

DRAFT  
MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION  
Between  
THE SOCIETY OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS EUROPE CHAPTER  
And  
CONSTRUCTED WETLAND ASSOCIATION  
Relating to  
COOPERATION TOWARD WETLAND SCIENCE AND  
SCIENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

RECOGNIZING that the Society of Wetland Scientists Europe Chapter (hereafter referred to as SWS Europe) is a Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists (hereafter referred to as SWS) which is an international scientific, educational, and non-profit organization that strives to be recognized as the world leader in wetland science and has the objectives to 1) promote understanding, conservation, scientifically based management and sustainable use of wetlands throughout the world 2) lead the education of wetland professionals and the public regarding wetland science and its applications, 3) promote the development of wetland science programs around the world, particularly in developing countries, 4) foster diversity among SWS members and other wetland professionals, and 5) promote sound science in wetland policy and stewardship;

RECOGNIZING also that the SWS is a leading international nonprofit organization focused on wetland science, conservation, management and education; with a diverse membership of over 3,000 members from numerous countries and from the private, government, non-profit and educational sectors, and with regional chapters located throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, Oceania and elsewhere; and that publishes the quarterly peer-reviewed journal WETLANDS and the newsletter, *Wetland Science & Practice (WSP)*, which provide a source of information and expertise for the conservation and management of wetlands;

RECOGNIZING also that the SWS Europe brings together wetland scientists and other professionals from around Europe who share common interests in wetland science and management and is focused on understanding and advancing wetland science, as well as assuring that decision-making processes affecting wetlands are based on an understanding of wetland science;

RECOGNIZING that the Constructed Wetland Association is a professional association, representing all those who are interested in, and practicing in the field of constructed wetland technology and aims to provide quality assurance, establish and maintain the highest standards of design, installation, performance and maintenance of these systems through research, training, seminars, conferences, peer review and accreditation; and promote the use of constructed wetlands for pollution control, including wastewater treatment and surface run-off management, whilst maximising multiple benefits such as flood control, biodiversity enhancement and amenity;

RECOGNIZING that Constructed Wetland Association aims to act as: a centre of excellence; spread good practice; set industry standards; maintain a global network of bona fide practitioners involved in wetland design and construction; provide information and advice to all interested parties; provide awareness and training in wetland applications through online courses, workshops and seminars; and promote members services through their website;

CONSIDERING that the Constructed Wetland Association and the SWS Europe share the common goal of encouraging sound science in wetland research, management, restoration, policy, and conservation, and that meeting this goal requires enhanced collaboration between the two organizations and their various partners.

CONSIDERING that the Constructed Wetland Association and SWS differ somewhat in objectives, mission, and customers, but that the differences can be combined into strengths and that the two organizations can complement each other in many respects;

The SWS Europe and the Constructed Wetland Association (hereafter referred to as the Parties) wish to establish a formal partnership to achieve **COOPERATION FOR THE KNOWLEDGEABLE MANAGEMENT, CONSERVATION, AND SUSTAINABILITY OF WETLANDS;**

**THE PARTIES HAVE AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING:**

#### Article 1. General Cooperation

The Parties agree to collaborate to promote the knowledgeable management, conservation, and research of wetlands, by enhancing their existing communication and cooperation and by increasing communication with other networks and groups.

The Parties recognize the benefit of facilitating the development of cooperative and collaborative programs, and will foster such programs by co-sponsoring various methods of information dissemination and sharing, such as wetland meetings and workshops, publications, newsletters, web sites, webinars, etc.

The Parties shall keep each other well-informed of needs, issues, and opportunities that emerge as a result of their activities.

The Parties will disseminate information to each other's membership through standard organization-specific channels (email, newsletter, social media, blogs, etc.).

The Parties shall create links between their respective web sites to share relevant wetland information with their members (e.g. conference information, calendar of events, news items, training opportunities, etc.). The Parties shall seek opportunities to develop and support programs, projects, and publications of mutual interest via verbal agreements. Where both Parties agree to the development of major joint initiatives that will require significant resources (monetary, volunteer or staff time) of either party, the specific terms of collaboration shall be agreed upon in writing prior to the initiation of activities.

The points of contact for general matters between the Constructed Wetland Association and SWS shall be the Chairperson of the Constructed Wetland Association and the President of the SWS Europe.

The leadership for the Parties shall arrange to assess the implementation of this Memorandum of Cooperation and conduct reviews of the Memorandum of Cooperation as necessary.

Areas of cooperation may include but will not be limited to the following:

Co-sponsorship of each others' conferences, symposia, and other events of the Parties, as appropriate within the mission of each organization. Typically, co-sponsorship will not require financial support, but each organization will consider financial sponsorship at the request of the other.

Development of white papers on various timely wetland issues. The Parties will, as appropriate for each issue, cooperate on development, review, and dissemination of issue papers, and may work together to air issues in a forum that informs the wetland scientific, management, and policy communities, and/or the public.

Improvement and facilitation of the sharing of information on wetland science, wetland management, and wetland education. By disseminating each others information to respective members, the Parties will bring more diverse expertise to bear on wetland issues.

Development of more specific protocols for cooperation in areas of joint interest such as international activities as they are identified.

## Article 2. Contribution by the SWS Europe

The SWS Europe shall, through web site links, newsletters, and other outlets, provide information on the activities of the Constructed Wetland Association.

The SWS Europe shall routinely consider non-financial sponsorship of Constructed Wetland Association conferences and the SWS Europe Board of Directors will invite proposals from the Constructed Wetland Association for financial support of its conferences and other events.

The SWS Europe will invite Constructed Wetland Association to organize symposia, workshops, and other events at its annual conference on topics of mutual interest.

The SWS Europe shall offer the Chairperson and one other leader or their designee in the Constructed Wetland Association complementary membership in the SWS Europe and complimentary registration at the annual meeting.

The SWS Europe shall offer the Chairperson of Constructed Wetland Association to sit on the quarterly Full Board meetings of the SWS Europe committee to promote cooperation and coordination of meetings.

#### Article 3. Contribution by the Constructed Wetland Association

The Constructed Wetland Association shall, through web site links, newsletters, and other outlets, provide information on the activities of the SWS Europe.

The Constructed Wetland Association shall routinely consider non-financial sponsorship of SWS Europe conferences and the Constructed Wetland Association Committee will invite proposals from the SWS for financial support of its conferences and other events.

The Constructed Wetland Association will invite the SWS Europe to organize symposia, workshops, and other events at its conferences on topics of mutual interest.

The Constructed Wetland Association shall offer the President and one other committee member or their designee of the SWS Europe complementary registration at the annual meeting.

#### Article 4. General

This Memorandum of Cooperation shall be effective from the date when both Parties have effected their signatures.

Amendments to this Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) shall only be made on the basis of a written agreement signed by the SWS Europe President and Constructed Wetland Association Chairperson.

Neither Party shall be legally or financially liable in any way for activities carried out independently by the other Party.

Any differing viewpoints or interpretations of this Memorandum of Cooperation MOC shall be resolved amicably by consultation or negotiation between the two Parties.

This Memorandum of Cooperation shall continue for five (5) years past the date of approval by both Parties, unless amended or terminated. One year before the term of this Memorandum, both Parties will review it and agree to renew it, amend it or terminate it by the 5-year anniversary.

This Agreement may be terminated by either Party subject to written notice of six months. In case the Memorandum ceases to be in effect on account of termination thereof, existing cooperation shall continue to the extent necessary for the completion of existing, agreed activities.

Signed in two copies in the English language:

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Jos Verhoeven, President  
SWS Europe

Geoff Sweaney, Chairperson  
Constructed Wetland Association

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Date

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Date