



Integrating actions for wetlands into NBSAPs

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Technical Report 12

Scaling up wetland conservation and restoration to deliver the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Guidance on including wetlands in National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans (NBSAPs) to boost biodiversity and halt wetland loss and degradation



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Technical report structure

Summary

Overview of report and key messages

Introduction

Wetlands and the KM-GBF
Wetlands and their importance for biodiversity
Wetland loss and degradation and the impact on biodiversity

How to include wetlands in NBSAPs for each of the KM-GBF targets

KM-GBF targets
How to include wetlands
Wetland examples

Annex 1

How to align NBSAPs with Convention on Wetlands' Fourth Strategic Plan for each KM-GBF target
Information on target setting, implementation of wetland conservation and restoration actions and monitoring
Useful resources

Wetlands

- Wetlands make up only around 6 per cent of the Earth's surface, yet they are home to around 40 per cent of all known plant and animal species

- Wetlands are critical connecting ecosystems linking different habitats and facilitating the movement of species

- Yet wetlands are disappearing three times faster than forests and freshwater species populations have suffered a dramatic 84% collapse since 1970

- Ambitious wetland targets and policies in NBSAPs are vital

- Wetlands should be incorporated into all 23 KM-GBF Targets



Restore wetlands

- NBSAPs should include ambitious national targets and plans for effective wetland restoration of lost and degraded inland waters and coastal wetland ecosystems

- Restoration targets should be in hectares for most wetland types and kilometres for rivers

- Wetland restoration would be a key contribution to **KM-GBF Target 2** - at least 30% of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water and coastal marine ecosystems restored globally by 2030

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK - TARGET 2

Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

ALIGNMENT WITH CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

National plans to deliver Target 2 should be aligned with national delivery of the following targets of the **Convention on Wetlands' Fourth Strategic Plan**:

- **Target 8:** National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands; and
- **Target 12:** Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Guidance on target setting and implementation

Resources

Setting national targets

- Develop national wetland restoration targets for each wetland type in terms of both lost and degraded wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation

Setting a baseline

- National wetland inventory of total remaining wetland area in hectares and linear kilometres of river systems
- Condition status of wetlands including assessment of connectivity important for species movements
- Prioritization of wetland types in need of restoration through assessment of wetlands lost and degraded, particularly those of high biodiversity importance
- Assessment of potential restoration locations by considering wetland processes and functioning, such as suitable hydrological inputs and outputs, and environmental and socio-economic constraints, such as existing high biodiversity non-wetland species or risks of pollution from adjacent urban areas

Actions

- Implement restoration of wetlands identified within national targets

Monitoring

- Measuring success - assessment of various parameters over different timelines (e.g. vegetation cover versus ecosystem services)
- Specific guidance, tools and policies for identifying, target setting, implementing and monitoring wetland restoration and management effectiveness

Recommendation on headline indicator

Disaggregation of headline indicator by wetland ecosystem type as defined by a global ecosystem typology

To be able to capture progress in the restoration of rivers the indicator method should also provide for measuring in length (km) as well as by area

Recommendation on component / complementary indicators important for wetlands

Include complementary indicators to measure the extent of inland waters and coastal wetland ecosystem restoration including:

- Status of Key Biodiversity Areas
- Red List of Ecosystems
- Species habitat indicator - helpful if looked at in terms of species habitat range covered by area under restoration

[Freshwater Ecosystem Explorer](#)
[Global Mangrove Watch](#)
[River connectivity status index](#)
[Freshwater Health Index.](#)
[IUCN Red List of Ecosystems](#)
[Key Biodiversity Areas](#)
[Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas](#)
[Wetlands of International Importance](#)
[Global Wetland Watch](#)
[The Freshwater Challenge](#)
[Critical Site Network Tool](#)

Protect wetlands

- NBSAPs should include explicit targets and plans for increasing the area of inland waters and coastal wetland ecosystems in protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)
- National wetland conservation targets should be in hectares for most wetland types and kilometres for rivers
- Wetland protection would be a key contribution to **KM-GBF Target 3** - 30 per cent effectively conserved and managed by 2030
- Underrepresented and high biodiversity wetland types should be prioritised



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK - TARGET 3

Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

ALIGNMENT WITH CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

National plans to deliver Target 3 should be aligned with national delivery of the following targets of the **Convention on Wetlands' Fourth Strategic Plan**:

- **Target 5:** The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management;
- **Target 6:** There is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network in particular underrepresented types of wetlands including in underrepresented ecoregions and transboundary sites;
- **Target 7:** Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed; and
- **Target 8:** National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.

Guidance on target setting and implementation

Setting national targets

- Develop national targets for the conservation of under-represented and high biodiversity wetland types through protected areas and OECMs based on specific wetland types

Setting a baseline

- List of all protected area and OECM wetlands and corresponding spatial extent of wetlands (ha) and river linear distance (km) excluding from the measurement rivers that mark the borders of protected areas and do not receive the same level of protection as the ecosystems within the protected area
- Calculated national total area of wetlands in hectares and linear kilometres of river systems in protected areas and in OECMs and calculation of % of total land area and % of total river length
- Prioritization of wetland types in need of protection through gap assessment of current protected areas and OECMs

Actions

- Undertake the process to designate protected areas and OECMs based on specific wetland types outlined in national targets

Monitoring

- Regularly calculate national total area of wetlands and area of target wetland types in hectares and linear kilometres of river systems in protected areas and in OECMs and calculation of % of total land area and % of total river length

Recommendation on headline indicator

Disaggregation of headline indicator by wetland ecosystem type as defined by a global ecosystem typology with specific inclusion of inland waters and coastal wetland ecosystems

To be able to capture progress in protected areas and OECMs of rivers the indicator method should also provide for measuring in length (km) as well as by area

Recommendation on component / complementary indicators important for wetlands

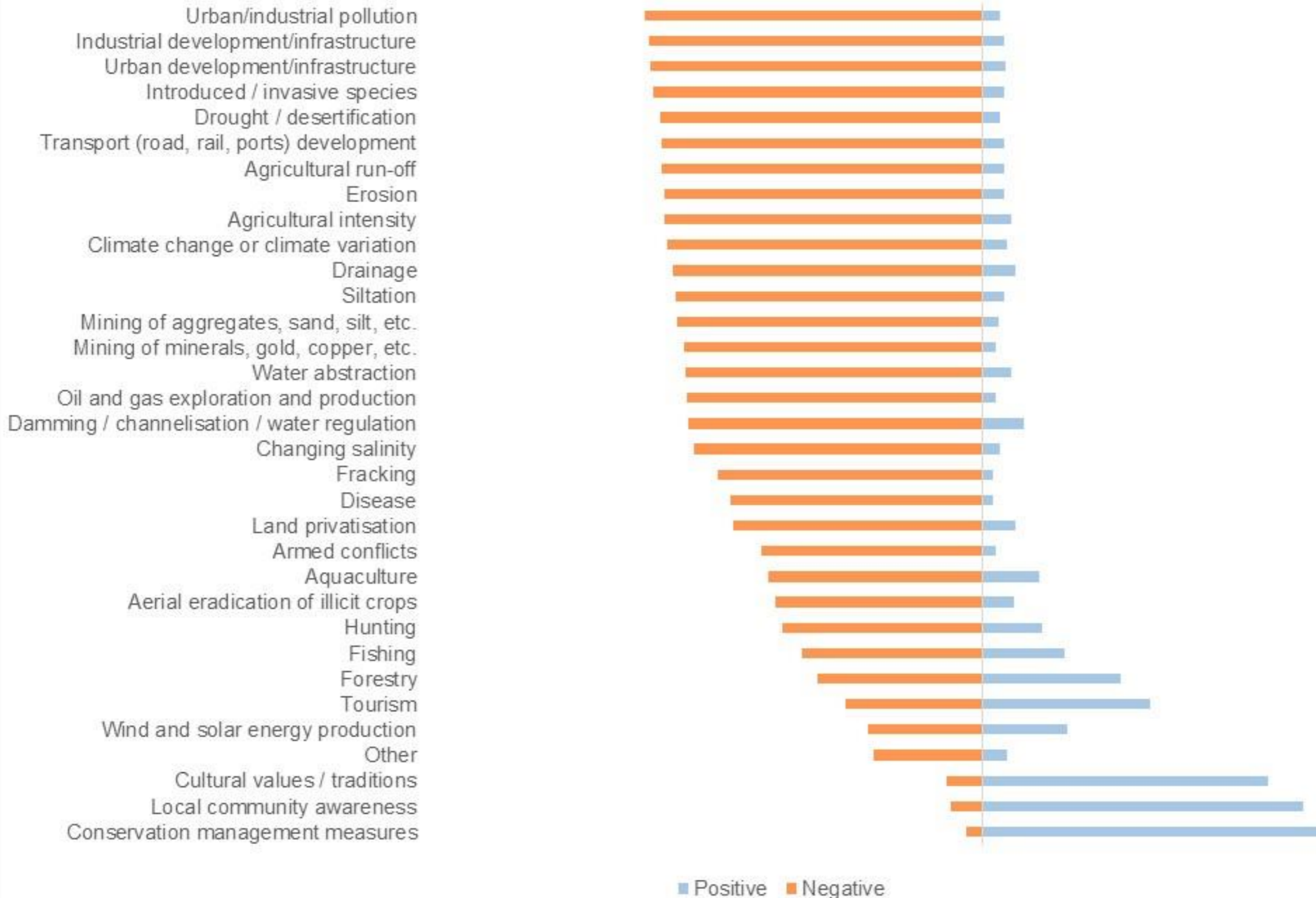
Include complementary indicators to measure the extent of inland waters and coastal wetland ecosystem restoration including:

- Protected area coverage by key biodiversity areas
- Red List of Ecosystems
- Connectivity Indicator
- Protected Area Management Effectiveness
- Ramsar Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT)
- IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas
- Extent to which protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures cover key biodiversity areas that are important for migratory species

Resources

[River connectivity status index](#)
[IUCN Red List of Ecosystems](#)
[Key Biodiversity Areas](#)
[Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas](#)
[Wetlands of International Importance](#)
[Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures](#), including wetland conservation measures implemented by Indigenous Peoples and local communities
[Recommended indicators for reporting on the effectiveness of area-based conservation measures](#) UNEP-WCMC, IUCN and JNCC
[Global Lakes and Wetlands Database](#)
[HydroATLAS Database](#) which includes [RiverATLAS](#), [BasinATLAS](#) and [LakesATLAS](#)
[Global Ecosystem Typology](#)
[Ramsar Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool \(R-METT\)](#)
[IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas](#)
[A Pathway for Inland Waters in the 30x30 Target](#)

Tackle drivers of wetland loss





Tackle drivers of wetland loss

- Drivers of wetland loss and degradation will vary by country so drivers should be identified and addressed within NBSAPs

- Unsustainable agriculture, infrastructure, land use change, pollution and overexploitation are typical drivers

- NBSAPs should address these drivers through KM-GBF Targets:

- Target 1 - Spatial planning
- Target 7 - Pollution reduction
- Target 10 - Agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry
- Target 15 - Business biodiversity-related risks and impacts

Improve data on wetlands

- Robust wetland data can underpin delivery of multiple KM-GBF goals and targets

- NBSAPs can include actions to improve the information on the extent and condition of all wetlands including Wetlands of International Importance

- Improvements to and updating a country's national wetland inventory can be specifically included as a high priority cross-cutting action in a NBSAP





Harness wetlands as solutions

- NBSAPs should include policies and targets to embed wetlands as solutions to achieve the following KM-GBF Targets:

- Target 7 - Pollution reduction
- Target 8 - Minimize the impacts of climate change
- Target 11 - Restoring nature's contributions to people
- Target 12 - Enhance green urban spaces

Prioritize wetland wildlife hotspots and ecological corridors

- Ecological corridors including flyways, swimways and other animal corridors should be given special attention within NBSAPs

- Wetland connectivity should be maintained and enhanced

- NBSAPs should include national policies and targets for flyways and swimways to support delivery of the following KM-GBF Targets:

- **Target 2 - Restore 30% of all degraded ecosystems**
- **Target 3 - Conserve 30% of land, waters and seas**
- **Target 4 - Halt species extinction**





Empower people

- NBSAPs should encourage and empower people to conserve wetland biodiversity by building capacity, transferring technology and recognizing the knowledge and experience of Indigenous Peoples and local communities

- The knowledge and experience of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and the Convention on Wetlands' networks should be recognized and incorporated in NBSAPs to deliver the following KM-GBF Targets:

- **Target 20 - Strengthen capacity building, technology transfer and cooperation**
- **Target 21 - Ensure knowledge is available and accessible**
- **Target 22 - Ensure participation in decision making**

Measure what matters

- Indicators relevant to wetlands should be included within NBSAPs for each of the 23 KM-GBF targets

- Highest priority is to understand what the wetland types are, where they are, their boundaries and their condition - a national wetland inventory

- Targets for protection, restoration, conservation and wise use can use this inventory information

- Global datasets will support reporting, however a national wetland inventory underpins delivery of NBSAPs for wetlands





Fix the finance

- NBSAPs should seek to increase investments in wetland conservation, restoration and creation and eliminate incentives that contribute to wetland loss and degradation

- Wetland finance should be included in national plans in response to the following KM-GBF Targets:

- **Target 18 - Reduce harmful incentives and scale up positive incentives for biodiversity**
- **Target 19 - Mobilize \$200 billion per year for biodiversity**

Activate allies and seek synergies

- Reach out to the Convention on Wetlands' National Focal Points, International Organization Partners (IOPs) and other international and national NGOs

- These organizations can help inform wetland related target setting, indicators, policy design, implementation and resource mobilization

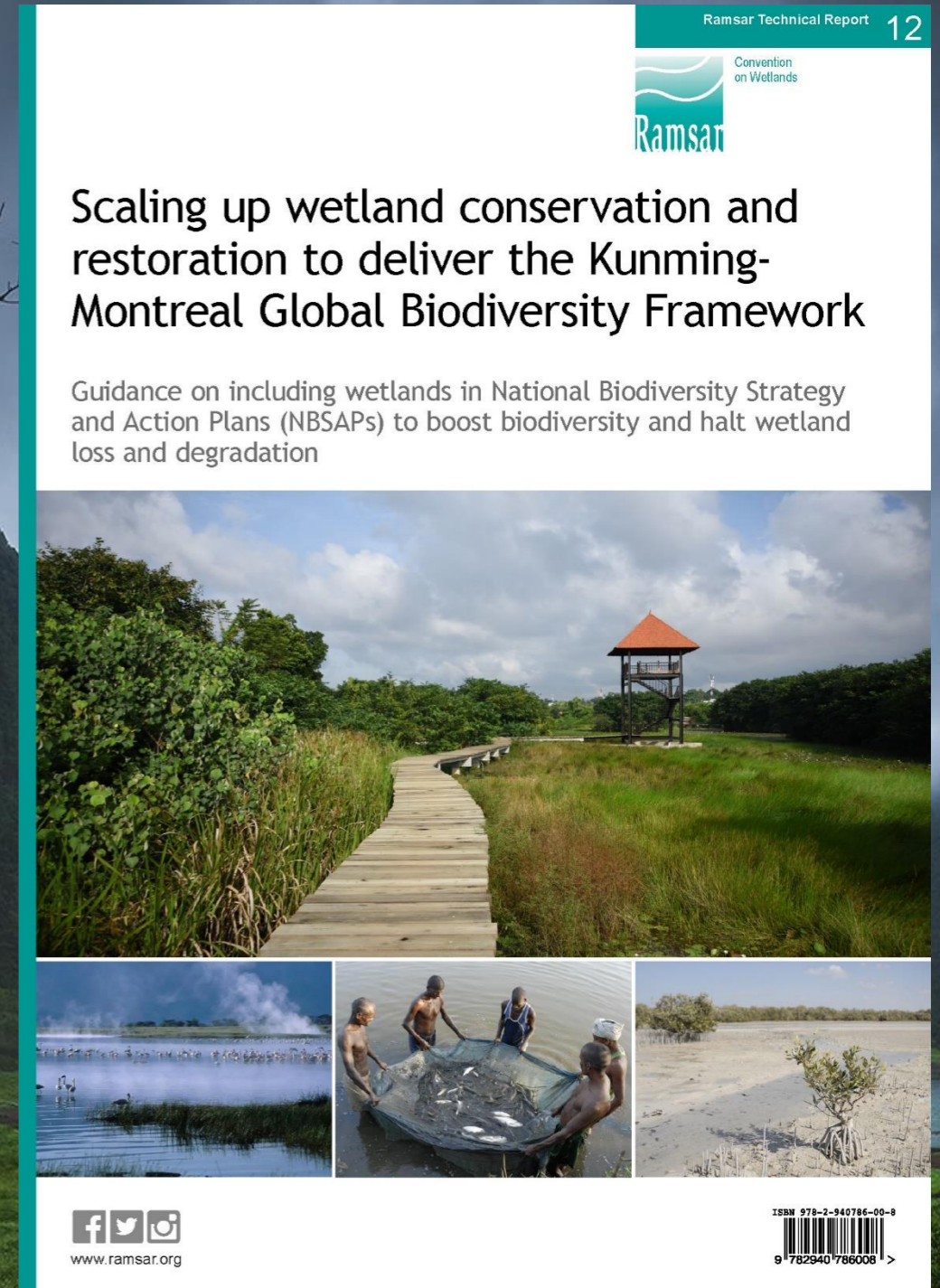
- They can also provide connections to multi-stakeholder, cross-convention initiatives such as The Freshwater Challenge and Mangrove Breakthrough



Thank you for your attention

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<https://www.ramsar.org/document/scaling-wetland-conservation-restoration-deliver-kunming-montreal-global-biodiversity>