

Update on progress with wetland city accreditation

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Wetlands and Urbanization



- **Resolution X.27** '*Wetlands and Urbanization*' (2008, COP10) called for the conservation of urban and peri-urban wetlands , especially through appropriate formulation and implement of land-use planning and management.
- **Resolution XI.11** '*Principles for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands*' (2011, COP11) asked the Convention to explore '...establishing a wetland city accreditation, which may in turn provide positive branding opportunities for cities that demonstrate strong and positive relationships with wetlands'.



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- **Norway (2010)** conducted a pilot project and unofficially announced Ørland municipality as their first “Ramsar municipality”. The trial was not continued.
- **France (July 2011)** The Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing , launched the "*Wetlands in an urban environment* " award with the aim of rewarding communities (urban or rural), that have implemented urban planning strategies or approaches that take into account wetlands and their functions.
- **R.O. Korea (2013)** began a pilot ‘wetland villages’ project with villages adjacent to two Ramsar Sites. Both villages had to follow a number of guidelines, e.g. establishing of a broad-based decision-making committee and carrying out awareness and conservation activities.

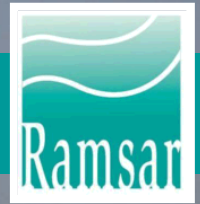
Wetlands and Urbanization



- **Decision SC46-05 (2013)** the R.O. Korea kindly offered to host a workshop to explore the development of a wetland city accreditation scheme.
- **Workshop on Wetland City Accreditation Mechanism** (Jeju, R.O. Korea, 24 - 25 February 2014).
- **Proposed guiding principles for the wetland city accreditation scheme** The operation of the scheme should be linked with Resolution XI.11 which can act as a background reference.



Possible Criteria



The settlement:

- recognizes the full range of ecosystem services and benefits that the wetland provides;
- encourages and provides opportunities for all relevant stakeholders to be involved in maintaining the ecosystem services provided by the wetland, especially through integrating wetland conservation and wise use into spatial planning, policies and other process, so that the wetland can contribute to sustainable development, both social and environmental, of the settlement,
- takes steps to avoid any further degradation or loss of the wetland and where this is not possible, to mitigate for impacts and make appropriate compensation for any residual effects by offsets.

Accreditation or award?



Accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• requires an independent, international body to verify, provide the accreditation and to monitor compliance (could be support nationally);• the accreditation body and process would require resources.
Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Given on a one-off basis to recognize excellence or ability to meet a certain standard;• Simpler and cheaper to administer.



What size of settlement?



Cities, towns and other conurbations only	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resolution XI.11 is concerned with the planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands,• Promote the conservation of urban and peri-urban which may not be eligible for designation as a Ramsar Site but which are provide important ecosystem services.
Includes villages also	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity to involve the local government and community living adjacent to Ramsar Sites in rural areas.



How close is the connection?



Wetland adjacent to settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• e.g. settlement within or adjacent to the wetland
Wetland further from settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• e.g. a settlement and the watershed which provide water for the settlement



Ramsar Sites and other Wetlands



Ramsar Sites only	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide further support for the conservation and wise use of the Ramsar Site
Ramsar Sites and other wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resolution XI.11 refers to improving the planning and management of all wetlands, not just those designated as Ramsar Site.• This would lead to greater awareness of non-designated wetlands and encourage improved planning and management of these sites.



When to award the accreditation



- The accreditation can be awarded (and re-awarded) every three years, e.g. at the time of the Ramsar COP, to settlements demonstrating significant progress in the wise use and conservation of their wetlands over the previous three years.



