Why are wetlands so essential?

- They supply fresh water.
- They are areas of outstanding natural beauty.
- They control floods.
- They play a major role in assuring the quantity and quality of drinking water.
- They have a high economic value.
- They supply food, timber and transport.
- They filter water.
- They treat waste water.
- They are important staging posts for migratory birds.
- They provide many opportunities for Life Sciences.
- They maintain groundwater levels.
- They form a barrier against the intrusion of saline water in groundwater and rivers.
- They cover an immense area of the earth's surface.
- They are as indispensable to the ecosystem as the poles or the rainforests.
- They sustain local farming.
- They are a haven for wildlife.
- They provide opportunities for eco-tourism.

Why is Wetlands International so essential?

- Because wetlands are so essential.
- Because the conservation of wetlands must be managed at international, national, and local levels.
- Because effective management demands thorough scientific research.
- Because information must be made available to all concerned.
- Because Wetlands International is the only international organisation working solely for the conservation of wetlands.
- Because Wetlands International can often fulfill functions that international and local-governmental agencies cannot.
- Because Wetlands International brings together all the wetlands stakeholders.

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Wetlands International

Global Annual Review 2000

WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

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

Wetlands International

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

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

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

Wetlands International National Government Participation

Wetlands International is governed by a global Board of Members comprised of representatives from 58 participating countries (including not only government representation but also wetland science specialists and representatives of environmental NGOs). Two delegates from each participating country become part of this active worldwide network. Each country, through its delegates, directly contributes to the content and direction of the organisation's strategic planning and influences global decisions on wetland issues.

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WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL

From the President

Welcome to this 2000 review of Wetlands International activities around the globe.

As you read through this review I'm sure you will notice the predominance given to how we work in partnership with Conventions, governments, and national and local NGO's. We are linked by the common goal of creating a better future for wetlands and wetlands species.

Effective partnership is crucial to our work and takes place on a number of different levels. To arrive at the integrated management of wetlands - which is essential for sustainable development - we not only need the input of the other partners but also their commitment. Although effective partnership on a global institutional level is very important, it is at the local level where the results of partnership become evident. After all, wetlands must be managed as the specific areas they are; in practice and not just on paper and in words.

President Chris Kalden at work for Wetlands International.

A quick summary of the success stories in this review show how we are dependent on the involvement and support of people and organisations. These range from the 12,000+ volunteers who support the International Waterbird Census, to the local communities involved in the Indramayu mangrove restoration project in Indonesia.

The skills and commitment that exist amongst our networks must never be taken for granted or underestimated. It is their commitment which gives me confidence in how we work as an organisation towards the goal of conserving wetlands for generations to come.

Chris Kalden, President

From the Director

In 2000, Wetlands International was five years old. It was a year to not only take stock of our achievements, but also to review our effectiveness as an organisation, where we stand in relation to others working for wetland conservation, how we function internally and, importantly, how we communicate the results of our work for the betterment of wetlands.

Wetlands International currently has 21 offices across the globe with a staff of over 120. These offices are the eyes and ears of the organisation. After you have read this review, I would encourage you to contact the appropriate office for any additional information you may require.

This review highlights some of the major achievements by Wetlands International in 2000. It shows why Wetlands International is unique in that it is the only global international organisation working solely for the conservation of wetlands.

I hope that everyone reading this review will be impressed by the range and quality of accomplishments, from our publication output to the training courses and wetland workshops held in China, Senegal, Ukraine, and Papua New Guinea.

More importantly, I hope you will feel invited to co-operate with us to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and wetlands species.

Simon Nash, International Director

Our mission:

To sustain and restore wetlands, their resources, and bio-diversity for future generations through research, information exchange, and conservation activities world-wide.

Global Programmes

Work conducted by Wetlands International during 2000 was organised at global, regional, sub-regional and country levels. The four global programmes of Wetlands International which describe our work are:

1. Inventory, assessment & monitoring: providing sound baseline data & information;
2. Enhancing the wise use of wetlands & their resources through management & training;
3. Managing wetlands and their resources in the context of global environmental issues;
4. Assisting conventions, governments and other decision-makers to manage their wetlands and wetland resources through integrated approaches such as ecosystem management and flyway strategies.

Cross-cutting relationships with development partners are vital to the effective delivery of global programme work. Examples of major preparatory work being conducted include:

- Netherlands development agency DGIS, on co-operation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands.
- UNEP-GEF on wetland inventory, flyways and a broad range of wetland projects.

Specific global programme activities in 2000 included the following:

1. Inventory, assessment & monitoring

Waterbird Monitoring

- Development of a Global Programme for the IWC, (International Waterbird Census) combining ongoing surveys into a global strategy.
- Publication of the African Waterbird Census results, plus an overview of ten years of waterbird surveys in South America.
- Discussions with BirdLife International to closer link IWC sites to their global programmes on identifying Important Bird Areas.

World Waterbird Population Estimates 3

Work continued on a full update of global waterbird species population estimates, comprising a total of over 2000 species or separate populations of species. This "Waterbird Population Estimates No. 3" (WPE3) will be published mid-2002.

GAP filling census

The IWC covers a large number of areas but a substantial number of waterbirds may be available at smaller wetlands sites which are not regularly censused. There is a real need to identify how this may influence population figures.

A project has been implemented to completely survey all the wetlands in a given area, which may include a number of specially tailored expeditions to remote areas and wetlands rarely censused. This means that high costs and long planning processes are foreseen for the implementation of the GAP filling census.

2. Enhancing the wise use of wetlands

Wetlands International obtained approval in October for the development of the new Ramsar Training Service from the Ramsar Standing Committee, which will result in a web-based service and helpdesk. The Service will undergo development during 2001 through needs assessment workshops and will be launched at the November 2002 meeting of the Contracting Parties in Valencia, Spain.

3. Managing wetlands and their resources

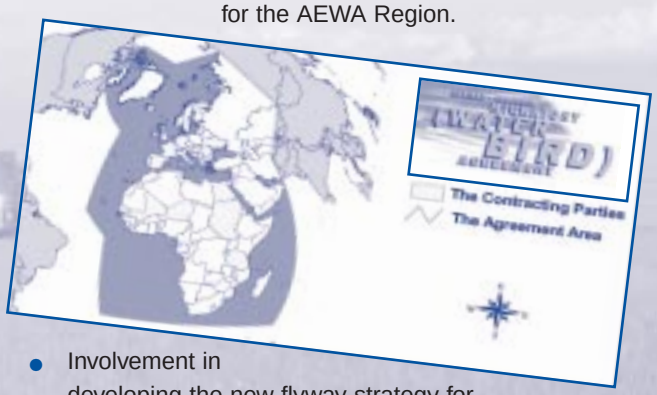
In July, an extensive consultative process in the West Africa Programme re-defined targets for the integrated wetland management and conservation of wetland biodiversity project work. The globally relevant work is driven by the country-based needs of Dakar, Senegal, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, and Guinea Bissau.

4. Assisting conventions, governments and other decision-makers

Flyways

Wetlands International is involved in many global activities related to flyways and contributes in the fields of technical and policy development support. Important activities were:

- Support for the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, including the implementation of a GEF PDF B project for the AEWA Region.



- Involvement in developing the new flyway strategy for the Asian Pacific region.

RAMMES

- Funding secured from the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries to support the development of a flyway strategy for the Central Asian Indian Flyway. A flyway officer will be placed in the Moscow Office of Wetlands International.
- Activities for the development of an American Pacific Flyway Programme are well under way with funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS)
- Organisation of a workshop in the framework of the Working Group on Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna in Norway to discuss the implications of the CAFF/Wetlands International Report for the Conservation of Migratory Arctic Breeding Birds outside the Arctic.

Close contacts are maintained in all cases with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS) in Bonn, Germany.

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Wetlands International supports the management and development of the Ramsar Database under contract, maintaining a dataset of over 1100 sites. For further information see:

http://www.wetlands.org/ramsar

Progress was also made on the new web-based Ramsar Data Gateway, undergoing joint development with CIESIN, the Centre for International Earth Science Information Network at Columbia University, USA, in particular its ENTRI project for environmental Treaties and Resource Indicators.

Additionally, support was given to the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and Standing Committee. Wetlands International and IUCN, WWF, and BirdLife International attend as International Organisation Partners.

Bonn Convention on Migratory Species

Wetlands International provided a background document on global flyway initiatives for submission to the SBSTTA 6 meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Intensive discussions are taking place on developing flyway activities in the Western Hemisphere.

Convention on Biological Diversity

A formal Memorandum of Co-operation has been concluded and a workplan will be developed in 2001. Wetlands International participated as an observer in the CBD Conference of the Parties in June in Nairobi and will be participating in the activities of the technical body of the CBD: the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).

International Waterbird Census

The International Waterbird Census (IWC) began about 30 years ago when co-ordinated waterbird counts were organised in large parts of Eurasia. These counts, conducted in mid-January, were the first attempt to collect population data on a species level. The IWC is presently a large programme with thousands of volunteers contributing and has expanded to other parts of the world. Regular programmes are being carried out in Africa, Asia, Oceania and South America, all co-ordinated and reported on by Wetlands International regional and sub-regional offices. Similar activities are taking place in North America, and closer contacts are being established to incorporate these data into the global overview of population figures. The data are essential for international conventions such as Ramsar and the flyway agreements established under the Bonn Convention such as the African Eurasian Waterbird agreement or the Asian-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy.

Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)

Wetlands International was formally accepted as an observer to the FCCC.

Wetlands International in Europe

The year 2000 for Wetlands International - Africa, Europe, Middle East (AEME) was characterized by continued relationships with regional and local governments, NGOs, and scientists. The AEME Sub-Regional Programs (SRP) worked to initiate more community-based projects through AEME headquarters in Wageningen and offices in Moscow (Russian Federation), Kiev (Ukraine and Black Sea), Mali, and Senegal (West Africa Regional Office).

Activities of the Northern, Central, and Western European office in Wageningen included input to the Global Peatlands Initiative. Wetlands International also became involved in water management initiatives launched by the Dutch government following the World Water Forum in March 2000, including the Water for Food and Water for Nature funding schemes. The result has been increased support from the government of the Netherlands and enhanced partnerships with expertise centers in Wageningen.

Russian Programme

Our Moscow office continued to support the Russian Federation's commitment to the Ramsar, Bonn, and Biological Diversity Conventions through wetland policy and legislation development, waterfowl conservation, and training and public awareness education. Activities included:

- Development of a federal law on the protection and wise use of wetlands at the request of the state Duma, including preparation of a draft concept of the law, resulting in an analysis of existing policies and legislation relevant to wetland management and conservation.
- Publication of a comprehensive inventory of 166 potential Ramsar sites in Russian with the All-Russian Research Institute for Nature Protection.
- Development of a national wetland management training course to be held in May 2001.

Other activities from our Moscow office included:

Peatland Conservation

- Compiled a comprehensive inventory of data sources on Russian peatlands.
- Conducted a workshop to discuss the development of a National Peatland Strategy and Action Plan.

West Siberia Project

- Initiated a community-based wetland management project in Novosibirsk financed by the Netherlands, focussing on the development of environmental profiles and management plans for the Ramsar site Lake Chany and Lake Kulundinskoye, a potential Ramsar site. Management agreements with local agricultural communities to support conservation in their area, including important waterbird breeding locations, were also established.

GEF Lower Volga Wetland Management Project

- Development of a Block B GEF proposal with the UNDP with co-financing from the Netherlands. Implementation is envisioned for 2001.

Black Sea Programme

Managed through the Wetlands International office in Kiev and sponsored by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, this project was successfully established in 2000. The programme revealed the tremendous importance of the Sivash wetlands, as significant for waterbirds as the Waddensea or the Banc D'Arquin (West Africa).The programme now forms a strong institutional basis for new conservation projects in the Black Sea region.
Success stories include:

- 18 new Ramsar site designations, the development of a Waterbird Monitoring Plan, and Cabinet of Ministers' support of Regulations on Wetlands for National Importance. Twenty-two reports and publications resulted from the project, as well as various informational and educational materials.
- Development of a Ukraine national strategy and wetlands directory.

EUROPE

Other activities emanating from our Kiev office included the following:

Small River Project, Ukraine

- Support of local community participation in the conservation of small rivers, the basins of which are the source of 60% of Ukraine's drinking water.

Black-Wet Initiative

- Convened two international workshops in Odessa, Ukraine, to discuss the publication of a comprehensive directory of Black Sea wetlands and a waterbird monitoring area for the Black Sea. Participants requested that Wetlands International initiate a Black Sea wetland conservation initiative similar to the MedWet Initiative.

Central European Programme

Based in Wageningen, the Central European Programme focusses on the protection and wise use of peatlands and the establishment of transborder co-operation on wetlands and rivers, especially for sustainable water resource management. Our co-operation network was also expanded through working with other international NGOs in the European Habitat Forum to improve wetland policies of the European Union.
In 2000 the programme:

- Promoted the restoration of degraded rivers and integrated water resource management as a board member of the European River Restoration Centre.
- Concluded the Zam Puszta wetland restoration project in Hungary. Wetlands International was also appointed to co-ordinate a similar wetland restoration project in the Ferto-Hansag wetland area (Hungary), to be financed by the Netherlands.
- Contributed to the elaboration of a LIFE Nature project for the Lake Engure (Latvia) to secure the sustainable management of the wet grasslands in the area.
- Collaborated closely with the UNDP in the preparation of a project proposal for the protection and management in the Dublei Islands, Belarus, as well as a proposal for an integrated management plan for the Pripyet River in Belarus.

Central European Peatland Project

The goal of this project is to protect and manage biodiversity values related to peatlands in Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovak Republic, and Ukraine.

- Compiled information on the distribution of peatlands in the participating countries and produced detailed reports identifying local policies and threats to peatlands.
- A workshop devoted to the draft "Strategy on the Protection and Wise Use of Peatlands in Central Europe" was held in Trebon (Czechia) in October 2000.

Upper Tisza Project

- Developed project proposal with local partners in Ukraine, Romania, Hungary, and Slovakia to designate an international Ramsar site along the Upper Tisza River and to improve co-operation on integrated management between countries.

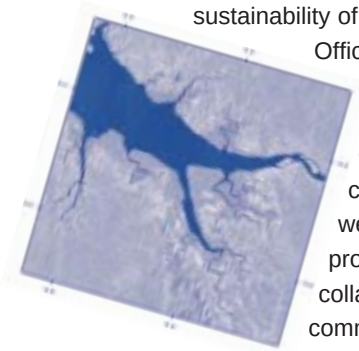
Wetland Management Support Programme

- Received support for four wetland management projects from the Federation of Associations of European Hunters Organisations (FACE). These are located in Slovakia along the Turiec River, in Moldova along the Prut River, and two sites in Slovenia. These projects support on-the-ground management activities and aim to improve the conservation status of the areas through raising awareness and disseminating information.

AFRICA

The Wetlands International Africa Programme comprises a major capacity-building initiative in West Africa, a site-based project in Mali's Inner Niger Delta, a series of short-term West Africa projects, the African Waterbird Census and West Africa Fish and Fisheries Association networks and project developments in all regions of sub-Saharan Africa. Altogether, there are 14 staff members based in Dakar (Senegal), 11 in Sevaré (Mali) and short-term staff and consultants in Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and Mali. The year 2000 saw a consolidation of the West Africa Programme in particular, with new projects taking off and templates developed for programme development on the regional level and in Mali.

Although developments occurred in all regions, West Africa was still the main focus for programme development, with sustainability of the West Africa Sub-Regional Office a major goal. We participated in an eco-regional prioritisation workshop for the Congo Basin held in Gabon, a country we also focused on in a wetland Radar Remote Sensing project. Of particular promise are a collaborative GEF project for community conservation in the wetlands of western Madagascar, wetlands country programmes for Senegal and Cape Verde, community wetland initiatives in West Africa, a collaborative technical training programme for Eastern Africa and "phase 2" proposals for the sub-regional West Africa programme and Inner Niger Delta project. Throughout, close partnerships have been forged and maintained in all ongoing developments.



The main thrust of this programme is a sub-regional capacity-building project funded through the Programme of International Management of the Netherlands. Key project activities in 2000 included:

- Planning and execution of two sub-regional training courses in Ghana and Benin.
- National training workshops in Nigeria, Gambia, Senegal, and Ghana.
- Launching of an Education and Public Awareness (EPA) Programme.
- Wetland and waterbird surveys in over 10 countries.
- Support of Sierra Leone in the preparation of its Ramsar application.
- Help to develop the “AEWA-GEF Flyways” project, including three demonstration projects in Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal/Gambia.

African Waterbird Census

The African Waterbird Census (AfWC) is managed by the Wetlands International Dakar office, where data and country reports from across the continent are collated, compiled and published through an annual report. Highlights for the year included:

- An international AfWC development workshop in Kampala, Uganda, entitled "From Census to Conservation", with more than 40 participants attending.
- Participation in a meeting of the AfWC Steering Committee in Uganda, providing important input to the ongoing "AfWC Manual".
- Participation of over 30 countries in AfWC surveys.
- Appointment of a Database Officer to ensure data quality and accuracy.

AFRICA

Black crowned crane programme

- Launched in late 1999 as a joint collaboration with the International Crane Foundation.
- Activities included a series of field surveys, a wide consultation throughquestionnaires, development of a draft Species Action Plan and international round table discussion.

Inner Niger Delta Project, Mali

- Continued to gain national and international interest while making improvements for a functional field station.
- Invited to lead a consultative process for integrated management of the vast Niger Delta wetland, whilst also seeking our input to a national wetlands inventory.
- Continued socio-economic, ecological, and waterbird research programmes through successful partnerships between a committed local team and international partners.
- Held training courses, including a strategic workshop to address priorities for the development of a second phase to the project.

Waterbird surveys, training & awareness project, Guinea-Bissau

- Currently planning a complete survey of the archipelago in early 2001, preceded by a training course on wetland and waterbird survey techniques.
- Organised two missions, including a stakeholder meeting and an introductory training workshop.

Small-scale community wetland initiatives in Senegal

- Launched a project to demonstrate and enhance the value of wetlands in Senegal by supporting local community initiatives.
- Collaborated with local women's groups and local administrative authorities in four areas.
- Worked to establish wetland Community Heritage Areas, which will be further addressed in other countries in 2001.

Conservation of fish biodiversity in West African wetlands

- Produced a bilingual (English/French) Conservation of Fish Biodiversity in West African Wetlands Regional Action Plan following a review and workshops in 1999.
- Completed a GEF PDFA project proposal for submission in 2001.

Asia

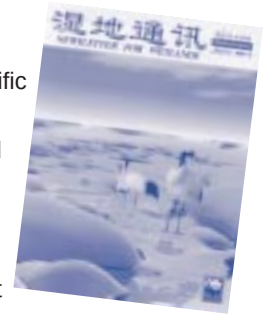
The Asia-Pacific regional office of Wetlands International undertook a wide range of activities in 2000 to promote, facilitate, and implement wetland conservation at local and national levels. This was accomplished through the main office in Kuala Lumpur and at the country and regional levels through offices in Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Beijing, China; New Delhi, India; Bogor, Indonesia; and Hat Yai, Thailand. The number of participating governments in Asia working with Wetlands International also grew in 2000, with Bangladesh, the People's Republic of China, and India all becoming members.

The "Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy: 1996-2000" was successfully completed in 2000, and a new framework for the Strategy 2001-2005 was developed. Developments in this area included the following:

- Major aspects of the 2001-2005 Strategy were developed during the meetings of the Asia Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee (MWCC) in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, and Okinawa, Japan.
- The United States Fish and Wildlife Service joined the MWCC in 2000, providing better opportunities for increased coordination, cooperation, and access to resources for the conservation of species that migrate from Alaska (USA) into the Asia Pacific region.
- Supporting the successful international workshop "Asia Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy: 2001- 2005", held in Okinawa, Japan.

Other activities included:

China



- Translated Wetland Benefits, a Wetlands International Asia-Pacific publication, into Chinese.
- Organised wetland and waterbird training courses.
- Continued publication of the bimonthly bilingual China Wetlands newsletter with support from the WWF-China Programme.
- Produced three concept papers to develop programmes for coastal zone resource management activities.
- Developed two GEF UNEP medium-sized programmes, one on peatlands and another on climate change and freshwater biodiversity.

Indonesia

- Implemented the "Indramayu Community Empowerment in Coastal Area Management and Conservation" project. The project aims to increase awareness, understanding, skills, and knowledge within the coastal community which will lead to a commitment to improve the living standards and economic well-being that is closely related to their livelihoods
- Began implementation of the "Greater Berbak-Sembilang Integrated Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan", a GEF World Bank Medium Sized Project.

Lower Mekong Basin

- Developed a national strategy for coastal and marine environmental management, Cambodia.
- Collaborated with Oxfam America on two workshops on community fishing activities in northern Cambodia.
- Received funding for the Lower Mekong Basin programme to produce a wetlands education kit based on the one prepared by the Malaysia Programme for the Tasek Bera project in Pahang.
- Prepared management guidelines for the Boeung Chhmar Ramsar site on the northern shore of Tonle Sap lake.

ASIA

Malaysia

- Organised an intensive training course for Putrajaya Wetland nature guides, a constructed wetland located at Malaysia's new federal administrative capital, Putrajaya.
- Began development of a Wetland Education Camp Activity Pack composed of education modules for wetland camps at the Tasek Bera Ramsar site. Topics covered include general ecology, the concept of sustainability, threats to the natural ecosystem, water as a finite resource, and wetland statistics.
- Conducted ongoing field surveys and provided the Johor state government with zoning options for the possible Ramsar designation of mangrove areas in southwest Johor.

South Asia

- Implemented two ongoing projects at the Ramsar site of Chilika Lake inOrissa: the Hydrological Monitoring Action Plan, with support from the World Bank, and the wetlands sub-component of the Gujarat State Environment Action Plan.

- Implemented the "Sustainable Development and Water Resources Management" project at Loktak Lake, Manipur, also a Ramsar site. The project aims to improve water management of the lake and sustain its resources for the benefit of local communities on a long-term basis.
- Published a newsletter in English and Oriya in collaboration with the Chilika Development Authority highlighting the activities carried out at Chilika Lagoon.

Thailand

- Completion of the EC-funded community project "Participation in Mangrove Forest Management and Rehabilitation" in Southern Thailand.
- Implemented the project "Public Awareness Campaign on Wetland Benefits and Ramsar" at Khuan Kee Sian, Thale Noi Non-Hunting Area (Patthalung), Thale Noi. This is Thailand's only Ramsar site.
- Completed a feasibility study on mangrove rehabilitation, community development, and improvements to the environmental performance of shrimp farms in Surat Thani Province.

Oceania

Wetlands International consolidated and expanded on its core activities in the Oceania region during 2000. Its dedicated team of three wetland experts based in Canberra, Australia, travelled widely in the Pacific Islands region and in East and South-east Asia. In the Pacific Islands, continued scientific support was provided to national agencies aiming to meet Ramsar obligations or attempting to join the Convention. At the grassroots level, indigenous landowners were assisted in pursuing community-based management of coral reefs while cooperation with local NGOs involved in key wetland areas was extensively explored. Meanwhile, in Australia, increased effort was directed to collecting information on the importance of inland wetlands for waterbird populations to ensure adequate water allocations. In cooperation with other programs of Wetlands International, the Oceania team continued its coordination of shorebird conservation activities in the East Asian Australasian Flyway. Support from the Australian Government has underpinned this work. Emerging issues for the Oceania team are appointment of additional staff, the possibility of establishing a project office in Papua New Guinea or Fiji and expansion of marine conservation activities.

Inventory, assessment & monitoring:

- Conducted inventory of freshwater stream and coral reef fish on the northern coast of Papua New Guinea (PNG), with the discovery of several new freshwater species.
- Monitored waterbird populations in arid zone wetlands in central Australia, documenting 15 "new" breeding colonies (largest, 40,000 pairs) of herons, ibises and spoonbills.
- Identified important sites for migratory shorebirds in Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Cambodia, Viet Nam, and China.

Enhancing wise use of wetlands & their resources through management and training:

- Trained agency, NGO, and landowner personnel in low-tech survey and monitoring of freshwater and coral reef biodiversity in Papua New Guinea (3 coastal locations) and Fiji.

Assisting conventions, governments & other decision makers (flyway strategies):

- Promoted Ramsar Convention accession and implementation in Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Fiji and developed new Ramsar site nominations (reef, mangrove & freshwater wetlands).
- Implemented the Shorebird Action Plan for the East Asian Australasian Flyway, including the addition of network sites and participating countries, and developed the Plan for 2001-05.

JAPAN

Wetlands International - Japan is an alliance of Japanese NGOs active in the field of wetland and waterbird conservation. A 1996 Memorandum of Agreement among the IWRB-Japan Committee and Wetlands International formed the alliance, which seeks to promote international co-operation for the conservation of migratory waterbirds. This has contributed to the development of an international migratory waterbird strategy for the Asia Pacific Region and action plans for the conservation of Anatidae, cranes, and migratory shorebirds.

Wetlands International is currently collaborating with the Japanese National Institute for the Environment Studies (NIES) and the Wetland Inventory Monitoring Specialist Group (WIMSG) on the Asian Wetland Inventory (AWI). The AWI is a long-range project designed to determine the status of Asian wetlands and to develop a comprehensive wetland inventory database. As such, the inventory is able to fulfill requests for information on wetlands from governments and international environmental conventions and to provide regularly updated information on wetlands in Asia. The AWI will serve as the foundation for wetland conservation and sustainable development activities throughout Asia.

Additional information can be found at the Asian Wetlands Inventory website:
http://www.crosswinds.net/~worksite/awi/awi_home

Americas

A new commitment to the Americas began in 2000 with Wetlands International reorganising its activities in the region. With a newly invigorated Regional Council, Wetlands International began to develop new programme initiatives in the region. Attention has focussed on building good working relations with partners and existing networks in the region, which will provide a launch pad for new programmes in 2001.

The programme in the Americas is founded on three core areas of work:

The Neotropical Waterbird Monitoring Programme

The Neotropical Waterbird Monitoring Programme (NWMP) was initiated in 1990. To provide information on variations in population sizes and distributions of waterbirds in the Neotropics as part of the International Waterfowl Census.

The main objectives of the programme are:

- To provide the basis for estimates of waterbird populations.
- To monitor changes in waterbird numbers and population trends and their possible causes.
- To improve the knowledge of little known waterbird species and wetland sites.
- To identify sites that qualify as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- To maintain a network of volunteers concerned with waterbirds and wetland conservation in the region, increasing the awareness of the importance of waterbirds and their wetland habitats.

With the support of Ducks Unlimited work was undertaken in 2000 to write an assessment of the effectiveness of the census and a five year census overview, which will be published in 2001.

The South American Wetland Assessment

One of Wetlands International's largest and most ambitious project undertakings dates back to March 1994. In partnership with USAID and several public and private foundations, Wetlands International began an extensive study of South America's vast wetlands, with the aim of securing enough information to guide the development of an agenda for wetland conservation in the region. A massive amount of information was gathered and analysed over a five-year period. While vast areas remain relatively intact, the assessment confirmed that South America's wetlands were under increasing threat.

To date, the assessment has provided the incentive for a series of regional and national wetland publications, including the first wetland distribution map of South America; a compilation of environmental legislation related to the wetlands of South America, published in partnership with IUCN and the "Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental" (Peruvian Society of Environmental Law); and a national wetland inventory for Argentina.

The report is divided into six sections and includes: the Executive Summary, Introduction, Approach, Eco-regional Analysis, Discussion and Recommendations. The report will be available in 2001 in digital format on the web and on CD-ROM.

The Americas Pacific Flyways Programme

Work continues in partnership with a number of other agencies to assess the support for the development of an Americas Pacific Flyways Programme. A number of fact-finding missions and regional workshops were held with national and local NGOs to discuss the options for the programme's development. The overwhelming message is one of major support for the development of an agreement.

The Americas Pacific Flyway Programme provides an opportunity to build on our strengths in the region and brings experiences from other regions to bear upon the issue of developing and implementing a migratory bird conservation programme. The project provides the focus which will enable the organisation to rejuvenate its links with on the ground networks.

Specialist Groups

SPECIALISTS

Specialist Groups - renewing commitments

The Wetlands International Specialist Group family consists of 21 groups. Five are thematic, while the rest are based on waterbird groupings. Waterbird Specialist Groups are also members of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and are recognised by BirdLife International as well. The Wetlands International website contains full details of all Specialist Group activities at: http://www.wetlands.org/SGroups.

A new relationship: November 2000 Workshop for Specialist Groups

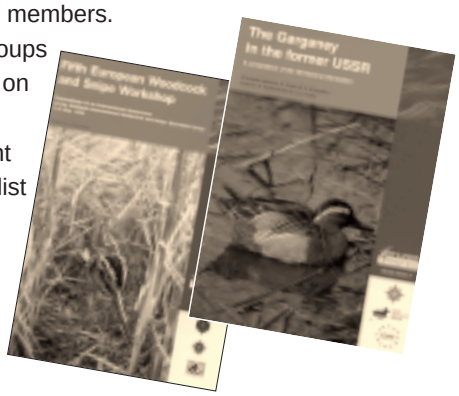
Fulfilling a long-standing commitment to hold a co-ordination meeting for all of our Specialist Groups, a workshop was held on November 4 and 5, 2000, to review Wetlands International's relationship with the Specialist Groups.

Many issues and actions were discussed but this review cannot do justice to the range of opinions expressed. Please go to the meeting web page at: http://www.wetlands.org/SGroups/Workshop2000/Workshop for the full range of discussion.

Membership matters: changes in 2000 and outlook

The network underwent substantial changes in 2000 with several co-ordinators stepping down after long service and a substantive re-focusing of the relationship between Wetlands International and its Specialist Group management partners. In summary:

- There were 32 global and regional co-ordinators in 2000, with co-ordinators covering regions as follows: Africa, Europe, Middle East 16; Americas 13, Asia-Pacific 2. Overall there are 51 assistant co-ordinators appointed by the Specialist Groups undertaking a variety of regional, species, or topic roles.
- Total membership of the Specialist Group network was c. 2800
- 11 Specialist Groups identified that they maintain an expert register of members.
- Six Specialist Groups have information on a website or web pages, while eight waterbird Specialist Groups produce regular newsletters.



Two Specialist Groups held major meetings in 2000.Their reports can be found on the web at: http://www.wetlands.org/SGroups. These were:

Seaduck

A Seaduck Specialist Group Meeting and Workshop on scoter winter ecology and impacts of offshore activities (with a sub-workshop on Steller's eider) was held from 29 November - 3 December 2000 in Mols, Jutland, Denmark. Full details are available at: http://www.dmu.dk/coastalzoneecology/seaduck/index.

Goose

The fifth Meeting was held from January 8 to 11, 2000, in Belgium and was attended by **120 people** from 20 different countries. It focussed on:

- movements of individually marked geese
- management of wintering habitat for geese

A full report can be found at: **http://www.wetlands.org/SGroups/Goose/gsg2000report.do**

Specialist Groups

- Cormorant
- Diver/Loon
- Duck
- Flamingo
- Goose
- Grebe
- Heron
- Pelican
- Rail
- Seaduck
- Swan
- Storks, Ibises & Spoonbills
- Threatened Waterfowl
- Wader Study Group
- Woodcock & Snipe
- Economic Assessment of Wetland Functions & Values
- Wetland Inventory & Monitoring
- Wetland Restoration
- Wetlands & Water Resources
- Education & Public Awareness
- Hunting

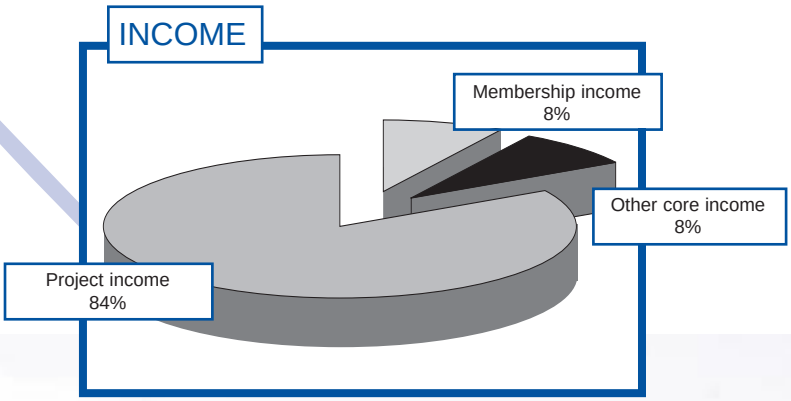
Contact via the web at: www.wetlands.org/SGroups

Specialist Groups list of publications 2000

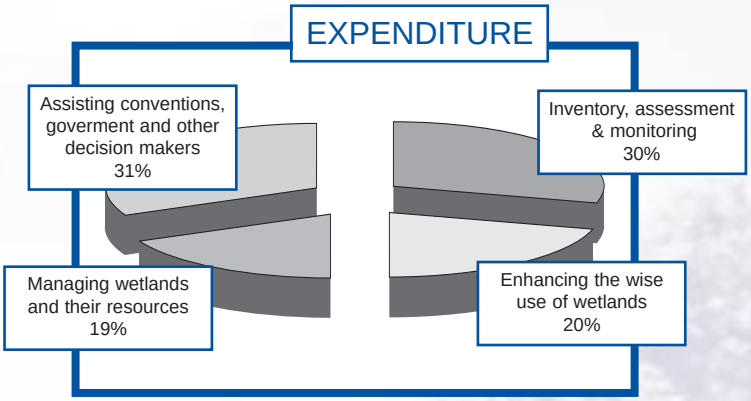
Specialist Group	Publication
Swan	Newsletter No. 9, April 2000Hardcopy, direct from Swan SG
Diver/Loon	Diver and Loon Newsletter, August 2000At: http://www.briloon.org/Diver.html
Goose	Conference Report, January 2000At: http://www.wetlands.org/SGroups/Goose/gsg2000report.doc
Seaduck	Bulletin of Wetlands International Seaduck Specialist Group (SSC/WI/BI). Issued twice a year in 2000. Subscriptions to: NHBS, 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN, UK
Heron	Heron Conservation Newsletter for 2000, from: Heinz Hafner, Station Biologique de Tour du Valat, Le Sambuc, F-3200 Arles, France
Stork, Ibis, and Spoonbill	Newsletters for 2000, issued twice per year. Enquiries to Malcolm Coulter, SREL, Drawer E., Aiken, SC 29802, U.S.A. Threatened Waterfowl Issue 12, June 2000. Available from: http://www.wwt.org.uk/threatsp/twsg/
Woodcock and Snipe	Proceedings of the Fifth European Woodcock and Snipe Workshop, 3-5 May 1998. Global Series 4, 2000; edited by H. Kalchreuter. Available from Wetlands International, Wageningen.Newsletter for 2000 available from: Herby Kalchreuter, Coordinator, European Wildlife Research Institute, Saarland University, D-79848 Bonndorf-Glashütte, Germany
Wader	International Wader Study Group Bulletin, April, August and December 2000 editions from: Humphrey Sitters, Limosa, Old Ebford Lane, Ebford, Exeter, EX3 0QR
Duck	The Garganey in the former USSR. Global Series 7, 2000; edited by H. Kalchreuter and J.S. Kirby. Available from Wetlands International, Wageningen

2000 Financial Information

The total financial support of nearly 5.000.000 EURO that was generated in 2000 was mainly received as Project Income and smaller amounts as membership fees from contributing countries and organisations and core support.



These funds were spent on the global programme activities as shown.



Audited accounts for 2000 are available on request

Sponsors

Wetlands International is very grateful to the following organisations for supporting our programme activities in 2000

Alterra Research, the Netherlands
American Forest, United States of America
Asian Development Bank, Philippines
Banrock Station Wines, Australia
Beleidscommissie Remote Sensing (BCRS), the Netherlands
BirdLife Netherlands / Vogelbescherming Nederland, The Netherlands
British Association for Shooting & Conservation, United Kingdom
British Embassy, Senegal
Bundesamt für Umwelt, Wald und Landschaft, Eidg. Forstdirektion, Bereich Wildtiere, Switzerland
Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit, Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Germany
Canadian International Development Agency
Canadian Wildlife Service, Canada
Common Wadden Sea Secretariat
Danish Hunters Association, Denmark
Darwin Initiative, United Kingdom
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Republic of South Africa
Deutscher Jagdschutz-Verband EV, Germany
Dienst Landelijk Gebied, the Netherlands
Directorate for Nature Management, Norway
Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, United States of America
Ducks Unlimited Inc, United States of America
Embassy of Finland, Thailand
English Nature, on behalf of JNCC/SNH/CCW, United Kingdom
Environment Australia, Biodiversity Group, Australia
Environment Australia, Natural Heritage Trust, Australia
Environment Canada, Canada
European Commission, Dir-Gen. Environment, Belgium
Fédération des Associations de Chasseurs de L'Union Européenne, Belgium
Fonds Forestier National, Republic de Guinea-Conakry
Ford Foundation, United States of America
Foundation of River and Watershed Environment Management, Japan
Global Environment Facility, United States of America
HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad, Malaysia
India-Canada Environment Facility
International Crane Foundation, United States of America
IUCN, Switzerland
Jachtfonds, the Netherlands
Japan Fund for Global Environment, Japan
Japanese National Institute for Environment Studies, Japan
JICA (Biodiversity Conservation Project), Indonesia
Joint Nature Conservation Committee, United Kingdom
Le Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial, France
Ministère de la Région Wallonne, Dir. de la Conservation de la Nature et Espaces Vertes, Belgium
Ministère de l'Agriculture, Direction Générale des Forêts, Tunisia
Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, the Netherlands
Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap, Afdeling Natuur, Belgium
Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij, Directie Natuurbeheer, the Netherlands
Ministerio do Ambiente e dos Recursos NaturaisInstituto da Conservaçao da Natureza, Portugal
Ministry for Environment and Physical Planning, Slovenia
Ministry for Environment and Regional Policy, Department for International Relations, Hungary
Ministry for Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Department of International Relations, Poland
Ministry for Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia
Ministry for the Environment, Youth and Family Affairs, Austria
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Fisheries and Game, Finland
Ministry of Agriculture, Greece
Ministry of Environment & Forests, India
Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation Department, Estonia
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Belarus
Ministry of the Environment, Bulgaria
Ministry of the Environment, Czech Republic
Ministry of the Environment, Department for Nature and Landscape Protection, Slovak Republic
Ministry of the Environment, Japan
Moriah Fund Inc., United States of America
National Association of Regional Game Councils, Ireland
National Environmental Research Institute, Denmark
National Forest and Nature Agency, Nature & Wildlife Section, Denmark
National Museum of Denmark, Denmark
National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Ireland
Netherland Committee for IUCN - Small Grants Fund for Wetlands, the Netherlands
New England BioLabs Foundation, Australia
North of England Zoological Society / Chester Zoo, United Kingdom
Northern Territory University, Australia
Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS), France
Oxfam America: Southeast Asia Regional Office, Cambodia.
Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory, Australia
Perbadanan Putrajaya, Malaysia
Perbadanan Taman Negara Johor, Malaysia
Pintar Teknologi Sdn Bhd, Malaysia
Programme d'Aménagement des Zones Humides du Bénin, Benin
PT ITCIKU, Indonesia
Queensland Environmental Protection Agency, Australia
Ramsar Bureau, Convention on Wetlands, Switzerland
Reef Check, Cambodia
Rijksinstituut voor Integraal Zoetwaterbeheer en Afvalwaterbehandeling (RIZA), the Netherlands
Rijkswaterstaat Meetkundige Dienst, the Netherlands
Rockefeller Brothers Fund, United States of America
Royal Netherlands Embassy, Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Management and Fisheries, Indonesia
Royal Netherlands Embassy, Thailand
Royal Netherlands Embassy, Turkey
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, United Kingdom
Schweizer Vogelschutz, Switzerland
Shell Malaysia Limited, Malaysia
Shortland Wetlands Centre, Australia
Société des Eaux Minérales d'Evian du Groupe Danone, France
Society of Wetlands Scientists, United States of Americas Society's Living Oceans, United States of America
SP Setia Berhad, Malaysia
State Forestry Administration, Dept. International Co-operation, P.R. of China
Stichting Ecooperation, the Netherlands
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Aquatic Environment Section, Sweden
Tinker Foundation, United States of America
Tour du Valat, France
UNEP/CMS Secretariat, Germany
UNESCO
United Nations Development Programme
University of Adelaide, Australia
US Agency for International Development, United States of America
US Fish and Wildlife Service, United Stated of America
Water for Food, LNV, the Netherlands
Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management, Australia
Wetlands and Grasslands Foundation, Australia
World Bank, United States of America
World Bank/Kunming Institute of Zoology, China
World Wide fund for Nature (WWF), China Programme, China
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Russia Programme, Russian Federation
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), South Pacific Programme, Australia