

EUROPE

# The Pantanal Pact and EU Wetland Partnership

*Greening the Global Gateway on the  
Road to Belém*

Location European Parliament

23 June, 5.30 – 19.30 pm

Amazon Week 2025



**Wetlands**  
INTERNATIONAL

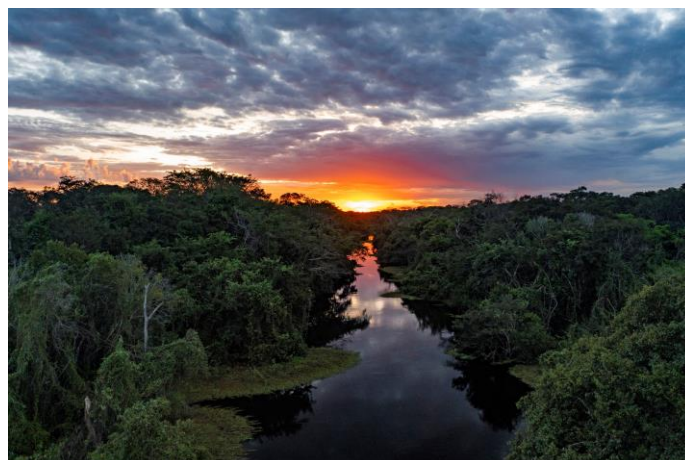
## The Pantanal Pact and EU Wetland Partnership

During the 2025 Amazon Week event, organized by the Brazilian Mission, Wetlands International Europe aims to highlight the critical role of wetlands in advancing sustainable development and environmental conservation in the lead-up to COP30 in Belém.

This session will spotlight the Pantanal—the world's largest tropical wetland—as a pilot case to advocate for establishing a flagship wetland initiative under the EU's Global Gateway strategy. This pilot will demonstrate that greening the Global Gateway can foster sustainable and inclusive development through effective collaboration among decision-makers from the European Union (EU) and Brazil and local communities, businesses, and international financial institutions.

COP30 in Brazil could mark the launch of the first *Wetland Partnership with the EU— a technical and financial cooperation agreement* focused on the protection and restoration of the Pantanal, and eventually other wetlands such as the Araguaia and the forested peatlands of the Amazon, ensuring their sustainable use and management.

By focusing on the Pantanal as a pilot case, we aim to inspire collaborative action and innovative solutions that can be replicated in wetland ecosystems worldwide.



### 2. Background & Rationale

As key ecosystems, the Amazon Basin and the Pantanal biome (Upper Paraguay River Basin) sustain global biodiversity, climate stability, and the resilience of local communities. The Amazon rainforest and the Pantanal, the world's largest tropical wetland, are interconnected through a vital atmospheric moisture exchange, where the Amazon's dense vegetation releases water vapor that forms a "flying river" of clouds, supplying essential rainfall to sustain the Pantanal's seasonal flooding and biodiversity. However, deforestation in the highlands, pollution, and the unsustainable exploitation of resources are increasingly compromising their integrity. Recognizing the importance of conserving these ecosystems, regional and international actors are mobilizing efforts to promote sustainable solutions that balance environmental protection and economic development.

The Pantanal spans approximately 170,000 square kilometres across Brazil, Bolivia, and Paraguay, serving as a habitat for over 4,700 animal and plant species. Beyond its ecological significance, the Pantanal provides essential ecosystem services, including natural flood control, groundwater recharge, and carbon sequestration. Brazil's Agricultural Research Corporation study estimated these services to be valued at \$112 billion annually.

In December 2023, the State of Mato Grosso do Sul enacted the **Pantanal Law** to promote the conservation, protection, restoration, and sustainable exploitation of the Pantanal biome. This legislation established rules for agricultural practices, prohibited the expansion of exotic crops, and created the Pantanal Climate Fund to support environmental services.

Building upon this foundation, the **Pacto do Pantanal** was launched on March 27, 2025, by the government of Mato Grosso do Sul. This comprehensive initiative seeks to monetize preserved areas, enhance environmental education, strengthen traditional communities, and bolster fire brigades within the biome. The pact aligns with broader global efforts, including the EU's **Global Gateway** strategy, which aims to enhance sustainable and resilient infrastructure, environmental protection, and socio-economic development through international partnerships.

The event will examine how the Global Gateway strategy can reinforce conservation and restoration initiatives, including through investments in green infrastructure and nature-based solutions and by identifying opportunities for sustainable value chains, ecotourism, and bioeconomy initiatives that benefit local communities and foster sustainable and inclusive development.



### 3. Objectives

This event will:

- Highlight the importance of wetlands in the Amazon Basin and the Pantanal region as critical ecosystems for climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable economies.
- Advocate for the establishment of a flagship initiative on wetlands under the **Global Gateway** strategy, using the Pantanal as a pilot case.
- Explore the synergies between the **Pacto do Pantanal** and the **Global Gateway** strategy to strengthen EU-Brazil collaboration on wetland conservation.
- Promote dialogue on financial mechanisms, policy frameworks, and capacity-building opportunities that support wetland restoration and sustainable development.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange among EU institutions, Brazilian stakeholders, and international organizations to drive actionable solutions.

### 6. Target Audience

- EU institutions and policymakers
- Brazilian government and regional organizations
- Conservation NGOs and international organizations
- Private sector actors engaged in sustainable development
- Academic and research institutions

### 7. Conclusion

This event will strengthen wetland sustainable management in the Pantanal, by fostering dialogue and collaboration. Advocating for a flagship initiative on wetlands under the **Global Gateway** strategy, with the Pantanal as a pilot case, presents an opportunity to enhance EU-Brazil cooperation on sustainable development, ensuring that environmental conservation goes hand in hand with economic and social progress.



**Wetlands International Europe**

Rue de l'Industrie 10

1000 Brussels

Belgium

[europa@wetlands.org](mailto:europa@wetlands.org)

[europa.wetlands.org](http://europa.wetlands.org)

