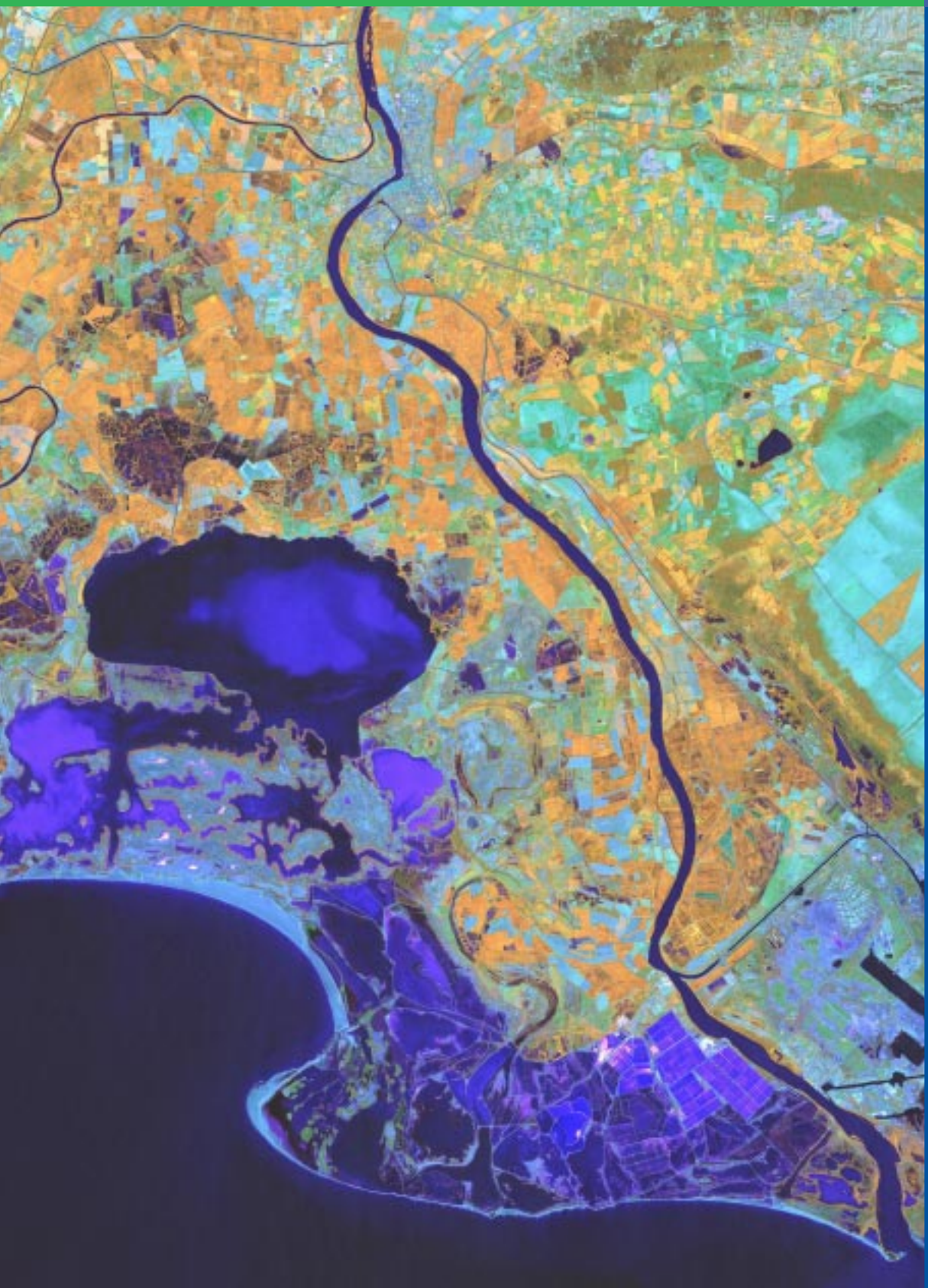
Wetlands International
Annual Review 2004



WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

Member Countries

Albania
Algeria
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belgium
Bénin
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
China, PR
Croatia
Czech Republic
Denmark
Ecuador
Estonia
Finland
France
The Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Guinee, Republic de
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran, Islamic Rep.
Ireland
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Latvia
Lithuania
Macedonia, FYR
Malaysia
Mauritania
Mexico
The Netherlands
Norway
Pakistan
Peru
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russian Federation
Senegal
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
South Africa
Sweden
Switzerland
Togo
Tunisia
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States of America

Cover: Camargue, France. Landsat 7 image, 2001. Courtesy of Synoptics.

From the President

The opportunity to comment formally on Wetland International's programme and development comes about once a year. It is a time for reflection and results in optimistic statements about development and prospects for the next year and beyond. I consider this to be a valid and valuable process and one that offers encouragement and support for our members, partners, networks of experts, staff and directors. It is also a time to express our gratitude and appreciation. Wetlands International has long emphasised its reliance on and appreciation of its members, partners, networks of experts, staff and directors – I again express this appreciation.

We have reasons to be optimistic – at the end of 2004 we reaffirmed our commitment as a team to work towards sustaining and restoring wetlands, their resources and biodiversity for future generations. We adopted a long-term vision and global goals that encompassed regional priorities and emphases. We envisaged that wetlands and water resources would be conserved and managed for their full range of values and services, benefiting biodiversity and human well-being.

We also reiterated the core values that underpin our organisation: our work is globally relevant; it is based on sound science and incorporates traditional knowledge; we work through partnerships and with a wide variety of sectors; we respect traditional values; and we work in a transparent and accountable way. This is laudable and we have many examples with which to illustrate both our intent and outcomes. Some of those that have been specifically drawn to my attention and which illustrate a blend of traditional and emerging strengths include:

- an assessment of the use that migratory waterbirds make of rice fields;
- renewed effort for components of the international waterbird census;
- an assessment of peat-based wetlands and implications for climate change, including mitigation and adaptation;
- constructing wetlands for mitigation of urban runoff and wastewater, and storm water control; and
- developing strategies for integrated water resource management and integrated coastal zone management.

There are many more projects and activities covering conservation, wise use and restoration, capacity building, and use of existing and new knowledge-bases. Our activities span peat and non-peat wetlands, human modified and created wetlands, and inland and coastal ecosystems. We also have increasing involvement in projects based on expanding technological capabilities (e.g. GIS and remote sensing) and wetlands and poverty reduction.

Along with many others we have also become more aware of the impact of disasters on people and the wetlands that provide many services essential for human well-being. The southern Asian tsunami on 26 December is probably the most poignant example. We are well aware of the wide support for humanitarian relief and recovery following the tsunami and the need for long-term investment and responses, but are we as aware of the need and mechanisms for science-based analyses and restoration of wetlands and associated coastal ecosystems? Have we convinced decision-makers and funders about this need and its importance for sustaining and improving human well-being?

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment continued its work throughout 2004 and has drawn attention to the inter-relationships between wetlands and people. It has emphasised that wetlands are not just important for biodiversity – they are important for people and in many ways provide support for human well-being. The evidence that the degradation of wetlands results in a loss of services and reduction in human well-being is incontrovertible, and yet degradation continues at a global scale. Our challenge, building from our vision and mission, is to ensure that through science-based, transparent and participatory approaches that we make a difference and contribute to the multi-faceted and long-term commitments that are needed to support the wise use of wetlands and the well-being of people dependent in so many ways on these incredibly valuable ecosystems.

Thank you for your combined efforts and support in 2004 – our appreciation is high.

Max Finlayson, President

From the CEO

2004 was a significant year for Wetlands International, since it reviewed and reset its global direction for the next ten years. It was also a significant year for myself, taking on the challenge of the CEO role. In this context, I am grateful to our staff across the networks of offices for responding so enthusiastically and constructively to the challenge that was set for a rapid and intensive strategy development process at the regional and global level. Equally, I feel indebted to the many partners, donors and expert advisors who supported us in this process and re-affirmed their support and belief in the organisation. Last year I also took the opportunity to visit the majority of our offices in 2004, to see some of our field projects and to meet many of our partners, including governments, NGO's, researchers and local communities. This included, for example, our work on peatswamp restoration and climate change in Indonesia and our work on integrated water resource management and sustainable development in India. I have been impressed by the warmth and strength of our support in the regions and by the real difference that our work is making for wetlands and the people that depend on them. At the same time it is a pity that much of this work, including some long-term programmes of significant global relevance, is almost unseen outside the region. By improving the way that our offices work together in global teams, and by stepping up our internal and external communications in 2005, we aim to address this and some other internal capacity development needs.

Wetlands International will lead some major new global partnership initiatives in 2005, including on wetlands and poverty reduction in Africa and South-east Asia, on peatswamp restoration in Central Kalimantan, on flyway conservation in Africa and Eurasia and on integrated management in the vulnerable coastlines of South and South-east Asia, as a contribution to the global response to the tsunami. This is an exciting and challenging agenda.

Jane Madgwick
Chief Executive Officer

Introducing four global goals

Strategy development

During 2004, Wetlands International reviewed the direction and focus of its work in preparation for renewing its key Strategy documents. The Board of Directors decided that this time a ten year outlook was needed, to clarify the particular niche of Wetlands International in relation to addressing the needs and challenges for wetlands conservation and the relative roles of other global environment NGO's. Through an intensive, consultative process at the global and regional levels with our staff, members, partners and donors, the senior staff from our office network developed a ten year "Strategic Intent, 2005–2014" and a five year Strategy, 2005–2009, that in turn links to seven regional, five-year workplans for our offices. These were approved and adopted by our Board of Members in their meeting of November, 2004.

New direction and focus

Wetlands International has re-focused its work to address four global goals. The goals are global outcomes that Wetlands International considers must be achieved in order for its mission to be fulfilled. In turn, each goal is supported by a number of measurable five-year targets. By aligning and developing our work to contribute to these global targets, we will increase the combined impact of our office network, specialist groups and volunteers.

Global Goal 1 – Wetlands knowledge-base relates to the need for monitoring and assessing changes to wetland biodiversity values and ecological services and the need to establish targeted actions to improve the circumstances of wetlands, linked to the 2010 global target to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss. Wetlands International has a major asset in its data series which is measuring change in wetland biodiversity and ecological character. By working through partnerships, we intend to further develop the analytical power of this work and to address other wetland values, ensuring that wetland status information is geared to the development of national policy and response strategies required by a range of sectors. Key products anticipated from activities under this Goal are a Global Wetland Database, a World Wetland Index (that can provide periodic reports on the global status of wetlands and their values), plus national level wetland assessments and associated wetland strategies and policies.

Global Goal 2 – Wetlands and sustainable development addresses the increasing need to influence the ability of the development and aid sectors to internalise the values of wetlands in their planning and subsequent outputs. Similarly, we aim to influence the conservation and environment sector to internalise socio-economic development issues in their planning and actions. This will be done by facilitating a dialogue between the environment and development sectors around the management of wetlands and their resources, identifying a common agenda that will provide win-win solutions for conservation and poverty reduction. A priority is therefore to develop new financial mechanisms where local people are paid for biodiversity conservation and provided with investment options for alternative economic development that reduce needs for over-exploitation of wetland resources. Our work under this goal builds on our substantive experience in promoting wise use of wetlands through field and policy programmes. We will focus our efforts in Africa, South-east Asia and Latin America.

Global Goal 3 – Integrated water resource management signals that Wetlands International will give a stronger focus on water issues in the coming years, to promote the role of wetland conservation and restoration as an important tool for water resource management. It is anticipated that in response to increasing water scarcity, and an increasing intensity of droughts and floods due to climate change, the alteration of hydrological regimes will continue to accelerate the loss and degradation of wetland services. Wetlands International's work in this field will build on some significant field and policy programmes that have successfully promoted integrated water resource management (IWRM) in major catchments of South Asia and West Africa. As a science-based organisation, with experience and networks in key regions, Wetlands International has an important role to play, working in partnership with others, to influence water policy and practice at the basin, national and global levels.

Global Goal 4 – Biodiversity and ecological networks addresses large scale initiatives for biodiversity conservation as a contribution to sustainable development. Under this goal, we will continue to develop the work of Wetlands International on the conservation of waterbirds through a flyway approach, develop the scope and impact of our work on freshwater dependent fish and strengthen our work on critical wetland habitats such a peatlands and mangroves. Building on the long history of field programmes and our work that has catalysed international cooperation for species and habitat conservation, we will address the urgent need to integrate this with sustainable development plans and processes. In the context of the WSSD target of significantly reducing biodiversity loss by 2010, we will aim to play a significant role in providing relevant data and analyses of wetland biodiversity trends, highlighting the drivers behind changes in population status and developing policy-relevant indicators.

4th Wetlands International

Board of Members meeting

Bangkok, Thailand, 26–27 November 2004

Award ceremony

On the evening preceding the Board of Members meeting, members, directors, staff and special guests gathered at an award ceremony that was held as part of the celebration of Wetlands International 50th anniversary. Luc Hoffmann himself presented the first *Wetlands International Luc Hoffmann Medal for Excellence in Wetland Science and Conservation* to Theunis Piersma, for "excellence in wetland research, especially in waterbird ecology and physiology, and his outstanding communications, team work and collaboration worldwide for the active promotion of wetland conservation and wise use." Wetlands International President Max Finlayson awarded the President's Medal for Staff Excellence to Charles Mamady Bèye of the Wetlands International office in Dakar, Senegal, and Chair Stew Morrison inaugurated Alison Russell-French as an Honorary Director.

Opening session

Chairman Stew Morrison opened the meeting with an overview of the work that had been carried out by the Board of Directors since the last Board of Members meeting in November 2001. President Max Finlayson presented the activities of the organisation over the last triennium as well as the significant progress made in terms of programme structure, functioning of the Board of Directors and the legal structure of the organisation.

Keynote presentations

Four keynote technical presentations were held, each of which highlighted the key wetland issues and challenges linked to the proposed future work of Wetlands International: *Wetlands knowledge-base, Wetlands and sustainable development, Integrated water resource management*, and *Biodiversity and ecological networks*. Randy Milton (Department of Natural Resources Nova Scotia, Canada), Mike Ounsted (OXFAM), Rebecca Tharme (International Water Management Institute) and Nick Davidson (Ramsar Convention Secretariat) were invited as expert speakers on the respective topics. Each speaker gave a global overview of the topic and this was supported by Wetlands International staff, who presented existing case studies of Wetlands International's efforts and achievements.

Ten-year Strategic Intent and five-year Strategy

CEO Jane Madgwick presented the Strategic Intent 2005–2014 and the five-year Strategy 2005–2009 to the Board of Members for their approval. She guided the audience through the process of consultations with staff, members, partners and donors that led to the development of these documents. Through break-out sessions following this presentation Members had the opportunity to provide detailed comments and recommendations regarding any gaps or areas requiring consideration. The Board of Members then formally approved the Wetlands International Strategy 2005–2014.

Membership Review and Business Development Plan

Alan Martin, Chairman of the Resource Development Committee of the Board of Directors, presented the Membership Review and Business Development Plan. The Business Development Plan analyses Wetlands International's fundraising strengths and weaknesses and ways to strengthen and broaden fundraising capacity. The Membership Review analyses strengths and weaknesses of the current Membership programme, identifies ways to improve Member relations and integrate Members more effectively into the work of Wetlands International. Break-out sessions provided an opportunity for Members to express their views on the real and potential benefits of Membership in Wetlands International. Benefits that Members noted were the data, knowledge and expertise that Wetlands International provides to governments, and the role the organisation plays in building capacity to meet obligations of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Members made a number of suggestions for strengthening the programme to ensure its utility to Members and positive impact on wetland conservation. The ideas and recommendations that came out of these sessions are being turned into actions under the Membership Programme.

Wetlands knowledge-base

New dimensions for the Ramsar Sites Information Service and advances made in remote sensing for wetland management

Ramsar Sites Information Service. The information services and products currently available through the Convention include the following:

- List of Wetlands of International Importance (the List)
- Annotated Ramsar List

Provider: Ramsar Secretariat

Service contract

- (maintain) Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)
- Directory of Wetlands of International Importance
- Ramsar Sites Database
- Web Mapper

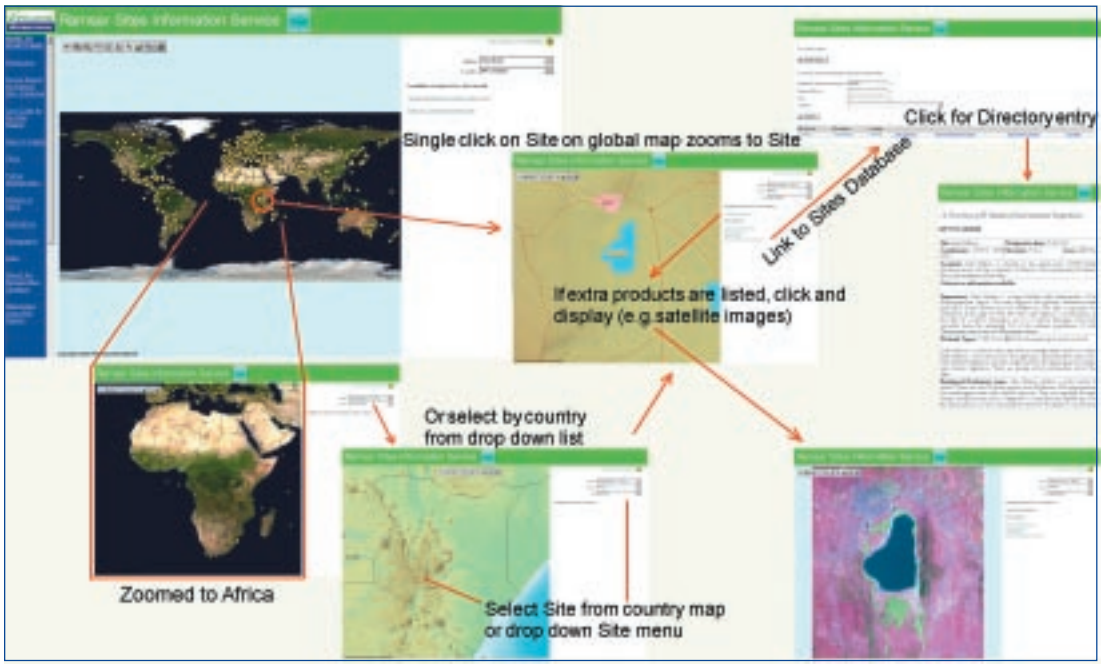
Provider: Wetlands International

Ramsar Sites Information Service

One of the essential foundations for the work of the Convention to the present day is the Ramsar Sites Database, developed and managed by Wetlands International. Initiated in 1990, by the outposted officer of the Ramsar Bureau, it is the key tool to organise official information received from Contracting Parties about designated Sites. Supported by the popular product, the Ramsar Sites Directory, created in 1999, Wetlands International maintains the Directory and Database as public open systems available through the Internet, which can be searched and downloaded as desired. New for 2004, these tools were joined by the Web Mapper, which opens new dimensions for the *Ramsar Sites Information Service* and brings fully up to date the online systems supporting the Convention. Managed by a staff member based in Dakar, it is also the first live internet based data system within Wetlands International to unite a workgroup of staff between offices – in this case Senegal and Netherlands.

Maps served through the Internet, using "Open GIS" standards are increasingly a feature of information services, and the Wetlands International Web Mapper (now using the same Demis map server engine as used by Reefbase – World Fish Center) serves all the available digital maps of Sites, satellite images and also hyperlinks to reports and background data. As demonstrated for Lake Nakuru, Kenya, the mapper can be used to select Sites and zoom to available products, including a Landsat image. Access to the system is via **www.wetlands.org/rsis**, and staff of Wetlands International working for the Service are always pleased to assist with enquiries. The next steps planned are the acquisition of all Ramsar Site boundaries in GIS vector format by negotiation with Contracting Parties, and development of a range of Site-based data sets and analysis to be linked to the Service.

Wetlands International Web Mapper for Lake Nakuru, Kenya.



European Space Agency GlobWetland Project

The GlobWetland Project, funded through the European Space Agency, aims at developing demonstration products based on earth observation to improve the ability of wetland managers to better monitor and assess the condition of wetlands within their respective countries. Wetlands International which leads on wetlands delineation and interpretation within the project, is a member of the consortium delivering this innovative project, led by Vexcel, Canada in partnership with Synoptics, Netherlands. The project, which runs until the end of 2005, is delivering products to 17 countries at 50 sites, and includes work on change analysis – water cycle regime, land cover and land use mapping, digital elevation modelling, biophysical characterisation, and subsidence mapping.

Most of the sites chosen by the countries participating are Ramsar Sites, and extensive field work has been carried out to ground truth the satellite images and to help site managers understand the true potential (and limitations) of remote sensing. For example, in the Marais du Cotentin et du Bessin, Normandy, France, the main needs are to map the wetness of lowland peat soil in summer, to guide water management and to monitor harvesting of traditional hay meadows. Using images of the Landsat satellite to characterise locations, traditional meadows at Beuzeville la Bastille were visited to record details of land cover and land use, to compare with higher resolution imagery. In another example for the west of Canada, managers at Creston Valley Ramsar Site sought to have a seasonal overview of water changes to examine best management practice for the vegetation. Many types of remote sensing have been tested at the site, radar (RadarSat satellite), high resolution (SPOT satellite) linked to digital elevation mapping, to compare changes between 1986 to 2004. Next steps envisaged are the completion of all products and training of end users in 2005, followed by a special session to be held at Ramsar COP9 to demonstrate the advances made in remote sensing for wetland management.

For further details please contact Doug Taylor,
doug.taylor@wetlands.org

Meadows at Beuzeville la Bastille, Normandy, France.
Photo: Doug Taylor.

Wetlands and sustainable development

Key demonstration projects for wetland management were developed and implemented and a number of policy oriented activities were carried out

Photo: Air Hitam Laut project, Partners for Water Programme (Contact: Ingrid Gevers, IAC, Wageningen-UR)

Partners for Wise Use of Wetlands

In early 2004 the Partners for Wise Use of Wetlands programme was successfully finalised. This programme ran for three years and supported over 40 partnerships projects worldwide. In addition, it included the Global Peatland Initiative grant facility which financed a similar number of projects focused on wise use and conservation of peatlands. These programmes dealt with a large number of issues such as the conservation of high mountain wetlands in the Andes (through supporting the Grupo Paramos), peatlands and poverty reduction in southern and eastern Africa (including pilot projects in Maputa Land, South Africa and in high mountain wetlands in Ethiopia), as well as projects on wetlands and poverty reduction in different parts of Asia. Summaries of individual project reports are available on the Wetlands International website.

Water for Food and Ecosystems

Another major area of wetland work took place in relation to the theme of Water for Food and Ecosystems. This included the major partnership and demonstration project in the Inner Niger Delta, Mali, led by Wetlands International, which has received very positive responses both from Government and local communities in Mali, as well as internationally. Another major partnership project was implemented in Indonesia: "The case of the Air Hitam Laut peat swamp forest riverbasin". This project – explained in detail in the box *right* – showed the critical importance of planning conservation and development within the river basin context. Other projects under this theme ran in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in Ukraine. Wetlands International – South Asia implemented key demonstration projects on integrated wetlands and water management in Chilika Lake and Loktak Lake. A socio-economic valuation project showed the great economic benefits of integrated water management versus water diversion.

Photos: Leo Zwarts

The Case of the Air Hitam Laut river basin

Main project objective

To improve the understanding of the hydrological and ecological functioning of South-east Asian lowland peat swamp forests, and contribute to an enhanced science base for policy and decision making in relation to integrated management of peat swamp riverbasins in the tropics, and in particular for the Berbak National Park.

The project involved significant hydrological research and eco-hydrological modelling, evaluation of current policies and practices regarding peat swamp forest management and reclamation Indonesia, and the on-site identification of land-use practices and sustainable development options, including options for habitat restoration.

Results

The project results showed the significant connection between the land-use (clearance of forest, agriculture and accompanying drainage) in the upper-catchment and the peat swamp forest hydrology downstream, including enhanced drought conditions an elevated vulnerability to fires. In addition, many uncontrolled human activities in the National Park significantly increase fire risk.

The eco-hydrological model was used to evaluate the consequences of three realistic future scenarios:

1. **Expansion of oil palm plantation upstream:** Currently extensive areas are reclaimed in the upper catchment for oil palm development, and plans exist for further large scale reclamation. If these proceed as planned, our model indicates significant soil subsidence in the upper catchment resulting from drainage. This will be followed by diversion and reversal of water flow in the upper half of the Air Hitam Laut riverbasin, thus dramatically reducing water flow to the park and coastal areas and leading to increased droughts, salt water intrusion and acidification of potential acid sulphate soils downstream. This is expected to cause unprecedented loss of biodiversity in the Berbak National Park as well as devastation of the agriculture along the coast. Our workshops identified several alternative land-uses that would prevent or decrease drainage requirements, including the possibility of Jelutung plantations (chewing gum tree).

2. **Expansion of agriculture downstream:** This scenario builds on to the existing practice of agricultural expansion in relation to a gradually increasing population in the coastal area. Our model indicates an average subsidence of about 4.5 cm/year or more than two metres over a period of 50 years for large parts of the area. The peat in the agricultural areas would disappear. As the mineral subsoil consists partly of potential acid sulphate soils a significant increase in acidification problems (now already encountered by the local people) could be expected.

3. **Continuing fire damage:** Fire damage is difficult to predict but in this region a realistic scenario. All needed is a dry peat soil in combination with a neglected cooking fire or a cigarette thrown away. We identified areas which during the dry periods in the El Niño year 1997 had a groundwater level between 1 and 2.5 metres below soil surface. Burning of these areas would result in a lowering of the surface elevation by 1 m. Our model indicates that such areas would be flooded in wet periods, causing a considerable increase of the total inundated area; especially deeply flooded areas with more than 1.5 m standing water would increase with almost a factor 5. Our forest regeneration and restoration studies showed that deep and prolonged flooding causes a significant constraint to possible reforestation efforts in the Berbak National Park.

Conclusions

The many human induced land-use changes observed in the Air Hitam Laut riverbasin all cause groundwater levels to be lowered by drainage resulting in increased soil subsidence and fire susceptibility as well as salt water intrusion and acidification problems in the coastal agricultural areas. Sustainable development, forest restoration, fire prevention and biodiversity conservation will require reinstating the hydrological integrity of the catchment with groundwater levels at or close to soil surface. This will need to be accompanied by economic measures to improve the livelihoods of local people and requires an appropriate policy basis accompanied by effective law enforcement and good governance. The importance of tropical peat swamp forests for rural livelihoods highlights the necessity of community based planning and action.

For further details please contact Marcel Silvius,
marcel.silvius@wetlands.org

2004 conservation

Global Goal 1
Wetlands knowledge-base

Launch of GlobWetland website
The European Space Agency funded GlobWetland Project inception year was completed by Atlantis Scientific (now Vexcel Corporation), Wetlands International and Synoptics (NL) with the launch of www.globwetland.org, presenting the products under development. During a special session, chaired and co-organised by Wetlands International, on the use of radar remote sensing the GlobWetland Project was presented at the 7th INTECOL International Wetlands Conference in Utrecht, The Netherlands, July 2004.

Himalayan Initiative
Development of a project in response to the call by the Himalayan Initiative, a 15 country association aiming to improve the collective management of high mountain wetlands, for an inventory and database for the area. The project will be supported by the Asia ProEco fund of Europe Aid, combines skills and knowledge from the Asian Wetland Inventory with expertise from EU institutes specialising in the management of vulnerable mountain catchments and use of remote sensing. The project is expected to start in mid-2005.

European Wetland Indicators
Under the call from the European Environment Agency to tender for establishment of European Topic Centres, Wetlands International worked with many other agencies across Europe to contribute to a successful bid under the leadership of the *Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle*, Paris, to form the European Topic Centre on Biodiversity. The new ETC-BD as it is known, will concentrate on development of indicators, and for wetlands, act as a conduit for our knowledgebase on wetland sites and species in Europe.

Russian Wetland Inventory
Presentation at the Ramsar European Regional Meeting in December 2004 at Yerevan, Armenia of the long-standing Russian Wetland Inventory, carried out since the early 1970s.

Russian Wetland Strategy
Completion of the Russian Wetland Strategy; now awaiting formal approval by government.

See also pp. 6 and 7

Global Goal 2
Wetlands and sustainable development

Global programme Wetlands and Poverty Reduction
A proposal for a global programme on Wetlands and Poverty Reduction was successfully developed. The 6.2 million Euro programme was approved by the Netherlands' DGIS/Ministry of Foreign Affairs and commenced in early 2005.

Working Group on Wetlands and Livelihoods
Wetlands International established its Working Group on Wetlands and Livelihoods, which involves representatives of the development and nature conservation sector, as well as individual experts.

Air Hitam Laut river basin
A case study to promote the river basin and ecosystem approach for sustainable management of South-East Asian lowland peat swamp forests, as part of the Water for Food and Ecosystems programme.

Profiles Lake Chany and Lake Kulundinskoye
Work on wetland management in West Siberia, publishing a brief Environmental Profile of Lake Chany (Ramsar site) and developing one for Lake Kulundinskoye (proposed Ramsar site).

Peatland management pilots Russia
Pilots were developed for peatland management in the Dubna and Meshera regions, involving socio-economic valuation.

Central European Peatland Project
Under this project a key report was published on the status of peatlands, with identified priorities for action. The project also financed small grant projects in each of the 8 participating countries.

Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change
The Wetlands International Russia, China and Indonesia offices worked in partnership with the Global Environment Centre on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change, financed by UNEP-GEF. A major side event was organised at the CBD meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in February 2004 highlighting the importance of peatlands as carbon stores and the significant amounts of carbon released as a result of overexploitation, degradation, drainage and fires.

Tasek Bera demonstration project
Presentation at the CBD meeting by the Malaysian government assisted by Wetlands International – Malaysia of the Tasek Bera (Ramsar site) management as a major demonstration project of community-based wetland management.

See also pp. 8 and 9

achievements

Global Goal 3
Integrated water resource management

Integrated wetland management training course in Uromiyeh Basin, Iran
A training course addressing integrated wetland management, targeting government agencies at provincial and local level from the agriculture, water and environment sectors was held in Uromiyeh City, NW Iran. This contributes to a Partners for Water project developing integrated water management in the Lake Uromiyeh Basin.

Ukrainian Small Rivers Project
The project successfully established an association of small NGOs in Ukraine (the Ukrainian Rivers Network, URN), which focuses on the rehabilitation and conservation of small rivers. A Small Grants Programme was implemented and 28 projects were awarded. See www.uarivers.net.

Sustainable Development and Water Resources Management of Loktak Lake, India
A draft management action plan for the Manipur Basin wetlands was completed this year through a partnership between the Government of Manipur, Loktak Development Authority, local stakeholders and Wetlands International.

The Niger, a lifeline: Effective Water Management in the Upper Niger Basin; an executive summary
Summarizes results from the multidisciplinary study carried out in the Dutch Partners for Water Management Programme "Water for food and ecosystems" and the "Poverty Reduction and Environment Management" of the Dutch Ministry of International Cooperation.

Assessment of Chilika Lake, India
An Environmental Flow Assessment was conducted to develop water allocation scenarios for the conservation of Chilika Lake and sustainable agriculture development in the associated floodplains of the Mahanadi River.

Integrated Management Planning for Vembanad Kol, India
A project was initiated focusing on water resources management planning for sustainable agriculture development and conservation of Vembanad Kol wetlands within the Periyar River basin.

Integrated Water Management in the Tisza Basin
The report from a seminar held in 2003, that Wetlands International co-organised with the Dutch Agency Dienst Landelijk Gebied and FAO was finalised, highlighting the priorities for water management in the Tisza basin overall.

Wetlands Training in Egypt
A short course on wetlands was delivered to water resource managers in Egypt and a paper produced on the use of wetlands.

Peat Hydrology Restoration, Indonesia
Wetlands International – Indonesia successfully undertook peat hydrology restoration and tree rehabilitation in Central Kalimantan, involving dam building and replanting of indigenous tree species by local communities to stop drainage of peat swamp forest conservation areas.

See also pp. 12 and 13

Global Goal 4
Biodiversity and ecological networks

Global Flyway Conference: Waterbirds Around the World
A landmark event on flyway conservation, with nearly 600 participants, resulting in the Edinburgh Declaration.

Edinburgh Declaration
This declaration gives clear direction to future global flyway conservation work, including the need to strengthen the monitoring work underpinning flyway conservation and the need for development of activities for the Central Asian Flyway.

International Waterbird Census
Tens of thousands of observers, mostly volunteers, went out again in January to census waterbirds in wetland sites in over 100 countries, counting over 35 million waterbirds. These coordinated efforts and the compilation of the results in authoritative databases provide a strong basis for monitoring and conservation of waterbirds.

Asian Waterbird Census report
The latest version of the Asian Waterbird Census report *Numbers and distribution of Waterbirds and Wetlands in the Asia-Pacific region. Results of the Asian Waterbird Census: 1997-2001* was launched during the Waterbirds around the World conference.

Status of migratory waders in Africa and Western Eurasia
The International Wader Study Group published *The status of 131 populations of 55 species of migratory waders (shorebirds) in Africa and Western Eurasia*.

Fish Specialist Group
In October 2004 Wetlands International and the IUCN SSC appointed Professor Gordon Reid as Coordinator of the newly established Freshwater Fish Specialist Group.

Meetings, workshops, events in Asia-Pacific
National and sub-regional meetings, workshops and promotional events organised in China, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa and United Kingdom to promote conservation awareness, share experiences and build partnerships for wetland conservation.

Action plans Swan Goose and Baikal Teal
Action plan developed for the threatened Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides* and Baikal Teal *Anas Formosa.*

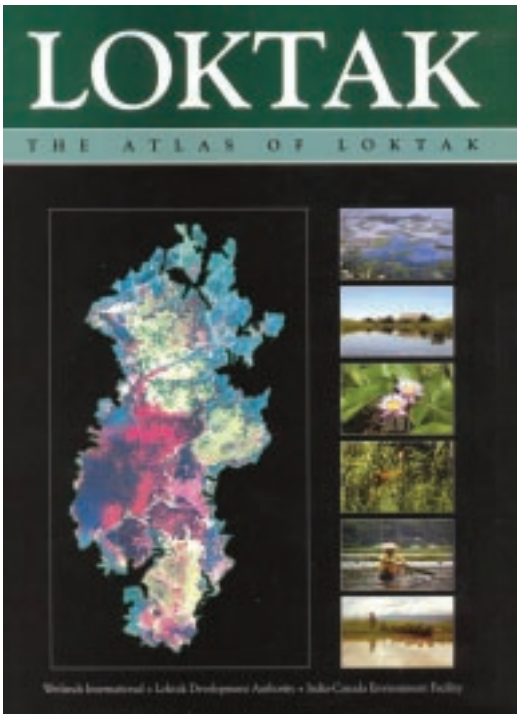
See also pp. 14 and 15

Water resource

The projects undertaken are providing excellent demonstrations for why and how wetland management should be incorporated into integrated water resource management solutions

Sustainable Development and Water Resources Management of Loktak Lake, Manipur River Basin, India

Loktak Lake and associated wetlands in the Manipur River Basin constitute the largest freshwater wetland system in north-eastern India. They are traditionally managed by communities for fisheries and agriculture and are considered the "lifeline of the Manipur state". Development in the basin and the wetlands have led to the degradation and reduction of benefits, affecting the livelihoods of 0.2 million people. Shifting cultivation, deforestation and increasing demands for fodder, fuel and other forest products have contributed to siltation and reduction of the water holding capacity of the lake. Barrage construction has altered hydrological regime and interfered with the migration of riverine fish. Degradation of "phundis" (characteristic floating vegetation mats) are threatening the rare brow-antlered deer of Manipur (*Cervus eldi eldi*). Before this project the response of the Loktak Development Authority had been clearance of excess vegetation and dredging excess sediment from the lake without addressing wider issues of lake and basin management.



Action

The project was jointly undertaken by Wetlands International – South Asia and the Loktak Development Authority, with financial support from the India Canada Environment Facility. It has aimed to develop and implement technical know-how for the conservation and management of Loktak Lake involving local communities, NGOs, research organisations and government agencies. It has involved integration of social, ecological and economic dimesions of the issues related to the Lake's deterioration and provision of livelihood security to local communities. Special emphasis has been given to the role of women in community development.

Achievements

Loktak Lake is considered a case study for wetland management planning, based on an elaborate process of social, economic and cultural assessment of wetlands through close interaction of local communities and other stakeholders. Extensive participatory rural appraisal exercises and consultation meetings have ensured strong local community involvement. Capacity has been built within the Loktak Development Authority, other concerned agencies and local communities in Manipur to effectively conserve and manage the lake and its catchment.

A temporal and spatial database of Loktak Lake and its catchments has been created and the *Atlas of Loktak Lake* published. This details the environmental resources of the lake, its use and how these have changed.

Next steps

A management action plan has been drafted, to be implemented by the Government of Manipur. It emphasises the balance between conservation measures and economic benefits to local communities. Additional income generation programmes are envisaged with a focus on poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation along with social equity and gender sensitivity. The plan envisages adoption of a community based approach to resource management facilitated by government agencies and scientific institutions. Wetlands International will play key role in providing technical and managerial support to implementation of the management action plan.

management

Towards sustainable management of Ukrainian small rivers

Small rivers in Ukraine are vital and integral components of the water cycle contributing to water resources for human consumption and use and providing vital habitat for increasingly threatened biodiversity. In Ukraine there are approximately 70,000 small rivers and streams, forming 60% of the country's water resources. As a result water quality in large rivers is dependant on small rivers. In the predominantly agricultural landscape (57% of the land area is arable) biodiversity is mainly supported by remnants of natural ecosystems, of which the majority are located in small river valleys e.g. 3–4% of the steppe zone supports the majority of the biodiversity in the region.

The value of small rivers as components in ecological networks and as water resources is recognised in Ukraine at national level. However their sustainable management through integrated basin approaches is not yet taking place. One element to catalyse this in Ukraine is through action on the ground. Local communities, governmental organisations, local authorities and NGOs have a considerable role to play in this regard.

Pictures below:
Activities under the Save your River small grants programme

Action

Over the last 3 years the Wetlands International Black Sea Programme has been developing the capacity of small NGOs in Ukraine to influence Ukrainian water and agriculture policy and undertake local conservation activities. This has been achieved through two Dutch funded PIN MATRA projects "Small Rivers in Ukraine" and "Ukrainian Rivers Network". Key achievements have been:

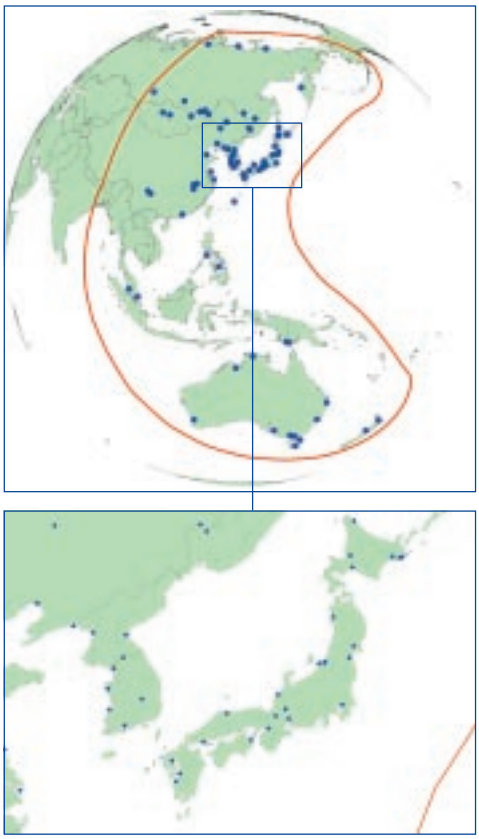
- The establishment of a National Association of Small River NGOs: "Ukrainian Rivers Network" (URN) comprising more than 100 organisations. This volunteer association has met now five times and a strategic plan for the Association been developed.
- The support of 28 projects aimed at river rehabilitation and conservation under the "Save your River" small grants programme. These have focused on:
  - Improving collaboration between state institutions and public organisations
  - Strengthening network collaboration (e.g. agriculture – river conservation)
  - Supporting local authority actions aimed at creating protected areas:
  - Rehabilitating natural sites
  - Increasing the level of public awareness
  - Environmental education
  - Organising nature conservation activities
- Training of 50 representatives from the NGOs in small river conservation during two 7-day training courses
- Production and dissemination of baseline information on small rivers and streams in the Ukrainian language as well as on activities of members of the URN
- An operational website www.uarivers.net in Ukrainian and English
- The production of a information resources highlighting the results and activities of the Save Your River programme including written papers, reports, photos and films.

Next steps

Overall it is clear that the URN is a motivated and active NGO Association that is committed to promoting sustainable management of small rivers at the local level and ensuring that these issues are taken into account in integrated water management approaches. The next steps will be to capitalise on this network enabling them to raise awareness in Ukraine at regional and national levels and advocate these issues with higher levels of Ukrainian government agencies responsible for agriculture, water and environment.

For further details, please contact: Chris Baker, chris.baker@wetlands.org

Biodiversity and



Major decisions have been taken to conserve migratory waterbirds and wetlands in the Asia-Pacific region

The Asia-Pacific region is home to more than a third of the world's human population, with many large and developing economies. The increasing need for land, including wetlands, and their resources by these growing economies is resulting in the loss and degradation of wetlands and other habitats in many areas. The region is also home to at least 243 species of migratory waterbirds, including over 49 globally threatened species. The annual migrations and survival of these waterbirds is closely intertwined with the maintenance and sustainable use of these habitats.

The Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy (the Strategy), initiated in 1996, has served as a unique and successful mechanism of international collaboration for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats. A range of national governments, local, national and international partners are involved in implementation of the Strategy. The Governments of Australia, Japan and USA have provided core funding for development and coordination of the implementation of the Strategy, with coordination support being provided by Wetlands International.

The initiative covers three major flyways, in East Asia-Australasia, Central Asia and the Central Pacific, but has largely focused on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Three international action plans have been developed and implemented – for

ecological networks

Anatidae, cranes and shorebirds in this flyway. The work has focused on the establishment of three networks of sites of international importance to raise attention to the importance of these sites. It also supports the implementation of a range of activities to raise awareness of waterbirds and wetlands, build capacity of local agencies, and monitor and research waterbirds. At present, 84 sites in 13 countries participate in the Networks, with the recognition that the region includes over 700 internationally important sites. Over 50% of the network sites are also on the "List of Wetlands of International Importance" under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

The initiative was initially coordinated by an international committee of Wetlands International. Since 2003 it has operated under an independent committee which reports to the Convention on Wetlands, Convention on Migratory Species, BirdLife International and Wetlands International. The Committee is currently chaired by Japan and members include representatives of the governments of Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand and USA, Ramsar Secretariat, CMS Secretariat, BirdLife International, Wetlands International, World Wide Fund for Nature, UNEP-ROAP, UNDP/GEF and the Interstate Sustainable Development Commission of Central Asia, Working Group Chairs for Anatidae, cranes and shorebirds and WI Specialist Groups.

Important decisions have been taken on the future direction of this regional initiative following completion of the current five-year term (2001–2005) at the 9th meeting of the committee in Seosan City, Republic of Korea in late November. This meeting was kindly hosted by the Seosan City Government and the Korean Federation for Environmental Movement. The major decisions taken included:

- The geographic coverage of the future initiative would be focused on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Assistance would be offered where possible to the development of separate initiatives for the Central Asian and Central Pacific Flyways.
- The East Asian-Australasian Flyway is to adopt a stronger partnership approach to enhance collaboration between Governments, Non-Government Organisations, academe, technical experts, local people and Inter-Governmental organisations. This partnership was initiated at the 2002 WSSD Meeting in Johannesburg and will contribute to the 2015 Millennium Development Goal of ensuring environmental sustainability in relation to wetlands, with a special focus on wetlands of international importance for migratory waterbirds.
- Four objectives of the partnership were proposed:
  1. Species objective – maintenance of diversity and abundance of migratory waterbirds in the East Asian–Australasian Flyway
  2. Habitat/Ecosystem objective – conservation of a network of sites to support migration across the flyway.
  3. Science objective – advancing the science of conservation of migratory species.
  4. People objective – develop and support approaches which provide for people and birds to be in harmony.
- The three existing waterbird site networks for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway would be combined into a single site network that is to be expanded to include all migratory waterbird species.
- That a combined MWCC/WSSD working group be formed to prepare a partnership text and a draft action plan for migratory waterbirds for the period 2006–2010, with the Australian Government acting as the interim secretariat.
- A follow-up meeting to finalise and adopt the new framework is proposed for October 2005.

For further details, please contact:
Taej Mundkur, taejmundkur.wi@vsnl.net or
Ward Hagemeijer, ward.hagemeijer@wetlands.org

Main picture (left):
What local people depend on in wetlands.

Above:
Surveys of coastal wetlands to identify and monitor waterbird sites, Malaysia.

Cockles – a rich source of protein from the mudflats for people and waterbirds.

Photos: Taej Mundkur.

Expert networks

Waterbird Counter.
Photo: Glyn Young.

Wetlands International facilitates the activities of expert networks to encourage acquisition and sharing of information and expertise. Four important Expert Networks coordinated by Wetlands International are the International Waterbird Census network, the Specialist Groups, the Associate Experts and the Wetlands and Livelihoods Working Group.

IWC National Coordinators and observers

The International Waterbird Census (IWC) takes place annually in more than 100 countries worldwide, and involves Wetlands International's biggest expert network. National Coordinators in these countries organise about 15,000 observers, most of whom are volunteer birdwatchers, who conduct waterbird counts and return the data to their national coordinator, who then sends them to Wetlands International. The Census continues to develop, and in 2004 there was a big increase in the number of wetland sites surveyed in Central Asia, and especially in South America.

Specialist Groups

This network currently includes 20 Specialist Groups with over 2000 active members. 2004 saw the formation of a new group: the Freshwater Fish Specialist Group. Coordinator Gordon Reid assembled his group in Chester, UK for their inaugural meeting in March 2005. Participants attended from every continent, representing organisations such as Conservation International, World Wide fund for Nature and Fishbase, as well as various universities and institutions. The Specialist Groups produced a number of publications in 2004, for example *The status of migratory wader populations in Africa and Western Eurasia in the 1990s* published by one of the longest standing members of the network, the Wader Study Group. This report highlights the challenge presented by the 2010 biodiversity targets. The *Wetlands International Specialist Groups Report (1999–2004)* was also published, covering the activities of the respective Specialist Groups in recent years and explaining the role the groups play in wetlands science and conservation.

Associate Experts

Twelve Associate Experts were affiliated with Wetlands International in 2004, providing the organisation with a pool of expertise on diverse areas of wetlands-related topics. For the publications *Waterbird Population Estimates Fourth Edition* and *An Atlas of Wader Populations in Africa and West Eurasia,* both to be published in 2005, considerable support was provided during 2004 by Associate Experts Derek Scott (nominated) and Tim Dodman who are part of the writing as well as the peer review process. For the project on Integrated Water Resource Management in the Uromiyeh Basin in Iran, Wetlands International works closely with Associate Expert Mike Moser. In 2004, Associate Expert Mark Barter continued his ground-breaking studies of waterbird numbers and distribution in China with another expedition to the Yangtze River basin which included training of local experts. Associate Expert Tim Jones delivered a Wetlands and Water Management Training in Cairo, Egypt on behalf of Wetlands International. Associate Expert Delmar Blasco played a key role in the development process of the new Wetlands International Strategy.

Wetlands and Livelihoods Working Group

Established in late 2004 the Wetlands and Livelihoods Working Group has grown rapidly. There are currently over 90 members representing around 20 organisations in the poverty reduction and conservation sectors. The structure of the Working Group enables specially assigned Task Groups to work on issues of policy, communications and the proposed formal launch of the new Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Programme. The Working Group played a key role in the development of the draft resolution to Ramsar on poverty reduction through its active role in the Arusha and Beijing Ramsar regional meetings.

Finances

Finance Committee Statement

The global turnover in 2004 (€6,700,000) was slightly lower than the turnover in 2003 (€7,400,000). Wetlands International's turnover is based on the execution of contracted projects that vary in length and in size. Some projects are very labour intensive while other projects carry more direct project costs by sub-contracting, so the variation in turnover does not necessarily implicate a change in the size of the global Wetlands International operation. In 2004 overall income and expenditure balanced. Besides the turnover that is expressed in these figures, Wetlands International activities also leveraged numerous other financial contributions and activities, carried out by other organisations and institutions.

In 2004 much effort was put into the development of our new Strategy 2005–2014. We expect that the implementation of the Strategy from 2005 onwards will result in growth of the organisation and more contracted work.

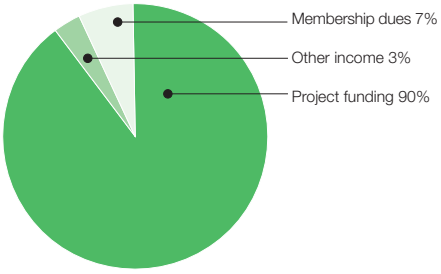
Early in 2004 funding was secured for the implementation of one common financial management system for the whole organisation. Implementation of this intranet-based system progressed in 2004 and by the end of the year some offices had successfully switched over. The remaining offices are undergoing training during 2005. By the end of the year all offices will be planning and reporting by use of this one system.

The accompanying graphs show in Euros, the Wetlands International financial picture for 2004.

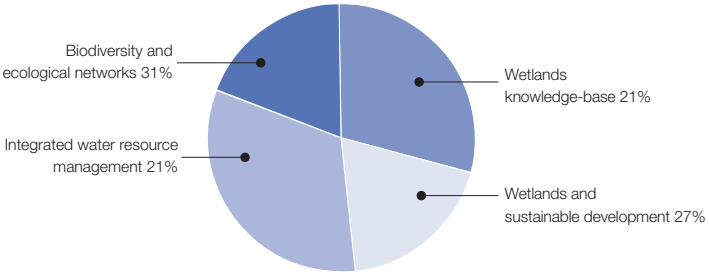
Accounts of each individual offices are available on request from Wetlands International Headquarters.

Willem IJ. Aalbersberg
Treasurer, Wetlands International

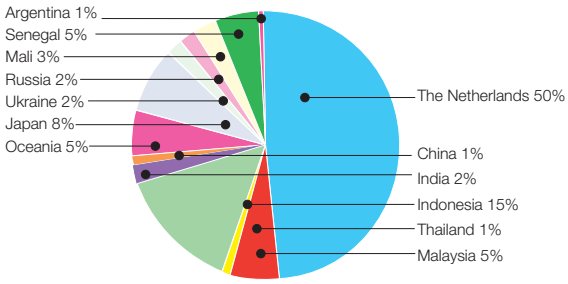
2004 turnover (€ 6,700,000) by income category



2004 turnover (€ 6,700,000) by global goal area



2004 turnover (€ 6,700,000) by Wetlands International offices



Supporters

Wetlands International wishes to thank the following governments, agencies and institutions for their generous support during 2004:

African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement / United Nations Environment Programme
Alterra, The Netherlands
Asian Regional Center for Biodiversity Conservation
BBIOS, The Netherlands
Biodiversity Center Japan, Ministry of Environment
Biosis Research Pty. Ltd., Australia
British Association for Shooting and Conservation
British Embassy, Mali
British Embassy, Senegal
Bundesamt für Umwelt, Wald und Landschaft, Eidg.Forstdirektion, Bereich Wildtiere (BUWAL), Switzerland
Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit, Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Germany
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Canadian Wildlife Service
Charles Darwin University, Australia
Chilika Development Authority, India
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS), Germany
Countryside Council for Wales, United Kingdom
Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund
Dafeng National Nature Reserve (Jiangsu), China
Danish Forest and Nature Agency
Danish Hunter's Association
Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)
Danish Ornithological Society/BirdLife Denmark
Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), United Kingdom
Department of Fisheries, Government of Tripura, India
Department of Hunting, Ministry of Agriculture, Finland
Department of the Environment and Heritage, Australia
Deutscher Jagdschutz-Verband EV, Germany
Dienst Landelijk Gebied, The Netherlands
Directoraat-generaal Internationale Samenwerking, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS)
Directorate for Nature Management, Norway
Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund
Dr Luc Hoffmann
Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV)
English Nature, United Kingdom
Environment and Heritage Service, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom
Environmental Protection Agency, Queensland, Australia
Environmental Protection Agency, Sweden
European Commission, Dir-Gen. Environment, Belgium
European Space Agency, France
European Topic Centre, France
Fédération des Associations de Chasseurs de L'Union Européenne (FACE), Belgium
Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
Foundation of River & Watershed Environment Management, Japan
Global Environment Center, Malaysia
India Canada Environment Facility
Institute for Environmental Studies, The Netherlands
International Agricultural Centre, Netherlands
International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)
International Crane Foundation, USA
Japan Fund for Global Environment
JICA (Biodiversity Conservation Project), Indonesia
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, USA
Johor National Parks Corporation, Malaysia
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), United Kingdom
Kapar Energy Ventures, Malaysia
Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund, Japan
Le Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial, France
Loktak Development Authority, India
Manomet Inc. and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, USA
Matra/KNIP, Small Embassy Projects Programme (Russia and Indonesia), DGIS Netherlands
Ministère de l'Agriculture, Direction Générale des Forêts, Tunisia
Ministère de l'Ecologie et du Developpement Durable, France
Ministère de la Région Wallonne, Dir. de la Conservation de la Nature et Espaces Vertes, Belgium
Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap, Afdeling Natuur, Belgium
Ministry for Environment and Physical Planning, Slovenia
Ministry for Environment and Regional Policy, Department for International Relations, Hungary
Ministry for Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Department of International Relations, Poland
Ministry for Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia
Ministry for the Environment, Youth and Family Affairs, Austria
Ministry of Agriculture, Greece
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
Ministry of Environment, Finland
Ministry of Environment, Japan
Ministry of Environment, Estonia
Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India
Ministry of the Environment, Bulgaria
Ministry of the Environment, Czech Republic
Ministry of the Environment, Slovak Republic
Nagao Natural Environment Foundation, Japan
National Association of Regional Game Councils, Ireland
National Environmental Research Institute, Denmark
National Forest and Nature Agency, Nature & Wildlife Section, Denmark
National Museum of Denmark, Denmark
National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Ireland
National Parks and Wildlife Service, DUCHAS, United Kingdom
Natural Heritage Trust, Australia
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act –
North of England Zoological Society/Chester Zoo, United Kingdom
Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS), France
Oriental Birding Club
Palija and Thames PAM Jaya, Indonesia
Papa Westray Coffee Morning Fund, United Kingdom
Partners for Water Programme, Netherlands Government
Petronas Institute of Technology Sdn Bhd, Malaysia
PIN MATRA, Programme of International Nature Management of the Ministries of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
Planning Commission, Government of India
Programme Régional de Conservation de la Zone Cotière et Marine (PRCM)
PT ITCIKU, Indonesia
Ramsar Bureau, Convention on Wetlands, Switzerland
Rijksinstituut voor Integraal Zoetwaterbeheer en Afvalwaterbehandeling (RIZA), The Netherlands
Rijkswaterstaat Meetkundige Dienst, The Netherlands
Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Royal Netherlands Embassy, Beijing
Royal Netherlands Embassy, Dakar
Royal Netherlands Embassy, Jakarta
Royal Netherlands Embassy, Kiev
Royal Netherlands Embassy, Moscow
Royal Netherlands Embassy, New Delhi
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
RSPB (British Birdwatching Fair Research Fund for Endangered Species)
Scottish Executive, United Kingdom
Scottish Natural Heritage, United Kingdom
Shell China
Shell Sustainable Development Fund
State Environment Protection Administration (SEPA), China
State Forestry Administration (SFA), China
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Sweden
Tour du Valat, France
Toyota Foundation
Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation
United Nations Development Programme/ Global Environment Facility
United Nations Development Programme/ Small Grants
United Nations Environment Programme/ Global Environment Facility
University of the South Pacific, Australia
University of the South Pacific, Fiji
US Agency for International Development
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Vogelbescherming Nederland/BirdLife Netherlands
West Africa Technical Advisory Committee
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, United Kingdom
Wildlife Conservation Society, USA, Fiji Programme
World Bank/Global Environment Facility
WWF – Australia
WWF – South Pacific Programme

Wetlands International as at July 2005

Chief Executive Officer
Jane Madgwick

Board of Directors
Max Finlayson, *President*
Stew Morrison, *Chairman Board of Directors, Chairman Nominations Committee*

Willem Aalbersberg, *Chairman Finance Committee*
Ernesto Eduardo Briones
Kevin Erwin
Chris Gordon, *Vice President, Chairman Personnel Committee*
Maria Carolina Hazin
Jorge Jiménez Ramón, *Chairman Programme Review and Science Committee*
Siddharth Kaul
Paul Mafabi Gumonye
Alan Martin, *Chairman Resource Development Committee*
Yoshihiro Natori
Isabelle Niang-Diop
Stefan Pihl
Christine Prietto
David Pritchard
Adi Susmianto
Trevor Swerdfager
Jean-Paul Taris
Tatsuichi Tsujii
Gerard van Voorst, *Chairman Legal Committee*
Giuseppe Raaphorst, *Permanent Observer of the Host Country*
Peter Bridgewater, *Permanent Observer of the Ramsar Convention*

Honorary Director
Alison Russell-French

Counsellors of Honour
M. de Coniac
Luc Hoffmann
Chris Kalden
Geoffrey Matthews
Michael Moser

Associate Experts
Mark Barter
Delmar Blasco
Patrick Denny
Tim Dodman
John Howes
Alan Johnson
Tim Jones
Mike Moser
Mike Ounsted
Bill Phillips
Jan Veen
Joost van der Ven

Specialist Group Coordinators
Mennobart van Eerden, *Cormorant*
Joseph Kerekes, *Diver/Loon*
James A. Robinson, *Duck (Global)*
Richard Hearn, *Duck (Global assistant)*
Clinton Jeske, *Duck (North America)*
Marc Woodin, *Duck (North America)*
Brooks Childress, *Flamingo (Global)*
Nigel Jarrett, *Flamingo (Global assistant)*
Arnaud Béchet, *Flamingo (Eastern Hemisphere)*
Felicity Arengo, *Flamingo (Western Hemisphere)*
Bart Ebbinge, *Goose (Global)*
Masayuki Kurechi, *Goose (Eastern Palearctic)*
Ray Alisauskas, *Goose (Nearctic)*
Bruce Eichhorst, *Grebe*
James Kushlan, *Heron*
Alain Crivelli, *Pelican (Old World)*
Daniel Anderson, *Pelican (New World)*
Stefan Pihl, *Seaduck (Global)*
Jean-Pierre Savard, *Seaduck (North America)*
Wim Van den Bossche, *Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill (Old World)*
Malcolm Coulter, *Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill (New World)*
Jan Beekman, *Swan (Eurasia)*
Roberto Schlatter, *Swan (Neotropics)*
Baz Hughes, *Threatened Waterfowl (Eurasia)*
Glyn Young, *Threatened Waterfowl (Global assistant)*
Tom C. Rothe, *Threatened Waterfowl (North America)*
David Stroud, *Wader Study Group*
Yves Ferrand, *Woodcock and Snipe (Global)*
Dan McAuley, *Woodcock and Snipe (Americas)*
Luis Naranjo, *Wetland Inventory, Assessment and Monitoring (Assistant Coordinator)*
Kevin Erwin, *Wetland Restoration*
Christine Prietto, *Communication Education and Public Awareness*
Gilles Deplanque, *Waterbird Harvest*
Gordon McGregor Reid, *Freshwater Fish*

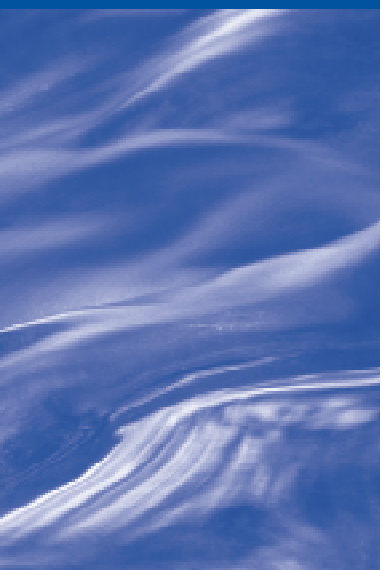
Vacancies
Rail Specialist Group
Wetland Inventory, Assessment and Monitoring

Wetlands and Livelihoods Working Group
Mike Ounsted, *Chair*

Wetlands International Award Winners
Charles Mamady Bèye, *President's Medal for Staff Excellence*
Theunis Piersma, *Wetlands International Luc Hoffmann Medal for Excellence in Wetlands Science and Conservation*
China State Forestry Administration, *Wetlands International Global Recognition for Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use Award*

Mission:

To sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity for future generations



HEADQUARTERS
PO Box 471, 6700 AL Wageningen
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 317 478854, Fax: +31 317 478850
E-mail: post@wetlands.org

AFRICA
Mali Pin Project
PO Box 97, Mopti/Sévaré, Mali
Tel: +223 420 122, Fax: +223 420 242
E-mail: malipin@afribone.net.ml

West Africa
PO Box 8060, Yoff, Dakar - Yoff, Senegal
Tel: +221 8 206478, Fax: +221 8 206479
E-mail: wetlands@sentoo.sn

Wetland & Waterbird Conservation Project Guinea-Bissau
c/o Gabienete de Planificaçao Costeira (GPC)
(Coastal Planning Office), CP 23, 1031 Bissau-Codex, Guinea-Bissau
Tel: +245 20 12 30 / Mobile: +245 72 00 562
Fax: +245 20 11 68
E-mail: gpc@sol.gtelecom.gw /
joaosa2003@hotmail.com

AMERICAS
South America
25 de Mayo 758 10 I (1002)
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Tel/fax: +54 11 4312 0932
E-mail: deblanco@wamani.apc.org

ASIA
China
Room 501, Grand Forest Hotel, No. 3A
Beisanhuan
Zhonglu Road, Beijing 100029
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 10 62058405/18 or 62377031
Fax: +86 10 620 77900
E-mail: wicp@public3.bta.net.cn

Indonesia
Jl. A. Yani no 53
Bogor 16161, Indonesia
Tel: +62 251 312189
Fax: +62 251 325755
E-mail: admin@wetlands.or.id

Japan
401 Axes Nishishinjuku, 8-5-3 Nishishinjuku
Shinjuku-Ku, Tokyo 160-0023 Japan
Tel: +81 3 5332 3362
Fax: +81 3 5332 3364
E-mail: info@wi-japan.com

Malaysia
3A39, Block A
Kelana Centre Point Jalan SS7/19
47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia
Tel: +60 3 7804 6770
Fax: +60 3 7804 6772
E-mail: mp@wetlands.org.my

South Asia
A-25, 2nd Floor
Defence Colony, New Delhi 110 024, India
Tel: +91 11 30927908
Fax: +91 11 24338906
E-mail: wisaind@del2.vsnl.net.in /
wisa@hathway.com

Thailand
Prince of Songkla University
Faculty of Environmental Management
PO Box 95, Kor Hong Post Office
A. Hat Yai Songkhla Province, 90112 Thailand
Tel: +66 74 429307
Fax: +66 74 429307
E-mail: asae-s@psu.ac.th /
asaesayaka@yahoo.com

EUROPE
Black Sea
Dr V. Kostyushin, PO Box 82
01032 Kiev, Ukraine
Tel/Fax: +380 44 2465862
E-mail: kv@wetl.kiev.ua

Russia
Postal address:
c/o WWF 232
FLIP-Post, Suite 25, 176 Finchley Road
London NW3 6BT, United Kingdom
Visiting address:
Nikoloyamskaya Ulitsa, 19, Str. 3
Moscow 109240, Russia
Tel: +7 095 727 0939
Fax: +7 095 727 0938
E-mail: oanisimova@wwf.ru

OCEANIA
Canberra
GPO Box 787, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia
Tel: +61 2 6274 2780
Fax: +61 2 6274 2799
E-mail: doug.watkins@wetlands-oceania.org

Brisbane
c/o Queensland Herbarium
Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha Road
Toowong, Q 4066, Australia
Tel: +61 7 3406 6047
Fax: +61 7 3896 9624
E-mail: roger.jaensch@epa.qld.gov.au

Fiji
PO Box S6 Superfresh, Tamavua, Suva, Fiji
Tel: +679 325 5425
Fax: +679 332 2413
E-mail: apjenkins@connect.com.fj

WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL