CONCEPT NOTE AND PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Brazil's Peatlands in Focus: Science, Peoples, Policies and Practices

Strategic Ecosystems for Climate, Water and Biodiversity

14–16 December 2026

ICMBio Headquarters Auditorium • Brasília, Federal District

Science, public policy and cooperation to inform a national strategy for peatland conservation, restoration and sustainable use.



Organização

Centro Nacional de Pesquisa e Conservação da Biodiversidade e Restauração Ecológica (CBC/ICMBio); GIZ; Wetlands International Brasil; Mupan - Mulheres em Ação no Pantanal; Universidade Federal dos Vales do Jequitinhonha e Mucuri (UFVJM); Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC).

Organizers

National Center for Biodiversity Conservation and Ecological Restoration (CBC/ICMBio); GIZ; Wetlands International Brazil; Mupan – Women in Action in the Pantanal; Federal University of the Jequitinhonha and Mucuri Valleys (UFVJM); Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC).

Format

Two and a half days of presentations, plenary sessions and working groups, with in-person and online participation. Closing on 16 December at 11:30 a.m.

1 Background and rationale

Peatlands are wetland ecosystems whose soils accumulate organic matter and carbon over long periods. Their conservation contributes to climate change mitigation and to maintaining biodiversity and hydrological functions. Drainage, degradation and fires can jeopardize these carbon stocks and increase greenhouse gas emissions.

In Brazil, the diversity and distribution of these ecosystems still require inventories, field validation and integrated monitoring. Understanding carbon stocks and fluxes, hydrology, biodiversity and land-use pressures is essential to guide conservation, restoration and climate planning.

The final report of the COP30 Action Agenda, held in Belém in 2025, includes, in its section on implementing nature-based solutions, the scientific framework of global targets and guiding principles for peatlands developed by the Peatland Breakthrough. The document links protection, restoration, rewetting and sustainable use to climate mitigation and resilience.

The workshop aims to translate this international recognition into priorities for the Brazilian context, connecting research, public policy, territorial management and social participation. Its main contribution will be to inform the development of a National Strategy for the Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of Brazil’s Peatlands.

Protected areas and peatlands

Protected areas can safeguard peatlands and the hydrological processes that sustain their carbon stocks, biodiversity and ecological functions. This protection also depends on the integrity of contributing catchments and the prevention of surrounding pressures, such as drainage, land-use change and fires. Inventorying these ecosystems within protected areas is a priority for identifying their occurrence, assessing threats and guiding management.

Protected areas also offer opportunities for research, long-term monitoring and hydrological restoration initiatives. The workshop will discuss how to incorporate peatlands into management plans, integrated fire management and restoration actions, including links with the RESTAURA ICMBio Programme. In protected areas that are part of Ramsar Sites, this agenda can strengthen the conservation of wetlands of international importance. This work should bring together managers, research centres, scientific partners and communities, while respecting the objectives of each protected-area category.

Indigenous Peoples, traditional communities and peatlands

Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities maintain cultural, social and livelihood relationships with territories where peatlands occur. Their knowledge of water, soils, vegetation and environmental change can contribute to the inventory, monitoring, conservation and restoration of these ecosystems. Development of the national strategy should value this knowledge, foster dialogue with science and ensure meaningful participation by these peoples and communities in defining priorities and actions, while respecting their rights, ways of life and forms of organization.

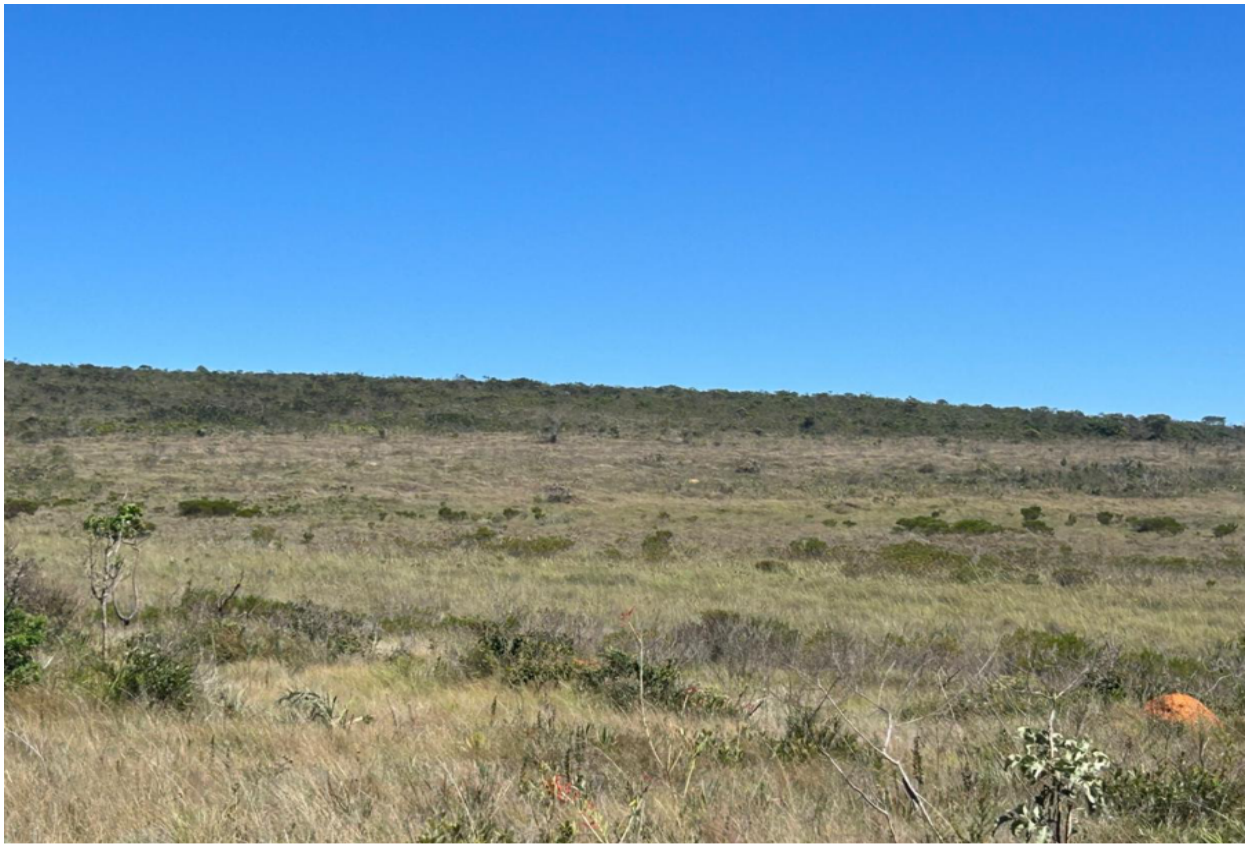
2 Workshop objectives

Overall objective

To inform the development of a national strategy for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of Brazilian peatlands, strengthening their integration into climate policy and the biodiversity and water-security agendas.

Specific objectives

- Discuss the contribution of peatlands to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Assess available knowledge and identify gaps in inventories, mapping, research and monitoring.
- Define priorities for conservation, hydrological restoration and sustainable use.
- Identify pathways for integration into Brazil’s Climate Plan, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and greenhouse gas accounting.
- Strengthen scientific and institutional cooperation and formulate next steps for the national strategy.



3 Participation and methodology

The workshop will bring together representatives of public agencies, research institutions, universities, civil society organizations, international cooperation organizations, Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities, seeking to integrate scientific knowledge and place-based experience.

Science and assessment

Presentations and discussions will examine available knowledge on peatland distribution, carbon stocks and fluxes, biodiversity, hydrological dynamics and the effects of degradation and fires.

Public policy and cooperation

Sessions will discuss climate and biodiversity instruments, governance, financing and international cooperation, with attention to institutional responsibilities and implementation conditions in Brazil.

Working groups

Three groups are proposed: (1) research and restoration; (2) inventory and mapping; and (3) conservation and public policy. Each group should identify priorities, actions, potential leads, partners, indicative timelines and monitoring indicators.

4 Expected outputs

The proposed outputs will be discussed and validated in plenary, recording areas of agreement, differing views and information gaps.

- Synthesis of available knowledge and priority gaps.
- Matrix of priority actions to inform the national strategy.
- Recommendations for integrating peatlands into climate and biodiversity instruments.
- Agenda for cooperation, capacity building and resource mobilization.
- Workshop report and proposed next steps to continue the work.

5 Follow-up

It is proposed that the results be consolidated in a technical document and that participating institutions agree on a follow-up mechanism. Responsibilities, deadlines and coordination arrangements will be defined during the workshop.

6 Preliminary programme

14 December 2026 | Day 1

Time	Activity and focus
08:30–10:00	**Registration and coffee**
10:00–10:40	**Opening** Welcome, objectives and expected outcomes
10:40–11:00	**Opening keynote** Peatlands as a nature-based solution for climate, water and biodiversity
11:00–11:20	**Global agenda** Global peatlands agenda, Peatland Breakthrough and international cooperation
11:20–11:40	**Discussion**
12:00–14:00	**Lunch**
14:00–14:20	**Session 1 · Science and knowledge** State of knowledge on peatlands in Brazil
14:20–14:40	**Session 1 · Science and knowledge** Biodiversity associated with peatlands
14:40–15:00	**Session 1 · Science and knowledge** Hydrological importance and water security
15:00–15:20	**Session 1 · Science and knowledge** Traditional knowledge associated with peatlands
15:20–15:45	**Session 1 · Science and knowledge** Palaeoenvironmental reconstruction
15:45–16:05	**Session 1 · Science and knowledge** Discussion
16:05–16:30	**Coffee break**
16:30–16:55	**Session 1 · Science and knowledge** Peatlands of the Cerrado biome
16:55–17:15	**Session 1 · Science and knowledge** Challenges of fighting peatland fires
17:15–17:35	**Discussion** Knowledge gaps and research priorities
17:35–18:00	**Day 1 wrap-up** Key messages and questions for the following days

Preliminary programme

15 December 2026 | Day 2

Time	Activity and focus
08:45–09:05	**Session 2 · Mapping and inventory** National Wetlands Inventory – progress and expectations for 2027
09:05–09:25	**Session 2 · Mapping and inventory** Mapping wetlands in the Amazon
09:25–09:45	**Session 2 · Mapping and inventory** Peatland mapping – from field to space
09:45–10:05	**Session 2 · Mapping and inventory** Carbon stocks, fluxes and emission factors
10:05–10:20	**Coffee break**
10:20–10:45	**Session 2 · Mapping and inventory** The Cerrado drying from within – geospatial data production to analyse water losses and sandification of veredas in the Urucuia Aquifer System
10:45–11:05	**Discussion** Elements of a national peatland inventory and monitoring system
11:05–11:25	**Session 3 · Restoration and conservation** Principles of peatland hydrological restoration
11:25–11:45	**Session 3 · Restoration and conservation** Rewetting and vegetation recovery
11:45–12:05	**Session 3 · Restoration and conservation** Peatlands in Ramsar Sites and Protected Areas
12:05–12:25	**Discussion** Scale, criteria and priority areas for peatland conservation and restoration
12:25–14:00	**Lunch**
14:00–14:20	**Session 4 · Public policy and financing** National pathways to integrate peatlands into climate and biodiversity policies
14:20–14:45	**Session 4 · Public policy and financing** Climate funds and international cooperation: GEF, GIZ/IKI and others
14:45–15:20	**Discussion** How to finance Brazil’s peatland agenda
15:20–15:50	**Coffee break**
15:50–17:30	**Working groups** WG1 Research, restoration and traditional knowledge; WG2 Inventory and mapping; WG3 Conservation and public policy. Definition of priorities, responsible parties and proposals for the final document.

Preliminary programme

16 December 2026 | Day 3

Time	Activity and focus
08:30–08:40	**Recap** Summary of Day 2 and organization of the morning
08:40–09:30	**Working-group plenary** Presentations by the three working groups and discussion of recommendations
09:30–10:00	**Break / coffee**
10:00–10:30	**Governance and cooperation** Inputs for developing a National Strategy for Peatland Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use
10:30–11:00	**Next steps** Roadmap for developing a National Strategy for the Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of Brazil’s Peatlands: responsibilities and next steps
11:00–11:30	**Closing** Summary, commitments and acknowledgements

