



# Becoming a Member

WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL EUROPE



**Wetlands**  
INTERNATIONAL

# WHY WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL EUROPE?

**We bring together organisations across Europe who work to safeguard and restore wetlands in order to help save nature and transform society. Our members are European NGOs, working together to step up action for wetland solutions to solve the most urgent biodiversity, climate and freshwater challenges facing Europe.**

Our Secretariat based in Brussels (Belgium) and Ede (The Netherlands) binds this wealth of experience together for a greater collective impact. It coordinates joint activities and specialises in evidence-based policy influencing and engagement with decision-makers at the European and international levels – informed by the expertise and perspectives of our members. It keeps members up-to-date on the latest EU and international policy developments, and seeks out opportunities for joint working and collaboration in partnerships in projects.

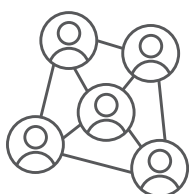
Our members contribute their rich and diverse experiences engaging with different sectors,

cultures and languages, across Europe's rivers and lakes, peatlands, coasts and deltas and biodiversity hotspots, in both rural and urban landscapes. They possess a wide range of conservation-related expertise and interests, and engage at different levels, from global policies to scientific field research to implementing projects on the ground. We integrate these priorities and ways of working to guide our ambitions in Wetlands International European Strategy for 2020-2030.

**Join us as we seek to scale up the power of wetlands to achieve nature-based solutions!**

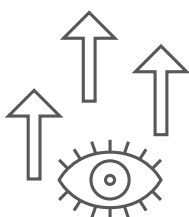
# BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

## NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS



- Access European and global networks of experts and stakeholders.
- Unlock opportunities for joint initiatives and project development.
- Learn from and collaborate with members who share common interests.

## OUTREACH AND VISIBILITY



- Promote your activities through our many channels and networks.
- Receive invitations to engage in working groups and events.
- Get connected to decision makers and funders.

## POLICY INFLUENCING



- Benefit from our expert advice and support to better influence policy by linking national work to European and international processes.
- Be informed on the latest developments in European and International policies, along with new programmes, funding calls and publications.
- Contribute to joint advocacy activities and policy developments on key issues (policy briefs, position papers, letters to Members of the EU Parliament, etc.).

## AGENDA SETTING



- Participate and vote at our annual General Members meeting.
- Contribute to the development and execution of our strategy.
- Contribute to annual assessments to provide strategic looks at progress in strategy implementation.
- Join our Board.

# BECOME PART OF A LARGER NETWORK

**As a member of Wetlands International Europe, your organisation gains access to a much larger network. We prioritise collaborating with others in order to leverage more impactful results and on behalf of our members, we engage in many cross sectoral platforms where we promote wetland solutions to address the urgent challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, the degradation of freshwater ecosystems and increased societal resilience.**

In addition to working with our own members, we partner with the following alliances, networks and conventions, with regional, European and international reach.

## EUROPE

We are official members of European alliances such as the European Water Stewardship Network, Water Europe, European Centre for River Restoration, Dam Removal Europe, European Habitats Forum, Living Rivers Europe, Green Corridor Initiative, Mediterranean Wetlands Alliance and CONCORD. We participate as a stakeholder on the EU Water Framework Directive and Floods Directive implementation committee.

We also collaborate with the Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Watch Europe, Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), EU Civil Society Organisations (CSO), Steering Group, Eurosite, MedWet and the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership.

## INTERNATIONAL

Wetlands International is an active partner in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, as

well as the Global Peatlands Initiative. As long-time partner of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, our global network helps set the agenda and influences and supports implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan. This includes a leading role in providing the underpinning scientific knowledge for wetland inventory and assessment. Our global office is also a part of international UN conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Migratory Species and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Wetlands International has coordinated the International Waterbird Census (IWC) since 1967, and our European office provides data management and database development for the African Eurasian flyway, which in turn bestow us with membership of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Technical committee.

The European Strategy is also fully aligned with Wetlands International's Strategic Intent 2020-2030, sharing a same vision, mission and ambition and will contribute to this framework by putting wetlands at the forefront of policies to solve the inter-linked crises of biodiversity loss, climate change and the degradation of freshwater ecosystems.

# ROLE OF MEMBERS

**Our members guide the direction of our work. By sharing expertise and working in partnership with us and our networks, members help us expand our reach and scale up wetlands solutions, from the local to regional and international levels.**

We believe that the more we collaborate with our members, the more we can achieve together in reaching our goals benefiting nature and people. Our work is most successful when our members actively participate. That is why we ask our members to be prepared to invest their time and contribute to our activities and governance.

## **MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Nominate up to two delegates to represent its organisation.
- Identify experts to be part of working groups.
- Attend General Members Meetings to set strategic priorities, elect the Board of the Association and approve the annual accounts.
- Engage with other members and the Secretariat.
- Connect Wetlands International Europe to strategic contacts in relevant ministries, organisations and sectors.
- Actively contribute to policy work such public consultations and position papers by providing comments and feedback.
- Share information with the Secretariat on EU engagement such as meetings and events.
- Inform the Secretariat if support is needed for strategic processes, project applications and similar opportunities.
- Review and contribute to our Strategy.
- Pay annual dues.

# BECOME A MEMBER

## WHO CAN BECOME A MEMBER?

Members are NGOs committed to achieving our shared goals and working together in partnership. Your organisation can become a member by demonstrating that it:

- Is a legal entity or a consortium of legal entities in their own right, registered in any state of continental Europe.
- Has a national or regional outreach.
- Carries out activities on a continuous basis, independent of any commercial, industrial or political influence or interest.
- Works in one or more areas of environmental conservation, with a main objective to preserve, restore, promote, defend and/or study wetlands-related issues.

## HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

To join us, please send the following documents to our Director Dr. Chris Baker at: [chris.baker@wetlands.org](mailto:chris.baker@wetlands.org) or [europa@wetlands.org](mailto:europa@wetlands.org)

- Membership application form (Annex I);
- Legal statutes of your organisation;
- Most recent financial report;
- Most recent activity report.

## DUES

As a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation, we seek a small amount of financial support from our Members to help fund our core activities. This investment is returned to you many times over through the opportunities to collaborate and engage with us.

Annual turnover (€)	Due requested (€)
< 500.000	100
> 500.000	200

All applications are reviewed and approved by our Board. After approval and payment of dues, the applicant organisation will become an official member.