

World Wetlands Day 2018, 2019 and 2020

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to note the information on World Wetlands Day 2018 and requested to take a decision on the themes proposed for 2019 and 2020.

World Wetlands Day 2018

1. At its 53rd meeting, the Standing Committee approved “Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future” as the theme for World Wetlands Day in 2018. This theme highlights the important role of wetlands for cities, given that rapid urbanization and the current development of human settlements is of concern for wetland conservation and wise use.
2. “Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future” was also approved at the same meeting to serve as the theme for the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention, to be held in Dubai from 21 to 29 October 2018.
3. The Secretariat has developed a series of information materials relevant to the theme, in order to support the outreach activities of Parties and International Organization Partners during World Wetlands Day 2018. These materials were made available online on the dedicated World Wetlands Day website at www.worldwetlandsday.org, and Parties were duly informed through a Ramsar Exchange / Réseau / Intercambios email message sent on 4 December 2017 and a reminder sent through the same mail lists on 17 January 2018. The Secretariat has provided copies of the information materials to interested parties on request.
4. To capture the global reach of World Wetlands Day and register the number of local events organized, an online map of events was published on the website at <http://www.worldwetlandsday.org/map>. Parties, International Organization Partners (IOPs) and other interested organizations were invited to register their events.
5. In addition, the Secretariat undertook a global outreach campaign, mainly using social media, to raise public awareness about the important role of wetlands for cities. Parties, IOPs, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and international and national non-governmental organizations were encouraged to support the campaign with their communications assets.
6. The Secretariat would like to recognize in particular UN Habitat, World Wide Fund for Nature, the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, as key partners in promoting the 2018 edition of World Wetlands Day. The Danone Group is acknowledged for providing funding to develop the information materials.

Proposed themes for 2019 and 2020

7. The Standing Committee is invited to decide on the themes for World Wetlands Day in 2019 and 2020, for example from among the following options:
 - a. Wetlands and water;
 - b. Wetlands and climate change;
 - c. Wetlands and food security; or
 - d. Wetlands and biodiversity.