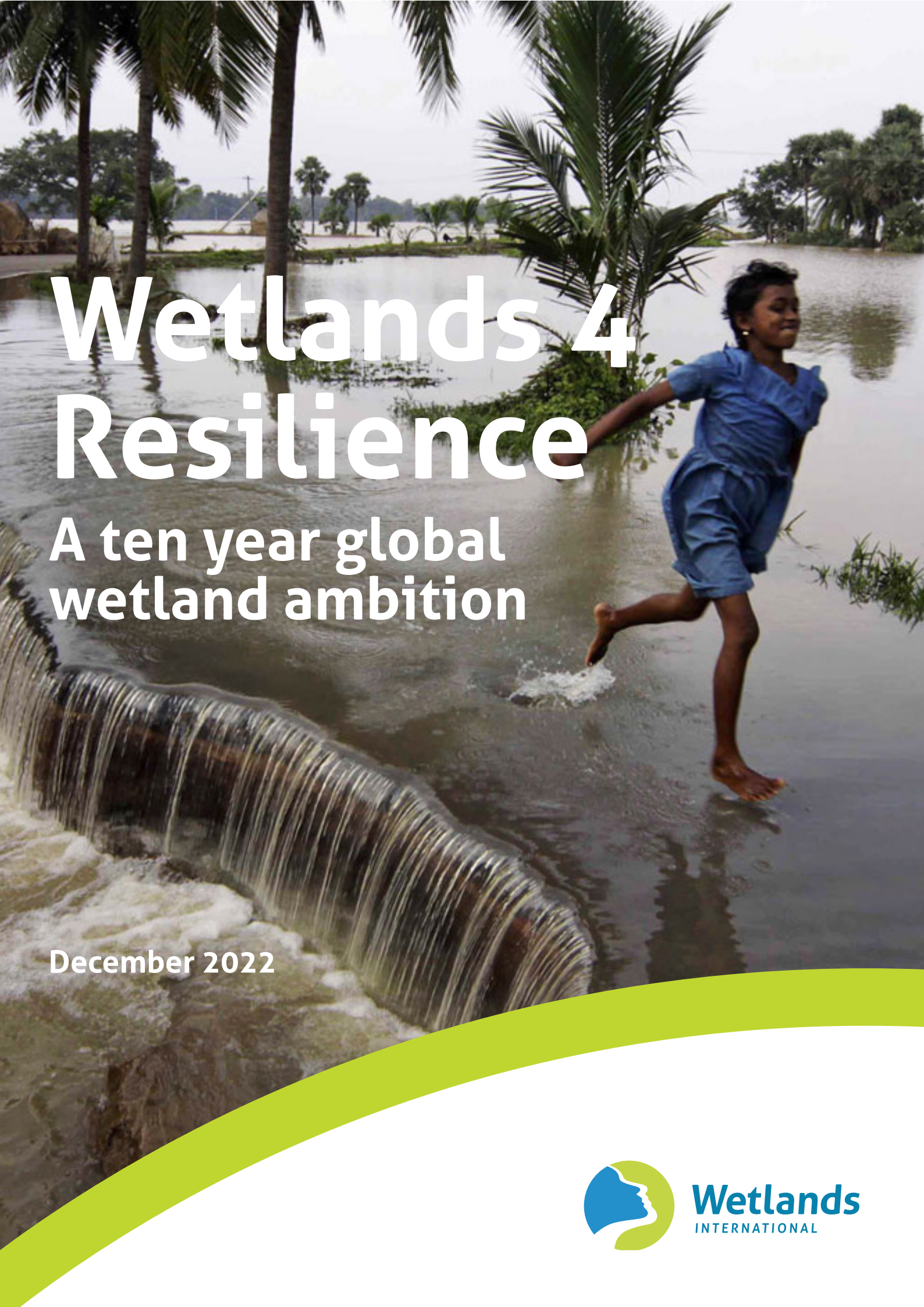

Wetlands 4 Resilience

A ten year global wetland ambition

December 2022

Wetlands INTERNATIONAL

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Wetlands 4 Resilience

A ten year global wetland ambition
Summary of proposal for 2023-2026

Programme Goal

Upscale healthy, biodiverse, and well-managed wetland landscapes globally by 2030, contributing to climate resilience and environmental, social and economic sustainability.

Objectives:

1. To bring together and share globally the learning and methodologies for holistic, ecosystem-led resilience building, from our global wetland landscape portfolio and partner programmes;
2. To design and apply a Wetlands 4 Resilience model approach, toolkit and guidance to accelerate upscaling in our major wetland landscape regeneration programmes;
3. To catalyse wetland landscape regeneration by others, through uptake and implementation of the W4R model approach across different sectors, globally.

Programme Summary

The programme addresses the continuing loss and degradation of wetlands and responds to the recent understanding that humanity urgently needs wetlands to be safeguarded and restored at scale to achieve climate, biodiversity and sustainable development goals.

Wetlands 4 Resilience (W4R) aims to achieve global influence of countries, institutions and sectors, resulting in shifts in approach, 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 will inspire and mobilise the global community to drive action forward for wetland recovery in an effective way. 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.

The W4R programme will draw from our global portfolio of wetland landscape programmes that are in various stages of development and is designed to extract learning and experience and to use that as an accelerator for wetland recovery and resilience building. We will focus in 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.

Multi-stakeholder Landscape Partnerships will drive systems understanding and develop a landscape vision and action plan for building resilience and facilitating wide societal support. Working with this Partnership, we will enable landscape level solutions to be financed, implemented and replicated, including in the wider ecoregion. We will use our programme results and share our model approach, toolbox and guidance to bring influence across a wide range of sectors and global actors, to accelerate action for ecosystem-based resilience building.

By starting with a focus on our lighthouse examples we will identify, understand and bring relevant knowledge and experience into the Wetlands 4 Resilience model approach. In Phase One, our main efforts will be on enabling upscaling in landscape programmes which already have a sound technical and societal

readiness. These landscapes form part of two major ecoregions which have global significance for biodiversity as well as significant resilience challenges: West African Mangroves and the Eastern African Rift Valley. Alongside this, we will also create the partnership and knowledge foundations for wetland landscape regeneration programmes in additional frontrunner countries. This approach will be followed through in Phase Two. By connecting our global portfolio of landscapes in a Community of Practice, we will accelerate progress of all landscapes along a pathway to resilience, using successful results to inspire replication and enabling upscaling through sharing a global body of learning and experience.

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 realized between biodiversity conservation, healthy ecosystems and human rights, resulting in greater resilience to socio-economic shocks and climate change.

Anticipated main implementing partners	Wetlands International network offices Global knowledge and policy partners: including Global Resilience Partnership, Partners for Resilience, Global Mangrove Watch, Global Peatland Initiative, IEED, IUCN, Wageningen University, ICWC, World Resources Institute/ Climate Watch, CGIAR, Commonland. Regional and local partners: many landscape stakeholders including (inter-) government agencies; Partners for Resilience community networks; national policy partners e.g. IUCN; basin authorities and other stakeholders as well as outreach regional and global conventions, networks and alliances;
Focus countries and landscapes	• **Lighthouse landscapes:** Mahanadi delta, India; Demak mangrove coast, Central Java, Indonesia • **Upscaling landscapes:** Ziway-Shalla, Central Rift valley, Ethiopia; Jeta-Pecixe-Cacheu mangrove coast, Guinea Bissau • **Start-up landscapes:** The Sundarbans, Bangladesh
Duration	4 years for Phase One from 2023, with expectation for additional 4 years to end of 2030
Requested budget	36.884.044 SEK for Phase One as contribution to total budget of 41.804.334 SEK

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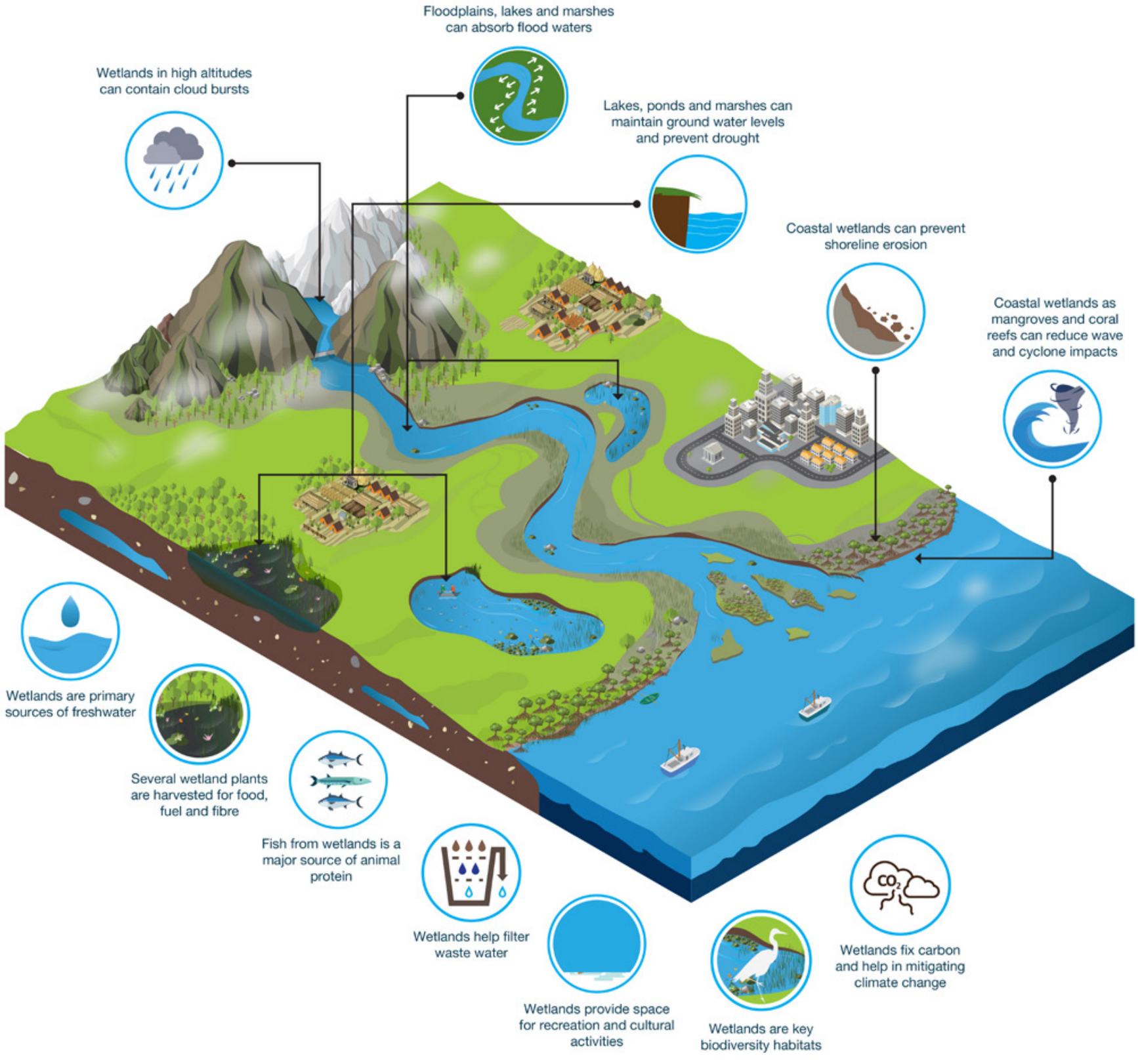
Wetlands

Wetlands are a diverse type of natural or man-made ecosystem which occur wherever land meets water and when the land is temporarily or permanently wet. The nature of the water flow (e.g. ground- or surface water) and quality (e.g. freshwater, brackish, saltwater, nutrient levels), determines the type of wetlands that we find, including for example rivers and lakes, marshes, fens, mangroves, floodplains, riparian forests, estuaries and ponds. Wetlands are the ecosystems that capture, store and transform water along the continuum from source to sea and in every landscape. They are among the most biologically diverse ecosystems on Earth.

People benefit from wetland ecosystem resources and services such as drinking water, water for livestock and agriculture, fisheries, construction materials, but also protection against storms and tsunamis, overflow area for water storage and flood control. An estimated 1 billion people, mainly in developing countries, depend on wetlands directly for their livelihood, while all livelihoods and businesses ultimately depend on wetlands for continued supplies of water[1]. Conservation and restoration of wetlands is therefore a key strategy for building community resilience to reduce disaster risk and for climate adaptation.

Wetlands, especially peatlands, mangroves and other coastal habitats - are also vitally important for climate mitigation as they are able to sequester and store carbon[2]. By preventing and reversing drainage of wetlands it is possible to greatly reduce GHG emissions. In this way, countries can both fight the adverse effects of climate change and ensure benefits to human livelihoods and biodiversity.

1. https://news.grida.no/more-than-a-billion-people-depend-on-wetlands-for-livelihoods
2. https://www.wetlands.org/publications/locking-carbon-in-wetlands/



1. Introduction

Background

The Wetlands 4 Resilience Programme has been developed with the encouragement of and through dialogue with the global team of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) over the last year. Sida and Wetlands International both recognise the issue that poor and marginalised people are often prone to be more vulnerable to the negative impacts and effects of deteriorating ecosystems. And that amongst ecosystems, wetlands and the water systems of which they are a part, are being lost and degraded apace, resulting in fast rising water-related disaster risks. Turning to solutions, Wetlands International has demonstrated that recovering biodiverse and functioning wetland ecosystems at a landscape scale is an effective approach to build societal resilience to rising water and climate shocks.

Initial discussions focused on developing an approach which builds on that of Partners for Resilience (PfR), an on-going partnership led by The Netherlands Red Cross, in which Wetlands International participated in a joint programme over ten years, in ten countries. The idea was to devise an approach in which the biodiversity and ecosystem approach to resilience ('ecosystem-based resilience') would be the core, rather than be an add-on to humanitarian approaches. Since the PfR programme, Wetlands International has worked on an Eco-DRR programme with the same partners and also developed additional capacities for resilience building through other initiatives, including Building with Nature, addressing the need to bring wetland nature-based solutions into coastal infrastructure. These gave significant insights into the challenges and enablers for ecosystem- based resilience and highlighted the need to identify ways to replicate and upscale landscape level action, with water and wetland resilience as a core focus.

Given the urgency of action at scale, in the last few years, Wetlands International started to embed a landscape approach in all its major programmes and forged new partnerships to stimulate and test methodologies that achieve multiple returns from wetland landscape regeneration for the long-term. The Wetlands 4 Resilience proposal reflects on and builds from this background of experience and learning and responds to the ambition and goals of Wetlands International to inspire, mobilise and upscale recovery of wetland landscapes, as set out in the Strategic Intent 2020-2030.

The design of the Wetlands 4 Resilience programme is geared to result in global impact by 2030 by accelerating the upscaling of biodiverse, resilient landscapes. The theory of change and programme interventions proposed in this document are chosen based on the global experience of Wetlands International and its partners. It reflects the need to bring global influence through demonstrating landscape approaches in countries and contexts where enhanced water and wetland resiliency is vital for biodiversity conservation and societal resilience to climate change. The programme will address the wetland-related knowledge and policy gaps across major landscapes and in countries, that currently restrict progress towards building joined up environmental, social and economic resilience.

In the long-term, we propose to engage with existing Landscape Partnerships across our portfolio of landscape programmes which are in different stages along the pathway to landscape resiliency, from start-up situations to ones where there is already global recognition of our work as a lighthouse example. Using experience from these lighthouse landscapes and our history of multi-region, multi-partner resilience programmes, we will design and test a Wetlands 4 Resilience model approach, toolbox and guidance. We will share our model approach, results and learning widely through multiple inter-sectoral partnerships, platforms, policy fora and networks, enabling collaboration and advocating for and enabling action in additional countries and landscapes. In this way, Wetlands 4 Resilience aims to be a game changer and not just another programme.

Relevance to Sida
The objective of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is to create opportunities for better living conditions for people living in poverty and under oppression. Sida has a multi-dimensional view of poverty with a policy focus on bringing about synergies between biodiversity, healthy ecosystems, human rights and resilience.

The Wetlands 4 Resilience proposal is in line with the policy framework for Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, as well as the principles of aid effectiveness and effective development cooperation. Development cooperation shall contribute towards implementing the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Agenda 2030 with the Sustainable Development Goals recognize that restoring wetlands and sustainable management of water systems is a pre-requisite for sustainable development and climate resilience. W4R contributes to:

- SDG6.6: wetland restoration for water security
- SDG 11.5: water-related disasters
- SDGs 14.2, 14.5: coastal ecosystems conservation/ restoration
- SDG 15.1: freshwater and wetlands conservation/restoration

It is understood that this submission for a four year Wetlands 4 Resilience (W4R) programme is the first major step in a long-term partnership with global Sida. W4R (two phases of four years till 2031) has been prepared with a view to achieving outcomes by 2030, linked with the Sustainable Development Goals timeline. Given the scale of ambition and range of stakeholders involved, it is proposed that the first year (2023) of the programme is preparatory – enabling an inception process that will enable the global component and partnerships to be established as well as a detailed frame for programme delivery. During 2026, the planning for a follow up programmatic phase will be discussed and elucidated.

Guidance to the reader
The following chapter (2) argues why wetlands are so important for resilience and people, underpinned by a healthy wetland ecosystem and biodiversity. The future of wetlands is determined by our governance, which should be inclusive, fair, gender-sensitive, and flexible, building on systems approach thinking.

Chapter 3 explains a landscape approach to meet the needs of the poor, the environment and the climate. Paragraph 3.2 explains resilience goes beyond mere ecosystem resilience. For landscape actions to succeed, be sustained and fair, a human-rights based approach needs to be integrated (par. 3.3). The role of Wetlands International is to mobilise, influence and enable others – those responsible for the governance and future of the landscape – to act.

Chapter 4 presents the Wetlands 4 Resilience programme logic, the root causes for wetland landscape degradation, the Theory of Change and results-based management, the Work packages and the target landscapes. The subsequent chapter (5) describes the programme's governance structure, the important role of our partners, programme implementation (Work Packages) and monitoring.

Chapters 6,7 and 8 present the time-line, budget and environmental and social safeguards of the programme respectively.

2. Urgency of action

A world in turmoil
The world is experiencing a global polycrisis - the interaction of different crises including war, disease, supply chain disruptions, droughts, floods, fires etc. This situation is aggravated by the rise of societal discontent much of which is rooted in the feeling of being left behind and being marginalised (no voice, no influence, no future). These developments seriously erode the needed societal support for sustainable development. In developing countries, the rural poor including men, women and children are the most vulnerable to external shocks. Covid threw many rural communities into full isolation, showing their dependency on market connections and the need for diverse production systems supported by a healthy ecosystem. Understanding the social, economic and landscape context is important as a backdrop to shaping this programme.

Climate change
According to the latest IPCC assessment, global warming will surpass the 2 degrees Celsius threshold[1]. Greenhouse gas emissions are still rising and actions to reduce this are not happening fast enough. fast enough. The recent IPCC report on the impacts of climate change highlighted the vulnerability of wetlands to high temperatures, fires and drought (see box below). There is a high net loss of wetland area as a result of drying, desertification and coastal erosion, as well as loss of ecosystem functionality.

Wetlands, especially peatlands and coastal wetlands like mangroves and sea grass beds, are massive carbon stores (so-called blue carbon ecosystems), but when they dry out or are drained, they release greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere. Intact wetlands also play vital roles in protecting humans and wildlife from the impacts of extreme weather events caused by climate change[2].

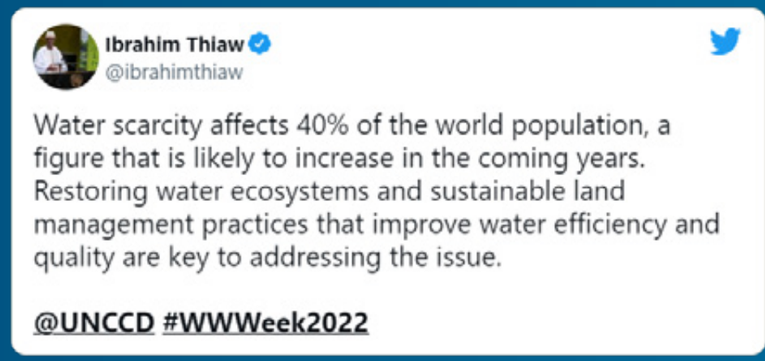
Loss of biodiversity and wetland ecosystems
Globally, we are losing our biodiversity as never seen before (IPBES)[7]. Wetlands are home to 40% of the world's biodiversity, but we're losing

1. https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-ii/
2. https://reliefweb.int/report/world/drought-numbers-2022-restoration-readiness-and-resilience

Wetlands and drought

It is 2022 and droughts are very visible in the drying of rivers: the river Po in Italy affecting the rice production, the Rhine where river transport is no longer possible, the Yangtze river that forces cities to reduce the intake of drinking water and the Colorado river and Hoover dam that used to have water for Las Vegas and agriculture. In France, nuclear plants have to be scaled down because of the reduced water levels. The March-May 2022 rainy season in the Horn of Africa was the driest on record in the last 70 years and loss of water retention capacity in the upper catchments limits crop resilience. This year, more than 2.3 billion people face water stress and 160 million children are exposed. The drought also triggers forest fires and even fire storms. The UN states we are at a crossroads in water management[3]. We are!

Healthy wetland systems are key to drought management to sustain people and biodiversity and reduce the risk of water stress, displacement and fires. Wetlands act as sponges that ameliorate droughts by storing water and releasing it to maintain river flows long after the rains cease. Healthy coastal wetlands buffer the impact of storms and sea level rise on people and property. Wetlands help to prevent the spread of devastating fires[4]. Management of wetlands to mitigate climate change[5] and to minimise the impacts through adaptation are considered urgent and essential[6]. The urgency to restore wetlands for water security is a key message of global leaders e.g.



3. https://reliefweb.int/report/world/drought-numbers-2022-restoration-readiness-and-resilience
4. https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/wetlands-limit-impact-floods-drought-cyclones
5. Climate change mitigation potential of wetlands and the cost effectiveness of their restoration. Interface Focus, 10, 20190129
6. Global Wetland Outlook - Special Edition 2021 (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands) and Taillardat, P.et al (2020)

wetlands quicker than any other ecosystem and three times faster than forests[8]. The 2018 Global Wetland Outlook reported that since 1970, inland wetland-dependent species have declined far more than species dependent on other biomes and an increasing number are facing extinction. Around 70 percent of the world's wetlands have disappeared and since 1970, 83% of freshwater species have been lost[10]. Over this period, both inland and coastal wetland biodiversity losses have been most strongly linked to land-use change[11] and these losses are projected to continue to increase. Recent research has focused on drivers of change in wetlands. Agricultural expansion is the most widespread form of land-use change, and in relation to freshwater ecosystems, IPBES (2019) cited a series of combined threats saying that "land-use change, including water extraction, exploitation, pollution, climate change and invasive species, are prevalent." The Convention on Biological Diversity Global Biodiversity Outlook (2020) stressed in particular that fragmentation of rivers remains a critical threat to freshwater biodiversity.

In coastal zones around the world, deltas are shrinking and sinking due to land subsidence and erosion, caused by drainage, dams trapping sediment, channelization of rivers and over-exploitation of groundwaters. This increases vulnerability to sea level rise and has major consequences for biodiversity and people.

People

The area and condition of wetlands strongly affects human well-being, especially because they are our water systems and naturally productive lands. Drainage also reduces the capacity of wetlands to capture, store and regulate water and carbon. In turn, these lands become less productive and risks of fires, floods and droughts increase.

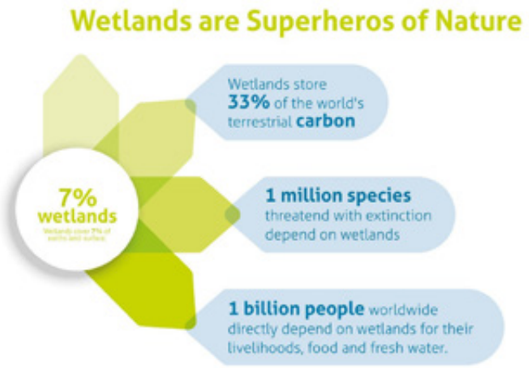


Figure 1: Wetlands are Superheros of Nature

In developing countries, the poorest and most vulnerable people - including women-led households - are affected the most by loss and degradation of ecosystems including wetlands, due to their high direct dependency on wetland natural resources (farmers, fishermen). Women are a very important group of direct wetland resource users as farmers, fishers and also the primary collectors of drinking water. **Therefore, any actions affecting land and water use should be gender sensitive and ensure equitable gender action[12]**.

The poorest and most vulnerable people - including women-led households - are affected the most by loss and degradation of ecosystems including wetlands, due to their high direct dependency on wetland natural resources (farmers, fishermen). Biodiversity loss and natural resource degradation also affects companies that the livelihoods and income of many people living in and around wetland landscapes depend on.

Action to increase resilience

By reducing the negative impacts of human activity on wetlands and their biodiversity, it is possible to create a virtuous cycle – recovering biodiversity and ecosystem functionality as a pathway to enhance human well-being and resilience. Wetland conservation and restoration can halt GHG emissions and enable carbon sequestration, secure water flows, reverse land degradation and enhance natural protection from extreme weather events. For these reasons, resilience to

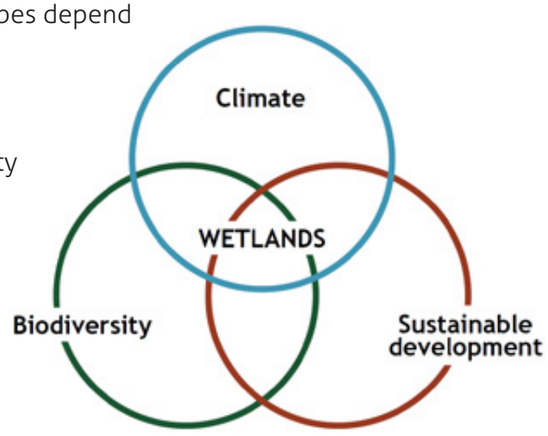


Figure 2: From Global Wetland Outlook - Special Edition 2021

7. https://ipbes.net/global-assessment : IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2019)
8. https://unfccc.int/news/wetlands-disappearing-three-times-faster-than-forests
10. https://www.usgs.gov/news/bending-curve-global-freshwater-biodiversity-loss-emergency-recovery-plan
11. IPBES 2019
12. https://www.partnersforresilience.nl/en/publications/faces-of-resilience

climate change but also resilience to other social and economic shocks through wetland restoration, is recognised in the SDGs as a pre-requisite for sustainability.

There is a recent call for action with regard to wetlands and water flows. The 2020 Global Biodiversity Outlook[13] highlighted the need for a "freshwater transition" as one of the essential pathways towards sustainability, "to guarantee the water flows required by nature and people, improving water quality, protecting critical habitats, controlling invasive species and safeguarding connectivity to allow the recovery of freshwater systems from mountains to coasts". There is a growing momentum in the water sector for adopting a "Source to Sea" approach[14], which means managing the entire continuum of the waterflow from inland areas to the ocean.

Given the time pressure of climate change, biodiversity loss and increasing natural disasters, there is a strong need to act at (landscape) scale and at a high (political) level. There is an urgent need to unlock public and private finance and establish effective delivery mechanisms and governance structures for large scale wetland ecosystem recovery. In order to achieve this desired change in the development paradigm and in climate action, wide societal support at all levels is needed. Stakeholders (local communities, farmers, companies, governments, CSOs) have to be aware of the changes needed and actively voice their support for these changes.

13. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2020) Global Biodiversity Outlook 5
14. https://siwi.org/why-water/source-to-sea/

3. Wetlands 4 Resilience

3.1 The poor, the environment and the climate: an integrated and inclusive wetland landscape approach

Most wetlands and their biodiversity lie outside protected area networks and therefore conventional protected area approaches to wetland conservation have proven insufficient[1]. Considering that the functioning of wetland ecosystems underlies the provisioning of a wide range of ecosystem services to people, it is vital that wetlands are understood as whole, connected water systems, rather than as separate sites. Some wetland systems occupy landscapes that span across several countries or form whole deltas.

Recognising also that much of the remaining "wetland wealth" lies in indigenous lands, it is vital to place an emphasis on the relational values of wetlands (cultural values and identities, social structures) alongside intrinsic values (of species and ecosystems) and instrumental values (ecosystem services). This can be achieved through engagement of local and indigenous communities in 'place-based' biodiversity conservation and the facilitation of inclusive decision-making processes.

Integrated solutions for the conservation and restoration of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services need to be driven by connected sectoral policies and investments, rather than wetlands being lost by trade-offs between those sectors as is still the case today. This can best be achieved through models for collective action and collaborative planning that are developed in a bottom-up manner across whole landscapes. Inclusive and collaborative landscape visions and governance processes can drive the connection of natural, social and economic returns through investments in landscape plans. Business cases for wetland recovery can help stakeholders to connect their ambitions across landscapes. Benefits can then be shared, including with the most vulnerable people whose well-being is most connected to the health of wetlands.

1. Nigel Dudley,Ian J. Harrison,Marianne Kettunen,Jane Madgwick,Volker Mauerhofer Natural solutions for water management of the future: freshwater protected areas at the 6th World Parks Congress (2016).

Landscape:
A socio-ecological system that consists of interconnected natural and/or human-modified land and water[2] ecosystems, and which is influenced by distinct ecological, historical, economic and socio- cultural processes and activities. Where water is the dominant feature, this can also be referred to as a waterscape; where oceans are predominant, this can be referred to as a seascape. Water systems (including all kinds of wetlands) connect different zones across every landscape, regulating flows, transmitting water and water-borne materials and providing pathways for biodiversity.

Landscape approach:
A conceptual framework whereby stakeholders in a landscape aim to reconcile competing social, economic and environmental objectives. A landscape approach aims to ensure a full range of local level needs are met, while also considering goals of stakeholders, such as national governments or the international community.

Source: 4-Returns Framework for Landscape Restoration

Together with CARE, Wetlands International developed a landscape approach for disaster risk reduction in 7 steps on which the landscape approach of this W4R programme is built (adapted for W4R)[3]:

Step 1: Carry out an initial assessment of the risk landscape
Step 2: Conduct an in-depth stakeholder analysis and power mapping
Step 3: Stimulate multi-stakeholder processes and create coalitions of the willing
Step 4: Conduct a collaborative, in-depth problem and solution analysis
Step 5: Carry out collaborative action planning
Step 6: Organise collaborative implementation
Step 7: Promote adaptive management

3.2 Resilience

With an increasingly turbulent and unpredictable world, there is a growing focus on resilience, defined as the **capacity to bounce back, persist, adapt and transform in the face of change**. The fate of biodiversity, ecosystems and people's well-being are closely entwined: as ecosystems come under stress, this is having significant and far-reaching impacts on society. As wetland ecosystems are a substantial part of the water environment and are impacted by economic decision-making which is currently geared to

2. https://www.partnersforresilience.nl/en/publications/flagship-report
3. https://www.wetlands.org/publications/landscape-approach-disaster-risk-reduction-7-steps/

Wetlands International landscape approach example: Inner Niger Delta, Mali

During 2016-2020 Wetlands International worked with CARE and the Partners for Resilience (PfR) programme[4] to strengthen community resilience across the delta landscape by working with different resource user groups - fishers, pastoralists and farmers – that compete over the same, scarce resource.

We conducted an initial assessment of the risk landscape built on the knowledge available through past work in the delta. Using that knowledge, the partners defined a context-specific theory of change identifying the main stakeholders to target and collaborate with in different delta zones. At the local level, user groups of fishers, farmers and pastoralists were identified based on vulnerability, needs and eagerness to participate. The user groups were first trained on Integrated Risk Management, which included a collaborative problem and solutions analysis, followed by action planning. Implementation by the user groups was supported through on-the-job and on-the-ground support and advice. The user groups were organised in landscape coalitions who took action to improve their local environment, based on the knowledge gained and lobbied for integrated river management and implementation of resilience measures linked to the particular situations across the landscape. The groups collaborated to influence policies at local and national level.

Source: Flagship Report – Partners for Resilience (pp. 45-46)[5]

water efficiency/productivity rather than resilience, there is a particular urgency to find ways to turn this around, given the changing climate.

Increasingly decision-makers understand that regaining biodiversity and ecosystem resilience is a basis for building societal resilience. Recognition of remaining wetlands as natural (or green) infrastructure can lead to improved protection and restoration measures, sometimes in combination with traditional (grey) infrastructure. But **long-term resilience requires** system change, through the needs of nature and people being tackled in a holistic way. Well-functioning, large wetland landscapes are a foundation for building societal resilience - providing the resources, biodiversity and ecosystem services needed to sustain thriving communities as well as to enable mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Wetlands4-Resilience will focus on building **ecosystem-based resiliency across whole landscapes. This means not only the wetland landscape / ecosystem has to be resilient - with rich biodiversity and ecosystem functionality - but also the socio-economy based on and related to the wetland landscape, and the organisational-institutional structure's**

4. https://www.partnersforresilience.nl/downloads/files/Mali%20Inspiring%20story_IRM%20coalition%20building%20May%202019%281%29.pdf
5. https://www.partnersforresilience.nl/en/publications/flagship-report

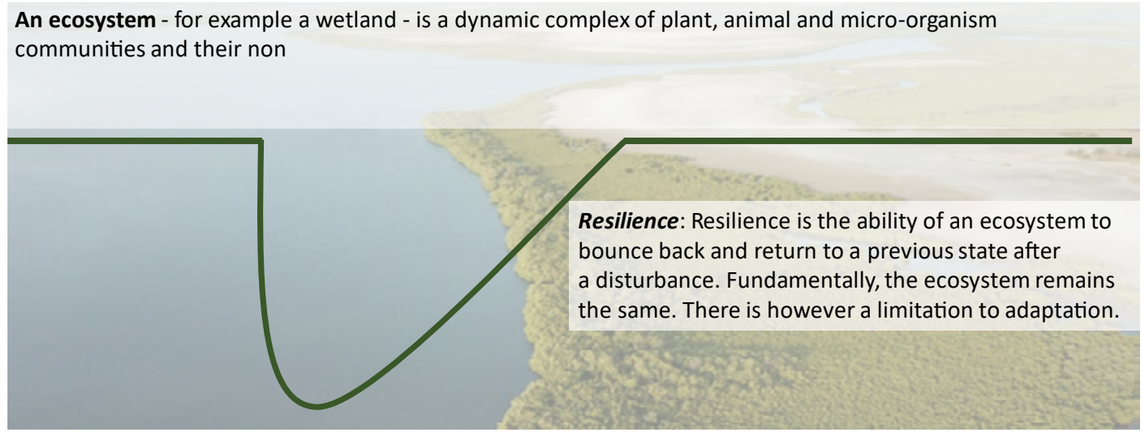


Figure 3: Ecosystem-based resilience

ability to adapt to changes and natural disasters to ensure economic stability, social, food and water security. Increasingly, attention is needed to the resilience of social structures to adapt to change. In some target landscapes the social structures are under pressure due to migration (work, refugees, etc.).

3.3 A human rights-based approach

The understanding of human rights as expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), has evolved over time. People in rural areas, but especially farmers, fishermen, traditional and indigenous communities, have a strong economic and cultural relation to land, water and their natural resources. Climate and development decisions and actions have therefore to be mindful and respectful of their rights, needs and demands. **Instead of a traditional needs-based approach, a human-rights based approach means supporting people to claim and realise their rights as an integral part of building resilience across landscapes.** Wetlands International and partners not only respect human rights in our work (Conservation and Human Rights Framework[6]), but also proactively support the advancement of human rights through our programmes. Actions must be fair, inclusive and just, cognizant of the needs and risks faced by different groups in society, and in line with principles of non-discrimination and equality. Governments are ultimately responsible for the rule of law and thereby for the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of the human rights of their citizens (duty bearers). Fundamental to good governance is a respect for everyone's right to equal social, economic and political participation in society.

6. https://www.wetlands.org/publications/conservation-and-human-rights-framework/

People are starting to realise that our rights to life, health, food, water and development are all dependent on a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (see overview in table below). Without respecting human rights there is no stopping biodiversity loss, and without stopping biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation human rights cannot be fully fulfilled.

Substantive rights	Procedural rights
Life	Information
Health	Participation
Standard of living, including food and water	Access to Justice
Development	Emerging rights
Practice one's own culture	Environmental rights (inter-generational)
Work	Freedom from forced eviction
Property	Access to land and resources for basic needs
Self-determination and use of natural wealth	Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)
Indigenous people's rights	
Traditional lands, territories and resources	Development and equitable benefit-sharing
Self-determination and FPIC	Traditional knowledge and indigenous heritage
Control and management of lands and resources	Redress
Rights of women and other marginalized groups to freedom from discrimination – (gender) equality	

Figure 4: Overview of human rights issues (Adapted from: Springer et al. 2011. Conservation and Human Rights: Key Issues and Concepts)

The above overview does not imply that W4R will work on all of these issues at the same time in all activities but rather has an overall sensitivity to these issues and targeted action on one or more of them. A rights-based approach to inclusive landscape processes and just rural transition supports the inclusion and strengthening of the voices that need to be heard. Under the PfR programme a step by step guide for inclusive resilience was developed on which W4R has been built[7]. Specific attention is needed for gender equality (Gender Policy[8]), and inclusion of all stakeholders and the collective rights of indigenous peoples are crucial for their health, security, identity and even their very survival. We aim to influence processes, so that these proactively and appropriately recognise their rights and governance over their lands and solve tensions between resource users (see next sections). We will apply the guidance that we co-developed under Partners for Resilience to ensure that a rights-based approach is applied throughout the programme, in all landscapes.

3.4 Wetland resource tensions and conflict

The importance of climate and water in relation to human security is now widely accepted. But wetland landscapes are often missing in discussions and action. Local scale irrigated agriculture and fisheries depend on seasonal river flows, flooded wetlands, and nomadic livestock production depends on access to seasonal wetland grazing and water supply.[9] As such, the food and water security of many millions of farmers, fishers, pastoralists, and groups marginalised by displacement, is directly or indirectly dependent on wetland ecosystems (SDG 15).

Food and water insecurity (SDG 2, 6), land and ecosystem degradation (SDG15) and resource conflicts (SDG 16) are therefore inter-linked and increasingly concentrated in regions that are socially and environmentally fragile. Resource user related problems (such as scarcity) can lead to resource and social tensions which can lead to conflicts. Imbalanced power relations contribute to conflicts over scarce water and land resources, and are increasingly a factor in forced migration (Internally Displaced Persons –IDPs[10]). The hierarchy and tensions between different user groups need to be overcome if social cohesion and just governance of natural resources is to underpin sustainable water management and food security. In fragile landscapes, this situation is exacerbated with government often being weak, absent and untrusted, hampering the rule of law and proper governance. As a result, local rural stakeholders are often excluded from decision-making.

7. https://reliefweb.int/report/world/step-step-guide-inclusive-resilience
8. https://www.wetlands.org/publications/gender-policy/
9. Global Land Outlook (2018); Water Shocks (2017)
10. International Alert (2018), "If Victims become Perpetrators"

On tension and conflict

Tensions emerge due to divergences, differences, oppositions of points of view, ideas of solutions, objectives, values, and competition over scarce resources. A **problem** is an issue or situation that is considered harmful or unpleasant.

A crisis is a process or a situation in which important changes occur with negative consequences for some. To solve a crisis situation, it is necessary to be able to move from positions of closure and rejection to positions of openness and listening, from selfishness to positions that take into account others.

Conflicts are the result of unresolved crises that leads to open confrontation. A **conflict** is a strong disagreement or clash, which can be between two or more people, groups or concepts. The key difference between conflict and problem is that a conflict always has two or more parties while problems do not have such parties. There is conflict when one moves from the acceptance and serene, peaceful, mature and constructive expression of differences, disagreements and divergences, to opposition, antagonism, confrontation, struggle, misunderstanding, aggression, intolerance and rejection.

In general, Wetlands International works in landscapes and regions where there are tensions between resource users over the scarce resources such as in the Inner Niger delta in Mali (see also the box on landscape approach)[11]. If these tensions evolve into conflicts and violence, partners such as International Alert and CARE are key for conflict resolution and peace building. Wetlands International[12] cooperates with CARE[13] and International Alert[14] in the Blue Lifelines for a Secure Sahel (BLISS) programme. This is a transformative initiative related to wetland ecosystems, resilience, conflict resolution, and peace-building[15].

3.5 The role of Wetlands International

Wetlands International is the only global not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wetlands. Our roots go back more than 60 years and since 1995 are structured as a global network organisation - comprising twenty independent offices which share the same strategy, values, standards and brand. To achieve our mission "to inspire and mobilise society to conserve and restore wetlands for people and nature" we influence policies and processes in a connected way from global to local situations, connecting bottom-up and top-down influencing. Wetlands International supports policy development at the global level, for example as an official partner to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and Observer to the Convention on Biological Diversity, UNCCD and UNFCCC. We engaged with Partners for Resilience to influence the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and in the GPDRR, bringing our cases and examples to illustrate the need for policies than underpin integrated risk management.

Learning from our programmes and partners

Wetlands International has been working in wetland areas and landscapes in all regions of the world for decades. At first, the focus was mainly on sustainable management and balancing different wetland uses, livelihood issues and poverty reduction. Nowadays, the focus is more on the drivers of wetland conversion and collaboration with stakeholders affecting wetlands, as well as influencing powerful decision-makers. Some examples: In collaboration with the Ecoshape consortium (including water engineering companies), nature-based solutions were developed for a rapidly eroding coastline in Java, Indonesia. The "Building with Nature" approach inspired action and investment at a national level, including training, knowledge exchange, institutional embedding and stimulating multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral collaboration. The Basin-in-Balance programme restores the water balance in the Ethiopian Ziway-Shalla basin through an integrated landscape approach for erosion control, water retention and water sharing, connecting thousands of smallholder farmers as well as floriculture companies for collective action. After the 2004 Asian tsunami, Wetlands International was supported by Oxfam to coordinate action with WWF and IUCN in five countries to enable affected coastal communities to restore their local environment and to enhance their livelihoods as a basis for recovery. This was the forerunner to our participation in Partners for Resilience, which brought together a very diverse group of civil society organisations in ten countries to combine environmental and humanitarian approaches to enhance local resilience and to support self-managed, locally owned development.
For more information see also Annex 1 'Synergy with Others'.

Way of working

In order to bring about our intended impact for Healthy Wetlands, Resilient Communities and Reduced Climate Risks at a sufficient scale in the current decade, we need to influence and enable many others to act. We therefore on purpose aim to remain a lean and flexible organisation and **we see our role mainly as a knowledge provider, facilitator of action and influencer**

11. https://www.wetlands.org/news/water-peace-ecurity-partnership-addressing-human-security-risks-related-water-mali/
12. https://www.wetlands.org/casestudy/bliss/
13. https://www.carenederland.org/content/uploads/2022/03/BLiSS_strategy_final_-english.pdf
14. https://www.international-alert.org/stories/blue-lifelines-for-a-secure-sahel-bliss/
15. https://www.wetlands.org/news/connecting-wetlands-peace-conflict-world-water-week/

of policies and investments. Alone, we do not have the convening power to bring all the important actors together and facilitate action. We achieve positive changes at a global level through collaboration with and through partners in a network or partnership that jointly have the convening power and can facilitate alliance building with influential actors. This is reflected in our organisational Theory of Change aiming to Inspire, Mobilise and Upscale (link).

Given the sceptical social environment we face today, credibility and legitimacy are key for engagement with actors and stakeholders. Facts are still important to inform people. Therefore, development of knowledge is the basis for dialogues, forging partnerships, networks and platforms for change. However, emotion and perceptions have become equally important and in order to convince people into action, they need be engaged and aware this directly affects their livelihoods and their families. It is their future.

By sharing knowledge, pilot examples and use of imaginative communications we engage hearts and minds and create societal demand for wetland action. We mobilise actors by stimulating dialogues and create conditions for upscaling by influencing policies and plans. And we increase the scale of impact on the ground by enabling others to implement solutions, for example through landscape visioning and re-design. By building political will and enabling shifts in policies and investments, we drive behaviour change. In the below Figure we show the results of our own analysis on Wetlands International's role in policy influencing.

Example of bringing global influence for informed wetland action: Peatlands and Climate Change

In 2006, based on our own experience and commissioned research, Wetlands International was the first to bring global attention to the massive greenhouse gas emissions that are derived from drainage of peatlands. By presenting this evidence to policy makers through global media channels as well as through our partner role in the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on Biological Diversity, we stimulated dialogue, specific commitments in Convention Resolutions and further research that resulted in peer reviewed scientific publications. This closed gaps in knowledge that led to IPCC guidelines (2013 "Wetlands Supplement") being added to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. This in turn provides clear incentives for countries to bring peatlands into their climate action plans. We have driven policy advocacy campaigns "Save the Peat for Less Heat" to encourage global action and worked with frontrunner countries to demonstrate solutions. At the Paris UNFCCC COP21 (2015) we launched a roadmap for kick-staring reductions in peat carbon emissions, reverse land degradation, enhance biodiversity and livelihoods, together with the Ramsar Convention, CBD, UNCCD and Greifswald University.

Wetlands International was one of the founding members of the Global Peatland Initiative, now hosted by UNEP. We have active peatland programmes in Europe, Asia, Africa and LAC addressing high mountain and lowland contexts. In 2021, we co-organized the Peatland Pavilion during COP26 where peatlands were discussed as the nature-based solution for climate mitigation and (Glasgow 2021), facilitating inclusion of these ecosystems in National Determined Contributions from countries. We are supporting this through our role in the NDC Partnership, are involved in European Peatland Initiative and several applied peatland research and capacity building projects under the EU Horizon 2020 Green Deal. We are working to responsibly channel carbon financing into peatland conservation and restoration in Europe, South-East Asia, Africa and South America.

Working with and through alliances and networks

Wetlands International is a member and partner in many alliances and networks to enhance our (collective) influence. The W4R programme will allow us to intensify our collaboration in global alliances (see annex 1 on synergies with others) such as Partners for Resilience, the Global Resilience Partnership, Global Mangrove Alliance, Global Peatland Initiative, NDC Partnership, etc. By focusing on wetland landscapes and their role in relation to water resilience, we connect with the associated challenges of land, climate, nature and food. We and partner alliances will engage with other organisations and institutions which address a wide range of sectoral challenges involved in resilience building through landscape level solutions. Through W4R we intend to deepen our connection with partners, networks and platforms to collaborate, offering our W4R learning while benefiting from knowledge sharing mechanisms that will heighten our global reach and impact.

Figure 5: Policy influencing by Wetlands International

Some examples:

Wetlands International	Alliance or network	Intended influence/benefit
Expertise on wetland ecosystem management	Partners for Resilience	Bring forward the progress on including ecosystem management into the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). At the moment, this is included in the main text but not operationalised in the monitoring framework (ecosystem loss and its consequences are not monitored yet). Enhanced monitoring frameworks agreed upon at global level and experiences shared from W4R landscapes may convince additional countries to manage landscapes for DRR and climate resilience.
Information and awareness on relevance of wet landscapes	NDC Partnership	Enhancing the implementation of NDC commitments related to wet landscapes.
Bring W4R expertise in forests and water fora	Global Resilience Partnership	Bring information on wetland landscape relevance for forests and water to the Forest Water Champions, Stockholm Water Week, UNWC2023, Amsterdam Declarations Partnership to enhance actions on landscape level.
Promote a global Call to Action for restoration of mangroves; Manage the Global Mangrove Watch online platform and knowledgebase, to guide effective action	Global Mangrove Alliance	Through working with our partners and UN High Level Climate Champions at UNFCCC COP27 and COP28, promote a "Mangrove Breakthrough" - a science-based, achievable and measurable goal for non-state actors and governments to collectively restore and protect mangroves at the scale needed, catalyzing financial flows to scale proven solutions and mobilize action on the ground.

4. W4R Programme

4.1 Urgency, goal, and objectives

Urgency of action: (see also chapter 2): All recent global outlooks on ecosystems, development and climate signal the need to stop and reverse the decline in wetland ecosystems, their biodiversity and their functioning, by 2030.

Programme Goal: Upscale healthy, biodiverse, and well-managed wetland landscapes globally by 2030, contributing to climate resilience and environmental, social and economic sustainability.

Objectives W4R

1. To bring together and share globally the learning and methodologies for holistic, ecosystem-led resilience building, from our global wetland landscape portfolio and partner programmes;
2. To design and apply a Wetlands 4 Resilience model approach, toolkit and guidance to accelerate upscaling in our major wetland landscape regeneration programmes;
3. To catalyse wetland landscape regeneration by others, through uptake and implementation of the W4R model approach across different sectors, globally.

4.2 W4R intervention logic: 4-Returns approach

To move from degraded land, water, and wetland ecosystems to thriving, resilient wetland landscapes, communities and economies, stakeholders need to understand and work together around wetland landscapes that provide attractive investment and livelihood opportunities - in economic and commercial terms - for multiple returns (not only commercial profits). The 4-Returns Framework[1] and step by step process connects ecology, hydrology, community values, spirit and culture, business and long-term economic sustainability at a landscape level. It allows government, business, indigenous peoples and local communities (gender and resource user sensitive) to co-create and deliver a common vision for a resilient landscape. The four returns are: (1) Inspiration; (2) Social returns; (3) Natural returns; (4) Financial returns. This 4R approach is rapidly gaining support

1 https://www.commonland.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/4-Returns-for-Landscape-Restoration-June-2021-UN-Decade-on-Ecosystem-Restoration.pdf

Figure 6: 4-Returns Approach

and traction amongst practitioners, policy makers and finance institutions since it offers a common language to bring actors together to accelerate the regeneration of healthy landscapes at scale. Wetlands International is working in partnership with Commonland and the Landscape Finance Lab to bring synergy between the experiences of our organisations in landscape regeneration. In particular, the framework will benefit from our long term experience in working to enhance socio-ecological in wetland landscapes.

4.3 W4R Theory of Change

Threat: biodiversity loss coupled with climate change

Restoring biodiverse, functioning wetland ecosystems is a global priority to mitigate and adapt to the projected climate change and as a basis for socio-economic resilience. The scale of wetland loss and degradation over the last few decades is however so great[2] that we need to plan, design, and organise for large scale recovery. We urgently need a shift towards integrated, holistic transformation of wetland landscapes to underpin a healthy, resilient society and economy.

Problem description (root causes of wetland landscape degradation)

In chapter 2, we refer to the drivers of continued wetland loss and degradation, noting that agricultural expansion and land use change that involves fragmentation of river systems and water over-exploitation, are dominant. **The root causes** of degradation and unsustainable land and water use relate to that politicians, people, and companies focusing on short-term benefits and maximum profits. In addition, poor and marginalised communities (especially vulnerable are women-led households) often have no alternative than to over-exploit wetland natural resources or to move into and start exploiting wetland areas, for example, when their traditional agricultural lands become unproductive, including through dessication. As wetlands shrink, competition over their natural resources tend to grow, sometimes contributing to social conflict and displacement[3].

Current responses to the inter-linked livelihood, biodiversity, water, and climate challenges are largely driven by economic values, too short-term, small scale, technocratic and sectoral. Responses fail to address these root causes of landscape degradation in a connected way, have too little focus on ecosystems and on reversing the fragmentation of water systems or on the need for behavioural change. Solutions need instead to be designed for each specific landscape context, based on sound knowledge of how factors such as changes in water flows, sedimentation, infrastructure, vegetation, land use and climate change influence the ability of ecosystems to support society's demands.

In the next decade, it is estimated that nature can provide a third of the solution to climate change and yet it currently only receives 8% of the funding. Current investments in wetland nature-based solutions that are implemented as alternatives to traditional water infrastructure, are typically too limited in size and ambition. There is an urgent need to unlock public and private finance for wetland-positive investments, to overcome the scarcity of landscape-scale projects and establish effective delivery mechanisms and governance structures that embrace an "all of society" approach, respecting all knowledge and value systems. To be effective, such finance should no longer be single-objective with at best some attention for co-benefits, but rather be targeted at landscapes delivering multiple objectives (4 Returns) where stakeholders together negotiate the necessary trade-offs among these objectives for optimal landscape functioning. Agricultural subsidies and infrastructure investments, the voluntary carbon market and climate funds can all contribute.

Specific problems to overcome include:

- **Understanding.** Problems are often addressed in isolation, and with technocratic approaches, rather than as part of a system or focus on the impact. Development solutions do not address the root causes of the erosion of natural capital on which biodiversity, human well-being and the sustenance of nature's contribution to people is predicated.
- **Planning**. The opportunity for connection between civil society, public sector, and business to build a common platform to adapt and manage risks across landscapes, is often overlooked. Planning is often "driving looking in the rear-view mirror" - based on historical reference points, without taking into account risks posed by a changing climate.
- **Financing**. Financing for development and climate does not address the decline in natural capital and is largely driven by economic interests. Implementation of nature-based solutions has a strong dependency on public finance. There is a lack of investible landscape scale propositions, obstacles in procurement, access to finance and complex methodologies.

The past few decades of wetland loss and degradation have illustrated that merely advocating at the global level for wetland conservation to halt biodiversity loss does not work. And climate change has altered our planet's systems. Therefore, the W4R programme does not focus solely on the conservation of wetland areas but rather the sustainable management of wetland landscapes as a basis for halting biodiversity loss and building socio-economic resilience to climate change.

While there is increasing recognition of this need (to bring wetlands back into good condition) at the global level - many countries, companies and civil society groups commit to this goal - there are many obstacles to achieve it. Significant shifts are needed to better protect and restore wetland nature – and these must be undertaken in a manner that is just, inclusive, and enhances the well-being of vulnerable people.

2. https://www.global-wetland-outlook.ramsar.org
3. Water Shocks report: https://www.wetlands.org/publications/water-shocks-wetlands-human-migration-sahel/

How we will achieve global influence and impact:

- Bottom-up inspiration from landscape and country results to address wetlands as core component of national strategies addressing biodiversity/climate/resilience;
- Regional and global strategic partnerships and platforms that develop and share knowledge for mobilising landscape resilience;
- Policy dialogues and collaborations resulting in uptake by global policy fora and organisations;
- By connecting to Convention resolutions that commit countries to act and provide indicators and guidance on how to regenerate wetland landscapes.

Benefits from our global influence::

- The realisation by country governments and companies that conversion and degradation of wet landscapes needs to be stopped to enhance human well-being, international human rights, societal and economic resilience, and security in a rapidly changing climate in addition to reducing green-house gas emissions;
- Support for facilitating wetland recovery at scale from governments, companies and society through raised awareness, capacity development/ training and inclusive governance and decision-making;
- Action to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity and restore wetland functionality (beyond commitments) at national, regional and global level.

A key obstacle to overcome is that available frameworks and methods for regenerating landscapes focus on forested or agricultural contexts, so there is a knowledge and capacity gap on how to address wetlands and water resiliency. We intend to populate this gap, using our long and deep experience together with our partnerships. Through the Wetlands 4 Resilience programme we will develop and enable take up of a "W4R model approach" that enables water resiliency and wetland recovery across landscapes, enabling actors to tackle the connected biodiversity-water-climate crises and build the resilience of vulnerable communities.

The W4R model will be developed based on our long-term experience and portfolio of landscape programmes, including "lighthouse examples" of global relevance. We will apply the W4R model approach in a portfolio of inland and coastal wetland landscapes, that represent the global wetland biodiversity priorities and in frontrunner countries, with high level commitments to wetlands conservation.

Policy alignment inspired by landscape experience

We know from our own experience that landscape regeneration solutions and outcomes can inspire national interest and open the door to dialogues which result in changes to policies, processes and investments that accelerate landscape resilience. In each of the wetland landscapes, we will work with a Landscape Partnership and use systems understanding as a foundation for securing a joint vision and action plan to build resilience, through recovery of wetland ecosystem functioning and biodiversity. This will be the basis for aligning policies and investments across sectors and scales, that enable landscape level solutions to be financed, implemented and replicated.

To maximise results and impact in those landscapes per effort, adding value to existing programmes, W4R will have a different entry point for groups of landscapes that are in different stages in the regeneration process. Throughout the programme we will optimise learning and knowledge-sharing across the whole portfolio – and bring in learning, tools and approaches from others, through our global partnerships and networks, in a continuous process.

By starting with a focus on our lighthouse examples we will identify, understand and bring relevant knowledge and experience into the Wetlands 4 Resilience model approach. Then we will apply the model in iconic landscapes that are at different levels of readiness for upscaling (see Figure 7 Theory of Change). In the figure - and moving from left to right - cog wheels symbolise how actions and results can influence changes at higher levels and scales.

Pathway to Resilience

W4R will add value by enabling synthesis and exchange of learning between five landscapes from our portfolio that are divided into four different categories, according to their progress along the "Pathway to Resilience" (Figure 7) that builds on the underlying Theory of Change.

The role in W4R and the added value to the landscape brought through W4R varies according to the category as summarized in the below diagram (See 4.6 Landscapes Synopses, and Annex 3 'Synergies with Wetlands International Programme Portfolio' for more information).

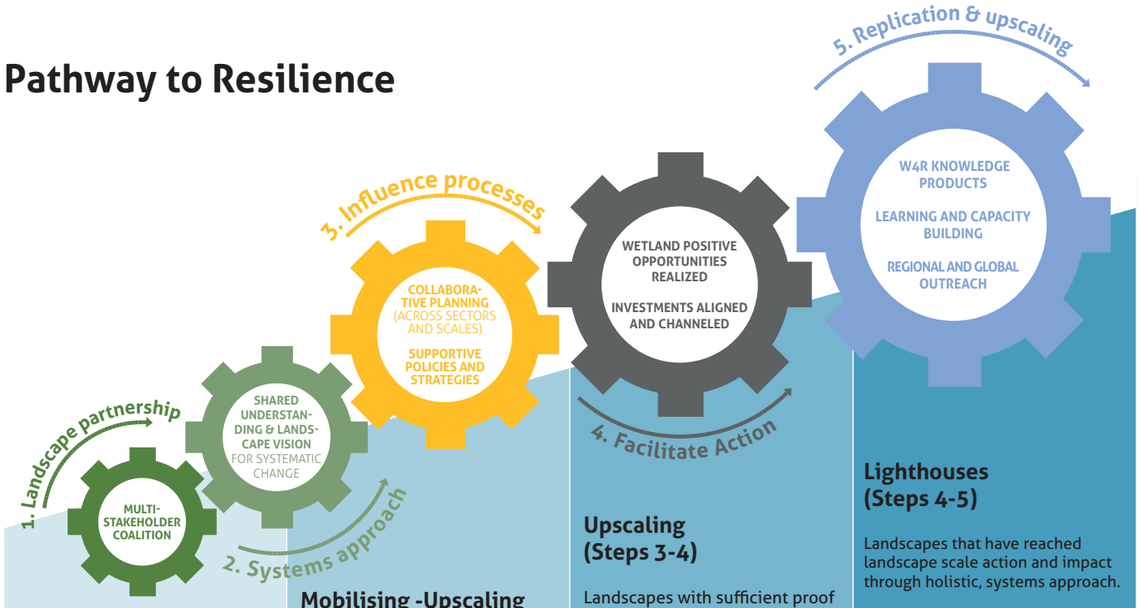
1. **Start-up** landscapes are in stages represented by interaction between steps/cogs 1-2
2. Landscapes in stages of **mobilising in transition to upscaling** represented by interaction between steps/cogs 2-3
3. Landscapes that have greater readiness for **upscaling**, represented by interaction between steps/cogs 3-4
4. Landscapes are **lighthouse examples**, represented by interaction between steps/cogs 4-5

In Phase One, our main efforts will be on enabling upscaling in landscape programmes which already have a sound technical and societal readiness. These landscapes will then move along the "pathway to resilience" and become new lighthouse examples. In parallel, we will also create the partnership and knowledge foundations for wetland landscape regeneration programmes in one additional frontrunner country. This approach will be followed through in Phase Two.

By connecting our global portfolio of landscapes in a global Community of Practice, we will accelerate progress of all landscapes along the "pathway to resilience", using successful results to inspire replication and enabling upscaling through sharing a global body of learning and experience.

We will continuously share our results and know-how with key global and regional partners, platforms and networks to inspire and mobilise others to replicate and upscale wetland landscape recovery globally. In this way we will extend the reach of W4R to additional wetland landscapes,

Pathway to Resilience



Start-ups (Steps 1-2)

Landscapes where a full landscape scale approach needs to be initiated.

Added value to W4R
Enhancing model and toolbox for stakeholder engagement, vision in iconic landscapes with complexity of sectors.

W4R contribution
Connecting stakeholders for shared approach to build resilience through holistic systems approach.

Landscapes
- The Sundarbans, Bangladesh

Country/landscape Interventions
WORK PACKAGES 1 and 2

- Enhance multi-stakeholder platforms; establish Landscape Partnership
- Landscape diagnosis; establish baseline
- Fill knowledge-gaps for systems understanding
- Enable stakeholder dialogues and conduct landscape vision process
- Prepare overall landscape proposition
- Define synergies and zoning needs
- Technical exchange; learning from lighthouse examples
- Capacity development

Mobilising -Upscaling (Steps 2-3)

Landscapes where there is already significant partnership and action that is intended / is already transitioning to reach landscape scale.

Added value to W4R
Enhancing model & toolbox for scenario development, policy development & collaborative planning in major inland & coastal landscapes of for enhanced resilience; opportunities for upscaling in ecoregions.

W4R contribution
Mobilising actors and creating enabling environment for transition to upscaling

Landscapes
- Ziway-Shalla, Central Rift Valley, Ethiopia

Country/Landscape Interventions
WORK PACKAGE 3

- Analyse policy & planning environment
- Policy dialogues
- Scenario planning
- Detail landscape propositions and define action plans
- Knowledge development
- Technical exchange; learning from lighthouse examples
- Monitoring, evaluation & learning
- Capacity development
- Communications

Upscaling (Steps 3-4)

Landscapes with sufficient proof of concept for holistic landscape solutions that bring socio-ecological resilience. Opportunity and intention to mobilise to reach scale across priority ecoregions.

Added value to W4R
Enhancing tools and approaches for upscaling solutions for resilience, with results across major inland and coastal wetland ecoregions of national, regional and global significance.

W4R contribution
Catalysing and accelerating upscaling

Landscapes
- Jeta-Pecixe-Cacheu mangrove coast, Guinea Bissau

Country/Landscape Interventions
WORK PACKAGE 4

- Prepare "business cases" for resilience (4 returns)
- Mobilise wetland positive investment opportunities
- Prepare Landscape Investment Framework
- Policy dialogues; advocacy for policy adjustment
- Explore green financing options; donor dialogues on landscape propositions
- Communications & advocacy in national & international fora on case for investment in resilience
- Capacity development
- Monitoring, evaluation & learning

Lighthouses (Steps 4-5)

Landscapes that have reached landscape scale action and impact through holistic, systems approach.

Added value to W4R
Capturing learning to enhance W4R model and toolbox.

W4R contribution
sharing knowledge & learning to benefit other landscape initiatives.

Landscapes
- Mahanadi Delta, India
- Demak mangrove coast, North Java, Indonesia

Country/Landscape Interventions
WORK PACKAGE 0 (sub-set of Global Influence and Impact)

- Monitoring, evaluation & learning
- Technical exchange
- Capacity development
- Policy influencing
- Communications and media

Global interventions
GLOBAL WORK PACKAGE

- Develop and refine W4R model, toolbox and guidelines
- Establish a Community of Practice for W4R landscapes; coordinate technical exchange, knowledge development and learning between W4R landscapes & landscape partnerships
- Collaboration in global partnerships, platforms and networks for knowledge-sharing, technical exchange
- Engage donor community and facilitate investments in landscape propositions
- Communications and advocacy in global policy fora
- Develop and promote W4R communications channels and products

Figure 7: Pathway to Resilience

sectors and stakeholders. By having societal partners communicating and supporting successes through multi-sector dialogues and global partnerships, we will stimulate adaptation and replication in-country and additional countries.

A rolling programme that maximises impact from the beginning:
In the W4R programme, we will continuously harvest and share learning and approaches, as well as coordinate technical exchange and knowledge development from our landscape portfolio through a global Community of Practice. Figure 7 sets out the Theory of Change and summarises the steps and interaction between them (through the cog action) along a pathway to resilient landscapes. For each of the 4 landscape categories, the W4R added value is summarised. The set of activities for each landscape category and the global component is summarised below.

An early focus on harvesting learning from **lighthouse landscapes** will contribute to define the W4R model, toolbox and guidance, alongside tools and methodologies used in these landscapes, together with those from our major resilience building programmes.

Using this W4R model approach and toolbox, we will support the processes needed for **mobilising-upscaling** and **upscaling** landscapes, where there are already sufficient systems understanding, proof of concept and partnership readiness for transitioning into holistic landscape regeneration. This will include for example influencing national sectoral policy and planning barriers and enablers for holistic wetland landscape approaches, as well as exploring and pursuing landscape finance opportunities. These landscapes will transition to form lighthouse examples during the course of the Phase One of the programme.

For **start-up landscapes**, we will use the W4R model approach and collective experience to guide the first stages for preparing the landscape transition, strengthening the existing multi-stakeholder platforms and partnerships and developing shared landscape visions and plans, that can act as a basis for action. These landscapes will have a state of readiness to transition into **Mobilising-Upscaling** by the end of Phase One of the Programme.

We will aim to bring **global inspiration and influence** throughout the programme, through intensifying our collaboration in a wide range of global partnerships, platforms and networks; as well as communications and advocacy, including in global policy fora and conventions. This will enable identification and action on global upscaling mechanisms including through knowledge and capacity development, stimulating policy shifts and leveraging green finance.

Impact and Outcomes

1. Impact
The intended impact is the conservation and regeneration of large wetland landscapes and their biodiversity globally, as an important measure for climate resilience and a pillar for sustainable development.

Our results will be described and as far as possible quantified in relation to the 4 Returns impacts (Inspiration; Social; Natural; Financial). To achieve impact, political interest and support by those that take the policy and investment decisions needs to be raised. But they also need to feel their decisions are supported and not opposed by a large part of society. Strong vocal support is dependent on tangible results whereby those that profit from the recovery of biodiversity and climate resilient, sustainable development in their landscape, voice their support for these changes. Communities need to experience an increase in their well-being and become less vulnerable. Companies, farmers, and fishermen need to see their business has become profitable on the long-term and it can sustain them. They are partners in sustainable development and supply chains, not poor, subsistence producers. This will enhance overall economic stability of the region and - depending on the economic and societal relevance of the landscape - also the country.

To bring global influence and impact, we will use our regional partnerships (e.g. in River Basin Organisations) to share information and lessons with other countries in the same region and our active collaboration in global platforms, networks and fora to enable connection with and adoption by additional partners and sectors (See Annex 1 Synergy with others). An important vehicle for change is diplomatic outreach by Wetlands International and partners to the global community and investors, to advocate for a W4R approach as an effective strategy/ pillar for climate adaptation.

Result-based Management: Impact

WHO	WHAT *(impact)*
Civil society: local people and communities- esp. the marginalised (gender sensitive) - are more secure and their human rights are respected. **Government:** national and sub-national government is willing and capable to implement a systems approach. **Private sector:** companies and SMEs support a long-term economically sustainable development.	Conservation and regeneration of large wetland landscapes and their biodiversity, as an important measure for climate resilience and a pillar for sustainable development.

HOW
(Key processes and pre-conditions that will strengthen national, regional and global support and action for wetland landscape recovery)

Inspiration	Social returns	Natural returns	Financial returns
Regional, national and international[4] entities (and their policy and decision-makers) adopt and support landscape resilience approaches.	Social and economic well-being and climate resilience of communities and businesses in the target landscapes is improving.	Wetland ecosystems are becoming more functional, biodiverse and support climate resilience.	Recovery of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem functionality supports economic stability, business profitability, and livelihoods.

2. Outcomes: landscape and national level results

Outcomes are those results W4R will directly influence but cannot control because they depend on the decisions and actions of other actors and stakeholders. W4R assumes that conditional to sustained changes in wetland landscape supportive policies, regulations, and investment decisions are needed on national and regional levels. This does not necessarily mean a specific wetland policy, but rather that sectoral policies and planning decisions become coherent in supporting climate resilient landscapes and the businesses and livelihoods of the people living in and depending on that landscape.

4. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Climate National Determined Contributions (NDC); CBD Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF); COP26 Glasgow Leaders' Declaration and investments in Nature-Based Solutions (Green Climate Fund).

The following Outcomes are proposed, per work package. In the Programme Plan, Intermediate Outcomes and steps to achieve these are detailed.

Result-based Management: Outcomes

WHO	WHAT *(impact)*
Civil society: Local people, communities and civil society organisations have the civic space and can claim their human rights in development planning that affect their livelihoods and well-being **Government:** national and sub-national government is capable in coherent development planning, and willing to fulfil their role as duty bearer to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and the environment. **Private sector:** Companies and SMEs adapt their way of working to support wetland landscape resilience and to ensure long-term profitability.	**Outcome 1:** Innovative multi-stakeholder coalitions of actors (W4R Landscape Partnerships) promote holistic wetland landscape resilience **Outcome 2:** Improved conservation and restoration status of wetland ecosystems and functionality in wetland landscapes, benefits biodiversity, climate and societal resilience **Outcome 3:** Collaborative planning and aligned policies make holistic wetland landscape management a pillar for sustainable, climate resilient regional development **Outcome 4:** Aligned investments on national and landscape level and increased financial commitments on regional and global level for wetland landscape restoration **Outcome 5:** Wetlands-4Resilience model approach applied to additional landscapes and in additional countries

HOW
(Key processes and pre-conditions that will strengthen national, regional and global support and action for wetland landscape recovery)

Inspiration	Social returns	Natural returns	Financial returns
W4R landscape partnership dialogues lead to policy alignment, coherence and collaborative planning by national and regional decision-makers.	Improved security for livelihoods, income, business, health, food and water by greater landscape resilience, including through enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem services.	Improved plans and investments enhance wetland biodiversity, ecosystem functionality, and their economic and climate resilience value.	Enhanced resilience planning provides innovation opportunity and economic security whereby investments, businesses, and livelihoods of e.g. farmers and fishers are profitable.

As indicated above, connection of these social-natural-financial outcomes are required for disaster risk reduction, improved livelihoods within the landscapes, enhanced biodiversity and climate resilience.

Financial support and business investments need to be channelled towards economic and commercial activities that can be environmentally sustained and are long-term climate resilient. Decision-makers need to be convinced that these investments are profitable on the long-term, and generate commercial profit on the short-term. These investments may be different to current ones that only look a maximising short-term commercial profits but are not economically sustainable on the long term. To change this decision-making bias, wide societal support for change is needed from local and indigenous communities, farmers, fishermen, SMEs, large companies, civil servants, and investors advocating for change.

Tangible results, policy influencing lessons and positive changes in climate resilience, biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, and economic stability need to be demonstrated and communicated at the national, regional and global levels to raise awareness and strengthen the role of wetland landscape recovery in resilience building. It is the ambition of W4R to expand to additional landscapes, and share experiences on regional and international level. This means diplomatic outreach, demonstration, and dialogue are needed to deliver on the outcomes:

1. **Inspiration:** Multi-stakeholder and multi-sector coalitions of actors create a shared vision and promote holistic wetland landscape resilience (see WP1 + WP5).
2. **Natural:** Adoption of a systems approach by Landscape Partnerships points the way to restore wetland ecosystem functions, recover a rich biodiversity and enable climate resilience (see WP2).
3. **Social:** Dialogues and coherence across policies and plans for wetland recovery, water and food security, disaster risk reduction and livelihoods make holistic wetland landscape recovery a pillar for sustainable development and climate resilience (see WP3).
4. **Financial:** Drawing on the inspiration and joint vision, stakeholders pursue wetland positive interventions that benefit their own livelihoods and provide attractive propositions for investors. Aligned and adjusted investments and business practices open up opportunities for the local economy (see WP4).

To enable replication and upscaling, we will share knowledge and experience as a basis to raise awareness, and build capacity for wetland landscape regeneration. Within the Wetlands International network, a main mechanism for this will be a W4R Community of Practice. Externally, we will use our participation in regional and global fora, partner platforms and networks to share the W4R approach and results, highlight specific wetland landscape priorities for action and stimulate demand for investments, in line with global climate and SDG commitments, driving higher level outcomes.

Programme Contribution to the SDGs

The programme will contribute to multiple targets for the Sustainable Development Goals -combining natural and social returns - by 2030:

- **SDG 1.5**: Build resilience of poor in vulnerable situations
- **SDG 6.6**: Wetland restoration for water security
- **SDG 11.5**: Reduce impacts of water-related disasters
- **SDGs 14.2, 14.5**: Coastal ecosystems conservation/ restoration
- **SDG 15.1-15.5**: Freshwater and wetlands conservation/restoration

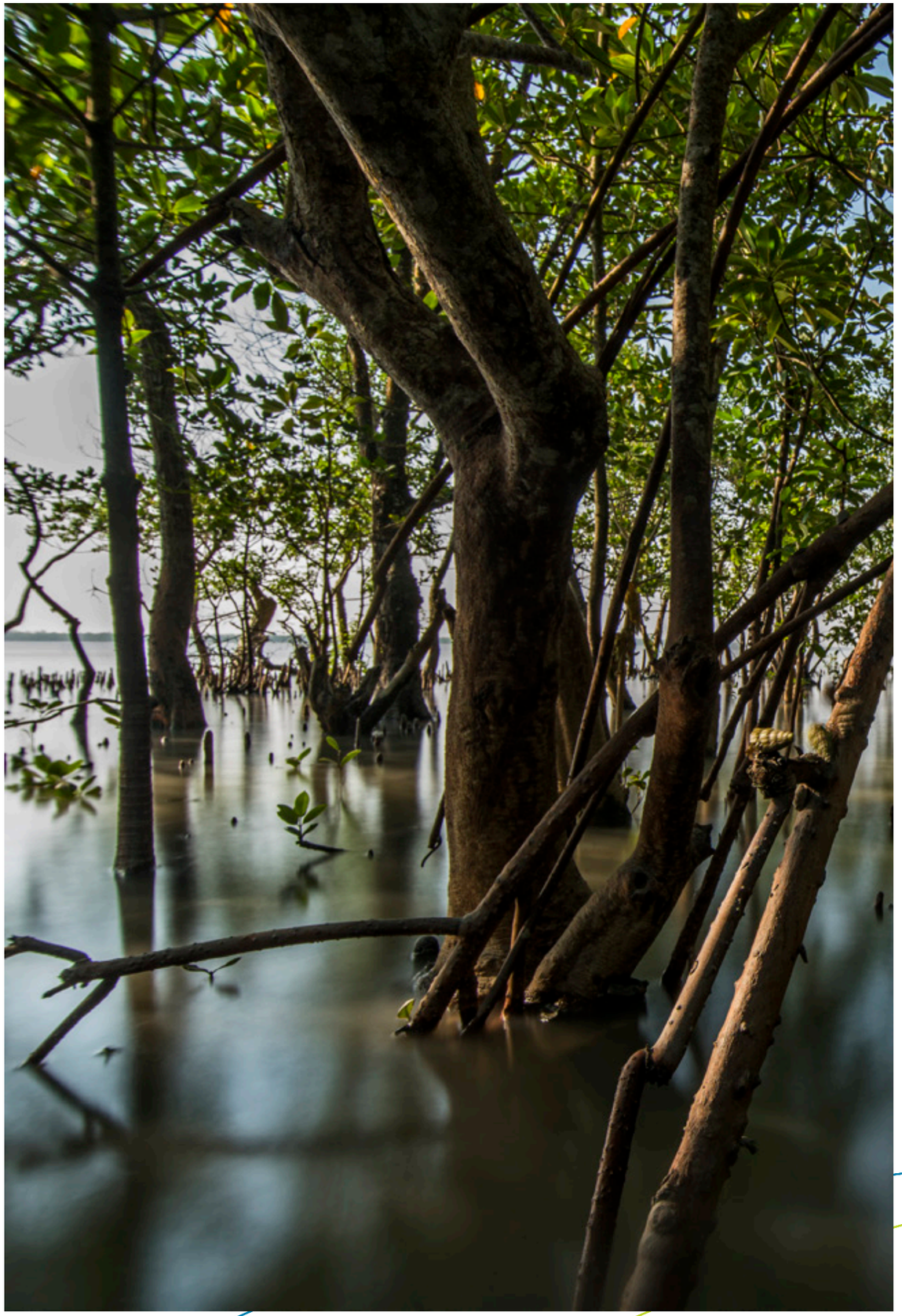
Result-based Management: Landscape parterships outputs

WHO	WHAT *(impact)*
Civil society: Civil society organisations – representing people, resource users and the environment – participate I multi-stakeholder planning and decision-making. The livelihood and security situation of the rural poor in the landscape has improved. **Government:** national and sub-national government engage with stakeholders in a constructive manner to make development planning more coherent, and willing to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and the environment. **Private sector:** Companies and SMEs engage in multi-stakeholder coalitions and collaborative planning in a constructive manner.	1. Wetlands 4 Resilience Partnerships established. to drive change, depending on the specific ecosystem-sector-country context. The partners will be instrumental to enhance societal awareness and the outreach to those actors that are influential in policy, planning and investment decisions to achieve the intended outcomes. **By 2030, the Partnerships are expected to:** 2. A **Shared Vision** and **Landscape Proposition/ plan** created and used as a basis for driving systemic change for long-term natural, societal, financial, and inspirational returns in major wetland landscapes. 3. A holistic / **W4R model approach** demonstrated and documented to build ecosystem and societal resilience and showcase returns for inspiration, nature, society and the economy. 4. A **Landscape Investment Framework** created and implemented - I.e. investments mobilised - that facilitates the adoption, financing and implementation of national policy commitments for wetland landscape resilience, so that countries better contribute towards the achievement of the SDGs and NDCs. 5. **W4R knowledge products and communication tools** facilitate changes in decisions, views, behavior and habits. This in turn inspires adoption and replication of W4R in additional countries, as a significant contribution to global recovery of biodiverse, resilient wetland landscapes.

HOW

(Key processes and pre-conditions that will strengthen national, regional and global support and action for wetland landscape recovery)

Inspiration	Social returns	Natural returns	Financial returns
Shared knowledge and understanding for the need of systemic change (nature, socio-economic, institutional) to enhance climate resilience. Alliances across different disciplines and sectors are formed to devise and implement nature-based solutions.	All stakeholders, including indigenous and local community voices are heard in policy dialogues, where they seek support for climate mitigation and adaptation measures. Wetland regeneration models support climate resilience and ecosystem services - underpinning security for livelihoods, income, business, health, food and water.	Sound strategies in place to conserve and restore core wetland habitats and their species, addressing root causes of loss and degradation. Improved environmental and social risk screening supports adapted planning to enhance wetland biodiversity, ecosystem functionality, and their economic and climate value.	Alternative livelihoods and adjusted production systems identified to adapt to the changing environment. Decisions on investments and livelihoods are informed by understanding of the economic profitability of enhanced wetland resilience planning.



4.4 General assumptions and risks

Internal risk management

At network level, Wetlands International has a risk management approach and maintains a risk register that is discussed with the Network Management Team and the Supervisory Council on a regular basis. We also publish our highest 5 risks in each Annual Review. Although we have not recently discussed our risk appetite, it is fair to say that we have a low appetite for financial or staff related risks and take a conservative approach; we have a considerably higher risk appetite in programmes where we weigh up the potential impact against the risks of loss of reputation and waste of resources if something goes wrong. The same applies in the way we assess institutional partnerships with the private sector. Further, it is a standard part of our proposal development process to identify and assess risks. In most cases this is also a requirement of donors. That all said, we are planning to review our risk approach in 2023 as part of our organizational development plan, as we expect that there will be ways in which we can improve our approach and performance.

Capacity of staff, communication within the organization and collaboration between partners at local and national levels are identified as the most important organizational risk factors in the delivery of the programme objectives. These factors could lead to the following risks:

- Delays in start-up of the Programme leading to loss of confidence in partners and equally to our reputation (and indirectly the donor). Knowing delays can occur at times in our network, this is why we are proposing a 12 month inception phase to ensure that there is sufficient time to get our teams operational. We will take the lead at Global Office for partnership development and staff recruitment and will support our network offices to do the same in their regions.
- We have re-designed the programme so as to minimise this risk - by focusing in landscapes which already have a good state of readiness for upscaling - and by phasing activation of one start-up landscape over the 4 year programme.
- Difficulties in establishing the field presences and operations needed to implement the landscape programmes. In Phase One our focus is in landscapes and countries where field presence and operations are established and we intend to reserve the establishment of additional facilities needed for start-up landscapes until Phase two. In Phase One we will scope the options in Bangladesh - we expect this programmes to be co-located in partner organizations and we are already in touch with them.
- Weaknesses in financial management and control. This is an issue we are addressing proactively and with high priority for the African Offices concerned, through specific institutional development plans. In each of these cases we are investing in senior staff, providing training and coaching from senior staff in the Global Office as part of an organizational improvement programme. The main aim here is to increase efficiency, speed of response and to build stronger team work among offices.
- Communications between global and network office staff are generally adequate, though at times things 'get lost in translation' due to language or cultural differences. This occurs between programme staff in different offices and between finance staff. We are addressing this by bringing teams together (in person and virtually) on a more regular basis and encouraging staff not to over-rely on email for communication. We have also created rapid escalation mechanisms to enable staff in programme teams to each Directors responsible for programme or finance directly if action is not being taken or followed-up consistently. We have tested all of these element with the Eastern African region as part of the Source to Sea (S2S) programme funded by Sida and we see that it works.

General assumptions

*An **assumption** is a statement that you assume to be true.*

- Climate change - global warming will surpass the 2 degrees Celsius threshold - is a reality and will negatively affect people, the economy and biodiversity in a wetland landscape.
- The condition of wetlands strongly affects human well-being because they are our water systems and naturally productive lands.
- Biodiverse, functioning large wetland ecosystem are crucial infrastructure to halt the loss of biodiversity, adapt to climate change and ensure a long-term sustainable economy on which the livelihoods are build.
- In developing countries, the poorest and most vulnerable people – especially women as major resource users - are affected the most by loss and degradation of wetlands, due to their high dependency on wetland natural resources. Sustainable wetland landscape management and equitable sharing of wetland resources will directly

enhance their livelihood and security situation and alleviate poverty.

- By better managing and restoring wetlands, it is possible to reverse these trends and to build back ecosystem and societal resilience.
- Given the time pressure of climate change, biodiversity loss and increasing natural disasters, there is a strong need to act at (landscape) scale and at a high (political) level.
- Actions on landscape level are needed through a systems approach to address the drivers of negative change and respond to the need for social, economic, environmental, and institutional resilience.
- In order to achieve this desired change in the development paradigm and in climate action, wide societal support at all levels is needed. Stakeholders (local communities, farmers, companies, governments, CSOs) have to be aware of the changes needed and actively voice their support for these changes.
- Integrated solutions for conservation and restoration of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services need to be driven through connected sectoral policies and investments, rather than wetlands being the victim of trade-offs between those sectors. This can best be achieved through models for collective action and collaborative planning that are developed bottom-up across whole landscapes.
- There is opposition to change for a variety of reasons such as lack of understanding, focus on short-term profit and vested political and commercial interests.
- The programme needs to show positive results by 2030 to facilitate wide societal support for change.

4.5 Methodology

As a knowledge-based organisation, Wetlands International constantly seeks to develop new and innovative tools and approaches that can help towards the conservation and restoration of wetlands. By doing so, we bring attention to the critical issues facing wetlands, as well as the levers for change. We do this initially through ecological assessments, predictive models, scenario development and trend analyses. Across our global network organization, we see knowledge sharing as a multi-directional in nature, and we consistently make available our own experiences to be shared with others. We routinely team up with other organisations to co-develop knowledge products, so increasing the reach and impact. The global office plays brokering role to systematically match demand and supply for knowledge, across the Wetlands International network organisation. We also implement support for a wide variety of knowledge sharing, on-line knowledge hubs, communities of practice within programmes, and enable structured policy dialogues, linking and learning around good practices among different stakeholders and partners.

The W4R model, offers good opportunity for Wetlands International offices to systematize knowledge-sharing for programmes focused on regeneration of wetland landscapes.
In particular the placing of the W4R programme as part of a establishment of a Global Landscape Team, will help to bring synergies across our landscape programmes. A lead global knowledge position in this team plus a global Community of Practice will greatly strengthen our global capacity for knowledge management.

But, there is no existing standard methodology and toolbox for enhancing resilience across wetland landscapes – while there are a number of frameworks, methods and tools which can be adapted and applied. Most landscape approaches to date have been developed for dryland agricultural and forest landscapes and miss the crucial issue of water and its connectivity through wetland systems.

The W4R programme provides the opportunity to develop and promote a W4R Model Approach, Toolbox and Guidance that is grounded in experience of working in major wetland landscapes in the countries and regions where recovering wetland biodiversity and functional wetland ecosystems is key to attain resilience. In applying this broad framework, Wetlands International will also draw on its portfolio of wetland landscape programmes as well as the principles, tools, methods and learnings from its' (several decades of) history of working in wetland landscapes, particularly the 10 years of working in Partners for Resilience, the follow up Eco-DRR programme and Building with Nature.

In order to bring in and benefit from the work of our global partners, we will, from the beginning, actively explore with proposed knowledge partners (see Annex 1) the scope to adapt and develop additional tools and methods, for example, to support **stakeholder decision-making processes** most relevant for wetland landscape regeneration, in particular giving attention to the links between changing hydrology and the need to build connected wetland-water resiliency to climate change.

Through the first four years of the W4R Programme, we will define, test and improve a W4R model approach, toolbox and technical guidance.

In the first (inception) year of the W4R programme, the Landscape Partnerships will select the most suitable set of approaches, tools and methods **according to their particular entry point in the Steps to Resilience and the specific landscape context.** They will look to supplement these by collaboration with partners. In every case, we will, for example, use those that are designed for:

- Systematic landscape approaches
- Multi-stakeholder engagement, assessments and planning
- Policy, advocacy and communications
- Community-based innovative finance mechanisms

See summary overview of available Methods and Tools, Annex 2

Throughout the programme, these tools and approaches will be used by the Landscape Partnerships, validated and/or adapted to become context-specific. Insights, lessons and revisions will be shared as a W4R Toolbox internationally and through our networks, so other can learn and adapt for their landscapes.

As indicated above, Wetlands International has adopted the 4-Returns Framework to help plan for and measure multiple returns from landscape scale action. We are in the process of mainstreaming this across the work of our organisation, through collaboration with partners. Through our involvement, it is planned to inform and further develop the methodology to address the specific issues of wetland biodiversity and water resiliency, recognising the importance of this in every landscape.

We anticipate that the following tools and methods for landscape regeneration will be developed and available for our adoption in W4R during 2023, materialised through our 4-Returns partnership with the Landscape Finance Lab and Commonland:

- 4R metrics and monitoring methods including key performance indicators
- an Integrated Finance Methodology for landscape regeneration
- 4R carbon finance framework, including a decision-tree, methods and technical guidance for developing landscape-scale voluntary carbon projects in wetland landscapes

Programme risks

*A **risk** is an assumption with a higher level of failure. It is an event that could happen with a notable probability and could affect the outcome of the programme substantially.*

	Description	Risk Type	Likelihood of Occuring *(Unlikely, Possible, Likely, Almost Certain)*	Potential Impact *(Minor, Moderate, Major, Severe)*	Mitigation *(what is being done to reduce/ mitigate the risk)*	Contingency plan *(what will be done if the risk occurs)*
1	Strong opposition to change	Political	Almost certain	Severe	Building alliances with influential stakeholders and actors.	Facilitate vocal multi-stakeholder support for change.
2	Society does not care	Societal	Possible	Severe	Communicate, inform and explain W4R. Bottom-up approach to planning and action.	Explain how societal security is affected and why resilience is so important.
3	Lack of national impactW	Policy	Possible	Major	Chose of large, iconic landscapes that have a national value and interest	Mobilise landscape actors to voice their concerns at national level and in national media.
4	Lack of tangible, positive results	Operational	Possible	Major	Focus on action through the Landscape Partnership	Stepping up efforts by the Partnership so people see action is being taken.
5	Corruption	Political and Operational	Possible	Moderate	Corruption is prohibited and likelihood will be monitored.	Those responsible will be exposed and no longer be associated to W4R
6	Lack of understanding systems approach	Operational	Likely	Moderate	Capacity building of stakeholders	Outreach to influential actors to enhance understanding
7	A development opportunity is chosen that negatively affects the wetland landscape	Policy	Possible	Major	Assess risks of the development option and analyse negative consequence for long-term resilience	Show who benefits and loses, and mobilise opposition from landscape stakeholders. Mitigate impact if possible.
8	Wetland landscape is not recovering	Operational	Possible	Major	A Landscape Partnership will be built to focus actions and deliver results.	Show the trend of development and analyse obstacles for further improvement.
9	Loss of expertise	Operational	Possible	Moderate	Flexibility in implementation whereby experts can come from various organisations	Experts do not have to be WI staff but can be from partners or consultants.

4.6 Landscape Synopses

The countries and wetland landscapes in those countries were chosen based upon the criteria presented in figure 10. Major criteria for the landscapes are the **loss of biodiversity** and the livelihood situation of wetland resource users due to wetland degradation, making people more vulnerable to **poverty** and **natural disasters**. This assessment is coupled with an analysis of how representative the landscape is for a wider ecoregion – that would **allow replication and upscaling** of results. Additionally, **the prominence of the country in committing to actions for wetlands** and in **political influence in the region** have been taken into consideration.

The W4R project will catalyse progress and impact in a portfolio of our existing wetland landscape regeneration programmes, which are at differing stages of implementation, as described in chapters 4 and 5. All of these landscapes selected are of global significance in terms of biodiversity and the need to improve community resilience in the context of climate change. The selected landscapes range from "lighthouse examples" from which we can harvest significant learning, to those where mobilizing and upscaling is needed, and others where there is currently a fragmented approach and there is a need to prepare the technical and social basis for enabling a holistic landscape process. W4R will add value by enabling synthesis and exchange of learning between these landscapes and accelerate implementation of holistic solutions. We propose to focus on nine landscapes from our portfolio that are be divided into four different categories.

Short synopses of the five landscapes which are the focus in Phase 1, are provided below including a summary of the current importance, status, achievements to date and future prospects. The synopses are based on a preliminary and indicative scan of the likely main best practices which are of value to populate the W4R model and tool box as well as the likely contribution to the landscape that the W4R will provide.

Lighthouse Landscapes

Mahanadi delta and Chilika Lagoon

Current Status: The Mahanadi delta is a huge delta (10,589km2) landscape in North East India and in one of the poorest States in the country (Odisha). Here the Mahanadi river and its seasonal flooding plays a critically important role in the everyday life of local communities and society. It supports local production, provides water security and maintains internationally important wetlands and threatened biodiversity such as Chilika Lagoon (a 300,000ha sub-catchment of the delta) and the threatened, charismatic Irawaddy dolphin.

Relevance - Urgency	Opportunity for action
Biodiversity loss	Existing multi-stakeholder platform or partner-ship
Risk of Disaster	Wetlands International a key player
Poverty	Track record to build on
Human insecurity	Socio-economic importance
Impact of Climate Change	Political relevance of the country and landscape
Unsustainable development	Enabling policy context at regional level
Impact on Climate Change	Frontrunner in climate and/or disaster risk, wet-lands
Global, regional biodiversity importance	Strong landscape - national – regional networks
	Potential as iconic case to influence others

Figure 10: Criteria for choosing contries and wetland ladscapes

In the mid 1990's Chilika Lagoon's ecological health suffered a complete collapse and this resulted in catastrophic consequences for local farmer and fisher communities. Since then Wetlands International has worked with the Chilika Development Authority, an array of local partners as well as fishers and farmers in the delta and Lagoon and can show a truly remarkable track record of landscape scale transformation there. The degree of community participation in establishing the knowledge-base as well as in monitoring and development of management solutions, is outstanding. A sustainable local economy has been rebuilt based on traditional fishery and agriculture activities, attracting new and major investments in tourism that strengthened the region's economy and local livelihoods, whilst reducing pressure on natural resources and returning the lagoon to good ecological condition, with recovery of globally significant biodiversity.

The delta is prone to devastating cyclones in the Bay of Bengal. Through our work in the Partners for Resilience programme, several innovative approaches were developed and tested to enable actions and investments to reduce disaster risks in the delta, including by mobilizing groups of

villages to work in collaboration and to influence climate adaptation and DRR planning and investments using bottom-up policy influencing, addressing the root causes of risk in the landscape. Upstream water management has been adjusted to support the needs of downstream fishers and farmers. Our decades of experience in the delta offers a lot to inspire and inform landscape scale interventions regionally and globally.

Demak, North Java coast, Indonesia

Recent Status: The Demak coast in northern Java is a severely degraded stretch of mangrove coastline that was formerly of great value to biodiversity, rice farming and coastal fisheries. Widespread development of commercial aquaculture in the region, infrastructure for coastal defence and over-exploitation of groundwater along the coast created a perfect storm that has resulted in loss of mangroves, land subsidence and massive coastal erosion that led to devastating flooding of coastal villages, destroying natural values and the local economy. The coast is extremely vulnerable to climate change driven storms and sea level rise and has retreated several kilometers inland in some areas over the last decade. Along a 20km stretch, some 70,000 people were at risk and around 30 million people face similar problems along large stretches of the north Javan coast.

At the request of the Indonesian government and working in a unique public-private partnership from local to international levels – and with local communities leading throughout - Wetlands International has driven a showcase project to establish a mangrove greenbelt to buffer the storms and halt erosion, as well as to transform the approach to sustainable aquaculture. Coastal zones have been anchored through the establishment of semi-permeable barriers that allow sediment to be trapped next to the coast whilst allowing water to pass through and reducing coastal wave erosion. This is allowing mangroves to recover and stabilize the coast. Biodiversity is returning and livelihoods have been enhanced. Models for sustainable aquaculture that move away from single species production in largely unvegetated ponds to multiple species production in semi-natural ponds with reintroduced mangrove species have been piloted and are being replicated in the region. The initiative has won multiple awards for innovation and is already being adopted by government authorities along the coast.

Besides engineering interventions, we engaged deeply with local communities, government agencies and knowledge institutes to address the root causes of coastal breakdown and deliver multiple benefits to coastal communities. Beyond landscape restoration, we have supported upscaling elsewhere in Indonesia through training, knowledge exchange, institutional embedding and stimulating multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral collaboration. The ecological, social and economic success of our efforts leads us to believe that the same approach can be mainstreamed on many other coastlines with similar problems, and in other types of landscapes.

Upscaling landscapes

Jeta-Pecixe-Caheu coast, Guinea Bissau

Nested between Guinea-Bissau's capital city and its border with Senegal lies the Jeta-Pecixe-Cacheu (JPC) Landscape, one of the environmentally and culturally most unique wetland systems in West Africa. The landscape consists of a diverse array of ecosystems, including mudflats, seagrass beds, barrier islands, mangroves, Palm Savanna, freshwater marshes and Acacia woodland. Government authorities are currently formalising the JPC landscape as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, with support from Wetlands International. This will connect the existing Cacheu Mangroves Natural Park (PNTC; 88.615 ha), the Mata de Uco Community Forest Reserve (8.026 ha), two locally protected areas in Jeta and Pecixe (28.448 ha) and the newly proposed 'Canhobe-Canchungo' area (22.922 ha) which covers part of the Rio Mansoa Important Bird Area, into one single 423.475 ha protected area. Collectively these habitats attract 248 bird species, including seven species of the Guinea–Congo Forests biome, as well as 17 species of reptiles, 29 species of mammals and 175 species of fish. These highly productive ecosystems provide food security, income and climate resilience to the 128.000 inhabitants of the landscape and millions of people worldwide. Over-exploitation of natural resources leads to population declines, ultimately causing extinction of species and decrease in income of local communities. Habitat conversion and fragmentation cause loss of carrying capacity for species and affect their ability to complete their annual migration and reproductive cycles. The above stressors are compounded by climate change.

With our ongoing programmes, we are focusing on mangrove restoration, conservation, and livelihood improvement. This has yielded very promising results on a relatively large scale, albeit mostly in the mangroves of the JPC area. We have taken the first steps towards landscape level work, by bringing together stakeholders into a mangrove platform and creating an outline vision and zoning for the landscape. We have been successful in attracting a range of donors with complementary interests in upscaling for biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation and adaptation and community resilience, including through long-term commitments. In order to reach this scale, we need to bring stakeholders together to formalize the landscape vision, translate this into concrete plans, and bring together the finance and governance mechanisms to execute them. These concrete plans will address large scale threats, and enable large scale landscape restoration. It will ensure equitable benefit sharing amongst stakeholders, and ensure long term sustainability.

Mobilising-Upscaling Landscapes

Ziway-Shalla lake system, Central Rift Valley, Ethiopia

Current Status: Ziway-Shalla is a closed water sub-basin, comprising the catchments of Ziway, Langano, Abijatta and Shalla lakes. Lake Ziway is the only freshwater lake that feeds Lake Abijatta, which forms part of the Abijatta-Shalla National Park and the most important wetland area for migratory water birds in Ethiopia. Overconsumption of water currently poses a threat to the natural water system of the basin. In last two decades, many small farmers and large agribusiness including Dutch and French investments have been increasingly drawing huge volumes of water for irrigation from Ziway and discharging pollution. As a result, water quality is deteriorating and quantity is declining. Furthermore, erosion caused by unsustainable land use, deforestation and overgrazing in the watershed have aggravated the problems as sediment gradually fills up the lake and communities are encroaching further into the lake. If this continues, Lake Abijatta, which has already lost 35% of its surface area since 2000, may disappear within the coming two decades and cause a sharp decline in bird populations along with major impacts on regional water-related economic activities such as fishing, transport, tourism and farming.

Wetlands International has successfully piloted the implementation of a suite of water management, landscape restoration, conservation and livelihoods measures to date through complementary running

programmes. We have developed a close relationship with key actors such the Rift Valley Lakes Basin Development Organization, local farmers cooperatives, national and regional government agencies and ministries, private sector agricultural suppliers, civil society organizations (humanitarian and sustainable development) and knowledge institutions. Our partnerships also convene international expertise and water management organizations who are helping to strengthen the capacity in the region to implement innovative solutions on the ground. The W4R model will stimulate a systematic approach to convene a broader partnership of actors in government, civil society and the private sector to work together around a longer term vision. This will add value to the current programmes, including Source to Sea (financed by Sida), by supporting the mobilization of a plan that can bring results to scale in Ziway-Shalla and the wider Rift Valley ecoregion, including motivating the governance and financing necessary to enable this next step.

Start-up Landscapes

The Sundarbans, Bangladesh

Current Status: The Sundarbans wetland complex (in Bangladesh and India) is located at the northern limits of the Bay of Bengal, at the confluence of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna Rivers and includes the world's largest mangrove forest, as well as sandbars, rivers and lakes. 60% of the Sundarbans Reserved Forest Ramsar Site lies in Bangladesh and covers approx. 601,700 ha and there are several protected areas and wildlife sanctuaries. The mangrove forest is home to the remnant population of the Bengal tiger and is a hotspot of biological diversity with many critically endangered, vulnerable and endemic species. The wetland is a major source of fish, wood, leaves, honey and other natural products for some 3 million people living in the periphery. Almost 50% of them live below the poverty line. It also has high cultural values. The Sundarbans is a massive carbon store, with an estimated total (blue)[5] carbon stock of 91.19 Tg C in the entire terrestrial part of the forest[6]. In comparison, that is the amount China would emit in 95 years[7]. The ecosystem functioning is totally dependent on hydrological regimes and their particular characteristics. Fresh-water supply drives plant and fish production. The wetland also plays a vital role to prevent the tidal surge generated from cyclonic depressions in the Bay of Bengal.

Government agencies at the national and local level that are responsible for the management of the Sundarbans, as well as co-management structures, have implemented mechanisms that improve the management of the region. This is being achieved through improving coordination by the local representation in Khulna of the different measures that are being implemented in the Sundarbans by government agencies, donors and NGOs, participation of Sundarbans Mangrove Forest (SMF) resource users (both women and men) in Village Conservation Fora (VCFs) in the pilot region Chandpai Range and tools and capacities of the personnel for the management of the SMF.

There is good potential through the W4R programme to converge and align the efforts for building the adaptive capacity of the landscape and upscale/ add value to ongoing programmes for a resilient Sundarbans in Bangladesh. In particular there is a need to enhance coordination to deal with the rapid risks of climate change across this vast wetland landscape. The programme will provide a platform where goals for biodiversity, disaster management, community development, national economy development, social conflict, etc. are addressed through for example a landscape zoning approach. The programme also offers the opportunity to tackle the continuing degradation of the landscape by embedding best practices to enhance the health and functionality of the wetland ecosystem.

5. Coastal and marine ecosystems such as mangrove forests capture and store a huge amount of carbon. This is called 'blue carbon' to distinguish it from land-based carbon sequestation.
6. Chanda, A., Mukhopadhyay, A., Ghosh, T. et al. Blue Carbon Stock of the Bangladesh Sundarbans Mangroves: What could Be the Scenario after a Century? Wetlands 36, 1033–1045 (2016). https://doi.org/10.1007/s13157-016-0819-7
7. https://www.worldometers.info/co2-emissions/co2-emissions-by-country/

5. W4R Implementation

5.1 Governance structure

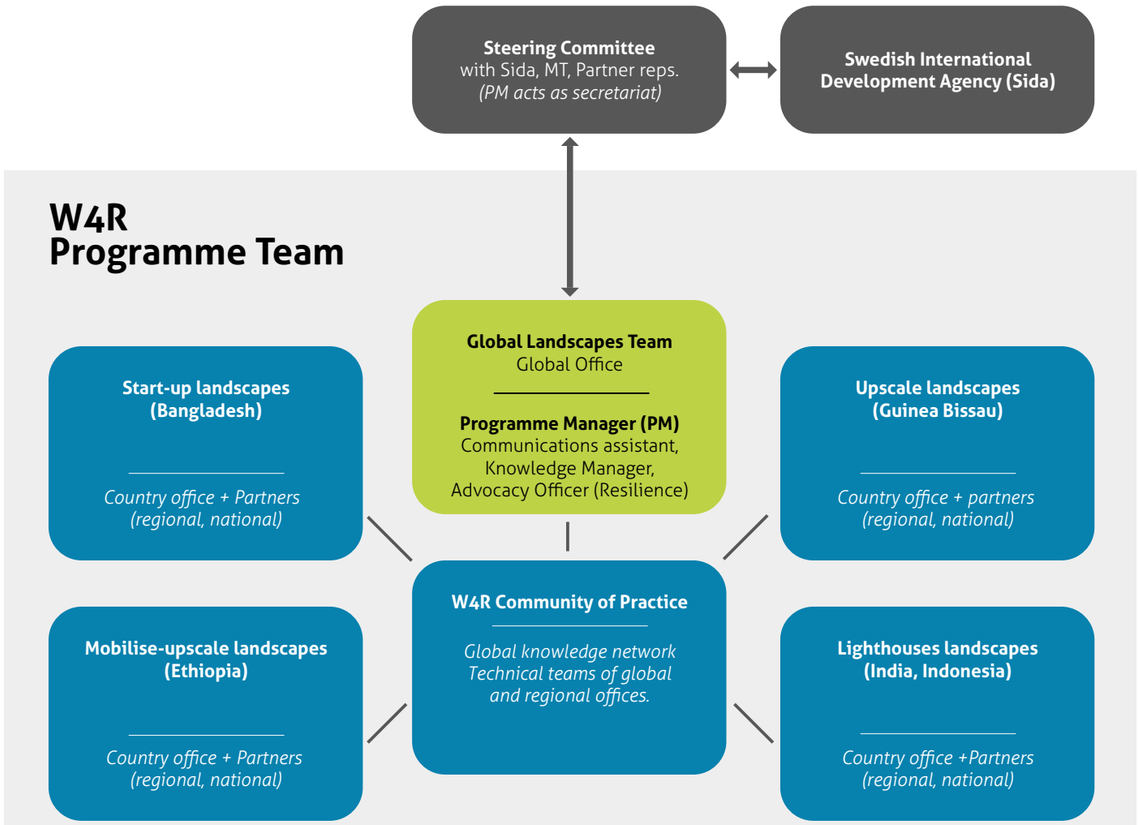


Figure 11: W4R Programme Team

A. Programme Management

1. The **Programme Manager (PM)** is responsible for technical and financial reporting, acting as executive to the Steering Committee, which provides higher level strategic guidance and oversight. The Programme Manager will work as part of a **Global Landscapes Team,** that includes associated global Programmes (e.g. 4 Returns Partnership; Partnership with Climate Watch) as well as staff responsible for knowledge development and information management.
2. The PM will drive the programme design and implementation from Wetlands International in global, regional and country offices. The dedicated PM is the principal representative of W4R, reporting directly to the Wetlands International Global Management Team. The PM will be supported by a Global Advocacy and a Communications Officer.
3. The PM oversees and facilitates programme implementation and is the principal representative with global partners and liaison point for Sida communications.
4. The PM will ensure good information flow within the governance structure to maximise coordination and allow for timely decisions. The PM will work with lead partners to explore complementarity and synergy with other strategic programmes/ initiatives by the government, development partners and peer organizations.
5. The PM supports the development and monitors governance and management structures, ensures compliance with policies and processes (e.g. gender and safeguarding), manages the subcontracting to Landscape teams and international partners, and keeps oversight of the budget, risks and opportunities. S/he will lead the **Community of Practice** which includes technical experts drawn from the wider network of Wetlands International and is supported by a communications assistant, who can help channel internal communications and assist with administration and programme tracking. The PM will benefit from the technical, financial, human resources and administrative support system. An additional important role in the Landscapes team is the Knowledge Manager, who will capture and facilitate knowledge and learning amongst country teams and internationally. A Global Advocacy Officer (Resilience) will coordinate and guide outreach and engagement for W4R and lead policy advocacy in the international community. This person will also work as part of the global Communications and Advocacy team, bringing synergy with other programmes and advocacy initiatives.

The PM is responsible for representation, programme management and monitoring. The teams and staff mentioned below directly relate to implementation of the programme, the work packages and the W4R Landscape Partnership. Depending on the expertise, roles and responsibilities of the partners involved in the countries, staff will be from Wetlands International, W4R partners and if needed (temporary) technical and advocacy experts (consultants). Some of these roles may be covered by co-financing (formal in-kind contribution by a partner).

B. W4R Community of Practice

A key mechanism for programme development and implementation will be an inter-office Community of Practice (CoP) that works together to share knowledge, evaluate opportunities, address challenges and set priorities and actions. The CoP will be facilitated by the Global Landscapes Team and engage with the leading W4R technical personnel from the countries and landscapes as well as several Senior Technical Officers who can provide technical backstopping support on demand; Regional Directors (who act as Regional Focal Points) doing diplomatic, high-level outreach and national engagement.

This team will also provide part-time technical and diplomatic outreach support to the country teams and will implement work package 5 to nurture collaborations and advocacy for global influence and impact as well as stimulate in-country and additional countries' adaptation and replication. The team will work partly on demand from the Landscape Leads and partly on demand of the PM to build cooperation, skills and capacity, and to facilitate knowledge sharing across the landscapes and with other relevant Wetlands International programme. Line management support and oversight will be provided by Wetlands International's Global Management Team.

C. W4R Country and Landscape Implementation

The Country Implementation Teams are responsible for delivery of the work packages within the country and target landscapes, as well as for nurturing replication and upscaling through international communications and dialogues.

In most cases, the team includes existing staff and the W4R programme will supplement staff and organisational capacity according to the readiness of the team and the Landscape Partnership to mobilise landscape regeneration. Depending on this, supplementary support will be provided as set out in more detail below, according to landscape specific needs. Additional technical expertise needed will be selected from the following (and delivered via support to current or additional staff and partners); Knowledge Development; Scenario Planning; Policy Influencing and Advocacy; Landscape Stakeholder Engagement; Communications; Investment Frameworks; Donor Dialogues and Monitoring & Evaluation MEL). Institutional support may include Finance and Administration and Project Management amongst others. Additional roles which involve expertise that can be better delivered through local partners will be identified and brought into the Country Implementation Teams through a sub-contract with partners, linked to a terms of reference. This approach was successfully taken for example in the ten years of delivering the Partners for Resilience Programme, where one Partner led per country and sub-contracted others, taking responsibility for the reporting and accountability to the Global Office.

- **In the start-up landscape** (Sundarbans, **Bangladesh**) we will support stakeholder engagement and dialogues, establishment of a Landscape Partnership, landscape diagnosis and knowledge gap-filling, baseline development, capacity development, landscape vision process, as well as technical exchange and learning.
  - To achieve this, W4R will work with a local partner to enable stakeholder engagement, partnership development, landscape diagnostics and knowledge building. We will scope options for operational modalities, with a view to mobilising in Phase 2 of W4R.
- **In the Mobilise-Upscale landscapes** (Central Rift Valley, **Ethiopia**), we will build on the existing programmes, knowledge-base, vision and plans; see Annex 3 for a more detailed mapping of the existing portfolio of initiatives that Wetlands International is involved with and the envisaged synergy with W4R.
  - In the Ziway-Shalla lake system in **Ethiopia**, several partnership programmes are mapping and demonstrating how to enhance water resiliency, alongside biodiversity and restoration of degraded lands/ livelihoods development. A multi-disciplinary team, partners and field base is in place. The W4R role will be to formalise the landscape vision and translate it into landscape propositions and business plans; then to support the alignment of public and private investment for implementation.
  - To achieve this, W4R will support leadership and representation for the Landscape Partnership processes, policy dialogues and scenario

planning, technical exchange and knowledge development, formulation of landscape propositions and donor engagement, MEL and communications.

In the Upscale landscapes (Jeta-Pecixe-Cacheu mangrove coast in **Guinea Bissau**).In this landscape Wetlands International has a well established presence, track record and running programmes that integrate biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, livelihoods enhancement and resilience building; see Annex 3 for a more detailed mapping of the existing portfolio of initiatives that Wetlands International is involved with and the envisaged synergy with W4R.

- In the Jeta-Pecixe-Cacheu mangrove coast, **in Guinea Bissau**, W4R will focus on creating business plans for blended public-private finance linked to a Landscape Investment Framework and portfolio of concepts, as well as demonstrating and communicating results, capacity development and policy-advocacy for upscaling.
- To achieve this, W4R will support leadership and representation in the Landscape Partnership processes and with donor dialogues on landscape propositions, capacity development and technical exchange on finance mechanisms, policy-advocacy in national and regional fora, MEL and communications.

The important role of our Core Partners

Wetlands International will work strategically to increase our reach and impact through W4R by collaborating with some core partners. Core partners include **policy partners** at global, national and landscape level and/or **knowledge and technical** partners (international, national) who contribute to the overall design and play a leading role in specific components of the programme.

The **national and landscape level core partners** play a vital role in:

(a) facilitating the articulation of the priorities and needs of landscape stakeholders and resource users (and especially marginalised groups such as the rural poor and women), and

(b) coordinating technical approaches and sharing learning within their networks to ensure broader outreach and uptake of best practises.

International Core Partners will be sub-contracted by the Wetlands International Global Office, for the specific contribution to work package implementation. Regional and national partners will be contracted by the relevant office that is managing the work for a specific landscape. Partners deliver reports and other documentation to Programme Manager as required. International partners and core landscape partners will participate in the Programme Management Team meetings and related processes.

Additionally, staff from the Global Office and network offices will actively engage in a range of existing strategic global partnerships, for technical exchange, knowledge-sharing and to enhance the influence and impact of the W4R programme (see Annex 2 'Methods and Tools').

D. The Steering Group

The Steering Group (SG) provides regular (twice a year) high level oversight of progress, receives and signs off technical and financial reports, previews and approves forward plans, proposes improved ways of working, strategic partnerships and advises on a range of strategic choices e.g. on external communications and fundraising. The Steering Group includes a representative of the Wetlands International Global Management Team, a representative of Sida, and one or more partner / stakeholder representatives.

The Programme Manager acts as secretariat to the Steering Group, providing documents and presentations and acting on decisions. By agreement, additional members of the Global Landscapes Team may join the Group to elaborate on issues and topics.

5.2 Implementation process

W4R will add value to, build on and help to bring coherence to existing programmes, initiatives, and investments to facilitate resilience across wetland landscapes (natural, social, economic). It will achieve this by empowering stakeholders and influencing processes and actors. This means much attention will be provided to the selection of partners and through them influence of important actors. For example, through direct collaboration with a river basin management authorities consisting of government agencies and local government entities we aim to gain the political support from the minister responsible for water management who in turn can convince ministers responsible for spatial planning and infrastructure to enhance policy coherence. Experience shows such a policy influencing approach requires flexibility and attention to both institutional as well as personal relations.

Given the importance of the country-landscape context, we propose a 12-month inception phase followed by two phases of implementation to 2030. Experience shows that an inception phase is instrumental and important to include partners and enhance ownership of partners and landscape stakeholders (and avoid the impression of a top-down intervention). See Annex 4 'Governance and internal control' with some operational lessons learned.

During the **inception phase 2023** we will:

Global level:

1. Appoint Global Programme staff
2. Alliance building: Establish collaboration intent and mechanisms with relevant global partners, platforms and networks for knowledge, policy and communications (see Annex 1 'Synergy with Others')
3. Set up a W4R Community of Practice to operate across our portfolio of major wetland landscape regeneration programmes.
4. Bring together a **W4R Toolbox** of methods and approaches that might be appropriate, (to be tested and further developed) drawing on our experience (See Annex 2 'Methods and Tools'). Together with knowledge partners, develop additional tools and methods, for example, to support stakeholder decision-making processes.

Country / Landscape level:

The purpose of inception is to consolidate current portfolios and teams, partnerships and underpinning analyses and improve them to provide the basis for the W4R strategic investments to connect and leverage mobilisation and upscaling. In Bangladesh, Inception will be carried out at the start of year 3. The activity per country will depend on the readiness of the landscape partnerships and processes according to the Pathway to Resilience (see Ch 4 Theory of Change).

5. Validate and refine the W4R programme and approach with in-country stakeholders and clarify complementarity and anticipated added value with existing programmes.
6. Connect with the Country Implementation Teams and establish strategic Regional Focal Points for diplomatic outreach. Identify and establish common objectives and relations with partners (knowledge; policy, regional; national-landscape) and set up contracts or MOU's as appropriate
7. Engage landscape stakeholders and establish/ or verify inclusive **W4R Landscape Partnerships** (see chapter 3 on landscape approach). As needed, take action to strengthen the partnerships/ make them more inclusive and carry out an "induction" into the W4R programme, to enable collaboration.
8. Carry out or verify the **Context Analysis**. Look into the human rights aspects (see chapter 3) and socio-economic context as well as what other projects and planned investment streams are already present in the landscape.
9. Review or conduct a **Power Analysis** of stakeholders and actors and define a context-specific policy influencing and engagement strategy per landscape/country. This analysis includes an analysis of all resource users (gender sensitive), the tensions and/or conflicts between them and the context and culture related to these tensions. The landscape partnership will pro-actively address such tensions.
10. Review or prepare a **Gender Equality Action Plan** per landscape.
11. **Explore synergy with other programmes at the national/ regional level** for the purposes of strengthening W4R capacity to adapt (data, information, modelling, methods and tools, technology, institutions, skills, etc);
12. **Refine the Programme Plan and Budget for Years 2 to 4.** Establish detailed Programme Plan and Budget for the 4 and 8 year period.

Implementation phase 1 2023-2026 (4yrs):

Through the **Global Component**, we will mobilise activities across our existing landscape portfolio as well as connect and highlight the programme in our global strategic partnerships, establishing collaboration and carrying out global level policy, communications and fundraising.

In the first phase of this programme we will start by connecting the W4R landscapes in a Community of Practice. We will draw lessons from our Lighthouse landscapes bringing this together with our collective experience, tools and methodologies from existing and more than a decade's worth of past multi-region programmes in which resilience building was the primary objective. This will be the basis for the W4R model approach, Toolkit and Guidance that will be further developed and refined during Phase 1.

1. https://www.partnersforresilience.nl/downloads/files/Mali%20Inspiring%20story_IRM%20coalition%20building%20May%202019%281%29.pdf
2. https://www.partnersforresilience.nl/downloads/files/Camel Caravan 2019.pdf
3. https://africa.wetlands.org/en/news/developing-an-integrated-wetlands-management-plan-for-samburu-kenya/
4. https://south-asia.wetlands.org/news/capacity-development-workshop-for-wetland-committees-of-sikkim/
5. https://africa.wetlands.org/en/news/assessing-capacities-local-communities-manage-water-resources/

Most investment over this period will focus on supporting upscaling for impact *(iin two focal landscapes that lie within iconic ecoregions: Cacheu landscape, Guinea Bissau within the West Africa Mangroves ecoregion; and Ziway-Shalla within the East African Rift Valley ecoregion).*

We will carry out preparatory work in one start-up country landscape during the last two years of Phase 1 *(The Sundarbans, Bangladesh)* to establish the technical, political and societal basis for mobilising and upscaling in Phase 2 of the programme.

Implementation Phase 2, 2027-2030 (4yrs):
In Phase 2, we will apply the W4R model to develop the landscape regeneration programme (in Bangladesh) through mobilising and upscaling processes. We will assess the added value and prospects for extending the initiative geographically. This may include additional countries-landscapes where it is strategic to mobilise regional and global attention, and where water stress and insecurity coupled with wetland degradation pose serious challenges to societal resilience.

We aim to consolidate our influence and impact in the two **mobilising-upscaling** landscapes and look to replicate successful approaches in landscapes within the associated wider ecoregions, addressed in Phase 1. We will support activities to enable these landscapes to play a role as Lighthouse examples within their geographical regions (West and Eastern Africa Coast) and globally.

Through our strategic global partnerships, we will intensify knowledge-sharing and enable uptake of the W4R model, toolkit and guidance in a range of institutions and sectors where water and wetland resiliency is a significant objective (including for example agriculture, humanitarian and peace building, water engineering, climate mitigation and adaptation.

By intensifying regional and global engagement via our partners and networks, we will create a 'fly-wheel' effect to mobilise more government and private sector commitments and hold those accountable that made pledges made during Phase 1.

5.3 Work packages

5.3.0 WP 0: Global Influence and Impact

Outcome: Wetlands 4 Resilience model approach applied to additional landscapes and in additional countries

Intermediate Outcome 0.1: Systems approach to healthy wetland functioning and resiliency described and developed into a **Wetlands 4 Resilience Model.**

6. A Community of Practice and on-going coordination mechanism established across the W4R portfolio;
7. Learning from Lighthouse landscape examples captured and taken up through W4R Community of Practice;
8. Learning from current and past multi-regional resilience building programmes in landscapes captured, with special reference to Partners for Resilience, Eco-DRR programme, Building with Nature and work under Global Mangrove Alliance and Global Peatland Initiative;
9. Based on the above, a step by step W4R model approach is described, together with a W4R Toolbox and technical guidance;
10. The model, toolbox and guidance are and further tested and fine-tuned together with partners in additional landscapes where we work.

Intermediate Outcome 0.2: Wetlands 4 Resilience model, toolbox and landscape results shared and demonstrated to influence and build

6. https://www.wetlands.org/news/systems-approaches-are-key-to-scaling-up-nature-based-solutions-wetlands-international-chief-executive-tells-climate-action-summit/

capacity of others.

1. Profile the W4R landscapes and the Wetlands4Resilience Model, toolbox and guidance on a dedicated website, with video stories, knowledge products and link to platforms and websites of associated alliances (See Annex 1'Synergy with others');
2. Use the knowledge, communication products and media channels to share the results and learning from Lighthouse and Upscaling landscapes, including through strategic global partnerships and our partner role in the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**;
3. Enable two-way exchange between the seven "learning landscapes" (see figure 13) established in our **4 Returns partnership** (with Commonland and the Landscape Finance Lab). Integrate the W4R model approach, toolkit and guidance into the 4 Returns Framework and methodologies and tools adopted by the associated **1000 Landscapes Programme** (link);
4. Integrate the W4R approach in trainings, MOOCs and capacity development initiatives through strategic partnerships and collaboration with knowledge platforms and training centres.

Intermediate outcome 0.3: Regional and global awareness of W4R model approach stimulates adoption by other institutions and platforms for resilience, and enhances demand for replication in-country and additional countries.

1. In W4R landscapes and countries, capacity development, communications and policy influencing to enable replication and upscaling across the ecoregion or basin, including additional countries;
2. Regional and global engagement to share W4R model and outcomes and stimulate interest for replication in global and regional partnerships, platforms and networks, including **NDC Partnership, Global Mangrove Alliance, Global Peatland Initiative, Ecoshape, IEED's LDC network, Resilient Water Accelerator, World Business Council on Sustainable Development, Global Commons Alliance and Global Resilience Partnership**;
3. Global nurturing of interest for additional uptake and application of Wetlands 4 Resilience approach through participation in regional and global policy fora and conventions, including Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Regional Economic Communities in Africa and Asia, GPDRR and PEDRR.
4. Communicate trend analyses (e.g. from "Mind the Gap" Wetlands Map – see Figure 11) on wetland landscapes and relevance for biodiversity, climate and societal resilience in focal countries and their neighbours through regional policy fora and river basin organisations and through global outreach and communication channels.

Outlook towards 2030: Work during **Phase One** will bring learning from lighthouse landscapes and from partnership programmes so that a draft W4R model can be prepared and applied for mobilising and upscaling by accelerating action across a global portfolio of landscape programmes. A first version of the online W4R model, toolkit and guidance will be developed and used as a basis for dialogue, communications and advocacy. This will result in uptake and adoption by partners and use by different sectors.

*Our **4 Returns partnership** together with Commonland and the Landscape Finance Lab, is engaged in landscape restoration programmes where we share insights and learning to help inform and refine the 4 Returns methodology.*

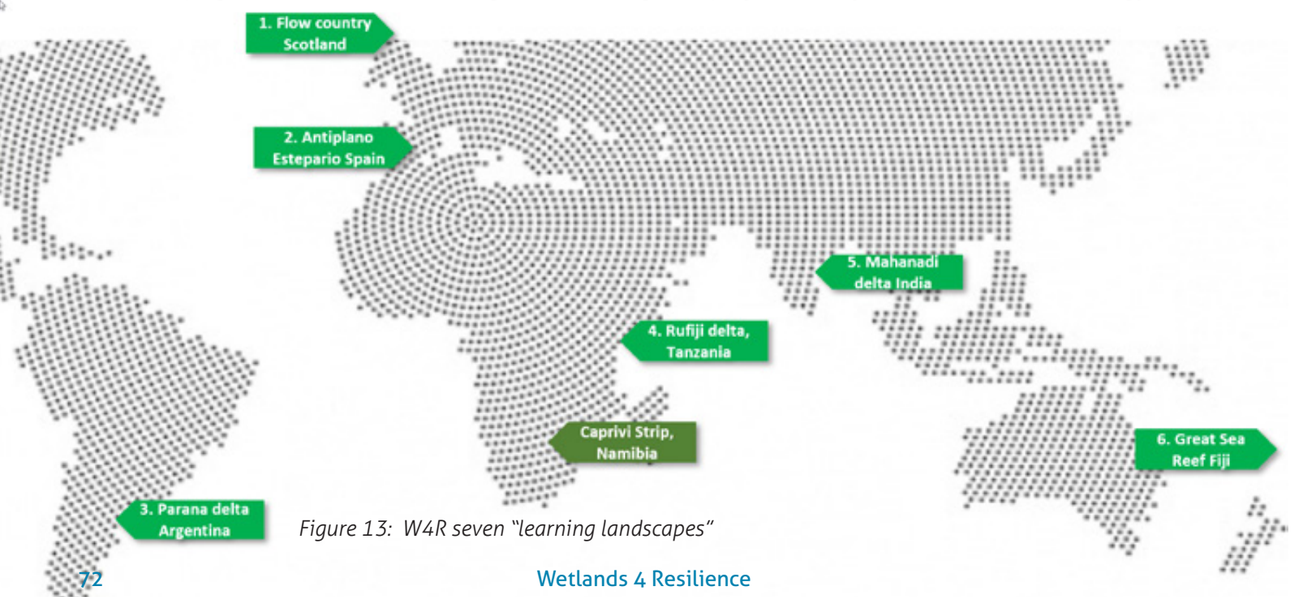


Figure 13: W4R seven "learning landscapes"

In parallel with the W4R programme and through a (separately funded) knowledge partnership with WRI/Climate Watch we are developing an online "Gaps Map" and knowledge portal that integrates wetland analyses with those of climate and water resilience and shows geographically the gap between current commitments for wetlands and the need for action.

Figure 12 Gaps Map

In Phase Two, these products will be applied to enable upscaling, further enhanced and promoted more widely. We will motivate the mobilising and upscaling of wetland landscapes in different geographies and contexts.

Beyond 2030: The W4R Systems Approach thinking and wetland landscapes have become an integral part of national development decision-making in the target countries and influences international thinking and commitments on development, climate change, biodiversity and disaster risk reduction

5.3.1 WP 1: Landscape partnerships [for one Start-up Landscape , Sundarbans, Bangladesh]

We will work closely with local partners to bring interested rights-holders and stakeholders together for dialogue in a common platform for action. We will engage with existing multi-stakeholder platforms across and around the landscape that have relevance and/ or establish one forming a W4R Landscape Partnership that will include a set of core partners as well as key influential and frontrunner partners (multi-sector, multi-stakeholder). This will be an informal and flexible 'coalition-of-the-willing' to drive action and progress in the landscape and close connection with country level policies and processes. It will be very important to develop a set-up that is appropriate for its context, inclusive but not too large so it does not stall implementation. In bringing this partnership together, we will also consult our global resilience partners and their country networks (See Annex 1 'Synergy with Others'). Through partnerships, networks and alliances we aim to build trust, enable continuous and systematic engagement of all stakeholders and influence those actors that are important for sectoral decision-making, but are not yet supportive for sustainable wetland landscapes.

Outcome 1: Innovative multi-stakeholder coalitions of actors (W4R Landscape Partnerships) promote holistic wetland landscape resilience

Intermediate outcome 1.1 (milestone). The W4R Landscape Partnership will identify and assess resilience issues, gaps and opportunities according to policy requirements across national biodiversity, water, climate and development frameworks.

Resilience here includes: social, economic, climate, environment and institutional aspects of wetlands and water resiliency.

In the Sundarbans, Bangladesh we will:

1. Convene a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder W4R Landscape Partnership to influence and progress national dialogues towards a common agenda on wetland recovery and climate resiliency.
2. Identify and assess relevant programmes, policy and investment processes and plans at different scales.

Intermediate outcome 1.2 (milestone) The W4R Landscape Partnership will define and mobilise an **Engagement Strategy** to bring coherence across policies and investments for enhanced resilience.

1. Describe and as far as possible quantify the potential contribution of wetland conservation and restoration to address the resilience gaps;
2. Establish an Engagement Strategy to influence relevant actors and processes;
3. Use the Engagement Strategy and agenda for action to inform and influence dialogues and processes relevant for policy development, planning and investments at different scales;
4. Share lessons and experiences with other landscape stakeholders via the multi-stakeholder platform(s) and with other W4R Landscapes.

Outlook towards 2030: Transformation processes being progressed through the mobilising and upscaling stages for healthy wetland landscapes (2) in Bangladesh by 2030, inspiring further spin-off in the country, region and globally. In Phase 2 additional landscapes may be added.

Beyond 2030: It is crucial to avoid a dependency on the good will of development cooperation to sustain landscape action and inclusive decision-making. By proving their relevance and influence the Landscape Partnerships can become self-sustainable if the involved stakeholders so desire and understand the decisions, actions and consequences are their responsibility.

5.3.2 WP 2: Enable Systems Approach [for Sundarbans, Bangladesh]

Outcome 2: Conservation and restoration of wetland ecosystems and functionality in one wetland landscape benefits biodiversity, climate and societal resilience.

Intermediate Outcome 2.1 : A shared understanding among stakeholders and sectors of the landscape system. the causes of risks linked to wetland degradation and climate change as well as opportunities to enhance resilience through systemic change.

We will work via the Landscape Partnership and with knowledge partners to

1. Analyse the landscape and characterise the system (natural, socio-economic and institutional), and systems functioning in the landscape, identifying the root causes of wetland degradation and biodiversity loss and the links to resilience;
2. Support the Partnership to develop a shared understanding of landscape condition, resilience challenges including climate change and opportunities:
   a. Use a participatory process to integrate vulnerability and risk assessment for communities and ecosystems at the landscape scale.
   b. Identify and characterise key resilience issues and pinpoint critical knowledge gaps;
3. Establish a common understanding of the landscape 'Big Picture' and align perspectives as a basis for identifying resilience interventions;
4. Develop a shared **Landscape Vision** and visualized action plan/ **Landscape Proposition** through the Landscape Partnership;
5. Define the combination of technical and socio-economic interventions and measures that are needed to address the root causes of wetland degradation and reduced resiliency;
6. Identify, quantify and balance the expected returns from wetland restoration actions in the landscape; also identifying potential synergies between actors and any zoning needs.

Outlook towards 2030: The systems approach enhances understanding of the dynamics and interlinkages within and beyond the landscape, in the Sundarbans. This supports informed decision-making and avoids unforeseen and unwanted consequences. These experiences motivate extension of the W4R model approach in additional landscapes in the Rift Valley ecoregion, building on the foundational work of other programmes operating there.

Beyond 2030: Landscapes, their natural, social and economic systems are dynamic with close inter-relationships. Climate change is an additional driver of change that will increasingly play a role. Repeat analyses will be needed to feed back into the landscape planning to respond to external changes and the effects of the landscape approach.

Bringing stakeholders together

Already for decades, Wetlands International has been bringing together user and stakeholder groups in Water Resource User Associations and multi-stakeholder platforms[7](e.g. in the Inner Niger delta[8] and Sourou basin in Mali, Ewaso Nyiro[9] [10], Kenya; Sikkim, India[11]) and building their capacity was key to facilitate the conservation of wetlands and its resources[12]. This evolved over time towards enabling the development and working with multi-stakeholder coalitions or platforms. This has become the starting point for Wetlands International, when contemplating engaging in any landscape.

Wetlands International plays the role of convener and facilitator. Through these relationships we and landscape partners listen, learn and respect the different perspectives as well as to share knowledge, including helping to connect local traditional knowledge with cutting edge science. Such coalitions are a means to connect different groups (such as farmers, fishers, pastoralists) and villages which share a common resource but which are geographically far apart. For governments and companies, we play an important role in helping them to connect with multiple stakeholders and by sharing knowledge and facilitating dialogues. We help to build bridges between them, enable mutual understanding on issues and options, for example concerning the implications of planned developments. We build capacity of stakeholder groups to engage in advocacy that in turn can influence policies and investments that transform their landscape.

7. https://www.partnersforresilience.nl/en/publications/flagship-report
8. https://www.partnersforresilience.nl/downloads/files/Mali%20Inspiring%20story_IRM%20coalition%20building%20May%202019%281%29.pdf
9. https://www.impactkenya.org/post/the-camel-caravan-2022
10. https://www.partnersforresilience.nl/downloads/files/Camel%20Caravan%202019.pdf
11. https://south-asia.wetlands.org/news/capacity-development-workshop-for-wetland-committees-of-sikkim/
12. https://africa.wetlands.org/en/news/assessing-capacities-local-communities-manage-water-resources

5.3.3 WP 3: Influence processes [for Ziway-Shalla East African Rift Valley, Ethiopia and Jeta-Pecixe-Cacheu Mangrove Coast Guinea Bissau]

Outcome 3: Collaborative planning and aligned policies make holistic wetland landscape management a pillar for sustainable, climate resilient regional development.

(e.g. biodiversity, water security, DRR, human security, economic stability, and livelihoods)

Intermediate outcome 3.1: Adapted planning and policy processes avert or mitigate wetland loss and degradation in major wetland landscapes and enable wetland resilience interventions.

We will through the Landscape Partnership and multi-stakeholder platform(s) facilitate dialogues that enable adaptations in planning and policy processes to enhance policy coherence for resilience (across sectors and scales).

A Systems Approach for Landscapes

A landscape approach seeks to balance competing stakeholder demands to supply a range of natural, social and economic returns. In order to inform development decisions and solve decision dilemmas, it is important to fully understand the landscape as a dynamic system with strong linkages and interaction between the ecosystem, its biodiversity, social developments and livelihoods, infrastructure, and the economy.

This landscape system – its dynamics and interlinkages – are affected by climate change, biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, infrastructure, and development decisions Understanding this system is important to move from a vicious to a virtuous cycle.

See also **Annex 2 on Methods and Tools** and website Wetlands International[3]

1. Through analyses and dialogue processes, assess the coherence and fitness of national, regional and local government investment risk-screenings in relation to the model wetland landscape resilience needs.
2. Support adaptations in planning and policy processes, as well as safeguard procedures, improving coherence across scales and sectors for the model landscapes.

13. https://www.wetlands.org/news/systems-approaches-are-key-to-scaling-up-nature-based-solutions-wetlands-international-chief-executive-tells-climate-action-summit/

Intermediate outcome 3.2: National policies and action plans (such as NDCs, NAPs, DRR strategies) are supportive to conserve and restore biodiversity and wetland landscape functionality for resilience.

We will:

1. Use the model landscapes to strengthen government capacity (all scales) to understand the relevance of a functional wetland landscape for societal resilience, the risks of wetland degradation, and the opportunities wetland recovery presents to realising biodiversity, climate, development and disaster risk goals.
2. Review the assessments / or evaluate the degree of policy coherence: the integration of water and wetlands in existing and planned policy and implementation strategies and their fitness to deliver natural wetland solutions, climate resilience and disaster risk reduction.
3. Depending on status, provide policy support and guidance to stimulate government to formulate and agree on improvements to policy.

Outlook towards 2030: Beyond Phase 1, we will continue to influence government policy dialogues and processes to reach the envisaged outcomes, working to connect the benefits of these policy, planning, investments and financing innovations to landscapes. Progressively, we will encourage these governments to act as front-runners or champions, raising awareness of their work and achievements at sub-regional and global level to stimulate further uptake. This will be supported by the development of knowledge and communication products and targeted learning materials from the experiences of these countries.

Beyond 2030: By enhancing understanding of the landscape ecosystem and dynamics and organising stakeholders in a Landscape Partnerships, decision-making on landscape relevant developments can be informed and influenced. The partnership will help to keep stakeholders organised and accountable to each other. Even though there is no guarantee for positive decision-making the balance of power will shift if society at large is informed, involved and heard.

5.3.4 WP 4: Facilitate action and align investments [for Ziway-Shalla East African Rift Valley, Ethiopia and Jeta-Pecixe-Cacheu Mangrove Coast Guinea Bissau]

Outcome 4: Aligned investments on national and landscape level and increased financial commitments on regional and global level for wetland landscape restoration

Intermediate outcome 4.1 Wetland positive opportunities realised and experienced by stakeholders in the model landscapes.

In each model country we will, according to the Landscape Visions and Propositions:

1. Support Alliance Building through catalytic interventions per landscape to mobilise local stakeholders (communities, farmers, fishermen, businesses, government), build alliances, knowledge and capacity; providing access to tools, guidance, training and knowledge products;
2. Engage with private actors and companies active in the landscape (e.g. farmers, aquaculture, tourism) to seek alignment with the landscape proposition for resilience;
3. Mobilise wetland positive investment opportunities and action including changing damaging business practices and designing opportunities and mechanisms for win-win nature-based solutions (including through community-based mechanisms that connect biodiversity improvements with livelihood enhancement, like Biorights and Biocredits);
4. Build on existing pilots, and where needed provide seed finance to test restoration approaches for mobilizing landscape transformation for connected ecological and societal resiliency;
5. Establish a **Monitoring System and Learning strategy**. Measuring and communicating progress to maintain interest, reassure government, donors and others, focus the partners on delivering results and catch emerging problems fast enough to adapt management if necessary.

Intermediate Outcome 4.2: Landscape Investment Framework developed to (a) identify and incentivise alignment of sectoral investments and development assistance in support of wetland biodiversity, water security and climate resilience on landscape level; (b) develop the case for new investments.

In Guinea Bissau we will, with the Landscape Partnership and other partners:

1. Map existing and planned investments and development assistance within the landscape or affecting the resilience of the landscape;
2. Map national level financing opportunities, operational modalities, enablers and barriers to mobilise landscape approaches;
3. Enable multisector dialogues between landscape, national scale counterparts and donor institutions to explore synergies and barriers for joint planning and aligned investments;
4. Design a Landscape Investment Framework to make landscape investment streams transparent, structure them, and propose investment vehicles;
5. Explore opportunities to gain innovative public and private sector green financing, (e.g. wetland bonds, voluntary carbon market, legacy landscape finance, debt for nature deals) that incentivise investments in wetland conservation, assisting countries to meet their biodiversity and climate commitment and secure sustainability of interventions for the long-term.

Outlook towards 2030: Investments and alliances prove to be positive developments and support a willingness to redirect more investments in support of long-term development as a means for climate adaptation, biodiversity restoration, livelihoods, and economic well-being.

Beyond 2030: Government, companies and resource users have experienced positive economic and commercial benefits to support more positive investments. This in turn, influences the thinking on national level on what positive economic developments and investments are in times of climate change.

5.4 Monitoring Framework

Monitoring of W4R landscapes' outcomes

The intended outcomes are dependent on the landscape-country context and what partners and other stakeholders decide and do. These are outcomes we aim to influence.

The programme will compile and analyse quantitative data in relation to the wetland landscape and social, economic, environmental and institutional resilience, based upon publicly available data sources and published literature. This information will be used to identify priorities, drive change, facilitate decision-making and monitor progress of the programme. Much of the information on key performance indicators will be based on the work being conducted by our 4 –Returns Partnership, which will finalise their Landscape monitoring framework in 2023.

The programme is focused on policy influencing. Therefore, it is also important to identify key political and policy processes, relevant indicators and milestones, and monitor change over time. Much of this information will be qualitative in nature. Landscape stakeholders will be asked to share their views on developments and how they experience change. An assessment of the process will be provided using a three-colour scheme:

For each of the targeted landscapes a specific landscape-country context monitoring framework will be developed during the inception phase. Key processes and indicators will be identified together with landscape stakeholders. This will support understanding of the process-orientation of the programme and validate they key processes identified. At the start of establishing a landscape partnership a specific Landscape Partnership Monitoring sheet (2-3 pages) will be developed to present the key elements of the landscape (status, relevance for resilience, key processes, stakeholders, societal support for change, expectations, etc). This monitoring sheet will be updated at the end of the programme budget period to identify changes.

Monitoring of the W4R programme (developments and outputs)
The results-based monitoring of the W4R (see earlier chapters) entails two aspects: (1) the monitoring of developments and changes in the wetlands landscape that may affect the outputs and outcomes of the programme; and (2) the achievement by the programme of its intended results.

In many landscapes, resources and their uses are under pressure. Our approach to conflict sensitivity is based on the belief that governments, civil society organisations, companies and individuals who adopt conflict (and gender) sensitivity approaches to their way of working can not only minimise the risks of doing harm, but actively contribute toward reducing tensions. Therefore, monitoring and responding to resource tensions and conflicts has increasingly become an integral part of the work of Wetlands International when working on landscape level partnerships (see also box below). During programme implementation, partners on the ground will continuously monitor, assess, review and respond to important contextual and development aspects, such as:

1. Stakeholder representation and feeling of being respected and included and whether their perspectives on development are properly represented
2. Environmental, wetland landscape degradation and/or restoration
3. Risks to the landscape system due to external decisions and developments
4. Risks for and vulnerability to natural disasters
5. Community resilience and livelihood development
6. Tensions between resource users around wetland resources, which could lead to open (violent) conflict if not addressed in time
7. Human rights violations
8. Risks and opportunities from a gender equality perspective

These aspects will be integrated into the monitoring framework that will be developed during the inception phase. Developments and trends will be assessed using a three-colour scheme:

	Green	**Positive development**
	Yellow	**Positive development but slow or stalling, and extra effort needed.**
	Red	**Negative development, Additional attention and action needed.**

Monitoring, learning and ensuring gender equality
Who better to articulate their needs and demand their rights as the women themselves? Like Avani Bhojabhai Parmar, India ( ) and Fanta Boucom from Mali (link, Youtube).

Wetlands International recognises the different contributions, rights and responsibilities that men, women and children play in achieving resiliences and sustainable development. In our community-based approaches women play a key role in the management of wetlands . Wetlands[12] [13] International has a specific Gender Policy that builds on our experience and knowledge and that of our partners such as CARE[14] , International Alert[15] , PfR[16] but also other organisations and initiatives[17].

Although it is our understanding that gender roles and expectations are learned and rooted in traditions and culture, they can also change over time. They already vary within cultures, communities and between families. Therefore, a good understanding, sensitivity to, and respect for existing cultures and traditions need to be applied at all times. In all of Wetlands International's programmes the role of women (and marginalised groups) is identified and equality in the design and structuring of projects and interventions is actively encouraged.

Background document: Gender Policy, Wetlands International[18]

12. https://www.wetlands.org/publications/gender-in-green-coast/
13. https://www.partnersforresilience.nl/en/publications/faces-of-resilience
14. http://gender.careinternationalwikis.org/_media/care_gender_marker_guidance_english.pdf
15. https://www.international-alert.org/expertise/conflict-and-gender-sensitivity/
16. https://www.partnersforresilience.nl/en/news/99/climate-and-disaster-resilience-in-indonesia-a-oewe-have-made-our-marka
17. https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/gender-assessment-fp034-undp-uganda.pdf
18. https://www.wetlands.org/publications/gender-policy/

Monitoring resource tensions and conflicts

Wetlands International is core partner in the Water, Peace and Security Partnership[7] that has developed a Global Online Early Warning tool to support stakeholders to identify and understand water-related security risk and undertake timely, informed and inclusive action for conflict prevention and mitigation. Such a global and regional tool needs to be combined with monitoring of integrated conflict risks at local level. There are various tools available for different stages of a conflict (e.g. Community Risk Assessments by PfR[8]; Emergency Toolkit, CARE[9]) that enable conflict-sensitive programming and conflict resolution. These will be applied in close collaboration with core partners and/or others with specific expertise such as International Alert[10] and CARE if and when applicable.

Wetlands International and partners work with grass-root organisations and networks and through them, with communities and community-based organisations and (women's) user groups[11]. A conflict-sensitive analysis of the landscape context and power relations has for example been used in the PfR programme. This is an important tool to generate baseline information for a targeted landscape partnership design and action plan. Surveys, assessments, consultations, and monitoring are used in the planning phase to include and understand communities and landscape stakeholders.

During programme implementation, capacity strengthening, training, and dialogues are applied, as well as accompaniment towards local stakeholders to support implementation. Local partners' capacity are strengthened on understanding and addressing tensions and conflicts, how to involve community groups and support community structures to resolve conflicts. Community-based monitoring collects information through monitoring 'service delivery' and other aspects of resource-based conflict. As many grievances relate to governance, findings are shared with duty bearers through a dialogue and recommendations and actions are agreed upon.

Complaint and grievance mechanisms have become an essential part of the implementation toolbox. This allows for identification of grievances, tensions and risks for potential conflict related to the implementation of activities by Wetlands International and partners (as well as the Landscape Partnership).

7. https://waterpeacesecurity.org
8. TOOLS FOR COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENTS - PfR library http://library.partnersforresilience.nl › download
9. https://www.careemergencytoolkit.org/topics-issues/3-conflict-sensitivity/
10. https://www.international-alert.org/expertise/
11. https://pure.eur.nl/en/publications/strengthening-community-resilience-in-conflict-learnings-from-the

Secondly, monitoring of the progress of the W4R programme will be conducted by the W4R Programme Management Unit. Input and output monitoring entails:

Input		**Key Performance Indicators**
	Budget	Working Capital; Operating Cash Flow; Current Ratio
	PMU staff time	Full Time Equivalent
	Human Resources WPs	Full Time Equivalent for the Work Packages by Wetlands International and partners
Outputs		
	Context analysis	Programme landscape context analysis conducted
	Power Analysis	Power analysis of stakeholders and actors conducted
	Landscape Partnership	Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Partnership implemented
	Programme plans	Establish programme plans for each country Landscape Partnership
	Landscape Vision	Partnership develops a Landscape Big Picture, Landscape Vision and Proposition
	Landscape Investment Framework	Framework to identify and incentivise alignment of sectoral investments and development assistance in support of wetland biodiversity, water security and climate resilience on landscape level; (b) develop the case for new investments.
	Engagement Strategy	Engagement Strategy per landscape-country implemented
	Gender Action Plan	Gender Action Plan implemented
	W4R Toolbox	Establish a toolbox of landscape methods and approaches
	Monitoring System and Learning Strategy	Monitoring System and Learning Strategy to measure progress and inform & communicate with stakeholders.
	Collaborative planning	Establish collaboration (MoUs, intent) with influential networks, organisations and individuals.
	Alliance building	Mobilising stakeholders via engagement, capacity building, awareness raising, access to tools and methods, and catalytic interventions per landscape
	Diplomatic outreach	Regional Focal Point established + activities

Methods and routines for monitoring and evaluation of W4R

Wetlands International does not have a standardised protocol for M&E at an organisational level partly because most of our donors have often very specific requirements. But there are some structured templates that we use for planning and monitoring. We are currently working on developing a repository of all guidance and tools in use and further develop an in-house one stop project management cycle Guidelines & Tools "place" .. Therefore the monitoring and evaluation methods and routines described below are not unique to Wetlands International but rather a general and common programme practice (see)used to define the objective(s) ofa programme and establish the assumed causal relationship between the results planned at impact, outcome and output level. The W4R overall M&E framework will be developed during the inception phase. In general, and based on our internal practices currently, The W4R programme will adopt a three-level approach to monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning. That is:

- **Level One** – will include basic routine Monitoring and Evaluation including collecting the data (by Wetlands International and partners) required for grant reporting and for annual reporting by Wetlands International;
- **Level Two** – will include regular reviews, evaluations and assessments for the purposes of continual improvement, decision making and a sharper emphasis on accountability systems which allow for information sharing and handling feedback and complaints.
- **Level Three** – will include targeted research, including operational research, case studies and in some cases RCT (Randomised Control Trial) type exercises.

The figure below provides a summary of the W4R monitoring, evaluation and learning components:

Figure 14: W4R monitoring, evaluation and learning components

1. For example: https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/331541563854787772/pdf/Designing-a-Results-Framework-for-Achieving-Results-A-How-to-Guide.pdf
2. For example: https://www.bond.org.uk/resources/meal-tools-and-resources

6. Time plan

	2023				2024				2025				2026				2027	2028	2029	2030
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Inception phase 2023																				
Global level																				
Appoint Global Programme staff	X	X																		
Validate and refine the W4R programme and approach with in-country stake-holders	X	X																		
Establish collaboration intent and mechanisms with relevant global partners, platforms and networks for knowledge, policy and communications;		X	X	X																
Set up a W4R Community of Practice to operate across our portfolio of major wetland landscape regeneration programmes.	X	X	X	X																
Bring together a W4R Toolbox of methods and approaches that might be ap-propriate, (to be tested and further developed) and develop additional tools and methods, for example, to support stakeholder decision-making process-es with our partners.	X	X	X																	
Country / Landscape level (depending on the readiness of the landscape partnerships and processes)																				
Connect with the Country Implementation Teams and establish strategic Regional Focal Points for diplomatic outreach. Identify and establish common objectives and relations with partners (knowledge; policy, regional; nation-al-landscape) and set up contracts or MOU's as appropriate		X	X	X																
Engage landscape stakeholders and establish/ or verify inclusive W4R Land-scape Partnerships (see chapter 3 on landscape approach). As needed, take action to strengthen the partnerships/ make them more inclusive and carry out an "induction" into the W4R programme, to enable collaboration.		X	X	X																
Carry out or verify the Context Analysis. Look into the human rights aspects (see chapter 3) and socio-economic context as well as what other projects and planned investment streams are already present in the landscape.		X	X	X																
Review or conduct a Power Analysis of stakeholders and actors and define a context-specific policy influencing and engagement strategy per landscape/ country. This analysis includes an analysis of all resource users (gender sensitive), the tensions and/or conflicts between them and the context and culture related to these tensions. The landscape partnership will pro-actively address such tensions.		X	X	X																
Review or prepare a Gender Equality Action Plan per landscape.		X	X	X																
Explore synergy with other programmes at the national/ regional level for the purposes of strengthening W4R capacity to adapt (data, information, model-ling, methods and tools, technology, institutions, skills, etc);		X	X	X																
Refine the Programme Plan and Budget for Years 2 to 4. Establish detailed Programme Plan and Budget for the 4 and 8 year periods																				
Implementation phase 1 2024-2026																				
WP0: Global Influence and Impact																				
O1: Wetlands 4 Resilience model approach applied to additional landscapes and in additional countries																				
0.1: Systems approach to healthy wetland functioning and resiliency de-scribed and developed into a Wetlands 4 Resilience Model.																				
0.1.1: A Community of Practice and on-going coordination mechanism estab-lished across the W4R portfolio;				X	X															
0.1.2: Learning from Lighthouse landscape examples captured and taken up through W4R Community of Practice;				X	X															

	2023				2024				2025				2026				2027	2028	2029	2030
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
0.1.3: Learning from current and past multi-regional resilience building programmes in landscapes captured, with special reference to Partners for Resilience, Eco-DRR programme, Building with Nature and work under Global Mangrove Alliance and Global Peatland Initiative;				X	X															
0.1.4: Based on the above, a step by step W4R model approach is described, together with a W4R Toolbox and technical guidance;					X															
0.1.5: The model, toolbox and guidance are and further tested and fine-tuned together with partners in additional landscapes where we work.					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
0.2: Wetlands 4 Resilience model, toolbox and landscape results shared and demonstrated to influence and build capacity of others.																				
0.2.1: Profile the W4R landscapes and the Wetlands4Resilience Model, toolbox and guidance on a dedicated website, with video stories, knowledge products and link to platforms and websites of associated alliances (See Annex 1 'Synergy with others');						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
0.2.2: Use the knowledge, communication products and media channels to share the results and learning from Lighthouse and Upscaling landscapes, including through strategic global partnerships and our partner role in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration;						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
0.2.3: Enable two-way exchange between the seven "learning landscapes" established in our 4 Returns partnership (with Commonland and the Landscape Finance Lab). Integrate the W4R model approach, toolkit and guidance into the 4 Returns Framework and methodologies and tools adopted by the associated 1000 Landscapes Programme;						X	X	X												
0.2.4: Integrate the W4R approach in trainings, MOOCs and capacity development initiatives through strategic partnerships and collaboration with knowledge platforms and training centres.									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
0.3: Regional and global awareness of W4R model approach stimulates adoption by other institutions and platforms for resilience, and enhances demand for replication in-country and additional countries.																				
0.3.1: In W4R landscapes and countries, capacity development, communications and policy influencing to enable replication and upscaling across the ecoregion or basin, including additional countries;									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
0.3.2: Regional and global engagement to share W4R model and outcomes and stimulate interest for replication in global and regional partnerships, platforms and networks, including NDC Partnership, Global Mangrove Alliance, Global Peatland Initiative, Ecoshape, IEED's LDC network, Resilient Water Accelerator, World Business Council on Sustainable Development, Global Commons Alliance and Global Resilience Partnership;									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
0.3.3: Global nurturing of interest for additional uptake and application of Wetlands 4 Resilience approach through participation in regional and global policy fora and conventions, including Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Regional Economic Communities in Africa and Asia, GPDRR and PEDRR.									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
0.3.4: Communicate trend analyses (e.g. from "Mind the Gap" Wetlands Map – see Box) on wetland landscapes and relevance for biodiversity, climate and societal resilience in focal countries and their neighbours through regional policy fora and river basin organisations and through global outreach and communication channels.									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
WP1: W4R Landscape Partnerships [for 1 Start-up Landscapes]																				
O1: Innovative multi-stakeholder coalitions of actors (W4R Landscape Partnerships) promote holistic wetland landscape resilience																				
1.1: The W4R Landscape Partnerships identify and assess resilience issues, gaps and opportunities according to policy requirements across national biodiversity, water, climate and development frameworks.																				

	2023				2024				2025				2026				2027	2028	2029	2030
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
1.1.1: Convene a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder W4R Landscape Partnership to influence and progress national dialogues towards a common agenda on wetland recovery and climate resiliency.					X															
1.1.2: Identify and assess relevant programmes, policy and investment processes and plans at different scales.					X	X	X													
1.2: The W4R Landscape Partnerships define and mobilise an Engagement Strategy to bring coherence across policies and investments for enhanced resilience.																				
1.2.1: Describe and as far as possible quantify the potential contribution of wetland conservation and restoration to address the resilience gaps;					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.2.2: Establish an Engagement Strategy to influence relevant actors and processes;							X	X	X	X										
1.2.3: Use the Engagement Strategy and agenda for action to inform and influence dialogues and processes relevant for policy development, planning and investments at different scales;								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.2.4: Share lessons and experiences with other landscape stakeholders via the multi-stakeholder platform(s) and with other W4R Landscapes.											X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
WP2: Enable systems approach [for 2 landscapes]																				
O2: Conservation and restoration of wetland ecosystems and functionality in 1 wetland landscapes benefit biodiversity, climate and societal resilience.																				
2.1: A shared understanding among stakeholders and sectors of the causes of risks as well as opportunities to enhance resilience																				
2.1.1: Analyse the landscapes and identify root causes wetland degradation					X	X	X	X	X	X										
2.1.2: Create a shared understanding of the landscape in the landscape partnership						X	X	X	X	X										
2.1.3: Establish a common understanding of the big picture and identify resilience interventions								X	X	X	X									
2.1.4: Develop a shared landscape vision and action plan / landscape proposition								X	X	X	X									
2.1.5: Define the technical and socio-economic interventions									X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
2.1.6: Identify and quantify the expected returns of the proposed interventions										X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
WP3: Influence processes [for 2 landscapes]																				
O3: Collaborative planning and aligned policies enable climate resilient regional development.																				
3.1: Adapted planning and policy processes avert or mitigate wetland loss and degradation and enable wetland resilience interventions.																				
3.1.1: Assess the coherence and fitness of governement investmen risk-screenings in relation to resilienct wetland landscapes						X	X	X	X	X										
3.1.2: Support adaptions in planning and policy process to improve coherence across scales and sectors in the landscape								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.2: National policies and action plans are supportive to conserve and restore biodiversity and wetland landscape functionality																				
3.2.1: Strengthen government capacity to understand the relevance of a functional wetland landscape						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.2.2: Review the assessments or Evaluate the degree of policy coherence in regards to water and wetlands						X	X	X	X	X										
3.2.3: Depending on status, Provide policy support and guidance to stimulate government to formulate and agree on improvements to policy								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

	2023				2024				2025				2026				2027	2028	2029	2030
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
WP4: Facilitate action and align investments [for 2 landscapes]																				
O4: Aligned investments and increased financial commitments for wetland landscape restoration																				
4.1: Wetland positive opportunities realised and experienced by stakeholders in the model landscapes.																				
4.1.1: Support catalytic invertions per landscape to mobilise stakeholders, build alliances, knowledge and capacity					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.1.2: Engage with private actors and companies in the landscape and seek allignment					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.1.3: Mobilise wetland positive investment opportunities							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.1.4: Build on existing pilots and where needed provide seed finance							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.1.5: Establish a monitoring system and learning strategy				X	X															
4.2: Landscape Investment Framework developed to align planned invstments and create case for new investments																				
4.2.1: Map existing and planned investments within the landscape					X	X	X													
4.2.2: Map national level financing opportunities					X	X	X													
4.2.3: Enable multisector dialogues between landscape, national scale and donor institutions to explore synergies and barriers									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.2.4: Design a landscape investment framework											X	X	X	X						
4.2.5: Explore opportunities to gain innovative public and private sector green financing											X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Implementation phase 2 2027-2030																				
- W4R model, toolbox & knowldge products will be applied to enable upscaling, further enhanced and promoted more widely.																				
- Motivate the mobilising and upscaling of wetland landscapes in different geographies and contexts.																				

8. Integrity, Environmental and Social Safeguards

Integrity policies

Wetlands Internaitonal and core partners are fully committed to maintaining clear policies on behavioural, ethical and safety standards for an open and safe culture for staff, our partners and communities working with, or affected by, the W4R programme (chain responsibility). Each partner has its own set of standards and protocols but in general our integrity polices cover policies, codes or statements on:

1. Corruption, fraud and bribery
2. Prior (criminal) conduct
3. Modern slavery and human trafficking
4. Child protection
5. Sexual abuse, exploitation or harassment
6. Occupational health and safety
7. Transparency (IATI rules)
8. Conflict of interest (organisation and/or employees)
9. Data security and privacy
10. Procurement practices
11. Recruitment and employment practices
12. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESSF –see next paragraph)

Environmental and Social Safeguards

Wetlands International and core partners are committed to respect, protect and promote the following list of principles and have a variety of policies and frameworks to ensure:

1. Human rights
2. The rights of indigenous peoples (additional to their basic human rights)
3. Children's rights
4. Gender mainstreaming and equality
5. Decent work and working conditions
6. Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention
7. Community Health and Safety
8. Just Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement
9. Resilience to Climate Change
10. Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources
11. Conflict sensitivity
12. Cultural heritage and cultural resources

During the first year of implementation all organisations participating in the Landscape Partnership will be checked on adherence to the above principles.

Reporting, complaints, and grievance mechanisms

Each partner will have arrangements and/or mechanisms in place that allow people to come forward and report concerns, complaints or grievances (e.g. whistle-blowers). These arrangements and mechanisms can differ per organisation depending on its size and country. Each partner will have in place a whistle-blower policy, or the like, constituting an established system in which people are safe to report inappropriate behaviour, misconduct and irregularities, and cases of SEAH

Our basic procedure is:

1. The 'case' (accusation or suspicion) is reported to a partner and this partner informs the Programme Manager.
2. The partner assesses internally what the accusation or suspicion is about, and builds a 'case report'.
3. The 'case report' is shared with the Programme Manager and Lead Partner and if misconduct has been established, or the suspicion is serious, the 'case report' is brought to the Steering Group.
4. The Steering Group is informed by the Programme Manager and Lead Partner. Together they decide on the next step(s) and further action.
5. In case of criminal behaviour, the police will be informed to investigate further.