



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES

CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES

(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

PRESS RELEASE

The State of Kuwait becomes the 169th Contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Designates Mubarak Al-Kabeer Reserve as its first Wetland of International Importance.

Gland, Switzerland | 7 September 2015 - The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention is pleased to announce the State of Kuwait as the 169th Contracting Party of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Secretariat learned of the country's accession to the Convention through the United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the depository organization for the Ramsar Convention. The Convention came into force in Kuwait on 5 September, 2015.

On the occasion of accession to the Ramsar Convention, and in fulfilment of a key obligation of all Parties, Kuwait announced the designation of the [Mubarak Al-Kabeer Reserve](#) onto the List of Wetlands of International Importance ('Ramsar Sites'). The Site becomes the latest addition to over 2,200 Ramsar Sites around the world, considered to be of international importance because of the valuable ecosystem services and benefits they provide to people and the environment.

Dr. Christopher Briggs, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention said, "We are happy to welcome the State of Kuwait to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The adoption of the Convention by Kuwait demonstrates the country's strong commitment towards the long-term conservation and wise use of their wetlands. The newly designated Mubarak Al-Kabeer Reserve Ramsar Site is situated on two major migration routes for birds from Eurasia to Africa, and from Turkey to India. The Secretariat and Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention look forward to working closely with Kuwait to help to prevent, stop and reverse wetland loss and degradation."

The Mubarak Al-Kabeer Reserve, (50,948 hectares), is located on Boubyan Island, the largest island in Kuwait. The Site is flat and low, and supports shallow salt marshes and small lagoons. It is important as a staging post for migrating birds, as well as for hosting populations of breeding waterbirds. These include the world's largest breeding colony of Crab Plover (*Dromas ardeola*), and the waters around it are a major nursery area for many commercial fish species while a range of species of dolphins and porpoises frequent the murky waters around the site.

Click [here](#) for more information about the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Reserve Ramsar Site.

Note to editors

About the Ramsar Convention

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is the intergovernmental treaty that provides the global framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. It is the only global treaty to focus on a single ecosystem. The Convention was signed in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and entered into force in 1975. Since then, 168 countries, almost 90% of UN member states from the entire world's geographic regions have acceded and become Contracting Parties. The State of Kuwait will become the 169th Contracting Party to the Convention on Wetlands.

Under this treaty, member states undertake to ensure the wise use of all the wetlands in their territory by undertaking local and national action, and collaborate internationally to maintain the ecological characteristics of wetlands. Each Contracting Party upon accession to the Convention designates at least one priority wetland site as a Wetland of International Importance because of the valuable ecosystem services they provide. These Sites are added to the network of Ramsar Sites worldwide. Currently there are over 2,200 designated Ramsar Sites globally, covering an area of 210 million hectares, an area larger than Mexico.

About wetlands

The definition of the word 'wetland', under the Convention, is any land area that is saturated or flooded with water, either seasonally or permanently. Inland wetlands include aquifers, lakes, rivers, streams, marshes, peatlands, ponds, flood plains and swamps. Coastal wetlands include all coastlines, mangroves, saltmarshes, estuaries, lagoons, sea grass meadows and coral reefs.

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