

Global Newsletter - 15 October 2007

In this issue:

- Wetlands at climate summit
- TATA threatens flamingo
- Warning EU for impact biofuel target
- Sustainable palm oil? Not on peat!
- Announcement Wetlands Day, Bali
- Alarming figures on coastal waterbirds in Southeast Asia



Announcement Wetlands Day, Bali

On 9 December 2007, at the Climate top in Bali, Wetlands International will organise Wetlands Day, a UNFCCC parallel event about wetlands, climate change mitigation & adaptation. This special event will bring together speakers from science, governments, NGOs, financial institutions and private businesses. Presentations will zoom in on the impact of wetland loss on climate change and will discuss solution-focused possibilities to stop this. There will be special attention for on the ground community based demonstration projects from Wetlands International such as CKPP and Green Coast. [Link](#)

Alarming figures on coastal waterbirds in Southeast Asia

Wetlands International presents its new publication about South-east Asian shorebirds. The outcomes demonstrate the importance of peninsular Malaysia for many migratory species, but also

Wetlands at climate summit

From 3-14 December 2007 the UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) will take place in Bali where negotiations about a new international climate agreement will start. Wetlands International will be present and run a program of events to raise attention for the impact of wetlands loss on climate change. An important item on the UN climate agenda in Bali and on the agenda of the World Banks is the establishment of incentives for avoided deforestation, a process by which forested countries earn carbon credits for protecting forests that lock up large amounts of carbon. Wetlands International warmly welcomes this promising proposal, but advocates to include the carbon rich and rapidly degrading tropical peatlands. The carbon loss of these peatlands equals the loss of in order to prevent major CO2 emissions from peatland degradation. [Link](#)



Lake Natron, Photo: Andrew Burton

TATA threatens flamingo

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. According to Wetlands International, 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](#)

Warning EU for impact biofuel target

Wetlands International has urged the European Commission and the members of the European Parliament to drop the planned 10% mandatory biofuel target. Such an ambitious target will leave little room for a certification scheme that will exclude environmentally and socially unsustainable biofuels. Wetlands International warned the EU for the huge CO2 emissions from biofuel plantations now established in South-east Asian peatswamps. The Parliament approved the target in their voting in September. The Biofuel Directive will be presented in December 2007. [Link](#)



Oil palms in drained peatlands

Sustainable palm oil? Not on peat!

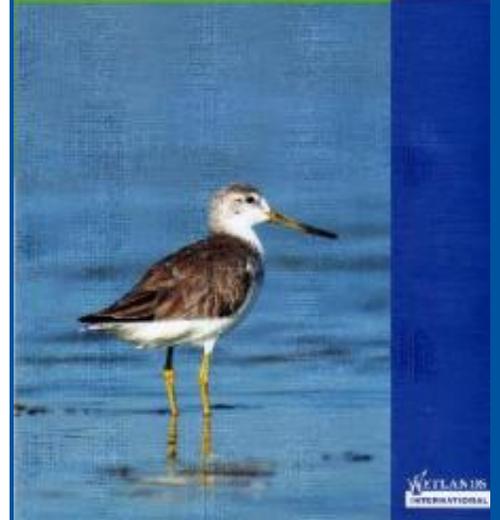
In November the members of the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) will review their criteria & principles which promote the production of sustainable palm oil. Wetlands International has become a member this year and will therefore take part in this consultation process to vote against palm oil plantations on peat soils. Many palm oil plantations are currently established on tropical peatlands in South-east Asia and there are concession plans to increase this further drastically. Palm on peat is very unsustainable; the necessary drainage causes peat oxidation and numerous peat fires leading to huge emissions of carbon dioxide. [Link](#)

show an alarming trend. Shorebird numbers showed an overall decline of 22% in Malaysia between 1983/1986 and 2004/2006. The reclamation and conversion of mangrove forest and mudflats for aquaculture, agriculture, industry, housing and recreational purposes has been identified as the major threat to waterbird areas. [Link](#)

The Status of Coastal Waterbirds and Wetlands in Southeast Asia

Results of Waterbird Surveys in Malaysia (2004-2006) and Thailand and Myanmar (2004)

Wetlands International and BirdLife International



To edit your settings or unsubscribe [click here](#)

For further information please visit our website www.wetlands.org or mail to post@wetlands.org