

The Power of Wetlands



Strategic Intent 2020 - 2030
Wetlands International Indonesia

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Photo: Yus Rusila Noor

FOREWORD



Dr. Nirarta Samadhi
Chair of Governing Board
Yayasan Lahan Basah (YLBA)/
Wetlands International Indonesia

The Wetlands International Indonesia's long experience working in Indonesia has inspired that "wetland-based solutions" can be the answer to various problems related to human and biodiversity life, especially in dealing with the impacts caused by climate change. Our work at the local level has contributed to a global scale, inspiring similar activities in many parts of the world. More importantly, at the site level, our various assistance and innovations have stimulated local community to stand side by side with nature in a sustainable manner. We experience that collaboration is the key to dealing with various problems. Come join us for a more sustainable Indonesia's wetlands!

INTRODUCING WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL INDONESIA STRATEGIC INTENTS 2020 – 2030



Yus Rusila Noor
Acting Head of Office
Wetlands International Indonesia

The important role of wetlands, including water, in supporting life, especially for humans, but also for other living things, is increasingly being recognized.

Ironically, the importance of their role is only realized when changes have occurred in the ecological and economic functions of the wetlands as a result of not being well managed by various anthropocentric activities. When wetlands are treated only as commodities to satisfy economic needs and human egocentricity, what happens next is an imbalance in the ecological functions of the wetlands which leads to various disasters (which are often misunderstood as natural disasters, especially hydrological ones). The world of wetlands is then faced with a triple-crisis related to climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution. Humans are then required to make additional efforts to regain the functions and benefits of wetlands that nature has initially provided.

The growth of collective awareness to restore the functions and benefits of wetlands is a necessity that should be placed in a strategic framework for restoration that is well planned, integrated in its implementation and should be sustainable in its results. The steps taken by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia in stopping the issuance of new permits for land clearing in natural forests and peatlands, the establishment of a state institution that specifically handles peat and mangrove ecosystems, the declaration of an accelerated program for mangrove rehabilitation and the inclusion of matters related to wetlands in the NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) are some examples that provide hope for speed recovery of wetlands in Indonesia. Of course, only if these are carried out in an integrated and consistent manner, engaging the community and obtaining support from domestic and international parties.

The Wetlands International Indonesia, which is a metamorphosis of the global network of Wetlands International in Indonesia, has 40 years of experience in the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in Indonesia. We have practical knowledge in encouraging and carrying out real action together with local community, initiating and providing policy responses based on scientific data and information as well as bringing experience in the field to national, regional and global levels and at the same time bringing global practitioners to contribute to the on-the-ground initiatives. We wish to apply our long experience for the next decade in our Strategic Intent 2020 - 2030, aligned with the policy directions and development plans of the government of the Republic of Indonesia as well as the direction of wetland conservation and

restoration activities at the global level. We also have the ambition to bring our experience and success in Indonesia to the regional and global level. This is possible because our parent organization, Wetlands International, has provided the flexibility to run the organization according to the operational needs of the organization at the national level, and at the same time carry the vision and mission of the organization globally. Changing the status of the organization to a national entity spurred us to be able to adapt our strategy by paying greater attention to various opportunities, including resources, at the national level.

The Wetlands International Indonesia Strategic Intent 2020-2030 was prepared by utilizing our communication network at various levels, so that it can be narrowed down to 5 thematic focuses that overshadow the planned action to be implemented. For this reason, we would like to express our gratitude for the various inputs in the long process leading up to the development of this document.

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

Photo: Yus Rusila Noor

WE NEED ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF WETLANDS ECOSYSTEM

There is an urgent need for immediate action to protect the remaining wetlands and rehabilitate those that have already been damaged. No less than 35% of wetlands worldwide have been lost over the last 50 years, so a better future will be largely determined by what action we take today. Wetlands are becoming like super-ecosystems that can meet the interests of commitments against biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development targets. Of course, if a good and appropriate real action is carried out. Peatlands and blue carbon systems, such as mangroves and seagrass beds, are highly efficient carbon sinks. Peat can absorb more carbon, even when compared to the same role that forests play globally. Inland wetlands are also the main storage and supplier of fresh water needed for human life and other living creatures, as well as being a flood controller when heavy rains hit. Meanwhile, various disasters that hit the earth show that coastal wetlands, such as mangroves and seagrass beds can reduce the impact of natural disasters. We may still remember how areas covered by mangroves tended to experience less impact during the major tsunami that hit several countries in late 2004. Not only for humans, who use wetlands as a source of life, about 40% of the world's species diversity also live and breed in wetlands.

“Wetlands International proposes global, habitat-based targets, based on the best available science, that reflect the scale of change needed to improve ecological and social resilience.... We invite partners, wetland scientists and policy makers to work with us to improve, refine and expand this set of targets and to enable their uptake and monitoring. And further, to scope and develop the wetland knowledge platforms which can help enable effective implementation.” *(Jane Madgwick, CEO Wetlands International)*



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WE ARE PART OF A GLOBAL NETWORK WORKING AND PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE USE OF WETLANDS

The Wetlands International Indonesia is a non-profit organization dedicated in the conservation and restoration of wetlands. We are part of the Wetlands International network, and have a Global Network Partnership Agreement, which allows us 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 merger of the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau – IWRB (established in 1954 operating in Europe), Asian Wetlands Bureau (operating in Asia and Oceania) and Wetlands for the Americas - WA (established in 1989 operating in America). In 2018 we turned into an Indonesia national entity, under the name Yayasan Lahan Basah (YLBA).

Achieving Impact

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.





We support and facilitate the development of community livelihoods that are integrated with wetland restoration activities (Photo: Kuswantoro)

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.

Core Elements of Our Brand

As a non-profit organization that operates nationally and is sheltered in a global network, we use the Core Elements of our Organisation as a guide for our activities.

- **Bring together knowledge, policy and practice**
 - We provide insights into modern life's dependency on wetlands. We build scientific, practical and traditional knowledge on wetlands and use this to stimulate effective policies and practices.
- **Connect local actions to make a global difference**
 - Through our global network, we combine local experiences and successes to influence national, regional and global policies, practices and investments.
- **Enable society to take action**
 - We work for the long-term in major wetland areas all over the world. We catalyse action to safeguard wetlands and support those that use or depend on them. We forge innovative and strategic partnerships to maximise our reach and impact.
- **Act with passion**
 - We are passionate about the positive change we make for people and nature. This is anchored in our communications and behaviour

Our Core Value

As a non-profit organisation engaged in the conservation of wetlands nationally and part of a global network, our character is used as a guide for our interventions.

We maintain the following core values:

- Our work is globally relevant.
- Our work is based on sound science.
- We work through partnerships and with a wide range of sectors.
- We respect traditional values and knowledge.
- We respect human rights and aim to contribute to gender equality.
- We work in a transparent and accountable way.

Our Working Principle

In carrying out the work, we are working based on the following working principles:

Focus on the root cause of the problem at hand and strive to make changes.

We work with partner actors at various levels to identify root causes and find solutions together. This approach is expected to stimulate real action, which can then address the causes or things that accelerate ecosystem degradation.

Apply a landscape and multi-sector approach.

The landscape approach allows for an integrated participatory process, starting from planning, implementing activities and evaluating processes that take place in an inclusive manner.

Adopt multi-scale approach.

We look at the natural processes that occur between the various elements and ecosystems in a landscape, and identify where and in what form improvements are needed.

Encourage multi-stakeholder engagement.

We always work with the community and local government to identify, bridge and mediate when conflicts arise regarding wetland natural resources, so as to promote dialogue processes and inclusive governance.

Building the institutional and financial capacity of the assisted communities.

Our experience shows that the institutional capacity of assisted communities can be increased through increased access to knowledge, resources and financial incentives. This capacity support will be carried out through Partnerships with the Government, development partners, humanitarian partners and the private sector. For example, the interests of local communities related to the use of natural resources are made part of the circular economy development. Through the development of a circular economy, wetland resources are maintained so that they can be used wisely and sustainably, and restoration can be carried out when needed.



We are passionate about the positive change we make for people and nature. This is anchored in our communications and behaviour (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor)

The Change We Are Promoting

To ensure the achievement of increasing impact and effectiveness of our Strategy, nationally (and globally) our organisation will carry out three stages of work, namely **Inspire**, **Mobilize** and **Upscale**.

INSPIRE: creating conditions for action to take.

We will use the long experience that we have had for more than 35 years working in Indonesia as an inspiring inspiration. We will use the knowledge and information we have gathered related to sustainable wetland management in the country, as well as our global network, to inspire the public and private sectors to make changes towards sustainable wetland management.

MOBILISE: enabling action and creating conditions for scale-up.

By bringing with us existing knowledge regarding wetlands, building understanding and exploring common goals and solutions through dialogue, we will facilitate the development and dissemination of knowledge among stakeholders. Through this avenue, we will garner support and partnerships in the implementation of integrated and inclusive solutions regarding the sustainable use of wetlands in the long term. In order to create enabling conditions for scale-up, we take a policy approach and implement pilot projects and strengthening of knowledge centers as well as conducting training and building communities in related fields.

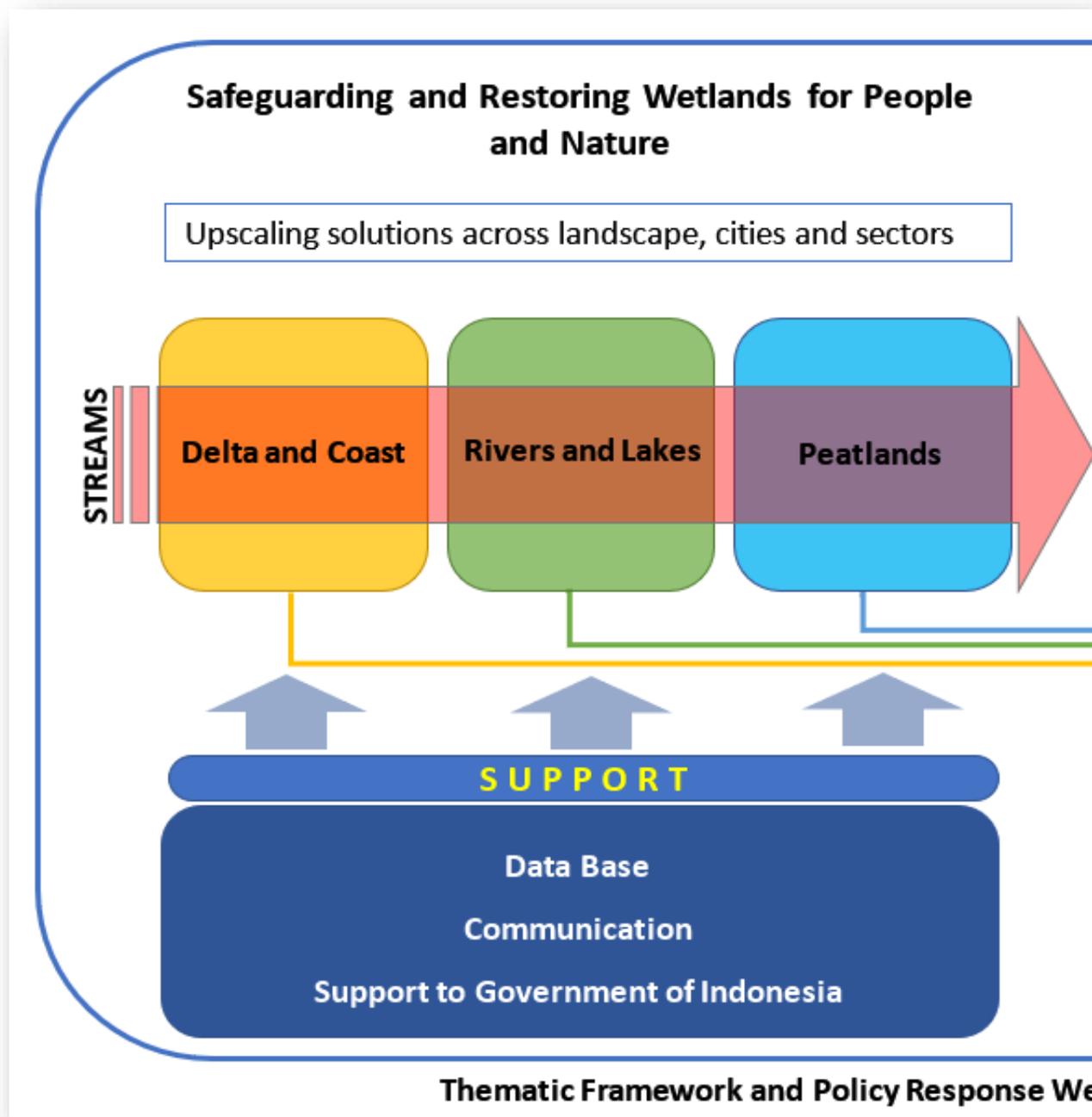
UPSCALE: increasing impact over time and space.

Our work in certain landscapes is based on a long-term vision. It is rare for such long-term activities to be financed in advance. To address this, we have adopted a build-in approach that allows for incremental scale-up, usually preceded by small-scale investments and then followed by a scaled-up financing model that allows for execution of work that yields multiple benefits at an agreed scale.

Our Strategic Framework

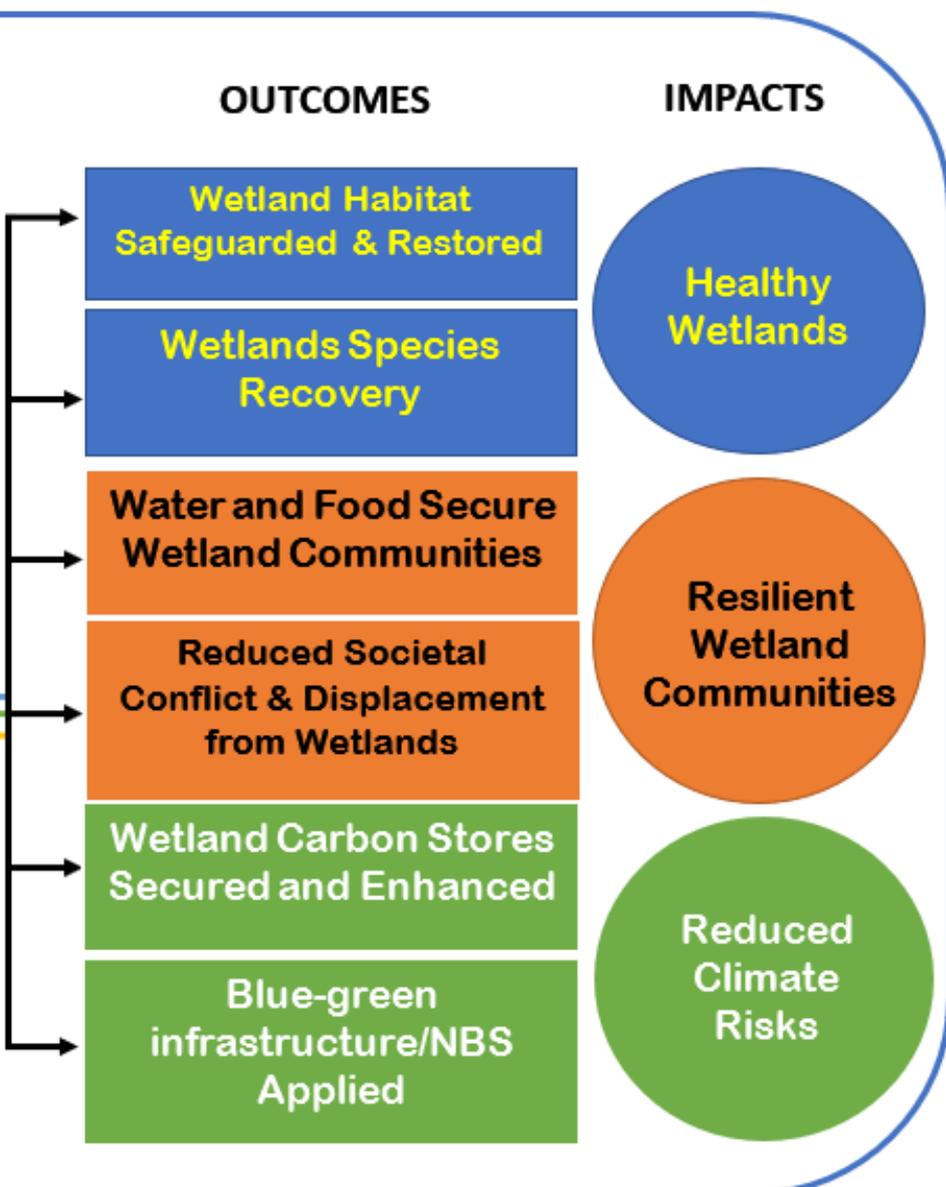
Wetlands International Indonesia Strategic Intent 2020 – 2030 is prepared to guide the “big ideas” of activities to be carried out in accordance with the organization's vision and mission. On a grand scale, work ideas are summarized in three Streams adopted from our parent organization (Wetlands International), taking into account the combined importance of wetland ecosystems to nature and society, the level of threat faced and our ability to make a difference. The three Streams are **Delta and Coast, River and Lake, and Peatland**.

To achieve the organization's vision and mission, we will work with different partners, sectors and approaches to achieve the conservation goals that have been set, for example through the determination of flagship species, the flyway approach of migratory waterbirds and the engagement and strengthening of other ecological networks. These will then be integrated in the three global Streams of the organization. The various knowledge and information on each stream will be used to formulate the relevant policy response.





To achieve the organization's vision and mission, we will work with different partners, sectors and approaches to achieve the conservation goals that have been set (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor).



In the operational setting, the ideas of work to be carried out are summarized in 6 thematic focuses that will become the outcome of the organization. The six outcomes will serve as a shelter for operational activities within each Stream. Each outcomes may relate on activities in more than one Stream, or even in all three Streams.

In order to support the implementation of these 6 outcomes, we have set 3 other themes that in total support the three Streams. The three supporting themes are **database and knowledge management**, **communication** and **support the Government of the Republic of Indonesia**. In the final stage, the implementation of the ideas listed in the Outcome levels is expected to have an impact on three areas, namely **Healthy Wetlands**, **Resilient Wetland Communities** and **Reduced Climate Risk**.

Outcomes are presented below, and their descriptions are presented in each Stream.

1. Wetland Habitat Safeguarded & Restored. We aim to help conserve a selection of the most intact wetland ecosystems and restore others within a full range of wetland types across the world. We also aim to restore other freshwater systems, peatlands, deltas and coastal ecosystems for their intrinsic, cultural and ecosystem service values. We will prioritise ecological networks that connect landscapes, such as flyways and swim-ways. In Indonesian context, damage to wetland ecosystems is still a big concern. Data from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry shows that at least 19.26% of the mangrove area in Indonesia is in critical condition, both inside and outside protected areas (KTA PDASHL, 2020). Mangrove ecosystem restoration, therefore, is considered as one of the nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approach priority that must be implemented nationally. In the long term, regrowth of mangrove stands will support the Indonesia's 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 when needed, in accordance with the "To Plant or Not to Plant" principle.

Indonesia is known to have the largest tropical peatlands in the world, some of which have been damaged by drainage, deforestation and burning for land clearing and agricultural practices. 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. Wetlands International Indonesia has 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.

2. Wetlands Species Recovery. Building on our long track record for waterbird conservation, we will contribute to the conservation of wetland biodiversity by working on selected flagship species and groups of species linked to specific habitats. 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 wintering habitat for migratory species. For more than 30 years, Wetlands International Indonesia has coordinated waterbird monitoring activities, and has included wetland fauna as an important part of inventories 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).

3. Water and Food Secure Wetlands Communities. We aim to prevent further wetland loss and degradation that undermines the natural productivity and water storage capacities of peatlands, floodplains, mangrove forests, deltas and lakes. We aim to improve and diversify the livelihoods of people dependent on wetlands, and promote best practices in agriculture and aquaculture, integrating wetland values into the local economy.



We will seek support and partnerships in implementing integrated and inclusive solutions related to the sustainable use of wetlands in the long-term (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor).

4. Reduce Societal Conflict & Displacement from Wetlands. We will in particular strive to resolve situations where deterioration of wetlands – caused by upstream abstraction, climate change or population growth -- contributes to loss of livelihoods, human displacement, conflict and migration. Where necessary, we will use peacebuilding and conflict resolution measures to address imbalanced power relations between stakeholders, building capacity for vulnerable and marginalised people to defend their rights to water and wetland resources

5. Wetland Carbon Stores Secured and Enhanced. We aim to bring wetlands into activities to adapt to and mitigate climate change, which is otherwise a threat to the integrity of all wetlands. Improving the condition of peatlands, river systems and coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, saltmarshes and sea-grass beds will also reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases and return many to their role as carbon sinks. Wetlands International works 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 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 local community.

6. Blue-Green Infrastructure/NBS Applied. We aim to steer urban water infrastructure investment and land use planning towards using wetlands to meet challenges such as water insecurity and flooding that are conventionally addressed by civil engineering – an approach that often causes further loss and deterioration of wetlands. At the Climate Summit meeting in New York, September 2019, the Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia delivered a speech by mentioning that Indonesia has also intensified its climate action through Nature-Based Solutions, by stop issuing new permits in primary natural forests and peatlands, setting targets for restoration of 2 million hectares of peatland and rehabilitate critical land, as well as preserve mangrove and coastal ecosystems. The Nature-Based Solution and Ecosystem-Based Approach have been considered as one of the solutions in overcoming various environmental and economic problems, can provide answers to problems in the long-term, cost less and provide co-benefits. Wetlands International Indonesia will apply the concept of Nature-Based Solutions and Ecosystem-Based Approaches using the various experiences we have.





We will in particular strive to resolve situations where deterioration of wetlands contributes to loss of livelihoods, human displacement, conflict and migration (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor).



Wetlands International Indonesia aims to help maintain and restore wetlands with the community and government in Indonesia (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor)

Our Contribution

During the period 2020 – 2030, Wetlands International Indonesia aims to participate in maintaining and restoring wetlands with communities and the government in Indonesia, as well as contributing to the sustainability and restoration of wetlands at the regional and global levels.

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

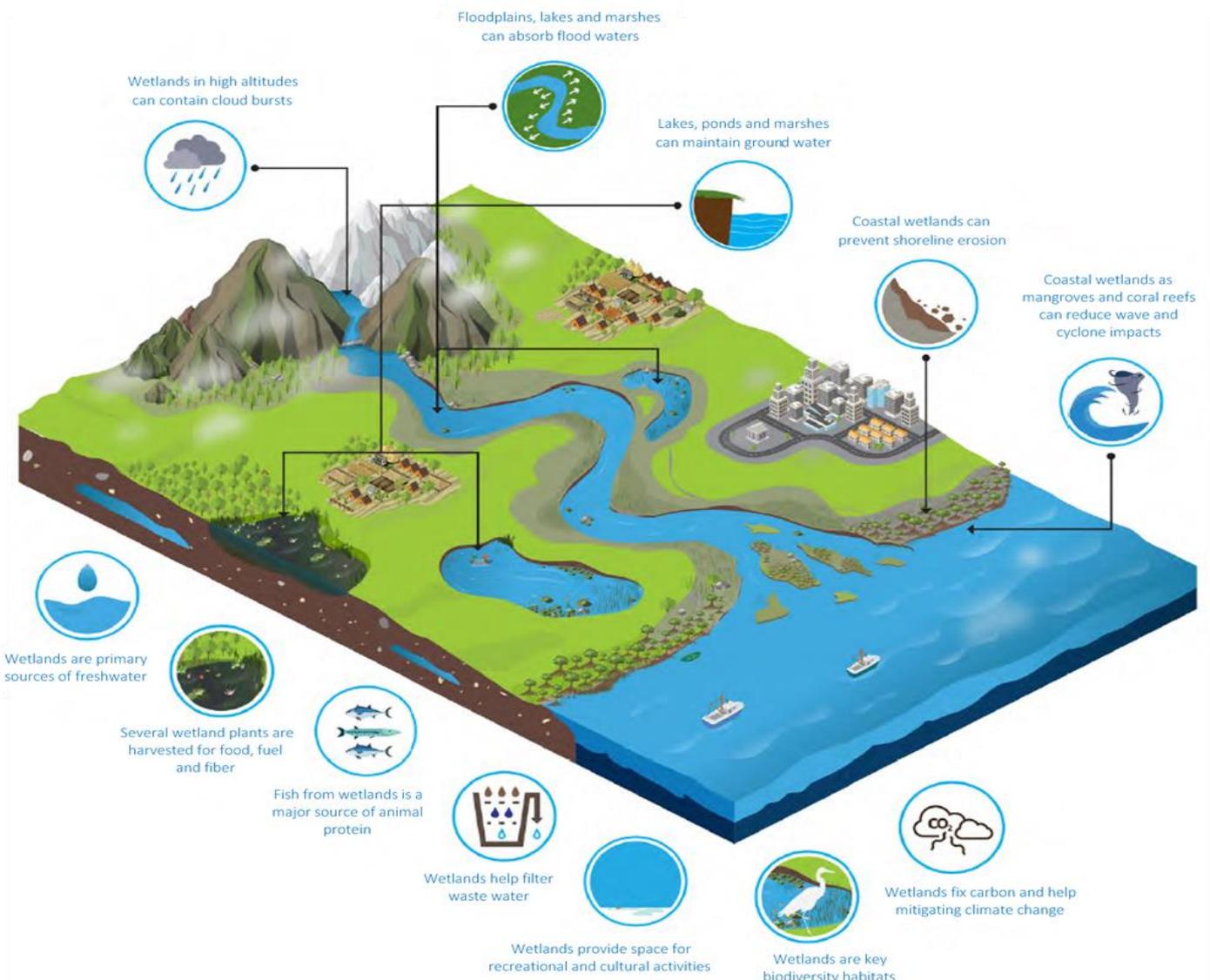
We believe that the experience we have gained over the last 4 decades of working in Indonesia will be the basis for anticipating the dynamics that occur locally, nationally and globally. We believe in partnerships with communities and local governments, national governments and international networks as a solid foundation to ensure that our contributions can be effective, efficient and provide benefits for humans and nature.



In improving the livelihoods of local communities, our work will be directed towards reducing pressure from overuse and spatial planning that is not in favor of sustainable development (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor).

We combine global and localised approaches:

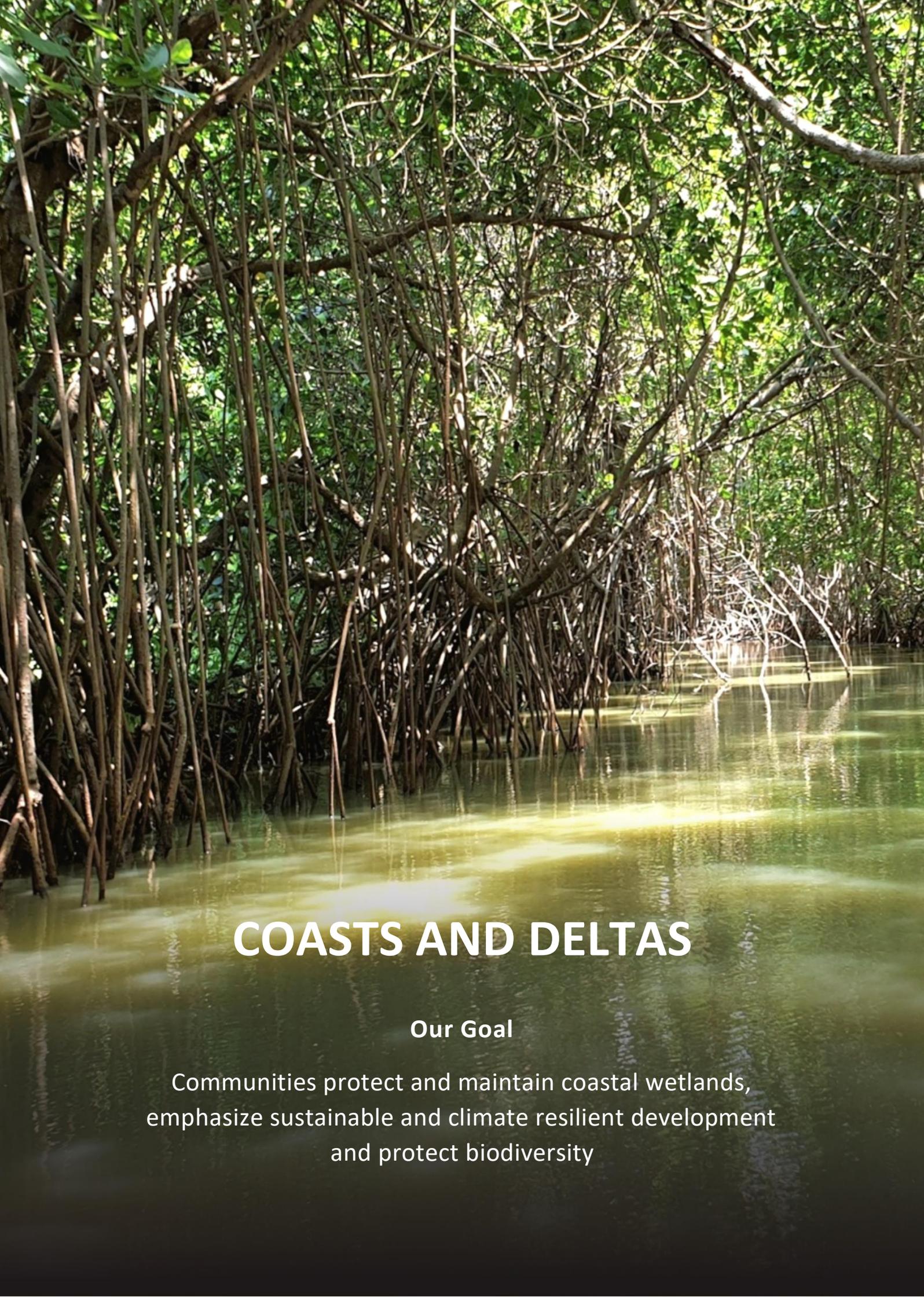
- By using our local presence, track record and partner networks in countries and regions of the world to initiate, design and bring sustainable wetland landscape recovery programmes to fruition, by accessing green finance.
- By collaborating with governments and city authorities to provide technical guidance on nature-based solutions and other wetlands ecosystem-based approaches through the engagement of multi-stakeholder partnerships to support implementation.
- By influencing the agendas of governments, companies and finance institutions to prioritise wetlands as a means to build a more resilient, healthier society.



Wetlands and their value

Wetlands are ecosystems which occur wherever land and water meet. They exist in every country across the world and every type of region – polar, tropical, wet, dry, high and low altitude. Wetlands take various forms and are highly dynamic, connecting mountains to the sea. The value of both coastal and inland ecosystems to society and the economy are the highest of any ecosystem type.

Acting as the water source, sinks and regulators, the “health” of wetlands affects the quantity and quality of water available for our use in every landscape. In other words, wetlands control our water security – widely regarded as the key natural resource challenge facing humanity.



COASTS AND DELTAS

Our Goal

Communities protect and maintain coastal wetlands,
emphasize sustainable and climate resilient development
and protect biodiversity

Stream Value

Indonesia has one of the longest coastal lengths in the world. Coasts and deltas are important ecosystems that provide the necessities of life, either partially or completely, for resident and migratory animals. The two ecosystems are the link between land ecosystems and ocean ecosystems. For the community, these two ecosystems, including mangroves, seagrass beds and river estuaries, provide abundant sources of livelihood, while also providing protection from the threat of waves, strong winds and coastal abrasion. Aquaculture, agriculture and fisheries in general rely heavily on healthy coast and delta ecosystems.

Key Challenges

- **Maintain coastal wetlands as a source of livelihood for the community, while protecting them from the threat of disaster.** Millions of people in Indonesia are dependent on the existence of deltaic and coastal wetlands. They depend on their livelihoods from coastal natural resources, such as capture fisheries, aquaculture and extraction of vegetation resources. An ecologically well-functioning coastal ecosystem will provide protection and disaster risk reduction, and conversely, a crippled ecosystem will burden coastal communities to expend additional resources for their survival. In locations that have experienced land subsidence and regularly experience tidal flooding, for example, additional expenditure is used to raise the land in their home yard.
- **Maintaining the function of coastal wetlands as a habitat for various species of wildlife to spend all or part of their lives, for breeding or feeding purposes, both resident and migratory species.** Healthy deltaic and coastal wetlands provide abundant environmental services for both migratory and resident wildlife, in the form of habitat for feeding, breeding and protection.
- **Mudflat at river mouths and along the coast provide a food cycle** for both resident and migrant waterbirds, while mangrove vegetation provides breeding habitat for dozens of resident waterbirds. The mangrove ecosystem also provides habitat for various species of fish to spawn, so that it can provide capture fisheries resources for fishermen. However, many coastal areas are currently being damaged by unsustainable extraction and conversion, excess groundwater extraction and pollution, depriving them of their ecological functions, and thereby depriving them of the ecosystem services they normally provide.
- Restoring coastal wetlands that have been damaged in their functions related to climate change adaptation and regulation of the carbon cycle. Delta and coastal wetlands, particularly mangrove ecosystems, have been identified as one of the largest carbon sinks. The carbon storage process, which is then known as blue carbon, is known to then make a significant contribution to the climate change adaptation mechanism.



Mudflat at river mouths and along the coast support the food cycle for both resident and migratory waterbirds (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor).

How We Will Make a Difference

Inspire

- The acceleration of the rehabilitation of 600,000 hectares of mangroves and rehabilitation of 1,200,000 hectares of peatlands have been announced through a Presidential Regulation. The Government of Indonesia has provided a very large amount of funding for the implementation of these rehabilitation.
- Implementation of the Carbon Economic Value in Indonesia has been regulated through Presidential Regulation Number 98 of 2021. This regulation regulates the implementation of carbon trading, levies on carbon emissions, performance-based payments for reducing carbon emissions as well as being a policy for handling climate change through market mechanisms.
- On the NDC, in achieving the adaptation goal, Indonesia focusses on three areas of resilience: economic resilience, social and livelihood resilience, and ecosystem and landscape resilience. The National Medium-Term Development Planning 2020-2024 includes adaptation under the 6th development agenda (Enhancing the environment and resilience to

natural disaster and climate change impacts), focusing on water, agriculture, health, and coastal and marine ecosystem. Indonesian NDC includes implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation in coastal zone development and integrated management of mangrove ecosystem as well as restoration of degraded mangroves and peatland as action points.

Mobilise:

- Opportunity to provide input in the design of mangrove rehabilitation which includes the concept of Building with Nature by engaging the community.
- Synergy with global initiatives related to monitoring the condition of mangroves, for example Global Mangrove Watch.

Upscale:

- Commitment of developed countries to invest in climate change funds that have been promised, as part of the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.
- Increasing the interest of the private sector to be engaged in rehabilitation initiative as part of a business sustainability strategy (beyond CSR



Healthy deltaic and coastal wetlands provide abundant environmental services for both migratory and resident wildlife (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor).

Impact of Our Work

Healthy Wetlands

In order to protect and maintain coastal wetlands that can perform their functions in coastal protection, provide adequate space for biodiversity and improve the livelihoods of local communities, our work will be directed towards reducing pressure from overuse, spatial planning that is not in favor of sustainable development and encouraging scientifically based policy making and supports multi-stakeholder cooperation.

- Utilizing the concept of Citizen Science in the inventory and monitoring of biodiversity and its habitat in coastal wetlands, as a basis for data-based policy making.
- Support various initiatives of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia related to the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands. This includes the preparation of guidelines, provision of data, information and practical experience which has been carried out by the Wetlands International Indonesia on a limited scale but allows for replication on a wider scale.
- Support studies related to co-benefits for biodiversity in mangrove areas and mudflats, both resident and migratory species, as a result of maintenance and restoration works.
- Continue to promote the role of mangroves and coastal ecosystems for coastal defense and socio-economic of communities.

By 2030 we will safeguard 100,000 hectares of high value coastal wetlands in Indonesia.

Resilient Communities

The development of mangroves and other coastal wetlands-based products by local community needs to be scaled up, so that they can be relied upon to become a source of funds for ecosystem management while supporting the community's economy.

- Utilize the concept of building with nature in the protection and restoration of coastal areas, by ensuring that local communities can be fully engaged in planning, implementing and evaluation phases.
- Support the planning and implementation of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia program related to the acceleration of mangrove rehabilitation, linked to the community economic improvement program.
- Improve the facilitation of local communities in implementing aquaculture certification mechanisms as well as bridging the linkage between aquaculture farmers and buyers based on fair and mutually beneficial and environmentally friendly marketing principles.
- Collaborate with national financial authorities to develop a conditional loan concept linked to coastal wetland conservation and restoration initiatives (Bio-Rights), to be part of innovative financial management system that is in line with the government's financial system.

By 2030 we facilitate the integration of wetlands into 100,000 hectares coastal production system Indonesia.

We are promoting environmentally sound and climate-friendly development initiatives in coastal areas (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor).

Reduced Climate Risk

- Promote the use of Building with Nature approach at a landscape scale to support the protection and restoration of coastal ecosystems.
- Take advantage of increased private sector interest in addressing climate change impacts on coastal wetlands through the blue carbon market mechanism to support coastal wetland restoration activities.
- Support private sector initiatives to offset their carbon emissions.
- Promote environmentally sound and climate-friendly development initiatives in coastal areas, including the one to promote Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR).
- Support Government of Indonesia programs which engaging community and private sector that promote climate-friendly activities in coastal areas, for example the Climate Village Program.

By 2030 we will influence IDR 100 billion (USD 7 Million) of investments in coastal infrastructure in Indonesia



Our Action

In order to put our Thematic Focus into action, we have identified several Big Ideas developed in our global network. We have identified work patterns and resource support for some of the proposed Big Idea, while others still require further development and identification of resource support. Some of the identified Big Ideas are including:

Integrated Mangrove Restoration in Banten Bay area. The coastal ecosystem of Banten Bay has been under pressure from damage over the past few decades. The clearing of natural coastal wetlands overgrown with mangroves into aquaculture areas is a classical problem in the Banten Bay area. The side effects are in the form of damage to coastal areas, such as coastal erosion, sea water intrusion and reduced natural infrastructure for coastal protection. These various damages then directly impact on the disruption of community

livelihoods and wildlife habitats, especially water birds. Since 2012 Wetlands International Indonesia has provided support to local community groups and the Natural Resources Conservation Agency to build sediment traps, which are then overgrown with mangroves naturally. In the period 2020 – 2030, interventions will be implemented by expanding the coverage area and linking it with local government policies related to coastal area management and increasing the resilience of coastal communities.

Improved Mangrove Forest Management in Sorong and South Sorong, West Papua.

This initiative is aimed at conserving and restoring approximately 29% of the total mangrove area (438,000 ha) in West Papua. The success of this initiative will result in various references related to mangrove management combined with the creation of alternative livelihoods for the community, protecting mangroves but at the same time improving community welfare.



To Plant or Not to Plant? This initiative aims to rehabilitate at least 30,000 ha of mangrove forests in 10 countries, including Indonesia, to support biodiversity conservation, human well-being, and climate change mitigation. The approach is to assist NGOs, government agencies, the private sector and local communities to implement best practices in mangrove restoration, and move away from traditional mangrove planting towards so-called ecological mangrove restoration (re-establishment of environmental conditions that allow for natural recoveries) through recovery of hydrological, sediment dynamics and soil conditions.

Building with Nature - Asia. Building with Nature (BwN) is part of the Nature-Based Solutions and Ecosystem-Based Approach, which focuses on water engineering. BwN's approach involves an inclusive and multi-disciplinary planning process, working with local communities and government stakeholders. Building with Nature Asia initiative aims to accelerate adaptation in Asia by gaining political support, overcoming barriers and creating enablers for large-scale implementation of Building with Nature. Through this initiative, we will build on large-scale pilots currently underway in the Netherlands and Indonesia, and will launch an activity model for implementing the Building with Nature approach in 15 landscapes across five Asian countries by 2030.

Issues related to land subsidence.

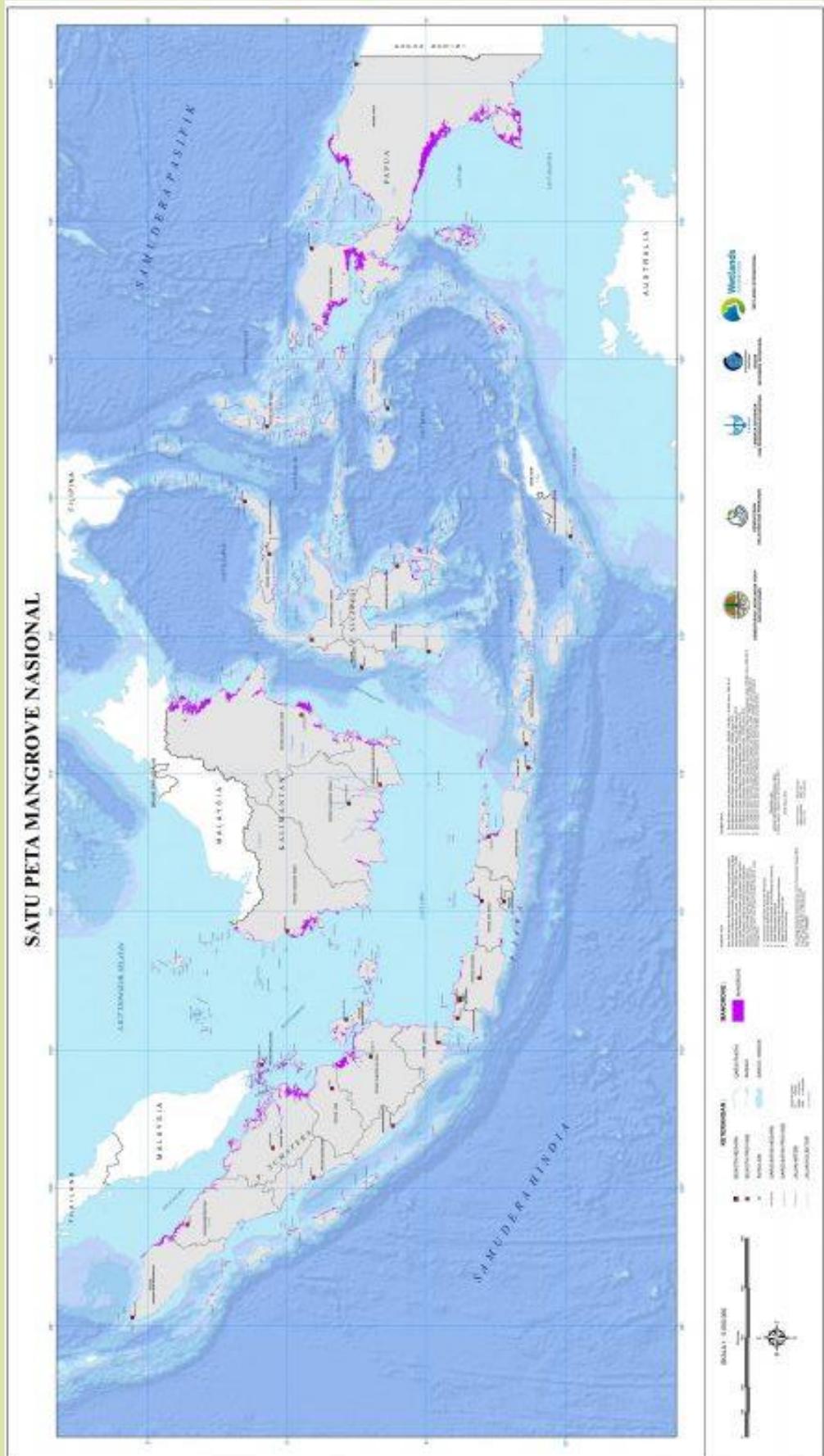
Wetlands International Indonesia has raised the issue of land subsidence since the widespread conversion of peatlands to oil palm plantations, around the mid-2000s. Land subsidence in peatlands is mainly due to the large number of drainage channels that discharge peat water into the surrounding rivers. Land

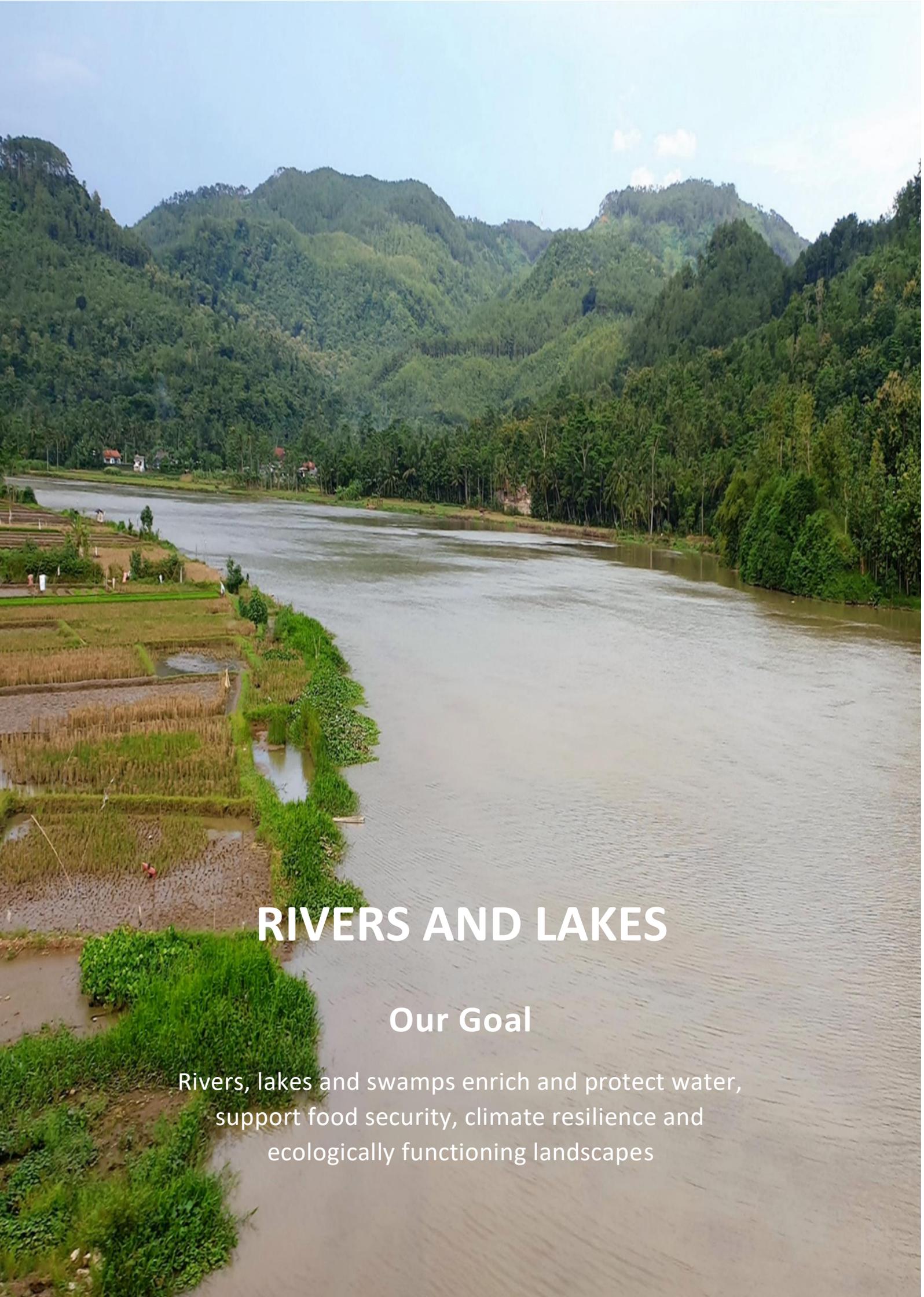
subsidence in oil palm plantation concessions on peatlands, at some point in the future, it is feared that the peatlands will be inundated (due to water no longer being drained by natural gravity) and left behind. We facilitated the establishment of a Land Subsidence Working Group under the auspices of the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment, and has succeeded in compiling a Land Subsidence Road Map document for the 2019-2029 period. Wetlands International Indonesia, as a member of the Land Subsidence Working Group, will continue to support the Ministry of Maritime Affairs regarding the follow-up to the Land Subsidence Road Map document.

The Global Mangrove Alliance is an initiative of several organizations that aims to work in three areas related to the preservation and restoration of mangroves globally, namely:

- **Prevent loss of mangroves.** To ensure the conservation of the remaining mangroves and the ecosystem services they provide, this initiative will work to prevent further loss, degradation and fragmentation of mangroves.
- **Implement scientifically-based restoration.** We will work directly with communities and other parties to restore damaged mangroves and ensure that communities benefit from the restoration program, and are involved in maintaining it.
- **Build awareness.** Utilizing the network of implementers, strengthening synergies, various experiences and information will be the strength of this Alliance in conserving, sustainably utilizing and restoring mangroves.

Where We Work in Coast and Delta. We will carry out activities in important coastal and deltaic locations, to support the programs that have been launched by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia.





RIVERS AND LAKES

Our Goal

Rivers, lakes and swamps enrich and protect water, support food security, climate resilience and ecologically functioning landscapes

Stream Value

Freshwater wetlands, such as rivers, lakes, deltas, swamps and marshes connect nature and people to land, water and sea. These ecosystems can be found in all climate types, altitude, urban or rural, artificial or natural landscapes. These wetlands are harbors for various types of biodiversity and support water and food security for millions of people and support the resilience of society at large in the face of climate change and the threat of water disasters.

Key Challenges

Stop the decline and restore freshwater biodiversity. To halt and reverse the dramatic decline in freshwater biodiversity. Freshwater wetlands are in a state of crisis. Since 1970 the freshwater fauna population and freshwater wetland area have fallen by 81% and 30%, respectively. In many wetlands, conversion and adaptation to intensive use transforms them from systems of many values to systems of monoculture production. The intensification of the use of fresh water for socioeconomic production means that only a third of the world's rivers are still flowing freely and many basins are now closed and unable to meet all the needs of humans and nature.

To address water security challenges in a way that allows freshwater ecosystems to be maintained and restored. The combination of population growth and the expansion of productive and industrial use of water and wetlands is driving a race to the bottom that has fundamental implications for stability, human security

and biodiversity. There is a growing threat to large wetland systems that are iconic in terms of biodiversity and which provide countless services to communities. Unique biodiversity and traditional ways of life are under immediate threat and more fundamental changes to water security and associated social impacts can be expected. Here, nationally and globally significant biodiversity is threatened and the collapse of wetland ecosystems could lead to widespread instability and future human security problems.

To ensure that the design, investment and implementation of development and climate adaptation solutions integrate and protect the values embodied in freshwater ecosystems. Maintaining and restoring the connectivity and water regime of freshwater wetlands is critical to their function. Climate change impacts wetlands and accentuates water supply variability. Community responses are generally mono-sectoral and ignore the role of freshwater systems as the basis for resilient and sustainable development, which drives traditional hard infrastructure solutions. Infrastructure developments such as energy, navigation, food production and industry can change the hydrological relationships between rivers, groundwater and wetlands, making communities more vulnerable to increased water shocks and climate change.



We will support campaigns for local communities to be engaged in river saving programs (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor)

How We Will Make A Difference

Inspire:

- Growing concern related to the decline in the quantity and quality of biodiversity in river waters in Indonesia, particularly in Java, mainly related to various studies on pollution in these rivers.

- Policy improvements related to water are considered as a pre-requisite for the implementation of the Masterplan for the Acceleration and Expansion of Indonesia Economic Development, 2011–2025 (MP3EI). Water-related challenges will intensify and jeopardize sustainable development goals.
- The Government of the Republic of Indonesia has issued Presidential Regulation No. 60 of 2021 concerning Saving National Priority Lakes. A total of 15 lakes have been designated as national priorities, and are facing problems related to the decline in ecosystem quality and biodiversity as well as waste pollution.

Mobilise:

- Promote rivers and lakes as part of the wetland ecosystem.
- Strengthen civil sector engagement in water governance to address the increasing demand for water for a more diverse range of needs and availability challenges, related to water supply ecosystem conditions and climate change.
- Supporting the synergy of ministries and related institutions to accelerate the recoveries of rivers and lakes, as part of the program to restore functions and maintain ecosystems at a landscape approach.

Upscale:

- Policy commitment to water resource management and maintenance and restoration of water supply ecosystems using nature-based solution approach to ensure sustainable water supply.
- Increasing the application of payments for water supply ecosystem services among corporations, as part of a sustainable business strategy (beyond CSR).



We will start to be actively involved in river and lake ecosystem restoration (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor)

Impact of Our Work

Healthy Wetlands

We will start to be actively engaged in river and lake ecosystem restoration efforts through support to the Indonesian government's program to restore national priority lakes and accelerate restoration of major rivers by integrating landscape-based and ecological approaches and improving the livelihoods of communities.

- Encourage and provide input to the government to develop policy tools that support saving river and lake ecosystems, with an emphasis on ecological conditions and functions, biodiversity and socio-economic functions of the community.
- Promote river saving program using Building with Nature approach at the landscapes scale through the provision of incentives and disincentives, including the possibility of applying the polluter pay principle.

- Collaborate with private sector to support the restoration of river and lake ecosystems as part of the company's green investment. This was then linked to the government's "Proper" (green certification) program, as well as an emphasis on long-term company efficiency.
- Using a citizen science approach with a digital interaction platform for monitoring the status and trends of bio-physical conditions, biodiversity and threats to river and lake ecosystems, to be used as material for government policy formulation and restoration actions.
- Support the submission of Indonesian cities to the "Wetlands City Accreditation" program of the Ramsar Convention, with an emphasis on the health of urban wetlands.

By 2030, we intend to safeguard 300,000 hectares of high value river and lake in 5 Watersheds and 5 National Priority Lakes.

Resilient Communities

The role of the community in maintaining and saving river and lake ecosystems should be directed at activities that can provide benefits to the community itself. The benefits that can be obtained in a sustainable manner, in the long term will encourage the community to independently support various programs implemented by the Government, Private and Non-Governmental Organizations. We will facilitate the establishment of synergies between various parties in development program in the main watershed and lake areas.

- Inventory of man-made lakes in the Greater Jakarta area as part of urban wetland management. Cooperation will be fostered with the education sector as the implementation of the “Merdeka” (freedom) Learning program on the Independent Campus of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology.
- Campaign to local communities to be engaged in river and lake restoration programs. Encouraging the government, private sector and other parties to provide conditional loan funding support (to later become a grant after meeting certain conditions) as compensation for community engagement in programs to save river and lake ecosystems.
- Development of regulations at the field level related to the maintenance and restoration of river and lake ecosystems, as part of the regional spatial plan, with an emphasis on the participation of local communities, linked to economic development programs.

By 2030, we intend to integrate wetlands into 500,000 hectares of production landscapes.

Reduced Climate Risk

Our work will focus on supporting the maintenance of the functions and roles of river and lake ecosystems, particularly in relation to the ecological role for biodiversity, the role in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and the role in providing socio-economic benefits for the community at large.

- Provide input to the spatial planning of watersheds and lakes to support management that maintains functions and is climate friendly.
- Engage in handling plastic waste pollution in river and lake areas with an emphasis on the impact on climate change in the process of plastic production.
- Support studies on the long-term impact of micro-plastics on freshwater organisms in river and lake ecosystems, and be part of a global collaborative network for the study and treatment of micro-plastic waste.
- Support the Government of Indonesia's programs to maintain and save rivers and lakes that involve companies, for example the “Proper” program to improve the company's environmental management performance in accordance with what has been stipulated in the legislations.

By 2030, we intend to influence Rp.50 billion (USD 3,5 million) to enable nature-based solution.

Our Action

- **Urban wetlands for communities.** Provision of urban wetland management information, especially artificial wetlands, such as lakes and ponds, will help to function urban wetlands to increase the happiness of urban communities.
- **Inventory of artificial wetlands in urban areas.** Artificial wetlands in urban areas will be inventoried through the use of satellite imagery, media information and scientific research reports.
- **Conservation and restoration of damaged river systems.** A large number of river systems in Java and Sumatra are currently experiencing severely threats (pollution, disruption of channel patterns, mis-engineering, etc.) and require very serious, integrated conservation/restoration efforts. We will participate in the design and/or implementation of watershed management in several river systems using Building with Nature principle.

- **Handling of (micro)plastic pollution in inland waters.** We will start to be involved in efforts to tackle (micro)plastic pollution in inland waters, such as rivers and lakes. This is expected to help reduce the impact on biodiversity (especially waters) and human health.
- **Improvement of community sanitation through constructive restoration activities related to wetlands.** The pandemic condition has provided awareness to the wider community about the importance of maintaining health through the growth of clean behavior habits, including the provision of hand washing and other hygiene facilities. We will support the provision of water health facilities related to public health, especially in rural areas that are less touched by a similar program from the government.

Where We Work in Rivers and

Lakes. We will carry out activities in urban, rural wetlands and watershed areas that have been identified as having ecological and economic importance, as well as critical areas that have suffered damage and require restoration activities.



River and lake ecosystems have a very important role in supporting life around them (Photo: Hidayat Sunarsyah).



PEATLANDS

Our Goal

Peatlands are valued, conserved and restored, protect biodiversity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase water retention capacity and prevent peat fires and land subsidence

Stream Value

Indonesia has the largest tropical peatland in the world. Forests and peatlands have been known to have an important role in reducing global warming, save and help maintain water quality, provide environmental services and support the livelihoods of local communities as well as being a habitat for various species of biodiversity, resilience of the community at large in the face of climate change and the threat of water disasters.

Key Challenges

- **Enables sustainable use of re-wetted peatlands.** The Government of the Republic of Indonesia has implemented a strategy of rewetting, revegetation and revitalization (3R) in the implementation of peat restoration. Rewetting of peatlands is an important factor in reducing the incidence of forest and peatland fires. This can be done by blocking the canals on peatlands. Wetlands International Indonesia has been spearheading this work since the early 2000s in the forest and peatland areas of Sumatra and Kalimantan. This initiative was carried out by fully engaging the local community, which in fact had done this long before, including for the development of *beje* or fish rearing ponds.
- **Prevents conversion and further degradation of peatlands.** The conversion of peatlands resulted into the decrease in the area of the coastal lowland landscape, resulting in an increased risk of flooding, loss of productive land, and economic damage in urban areas. Meanwhile, the most pressing problems occur in Southeast Asia, where unsustainable production of palm oil and pulp encourages drainage of peatlands which results in GHG emissions of around 500 million tons of CO₂ equivalent per year.
- **Prevent/reduce land use practices of companies exploiting peat landscapes.** The existence of a complete understanding that adequate peatland management will encourage the realization of sustainable business development needs to be continuously disseminated to all parties, especially the business sector and decision makers. This needs to be supported by the availability of the best practical examples and business cases that have been successfully implemented.
- **Providing incentives for peatland rehabilitation and restoration.** The Regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia Number 7 of 2022 concerning the Assignment of Implementation of Peat Restoration Activities for the 2022 Fiscal Year emphasizes that empowerment and community participation in Peatland Restoration is a form of intervention against the damage to the Peat Ecosystem caused by unsustainable activities on the Peat Ecosystem, compensation and adaptation to changing conditions resulting from the implementation of infrastructure development for peat wetting, or incentives for efforts to raise awareness and active participation in the preservation of the Peat Ecosystem. We recognize that incentives for initiatives and involvement in peatland restoration are indispensable as a prelude to overall community engagement.



Rewetting dry peatlands through canal blocking (Photo: Vernando Aruan)

How We Will Make A Difference

Inspire:

- Peatlands have been recognized as one of the important determinants of climate change talk and action, both at national and international levels.
- The Government of Indonesia has made significant progress in the promotion, management and restoration of peatlands, linked to climate change and improving the welfare of local communities.
- Restoration of 2 million hectares of degraded peatland by 2030 has been announced by the Indonesian government and included in the NDC 2021.

Mobilise:

- Cooperating with the private sector in the development of long-term peatland restoration.
- Supporting the Government of the Republic of Indonesia in the national program of peatland restoration.
- Facilitate and engage in international scale peatland restoration programs, utilizing existing framework mechanisms, for example through the Global Peatlands Initiative.

Upscale:

- Implementation of carbon trading to help implement conservation and restoration programs on peatlands.



The participation of people living in peat areas is the main key to the success of a peat conservation and rehabilitation initiatives (Photo: Vernando Aruan).

Impact of Our Work

We have been carrying out initiatives and actions related to the conservation and sustainable use of community-based forests and peatlands for almost 30 years, and have been linked to international climate change negotiations since early 2000s. We will draw on the practical knowledge, networks and policy support we already have to continue facilitation and support for the conservation and restoration of forests and peatlands in Indonesia, involving the community and local government and policies at the national level. We will also bring these successes and obstacles to the international community as lessons for similar activities at the regional and global levels.

Healthy Wetlands

Our past work on forests and peatlands has been widely used as a reference and has influenced various government policies and practices for forest and

peatland conservation and restoration in Indonesia and internationally. We will continue to work to maintain the use of scientific values, cooperation with government at all levels and the provision of benefits to improve the welfare of local communities.

- Continued involvement in various forums to support the Government of Indonesia's programs in the conservation and restoration of forest and peatland.
- Support studies related to the dynamics of biodiversity in forests and peatlands, both resident and migratory species.
- Promote the protection and restoration of land and peat forests within the framework of disaster risk reduction.

By 2030, we intend to safeguard 500,000 hectares of high value peatlands in Indonesia.

Resilient Communities

Our important aspect in developing the protection and sustainable use of peatland and forest is the use of scientific methodologies based on experience in the field and community engagement in the planning, implementation and evaluation process.

- Promote the importance of community initiatives, in collaboration with local governments, in ensuring the sustainability of peatland protection and restoration programs.
- Utilization of the Bio-Rights approach in community-based program, with emphasis on the sustainability of post-project support, so as to ensure the sustainability of protection and restoration programs as well as improving the community's economy.
- Develop philanthropy-based funding mechanism that allow actions for conservation and restoration of peatlands, including opening the widest possible opportunities for the implementation of actions based on community's economic development.

By 2030, we intend to enable community-based conservation and restoration of 100,000 hectares of peatland in Indonesia.



Support studies related to the dynamics of biodiversity in forests and peatlands (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor)

Reduced Climate Risk

- Continue to promote the reduced use of drainage on peatlands which is one of the main causes of peatland degradation. This will mainly be carried out through communication with industry and influencing policies that favor the conservation and sustainable use of peatlands in the long term.
- Support private sector initiatives to offset their carbon emissions to support peatlands restoration activities.
- Engage as a Technical Consultant in the development of carbon trading in peatlands, especially related to community development and technical aspects of carbon accounting methodologies.
- Actively involved in various international initiatives related to the impact of forest and peatland management on global climate change.

By 2030, we intend to reduce the impact of peat-based industries in 500,000 hectares of peatlands in Indonesia.



We use the Bio-Rights approach in community-based program, with emphasis on the sustainability of post-project support, so as to ensure the sustainability of protection and restoration programs as well as improving the community's economy (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor)

Our Action

- **Mitigation and Adaptation to Mangrove and Peat Ecosystems in North Sumatra.** Since the formation of the Peatland Restoration Agency (BRG) in January 2016, Indonesia has planned to rehabilitate around 2.4 million Ha of peatlands in 7 priority provinces, namely South Sumatra, Jambi, Riau, Central Kalimantan, West Kalimantan, South Kalimantan and Papua. In Katingan district (Kalteng), Wetlands International Indonesia partners with PT Restoration Forest Management Indonesia (RFMI), providing technical services related to peat ecosystem restoration, policy planning and analysis, technical services in research and development, as well as evaluation and supervision of restoration activities. This partnership has been started since 2013 and will continue in the future. Apart from the priority areas as mentioned above, Wetlands International Indonesia also carries out integrated peatland restoration activities (rewetting-rehabilitation-revitalization) in South Tapanuli Regency, North Sumatra.
- **Tropical 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 2019, officially registered as an Association at 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 order to develop the best practices of paludiculture that can address various root causes, particularly forest and peatland fires. As a multi-stakeholder forum, PaludiFor is a driving force for the synergy of all stakeholders in sustainable forest management, especially peat ecosystems. Wetlands International Indonesia will continue its services to the active implementation of the PaludiFor action plan.

Peat depth assessment to determine the appropriate next steps to be taken in peatland conservation and restoration (Photo: Triana).

- **Development of the Peatland Restoration Annual Action Plan at the Provincial level.** Wetlands International Indonesia together with the World Resources Institute Indonesia, and the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) obtained a mandate from the Peatland Restoration Agency to join the South Sumatra Peat Restoration Planning Consortium (KPRGSS), to develop a Peatland Ecosystem Restoration Plan (RREG) and Annual Action Plan (RTT) in South Sumatra Province. Wetlands International Indonesia has completed the preparation of the 2018 and 2019 Annual Action Plans, covering 10 Peat Hydrological Units in South Sumatra Province. Preliminary analysis, particularly related to the rewetting component, was carried out to get an idea before conducting field verification, as well as initial information for BRG for the preparation of the 2020 work plan. Field verification activities were carried out through biophysical surveys, including peat conditions, the presence of canals, land cover; and socio-economic surveys. Depending on the continued mandate of the BRG, Wetlands International Indonesia will continue similar activities in other priority Provinces.



- **Sustainable Peatland Management Program in the Western Pacific.**

Wetlands International Indonesia together with the consortium aim to prevent the degradation and loss of peat ecosystems in the lowland and highland landscapes of the large islands of Kalimantan and Papua. The program leads to 1) Data improvement and policy strengthening, planning and monitoring of conservation, protection and restoration of peatlands in the lowlands and highlands, 2) Expansion of education, awareness and training on peatland conservation through improving institutional structures and processes including cross-disciplinary knowledge exchange between islands that have peat landscapes, and 3) Engagement of local communities in management activities to protect peat that is still good and restore peat that has been degraded through a cross-island jurisdictional approach involving local governments. Work will include research, policy, planning and monitoring, awareness, education and training as well as management activities.

- **Private sector engagement in peatland conservation and restoration.**

As private sector engagement increases in peatland conservation and restoration in Indonesia through carbon credit sales schemes, there is an increasing need for MRV standards and certification. Currently, there are not many certification systems and standards available. Wetlands International Indonesia already has extensive experience and knowledge in peatland restoration and conservation and will participate in improving the standards currently available by upgrading or filling in gaps in existing modules/tools.

- **Mitigation and adaptation in peat and mangrove ecosystems through conservation initiatives and sustainable livelihoods.**

We will continue initiative on mitigation and adaptation in peat and mangrove ecosystems integrated to the conservation approach and sustainable community livelihoods. These activities include piloting of paludiculture and silvofishery, rewetting and rehabilitation of degraded peatlands through revitalizing the livelihoods of surrounding communities, as well as supporting local government policies for low emission development. This target is related to the collaboration that will be carried out together with the private sector to implement best management practices in their concession areas, including through engagement in existing multi-stakeholder forums. In addition, we will carry out assessments of peat and mangrove ecosystems as material for review and recommendations for governments, so that they can include climate change considerations (mitigation and adaptation) into the policy formulation process. To include local governments in these various activities, We will also provide training and other capacity building for local government officials.

MONITORING AND CONSERVATION OF WETLAND FAUNA

In order to obtain appropriate inputs related to the formulation of policies and interventions in wetland habitats, particularly related to the conservation of wetland fauna, monitoring is carried out to serve as a criterion in determining the health of a wetland location of international importance (Ramsar Site).



Indonesia's coastal wetlands are important habitats for migratory waterbirds (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor)

Our Action

Coordination of the Asian Waterbird Census through the Citizen Science approach.

The Asian Waterbird Census is an annual volunteer initiative, conducted in the 2nd and 3rd week of January every year. This is a waterbird monitoring coordinated by Wetlands International, and is a tool for the conservation of waterbirds and their wetland habitats. This census carried out in conjunction with the international census covering Africa, Europe and America, under the umbrella of the International Waterbird Census (IWC). In Indonesia, the last census was coordinated by Wetlands International Indonesia in collaboration with the Directorate KKH – Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Burung Indonesia, Burungnesia, and Yayasan Eksai.

AWC has collected annual information on waterbird populations in wetlands, monitors and evaluates annually the status and condition of monitored wetlands, maintains and supports community interest in waterbirds and wetlands, and in efforts to conserve them. All carried out through the use of Citizen Science approach. We will continue this coordination during the period 2020 – 2030



Otter population monitoring through the Citizen Science approach.

Wetlands International Indonesia supports monitoring of the Otter population in the wetlands of the Central Kalimantan region. The activity was carried out with support from the National Geographic Society through the National Geographic Explorer programme. Monitoring is carried out by installing camera traps to document every individual who passes through the camera. In the 2020-2030 period, the activities to be carried out include direct observations in the field, data acquisition through the Citizen Science approach, analysis of results and then translating the results of analysis of observations in the field into publications, awareness materials and policy support by the Government.

Flyway bottle neck: a regional initiative for flyway conservation.

Migratory routes or flyway serve as a safe base for the waterbird's annual life cycle. Adequate high-quality wetlands are needed as a 'stepping stone' for migratory birds. This means there should be enough good quality habitat for resting and refueling during migration, and non-breeding seasons. The ecological role of important sites cannot be replaced by others nearby - flying to the next available wetland is not an option if a critical site is lost. The loss of important sites would be a 'barrier' causing an alarming decline in many waterbird populations in flyway around the world. Addressing congestion and the safety of waterbird populations are at the heart of our mission to preserve the healthy nature of wetlands and the focus of this new initiative.

*The presence of waterbirds is an indicator of the health of a wetland
(Photo: Yus Rusila Noor)*

SUPPORT TO ACHIEVE STRATEGY

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands Promoted and Campaigned

Communication is one of the backbones of the achievement of the Wetlands International Indonesia. 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.

Wetlands International Indonesia's 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. Through mapping the information needs related to wetlands in Indonesia, we are then able to select and sort out what initiatives and actions 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 working culture that is open, honest, effective, as well as accountable and has a family feel as a working team. As for external needs, with all existing opportunities and limitations, 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. With this principle, every Staff of the Wetlands International Indonesia 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 community and partners.

Our Communication Team supports the organization of various events to expose updated information on sustainable wetlands use in Indonesia. The Minister of Environment and Forestry visited our booth during "Mangrove Week Exhibition" (Photo: Dody Permadi)



Ibu Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Menteri Lingkungan Hidup dan Kehutanan RI, berkunjung di ruang pameran YLBA di Mangrove Week 2021 (21/12/2021).

indonesia.wetlands.org
Yayasan Lahan Basah
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Yayasan Lahan Basah





Awareness for early childhood targets will help understanding in the long-term. Through the Power of Wetlands approach we will target the campaign to young people (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor)

Our Action

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

Annual celebration of World Wetland Day. As the CEPA NGO focal point for the Ramsar Convention, Wetlands International Indonesia organizes or facilitates the celebration of world wetland day every February.

Publication of Wetland Conservation (WKL B) Magazine. We will continue to regularly published a 3-monthly online Wetlands Conservation Magazine as a media to inform Wetlands International Indonesia programme as well as wetlands in Indonesia.

Update of social-media and web-site. Fan Page Facebook of Wetlands International Indonesia <https://www.facebook.com/wetlandsinternasionalindonesia/> regularly presented poster, photo, infographics and other communication material to summarise and inform updated information on wetland issues. We will continue to manage this communication media.

Maintenance and update library and repository. Wetlands International Indonesia's library contain at least 7,200 reference title on wetlands, in addition to thousands of photos. Some are classical references dated back to more than 50 years.

Wetlands on Android. We will develop communication media on wetlands in Android format to enable easier access for wider users.

Support Government of Indonesia in the Sustainable Management of Wetlands

Wetlands International Indonesia carries out initiatives and actions in Indonesia through cooperation and support for the Government's work programs, both incorporated in the Partnership and direct support.

Ramsar Convention. Since 1991, Indonesia has ratified the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, in particular as Waterbird Habitat, known as the Ramsar Convention. As an organization that is actively engaged in the conservation and wise use of wetlands in Indonesia, Wetlands International Indonesia has and will continue to play an active role in supporting the Government of Indonesia in fulfilling its obligations under the Ramsar Convention. As a CEPA NGO focal point in Indonesia, We also actively engaged on the preparation of country reports and country positions on the Draft Resolution, including attending Steering Committee and CoP meetings and assisting the Directorate of Essential Ecosystem Management (as Ramsar focal point) in providing technical guidance to the relevant Implementing Unit.

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 Institutions, having a strategic coordinating role in migratory waterbird conservation efforts in Indonesia. The National Partnership also plays a role in gathering information on various activities and initiatives related to the conservation of migratory waterbirds in Indonesia, and then conveying this



Indonesian delegates to Ramsar Convention” (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor)



Wetlands International Indonesia actively engaged on the Ramsar CoP as the Focal Point of CEPA NGO (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor)

information to relevant stakeholders. This partnership also carries out various activities to fulfill Indonesia's obligations in the East Asia - Australasia Flyway Partnership.

National Land Subsidence Working

Group. We 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 in 2018-2019 is a Roadmap document, which was later launched by the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment. In 2020, this working group held various coordination meetings to formulate work steps for the following year, involving various Ministries and Institutions, Education and Research institutions and Non-Governmental Institutions. We actively engaged in the Working Group, and will continue to work on the preparation of a roadmap document for mitigation and adaptation to subsidence in Central Java Province, with support from the Building with Nature program.

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 society. 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

In addition to the above activities, Wetlands International Indonesia will also continue to support the Government of Indonesia in relation to NDC, UNFCCC, UNCBD, AMCDRR and other activities that are in line with Our mandate, and to the extent possible in terms of resource availability.



Towards a strong wetland ecosystem and resilient community (Photo: Yus Rusila Noor)

Experience Drive Us to Do Better

Our experience develops starting from activities at the local level. We spend most of the first part period of the field project implementation to have a dialogue and consultation with stakeholders, most notably with community. This is part of free prior informed consent (FPIC), to ensure that the activities to be carried out are known transparently by the community, and on the other hand, the community can freely express their opinions and be involved fully in both the planning and implementation processes as well as during the monitoring and evaluation and potential results to be achieved together.

Local to Global

We use an adaptive management approach in implementing the agreed activities, that allows for adjustments according to conditions in the field, and based on joint planning with local communities, village governments and support from district/city governments as well as in accordance with national directions and guidelines.

Planning at the community group level will become a village development plan, which will then be brought to the district level to be discussed in the Development Planning Meeting (Musrenbang), so that it is possible

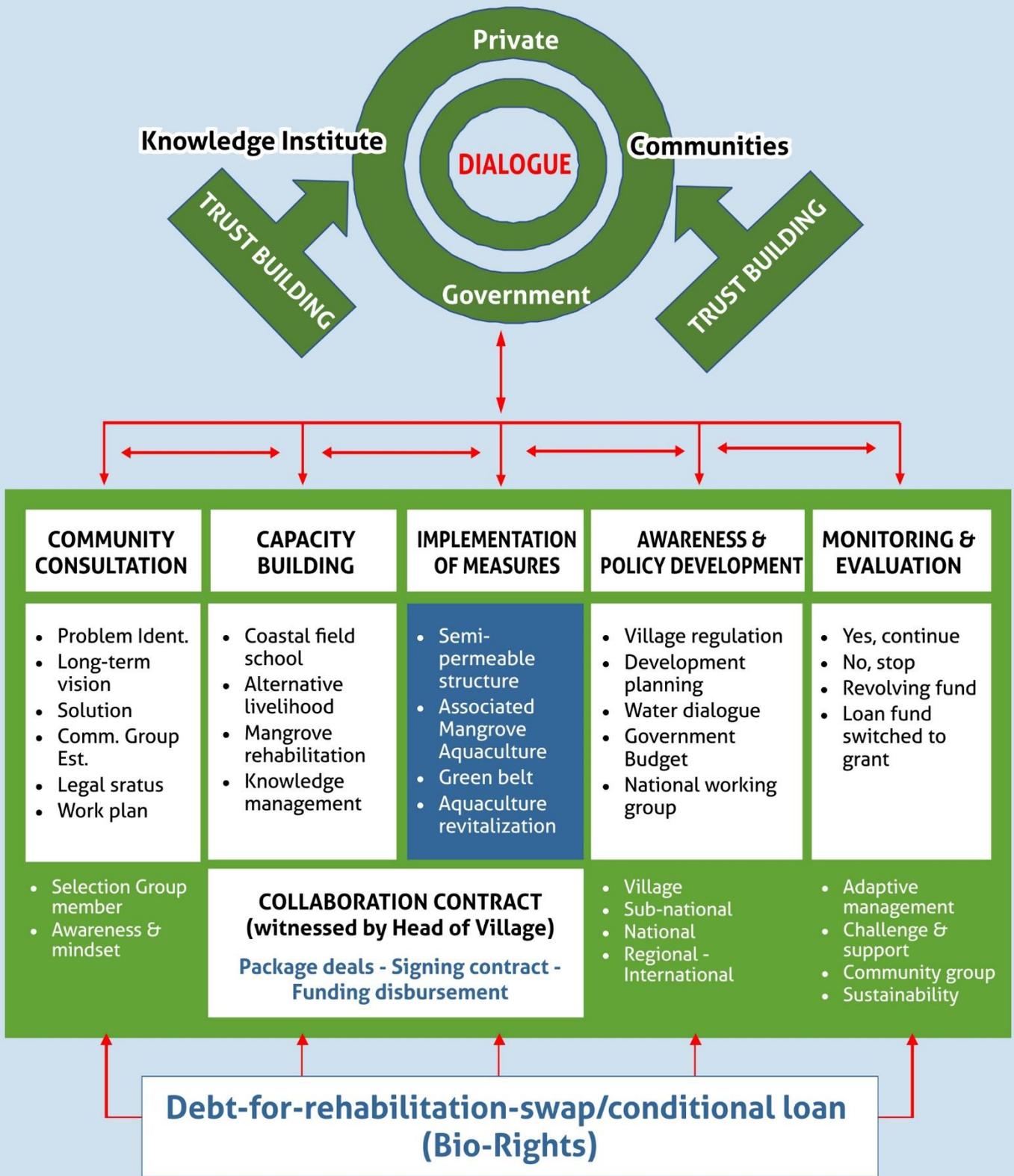
to become part of the negotiation of development at the district level, and thus has the opportunity to obtain financial support from district budget APBD.

Alignment of activities with development policies at the national level will be carried out through the inclusion of pilot activities in the preparation of various strategic plans or thematic action plans initiated by line ministries and group agencies. Activities at the site level are also proposed to serve as examples of implementing the obligations of the Indonesian in the relevant conventions or agreements between countries, such as the Ramsar Convention or the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) Agreement.

Global Network

Wetlands International Indonesia is part of the global network of Wetlands International, which is located in almost all continents. We will ensure to work together to deliver a strong, effective and efficient impact. Various initiatives implemented in the field obtain technical and strategic input from the network, and the positive results obtained are then communicated with our network for potential replication and adoption, adjusted to conditions and policies prevailing in their respective countries. Where appropriate and possible, regional and inter-country initiatives will be initiated and implemented to obtain a wider positive impact.





General scheme on the planning and implementation of a project agreed collaboratively by communities and village government





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