

Wetlands International Strategic Positioning- Annex 2

Summary Table

Thematic Programme	1. Inventory, assessment & monitoring: providing sound baselines data & information	2. Enhancing the wise use of wetlands & their resources through management & training	3. Managing wetlands and their resources in the context of global environmental issues	4. Assisting conventions, governments and other decision-makers to manage their wetlands and wetland resources
Role of Wetlands International	<p>Wetlands International should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide global leadership in inventory assessment and monitoring of wetlands; and 2. Facilitate related activities by partner organisations <p>Continue to build and develop traditional strengths. Ensure catalytic working. Developing and maintaining a sound science base is essential.</p>	<p>Wetlands International should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake & communicate science-based activities that support the wise use of Wetlands • Facilitate and support training and communication towards the wise use of Wetlands International aim at multi-level target groups and make use of relevant resource materials 	<p>Big issues of relevance to Wetlands International are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endangered species • Climatic change • Competition for water • Drainage • Population growth • Poverty • Multijurisdictional problems • Desertification • Invasive species • Etc. 	<p>Wetlands International should engage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly with conventions, governments etc.; and • Indirectly with partners to "assist" understanding and action (focus on conventions, government etc.)
Examples of activities outside the mission and strategic objectives of Wetlands International	<p>Generally, activities involving data collection at national and smaller scales (but there will be instances where this is appropriate).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic, specialised training – Wetlands International must support within-country institutes for these aspects • Development of administrative approaches to (eco)system management 		
Types of work appropriate for Wetlands International to be undertaking	<p>Maintain and further develop global leadership for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland inventory • Wetland assessment • Waterbird monitoring <p>For which Wetlands International has</p>	<p>Three broad steps should be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link scientific investigation with local knowledge sources • Report back to local contacts in plain language • Communicate as a basis for local 	<p>1. Technical support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific information • Status of science • Raw science data • Management information 	<p>Wetlands International should engage, intervene, advise, get involved based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific and technical knowledge, experience, and analysis • Problem identification

	<p>acknowledged expertise and reputation.</p> <p>This leadership will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards-setting (methodologies, software applications, etc.) Collation, management and maintenance of data Dissemination and facilitation of access to data Synthesis and interpretation of data (e.g. by Specialist Groups) and publication of results Targeted applications of data (e.g. to conventions) 	<p>training</p> <p>Types of appropriate work for Wetlands International are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science-based activities Translation into plain language at the appropriate level Communication in a useful manner for local use Development of training courses Demonstration and resource materials Training at/for grass-root communities Training the trainers Integrating local knowledge with science-based activities Supporting pilot/demonstration projects which empower local communities Training the external 'experts' in humbleness – avoid eco-colonialism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honest information broker Know-how, management expertise on the ground Training <p>1. Facilitator/convenor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network professionals, organisations, data Act as catalyst Importance of Specialist Groups, task forces, working groups <p><i>Bottom line is:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do what Wetlands International is doing now Refine: More emphasis on management Anticipate issues (e.g. climate change) More flexibility especially of Specialist Groups Keep a distinct role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solution identification <p>Wetlands International should not only advise based on scientific expertise, but also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide expertise to conventions, governments etc. Carry out analyses on request Provide information and data required for decision-making Present to decision-makers in a non-confrontational manner Offer to help solve the issue <p>There is advantage to Wetlands International in being a hybrid organisation (i.e. NGO & government). This places a special responsibility on Wetlands International government representatives to provide the wetlands link:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> within government to convention(s) to other government ministries through senior ministries to multilateral and bilateral environmental donor agencies <p>All members (especially within a country, region or international association) should support one another to advance the Wetlands International agenda</p> <p>Wetlands International should take advantage of shared agendas with other NGOs, government departments, international conventions etc.</p> <p>Go beyond information sharing and co-operation in developing countries, especially into capacity development for decision makers</p>
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<p>Within the appropriate types of work for Wetlands International, the PRIORITY issues and work include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetland assessment Wetland inventory Waterbird monitoring: Population trends Flyway atlases Population estimates <p><i>There are risks of spreading effort too thinly.</i></p> <p>High quality science products have big impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring activities Analysing data Developing communications & media strategies for presenting the data for appropriate use at local levels Guidelines for management plans Co-operation with other key groups (e.g. Ramsar, IUCN, WWF, Birdlife, CBD and local groups within countries) to produce training manuals 		
<p>Recommended balance of activity between:</p> <p>a. undertaking science-based projects and related activities,</p> <p>b. publicity, awareness-raising and communications</p>	<p>95% science-based and 5% dissemination.</p> <p>But note that science-based activity is the fuel which drives most other awareness-generating activity.</p> <p>Science Co-ordination does not deliver itself.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands international facilitates links between scientists and communicators Wetlands International is a science-based group. Communications is part of the process – but Wetlands International cannot be all things 		
<p>The knowledge base necessary to carry out the work</p>		<p>Development of an understanding of local values, uses, cultures, needs, distribution, food securities is essential</p> <p>An integration of scientific knowledge with the socio-cultural knowledge bases should be developed</p>		
<p>Resource implications for Wetlands International</p>		<p>A constraint is the resource levels of Wetlands International, including that of the Specialist Groups</p> <p>NB the time-frame for developing these activities needs to be defined: a triennium is far too short</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broaden expertise to match the importance of the resource Empower the expertise Link the expertise Resource the expertise Broaden and increase the visibility and knowledge of Wetlands

				<div>International amongst decision-makers</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tailor products for decision-makers
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Douglas Taylor@wetlands.agro.nl