

Roundtable on EU Wetland Partnerships

Residence Palace, Brussels
17 June 2024 (15.30-18.00h)

#WaterWiseEU



Protecting, restoring and wisely using wetlands in line with the strategic objectives of the Convention on Wetlands is critical to achieve global biodiversity, climate, water and development goals.

The European Union could play a paramount and leadership role in addressing the triple planetary crisis by supporting signatory partner countries in the implementation of global commitments through Wetland Partnerships. The EU Wetland Partnerships can also contribute to the achievement of flagship multi-sectoral global wetland initiatives such as the Mangrove Breakthrough and Freshwater Challenge.

The event aims to increase understanding of the potential of EU Wetland Partnerships, with a particular focus on the value of the Pantanal – the world's largest tropical wetland – and the need for the EU and third countries to collaborate to conserve and sustainably manage wetlands for the prosperity of communities, including indigenous and traditional communities.

15:30 Welcoming and video screening - **Steve Trent**, CEO Environmental Justice Foundation

15:40 **Keynote speech by**

† **Dr Musonda Mumba**, Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands

† **Ms Barbara Pompili**, Special Envoy to the President of the French Republic for the One Water Summit

Roundtable discussion by

† Why EU Wetland Partnerships? - **Dr Chris Baker**, Director Wetlands International Europe

† EU Global Water Commitments - **Ms Veronica Manfredi**, Director for Zero Pollution and Green Cities, DG ENVI

† Towards Water Resilience at UNECE Water Convention – **Dr Aleš Bizjak**, Vice-chair of the Bureau of the UNECE Water Convention, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Slovenia

† Wetlands an essential part of the EU Blue deal and Blue diplomacy - **Péter Olajos**, EU Blue Deal Co-rapporteur, CCMI Delegate at European Economic and Social Committee, President of CEEweb for Biodiversity

† The Pantanal Law - **Artur Falcette**, Executive Secretary of Environment, Mato Grosso do Sul State Government

16:40 **Q&A session**

16:55 Closing remarks by **Dr Chris Baker**, Director Wetlands International Europe

17:00 **Network reception + photo exhibition (only in-person)**