

The Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971): A Smart Partnership

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Abstract

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands has been notable for its ability to build partnerships with the community of technical NGOs, other Conventions, even the private sector. Its contribution to the CBD work programmes on inland waters and coastal systems, through the **CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan**, has been widely recognized.

The CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan (JWP) has become a model for synergy between biodiversity-related Conventions. It benefits both Convention processes not only by avoiding duplication of effort among Parties, but also by harnessing the expertise and experience of the two conventions' partners. The JWP recognizes that the common ground between the two conventions goes far beyond the inland waters and coastal systems into several other ecosystem themes (forests, dry and sub-humid lands) and a variety of cross-cutting issues such as alien species; incentive measures; indicators, monitoring and assessment, protected areas, impact assessment and sustainable use.

This paper provides an analysis of the elements of the **Third Joint Work Plan (2002-2006) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)** which have implications at the state-level, and proposes a set of integrated actions towards the sustainable use of wetlands and biodiversity in Sarawak.