

Wetlands International - European Association Annual Report and Accounts 2021



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Utrecht

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Paraaf voor identificatiedoeleinden

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Introduction

As part of Wetlands International, the only global not-for-profit network dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wetlands, Wetlands International European Association well known as Wetlands International Europe was established in 2013 as a membership-based association aiming at improving policy development and implementation to enhance practices and investments on wetlands protection and conservation. In 2021, the Association counted with 11 NGOs¹ from 7 European countries (UK, ES, IT, PL, DE, FR, BY).

Wetlands International Europe 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. As a member-based organization, our working model is designed to connect knowledge at three levels: European, national and on-the-ground, creating a virtuous cycle of information flow between the Secretariat of the Association and member organizations that combines bottom-up and top-down approaches, and facilitates the collection of

examples of best practices and lessons learned that are used to inform policy processes and decision makers.

The year 2021 has been a rewarding year with new proposals and projects in our portfolio, new colleagues joining our rapidly expanding team, and the launch of the [European strategy 2020-2030](#). We have been consistent in building our distinctive identity among other organisations in Europe stressing the vital role of wetlands for the attainment of European policy goals, and this has been possible through the steady cultivation of existing partnerships, but also thanks to the forging of new ones.

Summary of activities and achievements in 2021

The work undertaken by Wetlands International Europe contributes and is complementary to the global [Strategic Intent of Wetlands International 2020-2030](#), which is built around three streams of work: Deltas and Coasts, Rivers and Lakes, and Peatlands. For the purpose of this report, we will refer to Freshwater when addressing Deltas and Coasts, and Rivers and Lakes. Moreover, the European strategy adds two cross-cutting work areas to these streams, namely the European External dimension, and Biodiversity.

In 2021, we continued building on knowledge and experience providing input into policy processes and raising awareness on the importance of wetlands for a variety of ecosystem services beneficial for nature and people. Key activities under our different streams can be summarised as follows:

On **Freshwater**, as part of our work on EU's water policies, we concentrated on the 3rd cycle of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) as key elements for the accomplishment by 2027 of the Water Framework Directive's (WFD) objectives for healthy water. Furthermore, our active role within the platform Living Rivers Europe has proven to be very efficient to reach wider audiences

¹ <https://europe.wetlands.org/our-network/members/>

with our messages. In relation to our long-term work validating the “natural sponges concept”, this has shifted to the upscaling stage where we will mobilise action on the ground by securing commitments from decision-makers to lead the funding and deployment of sponges in different parts of Europe. Another valuable line of action has been our steady participation in strategic groups such as Dam Removal Europe to make sure that focus stays on the existing target of at least 25,000 km of rivers free-flowing by 2030, removing primarily obsolete barriers and restoring floodplains and wetlands.

On **Peatlands**, unwavering attention towards higher recognition of peatlands and paludiculture in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) did not stop from our side. We built knowledge around paludiculture, advocating for the phase out of payments for drained peatlands and its mainstreamed inclusion in CAP Strategic Plans. We were also active in different policy developments such as the revision of the Land-use, Land-use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation and the publication of the European Union (EU) Forest Strategy, both documents key to ensuring reduction of emissions from wetlands, and to securing the intimate and nuanced connection between forests and wetlands. We also started engaging on the Carbon Farming Initiative which clearly recognises peatlands restoration as an effective carbon farming practice.

On **Biodiversity**, we carried on raising awareness of wetland values, status and trends through our active strategic engagement in the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) besides data management, database development and network support management of the International Waterbirds Census. We also strongly advocated for the wise use of wetlands and their inclusion in the coming restoration targets using collaborative platforms as the European Habitats Forum.

On **External Action**, we have facilitated the involvement of Wetlands International country offices in EU consultations with Civil society organisations on the programming of the external financial instrument to bring attention to the critical issues facing wetlands in a development context. We took part in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow and, as in previous years, safeguarded our participation, and that of our colleagues from other offices around the world, in the European Development Days and the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction. Furthermore, our assistance to Wetlands International’s network with building connections with EU delegations, the Directorate-General for International Partnerships or the European External Action Service remained an important element of our external efforts.

Most importantly is that we did not stand alone in pursuing our claims and goals, which is why we have persisted nurturing the alliances, partnerships and coalitions we are part of such as Dam Removal Europe, CONCORD, Living Rivers Europe, European Habitats Forum (EHF) or the Mediterranean Wetlands Alliance. This has also allowed us to leverage our resource development efforts by being part in nine project proposals, six of them approved by the time this report has been published.

2021 has also been a year of breaking records in terms of formal collaborations with partners, members and Wetlands International’s network. In this regard, we have signed an outstanding number of seventeen Grant Agreements that have helped not only in building a stronger bond with these parties, but in strengthening our visibility and programme in Europe. Ultimately, to align with a growing portfolio of projects and programmes, the team has grown accordingly with three new recruitments.

In the following section, we would like to present a more in detail description of the main outcomes of the year for each work programme.

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Freshwater

As part of Living Rivers Europe, we advocated for strong levels of commitment of the final 3rd cycle RBMPs, and for mainstreaming river ecosystems protection and restoration in the new EU restoration targets. This line of work was aligned with our role as partners in the MAVA Foundation project “Reviving Douro basin”, where we launched the report [“Transborder cooperation of shared river basins under the Albufeira Convention”](#) that evaluates the cooperation under the Albufeira Convention for managing transboundary rivers in the Iberian Peninsula and provides recommendations for taking steps to arrive at genuine integrated river basin management taking the basin as one unseparated body as starting point. We also started a draft joint position paper to be taken forward in 2022 to back the objectives to restore (transborder) ecological quality and connectivity of the three major transboundary river basins in Europe through increased and effective cross border Integrated River Basin Management.

We took an active part during the [2nd European River Summit](#) in Portugal and the online European River Symposium. The first one allowed us to discuss the EU Green Deal policy opportunities for river protection and restoration, while the second aimed at exploring how the EU Biodiversity Strategy could help achieve the WFD objectives, and vice-versa.

The disastrous summer floods in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands brought attention to our research on the potential of “natural sponges” to provide effective solutions for better retaining peak floodwaters in the uppermost river catchments. The idea was endorsed by the EU Strategy to Adaptation to Climate Change, and we successfully inserted it into the EU Guidance on Barrier Removal for River Restoration. We also capitalised on the opportunity with different outreach activities.

Within the Dam Removal Europe’s coalition, we attended the monthly meetings while acting as the organization most closely connected to EU policy developments and advocacy work on dam removal, while benefiting from increased visibility at the international level, and access to an even wider network of river restoration experts and practitioners. Furthermore, our partnership with World Fish Migration Foundation to increase the uptake of dam removal measures in Europe went forward with the development of a concept proposal for the Open Rivers Foundation, the filming of DamBusters documentary to be released in 2022, the organisations of the Fish Passage conference 2021, and the development of training materials to deliver dam removals in countries without a track record of removing dams.

We also maintained our regular participation to the Living Rivers Europe meetings remaining this way active in the fight to protect water in Europe and, more specifically, in the lobby for legally binding obligations to restore at least 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers and in the fight to protect water Europe. As part of our active involvement we were able to produce the report [The Final Sprint for Rivers](#) or the [Briefing paper on setting EU free-flowing river restoration target](#).

In 2021, we started harvesting results from the efforts towards the consolidation of the partnership [“Wetlands 4 Mediterranean resilience”](#) aiming at minimizing the threats to wetlands in the Mediterranean region. To provide sustainability to this partnership from 2022 onwards, we carried out an inventory of challenges from horizon-scanning publications, updated our Theory of Change to anchor our shared vision, and will publish a joint fundraising strategy in 2022. We have also played a key role in the process towards the integration of this partnership in the existing Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands, and have worked closely with Tour du Valat in the definition of future operations of the Alliance. In the years to come, Wetlands International Europe will play a determined role in the Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands as the single network organisation in Europe that focuses exclusively on wetlands related policies, while at the same time possesses the required knowledge and capacity to effectively mobilize stakeholders in the region.

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Work with members

Members CIRF, CIREF and EuroNatur all contributed to analysing RBMPs. The Secretariat of Wetlands International Europe and the Iberian Centre for River Restoration (CIREF) commissioned a study on the [extent of river restoration measures proposed in selected Spanish and Portuguese RBMPs of the second cycle \(2015-2021\)](#). The study was shared with the Spanish Water Director and Deputy Director in a meeting to discuss better incorporation of river restoration measures in RBMPs. In addition, and as in the past years, a World Fish Migration Day event was organised in Spain by CIREF.

We stayed active in the governance activities of the Sustainable Eel Group by regularly attending its Leadership Team meetings to support on conservation topics related to Eel regulation and WFD.

The Italian Center for River Restoration (CIRF) represented us at the expert Working Group on Ecological Status (ECOSTAT) of the Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) of the Common Implementation on Strategy (CIS) for the Water Framework Directive (WFD). CIRF also joined a sediments task force and contributed to guidance on free-flowing rivers.

Peatlands

In 2021, we assured monitoring of CAP negotiations liaising with different coalitions made of national and Brussels-based CSOs working on the CAP and Farm to Fork strategy to promote peatlands and paludiculture. This work fed into the development of joint letters and briefings like the [“Definition of paludiculture in the CAP”](#) or [“Opportunities for Peatlands and Paludiculture in the EU CAP \(2023-2027\)”](#) recommending votes ahead of the vote in the European Parliament.

We were also present in workshops related to the new EU Carbon Farming Initiative, joined NGOs in defining key messages for the revision of the LULUCF Regulation, and participated in NGOs meetings on the EU due diligence legislative proposal to ensure attention towards harmful conversions of peatlands and wetlands to produce palm oil or soy.

We also attended the COP26 in Glasgow with colleagues from the Global office contributing to the delivery of key messages by Wetlands International speakers in sessions at the peatlands pavilion on private finance or National Determined Contributions.

Work with members

Working with members to guarantee that CAP strategic plans mentioned peatlands conservation measures and that paludiculture is raised as a key carbon farming practice was one of our most relevant actions during 2021. This was translated into different papers already mentioned above. With our members Michael Succow Foundation and the Center for River Restoration (CMok), we produced the policy brief [“Protecting and Restoring Peatlands – Targets and Recommendations for Peatlands in the EU Biodiversity Strategy”](#) to contribute to the influencing of the drafting of the EU Nature Restoration Law.

Together with our member Michael Succow Foundation, we made possible the adaptation of the Moor Futures standard and methodology in Lithuania by elaborating a framework for Lithuanian crediting scheme for peatlands rewetting. This work was executed by the Lithuanian Foundation for Peatland Restoration and Conservation.

Biodiversity

In 2021, we went forward playing an instrumental role in the timely delivery of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027. We chaired the Habitat working group of the AEWA Technical Committee, and worked with the AEWA Secretariat in establishing a flyway site network. We also

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collaborated with BirdLife International on developing a concept for habitat action plans for principal habitats for migratory birds in the African-Eurasian flyways. We contributed to the developing of an adaptive flyway management programme for the Common Eider, and participated in the work of the European Goose Management Platform ensuring that legal hunting and killing under derogation is coordinated in a way that it does not lead to jeopardizing the favourable conservation status of these populations.

The maintenance of the largest and longest running citizen-science biodiversity monitoring network in the world, the International Waterbird Census was kept assured with ongoing data management and network support for the African Eurasian flyway to ensure management of wetlands and the lives they support, along with the production of annual reports.

We kept our active involvement in the regular meetings of the European Habitats Forum, and participated to all workshops organised by the European Commission on developing legally binding EU nature restoration targets on the EU Nature Restoration Law to influence the drafting of wetlands restoration targets.

Together with IUCN Europe, Commonland and Landscape Finance Lab we initiated the drafting of a report around the [4 Returns Framework for Landscape Restoration](#) and its use to accomplish the delivery of the European Green Deal's targets. The report will include different case studies of landscape restoration projects and in this respect we are collaborating with Fundación Global Nature to present one case from Spain.

Work with members

With the Zoological Society of London, we published the European [Native Oyster Handbook](#) and elaborated a [Seagrass restoration handbook](#). The first looks at how to monitor the restoration of native oyster habitat in Europe, while the second one is a pioneering 'how to' handbook full of practical guidance for local authorities, community partnerships, charities and environmental organisations who want to actively restore seagrass beds.

In the process of establishing the first European swimways network, we organised discussions with members to identify interests and priorities to launch this visible flagship undertaking that will help protect migratory fish and catalyze reaching the EU Biodiversity Strategy's targets on restoring threatened fish species to favorable conservation status, and restoring 25,000 km target for free-flowing rivers.

EU's impact on wetlands around the world

Wetlands International Europe coordinated its advocacy work on the EU external financing instrument, the external action of the Green Deal, and the EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030 with a broad range of Brussels-based organisations. Our aim was to call for the implementation of an external dimension of the Green Deal, with high ambitions around the topics of biodiversity and environmental considerations.

We also increased involvement of Wetlands International colleagues in countries like Kenya, Mali, Indonesia, Brazil or India to coordinate joint responses, and strengthen our collaboration with EU delegations. Accordingly, we contacted EU delegations to be invited in Civil Society Organisations consultations on the programming of EU's 2021-2027 actions in specific countries, regions and on key themes. Besides, and not less important was the webinar we organised with our colleagues from the Latin America region "Water, Wetlands and Fires: Innovative solutions for Green Recovery in South America". It counted with the participation of representatives from the European Commission, European Parliament and EU delegations, to discuss the importance to restore and safeguard the Paraguay-Paraná wetland system and keep water in this landscape as a means to achieve resilient communities and ecosystems, and a green recovery from the pandemic.

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As usual, we submitted and organised key events within the European Development Days, the Africa Climate week or the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction to stress the role of wetlands restoration and protection to achieve climate, biodiversity and sustainable development goals. During the European Development Days, we organised a high level session on Nature Based solutions, while during the European Forum for Disaster Risk in Portugal we focused on climate and disaster risk reduction.

Functioning and governance

The Board

The general management of Wetlands International Europe has been entrusted to its Board members. Board members do not get remunerated.

In 2021, the Board has met several times to approve the 2021 Annual budget, the 2020 Annual accounts, the strategy of Wetlands International Europe 2020-2030 and the membership pack. Other relevant topics discussed were related to Board succession and the approval of new members applications.

2021 composition of the Board²:

Member Organisation	Representative	Position on Board
Wetlands International	Jane Madgwick	Chair
EuroNatur	Gabriel Schwaderer	Treasurer
Tour du Valat	Jean Jalbert	Member
Centro Ibérico de Restauración Fluvial	Evelyn García Burgos	Secretary
Michael Succow Foundation	Jan Peters	Co-Chair
Fundación Global Nature	Eduardo de Miguel	Observer

Our members

Wetlands International Europe 's governance is also possible thanks to its members who guide the Secretariat's work and strategic directions.

On a yearly basis, our members gather during the General Members Meeting to discuss and assess progress of the Association, plus identify new lines of action for the future. In 2021, the General Members Meeting did not take place and it was postponed to January 2022. Besides this yearly event, the team from the Secretariat of Wetlands International Europe nourishes the relation with members on a bilateral basis or through the organisation of specific sessions with a group of members on specific issues. In 2021, thematic discussions revolved around topical issues such as the natural sponges, the CAP, the establishment of a European swimways network, and wetlands restoration targets.

² Note: Board members are not remunerated for their work.

List of Wetlands International Europe's members:

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
2021	Belarus	Ахова птушак Бацькаўшчыны	APB-BirdLife Belarus	APB

The Secretariat

All Wetlands International Europe's operations are possible thanks to the work carried out by the Secretariat made by a team of 9 people and different interns, associated experts and consultants.

The European Programme Manager and acting Director of the Association leads the work of the European programme in close cooperation with the wider network organisation and the European Association members thanks to a Power of Attorney signed by the Executive Board. She also coordinates the development and implementation of the project portfolio of the European office to deliver significant results towards the Wetlands International 2020-2030 Strategic Intent.

Summary of finance and resourcing

Since 2016, Wetlands International Europe has been granted with a LIFE NGO Operating Grant under the EU's LIFE Programme. This grant has co-financed the functioning costs of the Association. In 2021, following the application to conclude a Specific Grant Agreement (SGA), we signed a new agreement.

We have continued with the implementation of 5 different MAVA Foundation projects: "Reconnecting Iberian Rivers. Upscaling Reviving Douro Basin to Tagus as case studies", "Communicating and advocating to reduce water abstraction and detrimental coastal development in Mediterranean coastal wetlands", "M1M2 Strengthening the Partnership", "WAMAN SEBOU Phase II" and "Towards Sustainable Management of the Mujib River Basin - Phase II".

We have also started two new projects that will focus on water-based solutions for carbon storage (H2020 WATERLANDS) and risk-informed management and decision-making in the EU (H2020 Myriad).

During 2021, we submitted different project applications under the different call of proposals of the H2020, Horizon Europe, Biodiversa and LIFE programmes, on topics such as environmental

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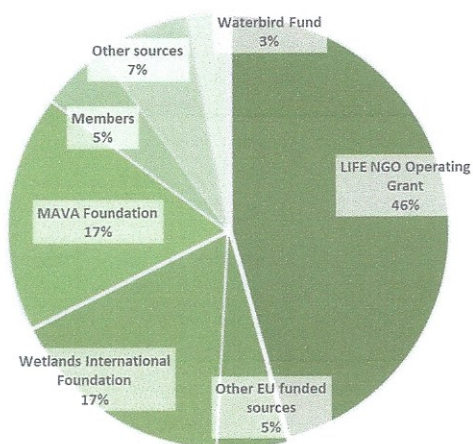
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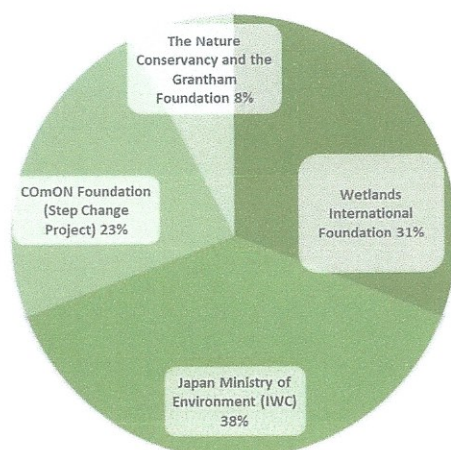
and climate governance, free flowing rivers, wetlands and carbon farming, wetlands restoration and waterbirds protection and conservation. Evaluation results will be communicated in 2022. Although not successful, other resource development efforts took place in 2021.

As reflected in the graphic below, in 2021, the main sources of funding came from the LIFE NGO Operating Grant, Wetlands International Foundation and MAVA Foundations. The total income in 2021 was €784.755, of which €131.337 coming from Wetlands International Foundation (see the two pie charts below). The total expenses amounted to €783.619. As a result, the year ended with a positive result of €1.135

2021 FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS



2021 BREAKDOWN OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION'S BACK DONORS



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Actuals and Budget 2021

In the table below the actuals 2021 are compared with the budget 2021:

	Actuals (€)	Budget (€)	Deviation
Income			
Subsidies	399.164	409.930	-10.766
Other income	385.591	454.235	-68.644
	<u>784.755</u>	<u>864.165</u>	<u>-79.410</u>
Expenses			
Staff costs	406.944	417.398	-10.454
Direct project costs	302.542	319.165	-16.623
Housing costs	12.280	27.800	-15.520
General costs	60.988	89.710	-28.722
Depreciation	866	2943	-2077
	<u>783.620</u>	<u>857.016</u>	<u>-73.396</u>
Result	<u>1.136</u>	<u>7.149</u>	<u>-6.013</u>

Result

The result is €6.013 lower than foreseen.

Income

Income is 10% lower than budget reduced, mainly due to reductions of project activities under the five MAVA Projects. These reductions were caused by a lack of staff time (later start of staff) and many activities not taking place related to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

Expenses

Expenses were reduced in all categories: Staff costs (later start in the year of new staff), Housing costs (no office rental in Brussels), Direct Project cost and General Costs and for the latter two categories applies a severe reduction of activities involving travel/meeting/events due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

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Considerations looking ahead

The Budget 2022 of Wetlands International – European Association can be found on the last page of the Annual Accounts 2021. Income and Expenses are expected to grow 50% (compared to last year) and are budgeted totally at €1.117.21. The result of 2022 is expected to be € 0. The year 2022 will be an important year with an increasing income, new projects in our portfolio and a resulting increase in the number of colleagues joining our organisation.

Joint collaboration between members and the Secretariat will remain paramount to effectively deliver our ambitions and projects, and we will continue working towards a more consistent and efficient governance and resource mobilisation. Additionally, engagement with the network of Wetlands International will be strengthened thanks to the growing shared understanding of the importance of the European Union for wetlands-derived issues around the world.

Running strategies within partnerships will remain paramount for us to catalyse new programmes and additional funding sources that will contribute to our long-term financial sustainability. For this reason, we will preserve our alliances, but we will also build new ones. An example of these new strategic alliances will be the European Coalition for Natural Water Retention Measures to upscale our natural sponges work. Another example will be the creation of a Trans-European Swimways Network where Wetlands International Europe will build on its experience with flyway conservation on the European realisation of the Global Swimways Initiative, and use migratory fish as a way to foster international cooperation, while improving scientific knowledge and guidance, connecting fish, rivers and people across borders in Europe which will strengthen EU policies and accelerate their implementation.

Further steps are needed to develop and consolidate working methods with our Board and among our members, and at the Secretariat level in order to deliver high quality performance and effective cross collaboration among teams across our programme. Another challenge ahead of us will be the diversification of our funding model to reduce dependence on a single donor or grant. In this sense, an important step will be the recruitment of a new senior staff member to reinforce strategic leadership, representation, financial resilience, and programme development. This new strategic function within the Secretariat will enable the European Programme Manager to focus on the implementation of the European programme and coordination of actions with Association members and related partnerships.

In the past years, in order to secure income complementary to the LIFE NGO Operating Grant, we invested in programme development and fundraising with members, alliances and partnerships. This has resulted in several new projects that will start implementation in 2022. However, we know our potential is higher than our current capacities and therefore, in order to sustain and increase our fundraising, we need to do more. To drive upscaling of impact, we will prioritise fundraising on strategic priorities and which underpin the long-term sustainability of our operations. Such resource development will have a twofold approach. Firstly, we will aim to raise funds from European donors towards wetland priorities at network level and will integrate other regions in our funding proposals. Secondly, in collaboration with our members and partners, we will develop programme propositions with wetlands as key solutions for the climate and biodiversity crisis.

On behalf of Wetlands International – European Association:

pp. Ron van Leeuwen



F.J. Madgwick
Chair of the Board



Yurena Lorenzo de Quintana
European Programme Manager

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Annual Accounts Wetlands International - European Association 2021

Balance sheet as per 31 December

(in Euros)

	31/12/2021	31/12/2020
ASSETS		
Tangible fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets (1)	3.503	790
Current assets		
Debtors and other receivables (2)	147.969	115.695
Cash and Banks (3)	<u>139.504</u>	<u>108.806</u>
	287.473	224.501
Total assets	<u><u>290.976</u></u>	<u><u>225.291</u></u>
LIABILITIES		
Reserves and funds		
Continuity reserve (4)	8.270	7.134
Short term Liabilities		
Creditors (5)	16.964	42.036
Taxes and social security (6)	9.602	5.410
Other short terms liabilities (7)	<u>256.140</u>	<u>170.711</u>
	282.706	218.157
Total liabilities	<u><u>290.976</u></u>	<u><u>225.291</u></u>

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Statement of Income and Expenditure Wetlands International - European Association 2021

(in Euro's)

	2021	Budget 2021	2020
Income			
Subsidies (8)	399.164	409.930	359.143
Other income (9)	385.591	454.235	281.033
	<u>784.755</u>	<u>864.165</u>	<u>640.176</u>
Expenses			
Staf costs (10)	406.944	417.398	297.798
Direct project costs (11)	302.542	319.165	242.644
Housing costs (12)	12.280	27.800	28.777
General costs (13)	60.988	89.710	62.708
Depreciation (14)	866	2.943	1.115
	<u>783.619</u>	<u>857.016</u>	<u>633.042</u>
Result	<u>1.135,82</u>	<u>7.149</u>	<u>7.134</u>

Result appropriation	2021	Budget 2021	2020
Decrease / Increase continuity reserve	1.136	7.149	7134
	<u>1.136</u>	<u>7.149</u>	<u>7.134</u>

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Cashflow Statement

(in Euros)

	2021	2020
Cash flow from operating activities		
Result	1.136	7.134
Depreciation	866	1.115
Cash flow	<u>2.002</u>	<u>8.249</u>
Changes in work capital		
- Change in receivables	-32.274	18.895
- Change in short-term debts	<u>64.549</u>	<u>76.068</u>
	32.275	94.963
Changes in subsidy fixed assets	0	0
Cash flow from operating activities	<u>34.277</u>	<u>103.212</u>
Cash flow from investing activities		
Investments in fixed assets	<u>-3.579</u>	<u>0</u>
Cash flow from investing activities	-3.579	0
Change in cash & banks	<u>30.698</u>	<u>103.212</u>
Cash & banks		
- as per 1st January	108.806	5.594
- as per 31st December	<u>139.504</u>	<u>108.806</u>
Change in cash & banks	<u>30.698</u>	<u>103.212</u>

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General accounting principles

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.

Projects in progress

Projects in progress started before 31 December 2021 and continue into the next financial year.

Project grants are generally determined after the end of the project, upon submission of a report on the use of the funds made available. Insofar the received tranches from donor exceed the costs spent on the project, this surplus is recognised as a grant liability and presented under "Projects to be executed", as part of the short term debts. If the costs spent exceed the grants received, the difference is recognised as a claim on the donor and presented under "Project funds to be received", as part of the short term receivables. In valuing the costs spent on projects, account is taken of whether or not the costs are eligible and the maximum amount of the grant.

Taxes

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

Since 2018 Wetlands International - European Association has the ANBI status

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.

Other off-balance sheet liabilities

There are no off-balance sheet liabilities as of 2021.

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Explanatory Notes to the Balance sheet

(in Euros)

(1) Tangible fixed assets	2021	2020
<i>ICT hardware:</i>		
Balance 1st January		
Purchase value	5.576	10.564
Accumulated depreciation	4.786	8.658
Book value 1st January	790	1.905
Investments	3.579	0
Desinvestments Purchase value	0	-4.988
Desinvestmenst Accumulated depreciation	0	4.988
Depreciation	866	1.115
Balance 31st December		
Purchase value	9.155	5.576
Accumulated depreciation	5.652	4.786
Book value 31 December	3.503	790

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	31/12/2021	31/12/2020
Other donor funds	125.269	52.674
CA WI European Association <> WI Foundation	3.553	47.728
Prepayments	19.078	7.073
To be received	0	8.220
Staff advances	69	0
	147.969	115.695

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	31/12/2021	31/12/2020
ABN AMRO Current account EUR	139.504	108.806
	139.504	108.806

All liquidities are available on demand

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(4) Continuity reserve	31/12/2021	31/12/2020
Balance 1 January	7.134	0
Result appropriation	1.136	7.134
Balance 31 December	<u>8.270</u>	<u>7.134</u>

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

(5) Creditors	31/12/2021	31/12/2020
Creditors	16.964	42.036
	<u>16.964</u>	<u>42.036</u>

(6) Taxes and social security	31/12/2021	31/12/2020
Tax & Social costs on salaries	9.532	5.090
Pension	71	320
	<u>9.602</u>	<u>5.410</u>

(7) Other short term liabilities	31/12/2021	31/12/2020
Projects to be executed	182.714	70.979
Creditors Subcontractors commitments	41.771	74.170
Holiday reserve	12.058	6.607
Reserve holiday hours outstanding	4.895	4.537
Auditors	12.300	12.315
Other	2.402	2.103
	<u>256.140</u>	<u>170.711</u>

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

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Explanatory Notes to the Statement of Income and Expenditure

(in Euros)

(8) Subsidies	2021	Budget 2021	2020
European Commission Operating Grant	358.788	368.022	359.143
European Commission Horizon 2020	40.376	0	0
	<u>399.164</u>	<u>409.930</u>	<u>359.143</u>

(9) Other income	2021	Budget 2021	2020
Project income from donors/partners	142.780	0	1.041
Other sources of co-financing	163.864	226.500	227.908
Project income co-funding by members	36.493	50.000	17.690
Project income other revenues	14.753	0	13.220
Membership fees	1.700	1.900	1.600
Extraordinary profit and losses	26.001	0	19.574
	<u>385.591</u>	<u>278.400</u>	<u>281.033</u>

The contribution by Foundation Wetlands International in 2021 is € 26.000 (2020: € 17.000) and is classified under extraordinary profit and losses.

(10) Staff costs	2021	Budget 2021	2020
Wages & salaries	325.686	0	238.503
Social security costs	57.314	0	41.478
Pension costs	9.030	0	5.765
	<u>392.031</u>	<u>301.349</u>	<u>285.746</u>
Other personnel costs	14.912	9.500	12.052
Total staff costs	<u>406.944</u>	<u>310.849</u>	<u>297.798</u>

(11) Direct project costs	2021	Budget 2021	2020
Subcontracting	239.023		177.756
Travel costs general	19.428		2.613
General Publication costs	22.473		27.826
Meetings/workshops	0		4.709
Events	370		1.096
Conference fees	968		4.903
ICT costs	6.372		6.284
Project audit costs	8.800		8.815
Other project running costs	5.107		8.642
	<u>302.542</u>	<u>319.165</u>	<u>242.644</u>

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(12) Housing costs	2021	Budget 2021	2020
Rent	12.280	30.600	28.777
	12.280	30.600	28.777

(13) General costs	2021	Budget 2021	2020
General Publication costs	1.973	500	0
Officecosts	38.636	46.618	42.861
Travel costs	561	16.000	977
Auditors	3.189	5.300	3.503
Banking costs	379	600	744
Subscription service providers	10.905	10.730	10.602
Others	5.346	6.700	4.021
	60.988	86.448	62.708

(14) Depreciation costs	2021	Budget 2021	2020
ICT Hard- & Software	866	0	1.115
	866	0	1.115

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Budget 2022 Wetlands International - European Association

On **20 January 2022** the following budget for 2022 was approved by the General Members Meeting. For comparison reasons the actuals 2021 have been added.

(in Euro's)

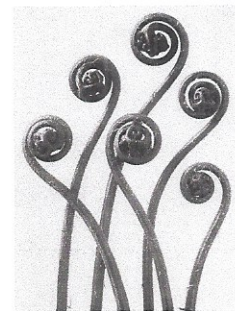
	Budget 2022	Actuals 2021
Income		
Subsidies	599.456	399.164
Other income	517.759	385.591
	<u>1.117.215</u>	<u>784.755</u>
Expenses		
Staf costs	708.767	406.944
Direct project costs	304.812	302.542
Housing costs	15.000	12.280
General costs	86.950	60.988
Depreciation	1.686	866
	<u>1.117.215</u>	<u>783.619</u>
Result	<u>0</u>	<u>1.136</u>

Result appropriation	Budget 2022	Actuals 2021
Decrease / Increase continuity reserve	0	1.136
	<u>0</u>	<u>1.136</u>

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: the management of Wetlands International European Association.

A. Report on the audit of the financial statements 2021 included in the annual report

Our opinion

We have audited the financial statements 2021 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 2021 and of its result for 2021 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 2021;
2. the profit and loss account over 2021; 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.

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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 , 29 June 2022

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

Corrigendum

- Page 5: The name of the organisation should read "the Wetlands Conservation Centre (CMok)", not "the Center for River Restoration (CMok)".
- Page 8: The name in English should be "Wetlands Conservation Centre", instead of "Centre for Wetland Protection"; the abbreviation should read as "CMok", rather than "CMOK"; the original name should read "Centrum Ochrony Mokradeł", not "Centrum Ochrony Mokradel".