

Call for an ambitious Global Biodiversity Framework on World Wetlands Day 2020

Open Letter by the International Organization Partners to the Convention on Wetlands: Birdlife International, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Wetlands International, the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

The scale and speed of biodiversity loss threatens people and life on earth. Populations of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish have declined on average by 60% in the past 40 years



We, International Organization Partners to the Convention on Wetlands, would like to urge Contracting Parties to the Convention to consider a more ambitious global biodiversity framework and adopt measures like those outlined in the <u>Emergency Recovery Plan</u> (ERP), which puts forward six priority actions to curb freshwater biodiversity loss. These are:

- 1. Accelerating implementation of environmental flows,
- 2. Improving water quality,
- 3. Protecting and restoring critical habitats,
- 4. Managing exploitation of freshwater species and riverine aggregates,
- 5. Preventing and controlling non-native species invasions, and
- 6. Safeguarding and restoring river connectivity.

Actions outlined within the ERP will be crucial to ensuring that we create a world in which our wetlands, and the people who depend on them and their biodiversity, are thriving.

This would help to urgently accelerate the work of countries in mobilizing the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands while ensuring harmonization and implementation of complementary global conventions.

Given the urgency of the challenge we must seize the opportunity in 2020 to reform the existing approach, define new and achievable targets, stimulate the investment and deliver on concrete action.

Hashtags:

#WetlandBiodiversityMatters

#PartnersForWetlands