

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

**6<sup>th</sup> Joint Work Plan**  
**2024-2030**

**Introduction**

This 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Work Plan (JWP6) between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on Wetlands has been prepared within the context of the general obligations set out by each Convention, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by CBD decision 15/4 and guidance on planning, monitoring, reporting and review contained in CBD decision 15/6; as well as the fourth and fifth Strategic Plans of the Convention on Wetlands and Convention on Wetlands Resolution XIV.6 on Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions.

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), its findings and recommendations, as well as consultation with parties of the conventions and other stakeholders.

**Duration**

The duration of the JWP6 is 2024-2030. The JWP6 shall be evaluated and revised approaching 2030 in the context of its contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and to the fourth and fifth Strategic Plans of the Convention on Wetlands. In the interim, any further relevant actions requested to be undertaken by the governing or scientific bodies of the Conventions shall be included under the Joint Work Plan without the need for its formal revision, unless specifically required.

**Purpose**

This JWP6 builds upon the previous collaboration efforts between the CBD and the Convention on Wetlands. It seeks to align the objectives of both conventions, enhance synergies, and maximize the impact of their actions in addressing the interconnected challenges of biodiversity conservation and wetland management.

Wetlands, including inland water and marine and coastal ecosystems, can be found in all biomes and are potentially influenced by activities undertaken by all sectors. This JWP6 will therefore take into consideration the Ecosystem Approach adopted under the CBD (decision V/6), as well as the work through all relevant thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues of the CBD and the GBF, and support implementation of all relevant Resolutions made under the Convention on Wetlands.

**Rationale**

The Secretariats of both Conventions recognise 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, including inland water ecosystems as well as marine and coastal wetlands, provide essential functions and services for people and biodiversity. Inland water ecosystems play a key role in maintaining the planet’s water cycle;
- iii) the health and proper functioning of wetlands lays the foundation and enabling conditions to achieve 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 Convention on Biological Diversity, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Convention on Wetlands and its Strategic Plans;
- iv) wetlands, and the biodiversity they harbour, are among the most threatened ecosystems globally;
- v) the Convention on Wetlands acts as the lead partner for subjects 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;
- vii) the two Conventions do not have the same composition of Parties but that the guiding principles related to the conservation and sustainable use of inland waters biodiversity of the CBD are embodied in the Convention on Wetlands, and vice-versa, in a mutually supportive way; and
- viii) the ongoing collaboration between the two Conventions is setting a good example in building synergies between conventions to effectively deliver the objectives of both Conventions and that we must build upon this success.

### Voluntary Guidance

Implementation of this JWP6 depends primarily 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, depending on national circumstances and needs.

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 goods and services, through the Ecosystem Approach, into planning processes at the regional, national, subnational, and local levels.  2. Develop and implement National 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 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) as appropriate.  3. Strengthen national wetland inventory to support monitoring and assessment, planning and decision making.	1. Develop tools to measure the achievement of wetland-related targets of the GBF building on tools and reporting mechanisms to measure the achievement of the Fourth and Fifth Strategic Plans of the Convention on Wetlands.  2. Support complementary and/or harmonised national reporting between Conventions.  3. Provide guidance and tools to improve representativeness and extent of wetland protected	1. Promote or assist implementation of the JWP6 through any relevant activities requested by the governing bodies.  2. Engage with major groups and partners as related to priority issues for the conservation, restoration, sustainable/wise use and international cooperation around wetlands.

	<p>4. Implement actions in line with the GBF, the CBD programme of work on inland waters biodiversity, other relevant programmes of work including on marine and coastal biodiversity, and the Convention on Wetlands strategic plan, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. establishing and maintaining representative systems of protected wetland ecosystems, including through the designation and management of Wetlands of International Importance;</li> <li>ii. enhancing the conservation status of wetland biodiversity through rehabilitation and restoration of degraded ecosystems and the recovery of threatened species;</li> <li>iii. preventing the introduction of invasive alien species, and to control and eradicate, where possible, established invasive species that potentially threaten wetland biodiversity;</li> <li>iv. assessing and improving understanding of threats to wetland ecosystems and their responses, at the regional, national, sub-national and local levels;</li> <li>v. 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;</li> <li>vi. monitoring changes in the status and trends of wetland ecosystems and biodiversity.</li> </ul>	<p>areas and Wetlands of International Importance to conserve wetlands.</p> <p>4. Collaborate to meet the goals of both Conventions, including where relevant collaboration between subsidiary bodies for scientific and technical advice.</p> <p>5. Monitor and assess achievements in the context of wetland biodiversity.</p> <p>6. Advise on further harmonisation between the CBD “Ecosystem Approach” and Convention on Wetlands “wise use of wetlands”.</p>	
<p>2. Capacity-building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish and strengthen cooperation between national focal points for the two Conventions, including mechanisms to enhance effective coordination between relevant national authorities.</li> <li>2. Strengthen or, where relevant, develop regional agreements or initiatives for the conservation and sustainable/wise use of wetland biodiversity.</li> <li>3. Increase collaboration and support for technology and knowledge-sharing.</li> <li>4. Promote the effective participation of 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.</li> </ul>	<p>1. Facilitate accessibility and interoperability of data and information systems between the two Conventions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote or assist in, where appropriate, building the capacity of Parties.</li> <li>2. Promote regional or bi-national agreements and initiatives in order to conserve, restore and sustainably/wise use wetland biodiversity.</li> <li>3. Coordination between Secretariats in promoting and tracking implementation of the JWP6, including annual meetings</li> </ul>

			between the executive heads.
3. Mainstreaming	<p>1. Promote the synergistic implementation of both Conventions in the context of the GBF including the CBD programme of work on protected areas, agricultural biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity, and the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.</p> <p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. sustainable development,</li> <li>ii. poverty reduction,</li> <li>iii. clean water and sanitation,</li> <li>iv. food security strategies,</li> <li>v. agriculture,</li> <li>vi. fisheries and aquaculture,</li> <li>vii. ecotourism, and</li> <li>viii. climate change mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.</li> </ol> <p>3. Set national targets jointly for both Conventions, including financing of projects and capacity-building on wetland biodiversity.</p> <p>4. Evaluate incentive systems, remove or reform perverse incentives and introduce appropriate incentives to support the conservation and sustainable/wise use of wetland biodiversity.</p>	<p>1. Identify and prioritize key activities to implement both Conventions in a mutually supportive manner, including development of tools and guidance as appropriate.</p> <p>2. Provide updates on progress from Parties of the JWP6 and indicate its relevance to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.</p>	<p>1. Facilitate preparation and issue reports and information materials on matters of common relevance to the Conventions.</p> <p>2. Support Parties by developing appropriate guidance and tools.</p>
4. Awareness-raising and outreach	<p>1. Promote the importance of Ramsar Sites and other relevant wetlands as centres for research on biodiversity, education and ecotourism.</p> <p>2. Promote the active participation of researchers, educational centres and citizen science.</p> <p>3. Provide more resources for awareness-raising and public availability of data.</p> <p>4. Implement Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) initiatives, relating to the conservation, restoration, and sustainable/wise use of wetland biodiversity.</p> <p>5. Observe World Wetlands Day, International Day for Biological Diversity and other relevant international days.</p>	<p>1. Identify strategic opportunities for coordinated action on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA).</p> <p>2. Identify and promote the importance of cultural diversity in understanding and managing biodiversity and wetlands.</p> <p>3. Improve collaboration among the two Conventions through knowledge sharing.</p> <p>4. Enhance communication of the JWP6.</p>	<p>1. Raise awareness of the JWP6, its implementation and desired outcomes through strengthened and more effective CEPA activities.</p> <p>2. Promote or assist CEPA activities of parties, including through preparation of materials.</p>

## Reporting

The implementation of this JWP6 shall be reported biennially to the 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.