

**14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties  
to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

**“Wetlands Actions for People and Nature”  
Wuhan, China and Geneva, Switzerland, 5-13 November 2022**

**Ramsar COP14 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 18 October 2022:

#### Non-party States:

- Saudi Arabia

#### United Nations and its specialized agencies:

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- 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 COP14:

Intergovernmental

- GIZ
- International Union for Conservation of Nature – IUCN
- Secretariat of the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)
- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- Secretariat Pro Tempore of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
- UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Non-governmental

- ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
- Australasian Wader Studies Group
- Baab group
- BirdLife International
- Centre International de Droit Comparé de l'Environnement (CIDCE)
- China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation
- Conservation International
- Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project
- Corporación Montañas
- East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)
- Eco-Horizon Institute
- Fondation Tour du Valat
- Global Nature Fund
- IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
- International Mire Conservation Group / Greifswald Mire Centre
- International Water Management Institute
- MedWet - the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative
- Nigerian Conservation Foundation
- Ramsar Center Japan
- Ramsar Network Japan
- Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia
- SEO/BirdLife

- Society of Wetland Scientists
- Stetson University College of Law
- The Nature Conservancy
- Volontariat Pour l'Environnement
- Wetlands International
- Wetlands International Indonesia
- Wetlands International Japan
- Wetlands International South Asia
- Wild Bird Society of Japan
- World Wetland Network
- Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)
- WWF Germany
- WWF International
- Youth Engaged in Wetlands

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

- Métis National Council, Canada

Non-governmental

- Action Jeunesse pour le Développement, Congo
- Beijing Friends of Nature Charity Foundation, China
- Center for Large Landscape Conservation, United States of America
- Commonland Foundation, Netherlands
- Forum for Nature Protection, Nepal
- Institute for Sustainable Development and Research ISDR, India
- Shenzhen Mangrove Wetlands Conservation Foundation, China
- Society of Entrepreneurs & Ecology (SEE), China
- Sustainable Environment Food and Agriculture Initiative, Nigeria

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:

- Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development
- Vlinder Climate

### Recommendation

9. The President may invite the State 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.