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

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 Development 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
- 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
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
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 Comunales Comunitarias Indígenas y Campesinas, Colombia
- Réseau des Communes du Bassin du Fleuve Nyong (RECOBAN)
- Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico
- 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.