

# BECOMING A MEMBER

Wetlands International Europe



**Wetlands**  
INTERNATIONAL

# CONTENTS

## ABOUT WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL EUROPE

Why WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL EUROPE? .....	3
Membership benefits .....	4
Become part of a larger network .....	5

## BECOMING A MEMBER OF WI-EA

Members' role in WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL EUROPE.....	6
Becoming a member .....	7
Who can become a member?	
How to become a member	
Membership dues .....	8

# WHY WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL EUROPE?

**Wetlands International Europe brings together European organisations working to inspire and mobilise society to safeguard and restore wetlands for people and nature. Its Secretariat consists of 7 staff members based in Brussels (Belgium) and Ede (The Netherlands) that ensure the coordination of the Association and conducts evidence-based influencing towards EU policy and decision -makers. It also informs the members and global partners about the implications that EU policy developments have for them.**

Wetlands International Europe's members are European NGOs, united by the vision of a world where wetlands are treasured and nurtured for their beauty, the life they support and the resources they provide. They possess various interests on wetlands protection and conservation which also are reflected in our different working areas as outlined in Wetlands International Europe's Strategy for 2020-2030. There are Peatlands, Rivers and Lakes and Coasts and Deltas which are cross-cut by two important working areas: Biodiversity and Wetlands External Dimension. Members also work in different scales of operation, from the global level and the EU level, to sub-regional, national or local levels, engaging with different sectors, cultures and languages, in both rural and urban settings.

The Secretariat binds all this richness and diversity together in a common goal and a shared understanding of the need to address water and biodiversity issues in an integrated manner. This way, we can bring coherence to the different political views of our member organisations and to Wetlands International global network.

# MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

## PROFESSIONAL NETWORK AND PARTNERSHIPS



- Exclusive access to European and International network of experts and stakeholders within wetlands conservation.
- Access to partnership opportunities for joint initiatives, events or projects.
- Access to information on Wetlands International Global network of members and partners.
- Linking up national work with the European policy agenda.
- Linking work with other members interested in the same topics.

## INCREASED VISIBILITY



- Promotion of members' activities through various channels, such as our quarterly newsletter, dedicated news items or directly through our network of members, partners and alliances.
- Access to key events where members can act as speakers or contributors.
- Upscaling your work: Bringing your message to the drivers of policy development and funding programmes in European Union.

## INFORMATION AND POLICY UPDATES



- Regular updates on developments in European and International policies, ongoing programmes and publications on wetland ecosystems relevant to individual members.
- Engaging in dialogue on key policy issues and carrying out joint policy development projects (policy briefings, position papers, letters to Members of the Parliament, etc.) and advocacy activities.
- Benefit from our expert teams' technical advice and support to influence regional policy processes.

## SHAPING WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL EUROPEAN PROGRAMME



- Participation and right to vote at the annual General Members meeting.
- Contribute to the development and execution of the Wetlands International Europe's strategy.
- Contribute to annual assessments to provide strategic looks at progress in strategy implementation.
- Access to join our Board structure.
- Access to join our programme activities to create a bigger impact.

# BECOME PART OF A LARGER NETWORK

**Wetlands International Europe strives bringing stakeholders together and setting up collaborations with others who share our vision. We also look at cross sectoral approaches linking climate change, biodiversity loss, wetlands degradation and societal resilience and we connect them at project, policy and stakeholder level. Becoming a member of Wetlands International Europe will give your organization access to a larger network of allies. Aside from our own members and partners, Wetlands International Europe is itself a member of various associations both internationally and in Europe.**

## EUROPE

At the European level, we collaborate with 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.

Additionally, 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 Habitat Forum, Living Rivers Europe, Green Corridor Initiative, Mediterranean Wetlands Alliance and CONCORD.

## INTERNATIONALLY

As an International Organization Partner (IOP) of Ramsar, Wetlands International 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. Wetlands International is also a part of international conventions such as the Convention on Biological Biodiversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and IPCC.

Wetlands International has coordinated the International Waterbird Census (IWC) since 1967 and Wetlands International Europe 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.

# MEMBERS' ROLE IN WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL EUROPE

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

That is why we ask our members to be prepared to invest some time into Wetlands International Europe as our work is only possible through their involvement in our activities. The Secretariat does its best to coordinate amongst the members, but then this can only be successful if members actively participate and support this work.

## **Members are responsible for:**

- Nomination of up to two delegates who will represent their organisation at Wetlands International Europe.
- Identifying key people within their organisation to be part of different working groups.
- Attending the General Members Meetings where you may vote to set strategic priorities, elect the Board of the Association or approve the annual accounts.
- Engaging in dialogue with Wetlands International Europe's members and Secretariat.
- Connecting Wetlands International Europe with relevant links to government departments, organisations and sectors.
- Reviewing and contributing to the Wetlands International Europe's Strategy.
- Contributing to policy work (response to public consultations, joint position papers, response to EU documents) by guaranteeing feedback, sharing national experience, and having an active role.
- Sharing information with the Secretariat when meeting with EU officials to better coordinate our work.
- Inform the Secretariat if special support is needed on strategic processes, talking points, project applications, etc.
- Pay annual membership dues.

# BECOMING A MEMBER

## WHO CAN BECOME A MEMBER?

Members are NGOs committed to achieving our goals and working in partnership with all sectors of society. Your organisation can become a member if:

- it is a legal entity or a consortium of legal entities in their own right, registered in any state of the continental Europe.
- it carries out its activities on a continuous basis, independent of any commercial, industrial or political influence or interest.
- it demonstrates through its statutes and practice that: its main objective is to preserve, promote, defend and/or study environmental interests, with, in the latter case, the goal of advancing environmental protection; it has a national or regional outreach; and it works in one or more areas of environmental interests.

## HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

If your organization would like to become a member, please send the documents listed below to our Programme Manager Yurena Lorenzo at [yurena.lorenzo@wetlands.org](mailto:yurena.lorenzo@wetlands.org):

- The membership application form (Annex I);
- The legal statutes of your organization;
- The most recent financial report;
- The most recent activity report.

All applications will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Wetlands International Europe.

After confirmation of approval and payment of the first fee, the applicant organisation will become an official member of Wetlands International Europe.

# MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

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