



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Item 13 of the provisional agenda*

**Cooperation with international organizations
and bodies established under other conventions**

Sixth joint work plan (2024–2030) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat**

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Executive Secretary is pleased to provide herewith, for the information of participants in the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the sixth joint work plan 2024–2030, of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat.
2. The work plan builds on the longstanding collaboration between the two conventions with the aim to align their efforts to achieve the objectives of both conventions, enhance cooperation between them and maximize the impact of their actions towards the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable and wise use of wetlands. The first joint work plan¹ was prepared pursuant to decision III/21 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In that decision, the Conference of the Parties invited the Convention on Wetlands to cooperate as a lead partner in the implementation of activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity related to wetlands. The governing bodies of the two conventions subsequently endorsed joint work plans for the years 2000–2001, 2002–2006, 2007–2010 and 2011–2020, respectively.
3. The sixth joint work plan has been developed by the secretariats of the two conventions pursuant to resolution XIV.6 of the Convention on Wetlands on enhancing the convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions and builds on the findings and recommendations of the review of the fifth joint work plan.² Through notifications issued by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on 2 and 28 February 2024³ and by the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands on 5 February 2024⁴, Parties and observers were invited to review and provide views on a draft for the sixth joint work plan. The submissions received were considered in and contributed to the preparation of the sixth joint work

* CBD/COP/16/1.

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

¹ UNEP/CBD/COP/4/INF/8.

² CBD/SBI/3/INF/33 and SC59 Doc.16.1

³ Notifications [2024-011](#) and [2024-020](#).

⁴ See <https://contacts.ramsar.org/notification/view/2367>.

plan that was made available as an information document to the sixty-third meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on Wetlands held from 3 to 7 June 2024. It is contained herewith in the form and language in which it was provided to that meeting by the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands.

**Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
and
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Convention
on Wetlands)**

6th Joint Work Plan 2024-2030

Introduction

This 6th Joint Work Plan (JWP6) between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on Wetlands has been prepared in the context of the general obligations set out by each Convention and the decisions/resolutions adopted by their respective Conferences of the Parties (COP), which include: the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) adopted by CBD [decision 15/4](#), the enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review adopted in [CBD decision 15/6](#), the Convention on Wetlands' [Resolution XIV.6](#) on enhancing the Convention's visibility and cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions, and the [fourth Strategic Plan](#) of the Convention on Wetlands. It is to be noted that work is ongoing on the development of the fifth Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands, expected to be adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands at its fifteenth meeting to be held in July 2025.

JWP6 has been developed by the Secretariats of the two Conventions building on the review of the 5th Joint Work Plan ([CBD/SBI/3/INF/33](#); [SC59 Doc.16.1](#)), the findings and recommendations of that review, and consultations with Parties to the Conventions and other stakeholders.

Duration

The duration of JWP6 is 2024 to 2030. JWP6 shall be assessed in 2030 in the context of its contribution to the KMGBF and the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands with a view to its extension, amendment or revision, as appropriate. In the interim, any further relevant actions requested by the governing bodies of the Conventions shall be included under JWP6.

Purpose

JWP6 builds upon the longstanding collaboration between CBD and the Convention on Wetlands over the period 1998 to 2020 (JWP1 to JWP5). It seeks to align efforts towards achievement of the objectives of both Conventions, including the three objectives of CBD, enhance cooperation between them, and maximize the impact of their actions in addressing the challenges of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the sustainable/wise use of wetlands.

Wetlands are found in all biomes and are potentially influenced by activities undertaken by all sectors. JWP6 will therefore take into consideration the Ecosystem Approach adopted under the CBD ([decision V/6](#)), as well as other relevant decisions adopted under the CBD, including the KMGBF, and support implementation of all relevant Resolutions made under the Convention on Wetlands.

Rationale

The Secretariats of both Conventions recognize that:

- i) Article 1.1 of the Ramsar Convention states that "For the purpose of this Convention, wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres";

- ii) Wetlands provide essential functions and services for people and biodiversity. Wetlands play a key role in maintaining the planet's hydrological cycle, and providing multiple co-benefits that can significantly contribute to climate action while simultaneously providing biodiversity and human wellbeing benefits and addressing other social, economic and environmental challenges.
- iii) The health and proper functioning of wetlands can provide benefits for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to achieve the goals of the multilateral environmental agreements and the biodiversity-related conventions, most notably including the CBD and its KMGBF, and the Convention on Wetlands and its Strategic Plan. The three pillars of the Convention on Wetlands, namely, the List of Wetlands of International Importance, wise use, and international cooperation, provide significant opportunities for achieving the ambitions set out in the KMGBF;
- iv) Wetlands and the biodiversity they contain are among the most threatened ecosystems globally. Populations of wetland species are on a rapid decline with several species threatened with extinction;
- v) The Convention on Wetlands acts as the lead partner for the objectives related to wetlands in implementing the CBD ([CBD COP decision III/21](#));
- vi) The Ecosystem Approach defined through the CBD is congruent with the concept of wise use as defined under the Convention on Wetlands ([Resolution IX.1 Annex A](#));
- vii) The two Conventions do not have the same composition of Parties but that the guiding principles of the CBD related to the conservation and sustainable use of wetland biodiversity are embodied in the conservation and wise use aims and principles under the Convention on Wetlands, and vice-versa, in a mutually supportive way;
- viii) The ongoing collaboration between the two Conventions is setting a good example in building cooperation and collaboration between conventions to effectively deliver the objectives of both Conventions and that we must build upon this success.

Voluntary Guidance

Implementation of JWP6 depends on action by Parties and Convention bodies, with the Secretariats playing a supporting and facilitating role. Voluntary guidance is provided in the table below. Parties may identify further specific actions at all levels of government, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities.

6th Joint Work Plan 2024-2030			
Activity areas	Activities		
	<u>A. Parties</u>	<u>B. Convention Bodies</u>	<u>C. Secretariats</u>
1. Implementation and monitoring	1. Integrate wetland ecosystem functions and services, through the Ecosystem Approach and other ecosystem-based approaches and/or nature-based solutions, into regulations and planning processes at the regional, national, subnational and local levels, including through participatory approaches.	1. Develop tools and reporting mechanisms to measure the achievement of wetland- related targets of the KMGBF, building on those under the Fourth and Fifth Strategic Plans of the Convention on Wetlands.	1. Promote or assist implementation of the JWP6 through any relevant activities requested by the governing bodies.
	2. Develop and implement national	2. Support complementary	2. Engage with

	biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and National Wetland Policies in a consistent and mutually supportive way and integrate them into relevant national plans. Ensure wetland targets, policies and actions are incorporated into updated NBSAPs aligned with the KMGBF, as appropriate. 3. Strengthen national wetland inventory, addressing physical, biotic, ecological integrity and socio-economic aspects, in order to support monitoring and assessment, planning and decision making. 4. Implement actions in line with the objectives and provisions of the CBD and its KMGBF and the Convention on Wetlands and its Strategic Plan, taking into consideration relevant programmes, plans, guidance and tools developed under each Convention, including by: - establishing and maintaining well connected ecologically representative systems of protected wetland ecosystems, including through the designation and management of Wetlands of International Importance following an integrated approach involving multiple stakeholders, different sectors and considering the wider landscape/catchment scale; - enhancing the conservation status and ecological integrity of wetland biodiversity through effective restoration of degraded ecosystems and the recovery and conservation of threatened and rare species; - identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of invasive alien species, preventing their introduction and establishment, and controlling and, where possible, eradicating invasive alien species that potentially threaten wetland biodiversity; - assessing and improving understanding of threats to wetland ecosystems and their responses, at the regional, national, sub-national and local levels, and addressing threats, including from climate change, through management planning; - promoting the sustainable management of wetlands species through sustainable biodiversity-based products and services that could support the livelihoods of wetlands-dependent communities, in particular indigenous peoples and local	and/or harmonised national reporting between Conventions. 3. Provide guidance and tools to improve representativeness and extent of wetland protected areas and Wetlands of International Importance. 4. Collaborate to meet the objectives of both Conventions, including where relevant collaboration between subsidiary bodies for scientific and technical advice. 5. Monitor and assess achievements in the context of wetland biodiversity. 6. Advise on further harmonization between the CBD "Ecosystem Approach" and Convention on Wetlands "wise use of wetlands".	major groups and partners, including the International Organization Partners of the Convention on Wetlands, as related to priority issues for the conservation, restoration and sustainable/wise use of wetlands, valuation of the services of wetland resources and wetland ecosystem benefits, and international cooperation around wetlands.
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	communities; ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources from wetlands and associated traditional knowledge related to wetland biodiversity; supporting compliance with national Access and Benefit-sharing frameworks to prevent the misappropriation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in wetlands ecosystems; ensuring impact assessments consider the negative impacts on wetland ecosystems and their potential impact on sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities, in accordance with national legislation; monitoring changes in the status and trends of wetland ecosystems and biodiversity and identifying the drivers of these changes.		
2. Capacity-building and development	1. Establish and strengthen cooperation between national focal points for the two Conventions, including mechanisms to enhance effective cooperation between relevant national authorities. 2. Strengthen or, where relevant, exhort transboundary cooperation and regional partnerships and initiatives for the conservation and sustainable/wise use of wetland biodiversity, taking into account national circumstances. 3. Increase collaboration and technical support and knowledge-sharing, including through increasing the sharing of guidance and tools between Conventions, and raising awareness around capacity-building opportunities that support collaborative implementation, particularly for developing countries. 4. Promote the effective participation of women, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable/wise use of wetland biodiversity, in accordance with national laws and applicable international obligations. 5. Devise mechanisms for institutionalization of wetland-related capacity development programmes in collaboration with relevant national,	1. Identify priorities for and support capacity development for both implementation and monitoring. 2. Facilitate accessibility and interoperability of data and information systems between the two Conventions.	1. Promote or assist in, where appropriate, building the capacity of Parties to support the common agenda. 2. Promote all forms of supranational partnerships and initiatives in order to strengthen capacity to conserve, restore and demonstrate the wise use of wetlands biodiversity. 3. Coordination between Secretariats in promoting and tracking implementation of the JWP6, including annual meetings between the executive heads.

	subnational or local level authorities. 6. Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, particularly in developing countries, to enhance the capabilities for project development and management relevant to wetlands and for monitoring trends in wetlands biodiversity. 7. Foster joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands biodiversity and strengthen scientific research capacities, in particular in developing countries.		
3. Mainstreaming	1. Promote cooperation or collaboration, as appropriate, for national implementation of both Conventions, while respecting their individual mandates and taking into consideration guidance and tools developed under each Convention. 2. Identify and implement joint activities to integrate the conservation and sustainable/wise use of wetland biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies, including for: sustainable development, poverty eradication, clean water and sanitation, food security strategies, agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, ecotourism, wildlife, ecosystem restoration, climate change mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction, energy, including renewable energy, and Infrastructure, including rural and urban development, taking into account, inter alia, livelihoods of communities, traditional practices, and economic needs. 3. Strengthen national wetland target setting under both Conventions, including through NBSAPs, and strengthen financing of projects and capacity-building on	1. Identify and prioritize key activities to implement both Conventions in a mutually supportive manner, including development of tools and guidance as appropriate.	1. Facilitate preparation and issue reports and information materials on matters of common relevance to the Conventions, which may include mapping various targets and goals of the two conventions in national reporting templates and developing new reporting tools. 2. Support Parties by developing appropriate guidance and tools. 3. Provide updates on progress from Parties of the JWP6 and indicate its relevance to the KMGBF.

	wetland rehabilitation, restoration, and conservation. 4. Evaluate incentive systems, remove or reform perverse incentives and introduce appropriate incentives, including at the local level, to support the conservation and sustainable/wise use of wetland biodiversity. 5. Support payments for ecosystem services schemes to leverage new and additional resources to scale up wetlands conservation, sustainable management and restoration efforts.		
4. Awareness-raising and outreach	1. Promote the importance of Wetlands of International Importance and other relevant wetlands as centres for research on biodiversity, education and eco-tourism and promote their role in delivering the KMGBF and mitigation and adaptation to a changing climate. 2. Promote the active participation of researchers, educational centres and citizen science, including in generating knowledge that enables the incorporation of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches to address the challenges related to climate change, food security and disaster risk. 3. Provide resources for awareness-raising and public availability of data and increase their promotion, including through platforms for knowledge sharing. 4. Implement Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) initiatives, relating to the conservation, restoration, and sustainable/wise use of wetland biodiversity, in line with CBD COP Decision 15/14 and the Communication Strategy to support the implementation of the KMGBF in its annex, as well as the Convention on Wetlands CEPA programme. 5. Observe and promote World Wetlands Day, International Day for Biological Diversity and other relevant international days and observances. 6. Promote South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation partnerships to enhance access to training, knowledge and skills needed for the conservation,	1. Identify strategic opportunities for coordinated action on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA). 2. Identify and promote the importance of cultural diversity in understanding and managing biodiversity and wetlands. 3. Improve collaboration among the two Conventions through knowledge sharing. 4. Enhance communication of the JWP6.	1. Raise awareness of the JWP6, its implementation and desired outcomes through strengthened and more effective CEPA activities. 2. Promote or assist CEPA activities of Parties, including through preparation of materials.

	sustainable use and management, and restoration of wetlands, in particular for practitioners from developing countries.		
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Reporting

The implementation of this JWP6 shall be reported biennially to the relevant subsidiary bodies of both Conventions in joint reports prepared by the Secretariats of the two Conventions, taking into account progress made, evolving challenges, and new opportunities for collaboration.