

Global Newsletter - July 2007

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Impact of dams on the people of Mali

Wetlands International has recently launched the brochure Impact of dams on the people of Mali. This brochure provides a basis for decisions on the use of water of the Upper Niger, like for the plans about new dams for hydropower and irrigation. The brochure is available in English and will soon also be available in French, Bambara and Fulani. To download the brochure or for more information click this [Link](#)



Cover of the brochure in English

Wetlands and Livelihoods Programme finds support

Wetlands International is pleased to announce that the Dutch Ministry of Development Cooperation (DGIS) will support our major Wetlands and Livelihoods Programme (WLP). This programme will run from 2007 through 2010 and will build on the results of our Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Project (WPRP). For more information click this [Link](#)

Members meeting in November

Wetlands International is pleased to announce its sixth triennial Association of Members meeting. The meeting will be held from the 6th till the 9th of November 2007 in Shaoxing City, China and will be supported by the Chinese

Europe towards sustainable bio-fuels

Biofuels are fuels made from organic materials, often palm oil. Globally the demand for palm oil is rising dramatically. This is one of the major driving forces behind the destruction of tropical peatlands in South-east Asia where a large part of all palm oil plantations are or will be established. For these plantations the peatlands need to be drained, which in turn leads to oxidation of the peat into carbon dioxide. Huge peat fires caused by the drainage lead to even higher carbon dioxide emissions. This makes the use of biofuels from plantations on peatlands





Peatland converted into palm oil plantation

up to 10 times more polluting than using coal or mineral oil. In the past few months Wetlands International has been actively addressing peatland degradation caused by the production of palm oil. As a result the draft of the new EU bio-fuel Directive now states that major reduction in carbon stocks through land use change, for example in wetlands, must be avoided. Read more about our work on peatlands by clicking this [Link](#)

Importance peatlands recognized by global conventions

Wetlands International has presented its views on peatland degradation and the resulting CO2 emissions to the scientific bodies of the UN Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD). As a result the CBD has put the issue on their agenda and the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, a scientific body that supports the UNFCCC) has finally acknowledged the impact of degraded peatlands on climate change. Another important conclusion by the IPCC was that restoration of drained and degraded peatlands is one of the key low cost green house gas mitigation strategies. Wetlands International is very pleased with these important steps forward. To read more about our work at the UNFCCC and CBD visit the news section at our homepage. To read more about our views on peatland degradation and climate change click this [Link](#)



Pristine peatswamp

EU policy on flood risks changed!

Recently the EU has developed a Directive which requires Member States to address flood risk management. Through the FLAPP project (Flood Awareness & Prevention Policy in border areas) Wetlands International and a group of European provincial level government agencies have contributed to ensuring that the role of wetlands in reducing flood risks and the importance of floods to wetlands is recognised in this Directive. The FLAPP project is funded by the EU and helps Europe's regions to share knowledge and lessons learned. For more information on FLAPP and to download reports etc click this [Link](#)



government and the Shaoxing municipality. It will be followed by a symposium on "Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People". All Wetlands International Members-government representatives- and representatives from partner organisations, Specialist Group Coordinators, Associate Experts, and Wetlands International Counsellors of Honour are invited to register by filling in the pre-registration form through this [Link](#)

Additional budget for peatlands

The Central Kalimantan Peatland Project received an additional budget of Euro 405,000 for a peat and drainage mapping activity in the Ex-Mega Rice area in Central Kalimantan. The maps will provide a basis for restoration of the peatlands in the area (in the top left item of this newsletter you can read why this is important). Delft Hydraulics and Sarvision will help with this activity, which will run from June-September 2007. For more information on the Central Kalimantan Peatland Project click this [Link](#)



Peatland restoration by blocking drainage channels

Start of Black Sea wetland project (BlackSeaWet)

In the Black Sea region (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine) Wetland degradation has been ongoing for decades. Coastal marshes and forests have been converted into areas of concrete buildings for mass tourism. Industrial and urban pollution make the black one of the most polluted seas of the world. A lack of cooperation between the coastal countries worsens the problems. That is why Wetlands International has developed the

Working together with WASTE

A major cause of wetland degradation, loss of biodiversity and associated health problems is the disposal of wastewater. That is why Wetlands International is developing the Wetlands, Water supply & Sanitation (WetWatSan) Initiative. As part of this we are happy to announce that we will increasingly be working together with WASTE, advisors on urban environment and development. This is an important new step towards more sustainable wastewater management in wetland areas. For more information on our WetWatSan activities click this [Link](#)



Photo: Andrew Burton

African Flamingos gravely threatened

TATA Chemicals, a division of the biggest multinational industrial conglomerate in India, is planning to build a huge soda ash plant at Lake Natron, one of the most important lakes for waterbirds in Africa. The scale of the planned development is very likely to destroy the ecosystem of the lake and drive away the breeding flamingos. Wetlands International is shocked by this proposed activity. Lake Natron is so vital for the survival of some globally threatened species that only activities with certainly no major impact can be allowed. [Link](#)

Brochure wetland tourism

Wetlands International has launched the brochure Wetlands, poverty reduction and sustainable tourism development. According to the United Nations, tourism is a principal export for 83% of the developing countries. Wetlands are key to tourism, if only because tourists like swimming and diving. The development of tourism is increasingly considered as a solution to poverty in wetland areas, but the brochure shows there are threats as well as opportunities. The brochure is free to order or download. [Link](#)

Download previous issues

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BlackSeaWet project. This project will address the conservation and wise use of coastal wetlands and will support the cooperation between the countries in the region. The project kicks off with the conference Stopping the loss of Black Sea Coastal Wetlands: the establishment of a regional initiative in Odessa, Ukraine on the 30th-31st of October 2007. To register (before August 15th 2007) or for more information on the conference click this [Link](#)

