlands in Brazil.

- As a result of our advocacy efforts, the EU is shifting its stance and accepting the significant role that improved peatland protection, increased paludiculture (wet peatland farming) and carbon farming can bring to the Green Deal implementation.

Impact Area - Reduced Climate Risks

- Our Building with Nature Indonesia initiative was praised by the UN and given the inaugural World Restoration Flagship award.
- We enhanced the design of a wetland offset project of a multi-billion investment infrastructure project in Manila Bay, Philippines, such that it will restore thousands of hectares of healthy mangroves while enhancing resilience and livelihoods of local communities.
- In the High Andes of Peru, we worked with the herder communities to change their land management practices, resulting in 2,400 hectares of peatlands under improved livestock grazing management offering sustainable income in harmony with nature.

Setbacks

Not everything went according to plan. The war in Ukraine directly affected our peatland restoration efforts in Russia that were put on hold. The ensuing global energy crises led to higher costs requiring us to deliver the same ambitious impact with fewer resources. Further, the tight and competitive job market is limited our ability to attract the required capacity to deliver our programmes.

"Dutch Postcode Lottery funding has had a catalytic effect on our work, enabling us to generate much larger funding, influence and impacts needed to safeguard and restore the world's wetlands"

Jane Madgwick, CEO.



DUTCH POSTCODE LOTTERY

Dutch Postcode Lottery support has enabled us, through targeted seed investments, to build strategic global and regional partnerships to mobilise and upscale the safeguarding and restoration of wetlands. In 2022, highlights include our Building with Nature Indonesia initiative recognised by the UN as one of its inaugural World Restoration Flagships, and successfully influencing the design for a large wetland offset project to compensate for a multi-billion infrastructure project in Manila Bay, Philippines.

These results, among others, were made possible through strengthening our fundraising approaches and capacity, developing new donor relationships, investing in staff capabilities in our communications and technical teams, and creating outreach materials and tools to influence government and business.

COASTS & DELTAS 2022

Our goal is to safeguard and restore coastal wetland ecosystems as essential features of resilient and productive coastal landscapes. We will achieve our goal by tailoring our work to the different contexts we typically encounter in our target areas, ranging from heavily degraded or modified coastal areas to intact wetland landscapes.

Healthy wetlands

By 2030, we aim to safeguard 2 million hectares of high value coastal wetlands, including those sites which make up vital wildlife migration corridors.

We made strong progress towards reaching our target of 2 million hectares. If we secure commitments under the GMA, we will move beyond our target in the next few years.

Through the Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA) that we co-founded and in collaboration with the UN Climate Change High-level Champions, we launched the Mangrove Breakthrough at UNFCCC COP27. The Breakthrough calls for a unified global approach towards mangrove conservation aiming to leverage USD 4 billion to secure the future of 15 million hectares of mangroves globally by 2030.

The Mangrove Breakthrough was informed and inspired by our State of the World's Mangroves reports, based on data from the Global Mangrove Watch (GMW) platform. The reports and GMW are key elements in our upscaling strategy and have

also led to increased reporting on mangrove status change by Ramsar signatories and actively used by blue carbon investors.

To further promote the use and value of GMW, we organised the first massive open online course attended by thousands of practitioners, as well as the first-ever in-person training for mangrove practitioners from the Western Indian Ocean region. Consequently, mangrove management is now informed by standardised and peer-reviewed global information on near real-time mangrove losses and gains and the drivers thereof. This enables targeted and efficient interventions and improved monitoring.

We restored 850 hectares of mangroves using Ecological Mangrove Restoration in Guinea-Bissau, Tanzania, Kenya and Senegal, and mobilised others to restore a further 580 hectares. These cases encourage a paradigm shift from traditionally unsuccessful mass-planting approaches to more inclusive community-based restoration strategies than can be scaled up across coastal landscapes.

In Senegal, we helped facilitate the development of a national mangrove management plan to support community-based restoration. We also developed sustainable management plans for coastal landscapes in The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Kenya, Tanzania and Indonesia, working with government, NGOs and community groups. In total these plans cover over 400,000 hectares.

We trained wetlands managers across the Yellow Sea on a science-based approach to monitoring and conservation. This will ultimately result in better management of 300,000 hectares of wetland sites critically important for migratory shore birds along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

Resilient wetland communities

By 2030, we aim to integrate wetlands into 8 million hectares of coastal production systems.

We made major progress towards rehabilitating production landscapes and furthering ongoing dialogues with ASC and others.

We reached 143,000 coastal zone and natural resource management professionals, raising awareness about the contribution of mangroves to food security and opportunities for improving production systems (aquaculture, rice farming) through large-scale mangrove restoration. Building on this success, the GMA was awarded the USD 2 million Food Planet

Prize, which will be used to drive mangrove restoration to enhance food security on the ground.

We advised the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) on strengthening safeguards for mangroves in its certification criteria, providing a basis for enhanced conservation and increased restoration of mangroves in shrimp farms that are or will be under ASC certification.

Together with the Global Green Growth Institute, we secured a EUR 16 million contribution from the Government of Canada to bring mangroves back in the Kayan-Sembakung and Mahakam deltas in Indonesia. Ultimately we aim to restore the ecological integrity of at least 300,000 hectares of mangroves and associated ecosystems.

Over 22,000 people benefitted from sustainable livelihood activities in mangrove areas in Africa. We provided them with training, materials for alternative income generating activities, improving value chains for their produce, and other measures. For example, our energy-efficient improved cook stoves programme in Matondoni, Kenya has decreased mangrove wood fuel consumption, improved heat retention, and reduced smoke. This initiative has brought tangible improvements to the lives of communities, contributing to a more sustainable and healthier environment.

Reduced climate risks

By 2030, we aim to mainstream Building with Nature and promote blue carbon solutions, influencing €10 billion of investments in coastal infrastructure solutions.

Our efforts to mobilise Building with Nature Asia have slowed due to difficulties in recruitment for key roles in resource mobilisation.

The UN recognised our Building with Nature Indonesia initiative to protect Indonesia's coast against flooding as one of 10 inaugural World Restoration Flagships. Building on this flagship example, Wetlands International is promoting uptake of the approach in Indonesia, Philippines, India, Malaysia and China, and other countries over time, in collaboration with the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, EcoShape and One Architecture.

Building with Nature Asia seeks to leverage investment in Nature-Based Solutions to increase the resilience of 30 million vulnerable people in cities and settlements along vulnerable coasts and rivers by 2030 across the continent. Potential implementation projects have been explored in Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and India to connect the regional platform with national initiatives. We have also developed a resource mobilisation strategy to raise €30-50 million for Building with Nature Asia and secure funding for the next phase of the program within a year.

We published a Policy Paper 'Voluntary Carbon Markets for Wetland Conservation and Restoration' and used it in public consultations of emerging standards, leading to improved Race2Zero Criteria and High-Quality Blue Carbon Principles. These principles are used by investors such as Mirova and Climate Asset Management that have made significant pledges to invest in 'natural capital' including mangroves.

Our Asia Times op-ed set the agenda for sustainable development in Manila Bay, calling for adherence to international Environmental Social Governance standards and for integration of nature in infrastructure designs. Since, we have helped public and private actors to put in place safeguards for maintaining biodiversity, we ensured community-based participative planning and identified opportunities for infrastructure and urban development that yield a net positive impact for communities. These efforts resulted in uptake of safeguards in the Manila Bay Sustainable Development Masterplan.

RIVERS & LAKES 2022

Our Goal is to catalyse investment to safeguard and restore rivers, lakes and their accompanying wetlands, as part of wider freshwater systems; and to provide water security for people and nature, climate resilience, and sustainable and peaceful landscapes.

Healthy wetlands

We prepared integrated management plans for nearly 300 wetlands in sub-basins of the Ganga River in India, covering almost 1.9 million hectares, while preparations were begun for possible listing as a Ramsar Site of Ottu Lake in Haryana state.

In Argentina, we developed and began implementation of management plans for more than 2 million hectares of wetlands along the Paraná -Paraguay fluvial corridor, covering the world's largest tropical wetland in the Pantanal, together with Iberá Marshes and the Paraná Delta, while the Paraná Delta Biodiversity Corridor initiative was formally adopted by the Argentina Ministry of Environment. We also completed the management plan of the Pozuelos Biosphere Reserve covering 364,000 hectares in the High Andes.

In the Central Rift Valley of Ethiopia, we restored over 2,000 hectares of degraded watersheds, lakes and wetland areas, through our integrated landscape restoration interventions, and showcased 1,000 hectares of buffer zones protecting Lake Ziway from impacts from intensive agriculture. Further south in the Omo-Gibe sub-basin, we restored nearly 1,000 hectares of degraded high value wetlands, and started dialogues on water use and on a transboundary ecoregion vision for the area together with stakeholders across the border in Turkana Province (Kenya), where we initiated enhanced rangeland management through the re-seeding with native species benefitting 15,000 stakeholders.

We secured a new 10 year partnership with the Swedish International Development Agency to upscale healthy, biodiverse, and well managed wetland landscapes globally by 2030, aiming to achieve global influence of countries, institutions and sectors, resulting in shifts in approach, policies and investments towards the regeneration of wetland landscapes.

By 2030, we aim to safeguard 10 million hectares of high value river and lake wetlands, focusing on five basins.

Developing and implementing management plans in India and Argentina, coupled with upscaling potential in the Rift Valley, means we are on track in 2022.

Resilient wetland communities

By 2030, we aim to safeguard and restore 60 million hectares of wetlands as integral elements of productive river and lake landscapes.

While field innovations and partnership development are showing great promise in many regions, the establishment of and investment in mechanisms to drive upscaling are lagging behind our earlier expectations. Programmes to scale our work are in the pipeline and they will accelerate progress.

Our work with development, economic, and funding partners on sustainable agriculture, reduced water consumption, and integrated planning continues to break new ground, safeguarding precious wetland resources in some of the most fragile environments in the world.

We worked with land users to implement better management practices on more than 46,000 hectares of floodplain habitats under production (largely cattle raising / livestock) in the Paraná Delta in Argentina and the Pantanal wetlands in Brazil, while in the High Andes, we encouraged stakeholders to transition to improved livestock grazing on more than 21,000 hectares in the Argentinian Puna, contributing to wetlands and water resources conservation.

In Mali and Ethiopia, we piloted technological innovations for reducing the impacts of smallholder farming on wetland landscapes, including through bunding to reduce upstream soil erosion, vermiculture to reduce dependence on expensive chemical fertilisers, re-planting of slopes with indigenous and income-generating tree species, and more efficient use of water in irrigated vegetable production, leading to increased household production, improved incomes and a better environment for farmers.

In the Lake Turkana basin in Kenya, we assisted stakeholders in small-scale demonstrations – a start towards larger ambition – to switch to climate-smart farming and resilient livelihood activities, including animal fodder, vegetables and agro-forestry, and sustainable fishing.

Reduced climate risks

By 2030, we aim that €500 million is committed to enable Nature-Based Solutions in freshwater wetlands, for climate mitigation and adaptation.

We saw limited progress in terms of actual impact on the ground in 2022. We expect progress to be exponential over time as we build the foundations for scaling up. We continue to position ourselves and mobilise partners.

We focused on building both the proofs of concept and the alliances of partners required to mobilise finance for the widespread deployment of nature-based freshwater solutions.

In Sahelian Africa, we organised a Roundtable meeting in Bamako, Mali during which senior executives from 3 river basin authorities, 6 countries and 5 major bilateral donors crafted a declaration recognising wetlands restoration as a force for peace, security and stability in the region coupled with a plan of action. Important as a lever to mobilise government and donor commitment to work in the region, the declaration is an important step to mobilise commitments to wetland restoration and related programming.

We continued to build our large-scale Blue Lifelines for a Secure Sahel initiatives with partners, governments, and international organisations, and which aims to mobilise large-scale investment to restore 30 million hectares of wetland and increase the resilience of 20 million people.

In the Himalaya in India, we facilitated the economic valuation of key landscape functions to build resilience and secure EUR 5 million investments for Nature-based Solutions for climate change adaptation.

PEATLANDS 2022

Our Goal is to scale up the conservation and restoration of peatlands as a contribution to biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and sustainable development. For this, it is vital to ensure that all remaining undrained peatlands stay intact, while 50 million hectares of drained peatlands are restored by 2050.

Resilient wetland communities



By 2030, we aim to enable community based conservation and restoration of 10 million hectares of peatlands.

While a solid foundation to reach the target by 2030 has been set, influencing EU policy has been slower than expected. The global uptake is also not as quick as anticipated.

In the High Andes of Peru, we worked with the herder communities to change their land management practices, resulting in 2,400 hectares of peatlands under improved livestock grazing management offering sustainable income in harmony with nature.

We clarified barriers and enablers for scaling up wetland restoration and make it a part of the Green Deal transition in Europe. This information helped inform decision-makers and experts engaged in peatland restoration in Europe.

As a result of our advocacy efforts, the EU is now shifting its stance and accepting the significant role that improved peatland protection, increased paludiculture (wet peatland farming) and carbon farming can bring to the Green Deal implementation. Including these aspects in the Common Agriculture Policy is key for upscaling since it will drive the largest farm-subsidy stream in Europe and help ensure that peatlands are recognised in the new EU Carbon Farming initiative.

Healthy wetlands



By 2030, we aim to safeguard over 20 million hectares of high value peatlands, including bringing 5 major peatland landscapes back into good ecological condition.

We have started work in 4 major peatland landscapes – in Peru, Mongolia, Poland and Sweden. We have also focused on building capacity and knowledge sharing, part of our strategy to mobilise towards safeguarding 20 million hectares.

We developed landscape restoration propositions for Lake Junin in Peru and central valley peatlands in Mongolia. We also developed propositions for the Oder Delta in Poland and Norrbotten in Sweden with our partner Rewilding Europe to test a commercial peatland restoration model based on carbon value. We also explored opportunities to unlock carbon finance for peatland restoration in six other European countries, paving the way for upscaling.

Shaping, collating and sharing knowledge to enable others to take action on peatlands is central to our upscaling plan, and we built partnerships such as the EU-funded WaterLANDS and Wet Horizons (EU Horizon 2020). We updated the wetlands and peatlands database for Europe, providing the evidence needed for governments and policymakers to act and track restoration progress.

We used such evidence to influence the EU Nature Restoration Law and Carbon Farming regulations under development. The former sets legally binding peatland restoration targets and now includes wetlands outside of protected sites, providing a strong basis for upscaling peatland restoration by farmers and rural communities in Europe. The latter sets the stage for mobilising carbon finance for wetlands.

To rewet 500,000 hectares of degraded peatlands in Europe, we facilitated learning and coordinated action across Europe by leading knowledge exchange on peatland restoration carbon standards, bringing together stakeholders from Germany, Poland and Lithuania. Beyond Europe, we stimulated South-South knowledge exchange and learning between Asia and Africa resulting in uptake of best practices on peatland restoration across our network and stakeholders.

We supported the Government of Argentina to designate a new Ramsar protected wetland covering an area of 350,000 hectares of valuable peatlands, by developing the Peninsula Mitre's Ramsar site Information Sheet - a key step towards securing its conservation.

Reduced climate risks



By 2030, we will reduce the impact of peat-based industries in 10 million hectares of peatlands, with a focus on palm oil, pulp and timber.

Through the RSPO, we worked to influence and reduce the impact of oil palm plantations (as well as pulp and timber) on vast areas of peatlands. We are on track in 2022 to deliver by 2030.

We reduced the climate impact of peat-based industries by influencing commodity chains that produce on peatlands to change practices, such as palm oil, pulp and timber, and by promoting sustainable commodities.

Through the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, we developed Drainability Assessment training modules and delivered training in East and West Kalimantan (Indonesia) for RSPO members. The training has the potential to influence practices on 4.5 million hectares of plantations under the RSPO scheme.

We advocated on the EU's external trade policy that reduces the import of 'deforestation' related commodities, including deforestation for palm oil and pulp plantations. We see this as a major upscaling mechanism which can result in real impact.

Playing the role of critical friend on the Board of Responsibly Produced Peat, we pushed to transform the industry from excavating peat for growing media to growing peatmoss and rewetting the underlying peatlands. Financially supported by the Dutch government, RPP is recognised in the Dutch Growing Media Covenant signed in 2022 to phase out extracted peat in the short-term for the domestic market and in medium-term for the professional market while ensuring that all peat used in this transition comes from least environmentally impacting methods.

In Brunei, we supported the Biodiversity Action Plan developed for a corporate in rehabilitating degraded wetland areas within the Belait District, one of the last almost intact peat swamps and an important bird area.



Aerial view of the Pantanal Wetlands, Brazil

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

By Fred Pearce

Was 2022 a watershed moment for the world's wetlands? We may have entered a new era for wetland restoration and conservation. Because, for the first time, a global agreement aimed at halting and reversing biodiversity loss has put inland waters and coastal ecosystems centre-stage.

Negotiators have divided the world between terrestrial and marine ecosystems, largely forgetting the crucial interfaces between land and sea.



Jane Madgwick, CEO, Wetlands International speaking at COP15 in Montreal, Canada

Since the Convention on Biological Diversity was signed at the Earth Summit thirty years ago, wetlands have often been sidelined in its agreements. Negotiators have divided the world between terrestrial and marine ecosystems, largely forgetting the crucial fluvial interfaces between land and sea, and the flowing waters that lubricate almost every other ecosystem, while being home to an estimated 40 percent of the world's biodiversity.

Largely as a result, wetlands have been disappearing faster than other biomes, with freshwater species becoming extinct twice as rapidly as terrestrial and marine species. But hopefully no longer.

Global Biodiversity Framework

The Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted by 196 parties to the Convention meeting in Montreal in December 2022, is the most important global ecological agreement for a decade. It commits nations to "halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, including by protecting 30 percent of the planet by 2030. It specifically targeted wetlands – 'inland waters' and 'coastal ecosystems' in the language of the Convention, and for the first time agreed targets for their restoration.

Its Target 2 commits the world to ensuring that "by 2030, at least 30 percent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration." And Target 3, on conservation, promises that "by 2030, at least 30 percent of terrestrial, inland water and coastal and marine areas... are effectively conserved and managed."

The breakthrough comes after many years of lobbying by a group of wetlands-focused conservation groups, including Wetlands International, which was present at the culmination of negotiations in Montreal.

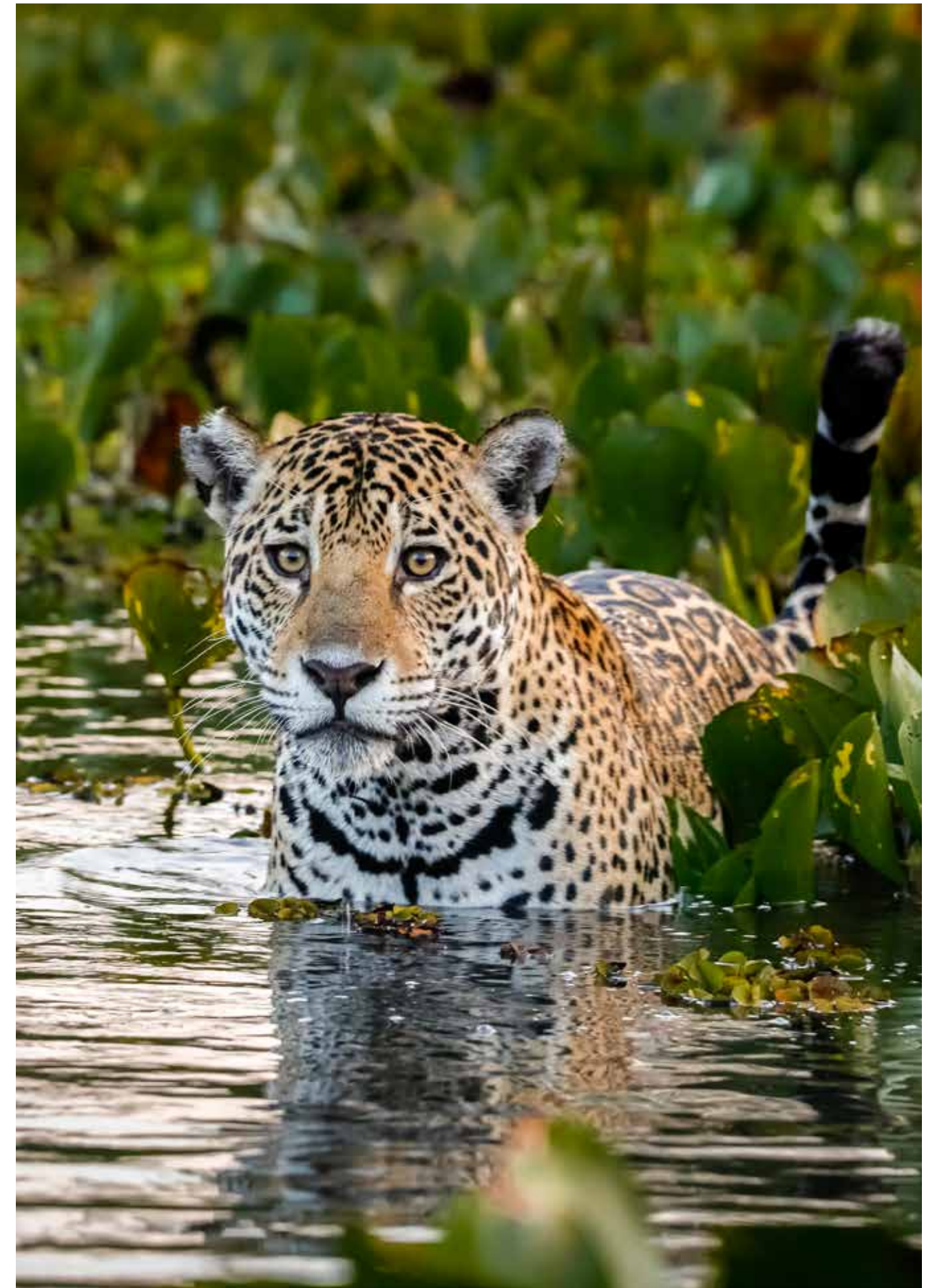
The agreement is also notable for its explicit recognition of the importance of Indigenous and traditional ownership and stewardship of wetlands to meeting the targets. This is crucial. Wetlands International has long argued that buy-in from local communities that use and manage wetlands is essential to successful and equitable conservation.

Not everything we hoped for is included in the new agreement. We pushed for the restoration target to be expressed in absolute numbers rather than percentages, and for conservation and restoration of rivers to be singled out with a target based on the length of rivers.

Ramsar Convention

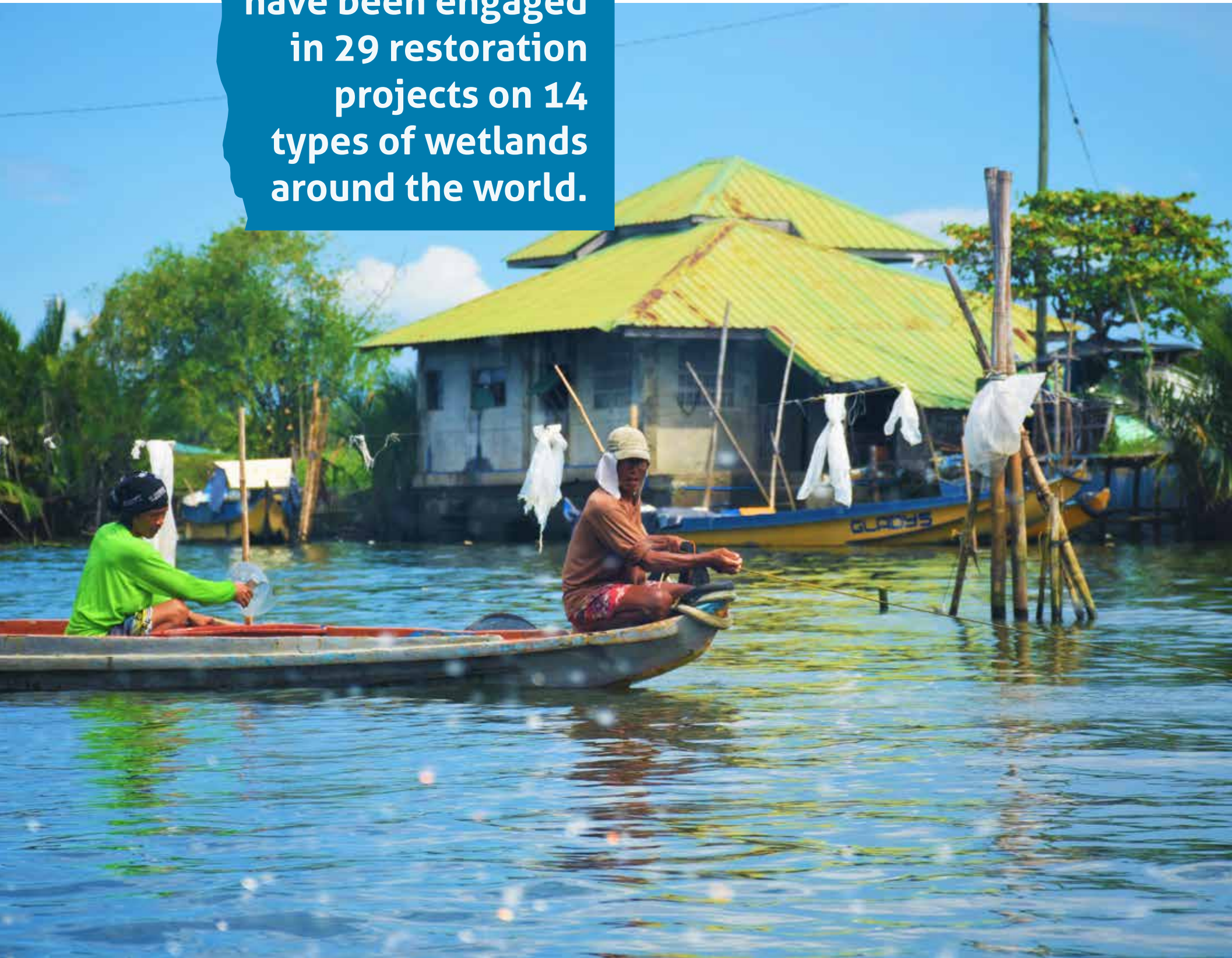
Rivers link up wetlands and should be seen as wetlands in their own right, as they are by the Ramsar Convention. Their fragmentation – through dams and as their floodplains are drained – is a major threat to the planet's biodiversity. A specific target for them would have underlined the importance of connectivity in maintaining the health of wetland ecosystems.

Still, with partners we calculated that the agreement's 30-percent restoration target should, if properly implemented, bring back to full ecological health at least 350 million hectares of inland water ecosystems, and 300,000 kilometres of rivers.



Close up of a young Jaguar standing in shallow water in Pantanal Wetlands, Brazil

In recent years, we have been engaged in 29 restoration projects on 14 types of wetlands around the world.



Wetlands International, To Plant or Not to Plant (TPNTP) project site in Bulacan Province, Phillipines



Improvement of Agriculture as part of the SaWel project, Mali

Halt the loss of wetlands

But while pushing for wetland restoration, we must also halt their loss. In many places, their demise continues, regardless of international declarations. In 2022, Brazil's Pantanal, the world's largest tropical swamp, suffered an epidemic of wildfires, mostly set by invading ranchers. And China's largest freshwater lake, the Poyang on the floodplain of the River Yangtze, all but dried out because it continues to be degraded by sand mining and agricultural drainage.

The year also saw the government of South Sudan seek to revive plans to divert the River Nile so it no longer maintained the Sudd swamp, Africa's second largest freshwater wetland. And it ended with large areas of the Mesopotamian marshes of southern Iraq turning to dust as Turkey impounded new dams far upstream on the rivers Tigris and Euphrates.

Optimistic

Still, we remain optimistic. We believe our extensive wetlands experience – from local water projects in the African Sahel to continental-scale river management in South America's four-nation Corredor Azul; and from the salt marshes around the North Sea to the forest swamps of Borneo – gives us the technical, social and political expertise necessary to halt losses and restore lost wetlands to meet the new targets.



Protests at UN Climate Change Conference COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

Good intentions mean nothing without action on the ground.

We have in recent years been engaged in 29 restoration projects on 14 types of wetlands around the world. We work with a wide range of community and financial partners, and local and national governments, to scale up successes. For instance, in 2022, China, India, the Philippines and Malaysia signed up to replicate techniques we piloted in our award-winning Building with Nature project in Indonesia that used natural coastal processes to restore mangroves lost to shrimp ponds.

But unless we tackle the root causes of wetland destruction – by transforming agriculture, ending harmful subsidies, and reorienting economic and financial systems to be positive for nature – the goals of this historic biodiversity agreement will not be met.

African Sahel and Ethiopia's Rift Valley

Wetlands International's current work in the African Sahel and Ethiopia's Rift Valley, which we report on elsewhere in this review, exemplifies how we convene stakeholders to find new, more equitable ways of sharing water to protect wetlands and maximise local wellbeing. The challenge is to take those lessons to a global scale.

Growing recognition

The place given to wetlands in the new Global Biodiversity Framework underlines and reinforces the critical advances that wetlands have made in environmental agendas – in part because of the growing recognition of their importance in achieving climate and sustainability goals. Days before the Montreal conference, signatories to the long-standing Ramsar wetlands convention met in Wuhan and Geneva and reinforced the need for wetlands targets, and UN climate negotiators meeting in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, for the first time gave wetlands equal prominence with forests as carbon stores that can deliver Nature-Based Solutions to climate change. And the conference, with the Global Mangrove Alliance, launched the Mangrove Breakthrough, a call to action for conserving mangroves to both capture carbon and protect low-lying coastlines from rising sea levels and worsening storms.

Wetlands have long been seen by many in the conservation world as the poor relations of conservation. But in 2022 they perhaps finally took their rightful place as critical ecosystems in the fight to head off climate change, halt biodiversity loss and achieve a sustainable world. But good intentions mean nothing without action on the ground.

The hard work starts now.



LAURA MACKENZIE

SENIOR ADVOCACY OFFICER

I'm Laura MacKenzie and I joined Wetlands International in May 2022, as a Senior Advocacy Officer based in the global office in the Netherlands. Working closely with the team and colleagues across the Wetlands International network, my role is all about influencing global policies and processes, building powerful coalitions, and advocating for increased investment in wetlands, with an emphasis on freshwater and biodiversity. Wetlands International has a wealth of outstanding expertise, knowledge, and success stories of wetland conservation and restoration for the benefit of people and nature, all of which are powerful ingredients for impactful advocacy.

My focus in 2022 was engagement with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and influencing around the Global Biodiversity Framework, which was adopted in Montreal in December and included hugely positive provisions for the future of wetlands. Meeting and collaborating with colleagues from all across the network, especially during the Ramsar Conference of Parties in November, was a highlight of the year. Our challenge now is to ensure wetlands receive the attention they deserve as countries translate the new global biodiversity targets into tangible national action plans and policies.

Growing up on a Scottish island, a connection with nature has shaped my perspective and career. With previous roles across a range of environmental NGOs, and as a senior adviser and speechwriter in the UK Parliament specializing in climate, nature, and economic policy and legislation, I bring extensive policy and advocacy experience and expertise to the role.

Looking ahead, we need wetland protection and restoration to become a higher priority for decision makers in all sectors, alongside action to address the underlying causes of wetland loss, and a shift towards nature-positive economic and financial systems. It's exciting to be part of an organisation that encompasses initiatives such as the Rights of Wetlands, which can also contribute to the transformative changes that the science shows are urgently needed.

Inverpolly, Scotland

GLOBAL VOICES FOR WETLANDS



Professor Johan Rockström

Joint Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

"To tackle the climate, food, nature, and energy crises, water availability is of the essence. It is urgent that the world focuses all attention on the double facts that water is the number one challenge for climate adaptation due to droughts and floods, and a key challenge for mitigation, as there is no safe climate future well below 2 degrees Celsius without a functioning hydrological cycle."

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/11/221109085743.htm>



Annie Proulx

American novelist, short story writer, and journalist

"The problem with destroying the fens, bogs and swamps is they are holding in carbon dioxide and methane gas. And the more we rip them up, the more carbon dioxide and methane comes floating into the atmosphere and the faster the Earth will be warming."

<https://www.npr.org/2022/10/11/1127959575/annie-proulx-book-wetlands>



Dr Musonda Mumba

Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands

"The science is clear, any scenario of meeting our global climate goals means radical protection and restoration of wetlands – the fastest disappearing ecosystem on the planet. Take peatlands, our most efficient land-based carbon store, we need to restore 25 million hectares of lost peatlands before 2030 to achieve the level of mitigation action we need to keep the Paris goal in reach."

<https://ramsar.org/news/cop14-opens-with-a-hybrid-ceremony-in-wuhan-and-geneva>



Tony Juniper

Chair of Natural England

"Wetlands can help to keep rivers flowing, even when rain is scarce, thereby protecting the living, shimmering threads that bring life to the landscape. Water standing on the land also helps recharge the aquifers that underpin much of our public water supply. Holding more water in the environment through the restoration of wet ecosystems can reduce flood peaks and protect us from the misery of the flooding that periodically affects communities across the country."

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/aug/12/britain-wetlands-drought-wildfires-floods-climate-change>



Inger Andersen

Under-Secretary-General of
the United Nations and Executive Director
of the UN Environment Programme

The way our food systems work puts huge pressure on wetlands. We need to move to peat-free, drainage-free and deforestation-free supply-chains, through investing in nature-positive agriculture and sustainable land-use financing. As individuals we need to change our lifestyles and consumption patterns.

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/speech/wetlands-important-tool-build-resilience>



LILIAN NYAEGA

REGIONAL PROGRAMME OFFICER

I am Lilian Nyaega, currently serving as the Regional Programme Officer at the Eastern Africa Office of Wetlands International. Over the past six years, I have had the privilege of working closely with communities that directly interact with the ecosystems we strive to conserve and restore.

Working at Wetlands International brings me immense satisfaction as our efforts have a tangible and measurable impact on wetland conservation. Witnessing the positive outcomes of our work fuels my passion for protecting these crucial ecosystems. Moreover, the collaborative and diverse nature of our team fosters an environment that challenges and rewards personal and professional growth.

My expertise lies at the intersection of environment, development, and policy, with a specific focus on understanding the dynamic relationship between people and nature. I have dedicated my career to comprehending and strengthening the intricate interactions and interdependencies between human and natural systems, which ultimately shape environmental outcomes. I am deeply committed to managing projects that promote a holistic understanding of environmental issues, considering the social, cultural, economic, and ecological aspects. This knowledge informs evidence-based policies and practices that foster sustainability and resilience for both people and nature. Currently, my focus is on contributing to the integrated management of socio-natural systems, acknowledging and leveraging these complex relationships for the benefit of both communities and the environment.

This past year, I have been entrusted with additional responsibilities, which I view as a testament to the increased trust and confidence placed in me by our team.

Based on our experience in conserving and restoring wetlands at scale, we have identified the importance of strong policy and governance frameworks that prioritise wetland restoration while engaging local communities in decision-making processes. In addition, fostering partnerships and alliances among diverse stakeholders, where resources and knowledge can be shared, can lead to more effective restoration outcomes. The recently established Global Mangrove Alliance Kenya Chapter seeks to achieve precisely this!



Reseeding exercise taking place in Todonyang, Turkana County, Kenya

TRANSFORMING FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

By Fred Pearce

Groundwater springs are recovering their flows and gushing onto mountainsides; native seedlings are sprouting as the soils hold more moisture; lakes are refilling; migrating birds are returning; and so too is hope among farming communities, where once there was despair at the state of their land.



Jane Madgwick, CEO, Wetlands International visits the Ziway-Shalla sub-basin, Ethiopia

Ziway-Shalla sub-basin

The scene is the Rift Valley in Ethiopia, a region whose lakes and water resources have been stressed to breaking point by growing human populations, climate change and industrialised farming, including huge greenhouses that irrigate more than a billion roses sold in Europe every year. But over the past three years, there has been an impressive transformation in part of the valley known as the Ziway-Shalla sub-basin - thanks to our work to reverse the land degradation that comes from tree clearance on hillsides and the overuse of scarce water. Instead, there is a cycle of regeneration.

Centered on Lake Ziway, the basin's only freshwater lake and a vital source of water for more than two million people, our projects work with smallholder farmers, livestock herders, major water users and local administrators to democratise water use, capture rains to percolate underground; improve water allocation; boost irrigation efficiency; and end deforestation in the surrounding hills that has been silting up the lakes.

"What we see here is a small beginning, but one that brings immense hope for the future" said Wetlands International CEO Jane Madgwick after a visit in mid-2022. "Thousands of community members have put their energy and effort into rejuvenating their landscape. They have trusted our advice and they are proud of the results. Now they own it, and we are thinking about how to scale it up. Because the need is vast and the demand is huge."

Agriculture is a major driver of wetland destruction and the biggest user of the world's water. The water troubles of Ethiopia's Rift Valley are a microcosm of its broken relationship with the water cycle. Too often, farmers destroy wetlands by draining them to provide land for crops, then empty rivers and lakes to provide irrigation. Combined with pollution from agricultural nutrients and chemicals, the result is less clean water for everyone and long-term food insecurity undermined. What we are attempting around Lake Ziway is one aspect of what needs to be achieved everywhere: protecting water resources by enhancing the natural processes that capture and sustain water in the landscape. In so doing, we help rural communities advance their needs while simultaneously protecting and restoring nature.

Blue Lifelines for a Secure Sahel

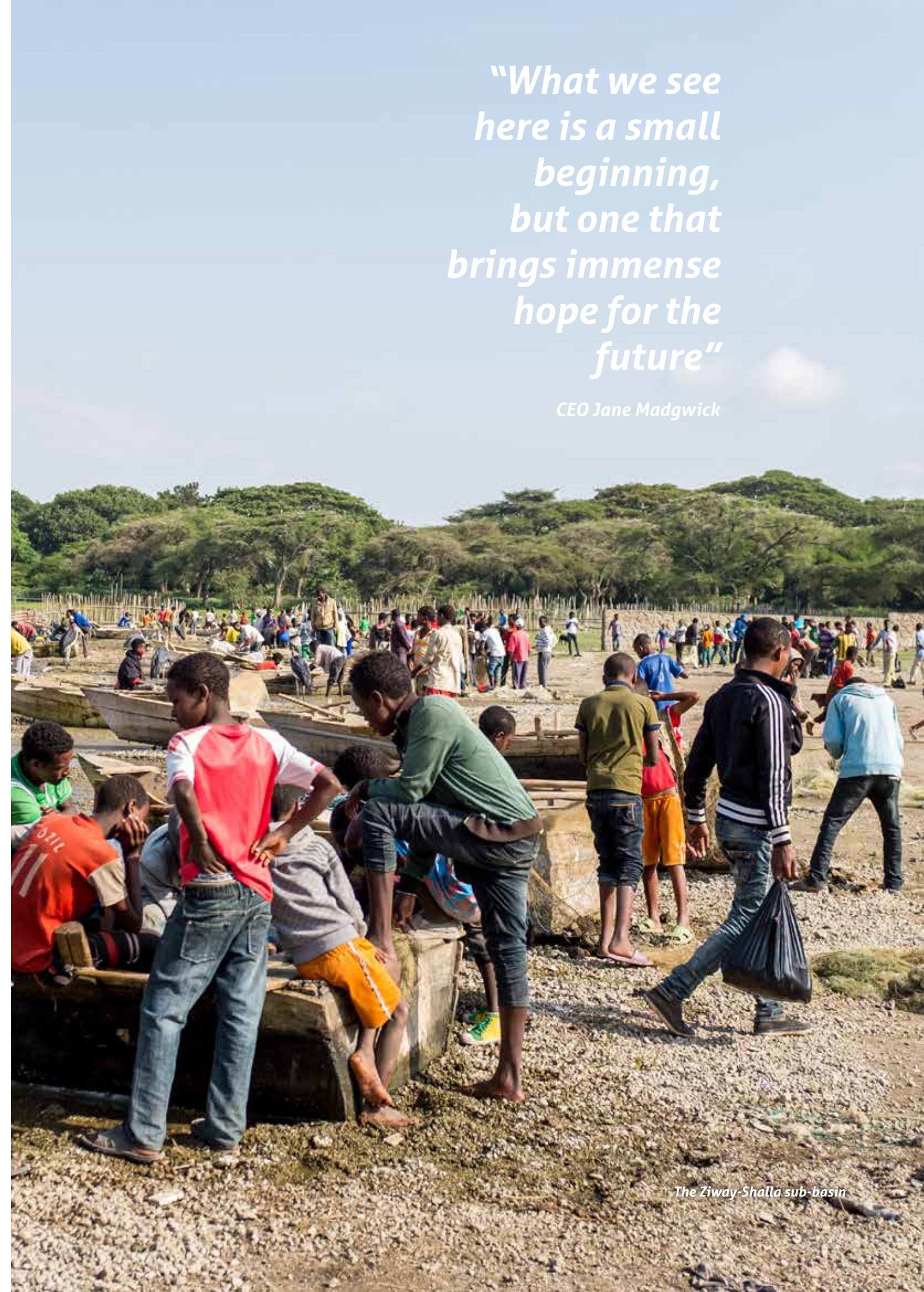
Elsewhere in Africa, our Blue Lifelines for a Secure Sahel (BLiSS) project aims to restore 20 million hectares of vital wetlands in the arid landscape on the fringes of the Sahara. At the small scale, BLiSS is helping communities from the delta of the River Senegal through the Inner Niger Delta to Lake Chad to manage their scarce water better.

Round table in Bamako

And at the large scale, in July 2022 we convened a high-level round table in Bamako, under the chairmanship of Mali's minister for mining, energy and water, which gave political endorsement to safeguarding and restoring the region's degraded wetland ecosystems. That means, for instance, managing flows through hydroelectric dams to ensure that

"What we see here is a small beginning, but one that brings immense hope for the future"

CEO Jane Madgwick



The Ziway-Shalla sub-basin

We need to sustain wetlands as natural sponges to soak up floods and mitigate droughts that are intensifying with climate change.



Fisherman of Parana-Paraguay corridor at work



Round table in Bamako, under the chairmanship of Mali's minister for mining, energy and water

floodplains, wetlands and smallholder farmers downstream get the water they need. To succeed, this work requires changing minds as well as engineering and agricultural practices. But we are making progress.

South America

In South America, on the Paraná delta in Argentina and the Pantanal in Brazil, we have begun negotiating agreements with livestock ranchers to encourage alternative livestock-raising practices - including replacing cattle with water buffalo - which protect these wetlands and guard against a growing epidemic of wildfires. So far, these agreements cover some 34,000 hectares. We are also developing wider management plans for the Paraná delta and both the Kadiweu Indigenous Territory and SESC Ramsar site on the Pantanal, covering nearly 900,000 hectares. This work forms part of our ten-year Corredor Azul initiative to protect the entire floodplain of the Paraná-Paraguay river system through the heart of the continent, one of the world's last large and largely free-flowing rivers.

Germany

A key task in many landscapes is to change farming methods to slow down the movement of rainwater and eroded soils flowing off hillsides, through fields, to rivers. We need to sustain wetlands as natural sponges to soak up floods and

mitigate droughts that are intensifying with climate change. Germany is learning this lesson after Europe's worst flood disaster in decades in the Eifel Mountains in 2021. The flood, in which more than 220 people died, was initially blamed on extreme rainfall due to changing climate. But peer-reviewed research published by the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in 2022 confirmed Wetlands International's initial assessment that a major underlying factor was land-use changes, including enhanced drainage in the upper catchments of the swollen rivers. With their capacity to hold water drastically diminished, the rain rushed rapidly downstream.

Asia

Degraded wetlands caused other similar disasters in 2022. The September floods across Pakistan were made worse by poor agricultural practices that had silted up wetlands on the floodplain of the River Indus. Lake Manchar, one of South Asia's largest lakes, was so clogged that it rapidly burst its banks, engulfing dozens of villages.

Spain

Such follies continued. In Spain, the Andalusian parliament retrospectively legalised the widespread abstraction of underground water by strawberry farmers, which is drying up the Doñana wetland, one of Europe's most important wintering grounds for waterfowl.

Paludiculture offers bankable reasons for protecting and restoring our wetlands.



Paludiculture in Bederkesa, Germany

South Sudan

And concerted opposition from Wetlands International and others helped dissuade South Sudan from resuming construction of a canal to divert the River Nile away from Africa's second largest freshwater wetland, the Sudd. The idea was to reduce evaporation in the swamp and so release more water for agricultural irrigation, both locally and downstream in Egypt. But draining the Sudd would have decimated wildlife, altered local climate, and wrecked millions of livelihoods that depend on the swamp.

"The Sudd needs to be recognised as a massive natural asset, vital to future peace and prosperity", said CEO Jane Madgwick, before the plan was put on hold. "Its loss would permanently undermine the climate resilience of the region."

Paludiculture

Luckily, there is good news for those seeking to end the constant battles for water between wetlands and agriculture. Researchers at Wetlands International, the Greifswald Mire Centre and elsewhere are developing and promoting ways of farming within wetlands, particularly peatlands, known as paludiculture.

In July 2022, we took German parliamentarians to see an EU-funded project near Malchin in Northeast Germany, where farmers cultivate Typha, a flowering wetland plant also known as cattail or bulrush, which can be sold to make construction materials such as boards and insulation. Other potential high-value paludiculture activities include harvesting peat moss, for use in horticulture as an alternative to mining fossil peat, and herding water buffalo. The parliamentarians concluded that such commercial wetland activities could be vital in meeting targets for conserving and rewetting peatlands to be set by the new EU Natural Restoration Law. Paludiculture may not feed the world any time soon, but it offers good bankable reasons for protecting and restoring our wetlands.

Climate change

Meanwhile, there are wider issues in the agricultural and food systems that urgently need to be addressed. Climate change is affecting food and water security. If we want to transform food and agricultural systems to become more resilient and reduce their environmental and climate footprints, we need to connect these efforts to the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of wetlands. For this, a better integration of the different policy agendas is necessary. In 2022, during UN climate negotiations at COP27, we engaged in events aimed at accelerating action on the food system, water and climate, and in doing this, also enabling global biodiversity recovery.

Our work in Ethiopia's Ziway-Shalla basin shows on a small scale what is needed – and what can be achieved. The good news is that solutions exist. What we need now is to scale up impact.



HEA-JIN PARK COMMUNICATION OFFICER

I am Hea-Jin Park, the Communication Officer at Wetlands International Japan. My primary role involves creating content to raise awareness about Japan's Ramsar sites and World Wetlands Day, as well as managing social media platforms. Prior to joining Wetlands International in April 2021, I worked for seven years as a publishing editor in South Korea. In 2018, I relocated to Japan and pursued studies in Ecological Democracy at the graduate school of Environment and Society. It was during this time that my interest in wetlands grew through involvement in local community activities and collaborations with civic groups across borders to restore the population of the endangered Black-faced Spoonbills, which breed in Korea and winter in Japan and Taiwan.

Wetlands International's dedication to sustaining and restoring wetland ecosystems strongly resonates with me. I firmly believe that safeguarding these vital habitats is essential for biodiversity conservation and the well-being of local communities. I am enthusiastic about being part of this important mission. Additionally, as a bird enthusiast, I feel fortunate to have numerous opportunities to visit wetlands worldwide.

One of the highlights of 2022 was the YouTube Wetland Contents Development project. In collaboration with the Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia, we partnered with various YouTube creators from diverse fields to showcase Japan's rich and diverse wetlands and their beautiful wildlife from their unique perspectives. The 12 video clips generated a total of over 87,000 views, significantly raising awareness about the importance of wetlands.

Undoubtedly, effective communication and engagement with various stakeholders play a critical role in the conservation and restoration of wetlands at a significant scale. This involves forging strong partnerships with local communities, governments, NGOs, and private sector organisations. Throughout this process, it is crucial to foster an understanding and respect for diversity, just as we value the importance of biodiversity.

Underwater life, Japan



Mangrove restoration along the coastline of Demak, Indonesia

RESTORING WETLAND NATURE

By Fred Pearce

We knew it was a great project.
Now the United Nations has recognised it, too.

At the global biodiversity conference in Montreal in December, the UN made our Building-with-Nature initiative to restore mangroves and protect rapidly eroding coastline in Indonesia one of its ten inaugural World Restoration Flagships. Now we plan to scale up this best practice to save coastlines and help millions more people across Asia.



Mangroves in Indonesia

“A stellar example of smart and forward-looking adaptation work in action”

Inger Andersen, Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

Shrimp ponds

Building with Nature integrates Nature-Based Solutions with more conventional water infrastructure. On the northern coastline of Java, Indonesia’s most densely populated island, we have been restoring a coastline that has been badly damaged by people removing a green barrier of mangroves to create room for shrimp ponds. Without this protection, the sea has been invading for several decades, washing through the ponds into rice fields in the ancient regency of Demak. Former coastal villages such as Timbulsloko have become islands, connected to the shore by narrow causeways several kilometres long that must be constantly raised to keep them above water.

Local communities planted new mangroves to hold back the water, but they were washed away. So we worked with them to install permeable bamboo structures along the coast, which create slack water between them and the shore, where silt accumulates, allowing mangroves to seed naturally and grow once again.

We also brought in local partners to train more than 270 village shrimp farmers in how to incorporate mangroves into redesigned ponds, while adopting organic methods of aquaculture. The results have tripled pond yields. And with the revived mangroves once again acting as nurseries, local wild fish catches have improved too, benefiting both villagers and bird populations.

World Restoration Flagship

Marking the World Restoration Flagship award, the director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Inger Andersen, called the project *“a stellar example of smart and forward-looking adaptation work in action”*, and a beacon for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, which got under way in 2021. For the villagers of Demak, Building with Nature has turned the tide against an encroaching ocean. They now own the bamboo structures, and will maintain them until they become redundant as the mangroves grow and collect more silt amid their roots. Meanwhile, the village networks created by Wetlands International during the project have formed a new permanent local representative body called Bintoro (Javanese for *“to manage the sea”*).

“The programme offers a triple win: for nature, communities and economies,” says Yus Rusila Noor, Director of Wetlands International in Indonesia. *“It meets local needs, while boosting benefits such as fisheries, carbon sequestration, recreation and biodiversity.”*

And it is set for expansion. *“The project has created a formula that can be used in other locations,”* says our Programme Head of Coasts and Deltas, Pieter van Eijk. *“Already, the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, a partner in the Demak project, has replicated the structures along more than 20 kilometres of vulnerable coastline in 13 districts. And we are developing similar schemes with the Ministry to help prevent flooding and erosion on the nearby islands of Lombok and Sumbawa.”*



“The programme offers a triple win: for nature, communities and economies.”

Yus Rusila Noor, Director of Wetlands International Indonesia

Village shrimp farmer in Demak, Building with Nature

“The project has created a formula that can be used in other locations.”

Pieter van Eijk, Programme Head, Coasts and Deltas of Wetlands International



Over the past two decades, our projects have restored wetlands in 16 countries, including rewetting 22,000 hectares of drained peatlands and rehabilitating 26,000 hectares.

Woman involved in oysterculturing Saloum delta, Senegal



Women doing oysterculturing in between the mangroves in the Saloum delta, Senegal

Building with Nature Asia

Next stop: the rest of Asia. We have created Building with Nature Asia to partner India, China, the Philippines and Malaysia and others to address a range of coastal problems previously only achieved by "hard" engineering. And we have joined the coalition for mainstreaming Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), a collaboration that puts NBS first among the options for infrastructure. Within a decade such projects could be protecting 10 million or more people, at a fraction of the cost of sea walls.

Recognition

The value of restoring wetlands for maintaining biodiversity, improving livelihoods and protecting against the impacts of climate change is increasingly recognised internationally. Of the ten World Restoration Flagships announced by the UN, five involved wetlands, from Gulf seagrasses and Indian rivers to wet grasslands in Central Asia.

Growing value

This rising awareness makes our expertise in wetland restoration of growing value. An internal analysis of our work over the past two decades, completed in 2022, identified 29 projects that have restored wetlands in 16 countries. They ranged from small water channels supplying villages in Mali's

Inner Niger Delta, to rewetting 22,000 hectares of drained peatlands in Russia, and rehabilitating 26,000 hectares in and around Lake Loktak in northeast India.

Many involved local communities as active partners, something we see as central to success. And in almost all cases, those communities were the main beneficiaries. Recently, our attention has focused on peatlands. They hold roughly a third of all the planet's soil carbon, and their continuing loss is reckoned responsible for around 4 percent of human-induced greenhouse gas emissions. Stemming and reversing this loss was highlighted as a critical task in fighting climate change by a new Global Peatland Assessment, published in 2022 by UNEP and the Global Peatlands Initiative, of which Wetlands International is a leading member.

We are working on it. In 2022, we pushed forward new projects in several countries. With funding from Greenchoice, a Dutch green-energy supplier, we are developing community-based peatland restoration across 180,000 hectares of two very different landscapes: around Lake Junin, high in the Amazon watershed of Peru, and across the steppes of Mongolia.



Collaboration on Peatland Restoration with Stella McCartney

In the Brazilian Pantanal, the world's largest tropical wetland, we began collecting data for a five-year project with Greenchoice to reduce wildfires that in recent years have spread from cattle ranches and consumed up to a third of the wetland, threatening its jaguars, giant otters, caymans and blue macaws.

Meanwhile in Europe, we have been lobbying for a tougher EU Nature Restoration Law that can catalyse wetland recovery. A draft of the law published by the European Commission in June planned, among other things, to restore the free flow of at least 25,000 kilometres of rivers by 2030, but had weak targets for rewetting peatlands as a means to meeting EU climate and biodiversity commitments.

We continue our work in the field to show how it can be done. 2022 saw new funding from the US philanthropic Grantham Foundation to kick off a second phase of our work with Rewilding Europe, developing commercially-based peatland restoration in Poland's Oder delta and Norrbotten county in northern Sweden. And we launched a collaboration with French luxury goods company LVMH to restore 200 hectares of blanket peat bog in northwest Scotland, funded by donations from purchasers of skincare products developed by Stella McCartney.

It's the new wet look.



Our partners working for a better conservation of wetlands at Junín, Perú

A portrait of Julio Fernandes, a man with a beard and a brown cap, smiling. He is wearing a grey t-shirt. The background is a field of tall grass under a clear sky.

JULIO FERNANDES

PROGRAMME OFFICER

I am Julio Fernandes, a Brazilian dedicated to my work at Wetlands International for the past five years. Growing up in the Brazilian countryside, I have always had a deep appreciation for the intricate relationship between people and nature. This passion led me to pursue a BSc in Geography and currently, I am a candidate for an MSc in territory management and planning.

The intersection of people and nature finds its true essence in wetlands, and working for a global network dedicated to conserving and restoring these precious ecosystems for the benefit of both people and nature brings me immense joy and fulfillment.

Cooperation is the cornerstone of my work. I find myself in spaces where I can connect and foster collaboration among partners. The challenge of bringing people together, united by a common goal, is what truly inspires me.

After two challenging years of remote work, last year, we were finally able to reconnect with partners and people in person for project implementations in the region. Returning to the field reignites our ambition and reinforces the mission we have ahead of us in safeguarding wetlands for the well-being of both people and nature.

Engaging people with wetlands is a priority for me! Facilitating dialogues across different scales, from grassroots community-based organisations (CBOs) to multilateral agreements and multinational companies, is crucial. Mobilizing people and sharing knowledge about the importance of wetlands allows individuals to recognise the vital role these ecosystems play in their lives.

A portrait of Andrés Fraiz, a man wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and a white hat, smiling. He is standing next to a mangrove tree with prominent roots. The background shows a lush green wetland area.

ANDRÉS FRAIZ

TECHNICAL OFFICER

My name is Andrés Fraiz, and I am a biologist deeply passionate about coastal ecosystems and their conservation. Working at Wetlands International allows me to pursue my true calling and address the issues that ignite my enthusiasm. The conservation of nature and the realisation that we must learn to coexist with it while harnessing the benefits of ecosystems and their services are crucial, especially in the face of climate change. Contributing to this cause brings me immense gratification.

My specialisation lies in environmental management, but my greatest expertise revolves around aquatic and marine ecology as well as the restoration of coastal ecosystems. Over the years, I have witnessed firsthand the significance of these ecosystems and the urgent need to protect and restore them.

Leadership and organizing work teams to address various challenges concerning wetlands have become a central part of my role. Resolving these issues is a constant source of motivation, driving me to connect with partners and build bridges among stakeholders. By bringing people together and fostering collaboration toward a common goal, I find great fulfillment.

Water is the essence of life, yet we often fail to appreciate its value until we face its scarcity. Wetlands, being fragile ecosystems, cannot withstand the relentless onslaught of pollutants and debris. Climate change further emphasises the urgency of maintaining the well-being of wetlands, as they provide essential ecosystem services that protect us and provide vital resources.

As a devoted conservationist and a lover of fish, I consider myself fortunate to have abundant opportunities to visit wetlands across the globe. These journeys allow me to witness the wonders of these ecosystems and deepen my appreciation for their significance.



Mangrove tree in clear tropical waters in Exuma, Bahamas

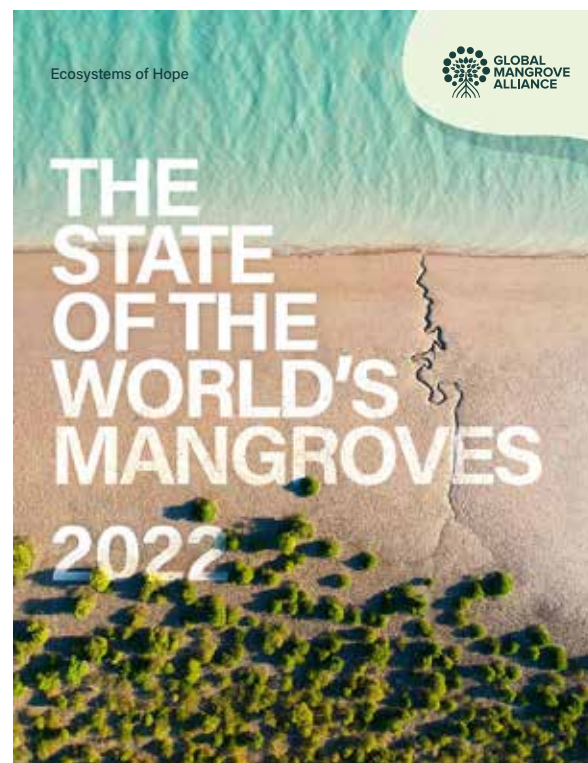
MANGROVE BREAKTHROUGH

By Fred Pearce

Amid the rise in international attention given to wetlands during 2022, no ecosystems have featured more prominently than mangroves – as storers of carbon, nurturers of marine wildlife and protectors of coastlines from storms and rising tides.

A major new boost for this agenda came during the year with the announcement of the Mangrove Breakthrough at the UN Climate Change Convention COP27 in November in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, aimed at mobilising billions of dollars for mangrove conservation and restoration.

A game-changer for mangrove conservation and restoration



In 2022, the GMA published the second edition of its groundbreaking *The State of the World's Mangroves* report

Wetlands International has been central to the rise of mangroves, through our collaborations with other environmental NGOs under the umbrella of the Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA), which we co-founded in 2018 with Conservation International, IUCN, The Nature Conservancy and WWF, and which now has more than 40 member organisations and a growing number of national chapters. In 2022, the GMA published the second edition of its groundbreaking *The State of the World's Mangroves* report. Compiled by researchers from Aberystwyth University, with The Nature Conservancy and Wetlands International, it identifies 147,000 square kilometres of mangroves, pinpointing gains and losses in the past quarter-century and identifying more than 8,000 square kilometres of recently lost mangroves that the researchers identify as potentially restorable.

Game-changer

The report is proving a game-changer for mangrove conservation and restoration. The first edition, published in 2021, using data from the Global Mangrove Watch, an online platform of remote sensing information, underpins the Mangrove Breakthrough, announced by the UN High-Level Climate Champions, with the GMA and others, at COP27. The Breakthrough will “unlock public, private and philanthropic finance at scale,” says Climate Champion and UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda, Mahmoud Mohieldin. It aims to catalyze the investment of USD 4 billion

by 2030 to halt any further mangrove loss, to restore half of recent mangrove losses, and to double the area of mangroves within protected areas.

Capturing carbon

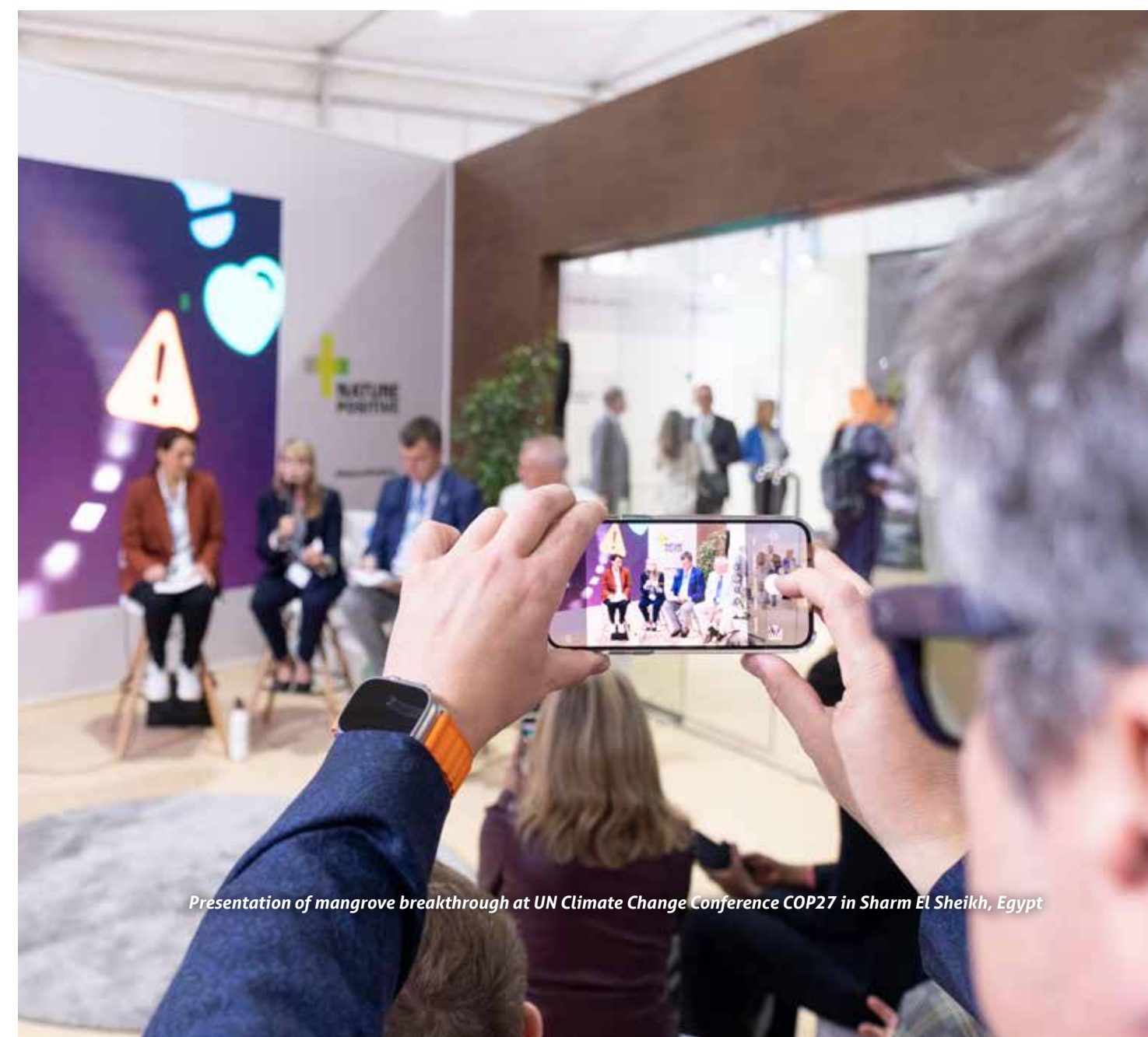
The GMA estimated during 2022 that achieving these targets should capture and secure more than 40 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in the biomass of mangroves and a further 190 million tonnes in the soils and silt that their roots hold firm. “*The Breakthrough could not be more timely,*” said Wetlands International’s CEO Jane Madgwick. “*Mangroves are now widely valued, the potential for conservation and restoration is clear, and the knowledge base is there to drive successful implementation. The opportunity to create momentum for mangrove action at scale and unlock the required finance is now.*”

Adapting to climate change

Besides capturing carbon to mitigate climate change, the Breakthrough will help tropical countries confronted by rising sea levels and more intense storms to adapt to climate change -- what Mohieldin calls the “*race for resilience*”. The GMA says it should be able to reduce flood risks for 15 million or more people in coastal communities, while boosting their incomes by providing extra nursery habitat for an estimated 37 commercial marine species.



Old mangroves in the Saloum delta, Senegal



Presentation of mangrove breakthrough at UN Climate Change Conference COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt



'To plant or not to plant'

Bankable returns

Raising billions of dollars will also require delivering bankable returns for investors, in terms of carbon capture or other environmental benefits, through developing a portfolio of "investable mangrove projects", says Wetlands International's Programme Head for Coasts and Deltas, Pieter van Eijk. Those projects must employ good science, while safeguarding the rights of the communities that host them. The aim is to showcase the first Breakthrough portfolio at the next UN climate conference in Dubai at the end of 2023.

The actions implemented under these projects will take many forms. But based on our experience, Wetlands International is keen to steer the global community away from its focus on single-sided large-scale planting of mangroves, which has a high failure rate. Instead, we find better outcomes from stimulating natural mangrove regeneration via the principles of "ecological mangrove restoration".

Our "To Plant or Not to Plant" campaign is demonstrating best practice, while influencing and inspiring mangrove initiatives worldwide. In 2022, we submitted proposals for scaling up mangrove restoration on the Mahakam and Kayan Sembakung deltas in Indonesian Borneo; provided technical advice on a

project to offset losses of mangroves during the construction of the New Manila Airport in the Philippines; convened stakeholders in Tanzania's Rufiji delta to protect East Africa's largest area of mangroves; and pushed ahead with our own groundbreaking restoration work in and around the Cacheu National Park in Guinea-Bissau, a candidate to become a UNESCO biosphere reserve.

The new initiatives will build on existing agreements, especially the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. The 2022 Conference of the Parties to this 50-year-old treaty advanced its mangrove agenda by approving the creation of a new International Mangrove Centre in southern China at Shenzhen, home of the Futian mangrove reserve. China is one of only a handful of countries to increase its mangrove cover in the past two decades.

The Ramsar resolution establishing the centre "encourages close communication and cooperation with other organisations and ongoing mangrove initiatives", indicating that it should become an international focus, and draw on the expertise of the GMA in its work.



ANTENEH WORKU

PROGRAMME OFFICER-CRV

I am Anteneh Worku, an experienced professional with an MSc in Integrated Watershed Management and a BSc in Forestry. I have worked with governmental, national, and international organisations in the conservation field. At Wetlands International Ethiopia, I lead restoration and livelihood support projects in the Central Rift Valley landscape.

I've cherished wetlands since my college days studying wetland ecology. Working at Wetlands International Ethiopia is a dream come true, allowing me to pursue my passion and contribute to wetland preservation. With a great team and inspiring leaders, I have the opportunity to engage communities and partners, raising awareness about the significance of wetlands.

One of my key projects, Source to Sea, focuses on restoration and climate-resilient livelihoods. This involves implementing restoration measures, securing water resources at the catchment level, promoting income-generating activities, and introducing climate-smart agricultural practices. Collaborating with community-based organisations, NGOs, religious leaders, and government entities, we have achieved remarkable outcomes, such as reduced runoff, rehabilitation of degraded watersheds and wetlands, increased bird populations, sustainable fuelwood off-take, and the establishment of climate-smart villages.

To ensure tangible restoration success, I emphasise public awareness, advocacy, integrating restoration efforts with livelihood enhancement, creating wetland buffer zones, implementing water use permits, mitigating overgrazing and unsustainable agriculture, and promoting integrated wetland management plans. A well-coordinated approach that harmonises agriculture and grazing management with wetland conservation is essential.

My work has inspired me, enhancing my leadership skills and confidence in engaging stakeholders, partners, and the community. I deeply appreciate the recognition and support received from Wetlands International and the local community. Together, we strive to make a lasting positive impact on wetland ecosystems.

Aerial shot of fishermen from Matondoni Village in Lamu, Kenya

Wetlands International Offices



- 1 Latin America & Caribbean Panama
- 2 Brazil
- 3 Latin American & Caribbean Argentina
- 4 Global office
- 5 Europe
- 6 Russia
- 7 West Africa Coastal
- 8 Guinea-Bissau
- 9 Sahel
- 10 Ethiopia
- 11 Uganda
- 12 Eastern Africa
- 13 Tanzania
- 14 South Asia
- 15 Malaysia
- 16 Brunei
- 17 China
- 18 Philippines
- 19 Indonesia
- 20 Japan

FUNCTIONING OF THE ORGANISATION

Fortunately, the risks of Covid eased in the first months of the year allowing for a more normal operation than we have had for the previous two years.

Although the war in Ukraine and the resulting hike in energy and other prices rose as external risks, the effects were only felt by the organisation to a limited degree, except for our office in Russia where our operations came to an effective standstill. In other parts of the network, we faced security issues due to local unrest, for example in the Sahel region. However, we are accustomed to addressing these kinds of challenges and this caused only minor disruptions. Overall, the environment where we work has improved in comparison with a year before.

Strategic Intent

This was the second year of implementing the Wetlands International's Strategic Intent (2020-2030) since its approval by the organisation's governance in December 2020. Our teams were focused on advocacy and implementing big ideas, while also developing new program concepts and generating new resources to meet the challenges of our strategic ambitions.

Achievements

In the past year, positive progress was made across all three workstreams: Deltas and Coasts, Peatlands, and Rivers and Lakes. Results contributing to the goals set out in the Strategic Intent have been delivered collaboratively by our network teams through programmes and projects, in line with the local context in which they operate. A summary of achievements is provided in our Achievements chapter. A list of the main projects carried out in 2022 is provided in Annex 3.1.

Wetlands International network

Wetlands International is an independent, global network of offices with shared values, brand and purpose that implement a joint strategy to safeguard and restore wetlands in more than 100 countries worldwide. Our offices and locations are shown before this chapter. There were no changes to the number of our presences in 2022.

Global Office

The Global Office, based in the Netherlands, facilitates work across the network and provides leadership and support in representation, programme leadership, communication and fundraising. The office is responsible for facilitating the daily work of the network and ensuring it is aligned with decisions taken by the Network Management Team and Global Board. A social report for the Global Office in 2022 is presented at the end of this chapter.

Communications and advocacy

Building our advocacy and communications is a key part of scaling up our impact at landscape, national and global levels. In 2022 we strengthened our team capacity, with the recruitment of a new Senior Advocacy Officer, and two Communications Managers, focusing on Brand & Content and Digital Engagement. This has allowed us to make a bigger impact.

2022 presented an ideal opportunity for Wetlands International to raise its profile, and to put wetlands at the centre of global action on climate and biodiversity. With Ramsar COP14, UNFCCC COP27 and CBD COP15 happening in quick succession, we brought policy coherence around global wetland targets and evidence that healthy wetlands are a key solution to the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.



PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT TRAJECTORY AND TRAININGS

At Wetlands International we started reviewing and refreshing our internal processes. The project management cycle and systems needed to strengthen cooperation, efficiency, standards and good practices across our offices. We completed a survey involving more than 70 project managers across our offices and worked very closely with our office teams and MDF Training & Consultancy to develop our Project Management Guidelines and a tailor-made training on results-based project management. A pilot training with participants from our Kenya, Ethiopia, Europe and Global Offices took place in April 2023, and at least two more trainings are planned for 2023.

These trainings are already helping us to improve a common approach and understanding to Project Cycle Management that will strengthen cooperation and efficiency among network teams working on joint and complex projects.

Project Cycle Management training with global staff at Global Office in Ede, The Netherlands

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting, held from 31 October to 4 of November 2022 in Tour du Valat, France, was the first opportunity for senior leaders and Heads of Offices to meet face-to-face since the last in-person Annual Meeting in Brazil three years ago, before the Covid pandemic. Tour du Valat hosting the Annual Meeting was symbolic due to its connection with the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Bureau (predecessor of Wetlands International) and its role in promoting the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Wetlands International has grown significantly in the last three years and the Annual Meeting was an opportunity to sharpen our priorities and deep dive into our upscaling ambitions to further accelerate our impact. We looked into how best to deliver our strategic goals and mechanisms for scaling up, such as sharing science and knowledge, stimulating public and private funding, working with value chains, building capacity, and influencing policy. On the last day of the Annual Meeting, the CEO and Heads of Offices met as the Global Board to confirm the key decisions and actions of the meeting. It set the basis for resetting our Business Planning process, defined a pathway to work on our scaling strategy, helped us understand how far along the way we are toward the achievement of the nine goals within our strategic intent and set minimum standards for our organisational development and financial exchange of information and reporting.



Workshop at the Annual meeting in Tour du Valat, France



Delegation of Wetlands International at UN Biodiversity Conference COP15 in Montreal, Canada

We sent a delegation to Montreal to influence the UN Biodiversity negotiations at CBD COP15. The inclusion of inland waters and coastal ecosystems in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets on restoration and conservation represents a big win for wetlands, and now provides a global mandate for urgent action for wetlands in every country.

Partnerships and Philanthropy

In 2022 we created a new network team to drive our work on partnerships, philanthropy and general fundraising. The team conducted a comprehensive audit of our fundraising needs which helped us identify areas of strength, weakness and opportunities for growth which will guide our priorities in the coming period. As one of the main conclusions, we decided to improve our coordination as a network to engage effectively with the private sector. We developed a corporate engagement strategy to align with our future ambitions and market readiness.

Governance

Wetlands International is a non-profit organisation with charitable status in the Netherlands and in countries where it operates. The organisation has two complementary forms of international governance: an Association of Members (governments and NGOs), and a foundation overseen by a Supervisory Council (SC) whose members also constitute the Board of the Association (BoA). The SC and BoA met three

times in 2022 and made a field visit to learn about peatland restoration in Scotland. A report of governance activities is presented in the Supervisory Council chapter. In cases where Wetlands International offices have an independent legal status, they are governed by their own boards and the organisation's CEO is an ex-officio member.

Network management

The Global Board, consisting of the Wetlands International CEO and Heads of each office, is responsible for strategic decisions on positioning, priorities and institutional issues. The Global Board delegates operational decision-making to the Network Management Team which has members drawn from among Heads of office and global functions. In 2022, the Network Management Team met every two months and was key in decision-making in network-wide policy and communications issues (such as positioning on Voluntary Carbon Markets, engagement strategies for Ramsar, UNFCCC and CBD), and supervised investments made in organisational development, such as capacity building in Project Cycle Management and the Corporate Engagement Strategy. The Global Board met in November in the Camargue, France as part of the organisation's Annual Meeting, where everyone there signed the Heads of Office Charter.

Accountability

Transparency and accountability towards our stakeholders are part of our core values, including actively seeking feedback



Wetlands International Office in Fatick, Senegal

Network Organisation Chart



on our performance. A dedicated webpage provides our annual reports and accounts, and information about key global policies including the Conservation and Human Rights Framework, INGO Accountability Framework, Code of Conduct, Corporate Engagement, Anti-corruption, Ethical, Gender, and Partnership policies. In 2022 Wetlands International made no changes to these policies.

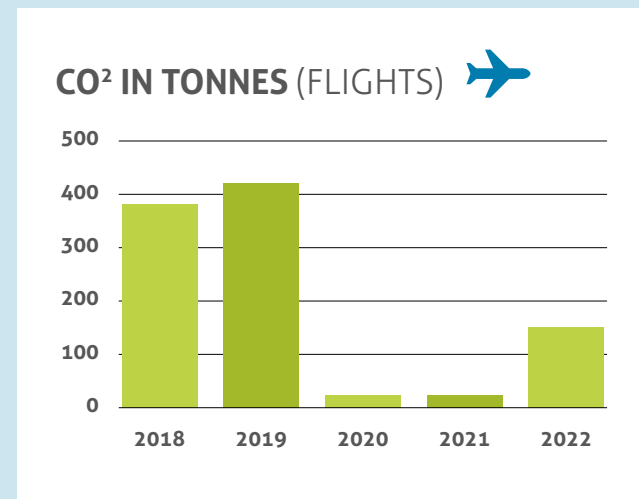
Anti-corruption and whistle blowing

All staff are introduced to the anti-corruption policy in their induction and are encouraged to be vigilant and discuss any suspicious activities with their line manager or Head of office. External stakeholders can also approach Wetlands International with any grievances or complaints related to possible cases of fraud, discrimination or mismanagement. The complaints procedure is available for use of anyone on the Wetlands International website. In 2022 we received a complaint from a staff member in the Eastern Africa region which was dealt with by the responsible Director supported by the Director of Resources from the Global Office. The lessons from this case are being used to improve our practices.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Wetlands International strives in its daily operations to reduce negative impact on the environment and act in a sustainable and socially responsible way. Since travel is the

most important part of our footprint, we encourage Global Office staff to use public transport and work part-time from home. Also, all company flights are compensated fully for their CO2 emissions. In 2022 we calculated our CO2 footprint from flights as 153 Tonnes which corresponds to about 4 T CO2 per FTE staff. The graph below illustrates that, although our impact from flying increased in 2022, it is still about 40% of our previous average in the pre-COVID period. Similarly, commuting to work and domestic travel have increased compared with the past two years, but are still below our pre-COVID averages.



Risk Management

Associated experts, members and volunteers

Risk Management

A risk register for the network, overseen by the Network Management Team, is updated regularly and discussed at least once a year with the Wetlands International Supervisory Council. Overall, we see that risks have edged-up in the past year, despite that fact that Covid risks (and related disruptions) have dropped to low levels. We see increases in risk due to challenges in obtaining sufficient quality and timeliness in project audits and due to the tight labour market that has made it challenging to fill vacancies in the past 12 months. Despite this we consider the organisation to be in a good position to deal with these risks, due to its stronger financial position, which means that we can take mitigation measures more quickly when required.

The top 5 risks in December 2022 are listed in the table below:

RISK	AREA OF RISK	POTENTIAL IMPACT ON ORGANISATION	MITIGATION MEASURES	
1	Political instability and conflict affects operations (Ukraine/Russia, Sahel region)	Governance	Programme operations and funding is greatly reduced	Strengthen cooperation with local communities. Incorporate flexibility in project design
2	Economic recession due to cost of living crisis in multiple regions leads to less funds available and more competition	Financial	Fewer opportunities to develop and implement programmes with effects on staffing and offices	Regular monitoring by Network MT, sharpen propositions, and more attention to relationship management
3	Insufficient quality and late submission of audits from offices (local partners finance reports are insufficient)	Financial	Delays in reports, cashflow and ultimately an impact on reputation	Pre-Investing in network support functions (senior finance staff), and training in project finance management
4	Political instability Change in policies or priorities of major donors (closure of MAVA)	Financial	Key funding sources are no longer available E.g. Mediterranean, West Africa	Develop and maintain open relationships with other donors
5	Tight labour market slows recruitment and leads to gaps in staffing and stress for current staff	Operational	Inability to implement current programmes correctly or to start new ones and over-work symptoms among staff	Extra support to recruitments processes, including interim staff and recruitment agencies

From the perspective of



The COMON Foundation has awarded Wetlands International the status of key grantee and provides structural and project-related support to the organisation. At present the Foundation supports our action to safeguard and restore mangroves in Africa and Asia, and to further develop the 4 Returns methodology for landscape restoration in partnership with Commonland, and supports a step change in the organisation's effectiveness, capacity and systems.

"If ever a breakthrough was a real breakthrough, it is the Mangrove Breakthrough! Thanks to the tireless work of Wetlands International in the past 25 years, finally the world has seen the importance of mangroves. They protect coastal areas with its inhabitants from the sea, they absorb massive Carbon, they provide income to local communities, they provide shelter and breeding space for fish and mammals. In other words, they play a crucial role in the Circle of Life.

There is no other organisation to be found in the whole world with so much global knowledge about mangroves than Wetlands International. At COMON Foundation we are extremely proud to be associated with Wetlands International.

We provide core-funding to the organisation annually and we finance several global mangrove projects, one of them being the To Plant Or not To Plant initiative in Guinea Bissau, Tanzania, Indonesia and Malaysia. I would urge other donors, big or small, to jump on the riding train and join us in supporting this spectacular organisation filled with motivated, skilled people who all have their hearts in the right place!"

Associated experts, members and volunteers

The strength of Wetlands International is much more than its staff and offices. Through working with influential partners, specialist groups, experts and members, we accelerate our momentum and strategic results.

Members and the Supervisory Council provide active governance and, together with Counsellors of Honour, bring high-level expertise, guidance and connections. Specialist groups, associate experts and partners provide expertise, evidence and advice that underpins our approach on science, policy and practice.

Partner organisations with whom we work regularly to implement programmes and projects are listed in Annex 3.7. We are especially proud of our long-standing engagement with volunteer and citizen science groups, such as those who participate in the International Waterbird Census each year.

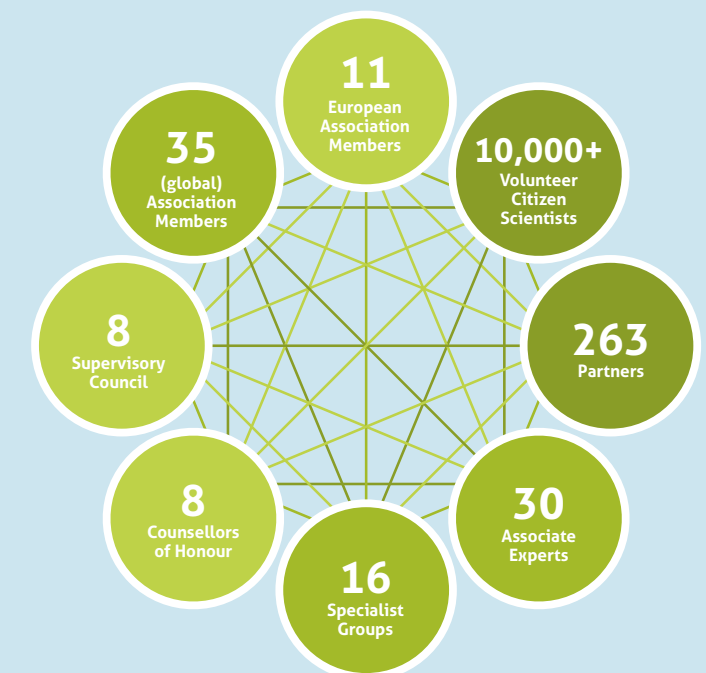
Members of the Association

Government and NGO members of the global association provide long-term support and strategic guidance to the organisation. In November 2022, we held a well-attended event for members on the margins of the Ramsar Convention COP14 meeting which highlighted the urgency and opportunity to collaborate over scaling up action for biodiverse, healthy wetlands and the involvement of members in Wetlands International and their willingness to further collaborate.

Strategic partnerships

Wetlands International works in partnerships in nearly all the activities we undertake. Our partnership policy outlines principles that guide why and how long-term strategic relationships are developed and managed. In 2022 we made important steps forward in strategic partnerships across our programme, including in:

- Coasts and Deltas: Global Mangrove Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, WWF, Permian Global and Boskalis
- Peatlands: Global Peatlands Initiative, Greifswald Mire Centre, Rewilding Europe and Greenchoice
- Rivers and Lakes: CARE, International Alert, IWMI and GIZ
- Conventions and Waterbird Agreements: Ramsar Convention, IUCN, AEWA, EAAFP and CMS



SPOTLIGHT: GLOBAL OFFICE SOCIAL REPORT 2022

This section provides insight into our global office staffing and human resource (HR) practices in 2022.

Updated HR Plan

In 2022 we conducted an independent assessment leading to reflection, learning and understanding on motivations for retention. As a follow-up we prepared an updated HR plan for the Global Office to stimulate support for personal development and training, foster teamwork and ensure a pleasant working environment for all staff. As part of this, we set up an Employee Participation Group to facilitate two-way communications, enable ideas and innovations to be picked up and to act as an additional mechanism to ensure that staff views are taken on board by the Management Team in key decision making.

Diversity

In December 2022, we had a total Global Office staff of 41 people. Our staff has a diverse cultural and professional background which matches our role as an international NGO. During the year key staff ratios remained generally stable with 13 different nationalities, an average age of 47 years, and a balanced male/female ratio of 56/44. In 2022, most of our staff were educated to university level and included 8 members with highest education being PhD.

Employment contracts

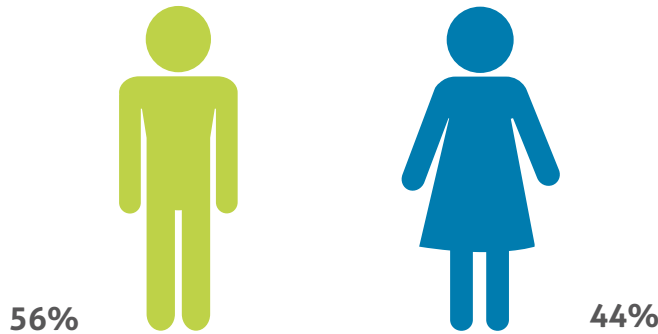
The average number of contracted working was 34,3 hours during the year (fulltime is 36 hours). During 2022 we employed 10 new staff members while 5 staff members left. We are in full transition to meet the needs of the Strategy and the emerging project portfolio. Of the five who left: 1 resigned for personal reasons, 3 were not a good match and 1 left on a sabbatical.

Health

Our total percentage of sick leave went up to 2.7%, in most cases still related to Covid.

Integrity

Personal safety and integrity are a priority for Wetlands International. We have policies and practices about the behaviour staff can expect from each other and we endeavour to create a safe space to share concerns or complaints as they occur. For the Global Office no official complaints were received in 2022 from staff. We continue to give attention to awareness and training on behaviour, transparency and integrity.



13 NATIONALITIES

AVERAGE AGE: 47

STAFF NUMBERS

total: 41
fte: 34,8
part-time: 9
full-time: 32



CONTRACT TYPE

permanent: 31
fixed time: 10
project: 0

HEALTH

short-term
sick leave 2.7%

HIGHEST LEVEL EDUCATION

PhD: 8
master: 21
bachelor: 7
other: 2



INTEGRITY PROCEDURES

internal: 0
external: 0



Sunset at Danube Delta



PAUL MBATIA

PARTNERSHIP MANAGER

I am Paul Mbatia, and I bring extensive expertise as a business developer, facilitator, strategist, and program designer to my role at Wetlands International. Within the organisation, my primary focus is providing guidance to our network and spearheading efforts to build long term sustainable partnerships and funding. Growing up in Kenya, I witnessed firsthand the destruction of forests and wetlands, which resulted in severe consequences for our climate, biodiversity, and people's livelihoods. This experience ignited my passion for addressing climate change and protecting our environment. To me, human-induced climate change is a violation of fundamental human rights, including the right to life, water and sanitation, food, health, housing, self-determination, culture, and development. It is our collective responsibility to take action, implement remedies, and support communities to adapt to ensure a dignified life. This is why working for Wetlands International is so fulfilling for me.

I have a background in teaching economics and geography, and a master's degree in international development studies, and a deep knowledge of international development policies and engagement with philanthropic organisations. My expertise lies in planning, reporting, and resource mobilisation, with a deep understanding of donor engagement.

In my role, I support the Wetlands International network by leading and developing resource mobilisation strategies and their implementation. This includes the timely preparation and completion of donor reports, proposals, presentations, and briefing papers. My role expands to supporting the network team's development skills by enhancing our result-based report in analytical writing, and donor relationship development to ensure high-quality proposals and donor reports critical for our network's partnership management. To safeguard wetlands for the benefit of both people and nature, I believe we require strong political commitment from nations to improve the condition of wetlands and enhance community resilience in the face of climate change. This commitment must be accompanied by policy development at local basin and national levels through relevant platforms and I ensure that local wetland communities have access to knowledge, financing, tools, and early-warning systems enabling them to make optimal choices for sustainable livelihoods in harmony with wetland conservation.

SUMMARY OF FINANCE AND RESOURCING

This section provides a summary of Wetlands International's finance and resourcing in 2022. A detailed version can be found in sections 1 and 2 (annual accounts) and section 3 of the Annex.

Wetlands International focuses its work where wetlands matter most to people and nature. Our programmes and initiatives are developed to meet our goals set out in our Strategic Intent 2020-2030 and organised into three streams: Coasts and Deltas, Rivers and Lakes, and Peatlands (see section 3.1 of the Annex for a complete list of our projects).

Our programmes are increasingly large-scale and long-term, involving transboundary and international work that involves several offices. The network's offices (global and sub-regional, national) work together on resource development and an increasing amount of funding is raised by offices other than the global office.

Resourcing the global organisation

The main sources of income of Wetlands International for 2022 came from projects as well as important annual contributions from our members. The total network project income is based on data obtained from all offices according

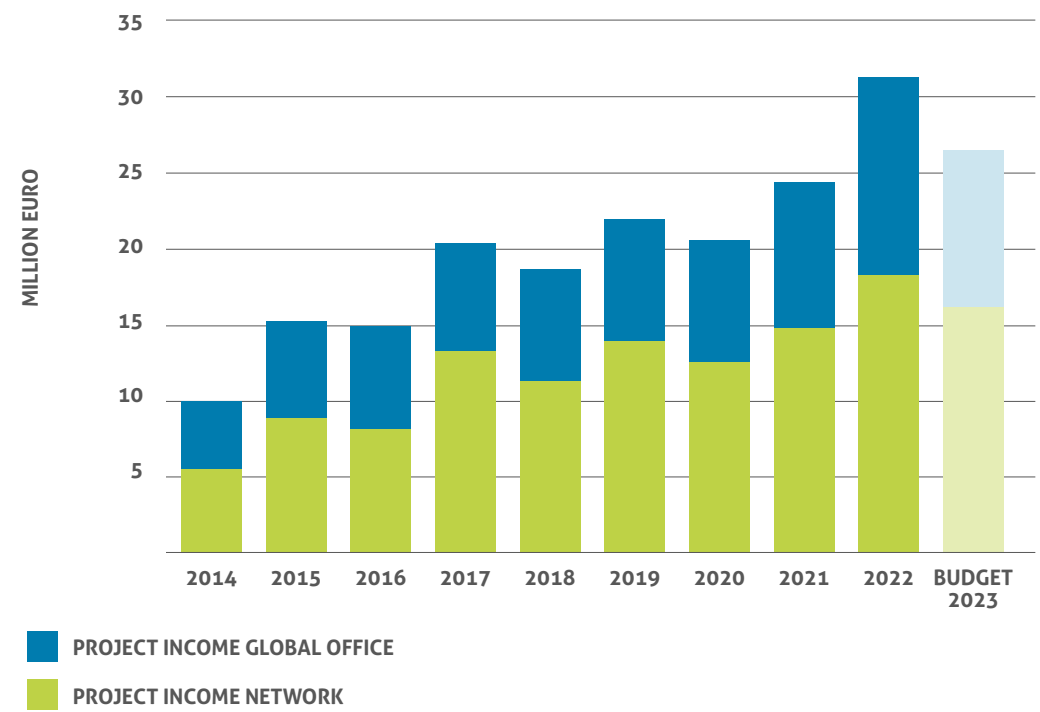
to their national finance practices. The total network project income of 2022 amounted to €18 million (see Annex section 3.1).

Our sources of income and expenditures across the sectors

The main source of income in 2022 was from foundations, trusts and other non-profits at 50% (last year 40%). This increase came from a shift from government grants, representing a lower part of the total income of 43% this year (last year 51%). In addition, 5% (last year 6%) came from corporate funding (through our Collaboration Agreements). Membership contributions remained at 2% of the total income but are important strategically, as they enable action on waterbird monitoring and support strategic investments.

A full list of network projects can be found in section 3.1 of the Annex. This list provides an overview of projects

TOTAL INCOME NETWORK AND GLOBAL OFFICE (FOUNDATION)



implemented in 2022 per office and includes the stream, the amount funded, the donor and the donor type.

Our sources of income and expenditures across the three streams

Across our three streams, Coasts and Deltas accounted for the largest portion of our income at 49% (last year 50%), Rivers and Lakes increased to 43% because of the starting of two larger programs (last year 38%) and Peatlands contributed 8% (last year 12%) of total network income; this decline is mainly due to one large programme ending.

Resource development and implementation by network offices

In 2022, network offices received and managed 28% of total income directly from our donors. This is slightly lower than in 2021 (35%), mainly due to the taking of larger programs with conditional funding through the Global office.

Projects managed through the global office are mostly implemented by our network offices or by affiliated scientific institutions, partners and experts using sub-contracts.

Considerations looking ahead

We received significant one-off grants in 2022 from individuals via philanthropic fundraising platforms. In 2023, we have planned to increase this part of our annual income by €800k in new flexible funding donations built from a mix of private sources. Our aim is that by the end of 2025, organisational development, communications and advocacy costs will be financed 100% from flexible funds. We aim for 30% flexible funding of the total annual income. This target assumes that we invest in the operational fundraising foundations required, and that partnership development

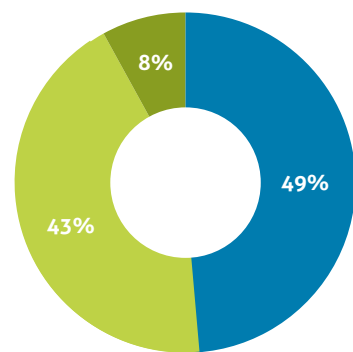
capacity at Global Office level is focused primarily on new business acquisition, as well as building capacity for fundraising in our offices. It also requires we shift from a culture of fundraising to one of philanthropy.

Our strategy to achieve this target will involve establishing systems to build strong relationships and support donors' connection to our work by:

- Investing in developing a coherent organisational level case for support and underlying donor engagement assets. This would help us promote our organisation as a whole and therefore have better control on our donor engagement rather than our current practices of selling projects.
- Developing comprehensive organisational level engagement strategies for our four main fundraising markets - corporate engagement, private foundations and high net worth individuals; Government Membership and public donors. This would allow us to build our network level resource mobilisation capacity that is less about spotting an opportunity and writing proposal to that which is derived from our own strategy and that support us as an international network.
- Investing in Customer Relationship Management to improve our donor relationship management, particularly in improving the current donor lifetime value.

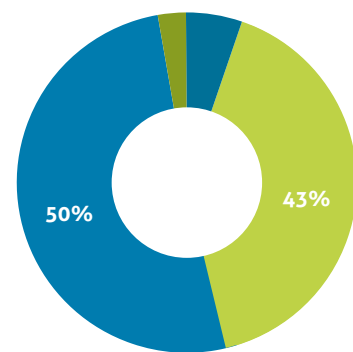
We continue to improve the financial resilience of the Wetlands International network, including strengthening our financial reserves to enable us to address unforeseen external events and to invest in the organisation.

GLOBAL NETWORK BY STREAM



- 49% COAST & DELTA
- 43% RIVERS & LAKES
- 8% PEATLANDS

GLOBAL NETWORK INCOME BY DONOR



- 5% CORPORATE
- 43% GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION
- 50% TRUST, FOUNDATIONS & NON-PROFIT
- 2% MEMBERSHIP

THANK YOU

The progress made towards our 2030 targets as set out in the Strategic Intent 2020-2030 and reported on in this Annual Review, is made possible thanks to the support of our donors, members and partners. A huge thanks to them all.

Wetlands International has the ambitious goal to safeguard and restore millions of hectares of wetlands over 2020-2030, achieving multiple benefits for people, climate, and nature. Our theory of change encapsulates the three main phases of our work: to inspire, mobilise, and upscale. These are the key ingredients of our organisational strategy for the period 2020-2030.

At Wetlands International, we understand that only by working with others can we safeguard and restore the world's wetlands. That is why we joined forces with a growing portfolio of partners to increase our reach, accelerate our work and scale up our impact.

In 2022, we worked intensively with existing and new partners to drive wetland solutions across regions and sectors, from knowledge institutions to the private sector.

Our members played an important part in shaping our Strategic Intent 2020-2030 and their annual membership contributions help us to drive implementation. Our members, both governments and NGOs, also provide additional financial support and collaborate in programmes and on policy advocacy. A big thank you to them for their continued support and collaboration.

The International Waterbird Census, one of the longest running and largest citizen science programme in the world, brings together counts of millions of waterbirds thanks to the many hours of fieldwork by tens of thousands of volunteers. We are grateful to them all.

We would especially like to thank our major donors in 2022:

- The COMON Foundation, for supporting Wetlands International in its mission to achieve impact for wetlands and people worldwide, including safeguarding and restoring mangroves and coastal landscapes in Africa and Asia; bringing knowledge on wetlands and water issues into the 4 Returns methodology for landscape restoration in partnership with Commonland; supporting a step change in our organisation's effectiveness; and making Wetlands International a key grantee.
- The Dutch Postcode Lottery, for their three-year grant (2021-2023), enabling Wetlands International to step up our work with partners to stimulate and enable whole landscape recovery, including the regeneration of vital wetlands.
- The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), for funding "Wetlands 4 Resilience", a ten-year global wetland ambition aiming to achieve the global influence of countries, institutions and sectors, resulting in shifts in approach, policies and investments towards the regeneration of wetland landscapes. Separately, Sida also enables the restoration of high value wetlands in the Rift valley and along the East African Mangrove Coast.
- DOB Ecology, for supporting major, long-term programmes to conserve and restore mangroves in Africa, and to conserve the river and wetland system of the Paraná-Paraguay and the High Andean wetlands in South America.



Identifying different mangrove species through their propagules during CBEMR Training in Lamu, Kenya

- The International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), for its support to the Building with Nature Indonesia programme and the Accelerating Adaptation through Building with Nature in Asia upscaling initiative.
- The German Agency for Development & International Cooperation (GIZ), for enabling our work on deltas and coasts.
- Arcadia, for enabling our work to help conserve and restore intertidal wetlands along the Yellow Sea coast in China, a critically important part of the East Asian–Australasian Flyway for migratory waterbirds.
- The Grantham Foundation, for supporting our work with Rewilding Europe on the development of carbon landscape propositions for peatland restoration and attracting further funding for upscaling.
- Greenchoice, for supporting Wetlands International in restoring 2,500 ha of mangroves in Guinea-Bissau.
- All the donors who fund the Global Mangrove Alliance, and particularly the Oak Foundation, DoBEcology, COMON Foundation and the Dutch Postcode Lottery for their support toward the Global Mangrove Watch platform and its integration into (inter)national processes to support the broader mangrove community.
- The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and others for funding our work in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and elsewhere on the African continent.
- Donors who fund our work through the effective giving platform Effektiv-Spenden.
- The many ministries of environment and development agencies, state and local governments, and all government and NGO members who enable our work.
- A big thank you also to all the other donors listed in Annex 3.10.

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People guide their boats through algae covered water on the Karatoya River in Bogra, Bangladesh

Colophon

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Design and Layout

Endeke Huisman
Penong.com

Editor

Julien Anseau
Joeri Borst
Nikita Tiwari

Writer

Fred Pearce



wetlands.org



Wetlands
INTERNATIONAL

An aerial photograph showing a village built on stilts in a mangrove wetland. The houses have various colored roofs (white, blue, red, green) and are surrounded by dense green mangrove trees and water. A dirt road runs through the village. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

THE SOURCE
*2022 Annual Review of
Wetlands International*
ANNEX



Wetlands
INTERNATIONAL

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1

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOUNDATION 2022

1.1 Introduction

Since the Foundation Wetlands International obtained the CBF2 quality seal in 2011, it is obliged to apply the guideline of VFI3 and report under "Richtlijn 650 voor Kosten Beheer en Administratie". This means that expenses are based on commitments made (contracts signed) during the reported year.

The turnover 2022 of Euro 13,6 million is Euro 4,4 million higher than the budget (Euro 9,2 million), and Euro 3,4 million higher than in 2021. There was substantially more income from trusts and foundations (in the income statement: other non-profit organisations 2,35 million), Lottery organisations and private individuals. Income from government grants has increased. The total revenue only partly reflects the actual level of activities and outcomes for the organisation.

The average number of FTE's in 2022 was 34,8 and 9% higher than the FTE's of 2021 (31,8).

Based on RJ 650-2016 the accounts show the total expenses allocated to each of the three organisation's objectives ('streams'). In total 91% of the total expenses was spent on these objectives (in 2021 this was 90%). Again, substantial

investments in fundraising were made to acquire new projects throughout Wetlands International. The Euro 281.000 costs of fundraising in 2022 were 23% higher than in 2021 (total Euro 228.000).

The ratio between Cost of Management and Administration and total expenses realised was 6,7% (norm 10%, 7,6% in 2021 realised, 7,6% in 2022 budgeted).

Income is specified in accordance with the RJ 650 standard, per back donor. For the first time, the income of Wetlands International consists for the largest part of income from other non-profit organisations (2022: 41% and 2021: 32%). Government grants income were for the first time a bit lower than the income from other non-profit organisations (2022: 42% and 2021: 52%). The donation from private individuals, companies, lottery organisations and affiliated non-profit organisations are almost the same as last year (2022: 17% 2021: 16% of the total income).

During 2022 new contracts and extensions of earlier acquired contracts were signed. The list of projects 2022 in paragraph 3.1 includes all projects that started in 2022.

1.2

Foundation Balance sheet, Income & expenditure statement and Cashflow

Foundation Balance sheet as per 31 Dec in Euros	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Tangible fixed assets (1)	49,482	43,333
Debtors and other receivables (2)	4,857,827	4,634,105
Cash and Banks (3)	<u>4,566,781</u>	<u>3,717,838</u>
Total current assets	9,424,608	8,351,943
Total assets	<u>9,474,090</u>	<u>8,395,276</u>
LIABILITIES		
Continuity reserve (4)	849,796	441,554
Designated reserve (5)	887,772	572,282
Designated funds (6)	<u>101,430</u>	<u>0</u>
Total equity	1,838,998	1,013,836
Subsidies (7)	8,796	11,698
Provisions (8)	266,000	0
Short-term debts (9)	7,360,296	7,369,742
Total liabilities	<u>9,474,090</u>	<u>8,395,276</u>

Foundation Income and Expenditure (in Euros)	2022	2022 Budget	2021
Income			
- from private individuals (10)	589,342	5,000	572,771
- from companies	770,225	331,656	349,607
- from Lottery organisations	543,207	261,188	275,325
- from Government grants (11)	5,741,339	5,102,196	5,378,359
- from affiliated non-profit organisations (12)	414,838	406,000	423,163
- from other non profit organisations	<u>5,602,499</u>	<u>3,082,960</u>	<u>3,249,829</u>
Total of private and governmental income (13)	13,661,450	9,189,000	10,249,054
- Other Income	<u>200</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-25,809</u>
Total income	13,661,650	9,189,000	10,223,245
Expenses			
1. Rivers & Lakes	3,947,496	3,584,706	3,761,122
2. Vibrant Coasts & Deltas	6,412,687	4,015,959	4,213,599
3. Peatland Treasures	<u>1,370,861</u>	<u>671,942</u>	<u>705,011</u>
- Expenses on objectives	11,731,044	8,272,607	8,679,732
- Cost of fundraising	281,275	217,637	228,348
- Cost of management & administration	<u>863,125</u>	<u>697,756</u>	<u>732,095</u>
Total Expenses	12,875,444	9,188,000	9,640,175
Earnings before financial income and costs	<u>786,206</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>583,070</u>
Financial result (14)	<u>38,956</u>	<u>-3,000</u>	<u>37,351</u>
Net result	<u>825,162</u>	<u>-2,000</u>	<u>620,421</u>
Result appropriation			
Increase (+)/Decrease (-) continuity reserve	408,242	-2,000	48,139
Incr. (+)/Decr. (-) designated funds donations	101,430	0	0
Incr. (+)/Decr. (-) designated reserve donations	<u>315,490</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>572,282</u>
	<u>825,162</u>	<u>-2,000</u>	<u>620,421</u>
Percentages			
Percentages			
- Costs of fundraising (in percentage of total income)	2.1%	2.4%	2.2%
- Costs of Management & Administration (in % of total expenses, norm 10%)	6.7%	7.6%	7.6%
- Revenue spent on objectives (in % of total revenue)	85.9%	90.0%	84.9%
- Expenditure spent on objectives (in % of total expenditures)	91.1%	90.0%	90.0%

Foundation Cashflow in Euros	2022	2021
Cash flow from operating activities		
Result	825,162	620,421
Depreciation	12,691	15,952
Cash flow	<u>837,853</u>	<u>636,373</u>
Changes in work capital		
- Change in receivables	-223,722	-2,292,699
- Change in short-term debts	<u>-9,448</u>	<u>3,316,707</u>
	-233,170	1,024,008
- Change in subsidy fixed assets	-2,902	2,262
- Change in provisions	266,000	0
Cash flow from operating activities	<u>867,781</u>	<u>1,662,643</u>
Cash flow from investing activities		
Investments in fixed assets	-18,888	-8,904
Result on disinvestments	<u>50</u>	<u>0</u>
Cash flow from investing activities	<u>-18,838</u>	<u>-8,904</u>
Change in cash & banks	<u>848,943</u>	<u>1,653,739</u>
Cash & banks		
- as per 1 January	3,717,838	2,064,099
- as per 31 December	<u>4,566,781</u>	<u>3,717,838</u>
Change in cash & banks	<u>848,943</u>	<u>1,653,739</u>

1.3 General accounting principles

Guidelines for Reporting by Fundraising Organisations

The annual accounts of the foundation Wetlands International are drawn up in accordance with the Guideline for Fundraising Organisations (RJ 650 guideline). Consequently, the total value of a contract with a subcontractor is charged as project cost in the reporting year the contract is entered into.

Consolidation

The consolidated balance sheet and statement of income and expenditure includes, in addition to Foundation Wetlands International, the Association Wetlands International. All intercompany transactions, balances and gains or losses on transactions between these organisations are eliminated as part of the consolidation process.

Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded using the rate at the time of the transaction. Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currency are converted at the exchange rate at the year-end.

Joint operating agreements with local Wetlands International organisations

In relation to the execution of global/international projects financed by its donors, the Dutch based Foundation Wetlands International seeks cooperation with local Wetlands International organisations. In this case the Foundation acts as the main contractor of a donor, cash amounts are transferred (under the terms and conditions of the donor) by the Foundation towards these local Wetlands International organisations. This cash flow and all related project income and expenses are fully recorded in the annual accounts of the Foundation, including the expenses paid by the local Wetlands International organisations. The aforementioned local Wetlands International organisations also have their own locally obtained and financed activities, without involvement of the Dutch Foundation. Foundation Wetlands International has no legal obligations regarding these local projects obtained by the local Wetlands International organisations. From a practical point of view the Dutch based Foundation Wetlands International can be qualified as the 'franchisor'

of the local Wetlands International organisations (the 'franchisees').

Reserves Policy

As Wetlands International is largely dependent on project funding, it needs a capacity to deal with cash flow distress. Therefore, Wetlands International, Foundation and Association, hold a minimum position of the continuity reserve. The continuity reserves are meant to cover short term risks and to ensure that the organisation has a buffer to respond to its obligations in the long term. Furthermore, the reserves are savings that are used to invest in strategic and institutional development

Association and Foundation have adopted the following Reserves Policy Association and Foundation aim for a combined minimum continuity reserve of Euro 1.000.000 in total. Wetlands International reaffirmed the Reserves Policy in June 2021 for the next three years (2021-2023). The minimum position of the continuity reserves, based on analysis of the risks, is determined at the level that it allows for payment of 3 months (25%) of the annual organisational cost. Based on the annual average of the organisational cost in the consolidated Annual Accounts for 2018-2020, the determined minimum continuity reserve will be kept on € 1,000,000 for the Association and the Foundation of Wetlands International in total.

In addition, the reserves are savings that are used to invest in strategic and institutional development.

In this we follow the VFI (Vereniging Fondsenwervende Instellingen) guidelines of not having a reserve that extends 1.5 times the annual organisational cost.

Principles of valuation

General

The balance sheet items are valued on a going concern basis and included at nominal value, unless stated otherwise.

Tangible fixed assets

The tangible fixed assets are valued at acquisition price, less the annual depreciation, which is calculated by the straight-line method on the basis of the expected duration of use. The tangible assets are held for business purposes.

Projects in progress

Projects in progress started before year-end and continue into the next financial year. Project grants are generally determined after the end of the project, upon submission

of a report on the use of the funds made available. Insofar the received tranches from donor exceed the costs spent on the project, this surplus is recognised as a grant liability and presented under "Projects to be executed", as part of the short term debts. If the costs spent exceed the grants received, the difference is recognised as a claim on the donor and presented under "Project funds to be received", as part of the short term receivables. In valuing the costs spent on projects, account is taken of whether or not the costs are eligible and the maximum amount of the grant.

Other assets and liabilities

Other assets and liabilities are valued at face value, less a provision for bad debts when necessary.

Principles for the determination of the result

General

With regard to the items included in the result, profits are only included if and insofar they were realised in the financial year. Losses and risks originating before the end of the financial year, are taken into account if they became known before the financial statements were drawn up. The costs charged to the result are based on the historical cost. To the extent that they are in foreign currency, the costs are converted at the exchange rate on the processing date. During the process of compiling the annual accounts the management of the organisation makes, in accordance with general accepted accounting policies, some estimations and assumptions which are contributory to the included amounts. The actual results can deviate from these estimations.

Income

Almost all income is related to projects which are funded by external donors. The conditions for funding are laid down in project specified donor agreements. This income can therefore be characterized as incidental. The project income is recognized for work completed, (sub-) contracts engaged in and services delivered during the financial year. The annual contribution of Wetlands International Association to the foundation are categorized as structural income. Wetlands International receives subsidies for projects, which often have a duration of several years. For this reason, many subsidies that are included in the annual accounts will continue in the coming years. The donor will only formally determine the subsidy at the end of the project period and after the final reports have been submitted. When determining the project income, only those amounts are recognized for which Wetlands is certain that they meet the subsidy conditions. However, the amount may differ at the time the donor grants formal

approval.

Results reported against three streams

It should be noted that the results of the organisation are reported against the objectives grouped under three streams.

In the financial year, costs are allocated on the basis of time registration. A large part of the written hours for management & administration relates to the streams and costs of fundraising. These hours are redistributed towards streams, fundraising and management & administration, based on estimates.

Allocation of costs by objective

The costs of Foundation Wetlands International are allocated to the objectives, costs of fundraising and management & administration, based on the registered hours. For further explanation is referred to "Specification and allocation of costs by objective".

Allocation of costs by objective in consolidated figures
The costs of Foundation Wetlands International are allocated as mentioned in "Allocation of costs by objective". The costs of Association Wetlands International are included under management & administration.

Cashflow statement

The cashflow statement is prepared on the basis of the indirect method.

1.4 Explanatory notes to the balance sheet

(1) Tangible fixed assets	Furniture	Computers	Equipment	Total
Balance 1 January				
Purchase value	527,537	235,807	6,055	769,399
Accumulated depreciation	527,537	192,474	6,055	726,066
Bookvalue 1 January	0	43,333	0	43,333
Investments	0	16,105	2,783	18,888
Desinvestments purchase value	-2,380	-9,044	0	-11,424
Desinvestments Acc. Depreciation	2,380	8,996	0	11,376
Depreciation	0	12,505	186	12,691
Balance 31 December				
Purchase value	525,157	242,868	8,838	776,863
Accumulated depreciation	525,157	195,983	6,241	727,381
Bookvalue 31 December	0	46,885	2,597	49,482

Fixed assets are used for office operations. The other assets are largely for direct use for the foundation's goals

Fixed assets are used for office operations. The other assets are largely for direct use for the foundation's goals and to a small extent for office operations. The Foundation does not hold any shares, bonds or other assets for reasons of financial investment. The investment in computers relates to replacement of obsolete hardware (desktops & laptops) and extension of server capacity.

The tangible fixed assets are valued on the basis of the historic costs price or acquisition value, decreased by linear depreciation on the expected term. For office equipment and investments on the building the depreciation is 20% per period, while for hardware and software the depreciation is 33% or 20% per period depending on expected lifecycle. Fixed assets financed by projects and in use by Wetlands International staff are activated starting financial year 2014. The counter value of these assets is accounted for under 'subsidized fixed assets' which are decreased in line with the depreciation of the assets.

(2) Debtors and other receivables	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
Total debtors	88,425	59,232
Project funds to be received	2,921,633	2,535,823
Subcontractor receivables	1,496,082	1,505,610
Current Account with Association Wetlands International	3,695	303,695
Pension	10,965	0
Other receivables	337,027	229,745
Total	4,857,827	4,634,105

Subcontractor receivables are outstanding receivables resulting from prepayments on subcontractor commitments. The amount of € 1,496k is after deduction of a provision for doubtful debtors of € 114k.

(3) Cash & banks	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
Cash	4,592	4,523
Current accounts EUR	3,176,425	3,037,279
Current accounts GBP	709	136,048
Current accounts USD	575,151	12,936
Current accounts CHF	694,933	418,082
Current account Argentina	83,417	77,417
Total Current accounts	4,535,227	3,686,284
Deposit accounts	0	0
Deposit account for rent	31,554	31,554
Total Deposits	31,554	31,554
Total	4,566,781	3,717,838

Foreign currency accounts are related to projects funded in foreign currency. The balance of the liquid assets in foreign currencies is valued at the closing rate at the end of the financial year. Any exchange rate differences are accounted for in the result.

(4) Continuity reserve	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
Balance 1 January	441,554	393,415
Result appropriation	408,242	48,139
Balance 31 December	849,796	441,554

The result in the Foundation's annual account is added to the continuity reserve.

(5) Designated reserve	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
1460 - UES – Gemeinnützige GmbH für effektives Spenden		
Balance 1 January	476,226	
- Addition 2022	0	
- Spending 2022	0	
Balance 31 December	476,226	
Donation for 'Environmental protection' was received in 2021. Project implementation to start in 2023.		
1453 - NOW Foundation - Leverage its global knowledge and reach		
Balance 1 January	96,056	
- Addition 2022	0	
- Spending 2022	-96,056	
Balance 31 December	0	
Donation was received in 2021. The donation was fully used in 2022 for the abovementioned project.		
Donation NOW Foundation		
Balance 1 January	0	
- Addition 2022	310,116	
- Spending 2022	0	
Balance 31 December	310,116	
Donation was received in 2022. To be earmarked in 2023 as co-financing for one of Wetlands' larger programs.		
1470 - NOW Foundation - Nutural Sponges (unrestricted part)		
Balance 1 January	0	
- Addition 2022	101,430	
- Spending 2022	0	
Balance 31 December	101,430	
Donation was received in 2022 for € 202,860 of which 50% was unrestricted and 50% was earmarked for the project 'Natural Sponges'. Board decided to assign this unrestricted part of the donation to Natural Sponges as well.		
Total Designated reserve:		
Balance 1 January	572,282	
- Addition 2022	411,546	
- Spending 2022	-96,056	
Balance 31 December	887,772	572,282

Designated reserves are the part of the reserves which is set aside by the board for a specific purpose. These reserves are often the result of unrestricted donations or donations with general environmental protection purposes.

(6) Designated funds	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
1470 - NOW Foundation - Nutural Sponges (earmarked part)		
Balance 1 January	0	
- Addition 2022	101,430	
- Spending 2022	0	
Balance 31 December	101,430	

Donation was received in 2022 for € 202,860 of which 50% was unrestricted and 50% was earmarked for the project 'Natural Sponges'. These designated funds are related to the earmarked part of the donation.

Designated funds are donations earmarked by third parties for a specific purpose.

(7) Subsidies	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
Balance 1 January	11,698	9,436
Assets financed by projects	0	6,118
Depreciation subsidized assets	-2,902	-3,856
Balance 31 December	8,796	11,698

Subsidized tangible assets are amortized in line with other tangible assets

(8) Provisions	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
Balance 1 January	0	0
Additions	266,000	0
Withdrawals	0	0
Balance 31 December	266,000	0

The donor has ordered Wetlands to repay all funds for which no evidence of use has been provided. Wetlands has objected to the donor's position for some of these amounts. There is currently a dispute between the parties. The outcome of the dispute is currently uncertain. The best estimate that has been assessed as most appropriate by Wetlands to form a provision for the dispute amounting to € 266.000.

(9) Short-term debts	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
Projects to be executed	3,769,643	4,504,889
Subcontractors commitments < 1 year	2,802,220	2,124,692
Taxation & Social security	95,455	96,254
Trade creditors	54,852	190,385
Argentina funds	83,417	76,929
Holiday allowance	120,454	83,688
Unused annual leave	59,163	41,061
Other short term debts	375,093	251,844
	7,360,296	7,369,742

In 2022 the total short term current liabilities position is more or less the same as in 2021.

Projects to be executed relates to funds received from donors for projects still to be executed. Subcontractor commitments are contracted amounts due to subcontractors for the execution of projects. There is no interest on the current account, neither any securities of repayment obligations related. The current account position with Argentina relates largely to the Current Account Argentina position under Cash and Banks (see explanatory note '3 Cash and banks'). Holiday allowance represents the reservation of holiday allowance built up to year-end and which is to be paid in the next year. Unused annual leave represents the outstanding liability regarding unused holidays of staff.

1.5 Off balance sheet commitments

Lease contract copier

Wetlands International leases a copier. The costs per year amount to € 5,768.

Office rent

Wetlands International has concluded two rental agreements for the Ede office.

- Contract A for office rent from 1-6-2019 until 30-6-2023: rent 2023 is € 52,701.
- Contract B for office rent from 1-6-2019 until 30-6-2023: rent 2023 is € 11,444.
- Contract C for office rent from 1-7-2023 until 31-12-2023: rent 2023 is € 50,634.

Indexation takes place annually on 1 July.

In relation to the lower office rent in 2013, the current bank guarantee remained unchanged at € 31,554.

Pensions

Pension obligations are valued according to the "valuation to pension fund approach". This approach accounts for the contribution payable to the pension provider as an expense in the statement of revenue and expenditure. Based on the administration agreement it is assessed whether and, if so, which obligations exist in addition to the payment of the annual contribution due to the pension provider as at balance sheet date. These additional obligations, including any obligations from recovery plans of the pension provider, result in expenses for the Foundation and are included in a provision on the balance sheet. Since the Foundation has committed itself and its employees to a 'fixed premium pension scheme' and not to a 'final or middle salary pension scheme' an obligation (provision) for (upcoming) past service is not applicable.

1.6 Explanatory notes to the statement of Income and Expenditure

(10) Income from private individuals	2022	2022 Budget	2021
Income from donations and gifts	589,342	5,000	572,771
Total	<u>589,342</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>572,771</u>

(11) Income from Governmental grants	2022	2022 Budget	2021
Project income from governmental institutions	5,741,339	5,102,196	5,378,359
Total	<u>5,741,339</u>	<u>5,102,196</u>	<u>5,378,359</u>

The grants are of an incidental nature.

(12) Income from affiliated non-profit organisations	2022	2022 Budget	2021
Income from Wetlands International Association	351,000	351,000	351,000
Income from other affiliated non-profit organisations	63,838	55,000	72,163
Total	<u>414,838</u>	<u>406,000</u>	<u>423,163</u>

The income from affiliated non-profit organisations consists mainly of the contribution from the Association Wetlands International. This contribution can be specified in the table below.

Contribution from Association Wetlands International

Organisation subsidy	300,000	300,000	300,000
Subsidy biodiversity projects	101,000	101,000	101,000
Passed on grant from Japanese Government for executing biodiversity projects, presented under Income from Governments	-50,000	-50,000	-50,000
Contribution to GMM meeting costs	0	0	0
Total received from Association	<u>351,000</u>	<u>351,000</u>	<u>351,000</u>

(13) Total of private and governmental income	2022	2022 Budget	2021
Annual contribution WI Association (structural)	300,000	300,000	200,000
Project and other income (incidental)	13,361,450	8,889,000	10,049,054
Total	<u>13,661,450</u>	<u>9,189,000</u>	<u>10,249,054</u>

(14) Financial result	2022	2022 Budget	2021
Exchange rate differences	38,956	-3,000	37,351
Total	<u>38,956</u>	<u>-3,000</u>	<u>37,351</u>

1.7 Remuneration

Employment capacity & production	2022	2022 Budget	2021
Total staff (FTE)	34.8	37.5	31.8
Staff rates claimed on external projects (production)			
Own staff	3,881,289	2,729,167	
Consultants	0	8,368	
	3,881,289	2,737,535	
Staff costs	2022	2022 Budget	2021
Wages & salaries	2,278,343	2,314,400	1,920,835
Social security costs	370,141	427,600	326,486
Pension costs	134,585	124,000	117,891
Wages & salaries incl. social security & pension	2,783,069	2,866,000	2,365,212
Other personnel costs	249,533	214,000	106,481
Interim staff & trainees	14,428	50,000	42,138
Total employee costs	3,047,030	3,130,000	2,513,831
External staff/consultants	0	0	8,368
Total staff costs	3,047,030	3,130,000	2,522,199
Wages & salaries incl. social security & pension per FTE	79,973	76,427	74,378
Social security costs in % of wages and salaries	16.2%	18.5%	17.0%
Pension costs in % of wages and salaries	5.9%	5.4%	6.1%

In 2022 the average wages per FTE including social security and pension costs amounted to Euro 77,7K. This is 4,5% higher than 74,4k per FTE and can be explained by inflation correction and recruitment of higher skilled employees.

Remuneration board members	2022		2021	
	Name	F.J. Madgwick	F.J. Madgwick	F.J. Madgwick
Function		CEO	CEO	
- Contract sort		Indefinite	Indefinite	
- hours/week		36	36	
- part-time percentage		100	100	
- period		1/1 - 31/12	1/1 - 31/12	
gross year salary (remuneration)		114,674	109,092	
holiday allowance		9,033	8,650	
payment untaken staff holidays		-	-	
end of year allowance		-	-	
taxed allowances / additional		-	-	
pension compensation - other long term benefits		-	-	
benefits for termination of employment		-	-	
Subtotal		123,707	117,742	
- Pension costs (employers costs)		15,242	12,210	
Total		138,949	129,952	

Salaries are in accordance with the categorisation based on the 'Regeling beloning goede doelen organisaties'.

Function group	BSD score	Maximum annual salary
F.J. Madgwick	J	500
		173,960

The annual income of the individual (salaried) board member remains within the maximum of EUR 173.960 (1 FTE/12 months) according to the Regulation on the remuneration of directors of charitable organisations. The annual income, the taxed reimbursements/additions, the pension costs, the pension compensation and the other remuneration in arrears together also remain within the maximum of EUR 173.960 per year included in the regulation. For an explanation of the policy and principles for board remuneration, see below.

The Supervisory Council has determined the remuneration policy, the level of the executive remuneration and the level of other remuneration components. The policy is updated periodically and follows the Remuneration Regulation for Directors of Charity Organizations (see www.goededoelennederland.nl). The BSD score has been approved by the Supervisory Council.

The annual salaries include taxed allowances / additions, the employer's pension contribution, the pension compensation and the other long-term benefits remained within the maximum annual salary amount. The taxed allowances / additions, the employer's contribution to the pension and the other long-term benefits were also in reasonable proportion to the annual income.

1.8

Events after the balance sheet date

Wetlands International has started 2023 in a confident way, with a sound financial basis, raised visibility and influence during key global policy fora in 2022 and several new major global programme developments in incubation. The organisation is on a good track in terms of addressing its strategic goals and improving organisational effectiveness through network office driven actions and, via the Global Office, investing to implement the recommendations of the Business Model review. There is a high level of coherence in terms of priorities across the network organisation as well as optimism and commitment of staff. This was boosted by the end of COVID restrictions and the in-person Annual Meeting held in November 2022, where the Heads of Office Charter was signed, and there was active collaboration between the global leadership teams over how to drive forward business planning and upscaling of impact and influence.

Leadership transition

The announcements of the concurrent departures of the CEO and Director of Operations and Network Development created uncertainties and risks for the organisation in terms of team performance, continuity, internal and external relationships, programme oversight and coherence. The Global Management Team has focused substantial efforts managed to recruit an Interim CEO and two new MT members (Director of Program Impact and a Director of Network Development, while completing the recruitment of a new Chair and 3 additional Council members.

The MT have further worked with the senior leadership team in the Global Office to analyse risks and to prepare together a detailed transition plan for the interim and longer term global leadership. The MT and senior leadership team of the Global Office prepared a transition plan to address these risks during 2023, including activities, ownership for delivery and timescale. This transition plan is intended to be developed further with guidance from the Council and the Network MT to ensure shared ownership for its implementation. The transition plan offers a way to address risks and bring results that will enable Wetlands International to have internal coherence and continuity in its growth, influence and impact, specifically: Global programme priorities and smooth operation.

1.9

Specification and allocation of costs by objective

Purpose	Objective			Generating Funds total	Management & Adm. total	Actual 2022	Budget 2022	Actual 2021
	S1	S2	S3					
Subcontractors	2,714,970	4,410,455	942,837	0	0	8,068,262	4,940,000	6,109,665
Publicity & communication	17,698	28,751	6,146	3,870	11,875	68,340	39,000	94,144
Personnel costs	704,061	1,143,743	244,502	234,656	720,069	3,047,031	3,130,000	2,522,199
Travelling & hotel expenses	94,508	153,528	32,820	2,832	8,690	292,378	50,000	30,392
Housing Costs	44,518	72,319	15,460	14,837	45,530	192,664	189,000	179,762
Office & General expenses	365,551	593,835	126,946	23,017	70,630	1,179,979	804,000	675,689
Depreciation & interest	6,190	10,056	2,150	2,063	6,331	26,790	36,000	28,324
Total	3,947,496	6,412,687	1,370,861	281,275	863,125	12,875,444	9,188,000	9,640,175

Wetlands International works on 3 themes. As regards the accounting of non-direct support cost, including depreciation, Wetlands International applies the guideline of VFI: 'Aanbeveling Toepassing van Richtlijn 650 voor Kosten Beheer en Administratie'. Indirect costs are attributed to the 5 themes pro rata of the staff time

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: the Board and Supervisory Council of Foundation Wetlands International.

A. Report on the audit of the financial statements 2022 included in the annual report.

Our opinion

We have audited the financial statements 2022, from chapter 1.1 up to and including chapter 1.9, of Foundation Wetlands International based in Wageningen, the Netherlands.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Foundation Wetlands International at 31 December 2022 and of its result for 2022 in accordance with the 'RJ-Richtlijn 650 Fondsenwervende organisaties' (Guideline for annual reporting 650 'Fundraising Organisations') of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

The financial statements comprise:

1. the balance sheet as at 31 December 2022;
2. the statement of income and expenditure for 2022; and
3. the notes comprising of a summary of the accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report.

We are independent of Foundation Wetlands International in accordance with the Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore we have complied with the Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Oranje Nassaulaan 1
1075 ah Amsterdam
Telefoon 020 571 23 45

E-mail info@dubois.nl
www.dubois.nl
KvK nummer 34374865



B. Report on the other information included in the annual report.

The annual report contains other information, in addition to the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

The other information consists of:

- the Board's report;
- annexes on chapter 3.1 up to and including chapter 3.10.

Based on the following procedures performed, we conclude that the other information is consistent with the financial statements and does not contain material misstatements.

We have read the other information. Based on our knowledge and understanding obtained through our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, we have considered whether the other information contains material misstatements.

By performing these procedures, we comply with the requirements of the Dutch Standard 720. The scope of the procedures performed is substantially less than the scope of those performed in our audit of the financial statements.

Management is responsible for the preparation of the other information, including the Board's report in accordance with Guideline for annual reporting 'RJ-Richtlijn 650 Fondsenwervende organisaties' (Guideline for annual reporting 650 'Fundraising Organisations').

C. Description of responsibilities regarding the financial statements

Responsibilities of the Board and the Supervisory Council for the financial statements.

The Board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting 'RJ-Richtlijn 650 Fondsenwervende organisaties' (Guideline for annual reporting 650 'Fundraising Organisations'). Furthermore, the Board is responsible for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, the Board is responsible for assessing the foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting framework mentioned, the Board should prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the Board either intends to dissolve the foundation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. The Board should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the foundation's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

The Supervisory Council is responsible for overseeing the organisation's financial reporting process.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit engagement in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion.

Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements.

Our audit included among others:

- identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control;
- evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management;
- concluding on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a foundation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures; and
- evaluating whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the supervisory board and the management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Amsterdam, 11 December 2023

Dubois & Co. Registeraccountants

G. Visser RA

A. Koek RA

1.10 Budget 2023

Foundation Budget in Euros	2023
Income	
- from private individuals	2,000
- from companies	635,846
- from Lottery organisations	448,435
- from Governmental grants	4,681,036
- from affiliated non-profit organisations	406,000
- from other non profit organisations	4,769,685
Total of private and governmental income	10,943,002
- Other Income	0
	10,943,002
Expenses	
Expenses on objectives	
1. Rivers and Lakes	3,359,632
2. Vibrant Coasts and Deltas	5,457,702
3. Peatland Treasures	1,166,712
	9,984,046
Costs of generating funds	234,712
Costs of management & administration	720,244
Total expenses	10,939,002
Earnings before financial income and costs	4,000
Financial result	-10,000
Net result	-6,000
Result appropriation	
	2023
Increase (+)/Decrease (-) continuity reserve	-6,000
	-6,000
Percentages	
- Costs of fundraising	2.1% (in percentage of total income)
- Costs of Management & Administration	6.6% (in percentage of total expenses, norm 10%)
- Revenue spent on objectives	91.2% (in percentage of total revenue)
- Percentage of expenditure spent on objectives	91.3% (in percentage of total expenditures)

2

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS ASSOCIATION WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL 2022

2.1 Introduction

In this section the annual accounts for the Vereniging Wetlands International (the Association) as well as the consolidated figures of the group consisting of Vereniging Wetlands International and Stichting Wetlands International (the Foundation) are presented.

The consolidated figures are a simple addition of both individual accounts after removal of cross-posts. As all implementation activities are executed in the Stichting Wetlands International, most substantial information on results and finances are presented in the Annual Accounts of Stichting Wetlands International'.

The Vereniging Wetlands Internationals finances mainly consist of the income from membership dues, the subsidy to the Stichting Wetlands International, in line with the Vereniging Wetlands International statutory objective, and the implementation of the Financial Reserves Policy, see below.

Total revenue reported represents the net income from members and a small amount of other income.

2.2 Financial Reserves Policy

As Wetlands International is largely dependent on project funding, it needs a capacity to deal with cash flow distress. Therefore, Wetlands International, Foundation and Association,

hold a minimum position of the continuity reserve. The continuity reserves are meant to cover short term risks and to ensure that the organisation has a buffer to respond to its obligations in the long term. Furthermore, the reserves are savings that are used to invest in strategic and institutional development

Association and Foundation have adopted the following Reserves Policy Association and Foundation aim for a combined minimum continuity reserve of Euro 1.000.000 in total.

- a. In addition, we follow the VFI guidelines of not having a reserve that extends 1.5 times the annual fixed organisational cost;
- b. The Association will also reserve Euro 35,000 annually for the tri-annual General Members Meetings as of 2011. In December 2019 the last meeting was an e-GMM meeting instead of a face to face GMM meeting. No contribution to the General Members Meeting reserve was needed as it still sufficient and amounting now to Euro 110,000.

2.3 General accounting principles

For the accounting principles of the separate financial statements of Association Wetlands International as for the consolidated statements, is referred to the accounting principles of the Foundation Wetlands International.

2.4

Association Balance sheet and Income & expenditure statement and Cashflow

Association Balance sheet as per 31 Dec (in Euros)	31-Dec-2022	31-Dec-2021
ASSETS		
Debtors and other receivables (1)	3.325	3.604
Cash and Banks (2)	1.145.089	1.499.894
	1.148.414	1.503.498
Total assets	1.148.414	1.503.498
LIABILITIES		
Continuity reserve (3)	1.031.539	979.607
General Members Meeting Reserve (4)	110.000	110.000
Short-term debts (5)	6.875	413.891
Total liabilities	1.148.414	1.503.498

Association Income and Expenditure (in Euros)	2022	Budget 2022	2021
Income			
- Income from Governmental grants (6)	454.519	450.000	443.459
- Income from other non profit organisations (6)	13.764	17.000	14.764
Total of private and governmental income	468.283	467.000	458.223
- Other income	0	0	0 ¹
Total revenue	468.283	467.000	458.223
Expenses			
- Contribution to Foundation Wetlands Int.	401.000	401.000	401.000 ¹
- Provision debtors	2.250	20.000	-74.541
- Management & administration Cost of management & administration	8.063	9.000	9.492
Total Expenses	411.313	430.000	335.951
Earnings before financial income and costs	56.970	37.000	122.272
Financial result	-5.038	0	-5.060
Net result	51.932	37.000	117.212

Result appropriation	2022	Budget 2022	2021
Increase/Decrease continuity reserve	51.932	37.000	117.212
Increase/Decrease General Members Meeting reserve	0	0	0
	51.932	37.000	117.212

Association Cashflow statement (in Euros)	2022	2021
Cash flow from operating activities		
Result	51.932	117.212
Changes in work capital		
- Change in receivables	279	-803
- Change in short-term debts	-407.016	408.484
Cash flow from operating activities	-354.805	524.893
Change in cash & banks	-354.805	524.893
Cash & banks		
- as per 1 January	1.499.894	975.001
- as per 31 December	1.145.089	1.499.894
Change in cash & banks	-354.805	524.893

2.5 Explanatory notes to the balance sheet

(1) Debtors and other receivables	31-Dec-2022	31-Dec-2021
Memberships contributions		
Governmental contributions	39,777	37,933
Provision for doubtful debtors	-36,579	-34,329
Subtotal	3,198	3,604
Other short term receivables	127	0
	<u>3,325</u>	<u>3,604</u>

The amount of the provision is based on individual assessment of the claims.

(2) Cash & banks	31-Dec-2022	31-Dec-2021
Current account EUR	525,960	880,765
Deposit accounts EUR	619,129	619,129
	<u>1,145,089</u>	<u>1,499,894</u>

All liquidities are available on demand.

(3) Continuity reserve	31-Dec-2022	31-Dec-2021
Balance 1 January	979,607	862,395
Increase/Decrease	51,932	117,212
Balance 31 December	<u>1,031,539</u>	<u>979,607</u>

The result in the Association's annual account is added/subtracted to/from the continuity reserve,

(4) General Members meeting reserve	31-Dec-2022	31-Dec-2021
Balance 1 January	110,000	110,000
Dotation	0	0
Balance 31 December	<u>110,000</u>	<u>110,000</u>

(5) Short term debts	31-Dec-2022	31-Dec-2021
Current Account with Foundation Wetlands International	3,695	404,695
Other liabilities	3,180	9,196
	<u>6,875</u>	<u>413,891</u>

2.6

Explanatory notes to the statement of income and expenditure

(6) Income from membership	2022	Budget 2022	2021
Governmental members	454.519	450.000	443.459
NGO members	13.764	17.000	14.764
	<u>468.283</u>	<u>467.000</u>	<u>458.223</u>

(7) Contribution to Foundation Wetlands International	2022	Budget 2022	2021
Organisational subsidy	300.000	300.000	300.000
Subsidy Biodiversity projects	101.000	101.000	101.000
	<u>401.000</u>	<u>401.000</u>	<u>401.000</u>

2.7 Budget 2023 Association Wetlands International

Association Budget		2023
Income		
- Income from Governmental grants		450.000
- Income from other non profit organisations		17.000
Total of private and governmental income		<u>467.000</u>
- Other income		0
Total revenue		<u>467.000</u>
 Expenses		
- Contribution to Foundation Wetlands Int.		401.000
- Provision debtors		20.000
- Management & administration		
Cost of management & administration		9.000
Total Expenses		<u>430.000</u>
Earnings before financial income and costs		37.000
Financial result		0
Net result		<u>37.000</u>
 Result appropriation		
Increase/Decrease continuity reserve		37.000
Net result		<u>37.000</u>

2.8

Consolidated Balance sheet, Income & expenditure statement and Cashflow

Consolidated Balance sheet as per 31 Dec in Euros	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Tangible fixed assets	49,482	43,333
Debtors and other receivables (1)	4,857,457	4,233,014
Cash and Banks (2)	<u>5,711,870</u>	<u>5,217,732</u>
Total current assets	10,569,327	9,450,746
Total assets	<u>10,618,809</u>	<u>9,494,079</u>
LIABILITIES		
Continuity reserve (3)	1,881,335	1,421,161
General Members Meeting Reserve	110,000	110,000
Designated reserve (4)	887,772	572,282
Designated funds (5)	<u>101,430</u>	<u>0</u>
Total equity	2,980,537	2,103,443
Subsidies	8,796	11,698
Provisions (6)	266,000	0
Short-term debts (7)	7,363,476	7,378,938
Total liabilities	<u>10,618,809</u>	<u>9,494,079</u>

Consolidated Income & expenditures in Euros	2022	2022 Budget	2021
Income			
- from private individuals	589,342	5,000	572,771
- from companies	770,225	341,827	349,607
- from Lottery organisations	543,207	0	275,325
- from Government grants (8)	6,145,858	5,658,667	5,771,818
- from affiliated non-profit organisations(9)	63,838	55,000	72,163
- from other non profit organisations (10)	5,616,263	3,194,506	3,264,593
Total of private and governmental income	13,728,733	9,255,000	10,306,277
- Other Income	200	0	-25,809
Total income	13,728,933	9,255,000	10,280,468
Expenses			
1. Rivers & Lakes	3,947,496	3,584,706	3,761,122
2. Vibrant Coasts & Deltas	6,412,687	4,015,959	4,213,599
3. Peatland Treasures	1,370,861	671,942	705,011
- Expenses on objectives	11,731,044	8,272,607	8,679,732
- Cost of fundraising	281,275	217,637	228,348
- Cost of management & administration	873,438	726,756	667,046
Total Expenses	12,885,757	9,217,000	9,575,126
Earnings before financial income and costs	843,176	38,000	705,342
Financial result	33,918	-3,000	32,291
Net result	877,094	35,000	737,633

Result appropriation	2022	2022 Budget	2021
Increase (+)/Decrease (-) continuity reserve	460,174	35,000	165,351
Incr. (+)/Decr. (-) reserve General Members Meeting	0	0	0
Incr. (+)/Decr. (-) designated reserve Donations	315,490	0	572,282
Incr. (+)/Decr. (-) designated funds donations	101,430	0	0
Net result	877,094	35,000	737,633

Percentages	2022	2022 Budget	2021
Percentages			
- Costs of fundraising (in percentage of total income)	2.0%	2.4%	2.2%
- Costs of Management & Administration (in % of total expenses,	6.8%	7.9%	7.0%
- Revenue spent on objectives (in % of total revenue)	85.4%	89.4%	84.4%
- Expenditure spent on objectives (in % of total expenditures)	91.0%	89.8%	90.6%

Consolidated Cashflow Statement in Euros	2022	2021
Cash flow from operating activities		
Result	877,094	737,633
Depreciation	12,691	15,952
Cash flow	<u>889,785</u>	<u>753,585</u>
Changes in work capital		
- Change in receivables	-624,443	-1,892,502
- Change in short-term debts	<u>-15,464</u>	<u>3,324,191</u>
	-639,907	1,431,689
- Change in subsidy fixed assets	-2,902	2,262
- Change in provisions	266,000	0
Cash flow from operating activities	<u>512,976</u>	<u>2,187,536</u>
Cash flow from investing activities		
Investments in fixed assets	-18,888	-8,904
Result on disinvestments	<u>50</u>	<u>0</u>
Cash flow from investing activities	<u>-18,838</u>	<u>-8,904</u>
Change in cash & banks	<u>494,138</u>	<u>2,178,632</u>
Cash & banks		
- as per 1 January	5,217,732	3,039,100
- as per 31 December	<u>5,711,870</u>	<u>5,217,732</u>
Change in cash & banks	<u>494,138</u>	<u>2,178,632</u>

Explanatory Notes to the Consolidated Balance sheet as per 31 December in Euros

General

If the consolidated balance sheet positions in the consolidated financial statements have changed compared to the individual financial statements of the foundation or the association, then these are explained below.

2.9

Explanatory notes to the consolidated balance sheet

(1) Debtors and other receivables	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
Debtors (including membership contributions)	138,365	97,165
Provision for doubtful debtors	<u>-46,742</u>	<u>-34,329</u>
Subtotal	91,623	62,836
Project funds to be received	2,921,634	2,434,823
Subcontractor receivables	1,496,082	1,505,610
Pension	10,965	0
Other receivables	<u>337,154</u>	<u>229,745</u>
Total	<u>4,857,458</u>	<u>4,233,014</u>

(2) Cash & banks	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
Cash	4,592	4,523
Current accounts EUR	3,702,385	3,918,044
Current accounts GBP	709	136,048
Current accounts USD	575,151	12,936
Current accounts CHF	694,933	418,082
Current account Argentina	<u>83,417</u>	<u>77,417</u>
Total Current accounts	5,061,187	4,567,049
Deposit accounts	619,129	619,129
Deposit account for rent	<u>31,554</u>	<u>31,554</u>
Total Deposits	650,683	650,683
Total	<u>5,711,870</u>	<u>5,217,732</u>

Foreign currency accounts are related to projects funded in foreign currency. The balance of the liquid assets in foreign currencies is valued at the closing rate at the end of the financial year. Any exchange rate differences are accounted for in the result.

(3) Continuity reserve	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
Balance 1 January	1,421,160	1,255,809
Result appropriation	460,174	165,351
Balance 31 December	<u>1,881,334</u>	<u>1,421,160</u>

The consolidated result is added to the continuity reserve.

(4) Designated reserve	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
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Designated reserves fully relate to the Foundation. For explanatory notes, reference is made to the Foundation's separate financial statements.

(5) Designated funds	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
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Designated funds fully relate to the Foundation. For explanatory notes, reference is made to the Foundation's separate financial statements.

(6) Short term debts	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
Projects to be executed	3,769,643	4,504,889
Subcontractors commitments < 1 year	2,802,220	2,124,692
Taxation & Social security	95,455	96,254
Trade creditors	54,852	190,385
Argentina funds	83,417	76,929
Holiday allowance	120,454	83,688
Unused annual leave	59,163	41,061
Other short term debts	378,273	261,041
	<u>7,363,477</u>	<u>7,378,939</u>

Projects to be executed relates to funds received from donors for projects still to be executed. Subcontractor commitments are contracted amounts due to subcontractors for the execution of projects. There is no interest on the current account, neither any securities of repayment obligations related. The current account position with Argentina relates to the Current Account Argentina position under Cash and Banks (see explanatory note '3 Cash and banks'). Holiday allowance represents the reservation of holiday allowance built up to year-end and which is to be paid in following year. Unused annual leave represents the outstanding liability regarding unused holidays of staff.

(7) Provisions	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
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Provisions fully relate to the Foundation. For explanatory notes, reference is made to the Foundation's separate financial statements.

2.10 Explanatory notes to the consolidated state of income and expenditures

(8) Income from Governmental grants	2022	2022 Budget	2021
Project income from governmental institutions	6,145,858	5,658,667	5,771,818
Total	<u>6,145,858</u>	<u>5,658,667</u>	<u>5,771,818</u>

The grants are of an incidental nature.

(9) Income from affiliated non-profit organisations	2022	2022 Budget	2021
Income from other affiliated non-profit organisations	63,838	55,000	72,163
Total	<u>63,838</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>72,163</u>

(10) Income from other non-profit organisations	2022	2022 Budget	2021
Grants for executing projects	5,602,499	3,177,506	3,249,829
Contribution member to the Association	13,764	17,000	14,764
Total	<u>5,616,263</u>	<u>3,194,506</u>	<u>3,264,593</u>

2.11 Specification and allocation of consolidated costs by objective

Purpose	Objective			Generating Funds	Managmt & Adm.	Actual	Budget	Actual
	S1	S2	S3					
Subcontractors	2,714,970	4,410,455	942,837	0	0	8,068,262	4,940,000	6,109,665
Publicity & communication	17,698	28,751	6,146	3,870	11,875	68,340	39,000	94,144
Personnel costs	704,061	1,143,743	244,502	234,656	720,069	3,047,031	3,130,000	2,522,199
Travelling & hotel expenses	94,508	153,528	32,820	2,832	8,690	292,378	50,000	30,392
Housing Costs	44,518	72,319	15,460	14,837	45,530	192,664	189,000	179,762
Office & General expenses	365,551	593,835	126,946	23,017	80,943	1,190,292	833,000	610,640
Depreciation & interest	6,190	10,056	2,150	2,063	6,331	26,790	36,000	28,324
Total	3,947,496	6,412,687	1,370,861	281,275	873,438	12,885,757	9,217,000	9,575,126

Wetlands International works on 3 themes. As regards the accounting of non-direct support cost, including depreciation, Wetlands International applies the guideline of VFI: 'Aanbeveling Toepassing van Richtlijn 650 voor Kosten Beheer en Administratie'. Indirect costs are attributed to the 5 themes pro rata of the staff time spent. The costs for the Association have been allocated to Management & Administration.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: the Board and General Members' Meeting of Association Wetlands International.

A. Report on the audit of the financial statements 2022 included in the annual report.

Our opinion

We have audited the financial statements 2022, from chapter 2.1 up to and including chapter 2.6 and chapter 2.8 up to and including 2.11, of Association Wetlands International based in Wageningen, the Netherlands.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Association Wetlands International at 31 December 2022 and of its result for 2022 in accordance with the 'RJ-Richtlijn 650 Fondsenwervende organisaties' (Guideline for annual reporting 650 'Fundraising Organisations') of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

The financial statements comprise:

1. the consolidated and company balance sheet as at 31 December 2022;
2. the consolidated and company statement of income and expenditure for 2022; and
3. the notes comprising of a summary of the accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report.

We are independent of Association Wetlands International in accordance with the Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore we have complied with the Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Oranje Nassaulaan 1
1075 ah Amsterdam
Telefoon 020 571 23 45

E-mail info@dubois.nl
www.dubois.nl
KvK nummer 34374865



B. Report on the other information included in the annual report.

The annual report contains other information, in addition to the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

The other information consists of:

- the Board's report;
- annexes on chapter 3.1 up to and including chapter 3.10.

Based on the following procedures performed, we conclude that the other information is consistent with the financial statements and does not contain material misstatements.

We have read the other information. Based on our knowledge and understanding obtained through our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, we have considered whether the other information contains material misstatements.

By performing these procedures, we comply with the requirements of the Dutch Standard 720. The scope of the procedures performed is substantially less than the scope of those performed in our audit of the financial statements.

Management is responsible for the preparation of the other information, including the Board's report in accordance with Guideline for annual reporting 'RJ-Richtlijn 650 Fondsenwervende organisaties' (Guideline for annual reporting 650 'Fundraising Organisations').

C. Description of responsibilities regarding the financial statements.

Responsibilities of the Board and the General Members' Meeting for the financial statements

The Board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting 'RJ-Richtlijn 650 Fondsenwervende organisaties' (Guideline for annual reporting 650 'Fundraising Organisations'). Furthermore, the Board is responsible for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, the Board is responsible for assessing the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting framework mentioned, the Board should prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the Board either intends to liquidate the organisation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. The Board should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit engagement in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion. Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements.

Our audit included among others:

- identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control;
- evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management;
- concluding on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause an organisation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures; and
- evaluating whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Amsterdam, 11 December 2023

Dubois & Co. Registeraccountants

G. Visser RA

A. Koek RA

2.12 Consolidated budget 2023

Consolidated budget in Euros	2023
Income	
- Income from private parties	2,000
- Income from corporate organisations	635,846
- Income from Lottery organisations	448,435
- Governmental grants	5,081,036
- Income from related organisations	72,000
- Income from Not for profit organisations	4,769,685
Total of private and governmental income	11,009,002
- Other Income	<u>0</u>
	11,009,002
Expenses	
Expenses on objectives	
1. Healthy Wetland Nature	3,359,632
2. Vibrant Coasts and Deltas	5,457,702
3. Peatland Treasures	<u>1,166,712</u>
	9,984,046
Costs of generating funds	234,712
Costs of management & administration	749,244
Total expenses	10,968,002
Earnings before financial income and costs	<u>41,000</u>
Financial result	<u>-10,000</u>
Net result	<u>31,000</u>
Result appropriation	
Increase (+)/Decrease (-) continuity reserve	<u>31,000</u>
Net result	<u>31,000</u>
Percentages	
- Costs of fundraising	2.1% (in percentage of total income)
- Costs of Management & Administration	6.8% (in percentage of total expenses, norm 10%)
- Revenue spent on objectives	90.7% (in percentage of total revenue)
- Percentage of expenditure spent on objectives	91.0% (in percentage of total expenditures)

3

ANNEXES

3.1 List of projects

#	Lead office (country)	Stream	Project Title	Donor/Partner	Donor type	Network Office (EUR)	Global Office (EUR)
	Argentina	Rivers and Lakes	Geoportal of Migratory Austral Geese	DEG Invest / Impulse	Government institution	24.000	
	Argentina	Rivers and Lakes	Villavencio Natural Reserve's wetland inventory	Villavencio - Danone	Corporate	12.000	
1414	Argentina	Rivers and Lakes	Saving High Andes Wetlands for People and Nature II	DOB Ecology	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	624.967	68.223
1415	Argentina	Rivers and Lakes	Corredor Azul Phase II	DOB Ecology	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	1.460.655	56.993
1471	Argentina	Peatlands	Junín Lake project	GreenChoice	Corporate	43.379	
	Brunei	Peatlands	Nursery Development Project	Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn. Bhd.	Corporate	3.242	
	Brunei	Peatlands	Reforestation	Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn. Bhd.	Corporate	101.305	
	Brunei	Peatlands	Seed Collection Programme	Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn. Bhd.	Corporate	8.864	
	Brunei	Peatlands	VCS Project Design for Badas Peat Dome-Phase 2	Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn. Bhd.	Corporate	33.261	
	European Association	Coasts and Deltas	CRF project – AEWA anglophone Africa training workshop (part 2)	AEWA Secretariat	Government Institution	40.863	
	European Association	Coasts and Deltas	Enhancing coastal wetlands conservation traction	MAVA	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	8.030	
	European Association	Peatlands	EU - ALFAwetlands	CINEA	Government Institution	2.597	
	European Association	Peatlands	EU - REWET	CINEA	Government Institution	787	
	European Association	Peatlands	EU - WaterLANDS	REA	Government Institution	21.007	
	European Association	Peatlands	EU - WET Horizons	CINEA	Government Institution	1.585	
	European Association	Coasts and Deltas	Improving fundraising capacity to Wetlands and Fresh-water OAPs, consultancy and workshop for boosting capacity	MAVA	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	35.000	
	European Association	Strategy and Development	LIFE Operating grant	CINEA	Government Institution	548.134	
	European Association	Rivers and Lakes	ONA short film festival 2022 and field trip to Spanish river restoration sites in collaboration with CIRF	CIRF	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	10.000	
	European Association	Rivers and Lakes	Reconnecting Iberian Rivers. Upscaling Reviving Douro Basin to Tagus as case studies	MAVA	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	91.331	

#	Lead office (country)	Stream	Project Title	Donor/Partner	Donor type	Network Office (EUR)	Global Office (EUR)
	European Association	Rivers and Lakes	Reducing lead pollution and poisoning of wetland (and other) wildlife	WWT	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	9.429	
	European Association	Rivers and Lakes	Restore sponge function EU Rivers 2022	WWF Netherlands	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	8.957	
	European Association	Coasts and Deltas	Strengthening the M1-M2 Partnership	MAVA	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	203.111	
	European Association	Coasts and Deltas	Symposium: Ecological connectivity across temperate coastal habitats – moving towards seascape scale restoration	ZSL	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	11.098	
	European Association	Rivers and Lakes	To support enhancing river restoration knowledge and communication in the Iberian Peninsula	CIREF	Government Institution	4.399	
	European Association	Rivers and Lakes	Towards Sustainable Management of the Mujib River Basin - Phase II	MAVA	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	40.908	
	European Association	Coasts and Deltas	WAMAN SEBOU Phase II	MAVA	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	76.399	
1249	Global	Peatlands	Responsible Peat	Foundation Responsibly Produced Peat	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	1.100	1.100
1318	Global	Coasts and Deltas	Building with Nature Indonesia (SWF)	Netherlands Sustainable Water Fund	Government Institution	176.062	176.062
1331	Global	Rivers and Lakes	ICI Climate resilient flyway site network	IKI/BMU German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Government Institution	58.088	58.088
1352	Global	Coasts and Deltas	Water Bird Fund (management)	FOEN (Swiss Government)	Government Institution	24	24
1352	Global	Coasts and Deltas	Water Bird Fund Management	FOEN (Swiss Government)	Government Institution	2.000	2.000
1354	Global	Coasts and Deltas	ICI_Building with Nature	IKI/BMU German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Government Institution	(9.671)	(9.671)
1369	Global	Rivers and Lakes	WASH SDG Ethiopia	Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Government Institution	103.327	103.327
1373	Global	Rivers and Lakes	MAVA Mediterranean Platform	MAVA	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	152	152
1376	Global	Peatlands	IIB grant for Russia	International Investment Bank	Government Institution	3.257	3.257
1383	Global	Rivers and Lakes	Ridge To Coast, Rain To Tap	Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)	Government Institution	(11.620)	(11.620)
1385	Global	Coasts and Deltas	Otter Oman	Wetlands International Foundation	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	25.963	25.963
1386	Global	Rivers and Lakes	Paludiculture Platform SEA	Stichting Otter Fonds	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	24	24
1386	Global	Peatlands	Paludiculture Platform SEAsia	Stichting Otter Fonds	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	440	440
1387	Global	Rivers and Lakes	Ziway Shalla - Basin in Balance	Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)	Government Institution	628.619	628.619
1389	Global	Rivers and Lakes	AWC Coordinator Meeting	East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Secretariat	Government Institution	4.460	4.460
1391	Global	Rivers and Lakes	SaWeL	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	Government Institution	1.605.373	1.605.373
1392	Global	Coasts and Deltas	Flyway bottlenecks Yellow Sea	Arcadia	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	170.285	170.285

#	Lead office (country)	Stream	Project Title	Donor/Partner	Donor type	Network Office (EUR)	Global Office (EUR)
1396	Global	Rivers and Lakes	Young Expert Position (YEP)	World Waternet	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	(2.999)	(2.999)
1401	Global	Rivers and Lakes	Waman Sebou	MAVA	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	1.214	1.214
1407	Global	Rivers and Lakes	Upscaling EcoDisaster Risk Reduction	European Commission Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)	Government Institution	247.936	247.936
1412	Global	Coasts and Deltas	Mangrove Capital Africa II	DOB Ecology	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	125.431	125.431
1417	Global	Coasts and Deltas	Boskalis Blue Carbon	Boskalis	Corporate	43.687	43.687
1420	Global	Coasts and Deltas	Save our Mangroves Now	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Government Institution	49.493	49.493
1421	Global	Peatlands	PeatRus III	KfW Bank	Government Institution	464.451	464.451
1423	Global	Peatlands	Capacity Development for Climate Policy	German Agency for Development and International Cooperation (GIZ)	Government Institution	1.096	1.096
1424	Global	Coasts and Deltas	To Plant Or Not To Plant	Various donors	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	482.884	482.884
1428	Global	Coasts and Deltas	TNC Mnazi Bay Tanzania	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	8.060	8.060
1429	Global	Coasts and Deltas	Global Mangrove Watch 2	OAK Foundation / The Nature Conservancy	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	502.011	502.011
1430	Global	Peatlands	Natura 2000 Haaksbergerveen	Antea Group	Corporate	(573)	(573)
1432	Global	Coasts and Deltas	Greenchoice Guinea Bissau	GreenChoice	Corporate	259.523	259.523
1433	Global	Rivers and Lakes	Waterbird Monitoring Priorities	UNEP	Government Institution	-	-
1434	Global	Rivers and Lakes	WPS phase II	IHE Delft Institute for Water and Education	Government Institution	204.967	204.967
1435	Global	Coasts and Deltas	IKI Building with Nature Asia	IKI/BMU German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Government Institution	128.713	128.713
1436	Global	Rivers and Lakes	EAAF CSR1	AEWA	Government Institution	12.250	12.250
1437	Global	Strategy and Development	Step Change	COmON Foundation	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	894.479	894.479
1442	Global	Rivers and Lakes	IWC 2021	Wetlands Association	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	-	-
1445	Global	Coasts and Deltas	Greenchoice Partnership	GreenChoice	Corporate	50.000	50.000
1446	Global	Strategy and Development	NPL	Netherlands Postcode Lottery	Government Institution	543.207	543.207
1447	Global	Rivers and Lakes	IWC 2021 FOEN	FOEN (Swiss Government)	Government Institution	222	222
1448	Global	Coasts and Deltas	Source to sea	SIDA	Government Institution	1.876.754	1.876.754
1449	Global	Strategy and Development	4R Accelerating landscape regeneration at scale	COmON Foundation	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	631.470	631.470
1450	Global	Strategy and Development	MAVA Strengthening the M1-M2 Partnership	MAVA	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	19.930	19.930
1452	Global	Coasts and Deltas	MCA phase III	DOB Ecology	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	1.145.604	1.145.604
1453	Global	Strategy and Development	Leverage its global knowledge and reach	Various donors	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	50.089	50.089

#	Lead office (country)	Stream	Project Title	Donor/Partner	Donor type	Network Office (EUR)	Global Office (EUR)
1455	Global	Strategy and Development	Mangrove Guideliness	Mirova - L'Oréal Fund for Nature Regeneration	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	108.239	108.239
1456	Global	Peatlands	Waterlands	European Research Executive Agency (REA)	Government Institution	110.448	110.448
1457	Global	Coasts and Deltas	IWC 2022	Vereniging Wetlands International	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	101.000	101.000
1458	Global	Peatlands	Wet Horizons	European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)	Government Institution	19.631	19.631
1459	Global	Rivers and Lakes	Greenchoice Pantanal	GreenChoice	Corporate	104.997	104.997
1461	Global	Strategy and Development	Comon Beneficiary Grant (excl. reservations)	COmON Foundation	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	1.352.518	1.352.518
1462	Global	Coasts and Deltas	Scaling Up the EEAF Flyway Initiative	BirdLife International (Asla) Limited	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	41.309	41.309
1463	Global	Peatlands	LVMH Peatlands	SOPPAR 131	Corporate	53.413	53.413
1464	Global	Peatlands	Greenchoice Mongolia	GreenChoice	Corporate	46.399	46.399
1465	Global	Rivers and Lakes	IWRM in the Niger Basin	WI Sahel Office	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	7.363	7.363
1466	Global	Coasts and Deltas	Manila Bay Offset	San Miguel Aerocity Inc. SMAI	Corporate	75.297	75.297
1468	Global	Peatlands	Rewilding Climate Solutions	Rewilding Europe	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	21.295	21.295
1469	Global	Coasts and Deltas	IWC FOEN 2022	FOEN (Swiss Government)	Government Institution	25.500	25.500
1471	Global	Peatlands	Greenchoice Lake Junín	GreenChoice	Corporate	65.050	65.050
	India - South Asia	Rivers and Lakes	Assessment of economic valuation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (BDES) in SECURE Himalaya project landscapes in Himachal Pradesh	UNDP	Government Institution	15.320	
	India - South Asia	Coasts and Deltas	Conservation and wise-use of five wetlands in 3 Himalayan States to secure habitats of birds migrating with the Central Asian Flyway	National Mission for Himalayan Studies	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	10.440	
	India - South Asia	Rivers and Lakes	Conserving and Sustainably Managing Gangetic Floodplain Wetlands of Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh State Wetlands Authority	Government Institution	9.272	
	India - South Asia	Rivers and Lakes	Integrated management of Wetland Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IMWBES)	UNEP	Government Institution	173.720	
	India - South Asia	Coasts and Deltas	Mainstreaming ecosystem services and climate risks in integrated wetlands management planning	GIZ	Government Institution	55.539	
	India - South Asia	Coasts and Deltas	Mainstreaming Natural Capital values into Planning and Implementation for Sustainable Blue Economic Growth in Indian Coastal Districts	UNEP	Government Institution	35.686	
	India - South Asia	Rivers and Lakes	Promotion of action against marine plastic litter in Asia and the Pacific in India	UNEP	Government Institution	21.992	
	India - South Asia	Coasts and Deltas	"Vembanad-Kol: Integrated Management Plan for Conservation and Wise Use"	State Wetlands Authority Kerala	Government Institution	15.623	

#	Lead office (country)	Stream	Project Title	Donor/Partner	Donor type	Network Office (EUR)	Global Office (EUR)
	Indonesia	Peatlands	Carbon financing consultant for the VCS project design preparation phase for Badas peat Dome, belait (phase 2:A)	WI-Malaysia office	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	18.434	-
	Indonesia	Coasts and Deltas	Global Mangrove Alliance	The Nature Conservation	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	106.204	-
	Indonesia	Peatlands	Mitigation and Adaptation Through Sustainable Livelihoods in Indonesia's Peat and Mangrove Ecosystem.	IKI/BMU German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	23.992	-
	Indonesia	Coasts and Deltas	Western Pacific Sustainable Peatland Management (SAGU) Project	CIFOR	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	90.753	-
	Japan	Strategy and Development	Learning and exchange event of Domestic Ramsar Committee for Relevant Municipalities	Domestic Ramsar Committee for Relevant Municipalities (Japan)	Government Institution	3.260	
	Japan	Strategy and Development	Management of the website for the Domestic Ramsar Committee for Relevant Municipalities	Domestic Ramsar Committee for Relevant Municipalities (Japan)	Government Institution	6.298	
	Japan	Rivers and Lakes	Nationwide long-term monitoring survey in inland waters	The Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan	Government Institution	91.130	
	Japan	Coasts and Deltas	Nationwide long-term monitoring survey in rocky shores and tidal flats	The Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan	Government Institution	124.470	
	Japan	Coasts and Deltas	Nationwide long-term monitoring survey in seagrass beds and algal beds	The Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan	Government Institution	151.512	
	Japan	Strategy and Development	Promoting awareness on World Wetlands Day	The Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan	Government Institution	6.372	
	Japan	Strategy and Development	Public awareness to promote wise use in Ramsar sites	The Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan	Government Institution	24.598	
	Japan	Strategy and Development	Role and function of wetlands for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Japan and Asia	Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF)	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	16.838	
	Japan	Strategy and Development	YouTube Wetland Contents Development in Japan	Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia	Corporate	18.509	
	Kenya	Coasts and Deltas	Save our Mangroves Now II	WWF Germany	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	117.421	
	Kenya	Coasts and Deltas	Strengthening Marine Protected Area Management in Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa, Tanzania	Blue Action Fund	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	66.798	
	Malaysia	Strategy and Development	GEF-SGP Capacity Building	SGP-GEF UNDP	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	12.869	
	Malaysia	Coasts and Deltas	Mangrove Replanting	The Malaysian Government	Government Institution	3.079	
	Malaysia	Coasts and Deltas	Mangrove Replanting (CSR)	Various Donors	Corporate	16.368	
	Malaysia	Peatlands	Trainer for RSPO Drainability Assesment Procedure	RSPO	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	8.578	
	Mali - Sahel	Rivers and Lakes	BAM-GIRE	"Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands through the Embassy in Bamako Mali "	Government Institution	76.775	

#	Lead office (country)	Stream	Project Title	Donor/Partner	Donor type	Network Office (EUR)	Global Office (EUR)
	Mali - Sahel	Rivers and Lakes	Nexus Climate-Water: Integrated Water Resources Management in the Niger Basin	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) under GIZ	Government Institution	77.257	
	Panama - Latin America and Caribbean	Coasts and Deltas	Conservation of coastal wetlands of the Gulf of Chiriquí for a better future	Islas Secas Foundation	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	69.779	
	Panama - Latin America and Caribbean	Strategy and Development	Consultancy to Support the Development of Panama's Blue Gender Gap Analysis and Action Plan	World Bank and Deltares	Government Institution	41.867	
	Panama - Latin America and Caribbean	Rivers and Lakes	Diagnosis of local economic potential on the shores of Lake Gatun	ACP Fund / Natura Foundation	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	125.600	
	Panama - Latin America and Caribbean	Coasts and Deltas	Evaluation and baseline of new potential peatlands areas in the Caribbean and Pacific of Panama	National Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation (SENACYT as in Spanish)	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	93.037	
	Panama - Latin America and Caribbean	Coasts and Deltas	Mangrove restoration on Galeta Island	AES Corporation	Corporate	40.939	
	Panama - Latin America and Caribbean	Strategy and Development	"Towards carbon offsetting opportunities through wetlands restoration in Panama"	Islas Secas Foundation	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute	18.144	
	West Africa Coastal	Coasts and Deltas	CONTRAT PRESTATION : PROPOSITION ET MIS EN ŒUVRE CONTRIBUTIONS VERTES	PRCM	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute		
	West Africa Coastal	Coasts and Deltas	GESTION DES FORETS DE MANGROVE DU SENEGAL AU BENIN	UNION EUROPEENNE	Government Institution		
	West Africa Coastal	Coasts and Deltas	INTERNATIONAL WATERBIRDS CENSUS (DIOEA)	Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute		
	West Africa Coastal	Coasts and Deltas	LA MAISON DE LA CONSERVATION	MAVA	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute		
	West Africa Coastal	Coasts and Deltas	MBP SENEGAL 2022 ET CONTRIBUTION FRAIS DE GESTION		Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute		
	West Africa Coastal	Coasts and Deltas	ONLY ONE IN DELTA DU SALOUM		Corporate		
	West Africa Coastal	Coasts and Deltas	PROJET DE RESILIENCE DES COMMUNAUTES DEPENDANT DE LA MANGROVE		Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute		
	West Africa Coastal	Coasts and Deltas	PROJET DE SOUTIEN AUX COMMUNAUTE	SUBSEA 7	Corporate		
	West Africa Coastal	Coasts and Deltas	SURVIE DES TORTUES MARINES	MAVA	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute		
	West Africa Coastal	Coasts and Deltas	WEBGIS IMPLEMENTATION	Woodside Energy	Corporate		
	Global	Strategy and Development	Membership contribution	Wetlands Association	Membership contributions	300.000	300.000

3.2 Publications 2022

Brasil

- Flora and Vegetation of the Pantanal Wetland. **Article** Monetary Value of the Ecosystem Services of the Pantanal and Its Surroundings: First Approximations and Perspectives https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-83375-6_21
- **Article** Revista Ciência Pantanal: Mercado de Carbono no Pantanal (*Carbon Market for the Pantanal*) <https://lac.wetlands.org/download/11868/?tmstv=1686841024>
- Macrohabitats toolkit consisting of: **Guidelines** Aplicação das Diretrizes da Convenção Ramsar ao Plano de Manejo Sítio Ramsar RPPN Sesc Pantanal (*Applying the Ramsar Convention guidelines to the RPPN Sesc Pantanal Management Plan*) **Guide** Guia Ilustrado de Identificação de Macrohabitats do Sítio Ramsar RPPN Sesc Pantanal (Guide for Macrohabitats Identification at the RPPN Sesc Pantanal Ramsar Site) **Map** classes temáticas e macrohabitats remotamente identificados no sítio Ramsar Sesc Pantanal (*Map of Macrohabitats at the Sesc Pantanal Ramsar Site*) <https://lac.wetlands.org/download/12432/?tmstv=1686842068> <https://lac.wetlands.org/download/12413/?tmstv=1686842068> <https://lac.wetlands.org/download/12550/?tmstv=1686842068>
- Subsídios para Pagamentos por Serviços Ambientais em Áreas Úmidas: Pantanal (*Technical Assessment on PES Pantanal*) <https://lac.wetlands.org/download/12420/?tmstv=1687525425>
- Management Plan: Plano de Vida do Território Indígena Kadiwéu – segunda edição (*Life Plan of the Kadiwéu Indigenous Territory – second edition*)
- Corredor Azul Leaflet – 2022 – Phase II Achievements

- Guidelines for Better Practices on Cattle Ranching at the Pantanal: Restoring native grasslands. Protocolo de Boas Práticas Pecuárias no Pantanal: Restauração de campo nativos.

Ethiopia

- Gap analysis of wetlands and biodiversity-related policies at sub-national (regional) and national levels in Ethiopia
- Discussion Paper on Wetlands, Climate Resilience and WASH Services: Considerations for WASH Programming
- Organizational Capacity and Training Needs Assessment
- Training Module on Wetland Management
- Training Module on Livelihood improvement

European Office

- Is the 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy running out of water? <https://europe.wetlands.org/publications/is-the-2030-eu-biodiversity-strategy-running-out-of-water/>
- Restoring Mediterranean wetlands: From informed policy to implementation <https://europe.wetlands.org/news/restoring-mediterranean-wetlands-from-informed-policy-to-implementation/>
- Trans-European Swimways Programme <https://europe.wetlands.org/home/our-work/wetland-biodiversity/swimways/>
- Peatlands in the EU Nature Restoration Law – a Factsheet <https://europe.wetlands.org/news/peatlands-in-the-eu-nature-restoration-law-a-factsheet/>
- Annual IWCC (*International Waterbird Census*) total Counts annual IWC count totals <https://www.wetlands.org/publications/iwcc-counts-annual-iwc-count-totals/>
- East Atlantic Flyway assessment https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/sites/default/files/2022_East%20Atlantic%20Flyway%20assessment%202020.pdf
- Annual EU Multispecies Trends online report <https://www.wetlands.org/publications/annual-eu-multispecies-trends-online-report/>
- Annual IWC Newsletter <https://mailchi.mp/55221bddadec/african- Eurasian-waterbird-census-newsletter-5372138?e=%5bUNIQUID>
- Recommendations on Delivering the European Green Deal Through Landscape Restoration <https://commonland.com/recommendations-on-delivering-the-european-green-deal-through-landscape-restoration-version-1/>
- Our position on the draft EU Nature Restoration Law <https://europe.wetlands.org/publications/our-position-on-the-draft-eu-nature-restoration-law/>

Global Office

- Integrating Mangrove Ecosystems into NDCs with the Global Mangrove Watch <https://www.wetlands.org/publications/integrating-mangrove-ecosystems-into-ndcs-with-the-global-mangrove-watch/>
- UNFCCC Ocean-Climate Action at COP 27 <https://www.wetlands.org/publications/unfccc-ocean-climate-action-at-cop-27/>
- Supporting the implementation of the Ramsar convention through the Global Mangrove Watch <https://www.wetlands.org/publications/supporting-the-implementation-of-the-ramsar-convention-through-the-global-mangrove-watch/>
- Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: Ensuring protection and restoration of Inland Waters <https://www.wetlands.org/publications/post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework-ensuring-protection-and-restoration-of-inland-waters/>
- A Global Vision for High-Quality Blue Carbon <https://www.wetlands.org/publications/a-global-vision-for-high-quality-blue-carbon/>
- The State of the World's Mangroves 2022 <https://www.wetlands.org/publications/the-state-of-the-worlds-mangroves-2022/>
- The State of Mangroves in the Western Indian Ocean <https://www.wetlands.org/publications/mangroves-latest-data-2021-mozambique-madagascar-kenya-tanzania/>
- Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway <https://www.wetlands.org/publications/eaaf-conservation-status-review1/>
- We need wetlands: The urgent case for global wetland targets <https://www.wetlands.org/publications/we-need-wetlands-the-urgent-case-for-global-wetland-targets/>
- Reducing the ecosystem-based carbon footprint of coastal engineering <https://www.wetlands.org/publications/reducing-the-ecosystem-based-carbon-footprint-of-coastal-engineering/>
- Options for strengthening action on the ocean and coasts under the UNFCCC <https://www.wetlands.org/publications/options-for-strengthening-action-on-the-ocean-and-coasts-under-the-unfccc/>

Indonesia

- The voluntary carbon market for safeguarding and restoring our wetlands
<https://www.wetlands.org/publications/the-voluntary-carbon-market-for-safeguarding-and-restoring-our-wetlands/>
- Negative impacts of lithium extraction in the high Andean wetlands
<https://www.wetlands.org/publications/negative-impacts-of-lithium-brines-development-on-wetlands-and-water-resources/>
- Ensuring the Global Biodiversity Framework prioritises measures to safeguard wetlands and wetland biodiversity
<https://www.wetlands.org/publications/ensuring-the-global-biodiversity-framework-prioritises-measures-to-safeguard-wetlands-and-wetland-biodiversity/>
- Building with Nature in Indonesia: Restoring an eroding coastline and inspiring action at scale (2015-2021)
<https://www.wetlands.org/publications/building-with-nature-in-indonesia-restoring-an-eroding-coastline-and-inspiring-action-at-scale-2015-2021/>
- Policy Brief: Associated Mangrove Aquaculture (AMA) to build coastal resilience and a blue economy
<https://www.wetlands.org/publications/associated-mangrove-aquaculture-ama-to-build-coastal-resilience-and-a-blue-economy-in-indonesia/>
- Training Module on Mangrove Rehabilitation Field School
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fxHXKpEYvBO7WxgzMtrRbnCrPK-6vaDr2/view?usp=share_link
- Practical Book on Peatland Management without Burning and Environmental Friendly Agriculture in Peatland Ecosystem
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BknTZyN7kcf2GMIKY9AmcNk6zk-mu-te7/view?usp=share_link
- Vol. 30 No. 1, March Edition, 2022
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WUxDoe7hkL1MFwxlr06e-TO8WQEC8k64u/view?usp=share_link
- Vol. 30 No. 3, September Editio, 2022
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tb98qf3l3-wr9l2RyIV3xKeJeu-2WT8Rw/view?usp=share_link
- Vol. 30 No. 4, December Edition, 2022
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b2tlnxkxRilxTA_ODSXLtAVruJF-urM/view?usp=share_link
- Annual Review – Wetlands International Journey in Indonesia 2021 (English Version)
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WQeCsOBdHN_njzHym2CV1Kb_NnPtXXHL/view?usp=share_link
- Annual Review – Wetlands International Journey in Indonesia 2021 (Bahasa Indonesia Version)
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_BO7JGCoA8YjD6TkoAmeRJa5yMS-JSH_s/view?usp=share_link
- Strategic Intents of Wetlands International Indonesia 2020-2030 (English Version)
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yQ8Rst0uWE49F5hFQrNuP2oZH-vq7bFY6/view?usp=share_link
- Strategic Intents Wetlands International Indonesia 2020-2030 (Bahasa Indonesia Version)
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1m-P5hjpLXzNFh-l2j2GDSs-uNdl0fb-Sp/view?usp=share_link

LAC Office

- Protected areas have a mixed impact on waterbirds, but management helps
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-022-04617-0>
- Wetlands in Environmental Impact Studies: An orientation guide with a focus on the Paraná-Paraguay Corridor
<https://lac.wetlands.org/publicacion/humedales-en-los-estudios-de-impacto-ambiental-una-guia-de-orientaciones-con-foco-en-el-corredor-parana-paraguay/>
- We launched a technical publication on the fishing territory in the Paraná Delta wetlands
<https://lac.wetlands.org/noticia/lanzamos-una-publicacion-tecnica-sobre-el-territorio-pesquero-en-los-humedales-del-delta-del-parana/> Technical Assessments and Reports
- Geoportal of Migratory Cauquenes
<https://geo.humedales.org.ar/#>
- Ibera's Bird Checklist: List of birds of Corrientes 2022
<https://lac.wetlands.org/publicacion/lista-de-aves-de-corrientes-2022>
- Manual of good practices for livestock grazing in Laguna de los Pozuelos, Jujuy,
<https://lac.wetlands.org/publicacion/manual-de-buenas-practicas-de-manejo-del-pastoreo-y-los-humedales-en-laguna-de-los-pozuelos-argentina/>
- Manual of good practices for the management of livestock grazing and wetlands in Salinas Grandes
<https://lac.wetlands.org/publicacion/manual-de-buenas-practicas-de-manejo-del-pastoreo-y-los-humedales-en-salinas-grandes-argentina/>
- Manual of good practices for the management and restoration of wetlands in Marcapomacocha, Peru
<https://lac.wetlands.org/publicacion/manual-de-buenas-practicas-en-manejo-y-restauracion-de-bofedales-en-marcapomacocha-peru/>

Panama

- Evaluation of the ecological state using the water quality index and fluvial habitat index of the urban basins of Panamá. WIT Transactions on Ecology and the Environment 2022
- WIT Transactions on The Built Environment 2022
- Macroinvertebrates as bioindicators of water quality in the metropolitan region of Panamá. Waste Management and Environmental Impact 2022
- Evaluation of the ecological status in riverbank sites (Pacora, Juan Díaz and Matasnillo) using the QBR riparian forest index in the province of Panamá, Panamá. International Journal of Environmental Impacts Management, Mitigation and Recovery 2022.
- Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) that includes the mangrove, riparian forest and gallery forest ecosystems in the Special Marine-Coastal Management Zone of the South of the Azuero peninsula
- Analysis of Women in Coastal Marine Zones in Panama
- Environmental Education Program. Project: Support to the consolidation and strengthening of the Mangroves of the Gulf of Chiriquí. Panama
- Implementing Wetlands restoration programme. Support to the consolidation and strengthening of the Mangroves of the Gulf of Chiriquí. Panama.
- Scoping innovative financial mechanisms for wetlands conservation. Technical report on the potential of the wetland bank mechanism in Panama and recommendations. Support to the consolidation and strengthening of the Mangroves of the Gulf of Chiriquí. Panama.
- Calculation of the carbon sequestration potential of the new sites to be restored. Project: Towards carbon offset opportunities through wetland restoration in Panama.
- Blue gender gap action plan
- Portfolio of potential new mangrove restoration sites within the Chiriquí Gulf. Identification of new restoration sites and proceedings with landowners and formalities
- Wetland Carbon Report and recommendations for a Certified Carbon Emissions Reduction Program

South Asia

- Sarovar Newsletter on the theme of 'Wetlands and Water Management' - Vol. VIII
<https://south-asia.wetlands.org/publications/sarovar-volume-viii/>
- Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use- The Role of Citizens
<https://south-asia.wetlands.org/publications/the-role-of-citizens/>
- Nature-Based Solutions for Reducing Disaster Risks, A Guidebook for District Disaster
<https://south-asia.wetlands.org/publications/nature-based-solutions-for-reducing-disaster-risks-a-guidebook-for-district-disaster-management-planning/>
- Summary Report on Asian Waterbird Census 2022: Results of Mid-winter Count by Biodiversity Management Committees and Asian Waterbird Census Network
<https://south-asia.wetlands.org/news/summary-report-on-asian-water-bird-census-2022-released-marking-world-biodiversity-day/>

3.3 Members of the Association 2022 Governmental

Austria

- Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management

Bangladesh

- Ministry of Water Resources

Belgium

- Brussels Environment IBGE-BIM
- Flemish Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO)
- Service Public de Wallonie

Benin

- Agency for the Environment

Bulgaria

- Ministry of Environment and Water

China

- The Convention on Wetlands Management Office

Denmark

- Ministry of the Environment, Environmental Protection Agency

Ecuador

- Ministerio del Ambiente

Estonia

- Ministry of the Environment

Finland

- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finish Wildlife Agency

Germany

- Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

Hungary

- Ministry of Agriculture

India

- Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
Ireland - National Parks and Wildlife Service

Japan

- Ministry of the Environment

Kenya

- Kenya Wildlife Service

Malaysia

- Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change

Netherlands

- Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

Norway

- Norwegian Environment Agency

Pakistan

- Ministry of Climate Change

Slovakia

- Ministry of the Environment

Slovenia

- Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning

Sweden

- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Switzerland

- Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)

3.3

Members of the Association 2022

Non-Governmental Organisation

Belgium

- FACE

Bulgaria

- Via Pontica Foundation

Denmark

- Danish Ornithological Society Birdlife

Germany

- Deutscher Jagdverband (DJV)

Ireland

- National Association of Regional Game Councils

Netherlands

- Vogelbescherming Nederland

Nigeria

- Nigerian Conservation Foundation

Sweden

- Birdlife Sverige

United Kingdom

- British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)

3.3

Members of the European Association 2022

Non-Governmental Organisation

- Iberian Centre for River Restoration (CIREF)
- Centre for Wetland Protection (CMok)
- The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)
- Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
- Sustainable Eel Group (SEG)
- Tour du Valat Foundation (TdV)
- Italian Centre for River Restoration (CIRF)
- EuroNatur
- Michael Succow Foundation (MSF)
- Fundación Global Nature (FGN)
- Foundation for Peatland Restoration and Conservation

Government

- Estonia - Ministry of the Environment

3.4

Counsellors of Honour

1988

Michael Moser

2002

Chris Kalden

2007

Max Finlayson
Stewart Morrison

2015

Jan Ernst de Groot

2017

Marcel Silvius

2021

Gonzalo Castro de la Mata
Kathy MacKinnon
André van der Zande

3.5 Supervisory Council & Board of Association

In 2022 the Supervisory Council of the Foundation and the Board of the Association of Wetlands International had the following members.

Start of term	Members	End of term	Supervisory Council	Board of Association	Position(s)
2021	Jan-Ernst de Groot	2022	Chair	Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Legal Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer, Royal Ahold Delhaize <p>Other positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member Supervisory Board, ADG Dienstengroep Member Executive Board, VNO-NCW Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers Member Board of Directors, Jéronimo Martins Retail Chair Supervisory Council, ARK Rewilding Netherlands
2016	Drs. Angelique van de Beeten (2 nd term)	2023	Member	Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing Director bij Fuenix Ecology / CFO Fuenix Holding
2015	Kazuaki Hoshino (3 rd term)	2024	Member	Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President, Wetlands International Japan <p>Other positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Guideline Examiner, Japan Bank for International Cooperation Member, Scientific Committee on natural World Heritage nominated property in Kagoshima and Okinawa Chair, Management Committee of Natural and Historical Environment Trust Fund established by Taisei Corporation Member, Antarctic Activity Assessment Committee IUCN Council Member, South and East Asia Chair, Japan Mirror Committee of ISO TC331 on Biodiversity
2014	Dr Eliot Taylor (3 rd term)	2023	Member	Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Divisional Director, APEM Ireland Ltd <p>Other positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honorary member of the International Society for Limnology (SIL) Member of the Freshwater Biological Association Member of the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (MCIWEM) Chartered Scientist (C. Sci) Chartered Environmentalist (C. Env.) Chartered Water and Environmental Manager (C. WEM)

3.5 Supervisory Council & Board of Association

Start of term	Members	End of term	Supervisory Council	Board of Association	Position(s)
2019	Maggie White	2022	Member	Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Manager and Team Leader for International Policy, Stockholm International Water Institute <p>Other positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Member Alliance for Global Water Adaption SC member CIW Climateiswater Founder and Board Member – Water Right Makers Member of the International SC of the Budapest Water Summit Member of the International Advisory Committee of the International Conference for the International Decade on Sustainable Water 2018-2028, Dushanbe (2018 edition and 2022 edition) Member of the International Advisory Board for the Bonn Conference 'Water Dialogues'
2019	Hastings Chikoko	2022	Member	Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing Director for Regions and Mayoral Engagement/Regional Director for Africa – C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group <p>Other positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Manager SADC/DANIDA Various positions at IUCN Member of the Advisory Board of African Centre for Cities Member of the Technical Advisory Group of the Global Environment Facility - GEF Member of the Board of Directors for the World Green Buildings Council Member of the Advisory Group for the African Cities Research Consortium at the Global Development Institute Member of Global Future Council on Clean Air: World Economic Member of the Africa-Europe Strategic Task Force on Sustainable Energy Member of the Regional Technical Committee for the Global Water Partnership
2020	Adrie Papma	2023	Member	Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Consultant <p>Other positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member Board Questionmark Member Advisory Board Social Sciences Group, Wageningen University and Research
2021	Miguel Angel Jorge	2024	Member	Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Consultant

3.6 Management Board

Ms. Jane Madgwick, Chief Executive Officer

Other positions:

- Member of the Governing Body
- Wetlands International South Asia Society, India
- Council member, Wetlands International, Malaysia
- Council member, Fundación para la Conservación y el Uso Sustentable de los Humedales, Argentina
- Chair, Wetlands International - European Association, the Netherlands

Global Management Team

- Ms. Jane Madgwick, Chief Executive Officer
- Mr. Richard Holland, Director of Operations and Network Development
- Mr. Ron van Leeuwen, Director of Resources

3.7 Partners 2022

A

Aarhus University
Aberystwyth University
Acacia Water
Academy of Inventory and Planning, National Forestry and Grassland Administration (P.R. China)
ACWADAM (India)
African Union Great Green Wall Initiative
Agence Nationale De L'amenagement Du Territoire (ANAT, Senegal)
Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)
Altenburg and Wymenga
AmRef Flying Doctors
Argentina Administración de Parques Nacionales
Argentina Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS)
Argentina National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA)
Argentina Provincial Government of Buenos Aires, Santa Fe, Entrer Rios, Mendoza, Corrientes, Jujuy and Catamarca
Argentina Subsecretaría Agricultura Familiar y Desarrollo Territorial
ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
Associação Para a Defesa do Ambiente e Desenvolvimento - Guinee Bissau
Aves Argentina

B

Benin Environment And Education Society (BEES, Benin)
Bioconserv - Angola
Biodiversites - Mauritanie
BirdLife International
Blue Forests
Bogor Agricultural University (Indonesia)
Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)
Boskalis
Brunei Shell Petroleum

C

Cagayan de Oro City Water District
Cagayan de Oro River Basin Management Council
Cambridge University
Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS)
CARE
Caritas Switzerland
CEDAR (India)
Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI - (India)
Climate Action Network
Collectif 5Δ (Senegal)
Commonland
CONDESAN
Conservation International
Conservation Society Of Siera Leone (Cssl)
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
Cooperativa de Estudios Económicos y Sociales Scalabrini Ortiz Ltda
Coordination nationale des usagers des ressources naturelles du bassin du Niger (CNU-Mali)
Cordaid

D

Delft University of Technology (TU Delft)
Delta Alliance
Deltares
Department Of Parks And Wildlife Management (The Gambia)
DHAN Foundation (India)
Diponegoro University (UNDIP)
Direction Bureau De La Planification Cotiere Guinee-Bissau (GPC)
Direction des Aires Marines Communautaires Protégées (Senegal)
Direction Des Eaux Et Forets (Senegal)
Direction Des Parcs Nationaux (DPN, Senegal)
Direction Parcs Nationaux (Senegal)

E

East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)
EcoAlbania
ECOAN (Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos, Peru)
Ecopil México
EcoShape Buidling with Nature
Environment Authority Oman
Environment Protection Agency (EPA, Sierra Leone)
Environmental Satellite Applications Laboratory (LASA-UFRJ)
Ethiopia Meki Batu Cooperative Farmer's Union
Ethiopia Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS)
Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority
EuroNatur

F

Face the Future
Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul (Brazil)
Fondation Maio Biodiversity (Cape Verde)
Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM)
Fucvd Refane - Senegal
Fundación Cambio Democrático
Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Fundación AVINA
Fundación Natura Panamá
Fundación para la Conservación y Desarrollo Sustentable en Yungas, Chaco y Andes del Norte Argentino (YUCHAN)
Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina
Fundación YUCHAN

G

GEO-Wetlands Initiative
German Agency for Development & International Cooperation (GIZ)
Gie Carem (Senegal)
Global Mangrove Alliance
Global Peatlands Initiative
Global Resilience Partnership
Greenchoice
Greifswald Mire Centre
Greifswald University
GRID Arendal
Groupe D Action Et D Initiatives Pour Un Developpement Alternatif (Gaia) - Senegal
Grupo de Estudos de Ordenamento do Território e Ambiente (GEOTA)
Guinea Bissau Gabinete de Planificação Costeira
Guinea Bissau Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas (IBAP)
Guinea Bissau Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Guinee Ecologie - Guinee

H

Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network
Hydrosolutions

I

ICEM (India)
IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
India Bihar State Wetland Authority
India Chilika Development Authority
India Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation, Government of Punjab
India Himachal Pradesh State Wetlands Authority
India Himachal Pradesh Forest Department
India Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
India Sikkim State Wetlands Authority
India State Wetland Authority Kerala, Government of Kerala
India Uttar Pradesh Forest Department
India Uttar Pradesh State Wetlands Authority
Indonesia Government Centre for Marine Resource Survey
Indonesia Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Indonesia Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Indonesia Ministry of Public Works and Housing
Indonesia National Planning Agency BAPPENAS
Indonesia Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency
Initiative 20x20 - Global Restoration Initiative
INRM (India)
Inspection Academique De Fatick (Senegal)
Institut Des Sciences De La Terre (Senegal)
Institut Des Sciences De L'environnement (Senegal)
Institut National De Gestion Du Territoire (Cabo Verde)
Institut Supérieur De Navigation Et De Peche (Republique Democratique Congo)
Institute of Botany and Geoecology, Greifswald University
Institute Of Marine Biology And Oceanography, University of Sierra Leone
Institute of Sustainable Development of Landscapes of the Earth (DUENE)
International Alert
International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC)
International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG)
International Peatland Society (IPS)
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
International Waterbird Census Coordinators
IRC

J

Japan Ministry of the Environment of Government
Joint Effort to Save the Environment - JESE Uganda
Jordan Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature
Joytech

K

Karunya University (India)
Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF, Japan)
Kenya Marine Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI)
Kenya Ministry of Water and Irrigation
Kenya Water Resource Management Authority (WRMA)

L

Landscape Finance Lab
Living Planet Morocco

M

Malaysia Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Malaysia South-East Johor Development Authority (KEJORA)
Malaysian Water Partnership (MyWP)
Mali Direction Nationale de la Pêche
Mali Direction Nationale de la Protection Civile
Mali Direction Nationale de l'Hydraulique
Mali Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts
Mali Ministry of Environment and Sanitation
Mangroves for the Future
Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos (MedINA)
Mediterranean Wetlands Alliance
Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory
MedWet - Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative
Michael Succow Foundation
Mujeres del Pantanal (MUPAN)

N

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
National Institute of Science and Technology in Wetlands (Brazil)
National Protected Area Authority And Conservation Trust Fund (Npaa-Ctf) - Sierra Leone
Nature Mauritanie
Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management
Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP)
Niger Basin Authority (NBA)
Nigeria Conservation Foundation
Nile Basin Initiative

O

Office du Niger
One Architecture & Urbanism (ONE)
Organização para Defesa e Desenvolvimento das Zonas Húmidas (ODZH) - Guinea-Bissau

P

Palm Oil Innovation Group (POIG)
Panama Marine Resources Authority (ARAP)
Panama Ministry of Environment
Panama Secretaría Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (SENACYT)
Pantanal Research Centre (CPP)
Parc National Banc Arguin (Senegal)
Parc National Diawling (Senegal)
Partenariat Regional Pour La Conservation De La Zone Marune Et Cotiere En Afrique De L'ouest (Prcm) - Senegal
Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR)

PARTOS

Permian Global
Peru Ministry of Environment
Peru Servicio Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (SERNAMP)
Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA)
Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
PSI (India)
PT Rimba Makmur Utama

R

RAIN
RAMPAO - Reseau Regional D'Aires Marines Protegees en Afrique de L'Ouest (Senegal)
Ramsar Convention Secretariat, STRP, Regional and Country Centres
Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies
Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Center
Red Latinoamericana de Ministerios Públicos Ambientales - RedeMPA
Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) - Platform Netherlands
Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation (PRCM, Senegal)
Reptile And Amphibian Program Sierra Leone (Sierra Leone)
Responsibly Produced Peat Foundation
Rift Valley Lakes Basin Development Office (RVLBDO)
RiverWatch
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)
Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN - Jordan)
Rubicon Foundation (Stichting)
Russian Academy of Science
Russian Federation Ministry of Environment

S

Satelligence
Secretary of Environment, Agriculture and Production of Mato Grosso do Sul State - SEMAGRO (Brazil)
Simavi
Sime Darby Elmina Development Bhd (Malaysia)
Social Service of Commerce - SESC (Brazil)
Society For The Conservation of Nature In Liberia soloEO
SOS Pantanal
SOVON
Sparkgeo
Stockholm International Water Institute
Sustainable Eel Group

T

Tanzania Forest Service
TARU (India)
TECONA, Mendoza, Argentina
The Hague Center for Strategic Studies

The Nature Conservancy
TINEGUENA Guinee Bissau
Tour du Valat

U

Unifrutti Tropical Philippines Inc. – Mt. Kitanglad Agriventures Inc.
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre
United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)
Universidad Nacional de Buenos Aires (Argentina)
Universidad Nacional de San Martin (Argentina)
Universidad Nacional de Tierra del Fuego (Argentina)
Universite De Nouakchott - Mauritania
Universite Nzerekore - Guinee
University of Bonn
University Of Cabo Verde
University of Ottawa

V

VEI Dutch Water Operators
Vizzuality
Volta Basin Authority
Von Lieberman

W

Wageningen Environmental Research
Wageningen Marine Research (IMARES)
Wageningen University
Walhi Riau
WASH Alliance International
West African Bird Study Association Gambia (Wabsa) - The Gambia
Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN)
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
Wildlife Conservation Society
Witteveen + Bos
Wolfs Company
World Fish Migration Foundation
World Resource Institute (WRI)
World Waternet
WWF

X

Xavier University Science Foundation (Philippines)

Y

Yayasan Hasanah
Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara (YKAN)
Yayasan Konservasi Cakrawala Indonesia (YKCI)

Z

Zoological Society of London (ZSL)

3.8 Associate Experts

A

Ab Grootjans
Abdoulaye Ndiaye
Arina Schrier
Arne Erik Jensen

B

Bart Fokkens
Bernard Mercer

D

Dave Pritchard
Delmar Blasco
Derek Scott
Doug Watkins

H

Hanneke van Lavieren
Han Winterwerp
Henk Zingstra

J

Jan Veen
Jill Heyde
John Howes

M

Marié-Jose Vervest
Mike Moser

P

Pablo Yorio

R

Rebecca D'Cruz
Rebecca Tharme

S

Sansanee Coowaew
Simon Delany
Steven de Bie
Szabolcs Nagy

T

Tatiana Minayeva
Taej Mumdkur
Tim Dodman
Tim Jones

W

Wim Giesen

Z

Zhang Xiaohong

3.9 Specialist Groups

A

Cormorant Specialist Group
Crane Specialist Group

D

Duck Specialist Group
Diver/Loon Specialist Group

F

Flamingo Specialist Group
Freshwater Fish Specialist Group

G

Goose Specialist Group

H

Heron Specialist group

P

Pelican Specialist Group

S

Swan Specialist Group
Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist group

T

Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group

W

Wader Specialist group
Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group
Wetland Restoration Specialist Group
Woodcock & Snipe Specialist Group

All the above Specialist Groups except the ones on Waterbird Harvest and Wetland Restoration are coordinated jointly by Wetlands International and the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

3.10 Donors 2022

	Donor / Partner	Donor type
1	AES	Corporate
2	AEWA	Government institution
3	Antea Group	Corporate
4	Arcadia	Corporate
5	Arcadis	Corporate
6	Blue Action Fund	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
7	Brunei Shell Petroleum	Corporate
8	Canadian Wildlife Services	Government institution
9	CIFOR	Government institution
10	CIREF	Government institution
11	COmON Foundation	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
12	DEG Invest / Impulse	Government institution
13	DOB Ecology	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
14	Effektiv-Spenden Schweiz	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
15	Environmental Agency Abu Dhabi	Government institution
16	European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)	Government institution

	Donor / Partner	Donor type
17	European Commission Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)	Government institution
18	European Commission Research and LIFE Grants	Government institution
19	European Development Fund	Government institution
20	European Research Executive Agency (REA)	Government institution
21	FOEN (Swiss Government)	Government institution
22	Foundation Responsibly Produced Peat	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
23	Fundación Natura	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
24	German Agency for Development & International Cooperation (GIZ)	Government institution
25	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Government institution
26	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (ICI/BUMD)	Government institution
27	Grantham Foundation	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
28	IHE Delft Institute for Water and Education	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
30	Japan Government, Ministry of the Environment	Government institution
31	Japan Ramsar Committee for Relevant Municipalities	Government institution
32	Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF)	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
33	KfW Bank	Corporate
34	Malaysia Government	Government institution
35	MAVA Foundation	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
36	Mirova - L'Oréal Fund for Nature Regeneration	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
37	National Mission for Himalayan Studies	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
38	National Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation (SENACYT as in Spanish)	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
39	Nationale Postcode Loterij (Dutch National Postcode Lottery)	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
40	Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)	Government institution
41	Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy	Government institution
42	Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Government institution
43	Netherlands Sustainable Water Fund (FDW)	Government institution

	Donor / Partner	Donor type
44	OAK Foundation	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
45	Petrosen B.V. (Senegal)	Corporate
46	Rewilding Europe	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
47	Sovon	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
48	State Wetlands Authority Kerala, Uttar Pradesh	Government institution
49	STELLA	Corporate
50	Stichting Otter Fonds	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
51	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)	Government institution
52	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	Government institution
53	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Government institution
54	United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) - Global Environment Facility (GEF)	Government institution
55	United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) - Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA)	Government institution
56	Villavicencio - Danone	Corporate
57	Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
58	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
59	Woodside Energy Group Ltd	Corporate
60	World Bank	Government institution
61	World Waternet	Government institution
62	Yayasan Hasanah (Malaysia)	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute
63	Zoological Society of London	Trust/Foundation/NGO/Institute



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