2011 At a glance

WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

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By reconnecting it to the sea we have restored the fish stock of Chilika Lake in India, the second largest lagoon in the world. By Ritesh Kumar

WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

From the CEO, Jane Madgwick

Wetlands International's role proved more important than ever during the political and economic turmoil of 2011. We experienced an increasing demand for our technical expertise and entered many new strategic partnerships. We scaled up our success on the ground and entered dialogue over major development issues that affect wetlands, such as 'water grabs' and competing demands on water for future food and energy production.

As an organisation, we made big strides forward in 2011, including launching three new five-year multi-million euro programmes for the restoration and wise use of wetlands across four continents. These will help us achieve the goals of our new 10-year Strategic Intent (2011-2020). With the seal of good governance from the Dutch Central Bureau on Fundraising under our belt, and growing recognition of our distinctive approach and niche, we proudly share with you some highlights of 2011.

Read the full Annual Review 2011 wetlands.org/ar2011

We enable communities, governments and private sector to take action for wetlands. By Yus Rusila Noor

Who we are

Wetlands International works to sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity.

We combine local community action and know-how with scientific research and policy advocacy. Bringing these three elements together, we enable communities, governments and the private sector to take effective action for wetlands. We believe this is the most effective way to conserve wetland biodiversity, address water scarcity and pollution, enhancing local livelihoods and tackle climate change.

We do this through our worldwide network of 18 offices, and by working with a wide variety of experts and partners, including governments and international conventions, other NGOs, community-based organisations and research institutes, as well as leading private sector companies.

Our strategy	wetlands.org/strategy
Our offices	wetlands.org/offices
Our members	wetlands.org/members
Our partnerships	wetlands.org/partnerships

Securing water for wetlands in the Sahel

The Niger River is the lifeline for the drought-stricken Sahel region and enables the annual flooding of the Inner Niger Delta in Mali, that is vital to support 1.5 million fisherfolk and farmers, plus millions of migratory waterbirds. However, climate change, dams and large irrigation schemes are limiting the floods.

In 2011, by highlighting critical links between flooding, food security and ecosystems, we gained commitments to limit water off-take for irrigation and helped create sustainable development plans.

Through the Niger River Basin Authority, we have influenced the design of the planned Fomi dam upstream in Guinea. Our flood prediction tools have increased the drought resilience of 10,000 delta inhabitants, and we've helped 60 villages draw up flood risk management plans. Together with these stakeholders, we will scale up our efforts towards ecosystem-based water management and development in the Niger Basin.

Our work	wetlands.org/ind
Video	wetlands.org/indvideo
Presentation	wetlands.org/indwatercrisis
Publication 'The Niger, A Lifeline'	wetlands.org/lifeline

Dams in the Niger River limit the water flow and impact the downstream Inner Niger Delta and the livelihoods of its 1.5 million inhabitants.
By Elhadj Bakary Kone

Increasing coastal resilience with mangroves

In coastal Java, Indonesia, extensive mangrove forests have been cleared for aquaculture, leaving the coast vulnerable to storm surges, flooding and salinisation. In 2011, as a showcase to other fishpond owners, district governments and the National Mangrove Committee, we rehabilitated 20 hectares (ha) of degraded fishponds and 5 ha of buffer zone surrounding the Pulau Dua Nature Reserve, close to Jakarta. By working with local communities to plant 136,000 mangrove seedlings, we will offset 10,000 tonnes of CO_2 by 2023.

This showcase and our coastal mapping of mangroves and wetlands will enable Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry to achieve its target of 50,000 ha of restored coastal wetlands by 2018. In the coming years we will promote responsible aquaculture in Indonesia and replicate best practices for coastal resilience in Southeast Asia, Central America and West Africa.

Our work	wetlands.org/mangroves
Brochure	wetlands.org/mangrovesbrochure
Video	wetlands.org/mangrovevideo

Community leader showing the propagules on the replanted mangrove trees around the Pulau Dua Nature Reserve in Banten Bay, Java, Indonesia. By Sander Carpay

Restoring fragile peatlands

At the Clinton Global Initiative annual meeting in 2011, Wetlands International received top-level recognition for our peatland restoration work worldwide and our pledge to reduce CO_2 emissions by at least 100 megatonnes by 2015 through wetland ecosystem restoration and policy influence.

In 2011, we worked towards this pledge by permanently protecting Malaysia's Ayer Hitam peatswamp forest and starting large-scale peatland restoration work in the Moscow region of Russia.

In Indonesia, we took steps to procure long-term ecosystem restoration concessions and urged the government to extend its moratorium to prevent further deforestation and peatland conversion, and advised on its Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) strategy. We aim to expand our peatland conservation and restoration work in Russia, Malaysia, Brunei and Brazil.

Our work	wetlands.org/peatlands
Research	wetlands.org/peatlandresearch
Video	wetlands.org/peatlandvideo

Peat swamp forests are fragile ecosystems, such as these in Rio Preto near Sao Paulo, Brazil. By Marcel Silvius

Reducing global wetland carbon emissions

We are the lead organisation advocating for incentives for wetland restoration in a new UN climate treaty (UNFCCC). Our work led to positive decisions at the 2011 UN Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa.

From 2013 onwards, developed countries can achieve their emission reduction targets by rehabilitating drained peatlands and counting this towards meeting their greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.

Also, countries in the REDD+ programme must include organic (peat) soils and peatland degrading activities in their emissions baseline, used to assess their emission reductions. Wetlands International offers governments critical support by advising them how to reduce their emissions and helping them implement their national strategies.

Our work at the UN Climate Convention	wetlands.org/unfccc
UNFCCC Durban Conference	wetlands.org/durban
Peatland GHG emissions	wetlands.org/peatclimate
Research	wetlands.org/peatlandresearch

Peat fires cause enormous carbon emissions and smog with international consequences. By Alue Dohong

Greening biofuels

In 2011, Wetlands International achieved significant success in blocking further expansion of palm oil production on peatlands and in sustainable biofuel practices.

We contributed to a scientific review of environmental impacts and guidance on best practices for existing oil palm plantations on peat for the biofuel roundtables (Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels and Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil). Moreover, the European Union (implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive) and USA (Environmental Protection Agency) now use our emission figures for palm oil production on peatlands.

As a result, the USA excluded palm oil from bio-energy subsidies. Through a satellite and remote-sensing study, we highlighted the enormous deforestation of peatlands for palm oil production in Sarawak, Malaysia, triggering discussions on biofuel sustainability. In Indonesia, we prevented two government regulations, which would have allowed massive palm oil expansion on peat with over 450 Mt of CO_2 emissions.

Our biofuels work	wetlands.org/biofuels
Our work at the RSPO	wetlands.org/rspo
Video	wetlands.org/palmoilvideo

Palm oil plantation development in logged-over and burned peat swamp forest. By Marcel Silvius

Wetland-friendly water supply, sanitation and health

The condition of wetlands affects the sustainability and quality of water, especially for the poor. Through ecologically sustainable solutions to water, sanitation and health problems we aim to make the water supply, sanitation and health (WASH) sector more wetland friendly.

In Mali's Inner Niger Delta, we provided communities with clean drinking water and improved the management of waste, invasive weeds and latrines, preventing water-related diseases like malaria, schistosomiasis and diarrhoea, reaching 134,000 people.

We also piloted a water access project for 400 households in one of Argentina's poorest regions, Lagunas de Guanacache. In 2011, we launched a five-year WASH Alliance programme in six African countries, plus Nepal and Bangladesh, in which we provide environmental expertise to NGO partners. We aim to use these examples to trigger more wetland-friendly WASH strategies and investments on a bigger scale.

WASH Alliance	wetlands.org/washalliance
Booklet	wetlands.org/washbooklet

Many communities in the Inner Niger Delta depend on its water for their household use. By Sander Carpay

Strengthening waterbird monitoring worldwide

For decades, Wetlands International has generated information on the status and trends in waterbird populations. Our annual International Waterbird Census brings together the work of national coordinators and bird counters all over the world. In 2011, we strengthened our partnerships along the African-Eurasian flyway, trained waterbird counters and park agents in Senegal's Djoudj National Park, and held the first simultaneous counts of migratory water birds in the Azov-Black Sea.

By analysing global datasets, we defined the conservation status of all waterbirds and set up conservation plans, such as the Recovery Plan for Shorebirds in Patagonia. Furthermore, we upgraded our award-winning Critical Site Network Tool that is helping wetland managers, governments and international conventions like the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to pinpoint critical areas for wetland and waterbird conservation.

Waterbird monitoring	wetlands.org/iwc
Migratory flyways	wetlands.org/flyways
Critical Site Network Tool	wetlands.org/csntool
African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement	wetlands.org/aewa
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	wetlands.org/ramsar

White storks (Ciconia ciconia) on migration.

By Nicky Petkov www.naturephotos.eu

Future outlook

Wetlands International will step up its efforts to generate and champion the knowledge, tools and improved policies necessary to tackle wetland degradation, poverty, vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change.

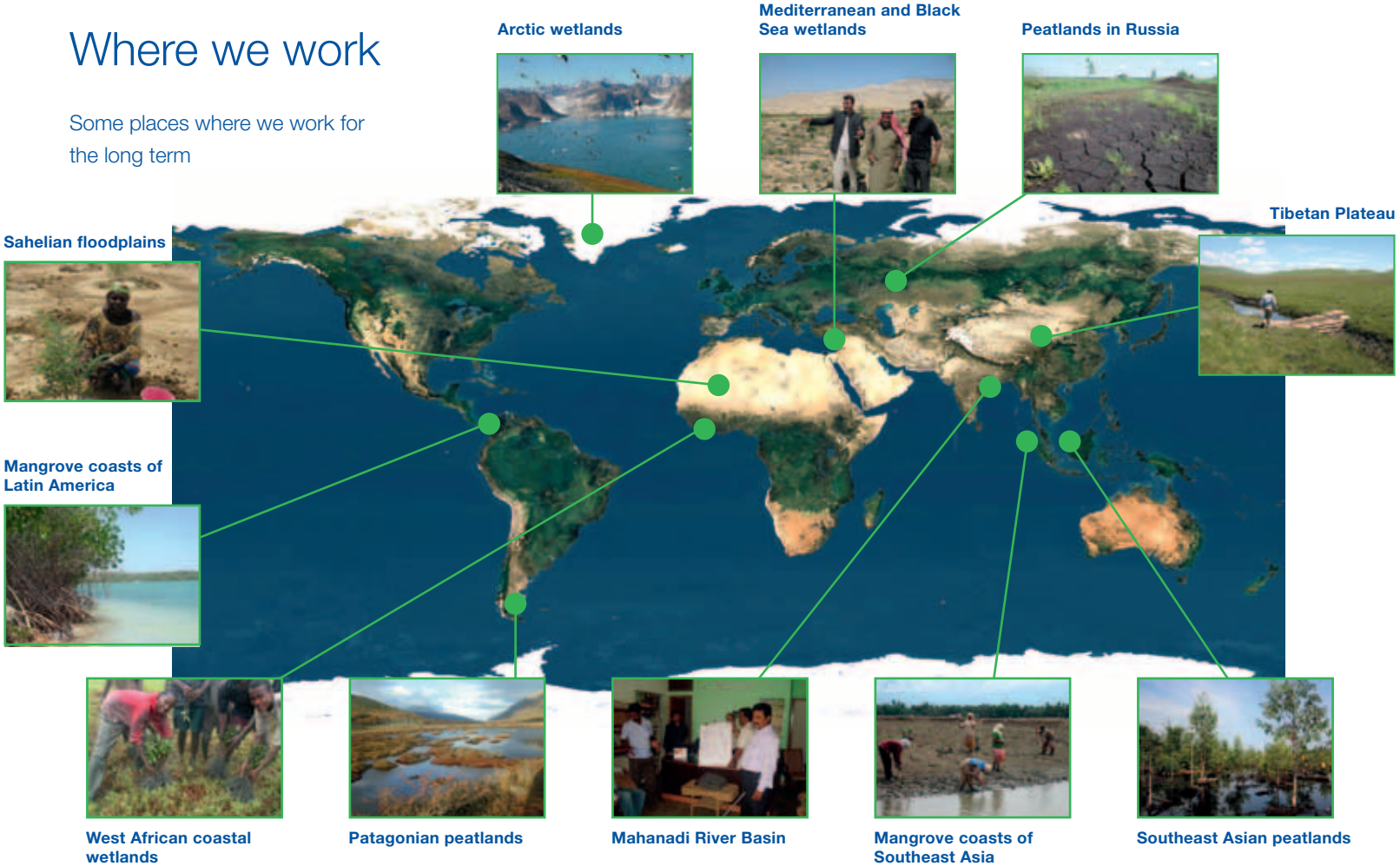
As water scarcity bites deeper in all corners of the world, we will highlight the critical lifeline role that wetlands play.

We will replicate our successful ecosystem approaches in water management in key river and lake basins. We will also expand our work in Europe and the Mediterranean, and with the corporate sector, for example pioneering hybrid-engineering techniques that combine man-made and natural infrastructure to protect vulnerable coasts.

Thanks to our work with local partners, the Sebou Basin is the first basin in Morocco to adapt the EU Water Framework Directive to its local context.
By Maïlis Renaudin

Where we work

Some places where we work for the long term



Mission:

To sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity

Working together is the most effective way to counter the continuing trend of wetland loss and degradation. Join us to make a bigger difference!

Find out more about our work on our website, or contact us to find out how you can become a member, supporter or partner:

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