



STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION THROUGH MANGROVE PLATFORMS

Mangrove Best Practices



Wetlands
INTERNATIONAL



The issue

Over decades, a diverse community—civil society, government, private sector, and local communities—has worked to conserve and restore mangroves, strengthening their impact and investment case. However, persistent barriers limit scalability and sustainability. Many programs operate in isolation, lacking shared strategies across stakeholders. This fragmentation hinders transformative change and large-scale, lasting impact in mangrove landscapes.

▶ THE SOLUTION

Wetlands International drives **transformative collaboration through inclusive mangrove platforms and committees**. We bring together grassroots groups, governments at various levels, indigenous communities, scientists, and youth, around a shared vision. By connecting these stakeholders, we create an enabling environment for mangrove conservation. Our approach strengthens governance, builds capacity, raises awareness and resolves conflicts. In regions like Senegal, Kenya, Tanzania and Guinea Bissau, scaling up mangrove action requires strong stakeholder networks and effective governance. These collaborative structures are essential to achieve the scale and sustainability needed for impactful mangrove restoration and conservation.



“The National Mangrove Management Committee has become a cornerstone for advancing Kenya’s mangrove agenda — guiding policy, aligning stakeholders, and ensuring that mangrove conservation is embedded in national strategies. Its success is proof that collaboration between government, research institutions, conservation organizations, and communities is the key to safeguarding these vital ecosystems”

Judith Okello
Chairperson, National
Management Committee Kenya

The process

The exact set-up of national and subnational mangrove networks and committees vary by country, shaped by the local context, presence of key organisations, and stakeholder needs. While adaptable to specific circumstances, the following core steps are recommended to guide the development of successful mangrove collaboration platforms:

1) Create shared understanding:

- Map stakeholders & projects: identify government, NGOs, community groups, and ongoing mangrove initiatives, assess political will and opportunities for collaboration.
- Spot knowledge & capacity gaps: assess access to science, best practices, and institutional/technical skills.
- Review policies & governance: analyse laws, agencies, and commitments (e.g., NDCs, NBSAPs). Flag barriers & opportunities.

2) Co-create a shared vision and action plan:

Agree on goals and craft a joint narrative on the value of mangroves and develop a workplan with priorities, assigned roles, and create action groups.

3) Coordinate implementation of the action plan

Organise working groups and effective stakeholder engagement, monitor progress through agreed KPIs.

4) Align & mobilise funding

- Collaborate in increasing investment in mangrove initiatives, directed to high-quality projects and aligned with national strategies.
- Align international funds with national strategies, and back high-quality projects.

5) Engage & Adapt

Encourage continuous stakeholder exchange and feedback, monitor progress, and refine strategies as contexts evolve



Cacheu National Park, Guinea Bissau @Wetlands International

Impact in the field

Across the world, Wetlands International has played a catalytic role in establishing national and regional mangrove platforms, aligning stakeholders, and embedding mangrove conservation into government strategies. By convening civil society, government, and private sector actors, we have strengthened collaboration, mobilized knowledge, and advanced policies and commitments that ensure mangroves are better protected and restored.

Senegal

Through the **National Mangrove Platform**, we coordinate over 20 NGOs, scaling successful restoration and livelihood practices across the country. This platform facilitates policy dialogue, promotes replication of successful restoration and livelihood interventions, and embedding them in government-led plans. Wetlands International co-led the development and adoption of **Senegal's National Mangrove Strategy**, which sets ambitious targets for conservation, governance, and finance.

Regionally, we established and continue to lead the **Saloum Mangrove Platform**, bringing together CSOs, NGOs, and government in the delta. We are preparing to launch a **Casamance Mangrove Platform** to deepen collaboration in another critical delta.

We regularly convene workshops to align mangrove initiatives at both national and regional levels (Casamance, Saloum delta, Senegal River), ensuring project portfolios complement each other rather than overlap.

Capacity-building is central: we train policymakers, marine protected area staff, and local communities in monitoring techniques, including the use of Global Mangrove Watch tools.

Wetlands International also leads the Senegal chapter of the Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA).

Tanzania

In Tanzania, Wetlands International catalysed the creation of the **National Mangrove Platform**, a body uniting NGOs, government, and the private sector to coordinate mangrove efforts and scale best practices nationally. We also supported the establishment of the **National Wetlands Stakeholders Platform**, advancing wetlands policy reform with mangroves as a key focus.

At the landscape level, we built a **civil society network of 35 groups** in the Rufiji Delta, empowering them with joint training and advocacy capacity, anchoring mangrove stewardship firmly at the grassroots. We also supported the update of the **1991 Rufiji Mangrove Management Plan**, incorporating co-management, climate adaptation, and biodiversity priorities. We facilitated dialogue among rice farmers, pastoralists, and conservation actors to reduce conflicts in the Rufiji Delta, while also training 20 policymakers on Community-based Ecological Mangrove Restoration.

Guinea Bissau

In Guinea-Bissau, Wetlands International was instrumental in creating **PLANTA, the National Mangrove Landscape Platform**, which unites ministries, government agencies, NGOs, and international partners to coordinate mangrove action. PLANTA has already contributed to the drafting of a new national law on mangroves and a forthcoming National Mangrove Strategy. We contributed to a national digital restoration database to align and track projects across the country and trained PLANTA members in CBEMR and Global Mangrove Watch applications.

In 2024, we supported the launch of the **Guinea-Bissau Global Mangrove Alliance Chapter** and helped the country join the Mangrove Breakthrough, committing to global conservation and restoration goals.

At the landscape level, we also catalysed the **Jeta-Pecixe-Cacheu landscape stakeholder platform**, launched in April 2025, further embedding collaboration in key mangrove regions.



“The National Mangrove Management Committee has become a cornerstone for advancing Kenya’s mangrove agenda — guiding policy, aligning stakeholders, and ensuring that mangrove conservation is embedded in national strategies. Its success is proof that collaboration between government, research institutions, conservation organizations, and communities is the key to safeguarding these vital ecosystems”

Judith Okello

Chairperson, National Management Committee Kenya



Kenya

In Kenya, Wetlands International and our partners IUCN and WWF are active members of the **National Mangrove Management Committee**, which guides national policy frameworks and work plans under the National Mangrove Ecosystem Management Plan (2017–2027). Through this stakeholder coordination, Kenya adopted a 2023 work plan prioritising **County Mangrove Management Committees** and the development of national mangrove restoration guidelines. We are also an active partner in the **Kenya National Chapter of the Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA)**.

Locally, we have not built platforms, but instead built strong partnerships with the County Government of Lamu, Kenya Forest Service, research institutes, and community organizations (e.g. PRATI and Club Mikoko). Training of local champions through CBEMR workshops and the use of Global Mangrove Watch data has strengthened restoration efforts and patrol coordination.

Case study: Kenya's National Mangrove Management Committees

When Kenya’s mangroves were disappearing faster than they could recover, the government, NGOs, scientists, and communities often worked in isolation. Restoration efforts were fragmented, and policies lacked local ownership and coordination. The lack of a national mangrove strategy and dedicated governance structures to oversee policy, planning and practical initiatives at national and subnational levels meant efforts to protect, manage and restore mangroves were unable to reach full potential.

That changed in 2017 with the creation of the National Mangrove Management Committee (NMMC), established to implement the National Mangrove Ecosystem Management Plan (2017–2027). For the first time, all the key players including government agencies, research institutions, NGOs such as Wetlands International, and community forest associations sat around one table.

Together they created a common vision for mangroves, designed restoration guidelines, set up 5 county-level mangrove management committees, aligned local and national policies and introduced the use of tools like Global Mangrove Watch to track change. Wetlands International played a vital role in bridging science and practice, training local champions, and ensuring community voices were heard.

Today, the NMMC has strengthened protection for thousands of hectares of mangroves, restored degraded sites using best-practice methods like Community-based Ecological Mangrove Restoration, guided national policy, and supported livelihoods for coastal families.

In Kenya, the NMMC has become a powerful model of how stakeholder platforms can transform mangrove action.



The National Mangrove Management Committee has shown that when institutions, communities, and partners come together, we can turn strategies into real impact. By aligning efforts under the National Mangrove Ecosystem Management Plan, we are building a legacy of sustainable mangrove management that benefits both people and nature.

James Mburu,
Coast Regional Forest
Conservator, Kenya Forest
Service, Secretary to the NMMC

Contact us

To find out more about Mangrove Platforms, please get in touch with Elise Allély-Fermé, Senior Technical Officer, Coasts and Deltas, Wetlands International: elise.allely@wetlands.org.

Financially supported by:



Lessons learned

Multi-stakeholder platforms are game-changers. By convening government, civil society, the private sector and local communities, we help overcome fragmentation and built a joint vision and trust among stakeholders. Mangrove platforms have proven to be critical for aligning restoration efforts, embedding mangrove priorities in national strategies, and ensuring that local voices inform national decision-making.

We have also learned that capacity-building is essential: equipping both policymakers and community champions with best practices in mangrove restoration and tools like Global Mangrove Watch strengthens prioritization, implementation and monitoring.

Creating space for dialogue — for example in the Rufiji Delta or Senegal's Casamance region — has shown that conflicts can be transformed into opportunities for joint solutions.

Replication and scalability

The mangrove platforms established in Senegal, Tanzania, Kenya, and Guinea-Bissau demonstrate a **scalable model for mangrove governance and restoration**. National and regional platforms offer a replicable structure for project coordination, knowledge sharing and policy development and implementation, and can be scaled to other deltas, coastlines, and countries.



Saloum Delta, Senegal @Wetlands International

[wetlands.org](https://www.wetlands.org)