



Wetlands International Eastern-Africa

We safeguard and restore wetlands for people and nature



Wetlands
INTERNATIONAL

About us:

Wetlands International is the only global not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wetlands for people and nature. Wetlands International Kenya was registered in 2011 and oversees the Eastern Africa operations in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and South Sudan. It is one of 19 offices around the world; our head office is based in the Netherlands and our Africa regional office is in Senegal.

Why Wetlands Matter:

A world without wetlands is a world without water. Wetlands act as water sources and purifiers. They are rich in nature and vital to human life. They protect our shores. They are crucial to agriculture and fisheries, and they are the planet's greatest natural carbon stores.

Wetlands International and its predecessors have worked to conserve wetlands since 1937. We are driven by the knowledge that safeguarding and restoring wetlands is urgent and vital for: food and water security, healthy biodiversity, sustainable development and protection from disasters.

How We Work:

We seek to understand how wetlands function in a wider landscape in order to sustain them. Using scientific knowledge makes us a well-trusted source of information, while powerful demonstration projects on the ground inspire people to act. By working with local partners and building the capacity of local communities whose lives closely connect to wetlands, we empower civil society to more effectively engage with governments and the private sector on decisions which affect them. To leverage change, we engage in partnerships with public and private sector to safeguard and restore wetlands. By connecting our work through networks, we combine local experiences and successes and increase our impact on national, regional and global policies, practices and investments.

Vision:

A world where wetlands are treasured and nurtured for their beauty, the life they support and the resources they provide.

Mission:

To sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity.



Lesser flamingo /
Phoeniconaias minor



Mangroves along the Tana
river basin

Our Thematic Priorities and Experience

Replenished water stores from mountains to sea

Our goal: Conserve and restore wetlands to reduce water risks in the landscape.

- In the Tana River Basin in Kenya, we facilitated a study of the value of the ecosystem services for the Basin, their economic significance to the Kenyan economy, and the impacts of various development scenarios. The study analyses the economic value of the positive and negative externalities of different water-flow regimes, both upstream and downstream to inform development planning and water resources allocation in the Tana River Basin so as to safeguard its hydrological, ecological and socio-economic benefits.
- In Uganda's Rwambu Catchment, we are working to reverse extreme wetland degradation with the introduction of low cost ecosystem-based technologies that include stone bunds and check dams. Moisture returned to the soil, crop yields grew and shallow wells were recharged.

Healthy wetland nature

Our goal: Halt and reverse the loss of wetland habitats, sites and species.

- Together with Kenya Wetlands Forum and the National Environmental Management Authority, we supported the development of a Kenya National Policy for the Conservation and Management of Wetlands. Also, we supported the development and adoption of a wetland management plan for Lake Naivasha

in Kenya - an important RAMSAR site and biodiversity hotspot for migrating waterbirds.

- In South Sudan we are contributing to the conservation of key biodiversity hotspots in areas such as the Imatong Mountains and Kinnetti catchment by developing the capacity of civil society organisations to engage effectively in the sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity and their related ecosystems.
- In Ethiopia, we are working to conserve wetlands that are the most important for migratory waterbirds, including lakes Abijatta-Shalla and Ziway in the Rift Valley.

Blue lifelines in the desert

Our goal: Enable governments, decentralised institutions and communities to take action to sustain the flooding and natural resources of Sahelian wetlands.

- Along the Ewaso Nyiro River in Kenya, in the Karamoja Region of Uganda and in the Somali Region of Ethiopia, we work with our partners Red Cross, CARE and CORDAID to strengthen the livelihoods and water provision of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in a changing climate. We do this through ecosystem management and restoration (EMR) approaches that restore degraded ecosystems, create sustainable agricultural practices and improve management of water and natural resources. Through this project, communities and other

stakeholders that were vulnerable, are more resilient to climate (change) induced hazards. NGOs/CBOs are also better able to apply the integrated approach (Disaster Risk Reduction /Climate Change Adaptation/ EMR) in assistance as well as contribute to a stronger voice for civil society. Their engagement in policy dialogue solicited endorsement of the PfR approach by government institutions

- In Kenya and Uganda, we are contributing to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) by focusing on improvements in integrated water resources management and governance, through strengthening civil society capacity in lobby and advocacy and engaging a broad range of stakeholders.

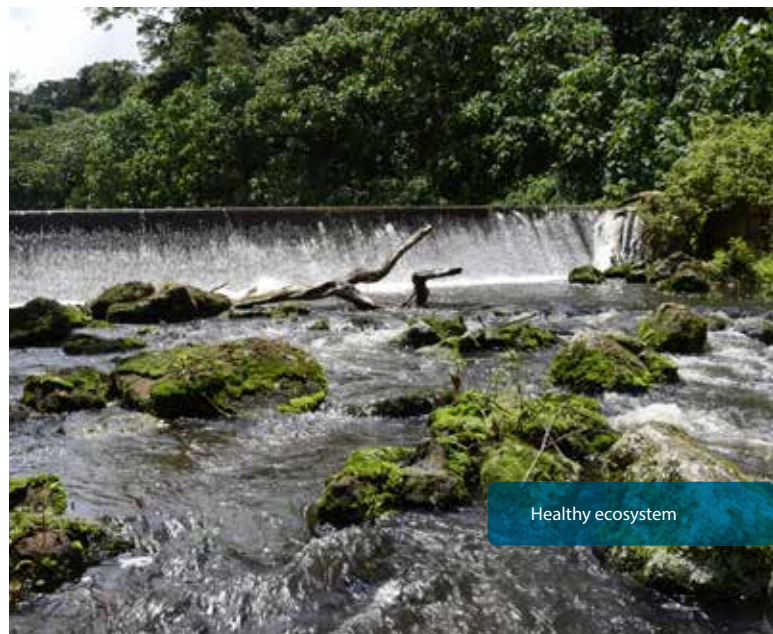
Vibrant coasts and deltas

Our goal: Conserve and restore mangroves and other wetland ecosystems along the coastal region

- In Kipini village in the Tana Delta we continue to promote restoration, conservation and sustainable use of mangroves, in partnership with Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute and the Kenya Forestry Services. To date, we have strengthened the capacity of communities and various stakeholders for conservation and management of their mangrove resources. We have also promoted the sustainable utilisation of mangrove resources by establishing a mangrove based enterprise (bee-keeping) for the community members.



Training stakeholders on valuing ecosystems



Healthy ecosystem

Join our efforts

We invite you to help us safeguard and restore East Africa's wetlands for people and nature by joining our diverse group of partners from all sectors, following us on social media and spreading the word to your networks, or by joining our prestigious group of donors who support our work.

For more information please contact:

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