

## Proposed projects

Bio-rights can suit the needs of stakeholders in many different ways, be it from a commercial perspective or as an alternative or addition to other conservation and development activities. This sheet presents a selection of projects that are proposed for future funding. They can be seen as follow-ups of the small- and medium-scale initiatives that have been successfully implemented by Wetlands International during the last few years. Although this list obviously represents only a fraction of options, it provides an impression of the diversity of projects that might be applicable for funding.

### Towards sustainable wetland management in the Inner Niger Delta, Mali

**Background:** Mali's Inner Niger Delta, one of Africa's most diverse and extensive wetland systems, increasingly suffers from anthropogenic disturbances such as fishing, overgrazing and dam construction. Scarcity of resources commonly leads to conflicts among fishermen, pastoralists and farmers. Although several small-scale initiatives targeted some of the most severe problems, there is an urgent need for an integrated wetland management strategy that includes all major social and environmental issues. **Objective:** To restore and maintain the ecological functioning of Mali's Inner Niger Delta and to improve the livelihoods of its vulnerable inhabitants. **Approach and outcome:** The proposed project intends to use Bio-rights as a tool for reconciling wetland conservation and poverty alleviation. Through restoration of vulnerable habitats such as flood forests, flood plains and marshes and through establishment of community-based nature reserves, it safeguards the area's unique natural values. In return for their support, communities are supported in the development of sustainable income generating activities. On the longer term they also benefit from improved wetland functioning. In addition the mechanism provides a platform for reconciling the needs of different stakeholder groups and linking experiences from the field to policies. **Project duration:** 2-10 years, depending on project scale. **Requested budget:** > €300.000.

### Carbon sequestration in tropical peatlands

**Background:** Many Wetlands perform a key role as carbon sinks, storing large amounts of carbon in aboveground biomass or under ground as peat deposits. Deforestation and degradation of wetlands – often driven by poverty – however, increasingly reverses the progress of carbon sequestration into an unprecedented outflow of greenhouse gases. Tropical peatswamps in Southeast Asia are under particular threat. Degradation of Indonesian peatlands alone, leads to a carbon dioxide emission of 2000 megaton/year, equivalent to eight percent of global annual emission from fossil fuel burning. **Objective:** To restore and maintain tropical peatlands as important carbon sinks and to safeguard their critical role in mitigating climate change. **Approach and outcome:** The proposed project aims to conserve the important functioning of tropical peatlands in climate change mitigation through reconciling poverty and practical wetland restoration and conservation activities in the field. Practical measures include reforestation, restoration of hydrology and development of community-based protected areas. Poverty – as one of the drivers of wetland degradation – is alleviated through development of sustainable alternative income generating activities. **Project duration:** 2-5 years, depending on project scale. **Requested budget:** > € 50.000

## **Integrated livelihood improvement and ecosystem rehabilitation in coastal areas**

**Background:** Coastal areas such as mudflats, mangroves and estuaries are important ecosystems, both from an environmental perspective as well as for socio-economic reasons. They harbor a high diversity of plants and animals, which serve as critical resources for coastal communities. In addition, they perform important services such as control of erosion and protection against storms. As such they might help to mitigate the effects of climate change. Many coastal areas are under threat of overexploitation, pollution and habitat degradation. Further degradation will lead to the rapid loss of the goods and services they provide. **Objective:** To restore and maintain the environmental values of coastal ecosystems and to safeguard the goods and services they provide to coastal communities. **Approach and outcome:** Under its Green Coast project, Wetlands International gained extensive experience with integrated coastal zone management and restoration of tsunami-impacted ecosystems. The proposed project aims to link to these experiences through community-based restoration projects. Through the Bio-rights mechanism it helps local communities to improve their livelihoods, while at the same time re-storing and protecting vulnerable ecosystems. Depending on local site conditions, restoration measures could include mangrove replanting, coral reef rehabilitation and decreased harvest of fish and other resources. Livelihood activities could include – but are not limited to – development of sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and cattle breeding. **Project duration:** 2-5 years, depending on project scale. **Requested budget:** € 25.000 for community level projects, more for coastal zone initiatives.

## **Development of a Bio-rights fund**

**Background:** Bio-rights has so far largely been implemented within independent, small-scale and short-term initiatives. So far, there has been no mechanism that prioritises projects for funding and that ensures continuous cash flow towards a range of different initiatives. There is an urgent need for a firm framework that facilitates this and that can help to increase the scope of the Bio-rights mechanism. **Objective:** To develop a Bio-rights fund as a tool for generating and disseminating project money and as a platform for sharing project experiences among partners. **Approach and outcome:** The proposed project aims to work towards a Bio-rights fund in three steps. It intends to create involvement among stakeholders in the public and private sector through implementation of small-scale Bio-rights demonstration projects. The concept itself and the institutional framework of a Bio-rights fund are further developed in a process of multi-stakeholder consultation, involving experts from the finance, conservation and development sector. The proposed project will also serve as a tool to raise initial capital for the fund. **Project duration:** 1-2 years. **Requested budget:** € 500.000