

Information for members and member delegates

Who are we?

We are an independent, not-for-profit organization, active in around 100 countries.

What do we do?

We safeguard and restore wetlands for people and nature.

Why do wetlands matter?

In every country and climatic zone, from the polar regions to the tropics, wetlands provide the basis for human survival and development. Wetlands include inland rivers, lakes and peat swamps, coastal lagoons, estuaries and reefs and human-made wetlands such as rice-fields. People and wetlands are interdependent: wetlands provide food and water, control floods, stabilise shorelines, mitigate climate change and are home to a wide range of biodiversity.

Despite their overwhelming values, wetlands are the most highly threatened ecosystems on the planet. Demand for their services is likely to intensify as human populations increase and development accelerates.

How do we do this?

- We build scientific, practical and traditional knowledge to stimulate effective policies, practices and investments.
- We facilitate community-based initiatives to manage wetlands so as to secure their values and services for the long term.
- We maximize our reach and impact through innovative and strategic partnerships.

Why do we do this?

We are driven by the knowledge that safeguarding and restoring wetlands is urgent and vital for water security, biodiversity, climate regulation, sustainable development and human health.

Wetlands International provides a means for governments, NGOs, businesses and individuals to engage and unite to achieve common goals for wetlands management and wise use.

Who are our members?

Members are national governments and NGOs committed to achieving our goals and working in partnership with all sectors of society.

National governments are partners in developing and applying the policies and wise use practices for wetlands.

NGOs are partners who complement the work of Wetlands International, globally, regionally or locally.

The role of Members

Our members guide the content and direction of Wetlands International's strategic planning. By sharing expertise and working in partnership with Wetlands International offices and networks, members can help achieve global and local objectives for wetlands, benefiting biodiversity and people's livelihoods.

Benefits of Membership

The principal benefits of Wetlands International membership are:

- regular information on relevant events and policy developments, ongoing programmes and publications through our website, global newsletters and annual review
- notification of issues and activities relevant to individual Members
- access to information, tools and knowledge on the status, values and services of wetlands connection to a global network of wetland experts and projects
- partnership opportunities for wetland initiatives and projects including wetland inventories and strategies, management plans, wetland management and restoration, communications and capacity building
- opportunities to engage in dialogue with Wetlands International on key policy issues and to carry out joint policy development projects and advocacy activities
- technical advice and support to influence regional policy processes and global environmental agreements
- dialogue with local, regional and global staff and inclusion of members in meetings and projects, where feasible and practical
- opportunity for collaboration on joint initiatives, events or project.
- participation in the Association of Members to review progress, strategy and current wetland conservation issues

What steps are needed to become a Member?

To apply for Membership four simple steps are needed:

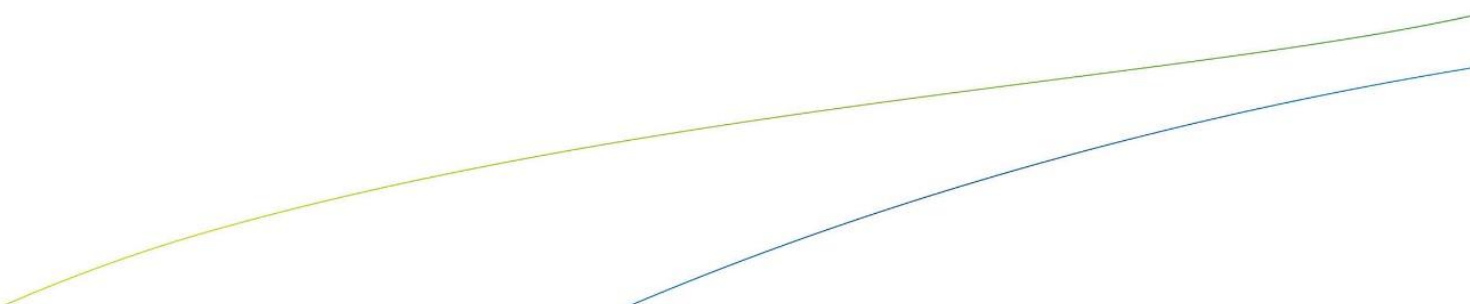
1. submission of a letter of application
2. completion of the Members Information Form
3. nomination of Delegate(s) to the Association of Members
4. payment of Annual Dues

The Application must be approved by the Board of the Association Wetlands International.

Who are the Delegates?

Each member can nominate two Delegates who will represent the member in the Association.

Delegates should have expertise in some aspect of wetlands conservation and wise use, with national and international perspectives. Given the influences of all sectors on the status of wetlands, it is helpful if Delegates have networks across sector boundaries, as well as a working understanding of mechanisms for addressing wetlands issues by the different sectors, for example, water, transport, development.



What is the role of a Delegate?

Delegates are responsible for:

- acting as the Member contact point and engaging in dialogue with Wetlands International
- connecting Wetlands International with relevant links to government departments, organisations and sectors
- reviewing and contributing to the Wetlands International Strategy
- participating in the General Members Meetings
- participating in relevant Wetlands International regional and country meetings,
- and nominating candidates for the Board of the Association

Delegates are also expected to assist Wetlands International with the collection of their government's or organisation's annual membership dues.

What are the dues levels and how are they determined?

A membership dues system for governments was adopted by the Members in October 2009. It is based on the UN Scale of Assessment.

How are the Membership dues used?

As a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation, Wetlands International seeks financial support from its Members to help fund its core conservation work. These contributions are vital to underpin basic science work, to ensure continuous engagement in national, regional and global policy processes, and to sustain our capacity to transfer lessons learned and technologies between countries and regions. Membership dues guarantee continuity of Wetlands International's services.

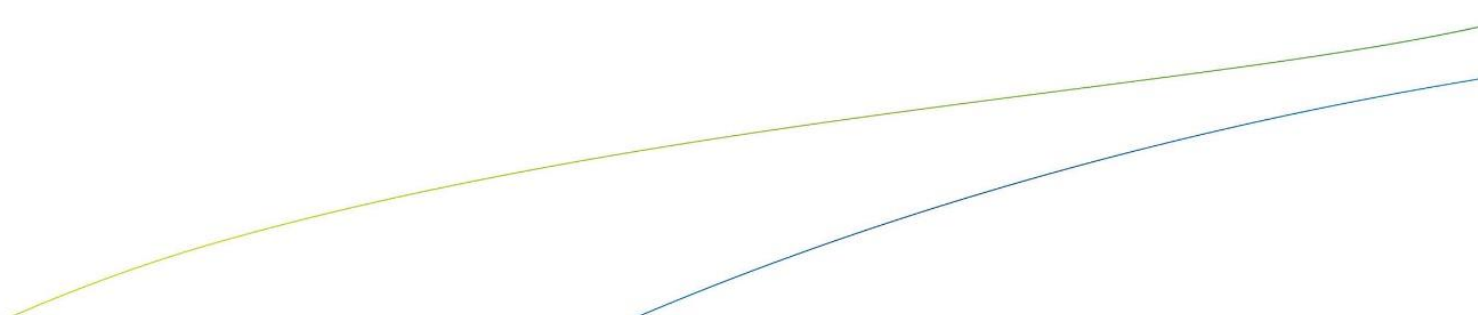
How often do Members meet?

The delegates normally meet in person (face-to-face) every three years.

The last two of such meetings took place in February 2011 in Edinburgh, Scotland and in September 2014 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Annual general meetings are held electronically since 2008 in compliance with Dutch law.

The Association Wetlands International

- is constituted of member delegates (government and NGO)
 - reviews and adopts the global Strategy of Wetlands International, sets membership dues, approves the Association's annual accounts and budget
 - elects members of the Board of the Association, including its Chair, Secretary and Treasurer
 - meets annually; every three years face-to-face and in between by electronic means
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Who do I contact if I have questions?

Wetlands International has 18 regional, country and project offices, in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, where staff are happy to answer your questions, provide advice about wetland conservation and management or discuss opportunities to work in partnership.

Further contact details including staff names, phone numbers and email and office addresses are listed on www.wetlands.org.

You can also contact the Executive Assistant for membership in the Wetlands International headquarters in the Netherlands:

Tel +31 318 660910

Fax +31 318 660950

Email: Josje.Reinartz@wetlands.org

What is the added-value of membership of Wetlands International when our government is a contracting party to international Conventions?

Many government members have acceded to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Migratory Species Convention and other agreements that share a common purpose with Wetlands International. These Conventions develop consensus on priorities and establish the basis for government action. However, conventions rely on NGOs, such as Wetlands International, to provide the technical and scientific basis for designation and management of important sites and ecological networks; to develop and test the tools for assessing the ecological status of wetlands; and to develop partnerships and projects to implement Resolutions, Workplans and Joint Initiatives.

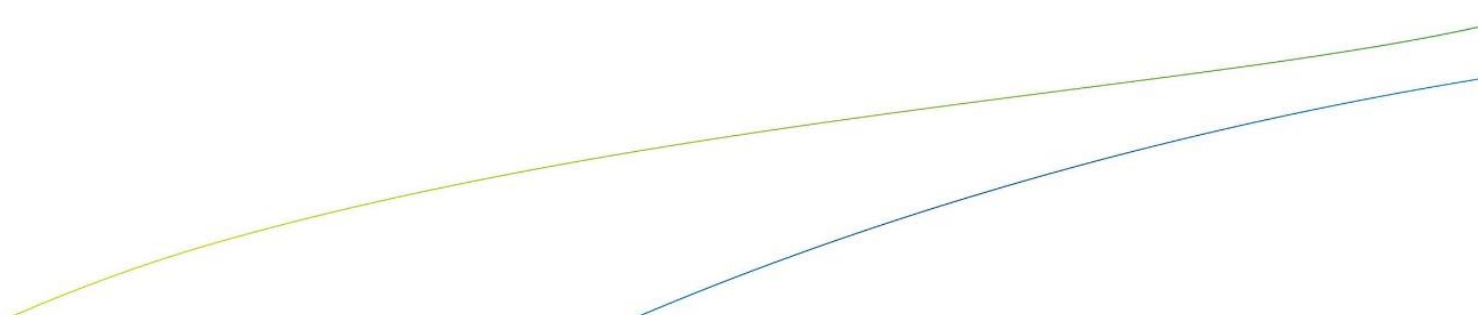
Wetlands International plays a role in the following international conventions:

As an International Organisation Partner (IOP) of Ramsar, Wetlands International influences and supports implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan; including a leading role in providing the underpinning scientific knowledge for wetland inventory and assessment. This role is described in a Memorandum of Co-operation (www.ramsar.org/key_wi_mou_2004.htm);

Wetlands International provides technical support to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as guided by a Memorandum of Cooperation;

Wetlands International provides technical advice and promotes implementation of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), under the Convention on Migratory Species; and

Through its peatlands conservation programmes, Wetlands International has contributed significantly to the objectives of the Framework Convention on Climate Change by taking action to conserve significant carbon sink resources.



About Wetlands International

Wetlands International

Wetlands International works with governments, NGOs and local communities to ensure that wetlands are managed to safeguard or restore their ecological character and services. Our long-term projects demonstrate practical solutions to biodiversity and livelihood threats in some of the major wetlands of the world.

Wetlands International assesses the status and trends in wetland conditions and builds the global knowledge-base for wise use of wetlands in the context of sustainable development. We develop and promote practical tools and methods to assess and monitor wetlands and wetland taxation.

Wetlands International assists national governments to develop wetland policies and strategies and build capacity to integrate these with water resource management and poverty reduction strategies. We help ensure that key global policy debates and mechanisms, for example the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Convention on Biological Diversity, are underpinned by science and knowledge.

Wetlands International manages the longest-standing global biological data set in the world in a database on migratory waterbirds. The data are updated every year through the International Waterbird Census (IWC). This helps to identify critical wetland sites along the global flyways as well as to monitor population trends. The IWC goes back nearly 50 years. It involves 15,000 volunteers documenting locations and numbers of 40,000,000 waterbirds on an annual basis.

For further information about the programmes, projects and services of Wetlands International, see www.wetlands.org.

Strategic Intent 2015-2025

The Strategic Intent 2015-2025 is a revised ten year outlook for Wetlands International and presents the overarching strategy for the organisation worldwide. It is an internal document to guide the organisation, with a view to the long-term perspective. It is also used to communicate our Strategy to interested parties, including donors, members and partners in particular. It forms the basis for more detailed strategic planning at the global, regional and office scales. The work of all offices of Wetlands International is organised under this umbrella.

Our Members played an important role in the formulation of the Wetlands International Strategic Intent 2015-2025. This document was prepared following extensive internal and external consultation since 2014, including evaluations of past achievements and lessons learned and assessments of the internal and external challenges and opportunities for the organisation.

During the General Members Meeting in Rotterdam in September 2014, advice received through global and regional consultations, was presented for strategic discussion at a global stakeholders event, and also discussed in roundtables per region. It was formally adopted by the Members in April 2015.

