Wetlands INTERNATIONAL

Annual Review 2021

Wetlands International Journey in Indonesia 2021

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Our Review

INTRODUCTION

We have successfully passed the year 2021 with all the challenges and various emerged opportunities. The pandemic condition, as experienced by all of us, on the one hand presents challenges due to various restrictions and limitations in order to stay healthy. On the other hand, however, the obstacles faced have actually led to various innovations and new initiatives to deal with the conditions and at the same time meet the targets that have been mutually agreed upon.

Regards,
Yus Rusila Noor
Acting Head of Office
Wetlands International Indonesia/
Yayasan Lahan Basah (YLBA)

We experienced 2021 with a transition of organizational leadership that we have gone through smoothly. The new structure has been drawn up and implemented, and the directives for activities in the form of the Strategic Intent 2020 – 2030 are currently in the consultation stage to be agreed.

Working in a pandemic atmosphere has also fostered an ethos of togetherness to pay more attention to each other, and fostered a dynamic management mechanism that allows to support on each other, adapting to the capacities we have. We are grateful to have staff who are not only highly dedicated, but also realize that what they are doing is a form of worship for a better and more sustainable Indonesian wetlands. We hope to get a better 2022.

We are part of the Global Network of Wetlands International

Wetlands International Indonesia is a non-profit organization engaged in the conservation and restoration of wetlands. We are part of the Wetlands International global network, and have a Global Network Partnership Agreement, which allows Wetlands International Indonesia to become Wetlands International's representative in Indonesia and implement the principles and guidelines of global organizations at the national level. In Indonesia, we have been working since 1983 under the names "Interwader", "Asian Wetlands Bureau" (1987), and "Wetlands International (1995) which is a merging of the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau – IWRB (established in 1954 operating in Europe) and Wetlands for the Americas - WA (established in 1989 operating in America). In 2018 we registered as a national organization in Indonesia, under the name **Yayasan Lahan Basah** (YLBA).

Our Work 2021

We did our initiatives in 2021 in accordance to the division of Programme Coordination indicated in our Organisation Structure:

- Risk Management and Resilience
- Wetlands Conservation and Restoration
- Nature-Based Solution
- Carbon and Biodiversity
- Communication Team

Ambition

Our ambition is to upscale action to safeguard and restore wetlands, collaborating with multiple partners and mobilizing a wide range of actors to transform whole landscapes and sectors. As part of a coalition, we can work on large-scale programmes to achieve ambitious targets to safeguard and restore wetlands, while encouraging participation by affected communities and local stakeholders.

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

To inspire and mobilise society to safeguard and restore wetlands for people and nature.

Our Goal

Wetlands International is dedicated to maintaining and restoring wetlands— for their environmental values as well as for the services they provide to people. We work through our network of offices, our partners and experts to achieve our goals.

We are proud to still be able to avoid adversity and embrace various successes. This is mainly due to the long experience of our organization, the dedication of the staff, the strong international network, and the support from our Governing Board.

OUR PRIDE

Despite the organizational leadership transition that we have to go through as well as the COVID-19 pandemic that has hit the world and caused a storm of uncertainty, we are proud that we were able to avoid adversity and embrace various successes. This is mainly due to our long organizational experience, dedication of the Staff, strong international network, and support from our Governing Board.

The Leadership Transition. Under the direction and guidance of the Governing Board, the change in the leadership of our organization took place smoothly. The position of Head of Office was handed over from I Nyoman Suryadiputra to Yus Rusila Noor as Acting Director.

Organizational Restructuring. Changes to the organizational structure are carried out in response to future work challenges and the development of the required areas of expertise. At the Coordination level, for example, we developed a position with regard to Nature Based Solutions, while maintaining strengthening on the Coordination of Restoration and Community Development and Wetlands Carbon and Biodiversity.

Working Achievement. More than 60% of our Staff were exposed during the Covid-19 Pandemic, even some fatality to our family members. In addition, the rhythm of our work has also changed completely, adjusting to conditions and government policies. Nevertheless, we managed to complete all the agreed works in satisfactory manners.

Maintaining Collaboration with Partners. One of the values that we uphold is working with various parties in a wide scope of cooperation. We have successfully implemented this value in 2021.

Our collaboration with community in the field, local governments, universities, embassies, international institutions as well as ministries is the main support for the successful implementation of activities.

One of the values that we uphold is working with various parties in a wide scope of cooperation

Active Participation in the Global Network of Wetlands International. As part of a global network, we are engaged in various initiatives involving Wetlands International's network of offices around the world. We are actively involved in the development of global resources, plans and policies as well as knowledge exchange and capacity building.

Wetlands included as part of Indonesia's NDC. NDC Indonesia has included the implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation in the development of coastal areas as well as integrated management of mangrove ecosystems and restoration of damaged mangroves as points of action. We work in line with the principles of the government of the Republic of Indonesia.

During pandemic, Our staff and management must carry out time management more effectively and efficiently, and at certain times perform the division of roles between staff, outside of their main duties.

OUR CHALLENGE

2021 is marked by a leadership change in our organization that requires our attention. In addition, there is a storm of uncertainty due to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic. The impact was not only felt in the form of cessation of activities in the field, but was further related to revisiting our plan due to the uncertainty, both at the local, national and international levels.

Leadership Transition. We have a change of leadership with the appointment of new Acting Head of Office. This is the implementation of a long strategic plan that we have prepared several years before. This process naturally requires time, energy and our attention. The leadership transition was then followed by a process of changing legal documentation, in relation to the organization's status as a National Foundation (*Yayasan)*, and then followed by internal and external communications.

Organizational Restructuring. Some of our Senior Staff decided to choose another journey. This requires responses in terms of personnel changes and additions, so that the wheels of the organization can continue rolling. The vacant positions are generally filled-in by giving opportunities for promotions to internal staff who are considered to have met the required skills requirements.

Project Completion. The year 2021 was also marked by the completion of several large project activities in the field, although administrative and reporting activities continued into the following year. This resulted in several highly qualified and dedicated Project Staff having to be laid off. Some of them later recruited as permanent staff.

Time Management and Role Sharing. The extraordinary conditions resulted from the pandemic prompted us to carry out "Dynamic Management" to utilize the available resources to carry out the agreed and adjusted activity plans. The staff and management must carry out time management more effectively and efficiently, and at certain times perform the division of roles between staff, outside of their main duties.

Pandemic Conditions. Inevitably, the pandemic conditions are one of the biggest challenges we faced during 2021. Not only because most of our Staff was exposed, including the loss of several family members, but also because the exposure that occurred globally required us to revisit the negotiation of new initiatives or rearranging the work being carried out in the field. According to the policies of the National and Local Governments, some of field activities need to be stopped altogether, the implementers of activities are temporarily withdrawn from the project site, and thus a re-negotiation of the completion of activities with donors is required. In terms of communication, we are following a new habit of communicating online by making use of available technology.

Guidance during Pandemic

We monitor the situation closely, review daily and discuss with Staff before agreeing to activities, both inside and outside the office. The study is based on:

- Number of reported cases and trend
- Restrictions and regulation by national and local governments
- Travel restrictions by other countries to be visited, in terms of traveling between countries
- Risk mitigation activities (e.g., state readiness in dealing with outbreaks)

We place great emphasis on the honesty of the staff regarding the health conditions of each one and her/his immediate family.

THE WAY WE COMMUNICATE

Communication is one of the backbones of the achievement of our activities. Through communication, education and awareness programs, we emit a self-portrait of ourselves and reinforce the philosophy and principles that underlie us to communicate within the organization as well as to the outside world. Through these programs, messages on the wise and sustainable use of wetlands are also conveyed to stakeholders.

The Wetlands International Indonesia's Communication Team focuses its activities on two main focuses, namely improving the way we use available information and developing communication strategies. Through mapping the information needs related to wetlands in Indonesia, we are then able to select and sort out what activities are most needed in a certain period of time, and by what means the information needed can be conveyed. One of the goals that we will promote is the Power of Wetlands campaign as part of our global communications strategy.

Internally, we will continue the communication process that aims to create a work culture that is open, honest, effective, as well as accountable and has a family feel as a work team.

For external needs, with all the opportunities and limitations that exist, we recognize the need for communication to always innovate and must always be ready to listen, then take action to support smart and planned changes. Along to this principle, each Staff will continue to be required to be an organizational communicator and jointly provide a space for dialogue to voice efforts to use wetlands in a wise and sustainable manner, relying on the latest scientific knowledge and through active collaboration with the local community and partners.

Focus on young people. We consider young people as a generation of change makers, so they must be equipped with adequate knowledge in wise and sustainable wetland management. We engage more young people in reviving wetlands as one of the most effective ways to restore the climate and help conserve biodiversity.

Some of our regular meetings are including:

- Regular Management meetings: planning, evaluation, communication
- Monthly Staff Meeting
- Thematic Meetings: Management, Coordinator, Communication, Project, Technical, Administration, and Think Thank Teams
- Regional, global, stream team meetings
- Community of Practices

Communication is one of the backbones of the achievement of our activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Year 2021

The group's routine activities are to monitor peat water levels, to anticipate forest and land fires and to analyze the impact of peat wetting

Risk Management and Resilience

Wetlands International Indonesia places community resilience as the main pillar in program development. Wetlands play an important role in the prevention and mitigation of hydrometeorological disasters. Wetland conservation, rehabilitation and restoration efforts are aimed at the benefit of nature and biodiversity, and at the same time to protect and improve the welfare of the people, who especially live in disaster-prone wetland areas.

In 2021, until October, the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) reported as many as 2,203 natural disasters in Indonesia: floods, landslides and other hydro-meteorological disasters, as well as forest and land fires. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts are very important in order to prevent or reduce the inevitable impact of disasters. DRR efforts should be closely linked with efforts to build community resilience in dealing with disasters. Through the Disaster Resilient Village Program (*Destana/Katana*), the village as the lowest government entity, is expected to have the independent ability to recognize disaster threats, organize local resources to reduce vulnerability, and increase capacity, adapt in the face of potential disaster threats, and be able to recover soon.

We seek to increase community participation in resource management to reduce disaster risk, increase the capacity of community institutions in resource management, and maintain local wisdom for disaster risk reduction, increase the capacity of local governments in providing resource support for disaster risk reduction, enhance cooperation between stakeholders in DRR, including local government, private sector, universities, NGOs, community organizations, and other groups. Assistance and capacity building for community groups in carrying out restoration activities for wetland ecosystems, such as mangroves and peatlands, combined with climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction activities. These activities are packaged in a collaboration agreement known as Bio-Rights.

The group received assistance with hoses and water pumps for the process of extinguishing the fire, as a follow-up to the policy dialogue and group participation in the village development meeting

Community Action Package

The community action package under the Bio-Rights contains an agreement on the activities of group members to reduce the threat of disasters, reduce vulnerabilities and increase their capacity in dealing with disasters, especially forest and land fires and floods.

- Monthly regular meeting
- Canal blocking maintenance
- Measurement of water level in monitoring wells
- Forest and land fire patrol
- Nursery maintenance
- Paludiculture – swamp cultivation
- Maintenance of forest and land fire early warning system units
- Sustainable livelihood development
- Village-level policy dialogue
- Field training

Members of the women's group are actively involved in firefighting simulation training in forests and peatlands.

Bio-Rights is a conditional financing mechanism provided by the project, in appreciation of community engagement in wetland conservation and rehabilitation efforts. Group members are given interest-free loans with certain agreed terms. At the end of the contract, if these conditions are met and the minimum indicators of success are reached, the loan will be turned into a grant.

The concept of Bio-Rights has been implemented by Wetlands International Indonesia for almost 30 years, and has shown good and tangible results, both in terms of improving the community's economy and in terms of environmental restoration efforts. This concept is dynamic and site specific so it requires a feasibility study before being applied to an initiative in a certain location. For example, in the BwN (Building with Nature) project in Demak Regency which has been running for 5 years, in December 2021, the project manager has given a letter of transfer of conditional loans into grants to 10 community groups from 9 villages for the group's success in completing the program and meeting the limit of minimum success, which has been mutually agreed upon (in this case is 80%).

In a community-based sustainable peat management program in South Tapanuli, North Sumatra, we work with 35 community groups in two villages, with a total of about 1,600 direct beneficiaries and 3,000 indirect beneficiaries. Through this activity, we agreed with the community to carry out 10 packages of wetland conservation and rehabilitation activities. The main activities carried out include rewetting, revegetation and revitalization (alternative livelihoods) as well as disaster risk reduction in peatlands. Until the end of December 2021, the activities are still running. The final assessment to determine the success rate of the group will be carried out jointly by the project manager and community group members, as well as to determine the conditional status of the loan to become a grant, in February 2022.

Community groups maintain canal blocks, which were built to contain the flow of water. Canal blocking functions to re-wet peat that has dried up due to drainage (canals are made), so that it is not prone to fire.

Wetlands Conservation and Restoration

Wetland restoration, is a long-term mission of the Wetlands International Indonesia with the aim of restoring degraded wetland ecosystems. Our work program is carried out by integrating restoration initiatives together with community in all stages of activities. The community is considered an important actor because it is they who will ultimately continue the program sustainably. Wetland restoration are carried out on peat and mangrove. The level of work success is very dependent on the support of the government and the community as well as the involvement of experts.

Restoration in Peatlands. Canal blocking is a common approach we take to rehabilitate peatlands that have been damaged by over-drainage. The rehabilitation was carried out using a paludiculture system, in the form of planting native peat plants, such as Jelutung rawa, Meranti rawa, Kempas, Pulai rawa, Nyatoh, Ramin and Perepat.

In North Sumatra, our program supported by IKI Germany and EU Devco carried out rehabilitation by planting Jelutung, Sago and Pakat species. Pineapple species are planted to provide added economic value for the community. Jelutung is planted between palm trees, while Pakat and swamp sago are planted in separate units of area. By the end of 2021, the area that has been successfully rehabilitated is about 282 hectares, with an average plant growth of more than 80%. To increase income, the group developed demonstration gardens with plots for peatland management without burning (PLTB), accompanied by weeding grass in vegetable beds and replanting kale, long beans and green beans. The group will install stakes and apply natural compost and pesticides so that plants can grow perfectly.

Restoration in Mangrove. In its best natural condition, mangroves will provide environmental services, including coastal defense from waves and storms, providing materials for building and as a breeding ground for aquatic organisms that have economic value, such as milkfish and shrimp. When mangroves have been damaged by various anthropocentric activities, rehabilitation is carried out by building sediment traps in suitable locations, so that the accumulated sediment will then become a natural habitat for new mangrove growth, generally without the need for planting. Mangrove rehabilitation is also carried out by making green belts along the coast or on the embankments beside the river, either with a no-planting approach or by planting if needed. We also carry out rehabilitation activities in mangrove areas using the Bio-Rights approach. Group members receive conditional financial support without interest which is used for the development of economic enterprises, and at the same time is obliged to engage in conservation and rehabilitation activities. At the final stage of the activity, if the conservation and rehabilitation activities meet the minimum requirements for success, the loan will be converted into a grant.

Community empowerment. We support the community in:

- increase community capacity regarding wetland rehabilitation
- provide capital to develop economic enterprises
- joint decision-making process
- open a network of cooperation with other parties
- build a joint forum as a channel for the aspirations of the community by the community for the community.

Meanwhile, **support to the government** is presented in the form of:

- jointly develop a wetland strategy plan at the national level
- assist in the preparation of guidelines for the implementation of peat restoration and mangrove rehabilitation
- develop a rehabilitation policy at the national level down to the village level.

The community is considered an important actor because it is they who will ultimately sustainably continue the program.

Community assistance. One of the main key factors for the success of community assistance is a reliable facilitator, who lives, works, communicates and facilitates the dynamics of group members, directly in the assisted villages. Some of the criteria that a village facilitator/assistant needs to have are:

- Willing to live in the village with the community full time
- Have a high sense of responsibility in program implementation
- Be able to convince group members to move together
- Always optimistic but also able to recognize weaknesses
- Can analyze existing or future problems, and facilitate finding solutions
- Positioning their role not as a teacher but assuming that everyone is a teacher with their own expertise
- Become a facilitator to bridge the interests of group members
- Able to communicate and cooperate with village officials
- Able to bridge communication with other government parties to facilitate the aspirations of group members

Facilitate community discussion in understanding the types of threats and how to overcome them

The facilitator analyzes the problems that exist or will arise, and facilitate the search for solutions

One of the main key factors for the success of community assistance is a reliable facilitator, who lives, works, communicates and facilitates the dynamics of group members, directly in the assisted villages.

Program Sustainability Strategy

Policy advocacy carried out at the village level in the form of the development of regulations related to wetland management should be taken seriously.

Village regulations (*Perdes*) are an important point that can initiate the basis of wetland restoration programs, especially peat and mangroves. The process for generating agreements at the village level requires strong and solid community group institutions and able to formulate shared priorities for drafting and overseeing the proposed Regulations. When successful, it requires group commitment to implement the regulation.

Nature-Based Solution

Wetlands International Indonesia as a non-governmental organization that is engaged in the conservation and restoration of wetlands has implemented the concept of nature-based solutions in almost all of its programmes. These programmes include 1) Building with Nature (BwN) Indonesia program which is run in 9 coastal villages in Demak Regency, Central Java Province, 2) Mitigation, Adaptation through Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods in Indonesia (PME-IKI) and 3) Ecosystem -based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) in South Tapanuli Regency, North Sumatra Province. The BwN Indonesia program focuses on the rehabilitation of coastal mangrove areas that are affected by erosion. Meanwhile, the PME-IKI and Eco-DRR programs are engaged in peatland conservation, which will continue until 2022.

Application of Mangrove Restoration through sediment trapping, land elevation and hydrological regulation.

The Building with Nature Indonesia program has been implemented since 2015 until it ends in November 2021. This program has two main activities, namely reducing erosion or coastal abrasion and increasing the productivity of fishpond aquaculture. The technical actions implemented in the field by the BwN program have adopted the concept of nature-based solutions, namely the Ecological Mangrove Restoration (EMR) and Ascociated Mangrove Aquaculture (AMA) approaches. The EMR approach is carried out to assist the recovery process of coastal areas affected by abrasion through trapping sediments using permeable structures, hydrological regulation and elevation of land, with the aim of providing ecologically suitable land for mangroves to be able to grow naturally. Meanwhile, the AMA approach is a combination of restoring mangroves in river buffer areas and increasing the productivity of aquaculture in ponds through the application of good and environmentally friendly fish farming practices. These two approaches also link mangrove conservation activities with improving the community's economy through the Bio-Rights mechanism in the context of restoring coastal areas affected by abrasion.

The BwN program has built a semi-permeable structure of 3,425 meters in 3 villages: Bedono, Timbulsloko and Surodadi Villages. These three villages experienced more severe coastal abrasion than other coastal villages. Until the end of the BwN program in 2021, community groups in the 3 villages have been entrusted to maintain the semi-permeable structures that have been built in each village. The length of the structure that is still well maintained and maintained is 1,770 meters, 575 meters in Bedono, 845 meters in Timbulsloko, and 350 meters in Surodadi Villages. The total area behind the permeable structure which will later become the restoration area for the shoreline affected by abrasion and as a place for mangrove growth in the 3 villages is 22.50 hectares. Based on the monitoring results, the average sedimentation occurred in the area behind the structure and erosion at the front of the structure, where there were also different values that varied in different years and different locations. Sites protected by well-maintained structures and structures showed an increase in sedimentation rates of more than 25 cm during the three years of monitoring. Despite the high variation between locations, the sedimentation rate was observed to remain stable at these locations. However, it is not clear how to report the relationship between the sedimentation rate and the actual rate of subsidence in the field.

Nature-Based Solution. UNEA-5 defines Nature-Based Solution as, "action to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystem, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits"

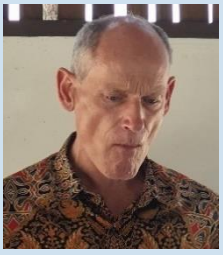
The NBS approach is a solution designed for ecosystem restoration, where healthy, resilient, functional and diverse ecosystems will be able to develop options to meet the interests of society and biodiversity in general in the face of global change.

The various programs that have been implemented by Wetlands International Indonesia in the application of the NBS concept are part of the global movement to tackle climate change. Actions taken include protecting ecosystems, enhancing sustainable management, and restoring ecosystems. These actions are sustainable and economical alternatives, contribute to the preservation of biodiversity, and provide significant benefits for human well-being through their ecosystem services.

Technical application of the nature-based solution approach in the field is part of the of human efforts and interventions in assisting the ecosystem recovery process. Next, let nature continue its own recovery. The next human task is to monitor the recovery process as expected. These efforts will be more effective if the solutions are implemented at the landscape scale, carried out in the long term, and carried out jointly by all interested parties..

Replication by the Government. The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia, as one of the main partners in the Building with Nature Indonesia program, has mainstreamed a semi-permeable structure approach (or what KKP calls a hybrid structure) as an option in the management of coastal areas affected by abrasion. This policy is stated in the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Regulation No. 8/Permen-KP/2016, No. 55/Permen-KP/2016, and No. 65/Permen-KP/2017. In its implementation, KKP has built a 23,510-meter-long hybrid structure in 13 locations, namely Cirebon, Brebes, Semarang City, Demak, Jepara, and Pati in 2015; Cirebon, Demak, Rembang, and Gresik in 2017 and in East Lombok, Bombana and Bone in 2019. In 2021, KKP will continue to maintain hybrid structures in East Lombok and Bombana through the Resilient Coastal Area Development (PKPT) program.

Comments



"We face many challenges, from Jakarta I have seen a lot, that in Demak achieved a lot of results. I know this is not easy, we are facing the same problems as the Netherlands, facing a changing climate, higher floods, we have to act on something which is not easy. But I believe that changes for the better have been made by the community together with the BwN program."
Lambert Grijns, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Indonesia

"The Building with Nature project in Demak has given hope to the community. By working together and working hard, it is still possible to improve the situation and local livelihoods. Hopefully this activity will continue and Demak will share his experiences. The permeable structure captures sediment in several locations, and where it does, we have seen mangroves re-grow. But in other places the waves are too high, due to subsidence." **M. Natsir, Head of District of Demak, 2016-2021**

"Through the relevant agencies, the Demak District Government will continue to provide assistance so that the community, especially those in coastal areas, can continue what has been started." **dr. Hj. Eisti'anah, S.E, Head of District of Demak 2021-2026**

"BWN improves the village economy and protects our environment. I am a teacher, getting funding from the Bio-Rights program, to help my husband and children, buy nets and small boats for them to use for fishing, and equipment for catching crabs. I save some of my income from selling crabs to expand my business. My job to the village is mainly to prepare proposals for the maintenance of structures and other programs. I organize village planning meetings, write and present our proposals to the local government. I also urge the government to do something about groundwater extraction in Semarang, which is lowering the soil here and causing more flooding. If we can achieve that, we can have a good future here." **Sifatul Khoiriyah, Timbulsloko**

"The mangrove green belt developed by the community through the BwN program has a very good impact on the lives of the village community. The mangrove green belt, which was originally only 3.7 hectares, it has now grown to 16 hectares. Mangroves grow naturally. Mangrove problems are very complex, including there is no concern and ignorance about the benefits of mangroves. The motivation provided by the program is extraordinary. **Ahmad Busyro, Chairman of the Sido Makmur Group, Betahwalang Village**

Mangrove green belt. Another EMR approach implemented in the BwN program is the conversion of ponds on the coastal and riverbanks into mangrove green belt. The techniques used in this approach include hydrological regulation and land elevation. In ponds located by the coast line, the embankments are left open so that water flow and sedimentation occur naturally. The same thing is also done in ponds on the banks of the river. The difference is in the ponds on the banks of the river, only part of the ponds that are converted to mangrove land are located right on the banks of the river, while the other part is still used for cultivation activities. When sedimentation has occurred in these ponds, and the height is quite suitable, then the mangrove seedlings that come from the surrounding mangrove forest will be able to grow naturally. The area of ponds belonging to group members in 9 coastal villages that participated in this mangrove rehabilitation program is 79.60 ha of ponds by the sea and 167.50 ha of ponds by the river. Since the rehabilitation activities were carried out in 2017, monitoring results show the growth of mangroves in seaside ponds with an area of 47.26 ha and 16.70 ha in riverside ponds.

Changes in mangrove cover in the coastal area of Betahwalang Village, Demak District after the implementation of EMR

Changes in mangrove cover in associated mangrove aquaculture (AMA) ponds in Timbulsloko Village, Demak District

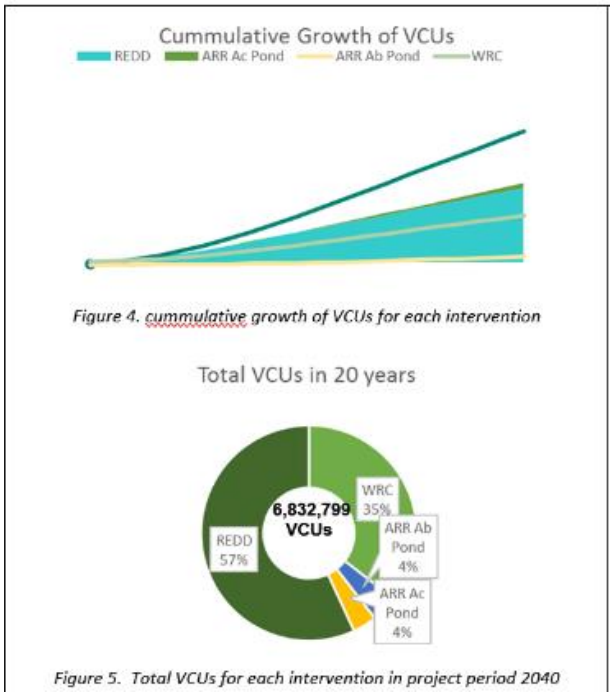
Changes in mangrove cover in the coastal area of Betahwalang Village, Demak District after the application of EMR (Photo: BFF).

Changes in mangrove cover in associated mangrove aquaculture (AMA) in Wedung Village, Demak District

Carbon and Biodiversity

We put Carbon and Biodiversity as a cross cutting program. In each activity, these two topics are placed as an integrated part of the measure plan, aimed on further ascertaining the important value of the project site and knowing the added value of the initiatives we undertake, by comparing the value before and after the activity.

In collaboration with Tropenbos Indonesia, Wetlands International Indonesia conducted an estimation of carbon stocks in the Peat Swamp Forest Ecosystem in West Kalimantan Province. This study simulates various emission reduction scenarios, analyzes the feasibility of REDD+ in the study area based on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as well as strategies to build community readiness to carry out national registration. We view that the Result Based Payment (RBP) REDD+ Program can be an important incentive for the community to preserve peatland ecosystem, where the implementation scheme has been regulated by a regulation from the Minister of Environment and Forestry (KLHK).



Example of presentation of carbon calculation results in a study area

We have also assisted Wetlands International Malaysia to draw project boundaries for the purposes of determining carbon stocks and estimating carbon emissions in one of the concession areas in Brunei Darussalam. The planned carbon project activities are considered to have complied with one of the methodologies for the Verified Carbon Standard REDD+ including the various modules used. In addition to the above activities, we have also assisted in the implementation of a quick scan for the development of the Carbon Project, which then produces a document that provides clarity on the area being studied and helps facilitate the decision-making process at each stage of the project.

Peat depth study to determine appropriate next step to conserve and restore peatland areas

Waterbird census

To support biodiversity conservation, we have continuously coordinated the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) in Indonesia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK), Burung Indonesia, Yayasan Eksai, Burungnesia and MoBuPi. A total of 301 forms have been reported by 402 volunteers in 2021, who are representatives of 87 institutions, both government and non-government (students/academics/individuals). The number of volunteers during this pandemic has decreased due to various restrictions on the mobility. In 2020 the number of volunteers who participated was recorded as 564 people.

A total of 211 locations are recorded, spread over Java, Sumatra, Kalimantan, Bali, Nusa Tenggara, Sulawesi, Maluku, and Papua. Meanwhile, the number of birds reported was 77,436 individuals from 272 species (105 species of waterbirds and 167 species of non-waterbirds), of which 14,099 individuals were protected by Indonesian Regulation.

According to information from volunteers, currently the existence of these water birds, especially migratory birds, has begun to be threatened (reduced in number). This is allegedly due to illegal hunting activities in various locations. If this is continued, it is possible that these birds will decrease or even disappear. Awareness efforts need to be carried out continuously through environmental-related day commemorations or other related events.

Our Communication Team supports the organization of various events to expose updated information on sustainable wetlands use in Indonesia

Communication Team

Communication is one of the backbones of the achievements of the Wetlands International Indonesia. Through our communication, education and awareness program (CEPA), we emit a self-portrait of ourselves and reinforce the philosophy and principles that underlie us for communicating within the organization as well as to the outside world. Through these programs, messages on the wise and sustainable use of wetlands are also conveyed to stakeholders. Our Communications team has and will continue to focus its activities on two main focuses, namely improving the way we use available information and developing communication strategies. Each staff of our organization is required to be an organizational communicator and jointly provide a space for dialogue to voice efforts to use wetlands wisely and sustainably, relying on the latest scientific knowledge and through active collaboration with the community and partners.

Communication in the Midst of a Pandemic. The year 2021 is marked by various restrictions on face-to-face meetings due to the pandemic. This, on the other hand, led to more innovations to promote and communicate CEPA through the online medias.

Focus on young people. We consider young people as a generation of change makers, so they must be equipped with adequate knowledge in wise and sustainable wetland management. We engage many young people in reviving wetlands as one of the most effective ways to restore the climate and help conserve biodiversity.

The annual celebration of World Wetlands Day. As the CEPA NGO focal point for the Ramsar Convention, we organize or facilitates the commemoration of world wetland day every February.

WKLB Wetland Conservation News Publication. As a channel for exchanging information on wetlands in Indonesia, we publish a printed and online 3-monthly Warta *Konservasi Lahan* (WKLB) magazine

Update of social media content and web-site. Our Facebook Fan Page at https://www.facebook.com/wetlandsinternationalindonesia/ regularly presents posters, photos, videos, and infographics summarizing the initiatives we are currently doing. We regularly updated the contents of social media and web-sites according to the available material and information.

Maintenance of library contents and digital repositories. Our Library provides nearly 7,200 titles related to wetlands, thousands of photo collections and provides an archive of libraries that are more than half a century old.

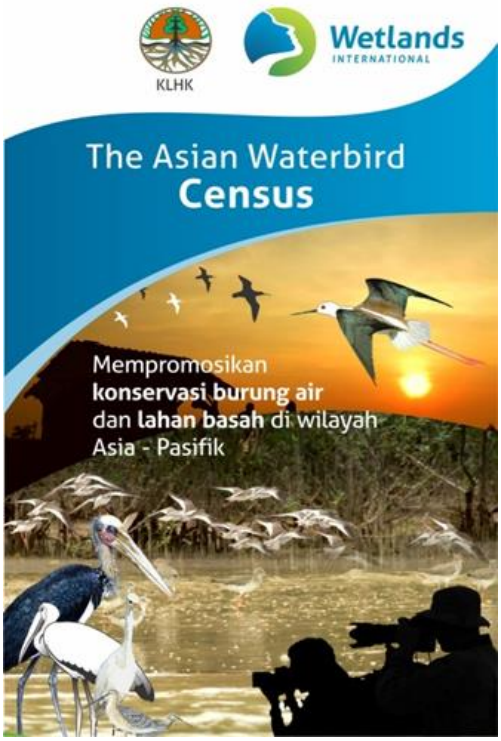
Support the Government of Indonesia on Sustainable Wetlands Management

We have realized the commitment of Wetlands International Indonesia to participate in assisting the sustainable management of wetlands in Indonesia, one of which is through cooperation and support for the Government's work programs, both in partnership and direct bilateral support.

Ramsar Convention. Wetlands International Indonesia has supported the Government of Indonesia in various initiatives related to the Ramsar Convention, starting with the ratification process of the Convention by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia in 1991. Furthermore, we also fully support the process of proposing several wetlands of international importance, as the Ramsar site. As the CEPA NGO focal point in Indonesia, we also support the preparation of state reports and state positions on the draft declaration at each CoP, including attending Steering Committee and CoP meetings and assisting the Directorate of Essential Ecosystem Management (as Ramsar focal point) in providing technical guidance to related Implementation Units.

We have also assisted the Government of the Republic of Indonesia in submitting 2 cities in Indonesia to obtain the "Wetland City Accreditation" Certificate, namely the City of Surabaya and the City of Tanjung Jabung Barat.

National Partnership for Migratory Birds and Their Habitat. Wetlands International Indonesia is part of the National Partnership for the Conservation of Migratory Birds and Their Habitats, through the Decree of the Director General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation (KSDAE), the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. This partnership consists of Government agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations, having a strategic coordinating role in waterbird conservation efforts in Indonesia. The National Partnership also plays a role in gathering information on various initiatives related to the conservation of migratory birds in Indonesia, and then conveying this information to relevant stakeholders. This partnership also carries out various activities related to the Indonesia's obligations in the East Asia - Australasia Flyway Partnership. Currently the Partnership Decree has expired, and we are pushing for an extension.



National Land Subsidence Working Group. Wetlands International Indonesia jointly initiated the formation of the National Land Subsidence Working Group, which was later formed through the Decree of the Deputy for Natural Resources, Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment. The main output produced by this working group is the Roadmap document, which was later launched by the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment. We are involved in various coordination meetings to formulate work steps for the following year. We are also actively involved in the preparation of a land subsidence mitigation and adaptation roadmap document in Central Java Province, with support from the Building with Nature Indonesia program. This document is an implementation of a road map that has been prepared at the national level.

Paludiculture Forum (PaludiFor). PaludiFor is a multi-stakeholder initiative, whose establishment was facilitated by the Forestry Research and Development Agency and Wetlands International Indonesia in 2018. Currently PaludiFor is officially registered as an association with the Ministry of Law and Human Rights. PaludiFor was founded with a mission to meet Indonesia's significant need for a sustainable peat management system. PaludiFor is expected to be a forum for exchanging information in the context of developing paludiculture best practices that can answer various root causes, especially forest and peatland fires. Our staff were actively involved in organizing Paludifor initiatives.

Indonesian Mangrove Society. The Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment led the initiation of the formation of Indonesia's Mangrove Society (IMS). Wetlands International Indonesia is one of the members of the formation team. IMS is expected to be a forum that encourages good practices in mangrove management to be replicated by its members, which consist of non-governmental organizations, academics/universities, practitioners and companies. In the future, IMS is expected to synergize with the plan to establish The World Mangrove Centre.

BIG HOPE FOR 2022

We believe that there is great hope for various initiatives in 2022. As the pandemic condition becomes more endemic, it is hoped that it will open up greater opportunities for resource development and improvement of national and global networks. In carrying out the activities, we will focus on the themes that have been agreed in the 2020 – 2030 Strategic Intent.

Wetland Ecosystems are Restored in an Integrated Way. Wetland ecosystem restoration is considered as one of the priorities of nature-based solutions approach that must be implemented nationally. In the long term, the restored wetlands will support the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). However, it should be emphasized that restoration activities must be carried out in compliance with ecological principles, such as land suitability. To the extent possible, restoration activities should aim at providing habitats that allow vegetation to grow naturally, and growth assistance provided only where needed, in accordance with the Plant or No Planting principle.

Peatlands are Restored and Used Sustainably by Using a Policy and Science Approach. The Indonesian government has undertaken various initiatives to improve degraded peatlands and reduce emissions from this sector. The peatland restoration initiative has also been included as part of Indonesia's NDC. We have long experience in restoring peatland and forest through the engagement of local communities. Restoration efforts will take full account of the latest scientific knowledge and policy approaches.

The Nature Based Solutions in Wetlands Conceptualized and Implemented.

Indonesia has intensified its climate action through nature-based solutions, including delaying issuing new permits for primary natural forests and peatlands, setting a target to restore 2 million hectares of peatland and rehabilitate critical lands, as well as preserve mangrove and coastal ecosystems. The nature-based solution approach has been considered as one of the solutions in overcoming various environmental and economic problems, able to provide answers to problems in the long term, cost effective and provide co-benefits. We will apply the concept of Nature Based Solutions using our long experience working on this topic.

Coordinated Monitoring and Conservation of Wetland Fauna.

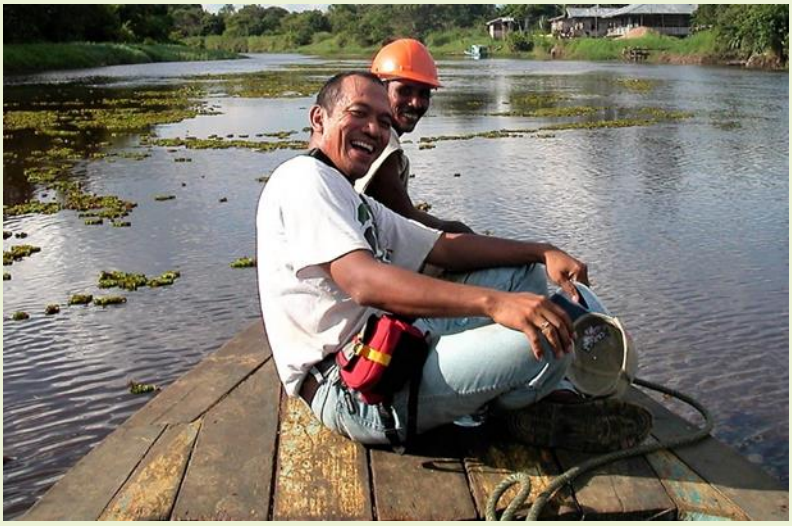
Globally, although they constitute only 7% of the earth's area, wetlands provide habitat for 40% of the world's biodiversity. More than one million species of flora and fauna depend for their life on the presence of wetlands. Wetlands in Indonesia are also of high importance both as breeding habitats for resident species and as transit areas for migratory species. For more than 30 years, Wetlands International Indonesia coordinated waterbird monitoring in Indonesia, and has included wetland fauna as an important part of inventory to determine wetland conditions and importance. The condition and status of fauna are also used as criteria in submitting an internationally important wetland site (Ramsar Site).

Carbon Accounting Methodology in Wetland Areas to support Wise Use of Wetland can be Developed.

Our work has demonstrated the value of wetlands as a vehicle for achieving climate mitigation targets, while at the same time providing adaptation, disaster risk reduction and social benefits. Wetlands are actually major water and carbon stores. We and our partners have proven that protecting and restoring wetlands is the best course of action to achieve our carbon emission reduction goals, avoid future carbon emissions and strengthen the resilience of water systems and land use diversity. All of them are directed towards the wise and sustainable use of wetlands for the benefit of the health and prosperity of the surrounding community.

We hope that our efforts to maintain and restore wetlands will contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the fulfillment of Indonesia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). In fact, our efforts will also contribute to increasing the resilience of communities around wetlands, including urban wetlands.

APPRECIATION!



As Head of Office of Wetlands International Indonesia/Yayasan Lahan Basah, Pak I Nyoman Suryadiputra is part of our organization's steps in fostering staff, pioneering, implementing and guiding various collaborations with the Government, Knowledge Institutions, Private, Non-Governmental Organizations and community groups.

Pak Nyoman's leadership has guided the Wetlands International Indonesia to become a leading Non-Government Organization in the management of wetlands in Indonesia.

After more than a quarter century of joining Wetlands International Indonesia, the time has come for Pak Nyoman to take retirement as the Head of Office of the Wetlands International Indonesia and Chairman of the Yayasan Lahan Basah.

But birds are never far from their nests, and so is Pak Nyoman. With his expertise in limnology, peat, mangrove and wetland policies, he will never stop to provide support for the Wetlands International Indonesia,
in his new position as the Senior Advisor to Programme.

CONGRATULATION

*We are happy to congratulate **Pak Yus Rusila Noor** on the assignment as Chairman of the Management Board and Acting Director of the Yayasan Lahan Basah (YLBA)/ Wetlands International Indonesia.*

Pak Yus has worked at Wetlands International Indonesia for the last 35 years starting as a Student Intern, Technical Staff to Management member. He started his career developing waterbird programme, including migratory birds. Since 2001, his scope of work has expanded to include managing wetland projects, including leading the implementation of international peatland project which later became the forerunner to the inclusion of peatlands in global climate change negotiations. Since the late 1990s, Pak Yus has attended various international meetings related to wetlands, including the Ramsar Convention, UNFCCC, UNCBD and EAAFP. Currently he is also contributing to the Ramsar CEPA NGO Focal Point for Indonesia, Advisor to the Ramsar Regional Center East Asia and Expert Panel of the National Geographic Explorer.

Thank you!

The movements, steps and initiatives that we have carried out during 2021 are resulted from synergy between the Governing Board, Supervisory Board, Staff, Government and Non-Government Partners, Local Communities, Wetlands International office network, Volunteers, and of course funding supporters (Donors). We thank them for their support, and we hope that the cooperation can be maintained and developed in the years to come.

The Governing Board and **Supervisory Board** have provided important direction and guidance in running the organization during the transition and pandemic period. Their role is very important in ensuring the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the organization in accordance with the vision, mission and various agreed guidelines. The Governing Board provides direction and approval to the annual report and Strategic Intent 2020-2030.

Consortium Partners. We thank the Consortium Partners 1) Building with Nature Indonesia, 2) Peatland and Mangrove Ecosystem-IKI North Sumatra, 3) Welang Integrated River Basin Management Plan, 4) Up-scaling Community Resilience through Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction for their excellent cooperation in enlighten and produce various innovations for the conservation and restoration of wetlands in Indonesia.

Citizen Science Program Volunteers. For more than 30 years, Wetlands International Indonesia has coordinated waterbird monitoring in Indonesia, and has included wetland fauna as an important part of inventory activities to determine wetland conditions and importance. The data and information as the backbone of the census were obtained from the contributions of volunteers from almost all over Indonesia. High appreciation for 402 Volunteers who have joined in 2021, and 564 Volunteers in 2022.

Government Partners. Our role in conserving and restoring wetlands in Indonesia can be realized well because of the cooperation and support from Government Partners. We thank the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) and the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing (PUPR) who have jointly developed the Building with Nature program for the past 5 years.

Together with the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment, we facilitate the initiation and implementation of the Land Subsidence Working Group. Meanwhile, with Bappenas, the collaboration was realized in the preparation of the Wetland Management Strategy document.

Good cooperation is also established with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, especially related to the management of the Paludiculture Forum (PaludiFor), the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Indonesia and activities related to migratory birds (flyway).

We received a lot of information and training from the Ministry of Finance for the development of proposals funded by the Green Climate Fund.

We coordinate a lot with the Peat and Mangrove Restoration Agency (BRGM) on peat and mangrove restoration.

In the field, coordination is mainly carried out with the Regional Governments of Demak District and Semarang City, Central Java and South Tapanuli Regency, North Sumatra.

Donors. Our works were made possible due to funding support from donors. In particular, we would like to thank the following donors for support, most of which is channeled through our Wetlands International Global Office in the Netherlands:

- The International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety;
- Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)

Both Donors provided financial support for the Building with Nature Indonesia project. IKI also provides support for the Peatlands and Mangrove Ecosystem project in North Sumatra. Meanwhile, RVO provided funds for the implementation of the Kali Welang Project.

- Support for the Global Mangrove Alliance provided by The Oak Foundation, the COmON Foundation and the National Philanthropic Trust.
- The Government of Demak District provides financial support directly to Community Groups for the maintenance of structures managed by the community.

Our organization's most valuable asset is our Staff. Thank you for continuing to paddle the boat together in times of uncertainty and seizing opportunities optimistically but realistically... you guys are awesome!

Wetlands International Indonesia Staff 2021

(in alphabetical order)

Aji Nuralam Dwisutono
Technical Officer
Rehabilitation

Angelina Fransiska
Finance Officer

Anggita Kalistaningsih
Secretary

Apri Susanto Astra
Programme Coordinator
Nature-based Solution

Boy A. B. Silaban
Technical Officer
Hydrology

Didik Fitrianto
Technical Officer
Community Development

Dimas Alfred Prasetia
Technical Officer
Hydrology

Dody Permadi
Knowledge Management
Officer

Eko Budi Priyanto
Program Coordinator
Wetlands Conservation &
Restoration

I Nyoman Suyadiputra
Senior Adviser to
Programme

Iyan Subiyandi
Finance Admin
Assistant

Friskafianti Amalia Dewi
Technical Officer
Rehabilitation

Hidayat Sunarsyah
Maintenance Officer

Kuswantoro
Technical Officer
Community Development

Lusiana Nurisyiadah
Head of Finance and
Operation

M. Sahlan
Technical Officer
Community Development

Nono Sutisno
Information&Technology
Officer

Ragil Satriyo Gumilang
Senior Communication
&Policy Officer

Salira Vidyan
Technical Officer
Spatial Information

Susan Lusiana
Programme Coordinator
Risk Management &
Resilience

Saddam Husein Rambe
Technical Officer
Community Development

Triana
Publication Officer

Urip Triyanto
Technical Officer
Community Development

Vernando M. Aruan
Technical Officer
Community Development

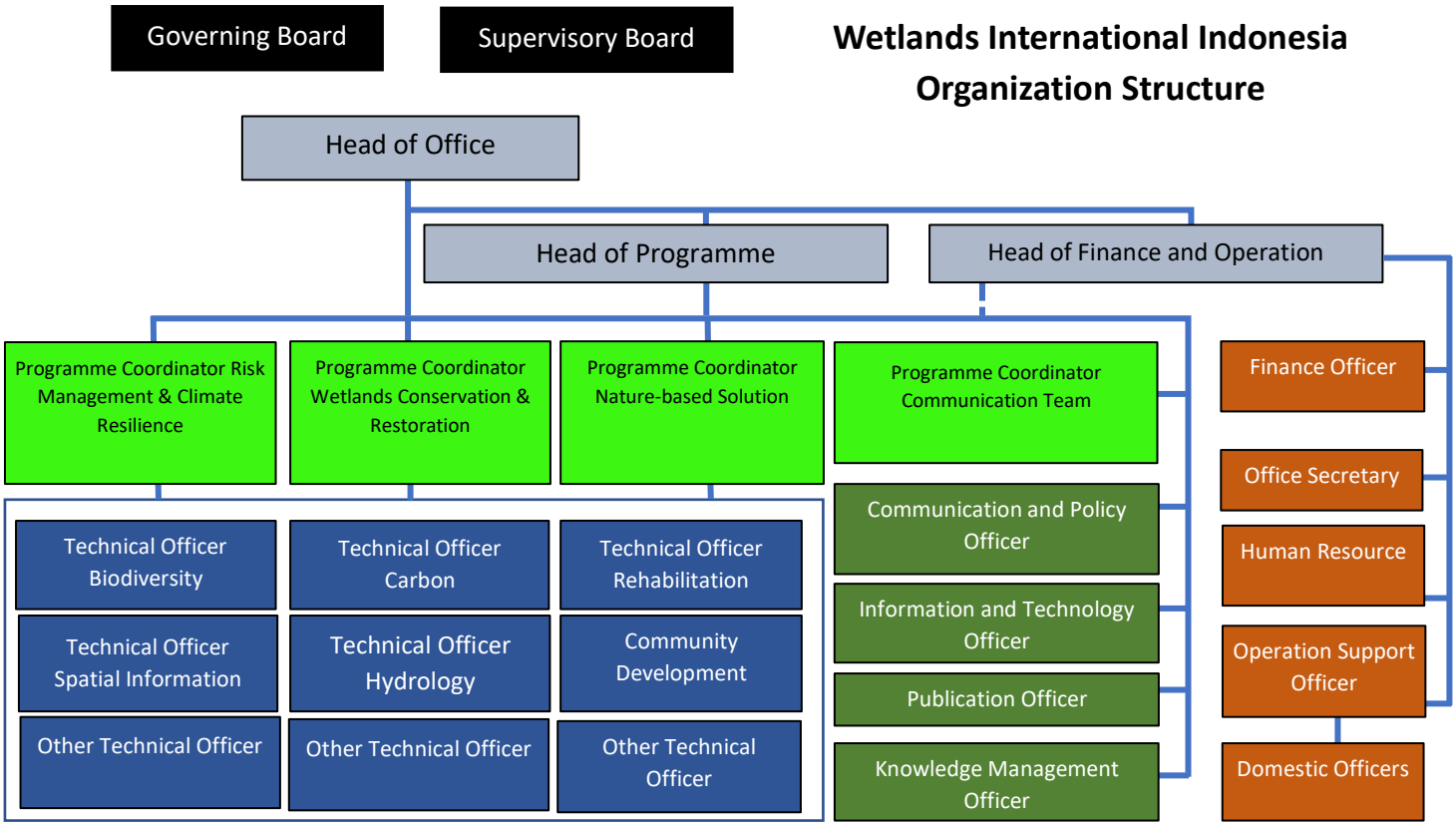
Wahyu Adam
Security Officer

Weningtyas Kismorodati
Liaison Officer &
Stakeholder Engagement

Yus Rusila Noor
Act. Head of Office
Head of Programme

Yusuf Ramdan
Security Officer

Wetlands International Indonesia Organization Structure



Annual Expenditure 2021

Wetlands International Indonesia
Statement of Financial Position
Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2021

Not yet Audited

Particulars	2021
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	22,390,774,865
Current investment	19,396,397,184
Project receivables	2,854,882,915
Prepaid expenses	641,952,458
Other receivables	0
Office Equipment	1,420,416
Total	**45,285,427,837**
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Account due to projects	214,180,562
Tax payable	0
Accrued expenses	0
Post-employment benefits liabilities	0
Unrestricted funds	45,046,006,462
Restricted funds - temporary	25,240,813
Total	**45,285,427,837**

Wetlands International Indonesia
Financial Information

Statement of Activities, as at 31 December 2021

Not yet Audited

Changes in Net Assets - Temporary Restricted Funds

Particulars	2021
Incoming Resources	
Grants from sponsors	10,547,479,216
Total	**10,547,479,216**
Resources Expended	
Salary / Professional fees	4,127,661,670
Employee benefits	1,093,585,835
Civil Works	608,713,481
Training, meetings and Workshops	890,000,000
Sub contract expenses	3,835,677,391
Transportation and traveling	221,402,726
Publications, off supplies and awareness materials	207,404,351
Miscellaneous expenses	0
Total	**10,984,445,454**
Total Changes in Net Assets – Temporary Restricted Funds	**(436,966,238)**
Reclassification from Net Assets – Temporary Restricted Fund to Net Assets - Unrestricted Funds	270,980,264
Net Assets – Temporary Restricted Funds at Beginning of Year	191,226,787
NET ASSETS – TEMPORARY RESTRICTED FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	**25,240,813**

Changes in Net Assets - Unrestricted Funds

Particulars	2021
Incoming Resources	
Other income resources and Currency Exchange Gain, actuarial	4,383,585,835
Total	**4,383,585,835**
Resources Expended	
Salaries and Benefits in kind	2,400,841,331
Employee benefits	1,286,050,897
Professional fees (auditor, actuaria)	70,400,000
Office Rental	150,000,000
Office supplies and materials	62,578,076
Training and workshops,reporting	0
Service and maintenance	16,033,143
Entertainment and donations	0
Communication	61,055,142
Transportation and travel	34,256,800
Depreciation	0
Bank charges	28,787,449
Miscellaneous expenses	17,128,400
Total	**4,127,131,238**
Total Changes in Net Assets - Unrestricted Funds	**256,454,597**
Reclassification from Net Assets – Temporary Restricted Funds to Net Assets – Unrestricted Funds	270,980,264
Net Assets – Unrestricted Funds at Beginning of Year	44,518,571,601
NET ASSETS - UNRESTRICTED FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	**45,046,006,462**

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Yayasan Lahan Basah (YLBA)
Jl. Bango 11, Bogor 16161
JAWA BARAT, Indonesia
admin@wetlands.or.id

Text:
Yus Rusila Noor, Lusiana Nurisyiadah, Apri Susanto Astra,
Susan Lusiana, Eko Budi Priyanto, Ragil Satriyo Gumilang

Editing:
Yus Rusila Noor

Desain dan Layout:
Triana, Yus Rusila Noor

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www.wetlands.org
http://indonesia.wetlands.org