

**Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies  
in partnership with multilateral environmental agreements  
and other international institutions**

**Actions requested**

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the progress in implementing Resolutions XIV.6 and XIII.7 on *Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions*.

**Background**

1. Resolution XIII.7 on *Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions* instructs the Secretariat to report regularly to the Standing Committee on progress in implementing this Resolution and Resolution XI.6 on *Partnership and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions*.
2. This report covers the main activities undertaken since the resumed session of the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee in 2022 (SC59/2022), in accordance with Resolutions XIV.6 (also on *Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions*), XIII.7 and XI.6, and specifically the activities related to the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and the progress made on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and with MEAs, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other institutions.

**Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

3. Cooperation with IPBES continues in the context of the existing Memorandum of Cooperation. The Secretariat participated virtually in the 9th session of the Plenary of IPBES (IPBES9) in July 2022, including through a joint MEA statement, together with the the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the International Whaling Commission. The statement stressed that the assessments discussed during IPBES9 – the methodological assessment of the multiple values of nature and its benefits, and the assessment on the sustainable use of wild species – are relevant to the work of each of the Conventions and will strengthen the scientific basis for decision-making by Contracting Parties, and would inform the development and implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

4. The Chair of the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) participated in the online meeting of the IPBES Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, held virtually in March 2023, and presented the high-priority STRP tasks (5.1, 3.1, 1.1a, 1.1c and 1.2) that align with the IPBES work programme.

#### **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**

5. The Secretariat attended the 58th session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-58) in March 2023 in Interlaken, Switzerland. The Secretariat has shared information with the IPCC Secretariat and with co-chairs of IPCC Working Groups and the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) on scientific and technical priorities identified in Resolution XIV.14 on *Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2023-2025* and the work of the STRP in the 2023-2025 triennium.

#### **Cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements**

6. The Secretariat continues to collaborate actively with other MEAs, concentrating its efforts in accordance with paragraph 36 of Resolution XIV.6 on cooperation and synergies with the biodiversity-related Conventions. More specific areas of cooperation continue to be implemented with these MEAs within the existing memoranda, in particular with the CBD, the CMS and the Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC) as well as with the UN to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

#### *Work under the Biodiversity Liaison Group*

7. The Secretariat participates in the meetings and joint actions of the BLG in accordance with the Group's Plan for Joint Activities.
8. In March 2022, at the Resumed sessions of the Twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA24) of the CBD, the third meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI3) and the third meeting of its Open-ended Working Group on the GBF (OEWG3) in Geneva, Switzerland, the Secretariats of the biodiversity-related Conventions organized the side event "Strengthening the role of the biodiversity-related Conventions on the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework", and a joint statement was delivered on behalf of the BLG.
9. At OEWG4 in June 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya, a further joint statement of the BLG was delivered.
10. The Secretariat participated in a virtual meeting of the BLG in September 2022 on its engagement at OEWG5 and at the second, face-to-face, part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (CBD COP15) in December 2022 in Montreal, Canada, under the Presidency of China. Joint statements of the BLG were delivered at these meetings and at the High-Level Segment of CBD COP15. Additionally, at CBD COP15, the Deputy Secretary General participated in the BLG side event "Mobilising the biodiversity-related Conventions on the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework".

#### *Convention on Biological Diversity*

11. The Secretariat has continued to work to strengthen collaboration with the CBD, providing inputs to different processes, mainly on the preparation of the GBF. It shared a document with

all Contracting Parties in March 2022, highlighting the issues identified as most relevant to the Convention to ensure that Parties attending the resumed meetings of SBSTTA24, SBI3 and OEWG3 could articulate the importance of wetlands.

12. The Secretariat also reminded Contracting Parties of the Standing Committee's Decision SC57-26 encouraging Parties, through their Ramsar National Focal Points, to liaise and engage with their counterparts in the CBD and to participate in the development of their national positions related to the CBD's GBF process, in order to seek to ensure that Ramsar-relevant elements are included within country positions and submissions in its development. With these elements the Secretariat provided inputs to the meetings of CBD mentioned above.
13. The Deputy Secretary General participated in the Executive Briefing organized by the Geneva Network in November 2022 on the preparations for CBD COP15 and the outcomes of COP14 of the Convention on Wetlands, COP27 of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and CITES COP19.
14. At CBD COP15 the Secretariat delivered an intervention on the outcomes of COP14 of the Convention on Wetlands, which was also posted on the CBD COP15 website. The Deputy Secretary General participated in the High-Level panel "United Nations Heads Agencies Dialogue: Pledging Commitments to implement the Common Approach on Biodiversity and the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework" and in the side event "Beyond boundaries: The role of cities and regions in taking local action for global wetlands". A statement to the plenary on the Convention's contribution to urgent action on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development was also posted on the High-Level Segment website. The Secretariat also participated as panellist in side events on "Tools and solutions for the implementation of the Post 2020 GBF: Enhancing Synergies and Cooperation" organized by UNEP; "Pathways for Inland Waters in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: with a focus on Freshwater and Communities" organized by the Nature Conservancy and WWF; and in an event on "Freshwater ecosystems and their role in achieving the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets, call for action to strengthen the protection and restoration of inland waters" organized by the Ministry of Environment of Colombia and WWF.
15. With the adoption of the GBF, the Secretariats of the CBD and the Convention on Wetlands have continued with the preparation of the Sixth Joint Work Plan and Memorandum of Understanding in line with the governing processes of both Conventions and the 2021 review carried out by both Secretariats of the Fifth Joint Work Plan. The review, which provides an overview of progress in its implementation, identifies lessons learned and informs the preparation of an updated joint work plan that will also take into consideration the GBF, is published as document SC59 Doc.16.1<sup>1</sup>.
16. Pursuant to CBD Decision 15/5 on *Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* as well as paragraph 42 and 44 of Resolution XIV.6, the Secretariat nominated the Vice-Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and the Director, Science and Policy of the Secretariat to participate in the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. However, they were not selected.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc59-doc161-review-of-the-fifth-joint-work-plan-between-the-convention-on-biological>

### *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

17. The Secretariat participates in the CMS Flyways Working Group, and attended a meeting of the working group held virtually in February 2023, providing input to an ongoing strategic review by the CMS Secretariat of the flyways mandates under CMS.

### *Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds*

18. The Secretariat actively participated in the 8th meeting of the Parties (MOP8) to the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) held in September 2022 in Budapest, Hungary. The meeting highlighted the vital role of AEWA's policy and technical contribution in implementation of the CMS, the CBD and the Convention on Wetlands, and invited its Executive Secretary to strengthen synergies with these MEAs. MOP8 reviewed and adopted 18 Resolutions, six directly linked to the wise use of wetlands and synergies.
19. The Secretariat also participated in the 18th Technical Committee meeting of AEWA in March 2023 in Bonn, Germany. Participants reviewed and approved workplan tasks for the Technical Committee to deliver for the 2023-2025 triennium.

### *World Coastal Forum*

20. The Secretariat participated as a panellist in the World Coastal Forum (WCF) Symposium, a side event at COP14 in November 2022. The WCF has been developed by a consortium of international NGOs as a response to Resolution XIII.20 on *Promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats* as well as to CMS Resolution 12.25, CBD Decision 14/30 and IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 Resolution 030. The symposium focused on, *inter alia*, preparation of the WCF 2023 Conference.

### *Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage*

21. The Secretariat has contributed to the UNESCO Multi-International Designated Areas (MIDAS) initiative, which aims to harmonize management in natural areas with multiple international designations, including Wetlands of International Importance, World Heritages Sites, Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks. The Secretariat participated in a UNESCO meeting in December 2022, providing input for the development of a MIDAS guidebook.

### *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*

22. The Secretariat participated in UNFCCC COP27 in November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, as a speaker in official side events including:
  - the official launch of the Global Peatlands Assessment organized by UNEP and other partners in the Global Peatlands Initiative (GPI), which also featured a video message by the Secretary General;
  - a side event on peatlands in nationally determined contributions (NDCs) organized by the Global Environment Centre and Wetlands International in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other GPI Partners; and
  - a side event entitled "Partnerships to accelerate action to protect blue carbon ecosystems for mitigation and adaptation", organized by the International Partnership for Blue Carbon and the Pew Charitable Trust.

23. The Secretariat participated as a panellist in the “Blue Carbon Implementation Lab” side event organized in the context of the Ocean Action Day convened under the Marrakesh Partnership, and attended the Water Action Event organized by the Marrakesh Partnership. In the lead-up to COP27, the Secretariat provided inputs to two presidency initiatives launched during the meeting, on “Action on Water Adaptation and Resilience” (AWARe) and “Enhancing Nature-based Solutions for an Accelerated Climate Transformation” (ENACT).

#### *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification*

24. Liaison with the Secretariat of UNCCD has focused on outcomes of UNCCD COP15 held in May 2022 in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, including Decision 20/COP15 on *Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from the cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies*, which calls for development of a “technical guide series on integrated land management response options for ecosystems in drylands, taking into account national contexts and the interaction among land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change”, and the possibility for collaboration through the STRP. There has also been extensive exchange on outreach, including in relation to World Wetlands Day 2023. The Secretary General met the Executive Secretary of UNCCD in May 2023.
25. UNCCD hosts the Secretariat of the G20 Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats<sup>2</sup>, which aims to reduce degraded land by 50 per cent by 2040, building on existing initiatives and on a voluntary basis. The Secretariat met the Director of the Initiative in July 2022, to discuss consideration of wetlands in the context of the Initiative, as well as the 2022 meeting of the G20 Environment Working Group. The Secretariat participated as a speaker in an event at the G20 Environment Deputies Meeting on Reducing Land Degradation and Restoring Mangrove Ecosystem, organized under the Indonesia G20 Presidency in August 2022.

#### *Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes*

26. The Secretariat participated in the Seventh meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus of the UN Water Convention, as well as the Global Workshop on Source-to-sea Management organized under the Convention, in December 2022.
27. The Secretary General met the Secretary of the Water Convention in February 2023 to discuss collaboration in relation to intergovernmental meetings of the Conventions, global processes such as the UN 2023 Water Conference, the SDG summit and UNFCCC COP28, and thematic areas including climate change adaptation and the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus.
28. In March 2023, senior officers of the two Secretariats held a follow-up meeting to discuss concrete areas of potential collaboration, including through the Ramsar Regional Initiatives. The Secretariat and a representative of the Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative were scheduled to participate in the 7th meeting of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation for the Second Session on transboundary cooperation, organized by the Water Convention in May 2023.

#### *Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles*

29. Under the MOU signed in 2020, the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands and the Secretary *pro tempore* of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of

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<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.unccd.int/our-work/flagship-initiatives/G20-Initiative>.

Sea Turtles (IAC) continue to exchange information on relevant activities and materials to enable the listing of Wetlands of International Importance that are important for sea turtles. The two Secretariats participated in the side event “Application of Ramsar Resolution XIII.24 on sea turtle habitats in the Americas, and perspectives of collaboration of IAC and the Convention on Wetlands” organized by the Ministry of Ecological Transition of France and the Association Chélonée. They presented the results of a joint survey on the application of Resolution XIII.24 that will inform an update of the 2013 report on wetlands and sea turtle conservation in the Americas.

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

30. In accordance with Standing Committee Decision SC53-17 and Resolution XIII.7, the Secretariat continues to actively engage in ongoing work on the SDGs, including in the meetings of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) as co-custodian of SDG 6 (on “water and sanitation”) Indicator 6.6.1 (on “change in extent of water-related ecosystems over time”).
31. In this context, the Secretariat participated in the meetings of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs with agencies to discuss SDG data and metadata submissions in June and November 2022 and in the virtual IAEG-SDG meeting on “Data, COVID-19 and the SDGs” in June 2022.
32. For the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2022, the Secretariat has prepared a joint storyline with UNEP for the UN Secretary General’s Report to the High-Level Political Forum. The Secretariat also continues to engage with UN Water on the work programme for SDG 6.
33. In line with Resolution XIII.7 and Decision SC57-47 on wetland inventories, the Secretariat continues to work with Contracting Parties to complete and refine the information on wetland extent that was submitted in National Reports to COP14. Further efforts are ongoing to support Contracting Parties on the development of wetland inventories and collection of missing data on wetland extent to report on SDG 6 Indicator 6.6.1. In this regard, a description of the progress on the Convention Acceleration Action on SDGs “Wetland inventories to support Contracting Parties to achieve Indicator 6.6.1” under SDG 6 is described in documents SC58 Doc.9, SC59 Doc.9 and SC62 Doc.9.
34. Regarding the achievement of SDG 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” the Secretariat participated in the second UN Ocean Conference to support the implementation of SDG 14 in June and July 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal. The Secretary General participated in the interactive dialogue “Managing, protecting and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems” and in the High-Level Roundtable on synergies between SDG 6 and SDG 14 of the High-Level Symposium on Water. The Secretariat also participated in several side events, including on the GBF, species conservation, blue carbon, and restoration.

### **UN 2023 Water Conference**

35. The Secretariat made extensive contributions to the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018–2028 (UN 2023 Water Conference), held in

New York, USA, in March 2023, highlighting how the Convention and its materials and guidance can catalyse the achievement of the Water Action Agenda.

36. The Secretary General made a statement in the Plenary session<sup>3</sup> during the general debate, emphasizing that our water and sustainable development needs cannot be addressed without wetlands. A statement was also submitted for Interactive dialogue 3 on “Water for climate, resilience and environment”<sup>4</sup>.
37. The Secretary General participated as a speaker in the Special Event “Radical collaboration for water resilience: Action with our greatest allies in the climate crisis”, as well as in two media events together with the Acting Executive Secretary of CBD.
38. The Secretary General also made contributions as a speaker in several side events including:
  - “The freshwater challenge – Mobilizing action to restore freshwater ecosystems”, at which the Freshwater Challenge was launched;
  - “Local governments and municipal authorities (LGMA) constituency high level panel: The knowledge-policy-practice nexus between COP27, COP15, the Convention on Wetlands and its Wetland City Accreditation scheme and water”; and
  - “From UNEA to General Assembly: Taking action for sustainable lake management – as a catalyst to accelerate global commitment in the Water Action Agenda”.
39. The Secretariat made contributions as a speaker in side events including on “Water for nature, nature for water: Policies, solutions and commitments for sustainable development” and “Turning the tide on the freshwater biodiversity crisis”, and in the virtual side event on “Earth observations in support of water action”.
40. Several bilateral meetings were held with delegates representing Parties including Gabon, the United States of America and Uruguay, and with senior representatives of CBD, TNC, UN-Habitat, the UN Development Programme and UNEP.

#### **Actions to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and other international institutions**

41. As noted in previous reports to the Standing Committee, the Secretariat is continuing to work to strengthen collaboration with the United Nations agencies and other international institutions.

#### *Environment Management Group*

42. The Secretariat continues its engagement in ongoing work of the United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG). The Secretary General participated in the 28th Senior Officials Meeting of the EMG held virtually in November 2022, which established an EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity to facilitate and enable a streamlined approach and support the implementation of the GBF, the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Consultative Process on a Pollution-Free Planet.
43. The Secretariat participated in the preparation of the report *An overview of UN Activities and Initiatives related to Marine Litter and Microplastics* commissioned by the EMG, stressing that marine litter and microplastics are carried to the seas and oceans essentially through inland and

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<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/news/un-water-conference-an-opportunity-for-change-dr-musonda-mumba>.

<sup>4</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/un-2023-water-conference-statement-by-dr-musonda-mumba-to-interactive-dialogue-3-water-for-climate>.

coastal wetlands, that plastic pollution can cause significant degradation of wetlands and their services, that some wetland-dependent species are particularly vulnerable to plastic pollution due to their behavioural traits and ecology, and that this needs to be considered in solutions to reduce such pollution.

#### *Collaboration with UNEP*

44. The Secretariat and UNEP continue to develop cooperative activities to promote synergies and improve the implementation of the Convention, and actions are underway to renew the Memorandum of Understanding.
45. As noted at paragraph 33 above, the Convention on Wetlands as co-custodian with UNEP of SDG Indicator 6.6.1 prepared a joint storyline with UNEP for the UN Secretary General's Report on SDGs for the High-Level Political Forum in July 2022.
46. The Secretariat continued to participate in the synergies project "Realizing Synergies for Biodiversity" led by UNEP with the participation of the other biodiversity-related Conventions, in response to UNEA Resolution 2/17.
47. The Secretariat participated as a speaker in an interactive online course on "implementation of multilateral agreements" organized by UNEP and the Center for Governance and Sustainability of the University of Massachusetts Boston in November 2022, with a focus on countries from the Southern African Development Community.
48. The Secretariat continued to contribute to the InforMEA initiative and participated in the 13th meeting of the InforMEA Steering Committee that took place in Montreux, Switzerland, in October 2022. The Secretariat contributed on issues including API implementation (website interoperability), semantic indexing and e-learning.
49. An introductory course on the Convention has been developed and a link is available on the Convention's website. The course is hosted on the InforMEA learning and knowledge platform in the three languages of the Convention.
50. As a Global Partner of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the Secretariat continues to actively engage in this agenda and the task force on monitoring of aquatic and transitional ecosystems. These engagements informed the consideration of SDG 6 Indicator 6.6.1 for which the Convention is co-custodian. The Secretariat participated in a meeting of the Working Group on Target 2 of the GBF under the Task Force on Monitoring, held virtually in February 2023. The Action Plan for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, 2021-2030, names the Convention on Wetlands as a co-lead in the restoration challenges of "Cities nominated as World Restoration Flags and championing urban restoration" and in "Marine and Freshwater".
51. The Secretariat, together with UNEP and FAO, participated in the development team of the Global Peatland Assessment (GPA), an activity of the GPI coordinated by UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC). The Secretariat sought inputs in July and August 2022 from Contracting Parties regarding the GPA, including information on national policies, case studies and offers to review the draft GPA. Secretariat staff served as review editors of parts of the GPA, including on the international policy framework. The GPA was launched at a side event during UNFCCC COP27.



52. The Secretariat, together with the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia (RRC-EA) and Wetlands International, collaborated with the UNEP Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) to provide support for wetland managers in integrating disaster risk reduction policies in wetlands management. A regional workshop for wetland managers from Asia was held in June 2022. Based on their feedback, “Wetlands and DRR: A Guide for Wetland Managers” was published in December 2022 with a global webinar to promote the publication.

#### *Collaboration with FAO*

53. The Secretariat contributed to an FAO Technical Briefing on “Integrated Water Resources Management for Food Security and Climate Resilience” held in hybrid format in October 2022. The Secretariat participated as a speaker and panellist in a Technical Session on Water for Environment and Biodiversity.
54. The Secretariat made technical contributions towards FAO publications on peatlands and climate commitments, including the report “Peatlands and climate planning” as well as “Wetlands in climate commitments: Preliminary results”, an analysis of the extent to which wetlands actions are included in NDCs, which was released at a side event held during COP14.
55. Together with FAO and Wetlands International, the Secretariat co-organized a series of virtual training and consultation events on peatlands and climate commitments, including two sessions focusing on climate change planning processes focusing on NDCs and LTS (long-term strategies under the UNFCCC process) in June 2022, a session focused on implementing climate action through peatlands in December 2022, and side events organized in hybrid format at COP14 and at UNFCCC COP27.
56. FAO contributed towards a webinar organized by the Secretariat to launch a new STRP product entitled “Wetlands and Agriculture: Transformative actions for sustainable agricultural practices and the wise use of wetlands”, held virtually in July 2022. The Secretariat maintains active liaison with FAO, for example regarding the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and World Wetlands Day.

#### *Collaboration with International Organization Partners*

57. The Secretariat continues to strengthen its collaboration with the International Organization Partners (IOPs) of the Convention. Regular teleconferences are held with IOPs to discuss joint activities in the context of the Memorandum of Cooperation.
58. The Secretary General met IOP senior representatives in a virtual meeting in March 2023, to share her vision for the direction of the Convention and IOP collaboration, and to discuss priorities for IOP collaboration including in supporting implementation and in resource mobilization, and preparations for the UN 2023 Water Conference.
59. The Secretariat worked closely with IOPs, for example in relation to side events at COP14, UNFCCC COP27 and the UN 2023 Water Conference, including on the Freshwater Challenge launched during a side event at the UN 2023 Water Conference.
60. The IOPs made inputs towards World Wetlands Day 2023, including identifying seven priority actions to accelerate and scale up wetland restoration that were presented in the online event held on 1 February 2023.

*Collaboration with the International Partnership for Blue Carbon*

61. The Secretariat continues to be engaged in the International Partnership for Blue Carbon (IPBC). It participated in the Partnership's third dialogue meeting and contributed to the review of its activity plan for 2023, in line with Resolutions XIII.14 on *Promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue carbon ecosystems* and XIV.17 on *The protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of wetland ecosystems in addressing climate change*, and tasks 1,2 and 3 of the STRP on blue carbon.

*Collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature*

62. The Secretariat continues to collaborate closely with IUCN to support the operations of the Secretariat under the service agreement between the Convention and IUCN. Regular meetings and alignment of processes and policies continue in the different areas under the service agreement, such as finance and accounting, information technology, facility management and human resources.