



STRP Guidance Products: Developing synergies between the CBD and the Convention on Wetlands

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19th June 2024

STRP Task 5.2

The STRP triennium workplan 2022-2025
Theme 5: Cross cutting issues, supporting functions and synergies with other MEAs

Task 5.2: Synthesis of urgent actions needed to meet the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) KM-GBF targets from a wetland perspective, including review and identification of wetland focused reporting to track progress on implementation of GBF goals and targets.

Target Audience: CBD National Focal Points, Convention on Wetlands National Focal Points, SBSTTA and STRP Focal Points, AHTEG on Indicators

Timing: to inform Parties in their development of NBSAPs; to inform the 6th Meeting of the AHTEG, in advance of SBSTTA 26

The Convention on Wetlands and the CBD

Lead implementing partner for inland waters

The Convention on Wetlands has played this role since 1996 (CBD Decision 3/21)



Shared definitions

The CBD uses the Convention on Wetlands definition of “wetland” in respect of its programme of work on inland waters biodiversity



Joint Work Plan

Guides collaboration. The 6th Joint Work Plan for 2024-2030 is in development. Due to be concluded in 2024



Bern Process

The cooperation among biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the KMGBF

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Framework: Upscaling wetland conservation, restoration and wise use through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)



Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Upscaling wetland conservation, restoration and wise use through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

1. Introduction

This briefing paper for Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands has been prepared by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) under its workplan 2023-2025, as part of Task 5.2. Guidance to support global implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for wetlands, in collaboration with the International Organization Partners (IOP) of the Convention and in consultation with the Secretariat.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) was adopted by 192 countries at CBD COP15 in December 2022. It contains 4 goals and 23 targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

Wetlands are explicitly included in KM-GBF Target 2 on restoration, and Target 3 on protected areas (the "30x30 target") through wording on inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems. This is an excellent outcome for wetlands and the nature and people who depend on them. Many other KM-GBF targets are critically important for wetlands too; these are included in this briefing paper.

The KM-GBF provides a powerful new global opportunity for the rapid upscaling of wetland conservation, restoration and wise use in all countries, and for cross-government, society-wide approaches. The KM-GBF also has a strong focus on addressing the direct and indirect drivers of nature and wetland loss, action by business and finance, and the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs).

The opportunity now is to secure the essential inclusion of ambitious wetland targets and policies in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), to meet commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and under the Convention on Wetlands, as a designated lead partner on wetlands and work on inland water biodiversity for the CBD (CBD Decision III/29).

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Inland Waters and NBSAPs

Wetlands or inland waters need to feature strongly in all NBSAPs.

Targets of particular relevance include:

- Target 1 on spatial planning
 - Target 2 on restoration
- Target 3 on protected and conserved areas

NBSAPs should also include actions to address the drivers of wetland loss and degradation.

NBSAPs should also have a range of wetland-relevant indicators to monitor progress for each target.

All types of wetlands and inland waters in a country should be considered in the process of updating NBSAPs, in line with the Convention on Wetlands definition of 'wetland'.

Wetlands of International Importance can play an important role in achieving the Goals of the GBF, and wetlands identified as critically important sites for biodiversity and ecological connectivity should feature strongly in NBSAPs.



Submission from the Convention on Wetlands to the 6th meeting of the AHTEG on Indicators: The effective consideration of wetlands in the KMGBF Monitoring Framework



THE CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
63rd meeting of the Standing Committee
Gland, Switzerland, 3-7 June 2024

SC63 Inf.3

Submission from the Convention on Wetlands to the 6th meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators on the effective consideration of wetlands in the KMGBF Monitoring Framework

Actions requested:

Standing Committee is invited to note the submission from the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators on the effective consideration of wetlands in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

Summary

1. Healthy wetlands are critical to achieving the vision and mission of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and as such all 4 goals and all 23 targets of the Framework are of relevance to wetlands. The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Convention on Wetlands has prepared this scientific and technical submission for the consideration of the Sixth meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators (AHTEG) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
2. The STRP review of the KMGBF indicator framework was identified as a high priority task, recognising the importance of enhancing synergies between the CBD and the Convention on Wetlands for the global assessment of and reporting on wetlands.
3. The submission is focused in particular on: (1) KMGBF goals and targets where the headline indicators do not provide sufficient consideration of wetlands, and/or there is a lack of clarity on relevant data flows related to wetlands; and (2) KMGBF goals and targets that have major implications for wetlands. In line with this, the indicators related to the following goal and targets were reviewed: Goal A, Targets 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12. The STRP has provided comments and suggestions on these.
4. To provide actionable advice to the AHTEG, this submission is divided into two parts. Part I provides general and cross-cutting observations and recommendations; and Part II provides the following information for the goal and indicators listed above:
 - The sufficiency of the headline indicators (as well as component and complimentary indicators) for inland waters, coastal and marine ecosystems ('wetlands' defined under the Convention on Wetlands);
 - Any potential data flows or sources for wetlands that might address these gaps; and
 - Highlighting which of the currently listed component or complimentary indicators are particularly important for wetlands.



Focused feedback

All 4 goals and 23 targets of the KMGBF are of relevance to and for wetlands

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Prioritisation: Goals /targets important to wetlands and where headline indicators were insufficient to establish synergies in reporting

- **GOAL A:** Protect and restore
- **TARGET 2:** Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems
- **TARGET 3:** Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas
- **TARGET 5:** Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species
- **TARGET 7:** Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity
- **TARGET 9:** Manage Wild Species Sustainably To Benefit People
- **TARGET 10:** Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry
- **TARGET 11:** Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People
- **TARGET 12:** Enhance Green Spaces and Urban Planning for Human Well-Being and Biodiversity

Summary of recommendations

1

Disaggregation of indicators by ecosystem type - including inland waters and coastal ecosystems. Especially where these are explicit in the target (T2, T3)

2

Be consistent in the ecosystem typology that is used across indicators to help build consistency across processes

3

There are still important gaps in the sufficiency of the headline indicators for wetlands

4

Component and complementary indicators will be essential to help address these gaps. Other indicators or data may be needed to fill gaps and report against the Convention on Wetlands.

5

Developing metadata for component/ complementary indicators and guidance for CBD Parties on their selection for different purposes could help build synergies for reporting across MEAs



Guidance on target setting and implementation

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK - TARGET 1

Ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

ALIGNMENT WITH CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

National plans to deliver Target 1 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 9:** The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.

Guidance on target setting and implementation

Resources

Setting national targets

- Develop quantified commitments to increase national total area of high biodiversity importance wetlands under protection (in hectares and linear kilometres of river systems) and include within spatial planning

Setting a baseline

- Identify and describe all high biodiversity importance wetlands and their catchments (Freshwater and Coastal KBAs, IBAs, Ramsar Sites) and map their corresponding spatial extent (ha) and linear distance for rivers (km)
- Calculation of national total area of high biodiversity importance wetlands in hectares and linear kilometres of river systems and calculation of % of overall country area
- Condition status of high biodiversity importance wetlands to assess quality using indicators such as connectivity important for species movements, species that are representative for completeness of an ecosystem and existence of essential processes
- Calculate the number of high biodiversity importance wetlands included within spatial plans

Actions

- Undertake the process to designate high biodiversity importance wetlands as protected areas or OECMs that are identified in the national targets
- Include high biodiversity importance wetlands within spatial plans

Monitoring

- Annual update of national total area of high biodiversity importance wetlands in hectares and linear kilometres of river systems and % of overall country area
- Annual condition status assessment of high biodiversity importance wetlands to assess quality of ecosystem
- Annual assessment of number of high biodiversity importance wetlands included within spatial plans

Policy measures

- Specific spatial planning and management measures to address key drivers of wetland loss and degradation

[World Heritage List](#)
[Man and Biosphere Reserves](#)
[IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)
[National Red List](#)
[IUCN Red List of Ecosystems](#)
[Key Biodiversity Areas](#)
[Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas](#)
[Wetlands of International Importance](#)
[Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures](#)
[Global Mangrove Watch](#)
 Other international designations
 National protected area designations
 Wetland conservation measures implemented by Indigenous Peoples and local communities



Activate allies and seek synergies

- **Connect between CBD and Convention on Wetlands' National Focal Points**
- **Reach out to 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 Regional Flyway Initiatives, The Freshwater Challenge and Mangrove Breakthrough.