



## **African Preparatory Meeting for the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

**Dakar, Senegal, 26 February to 2 March 2018**

### **Summary Report**

From 26 February to 2 March 2018, delegates from 46 African Ramsar Contracting Parties and representatives of Ramsar IOPs and other observers, met in Dakar, Senegal for the African preparatory meeting for Ramsar COP13 scheduled to be held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, from 21 to 29 October 2018.

The meeting was hosted by the Government of Senegal and facilitated by the Directorate of National Parks of Senegal together with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. The Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Pr. Mame Thierno Dieng welcomed the delegates to Senegal. The Minister also offered an official dinner to all participants on behalf of the Government of Senegal on 28 February after the visit of 3 wetlands (Somone Ramsar Site; Lac Rose and Technopole wetland).

The delegates and observers organized into five working groups corresponding to the sub regions of Central Africa, Eastern Africa, Northern Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean, and Western Africa. They have reviewed 20 draft resolutions proposed for the Ramsar COP13. Comments were collected from each working group after the presentation at plenary sessions. During the regional meetings at COP13, the delegates will provide African common views to be voiced at COP13 plenary sessions. The delegates also provided nominations of African Standing Committee representatives and their alternates for the 2018-2021 triennium.

Prior to the PreCOP meeting, the GlobWetland Africa Project and the Ramsar Secretariat organized a technical training workshop from 23 to 24 February 2018 to present the first official release of the GlobWetland Africa Toolbox with a demonstration of its main functionalities. This workshop provided participants with the opportunity to gain first hands-on experiences.

During the PreCOP meeting several partners including JOP/SWOS, BirdLife International, IUCN/PACO, PRCM and University of Bonn (Germany) held some side events on policy advice to reconcile food production and wetland protection; coastal wetlands and coastal birds' protection; wetlands restoration; and local NGOs role for wetlands conservation.