



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards 2015

The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards were established in 1996 to recognise and honour the achievements of individuals, organisations and governments around the world for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. They will be awarded for the sixth time at the 12th meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties (COP12), which will take place in Uruguay in June 2015.

Information on past editions of the Ramsar Award is available on the Ramsar web site:

<http://www.ramsar.org/Ramsar-Award/>.

Three Awards will be granted – each accompanied by an Evian Special Prize of US\$ 10,000 kindly offered by the DANONE Group – in the following categories:

- a) The Ramsar Convention Award for Wetland Wise Use;
- b) The Ramsar Convention Award for Wetland Innovation; and
- c) The Ramsar Convention Award for Young Wetland Champions.

Nominations must be submitted in one of these three categories.

How to obtain a nomination form

The nomination form for the Ramsar Wetland Convention Awards can be downloaded from the Ramsar Web site at <http://www.ramsar.org/Ramsar-Award/>, or obtained electronically or in hard copy from:

The Ramsar Convention Secretariat
Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland
Fax: +41 22 999 01 69,
E-mail: award@ramsar.org.

**The deadline for receipt of nominations by the Ramsar Secretariat is
15 July 2014**

Nominations received after this date will not be considered.

Please note that the receipt of nominations will be acknowledged but that no further communication will take place unless further information is requested, or the nominee has been selected to receive an Award.

The Award winners will be announced on the Ramsar web site.



The Ramsar Award programme is carried out with the support of the DANONE-
Evian Fund for Water to support the Ramsar Convention.



Categories, Criteria and Procedures

Categories

1. One Ramsar Award shall be awarded for each of the following categories:
 - a) **The Ramsar Convention Award for Wetland Wise Use**, rewarding a person, project, programme or policy that has made a significant documented contribution to the long-term sustainable use of wetlands, either at specific wetlands (including Ramsar Sites) or on a broader scale, and which can be replicated elsewhere.
 - b) **The Ramsar Convention Award for Wetland Innovation**, rewarding a person, project, programme or policy that has contributed to the conservation and wise use of wetlands through an innovative technique or approach.
 - c) **The Ramsar Convention Award for Young Wetland Champions**, rewarding a young person or a group of young people that has contributed to the wise use of wetlands, through activities including but not limited to awareness raising, campaigning, restoration and other conservation efforts. For the purpose of this Award, people between 18 and 30 years old or groups with members and leader between 18 and 30 years old at the time of the nomination will be considered.

All of these awards are generously supported by the DANONE-Evian Fund for Water.

Eligibility

2. Individuals and groups of all nations are invited to nominate individuals, institutions (including government institutions and non-governmental organizations and community groups), or private companies, of any nation.
3. Nominees must be alive at the time of nomination. Awards will not be given posthumously.
4. Self-nominations will not be accepted.
5. Nominations of current members of the Ramsar Standing Committee, members and invited experts of Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Ramsar Secretariat staff members will not be accepted.

Criteria

6. **Criteria applicable to all three categories of Ramsar Award:**

The selection of nominees and Award winners will be based on the satisfaction of several of the following criteria:

- a) A proven and documented record of achievement and success in one of the three categories;
- b) A direct link between activities and the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, whether locally, nationally, regionally or globally;
- c) The capacity of activities to be replicated, to inspire others or to serve as practical examples for others;
- d) The significance of achievements, regardless of the geographic scale of their impact;
- e) The demonstrable impact of activities on awareness of wetlands and their values and the services they provide; and
- f) The clarity with which the nomination is presented and the activities and achievements described.

g) Requests for study grants will not be considered.

7. Criteria applicable to the Ramsar Convention Award for Wetland Wise Use:

The concept of the wise use of wetlands, defined as “the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development” is at the heart of the Ramsar philosophy. Nominees will be favoured which demonstrate outstanding achievement in meeting one or several of the following criteria:

- a) Demonstrable positive outcomes of sustainable wetland practices;
- b) Demonstrable overall benefits in the area where activities are being implemented;
- c) Demonstrated use of the ecosystem approach within a sustainable development context;
- d) A mission and purpose that relates directly to the conservation of wetlands and the communication of its importance;
- e) Replicability of the approaches and outcomes; and
- f) Reconciliation of sustainable resource use practices with long-term wetland conservation objectives.

8. Criteria applicable to the Ramsar Convention Award for Wetland Innovation:

Nominees will be favoured which demonstrate innovative actions supporting the conservation and wise use of wetlands, whether through new techniques or new approaches, which meet one or several of the following criteria:

- a) An innovation, which is truly a new concept rather than a variation of an existing one;
- b) The demonstrable usefulness and impact of the innovation;
- c) Its demonstrable applicability, practicality, and replicability; and
- d) Wide recognition of the innovation.

9. Criteria applicable to the Ramsar Convention Award for Young Wetland Champions:

Nominations will be assessed against the following criteria:

- a) Individuals nominated must be between 18 and 30 years old at the time of nomination. The members and leader(s) of nominated groups must be within the same age range. Dates of birth must be provided.
- b) A proven and documented record of achievement in activities or projects on the conservation and wise use of wetlands. These may involve community work, research, awareness raising, restoration work, or any other activity undertaken to benefit wetlands.
- c) The activity or project must clearly refer to the mission of the Ramsar Convention.
- d) Projects or activities must be in an advanced implementation stage to be considered.

Nomination procedure

10. Nominations must be submitted to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat in English, French or Spanish, using the Ramsar Award form available from the Ramsar Secretariat in Gland, Switzerland, and on the Ramsar web site (<http://www.ramsar.org/Ramsar-Award/>). The nomination must include a summary of up to 250 words describing the achievements of the nominee and the reasons for the nomination.
11. The form must be accompanied by a document of up to 2,500 words, providing the necessary background, explaining how the nomination corresponds to the objectives and criteria of the Award, and providing an assessment of the results achieved.
12. Nominations must be accompanied by letters of recommendation from two independent individuals (not including the nominator) who are not related to the nominee, and do not work in the same

organization, who can assess the nominee's contributions and can be contacted by the evaluation panel.

13. The nomination will be assessed on the basis of the nomination form, the additional information provided and the letters of reference.
14. Nominations must be accompanied by at least one high resolution photograph of the nominee (person or team) in electronic form (minimum size of 1920x1080 pixels) with photo credits and permission for use by the Ramsar Secretariat at its discretion, including when announcing the Ramsar Award winners.
15. All winners must be ready to provide at least 20 high-resolution images illustrating their activities and achievements, with captions, photo credits and permission for use by the Ramsar Secretariat at its discretion and by DANONE-Evian for Award publicity material in different media.
16. Limited additional information such as images, short videos or links to web resources may also be provided, preferably in electronic form, to illustrate the nomination.
- 17. The deadline for submitting nominations is 15 July 2014. This date shall be final.**
18. Self-nominations will not be accepted.
19. Direct approaches to members of the Ramsar Standing Committee (acting as the selection committee) will disqualify any nominee from further consideration.

Selection procedure

20. The Ramsar Secretariat will evaluate the nominations received and submit a shortlist with recommendations to the Ramsar Standing Committee for its consideration. In undertaking this evaluation, the Secretariat may seek the advice of members of the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), the Communication, Education, Participation, and Awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel or others, as appropriate.
21. The Standing Committee will select the Award winners, and its decision will be final.

Announcement and presentation of Awards

22. The Secretariat will announce the Award winners on the Ramsar Web site as soon as they have all confirmed their acceptance of the Award.
23. The Ramsar Award will be presented during the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, and every effort will be made to ensure the presence of individual Award winners and of a representative of any Award-winning group or institution.

Ramsar merit awards

24. The selection committee may decide to grant a merit award to nominated individuals or institutions because of their long-term contribution or commitment to the conservation and wise use of wetlands and to Ramsar principles, although they may not be selected for one of the three Ramsar Awards.
25. Merit awards would be rewarded with a certificate. They would not be accompanied by any monetary rewards. If funding were made available, recipients of a merit award might be invited to receive their certificate at the Awards ceremony.