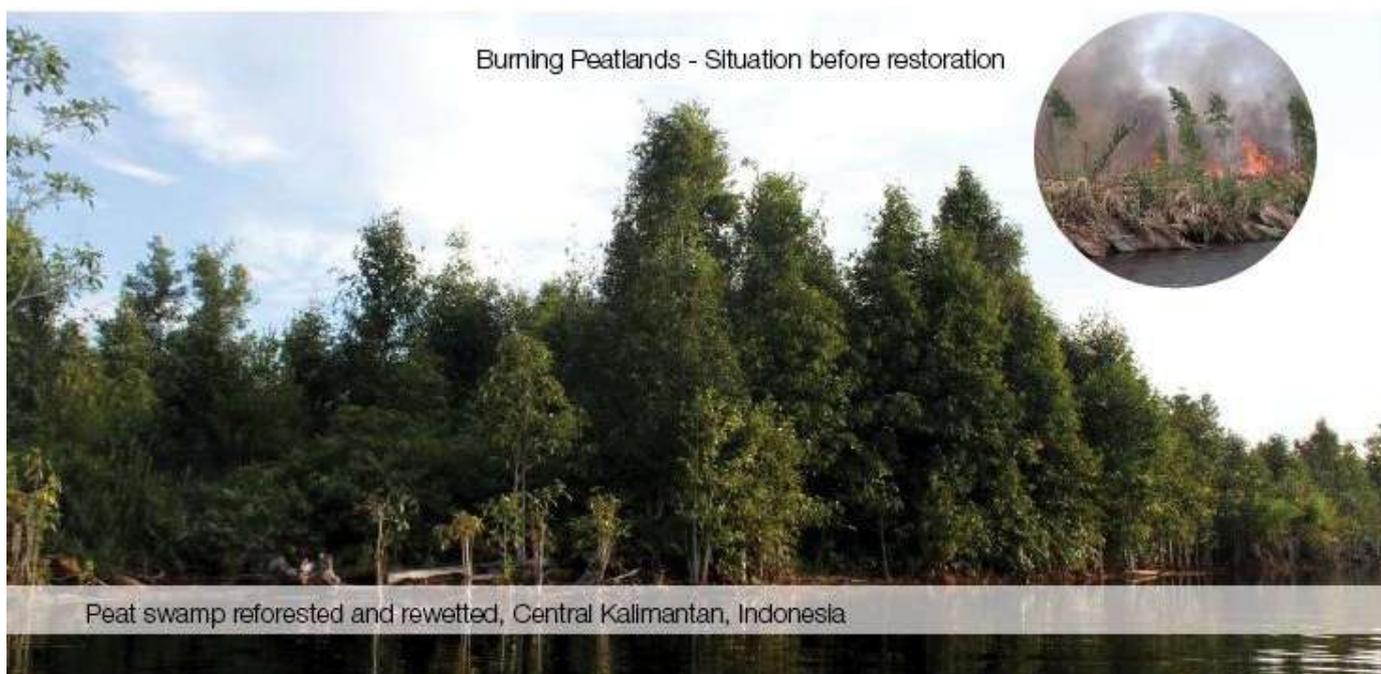


## Indonesian moratorium extended, but peatlands remain threatened

In May, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono extended the Moratorium on the issuing of new licenses for the reclamation of primary forests and peatlands in Indonesia for a period of two years (Presidential Decree 6/2103). We strongly welcome this decision from the Indonesian Government. It clearly demonstrates the serious interest of the government to contribute to global climate change mitigation by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and their acknowledgement that this will require an improved management of its primary forests and peatlands. Although the Moratorium comes with a number of exceptions, in general it will prevent any new concessions in primary forest areas and peatlands. We are happy to continue to provide our expertise and inputs to Indonesia in order to contribute to the wise use and rehabilitation of peatlands. [Read more.](#) •



### In this issue...

*(Click on title to jump to article)*

[Promoting ecosystems at the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction](#)

[Working with Nature for Disaster Risk Reduction and Coastal Resilience](#)

[Tools for ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction in Central America](#)

[New challenges for their the conservation of waterbirds due to climate change](#)

[Celebrating World Migratory Bird Day](#)

[Protecting Wetlands in Panamá](#)

[Wetlands: Infinite benefits, yet rarely recognised](#)

[The Wetlands Inventory of the Parana–Paraguay Fluvial Corridor, in Argentina](#)

[Blog – Mangrove Coasts: A Muddy Story Part II & III](#)

[A fond farewell to two long-time Africa staff](#)

[Other Publications](#)

# Promoting ecosystems at the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

More than 3500 delegates met in Geneva in May to discuss issues to be included in a post-2015 global framework for [disaster risk reduction \(DRR\)](#). Wetlands International, together with our colleagues from [Partners for Resilience](#), highlighted the important role that functional, healthy wetland ecosystems can play in mitigating the impact of natural hazards and extreme weather events.

Despite the high level of interest by participants in ecosystem-based approaches that use natural infrastructure to reduce disaster risk and adapt to climate change, the value of ecosystems is still largely unacknowledged in DRR policies and practices.

The words “environment”, “ecosystem”, or even “landscape” were almost absent from the plenary discussions and barely mentioned in the draft Chair’s summary. The next Global Platform meeting will take place in 2015, leaving us two years to achieve better recognition for integrated humanitarian, development and environmental approaches to build resilience. [Read more.](#)

## Working with Nature for Disaster Risk Reduction and Coastal Resilience

The unsustainable management and use of ecosystems is often a root cause of vulnerability to disasters. Wetlands International is bringing together expertise from the engineering, humanitarian, development and environmental sectors to make better use of the natural protections provided by ecosystems to increase resilience. Ahead of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, we released the following three publications highlighting the importance of nature for disaster risk reduction (DRR):



This [brochure](#) explains the concept of hybrid engineering as it relates to mangrove coasts. It provides a rationale for moving away from over-reliance on hard engineered structures towards more natural approaches to coastal resilience. •



This [brochure](#) highlights the role of ecosystems as natural infrastructure for disaster risk reduction. It provides facts & figures and describes five key steps to integrate ecosystem approaches into DRR. •



An [in-depth tool](#) for DRR practitioners and policy makers, this guide introduces a detailed checklist of criteria that can be used to better integrate the management of ecosystems and natural resources in DRR work. •



## Tools for ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction in Central America

In addition to our efforts to improve global policies and practices integrating nature into [disaster risk reduction](#), we are working to increase resilience on the ground in disaster-prone countries through our [Partners for Resilience](#) alliance. We are undertaking the following activities in Central America, along with partner Red Cross:



In Guatemala, we are establishing roundtables on climate change. This is giving stakeholders a platform to confront the increased severity of floods, storms and forest fires. [Read more \(Spanish\)](#). In addition, we used the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May to hold a forum on the role of ecosystems in climate change adaptation aimed at university students. [Read more \(Spanish\)](#).

In Nicaragua, we hosted a course that provided basic knowledge on how ecosystems and local stakeholders (such as communities) play key roles in climate change adaptation at the municipal and river basin level. [Read more \(Spanish\)](#).



## New challenges for their the conservation of waterbirds due to climate change

A newly published study co-authored by Wetlands International shows that three species of waterbirds (Tufted Duck, Goosander and Goldeneye) are shifting their wintering grounds northwards along the North-West Europe flyway in response to increasing temperatures. Rising temperatures due to climate change and shifting ranges for wintering waterbirds have profound implications for the conservation of site networks along the flyways and highlights the importance of adaptive management approaches. This shift was evident from an analysis of annual waterbird counts conducted under the framework of the International Waterbird Census (IWC). [Read more](#).



## Celebrating World Migratory Bird Day

World Migratory Bird Day was widely celebrated around the world 11-12 May. You can view the many global events [here](#). Through our global offices and the [Migratory Birds for People network](#), Wetlands International worked to raise awareness and interest in the conservation of migratory birds, focused on this year's theme "Networking for migratory birds".

In the Netherlands, we organised a bicycle bird watching trip to the famous Ooijpolder, a flood plain wetland on the River Waal, an area of international importance for migratory and resident waterbirds.

For some staff and families it was their first time bird watching. On a nice sunny day, we saw many interesting birds, including several species that migrate to Africa for the northern winter and return to breed in the Netherlands, such as the Black Tern, White Stork, Common Swift and Common Cuckoo. [Read more](#).

## Protecting Wetlands in Panamá

A coalition of NGOs and civil society organisations, including Wetlands International Panamá, recently launched a campaign to protect wetlands in Panamá. With the slogan “Mangroves Are in Danger, and So Are You!” the campaign aims to stop ongoing mangrove destruction for industrial and housing development, for example in the Bay of Panamá where recent landfills have caused the flooding of adjacent communities. The Bay’s wetlands are a globally significant Important Bird Area, as well as a Ramsar Site and Site of Hemispheric Importance, and are the most important shorebird site in Central America. The campaign activities include billboards, press outreach and advocacy with all levels of government. [Read more.](#)



## Wetlands: Infinite benefits, yet rarely recognised

Celebrated annually on 22 May, the International Day of Biological Diversity creates awareness on behalf of biodiversity. This year highlighted the link between Water and Biodiversity. Wetlands International in South Asia used the occasion to create more awareness of wetlands and their infinite benefits – they are vital to [water management](#) and provide priceless services, such as filtering water and serving as breeding grounds for fish and biodiversity.

The problem is that wetlands are seldom integrated into water and climate policies. But what is needed to catalyse change? According to the outcomes of a national consultation workshop in India, the answer is multifaceted: more cooperation between water and biodiversity managers; quantifiable measures; better communication; and training on ecological processes and services for water managers.



## The Wetlands Inventory of the Parana–Paraguay Fluvial Corridor, in Argentina

The Paraná-Paraguay River Corridor in Argentina is the main collector of the La Plata Basin waters, one of the largest river basins in the world. This corridor includes vast areas of wetland ecosystems, characterised by a regime of pulses with flooding and drying phases, hosting exceptional biodiversity and providing important goods and services to society.

This publication highlights the environmental, social and economic value provided by the corridor and fills the gap on wetland inventory, spatial distribution, classification of wetland ecosystems, and the goods and services they provide to human well-being. We believe it will better inform decision-makers on how to design and implement concrete policies for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their associated biodiversity at a regional and national level. [Read more \(Spanish\).](#) •



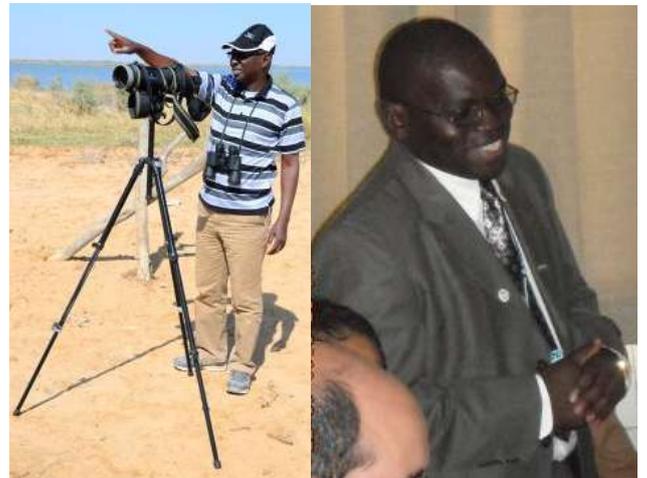
## Blog: Mangrove Coasts: A Muddy Story Part II & III

Blogs 2 & 3 from Han Witerwerp and Bregje van Wesenbeeck make us more aware of the threats to mangrove coasts throughout the world. Our guest bloggers also provide some valuable insights into the concept of ecosystem services and the many benefits they provide. They also provide some valuable insights into the concept of ecosystem services - as an important argument against short-term unsustainable economic activities. This is why Deltares and Wetlands International are working together to apply engineering solutions to eroding mangrove mud coasts that simultaneously deliver coastal protection as well as a variety of other ecosystem services. Read blogs [2](#) & [3](#).



## A fond farewell to two long-time Africa staff

From waterbird monitoring and wetlands management to climate change adaptation and sustainable livelihoods development, Abdoulaye Ndiaye and Oliver Nasirwa have made lasting contributions to our work in Africa. During his long career, Abdoulaye built capacity for wetland and waterbird monitoring, and designed and implemented the first wetland management plan in West Africa for Djoudj National Park, Senegal. After retiring at the beginning of the year, Abdoulaye has since come back on board as an [associate expert](#). Oliver Nasirwa left the organisation in May after 18 years. Oliver was initially the coordinator of waterbird monitoring and wetland biodiversity in Kenya, Eastern Africa and Africa. He joined the staff full time in 2006, and was most recently the Kenya Representative. We wish Abdoulaye and Oliver all the best!



## Other Publications



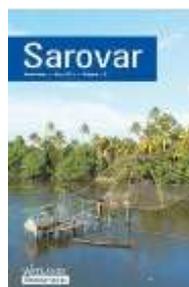
[Workshop Report on Woodcock and Snipe](#)



[Putting community resilience into practice](#)



[Restoring Peatlands in Russia](#)



[Sarovar Newsletter Volume II](#)

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