



13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

**“Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future”
Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 21-29 October 2018**

Ramsar COP13 Doc.7

Admission of observers

1. The Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties foresee the participation of observers in two categories:
 - the United Nations, its specialized agencies and States not party to the Convention; and
 - any body or agency qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

United Nations, its specialized agencies and non-party States

2. Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure specifies that observers representing the United Nations, its specialized agencies and States not party to the Convention may participate upon invitation of the President, "unless at least one-third of the Contracting Parties present at the meeting object".
3. For observers in this category, the Secretariat had received the following pre-registrations as of 6 October 2018:

Non-party States:

- Angola
- Ethiopia
- Saudi Arabia

United Nations and its specialized agencies:

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Environment Programme

Bodies and agencies qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands

4. Rules 7.1 and 7.2 address the “Participation of other bodies or agencies” as follows:
 - 7.1. *Any body or agency, national or international, whether governmental or non-governmental, qualified in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, which has informed the Secretariat of its wish to be represented at meetings of*

the Conference of the Parties may be represented at the meeting by observers, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.

7.2 Bodies or agencies desiring to receive recognition as observers for the purposes of attending meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall submit appropriate documentation to the Secretariat for consideration three months prior to any ordinary meeting and one month prior to an extraordinary meeting.

5. Rule 7.7 requires the Secretariat to notify bodies or agencies that were approved previously of the date and venue of sessions of the Conference of the Parties "so that they may be represented".

Bodies or agencies previously approved

6. The following bodies or agencies that have been approved to be represented by observers at previous meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties have registered to participate at COP13:

Intergovernmental

- African Développement Bank
- European Space Agency
- International Union for Conservation of Nature – IUCN
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Secretariat of the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)
- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

Non-governmental

- Agrupación Defensa y Conservación Maule Mataquito
- Algerian National Association of Ornithology (ANAO)
- Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA)
- BirdLife International
 - BSC - BirdLife Canada
 - SEO/BirdLife
- Centre for African Wetlands
- Centro Regional Ramsar para la Capacitacion e Investigación sobre humedales para el Hemisferio Occidental (CREHO)
- Charles Sturt University
- Conservation International
- Corporación Montañas
- East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)
- Eco-Horizon Institute
- Fondation Tour du Valat
- Fujimae Ramsar Society
- Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN)
- Gakushuin University
- IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

- Mahidol University
- MAVA Foundation
- MedWet - the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative
- National Centre for Sustainable Development, Romania
- National Trust for Nature Conservation
- Nigerian Conservation Foundation
- Nile Basin Initiative
- OISCA International
- Ramsar Center Japan
- Ramsar Network Japan
- Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia
- Ramsar Regional Center in Central and West Asia
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia (RRI-CA), Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)
- River Center of Hokkaido
- Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)
- Stetson University College of Law
- The Nature Conservancy
- Toyooka City
- Université Senghor d'Alexandrie
- University of Saskatchewan
- Wetlands International
- Wetlands International China
- Wetlands International Ethiopia
- Wetlands International Japan
- Wetlands International South Asia
- Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
- World Wetland Network
- WWF International
- WWF China
- WWF Greece
- WWF Spain
- WWF Turkey

Bodies or agencies seeking approval
and that have met the criteria

7. The following bodies or agencies have informed the Secretariat of their wish to be recognized as observers, and have provided the information required by Rule 7.2:

Intergovernmental

- Arab Regional Center for World Heritage
- GIZ
- Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- The Cooperation Council for The Arab States of the Gulf - Secretariat General

Non-governmental

- Al Mergeb University, Faculty of Sciences

- Association de l'Education Environnementale pour les Futures Générations
- Bwindi Forest Community Development Organisation
- Centre de Formation en Gestion de Ressources Naturelles pour le Développement Agricole et Coopératif de Badja
- Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment
- Centre International de Droit Comparé de l'Environnement
- China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation
- Commissariat Nationale du Littoral
- Compassion in World Farming
- DHI Water & Environment (M) Sdn. Bhd.
- Emirates Wildlife Society in association with WWF (EWS-WWF)
- Environment Society of Oman
- Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature
- International Center for Environmental Research
- International Centre for Environmental Education and Community Development
- Massellaz SA
- Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos (Med-INA)
- Mediterranean Sea and Coast Foundation
- Mediterranean Small Islands Initiative (PIM Initiative)
- ONG Volontariat Pour L'Environnement
- Partenariat Régional pour la conservation de la zone cotière et marine (PRCM)
- Réseau Africain des Jeunes sur les Zones Humides
- Réseau Association Khnifiss
- Stockholm Environment Institute
- Sydney Olympic Park Authority
- Terra Cypria The Cyprus Conservation Foundation
- Tetra Tech/WA BiCC-USAID-funded Programme
- WWT Consulting

Bodies or agencies seeking approval
and that have not met the criteria

8. The following bodies or agencies have informed the Secretariat of their wish to be recognized as observers, but have not provided the information required under Rule 7.2 and are therefore not submitted for approval:
 - Afrique Environnement Développement Télévision
 - Association des Agriculteurs et Pisciculteurs d'Akak I, Cameroon
 - Association des Journalistes Scientifiques du Cameroun
 - Association Eau et Tourisme, Cameroon
 - Cabinet d'Etude Environnementale, Cameroon
 - Corporación para el Desarrollo Sostenible del Sur de la Amazonia Colombiana
 - Corporación Red Nacional de Mujeres Comunes Comunitarias Indígenas y Campesinas, Colombia
 - Réseau des Communes du Bassin du Fleuve Nyong (RECOBAN)
 - Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
 - Universidad Católica Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, Paraguay

Recommendation

9. The President may invite the States and organizations listed in paragraph 3 to be represented by observers in the meeting unless one-third of the Parties present object.
10. The Conference of the Parties is invited to approve the participation in the present meeting of observers representing the bodies and agencies listed in paragraph 7.