



Americas Regional Meeting of the Convention of Wetlands in preparation to the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP13) of the Ramsar Convention

San Jose, Costa Rica 12 – 16 March 2018

SUMMARY REPORT

The Americas Regional Meeting of the Convention of Wetlands in preparation to the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP13) was held in San Jose, Costa Rica from the 12 to 16 March 2018. In attendance were delegates from 27 Contracting Parties (CPs) from North America, Central America, the Caribbean and South America. Also present were representatives of IUCN, Wetlands International, JICA, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the region and the Ramsar Convention on Wetland Secretariat.

The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica. The Secretary General, Martha Rojas Urrego and the Minister of Environment and Energy, Hon. Edgar Gutiérrez Espeleta, opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates to Costa Rica.

The Americas Regional started with a presentation of the Host Country on the progress in the Conservation and Management of Wetlands in Costa Rica followed by the recognition of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Honduras for the designation of Ramsar Sites. A session followed on the report of the Regional Initiatives Coordinators in the Americas and successful experiences and lessons learned in implementation during the triennium by Contracting Parties, Intergovernmental Organizations, NGOs).

The Ramsar Secretariat presented the report on implementation of the Convention during the triennium and the chair of the Scientific and Technical and Review Panel (STRP) presented the report on the Work Plan.

The delegates reviewed 20 draft Resolutions and 11 documents that will be discussed by Contracting Parties at Standing Committee 54 and for further consideration by the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP13). The documents were discussed and comments and concerns about each DR will be taken to the Ramsar Standing Committee meeting 54 by Colombia, Cuba, Honduras, and United States of America as Ramsar Standing Committee representatives. The delegates also discussed the roles and responsibilities of Standing Committee Representatives and the nominations for the next triennium.

The Declaration of San Jose, that recognizes the importance of regional cooperation through regional initiatives with Ramsar Secretariat support and commitments towards wetlands conservation, was also formulated and approved by the delegates during the meeting.

The participants had a range of formal and informal opportunities to interact, build relationships and expand networks throughout the meeting. A field trip organized by the Ministry of Environment to the Reventazon River Basin portrayed the management experience of wetlands in Costa Rica, from sustainable production of energy to agricultural practices focused on social needs and education.

This meeting was highly appreciated by the CPs as it allowed them to share experiences, to discuss common issues to strengthen regional collaboration towards the wise use of wetlands. The Ramsar Convention Secretariat on behalf of the Ramsar Contracting Parties in the region would like to thank the government of Canada for the generous financial support towards holding of the Pre-COP13 Americas Regional Meeting.

