



**Wetlands International – European Association
Annual Report and Accounts 2019**



Annual Report 2019

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Our Strategy	3
Summary of activities and achievements in 2019.....	4
Area 1 Healthy Wetland Nature	4
Area 2 Replenished water stores from mountains to sea	5
Area 3 Peatland treasures are safeguarded and restored	7
Area 4. Addressing EU’s impact on wetlands around the world	7
Functioning and governance	9
The Board	9
General Members Meeting	9
Resourcing the organisation.....	10
Outlook 2020.....	11
Annual Accounts Wetlands International European Association 2019.....	13
Balance sheet as per 31 December	13
Statement of Income and Expenditure Wetlands International European Association 2019	14
Cashflow Statement	15
General accounting policies	16
Explanatory Notes to the Balance sheet	17
Explanatory Notes to the Statement of Income and Expenditure	19
Auditor’s statement.....	21

Introduction

Wetlands International – European Association (WI-EA) is an Association of 10 NGOs from 6 European countries (UK, ES, IT, PL, DE, FR), working together to raise awareness about wetland ecosystems and to advocate the sustainable use of wetlands for people and nature, in particular by linking science, policy and practice.

WI-EA was established in September 2013 as an Association under Dutch law (Vereniging). In accordance with the Articles of Association, WI-EA is a not-for profit organisation managed by its member organisations. WI-EA has offices in Brussels, Belgium and Ede-Wageningen, the Netherlands.

WI-EA is part of Wetlands International, the only global not-for-profit network dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wetlands such as lakes, marshes and rivers. Our vision is a world where wetlands are treasured and nurtured for their beauty, the life they support and the resources they provide.

As part of our approach, we work with a wide range of networks, partners and organisations, ranging from environment and humanitarian NGOs to universities and knowledge institutes, networks of practitioners and industry groups. We engage in activities as diverse as data gathering and processing, awareness raising, training, advocacy and on-the-ground implementation.

Members of Wetlands International – European Association

Since	Country	Original name	Name in English	Abbreviation
2013	Spain	Centro Ibérico de Restauración Fluvial	Iberian Centre for River Restoration	CIREF
2013	Poland	Centrum Ochrony Mokradel	Centre for Wetland Protection	CMOK
2013	UK	The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust	The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust	WWT
2013	UK	Zoological Society of London	Zoological Society of London	ZSL
2013	UK	Sustainable Eel Group	Sustainable Eel Group	SEG
2013	France	Fondation Tour du Valat	Tour du Valat Foundation	TdV
2015	Italy	Centro Italiano per la Riqualificazione Fluviale	Italian Centre for River Restoration	CIRF
2013	Germany	EuroNatur	EuroNatur	EuroNatur
2019	Germany	Michael Succow Foundation	Michael Succow Foundation	MSF
2019	Spain	Fundación Global Nature	Fundación Global Nature	FGN

Our Strategy¹

Our vision is that of a world where wetlands are treasured and nurtured for their beauty, the life they support and the resources they provide.

Our mission is to sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity.

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

We work by bringing together knowledge, policy and practice: we build scientific and practical knowledge-bases on wetlands and use these to stimulate effective policies and practices.

We connect local and regional actions to make a global difference: we combine local experiences and successes to influence national, regional and global policies, practices and investments.

The work undertaken by WI-EA contributes and is complementary to the global Strategic Intent of Wetlands International², which is built around 5 streams of work, namely:

Wetlands International streams	Wetlands International Europe working areas
Healthy wetland nature	Area 1 Healthy Wetland Nature 1.1 Improving knowledge and awareness of wetland habitats and species 1.2 Conserve and restore iconic wetlands 1.3 Promote wise use of wetland habitats and species 1.4 Strengthening investments to benefit wetlands
Replenished water stores from mountains to sea	Area 2 Replenished water stores from mountains to sea 2.1 Implementation and review of EU water directives 2.2 Mainstreaming Nature-based Solutions 2.3 Restoring migratory swimways
Peatland treasures are safeguarded and restored	Area 3 Peatland treasures are safeguarded and restored
Blue lifelines in the desert Vibrant coasts and deltas	Area 4. Addressing EU's impact on wetlands around the world

¹ https://europe.wetlands.org/?attachment_id=2630

² <https://www.wetlands.org/publications/strategic-intent-2015-2025/>

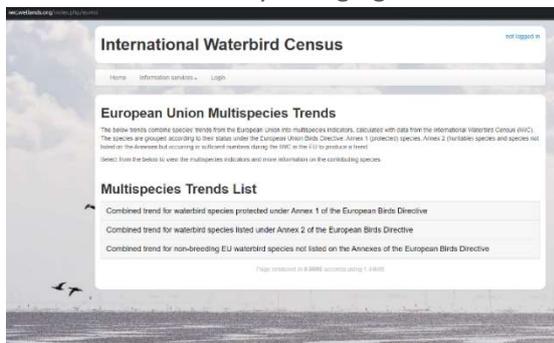
Summary of activities and achievements in 2019

In 2019 WI-EA implemented a series of activities contributing to policy objectives in the fields of Nature & Biodiversity, Water, and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

Building on knowledge and experience of the global network, the European office provided input into policy process and raising awareness on the importance of wetlands for a variety of ecosystem services, and benefits for society. This included topics such as the Fitness Check of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), International Waterbird Census (IWC), nature based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches to DRR, and the role of peatlands as carbon stores in the face of a changing climate.

Area 1 Healthy Wetland Nature

WI-EA has been active in **monitoring and reporting on migratory waterbirds**. We produced a new online dashboard with multispecies trends for species listed on Annex 1 and 2 of the EU Birds Directive that provides new insights into the efficacy of the European Commission (EC) Directives. These trends have confounded very diverging trends at the species level, showing the need for Members States (MS)



and the EC to take steps to avoid overharvesting these species. This is a basis for expected work in 2020 to include additional monitoring datasets and more complex analyses, such as indicators for habitats.

In September the 18th, WI-EA contributed to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) **Eurasian Curlew International Working Group**. This group aims at establishing an adaptive harvest management process for the nominal subspecies. WI-EA emphasised that any future adaptive harvest management should assess the impact of hunting on the segment of the population that winters or migrates through France. According to the data collected by the IWC, more than half of the breeding population winters north of France and only 10% of the population can be accounted for in France and further south. The hunting pressure on this segment of the population is therefore much higher in comparison to the entire population. It has also been emphasised that better estimation of the number of Curlews wintering south from France in Spain, Portugal and Northwest Africa to Senegal is crucial.

Work with members

Several pressures related to land-use change, such as fragmentation, drainage or pollution, are currently threatening Europe's wetlands. Within Europe, the Mediterranean area is considered to be particularly vulnerable to the combined effects of land-use change, increasing pollution and declining biodiversity. TdV, in collaboration with WI-EA, has created an entirely **new dataset based on expert knowledge to document changes in biodiversity in the Camargue**, France. This database, with observations spanning up to four decades, covers previously neglected taxa included in the computation of indices such as the Living Planet Index of Mediterranean wetlands and the Living Region Index of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. This database will be the input for the **land use change analysis** that we expect to complete with in 2020.

A technical writing workshop in December hosted by the **Native Oyster Network** was supported by WI-EA in cooperation with the ZSL. The workshop aimed to achieve agreement on monitoring methods for oyster habitat restoration projects. The results of the workshop underpin the **European Native Oyster Monitoring Handbook** which will be published in 2020 and helps conserving oysters.

Area 2 Replenished water stores from mountains to sea



WI-EA co-led the public campaign **#ProtectWater** during the WFD Fitness Check process, which facilitated citizens' participation in the EC's public consultation on the EU WFD to express their clear opposition to changing the legislation. 375,386 citizens answered the call to speak out against weakening the WFD, making it one of the largest public consultations ever in the history of the EU. It went on to be supported by more than 130 Civil Society Organisations, including members and partners of WI-EA and 5500+ scientists. In December, the EC concluded based on the evaluation of EU water legislation that the **WFD is "broadly fit for purpose"**, acknowledging that the objectives of the law "are as relevant now as they

were at the time of the adoption" and that the law has led to "a higher level of protection for water bodies and flood risk management".



were at the time of the adoption" and that the law has led to "a higher level of protection for water bodies and flood risk management".

WI-EA called for an increased ambition and effective action from MS to improve the state of water in Europe. We also called Belarusian authorities to **stop road construction in**

“Almany” mires, a vast complex of over 94,000 ha of natural and untouched mires and bogs preserved in natural state in southern Belarus.

WI-EA together with World Fish Migration Foundation recommended the EC **to include dam removal as a priority topic for investment under its new research and innovation programme Horizon Europe** emphasising the powerful role dam removal can play to restore freshwater ecosystems and reverse the decline of freshwater biodiversity. This cooperation with the World Fish Migration Foundation has resulted in structural cooperation by **WI-EA becoming a new partner of the Dam Removal Europe coalition**.

Thanks to the work of our interns, we have understood what makes people take a positive stand and positive action in existing Natural water retention measures projects in the Rhine basin and identified their key arguments. These results will feed into our work to identify the **potential of restoring the**

sponge function in wetland soils in the Rhine basin as a nature-based solution with potential impacts from local to basin scale.



Work with members

WI-EA attended and supported our members in different events such as the **International Workshop “Implementation of Nature Based Solutions to tackle climate change: Focus on the Mediterranean region” (TdV)** and the **third Iberian Conference on River Restoration “Restauraríos” (CIREF)**. While the first aimed at discussing the benefits and challenges related to Nature Based Solutions implementation, the second evolved around the role that river restoration must play in the second cycle of water planning foreseen in the WFD for the 2015-2021 period.



WI-EA supported the **SEG 10 year anniversary conference in June “Where next for eel protection?”**, themes discussed were enforcement of eel trafficking, sustainable eel management, consumption of eel products, and

freshwater biodiversity crisis. The European Programme Manager chaired the opening session and gave a presentation on the status of European Wetlands with reference to the outcomes of reporting under the WFD, European Environmental Agency data, and importance of transitional waters.



Area 3 Peatland treasures are safeguarded and restored

Paludiculture was prominently high on the agenda of WI-EA. In April, together with Greifswald Mire Centre, WI-EA organised a **workshop on EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform and peatland management**. We met with EU actors to discuss post 2020 CAP and its effect on farming on wet organic (peat) soils, so called paludiculture. By the end of the year we organised a set of meetings held with farmers, Members of the European Parliament (MEP), and EC's officials.

The Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) invited WI-EA to an internal lunch conference to present paludiculture to a wider internal audience, followed by bilateral meetings with key people working on the CAP proposal. In April 2019, European Parliament's Agri Committee approved an amendment which included "paludiculture" in the Art. 4 related to Definitions. All our meetings were aiming at keeping this amendment in all voting phases. WI-EA secured a breakfast on paludiculture with the rapporteur of the CAP dossier, MEP Peter Jahr and ENVI MEP Michal Wiezik, in March 2020. MEP Wiezik contributed to include peatlands in the COP25 resolution.

WI-EA has maintained a close collaboration with the informal CAP NGO coalition to gather intelligent and agree on common positions. This coalition is formed by organisations such as the European Environmental Bureau, Friends of the Earth, Wo World Wide Fund for Nature European Policy Office, BirdLife Europe, Greenpeace, Bee Europe or Slowfood.

Area 4. Addressing EU's impact on wetlands around the world

Raising awareness activities were mainly focused on the ecosystem-based approach to DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA).

WI-EA organised a **Lab Debate "Water, Peace and Security. Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies by addressing water threats"** during the European Development Days aimed at raising awareness on the complex water and security risks in the Sahel region, by inviting outstanding speakers to discuss the topic from different perspectives.

Also, on the occasion of the International Day for DRR, DG DEVCO, together with WI-EA and Partners for Resilience hold a **lunch conference to present the programme “Up-scaling community resilience through ecosystem-based DRR”**.

Work with members



WI-EA organised the participation of a delegation of experts from Wetlands International Global and ensured that our Spanish Member, FGN, could attend the sessions of the Conference of the Parties 25. Mainstreamed peatland restoration was addressed and we reached out to countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia and the EU for priority attention in relation to climate change mitigation, fire risk reduction and sustainable landscapes.



Functioning and governance

The Board

Although the Board was involved via e-mail in taking decisions regarding staff salaries, LIFE NGO 2019 Operating Grant budget and Approval of Annual Accounts 2018, no Board meetings were organised in 2019. However, during the last General Members Meeting (GMM) in December, the Board decided to strengthen its activity and support to the European Programme Manager.

The Board is composed of 5 members, appointed by the GMM and representing their member organisations. According to Article 10.2 of the articles of Association, the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer together comprise the Executive Board. Board members are elected for a term of 3 years. Board members can be re-appointed a maximum of 2 terms. The term of the current board expired by end of 2019.

During the GMM in December, members approved the re-appointment of the current Board members for another term of three years.

Member Organisation	Representative	Position on Board	Term 2013-2016	Term 2016-2019	Term 2019-2022
WI	Jane Madgwick	Chair	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
EuroNatur	Gabriel Schwaderer	Treasurer	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
TdV	Jean Jalbert	Board Member	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
CIREF	Evelyn Garcia Burgos	Secretary	-	1 st	2 nd
CMOK	Wiktor Kotowski	Board Member	-	1 st	2 nd

In accordance with Article 16 of the Articles of Association, the Board has prepared the Annual Accounts and the Annual Report in respect of the financial year 2019 and has appointed Pro Novum Chartered Accountants to audit the Annual Accounts.

General Members Meeting

Two GMMs were organised in 2019, one in January in Brussels and another one in December in Venice, Italy. The GMM in January replaced the GMM scheduled for end of 2018, which was postponed due to agenda problems.

The GMM in December in Venice has been crucial to strengthen relations and to set working priorities.

Resourcing the organisation

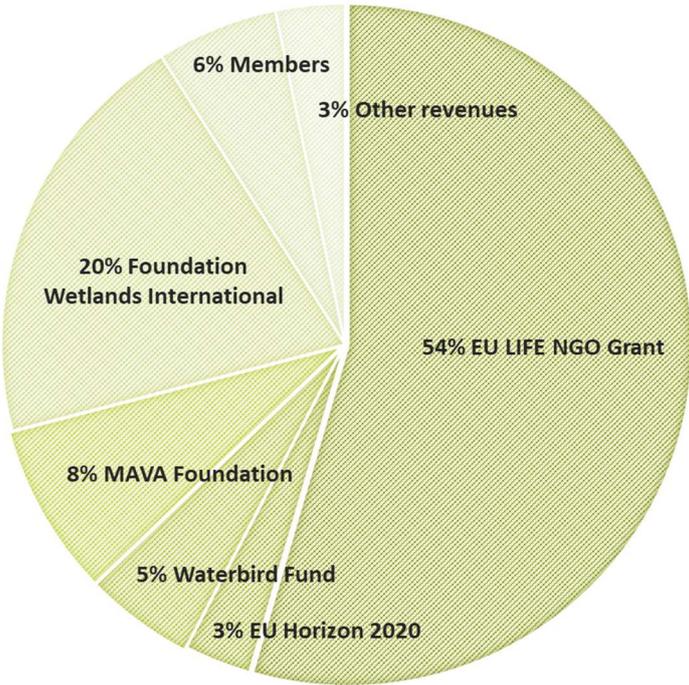
Since 2016, WI-EA has been granted with a LIFE NGO Operating Grant under the LIFE Programme. This grant has co-financed the **functioning costs** of the Association.

In June, we submitted a proposal in view of signing a **Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA)** which includes the two year strategy of the organisation for 2020-2021. The FPA was assessed positively (October) and we were invited to apply for a **Specific Grant Agreement (SGA)** by submitting a workplan and budget for 2020.

2019 resulted in an underspending of the SGA budget for that year. Obtaining the necessary co-funding has been a challenge and some co-funding was only secured in the course of the 2nd half of the year. Therefore, the organisation has been very careful with entering into external subcontracts and some planned programme activities had to be postponed or were cancelled.

WI-EA’s work was made possible due to funding contributions as presented in the pie chart:

2019 FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS



The year ended with a zero balance.

In April a new Project Assistant, Marianne de Rijk started followed by Yurena Lorenzo de Quintana in October which as European Programme Manager.

Outlook 2020

In January 2020 we were informed that the SGA submitted in October 2019 had passed successfully the evaluation process. However, the organisation was asked to correct and re-adjust some sections in the proposal before signing the SGA.

The EC has stressed Wetlands International Europe's underspent several years in a row. As a result, we were asked to justify in detail how we would spend the proposed budget, or reduce it. We went for the second option with the support of the Board.

Financial Year	2020	2020 revised
Total budget (€)	746.230	644.522
EC contribution 57% (€)	426.730	368.022

2020 LIFE NGO Operating Grant budget revision

All revisions were successfully applied and submitted by February 2020. **On 18 May the SGA 2020 has been signed and sent to the EC.** The first pre-instalment of the grant has been paid.

WI-EA has not foreseen difficulties with spending 2020's budget, however it does face challenges with the provision of the 43% co-financing requested by the EC under the LIFE grant. Covid-19 will affect the implementation of certain activities that require physical presence and will also alter the co-financing plans WI-EA had with members and other donors.

The liquidity situation of the organisation has become critical in the first half year of 2020. The final payment of the LIFE NGO Grant 2019 is pending and the pre-instalment for the LIFE NGO Grant 2020 has still not been received. Furthermore, payments for our work under the MAVA projects are behind as well.

When it comes to resource development, 2020 is becoming a year for new funding opportunities to secure income outside the LIFE grant and cover costs which are non-eligible under the LIFE NGO Grant or other project funding. As a minimum around 8.000 is required annually.

Meanwhile, our midterm aim is becoming less dependent on the two main funding sources, the LIFE NGO Grant and the Foundation Wetlands International.

On behalf of the Board,

F.J. Madgwick

Chair of Wetlands International – European Association

23 September 2020

Signed on original by F.J. Madgwick

Annual Accounts Wetlands International European Association 2019

Balance sheet as per 31 December

(in Euros)

	12/31/2019	12/31/2018
ASSETS		
Tangible fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets (1)	1.905	3.451
Current assets		
Debtors and other receivables (2)	146.701	308.277
Cash and Banks (3)	5.594	207.292
	152.295	515.569
Total assets	154.200	519.020
LIABILITIES		
Reserves and funds		
Continuity reserve (4)	0	0
Subsidies (5)	0	430
Short term Liabilities		
Creditors (6)	22.680	13.064
Taxes and social security (7)	1.203	5.043
Other short terms liabilities (8)	130.317	500.483
	154.200	518.590
Total liabilities	154.200	519.020

Statement of Income and Expenditure Wetlands International European Association 2019

(in Euro's)

	2019	2018
Income		
Subsidies (9)	373.362	292.453
Other income (10)	274.492	263.338
	647.854	555.791
Expenses		
Staf costs (11)	299.454	271.446
Direct project costs (12)	233.647	182.869
Housing costs (13)	30.914	29.937
General costs (14)	82.294	69.427
Depreciation (15)	1.546	2.113
	647.854	555.791
Result	0	0

Result appropriation	2019	2018
Decrease continuity reserve	0	0
Increase continuity reserve	0	0
	0	0

Cashflow Statement

(in Euros)

	2019	2018
Cash flow from operating activities		
Result	0	0
Depreciation	1.546	2.113
Cash flow	<u>1.546</u>	<u>2.113</u>
Changes in work capital		
- Change in receivables	161.576	-107.865
- Change in short-term debts	<u>-364.390</u>	<u>258.971</u>
	-202.814	151.106
Changes in subsidy fixed assets	-430	-998
Cash flow from operating activities	<u>-201.698</u>	<u>152.221</u>
Cash flow from investing activities		
Investments in fixed assets	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Cash flow from investing activities	0	0
Change in cash & banks	<u>-201.698</u>	<u>152.221</u>
Cash & banks		
- as per 1st January	207.292	55.071
- as per 31st December	<u>5.594</u>	<u>207.292</u>
Change in cash & banks	<u>-201.698</u>	<u>152.221</u>

General accounting policies

Wetlands International – European Association is established on 25 September 2013.

The financial statements are prepared according to the following principles:

The annual accounts have been drawn up in accordance with Dutch Accounting Guidelines.

Valuation of assets and liabilities and determination of the result are calculated under historical cost convention. Unless presented otherwise at the relevant principle for the specific item, assets and liabilities are valued at nominal value.

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded using the rate at the time of the transaction. Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currency are converted at the exchange rate at the year-end.

Income and expenses are accounted for on accrual basis. Profit is only included when realized on the balance sheet date. Losses originating before the end of the financial year are taken into account if they have become known before preparation of the financial statements. Cash and bank balances are freely disposable, unless stated otherwise.

The financial year runs from January 1st to December 31st

Currency

All amounts are expressed in Euro.

Principles of valuation of assets and liabilities

Tangible Fixed assets

Tangible Fixed assets are presented at cost less accumulated depreciation and, if applicable, less impairments in value. Depreciation is based on the estimated useful life of 3-5 years and calculated as a fixed percentage of cost, taking into account any residual value. Depreciation is applied from the date an asset comes into use.

Taxes

The tax authorities decided that the organization is not subject to VAT tax and company tax.

Principles of determination of results

Income and expenses are accounted for in the profit and loss account at the time of supply of the relevant goods or services. Results are determined by the difference between income and expenses concerning the financial year.

Principles of determination of the Cash Flow

The cash flow is drawn up based on the indirect method.

Off balance sheet liabilities

For rent of its offices in Brussels, Wetlands International European Association has a Service Agreement with International Red Cross until 31 December 2020 for a total of € 18.940.

Explanatory Notes to the Balance sheet

(in Euros)

(1) Tangible fixed assets	ICT hardware 2019	ICT hardware 2018
Balance 1st January		
Purchase value	10.564	10.564
Accumulated depreciation	7.113	5.000
Book value 1st January	<u>3.451</u>	<u>5.564</u>
Investments	0	0
Desinvestments Purchase value	0	0
Desinvestmenst Accumulated depreciation	0	0
Depreciation	1.546	2.113
Balance 31st December		
Purchase value	10.564	10.564
Accumulated depreciation	8.658	7.113
Book value 31 December	<u>1.905</u>	<u>3.451</u>

Fixed assets financed by projects and in use by Wetlands International staff are activated.

The counter value of these assets is accounted for under 'subsidized fixed assets' which are decreased in line with the depreciation of the assets.

(2) Debtors and other receivables	12/31/2019	12/31/2018
Other donor funds	139.782	257.423
CA WI European Association <> WI Foundation	0	24.186
Prepayments	6.219	16.185
Staff advances	700	10.483
Total	<u>146.701</u>	<u>308.277</u>

Contributions outstanding for more than 1 year are amortized

For contributions outstanding 2 years or more, the policy is maintained to institute a provision for 100% because in practise it is impossible for the Association to enforce such payments.

(3) Cash & banks	12/31/2019	12/31/2018
ABN AMRO Current account EUR	5.594	207.292
Total	<u>5.594</u>	<u>207.292</u>

All liquidities are available on demand

(4) Continuity reserve	12/31/2019	12/31/2018
Balance 1 January	0	0
Result appropriation	0	0
Balance 31 December	0	0

The result in the Association's annual account is added to / subtracted from the continuity reserve, in accordance with the organisation's reserves policy as annexed.

(5) Subsidies	12/31/2019	12/31/2018
Balance 1st January	430	1.428
Assets financed by projects	0	0
Depreciation subsidized assets	430	998
Balance 31st December	0	430

Subsidized tangible assets are amortized in line with other tangible assets

(6) Creditors	12/31/2019	12/31/2018
Creditors	22.680	13.064
	22.680	13.064

(7) Taxes and social security	12/31/2019	12/31/2018
Tax & Social costs on salaries	1.124	7.097
Pension	79	-2.054
	1.203	5.043

(8) Other short term liabilities	12/31/2019	12/31/2018
CA WI European Association <> WI Foundation	66.045	0
Projects to be executed	454	154.691
Creditors Subcontractors commitments	37.043	32.044
Holiday reserve	6.607	3.289
Reserve holiday hours outstanding	2.791	4.087
Auditors	12.000	14.000
Project advances received	0	258.912
Other	5.377	33.460
	130.317	500.483

Subcontractor commitments are contracted amounts due to subcontractors for the execution of projects.

Explanatory Notes to the Statement of Income and Expenditure

(in Euros)

(9) Subsidies	2019	2018
European Commission Operating Grant	353.037	286.503
European Commission Horizon 2020	20.325	5.950
	<u>373.362</u>	<u>292.453</u>

(10) Other income	2019	2018
Other sources of co-financing	218.665	202.246
Project income co-funding by members	35.895	26.700
Project income other revenues	16.000	0
Membership fees	1.200	1.200
Subsidized depreciation assets	431	998
Extraordinary profit and losses	2.301	32.195
	<u>274.492</u>	<u>263.338</u>

(11) Staff costs	2019	2018
Wages & salaries	255.408	226.604
Social security costs	40.623	33.801
Pension costs	5.501	3.431
	<u>301.532</u>	<u>263.836</u>
Sickness benefit	-18.051	0
Other personnel costs	15.973	7.610
Total staff costs	<u>299.454</u>	<u>271.446</u>

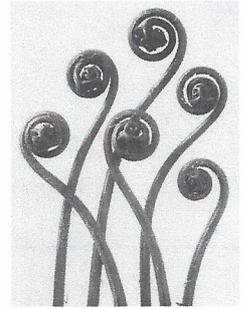
(12) Direct project costs	2019	2018
Subcontracting	131.911	115.485
Travel costs general	36.781	24.948
Accommodation costs (hotel/meals)	7.474	3.420
General Publication costs	2.455	5.857
Meetings/workshops	1.663	11.357
Events	29.200	1.412
Conference fees	692	950
ICT costs	8.567	6.060
Project audit costs	8.815	7.000
Other project running costs	6.090	6.379
	<u>233.647</u>	<u>182.869</u>

(13) Housing costs	2019	2018
Rent	30.914	29.937
	<u>30.914</u>	<u>29.937</u>

(14) General costs	2019	2018
General Publication costs	0	581
Officecosts	42.702	43.357
Travel costs	25.198	13.130
Auditors	3.500	7.000
Other advice	3.000	0
Banking costs	588	333
ICT costs	1.002	861
Others	6.304	4.166
	<u>82.294</u>	<u>69.427</u>

(15) Depreciation costs	2019	2018
ICT Hard- & Software	1.546	2.113
	<u>1.546</u>	<u>2.113</u>

Auditor's statement



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: the management of Wetlands International European Association.

A. Report on the audit of the financial statements 2019 included in the annual report

Our opinion

We have audited the financial statements 2019 of Wetlands International European Association based in Ede.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Wetlands International European Association as at 31 December 2019 and of its result for 2019 in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

The financial statements comprise:

1. the balance sheet as at 31 December 2019;
2. the profit and loss account over 2019; and
3. the notes comprising a summary of the accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report.

We are independent of Wetlands International European Association in accordance with the Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore we have complied with the Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

B. Report on the other information included in the annual report

In addition to the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, the annual report contains other information that consists of:

- the management board's report;
- other information as required by Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

Goethelaan 1

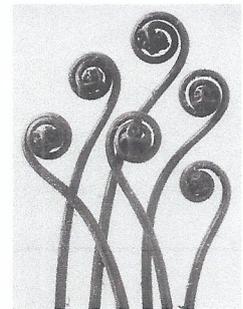
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KvK nummer 70758301



Based on the following procedures performed, we conclude that the other information:

- is consistent with the financial statements and does not contain material misstatements;
- contains the information as required by Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

We have read the other information. Based on our knowledge and understanding obtained through our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, we have considered whether the other information contains material misstatements.

By performing these procedures, we comply with the requirements of Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and the Dutch Standard 720. The scope of the procedures performed is substantially less than the scope of those performed in our audit of the financial statements.

Management is responsible for the preparation of the management board's report in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and other information as required by Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

C. Description of responsibilities regarding the financial statements

Responsibilities of management for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code. Furthermore, management is responsible for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting framework mentioned, management should prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

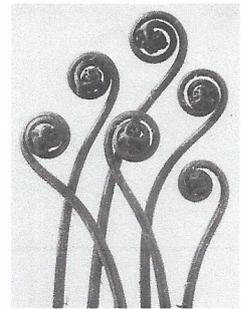
Management should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit assignment in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion.

Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.



We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional skepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements. Our audit included e.g.:

- identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control;
- evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management;
- concluding on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a company to cease to continue as a going concern;
- evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures; and
- evaluating whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Utrecht , 28 September 2020

Bonants Accountancy & Advies

Signed on original by:
P.A.J.M. Bonants RA
Partner

Wetlands International – European Association
Annual Report and Accounts 2019



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