



## **8-10/06: Amiens Hosts the 2<sup>nd</sup> Roundtable of Mayors of Cities Labelled "City of Wetlands Accredited by the Ramsar Convention"**

From 8 to 10 June 2023, at the Quai de l'Innovation (rue du Hocquet), the city of Amiens will host the 2nd roundtable of the mayors of cities labelled "City of wetlands accredited by the Ramsar Convention". On this occasion, representatives of cities holding this international label (from 4 continents), will come to Amiens, France, to work on the important subject of the preservation of wetlands, in and around urban areas.

This event is co-organised with the Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia (RRC-EA), which serves as the secretariat for this global network, and in partnership with the Ministry of Ecological Transition, the Artois-Picardy Water Agency, the Somme Departmental Council, Ramsar France, the French Office for Biodiversity, and SEMOP Amiens Energies.

More than 150 participants will gather for a highlight of the functioning of this network, which aims to contribute to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention through the collective efforts of local governments and local communities. It serves as a platform for effective communication between wetland cities, promotes the exchange of information on experiences and lessons learned in managing urban and peri-urban wetlands in line with local policies, facilitates dialogues to develop environmental and socio-economic cooperation between wetland cities, and provides access to resource exchanges between network members.

The meeting will help to establish the functioning of the network, by working on the draft Strategic Plan of the Wetland Cities Network (in support of the Ramsar Strategic Plan), which aims to provide the framework that will guide wetland cities in the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands at the local level. It will include various exchange sessions during which city representatives will propose their experiences. To help the emergence of ideas, dynamics and actions, non-governmental organisations will intervene and present adapted technical solutions.

The City of Amiens was awarded the "City of Wetlands" label during the official ceremony organised in Dubai in 2018, in the presence of Brigitte Fouré, Mayor of Amiens. This network was created at the initiative of the RRC-EA and proposed to the first 18 cities to be awarded the label in October 2019 in the city of Suncheon (South Korea), during the 1st roundtable of the international circle of Mayors of accredited "wetland city" cities, where Amiens was represented.

*The 150 participants in this round table are the current members of the network, i.e. 43 cities (1 delegation per city), the network secretariat, partner organisations, potential future cities wishing to apply for accreditation, institutional representatives and local stakeholders.*