

## **2nd Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors**

Amiens City, France

8-10 June 2023

### **Summary Report**

#### **1. Introduction**

Resolution XII.10, adopted during the Ramsar Conference of the Parties in 2015 (COP12), endorsed the establishment of a Wetland City accreditation system, “Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention”. Under this resolution, Contracting Parties recognize “the huge potential of urban areas in terms of education and public awareness related to wetlands conservation” and that the accreditation scheme “can assist cities, Contracting Parties and stakeholders in promoting awareness on the wise use and conservation of wetlands”. This accreditation scheme grants branding opportunities for cities that maintain a strong and positive relationship with wetlands. It will also accord cities with global recognition as model cities, which can also help boost local ecotourism activities.

At Ramsar COP13 held in October 2018 in Dubai, 18 cities from seven (7) countries were officially recognized as “Wetland Cities” under the Ramsar Convention. In support of this achievement, the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia (RRC-EA) volunteered to assist in forging a stronger network of Wetland Cities by organizing the first Mayors’ Roundtable in the fourth quarter of 2019. This roundtable symbolized the first step towards establishing such a network. During Ramsar COP14 in Wuhan, China/Geneva, Switzerland, a new round of accreditation recognized 25 local governments from 13 countries as Wetland Cities. These new Wetland Cities joined the total list of 43 globally accredited local governments with strong advocacy for wetlands from 17 countries.

Against this backdrop, following the first Mayors’ Roundtable, the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia (RRC-EA) and Amiens City Government organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors that was held on 8-10 June 2023 in Amiens, France.

#### **2. Objectives**

The roundtable of Wetland City Mayors allows members of the Wetland City Network to meet on an annual basis. The meeting serves as a platform for Wetland Cities to:

- establish and strengthen communication channels among Wetland Cities;
- share and exchange information about experiences in managing urban wetlands with respect to local policies and regulations;
- facilitate dialogues to promote and develop socio-economic and environmental cooperation among Wetland Cities;
- invite and welcome new Wetland Cities to the Wetland City Network;
- introduce the Wetland City Accreditation scheme to potential Wetland Cities; and
- involve International Organization Partners (IOPs) of the Convention on Wetlands and other wetland stakeholders in activities of the Wetland City Network.

#### **3. Participants**

More than 130 representatives from Wetland Cities, local communities, academic and research institutions, and government and non-government organizations participated in the event. These included the mayors, vice mayors and officials of 22 Wetland Cities from nine (9) countries in America

(Canada), Africa (Tunisia), Asia (China, Iran, Iraq, Japan, and Republic of Korea) and Europe (France and Hungary). The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

#### **4. Dates and venue**

The meeting was held on 8-10 June 2023 at the Le Quai de l'Innovation, Amiens City, France.

#### **5. Program of activities**

##### Opening program

The event started with opening remarks delivered by Mrs. Brigitte Foure, Mayor of Amiens City, who welcomed the Wetland Cities' delegations and other attendees. Messages were also conveyed by Mr. Seung Oh Suh, Executive Director, Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia/Wetland City Network Secretariat; Mr. Jay Aldous, Deputy Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; Mr. Kwan-kyu Roh, Mayor, Suncheon City, Republic of Korea (incumbent Chair of the Wetland City Network); Mr. Stephane Haussoulier, President, Departmental Council of the Somme, France; and Ms. Flore Lafaye de Micheaux, Representative of the French State.

##### Keynote and special presentations

Keynote and special presentations were delivered during the first and second day by speakers from Amiens City, Department Council of the Somme, University of Vienna, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, RM Wetlands & Environment Ltd./Society for Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program, and Amiens Energies. Time was also allocated for international organizations such as the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, and UNESCO to introduce their various programs.

##### Parallel sessions

The three-day event included two parallel sessions during which mayors and representatives of Wetland Cities had the opportunity to showcase their initiatives on wetland conservation and management. The complete list of speakers and topics can be found in Annex 3.

##### Meeting proper

On the second day, as a segment of the roundtable, mayors and representatives of Wetland Cities convened to deliberate on topics as enumerated in the meeting agenda (Annex 4). Agenda items, salient discussion points, and relevant actions taken are reported in Item 6 of this report.

##### Closing program

As the representative of the host city, Mayor Foure handed over tokens to the heads of delegation of participating Wetland Cities as a gesture of appreciation. After the ceremony, Vice Mayor Liang of Dongying City formally invited all participants to join the third Mayors' Roundtable that is scheduled to take place in 2024 in Dongying, China. Vice Mayor Florence Rodinger of Amiens City delivered the closing remarks to officially conclude the event.

##### Field visit

Amiens City organized a trip to Baie de Somme Ramsar Site, the largest natural estuary in northern France.

## Presentation files and other downloadable media

Copies of presentation files and photos and videos of the event can be downloaded via this link: [link](#)

## 6. Meeting proper

A summary of discussions during the meeting proper can be found below:

Agenda item	Remarks
1. Opening and welcome message	The Mayor of Suncheon City, Republic of Korea and Incumbent Chair of the Wetland City Network, delivered the opening remarks and officially started the meeting.
2. Introduction of new members of the Wetland City Network	The Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia (RRC-EA) / Wetland City Network Secretariat, welcomed the cities that newly joined the network, and acknowledged the presence of the other delegations and guests attending the meeting.
3. Election of new Chair of Wetland City Network	Following the practice applied during the 1 <sup>st</sup> Mayors' Roundtable, the mayor or representative of the host city is elected as new Chair of the Wetland City Network. In this regard, the mayor of Amiens City, France assumed chairmanship of the Wetland City Network.
4. Adoption of meeting agenda	The meeting agenda was adopted as originally proposed.
5. Report on accomplishments of the Wetland City Network for the period: 2019-2022	<p>The Wetland City Network Secretariat reported on the accomplishments of the Wetland City Network for the period 2019-2022, while acknowledging the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that hampered efforts to implement planned network activities. Despite this challenge, the Wetland City Network Secretariat was able to accomplish the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• adoption of the logo for the Wetland City Network</li><li>• distribution of brass plates and pins to visually identify Wetland Cities that are members of the network</li><li>• development of the Wetland City Network website</li><li>• conduct of an online technical level meeting to discuss preparations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mayors' Roundtable</li><li>• adoption of a new resolution during Ramsar COP14 to provide further clarity on the accreditation/renewal process</li><li>• holding of a side event during Ramsar COP14 to provide a spotlight on new Wetland Cities</li><li>• promotion of the network during CBD COP15</li></ul>
6. Terms of Reference of Wetland City Network	<p>The Wetland City Network Secretariat facilitated the review of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Wetland City Network. After thorough discussions, the meeting noted recommendations to improve the TOR.</p> <p>The TOR will be revised by the Secretariat and subsequently circulated to the network members for approval (see Annex 5).</p>
7. Draft Wetland City Network Strategic Plan 2022-2028	The Wetland City Network Secretariat presented the draft Wetland City Network Strategic Plan 2022-2028 for further review by the members. The meeting noted the suggestions made by the members.

Agenda item	Remarks
	The Secretariat will revise the draft Strategic Plan and circulate the amended version to the network members for approval (see Annex 6).
8. Ramsar COP14, Resolution XIV.11: Wetland education in the formal education sector	<p>The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea introduced Resolution XIV.11 on Wetland Education in the Formal Education Sector, highlighting the key points of the resolution and elaborating on the importance of wetland education.</p> <p>Subsequently, the Wetland City Network Secretariat informed the meeting about the Wetland School Network, that is already active in China and the Republic of Korea, and invited Wetland Cities to join the Wetland School Network and promote wetland education in their respective localities.</p>
9. Other matters	<p><u>Youth Forum Initiative (proposed by Jeju City, Republic of Korea)</u> The mayor of Jeju City, Republic of Korea, delivered a short speech to promote the Youth Forum that will be organized in Jeju Island in May/June 2024. The forum aims to gather youth groups from Wetland Cities to discuss innovative conservation strategies and promote discussion on sustainable use of wetlands. On this point, the meeting noted that there are already existing initiatives involving youth on wetland topics, and that it is recommended to learn more about such initiatives and explore opportunities for collaboration.</p> <p><u>Briefing on the Fifth Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands</u> The technical expert of the Convention on Wetlands Secretariat informed the meeting that the process of developing the Fifth Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands is underway. Along this line, the technical expert invited Wetland Cities to engage in the process by sharing suggestions and ideas to support the new Strategic Plan that is scheduled to be released during COP15.</p>
10. Date and venue of next meeting	<p>As agreed during the 1<sup>st</sup> Mayors' Roundtable, the third meeting will be hosted by Dongying, China in 2024. Upon deliberation by network members, the meeting agreed that Tata, Hungary will host the fourth meeting in 2025. Specific meeting schedules will be decided and announced by the host cities at later dates.</p> <p>The Wetland City Network Secretariat will consult network members on the procedure for selecting the next host of the Mayors' Roundtable to give equal opportunities to other network members that are not physically present in current meetings.</p>
11. Closing message	As the new Chair of the Wetland City Network, Amiens City formally adjourned the meeting.

### List of annexes

- 1 – List of participants
- 2 – Program of activities
- 3 – List of parallel sessions
- 4 – Meeting agenda
- 5 – Revised Terms of Reference of the Wetland City Network
- 6 – Revised Wetland City Network Strategic Plan 2022-2028

## Annex 1. List of participants

No.	Wetland City / Organization	Name	Designation
1	Sackville, Canada	Mr. Andrew BLACK	Mayor
2	Changshu, China	Mr. Shuqing AN	Director, Nanjing University Ecological Research Institute of Changshu
3	Changshu, China	Ms. Jiaqiu CHEN	Deputy General Manager, Nanjing University Ecological Research Institute of Changshu
4	Changshu, China	Ms. Yaqin YAO	Program Coordinator, Nanjing University Ecological Research Institute of Changshu
5	Changshu, China	Ms. Di AN	Communication Specialist, Nanjing University Ecological Research Institute of Changshu
6	Changshu, China	Ms. Huining SHI	Consultant, Nanjing University Ecological Research Institute of Changshu
7	Changshu, China	Ms. Lu XIA	Consultant, Nanjing University Ecological Research Institute of Changshu
8	Dongying, China	Mr. Runsheng LIANG	Vice Mayor
9	Dongying, China	Mr. Minghai CHEN	Director, Dongying Municipal Natural Resources and Planning Bureau
10	Dongying, China	Mr. Laiqiu QIAO	Director, Dongying Wetland Conservation Center
11	Dongying, China	Mr. Mingde XU	Director, Shandong Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve Management Committee
12	Dongying, China	Ms. Yuli HOU	Interpreter
13	Harbin, China	Mr. Jinghui ZHANG	Deputy Director General, Harbin Forestry and Grassland Bureau
14	Harbin, China	Mr. Guangyou XING	Chief of Wetland and Nature Reserve Management Division, Harbin Forestry and Grassland Bureau
15	Harbin, China	Ms. Tianyuan KONG	Senior Staff, Harbin Foreign Affairs Office
16	Hefei, China	Mr. Fengyang HE	Vice Mayor, Hefei Municipal People's Government
17	Hefei, China	Mr. Rangjian XIAO	Deputy Director, Hefei Foreign Affairs Office
18	Hefei, China	Mr. Changqing YUE	Deputy Director, Hefei Forestry and Landscaping Bureau
19	Hefei, China	Mr. Falong LUO	Chief of Wetland Management Division, Hefei Forestry and Landscaping Bureau
20	Hefei, China	Ms. Qingwen LI	Senior Staff / Interpreter, Hefei Foreign Affairs Office
21	Yancheng, China	Mr. Benhui WU	Deputy Mayor
22	Yancheng, China	Mr. Tailong QI	Director, Yancheng Natural Resources and Planning Bureau
23	Yancheng, China	Mr. Qijiang WU	Director, Yancheng Wetlands and World Natural Heritage Conservation and Management Center
24	Yancheng, China	Mr. Guozhong LIU	Deputy Director, Yancheng Foreign Affairs Office
25	Yancheng, China	Mr. Shudong PAN	Section Chief, Yancheng Municipal Government Secretariat
26	Yancheng, China	Mr. Zequn YAN	Section Chief, Yancheng World Coastal Forum Secretariat
27	Yinchuan, China	Mr. Xiangyu WANG	Deputy Mayor

No.	Wetland City / Organization	Name	Designation
28	Yinchuan, China	Ms. Jingyi XI	Director, Ningxia Yinchuan Natural Resources Bureau
29	Yinchuan, China	Ms. Jing WU	Director, Finance Bureau of Yinchuan, Ningxia
30	Yinchuan, China	Ms. Xiaoping WANG	Wetland Protection and Management Center
31	Belval-en-Argonne, France	Mr. Philippe GILLE	Mayor
32	Courteranges, France	Mr. Fabien GERARD	Mayor
33	Courteranges, France	Ms. Lea SCHMITT	Project manager - Ramsar Site animation (Etangs de la Champagne humide)
34	Pont-Audemer, France	Ms. Aurelie MARCHALOT	Chargée mission GEMAPI
35	Pont-Audemer, France	Mr. Anthony GESNOUIN	Directeur service Environnement
36	Pont-Audemer, France	Ms. Maryline LOUVEL	Adjointe en charge de l'environnement ville de Pont Audemer
37	Saint-Omer, France	Mr. Francois DECOSTER	Mayor
38	Saint-Omer, France	Mr. Antoine VERCRUYSE	Vice Mayor
39	Saint-Omer, France	Mr. Luc BARBIER	Administrator, Natural Regional Park of Caps et Marais d'Opale (Marais Audomarois Ramsar Site)
40	Tata, Hungary	Ms. Balazs RIGO	Vice Mayor
41	Tata, Hungary	Mr. Levente MURKL	Office Manager, Nature Conservation and City Operations Office
42	Tata, Hungary	Mr. Andras SCHMIDT	Head of Natura 2000 Unit, Department for Nature Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture
43	Bandar Khamir, Islamic Republic of Iran	Mr. Javad MAHMOODI	Mayor
44	Varzaneh, Islamic Republic of Iran	Mr. Hamed AKHGAR	Mayor
45	Al Chibayish, Iraq	Mr. Kifah Shnawa JABER	Mayor
46	Niigata, Japan	Mr. Hiroshi KIYAMA	Director
47	Niigata, Japan	Mr. Ryo TAKAHASHI	Section Chief
48	Niigata, Japan	Mr. Charles DURAND	Coordinator for International Relations
49	Gochang, Republic of Korea	Mr. HyeongSu NO	Deputy Mayor, Gochang County
50	Gochang, Republic of Korea	Mr. GeunIl LEE	Staff, Department of Planning and Budget
51	Gochang, Republic of Korea	Mr. YoungJin JUNG	Director, Ramsar Gochang Tidal Flat Center
52	Gochang, Republic of Korea	Ms. JinHee LEE	Staff, Department of Oceans and Fisheries
53	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Mr. ByungSam KANG	Mayor
54	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Mr. GeonDo PARK	Secretary of Mayor, Department of General Affairs
55	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Ms. JeongIn YANG	Team Manager, Environmental Management Division
56	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Mr. DongHeun PARK	Director, Environmental Management Division
57	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Mr. YeonSik KANG	Chairman, District Management Committee of Jeju-si Conventionally Wetland City
58	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Ms. JeRyang KO	Member, District Management Committee of Jeju-si Conventionally Wetland City
59	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Ms. HyeonJi KIM	Staff, Jeju Ecotourism Association
60	Seogwipo, Republic of Korea	Mr. JongWoo LEE	Mayor

No.	Wetland City / Organization	Name	Designation
61	Seogwipo, Republic of Korea	Mr. Hyunho KANG	Team Manager, Department of Climate and Environment
62	Seogwipo, Republic of Korea	Mr. WeonHak HYUN	Local Management Committee of Ramsar Wetland City, Seogwipo
63	Seogwipo, Republic of Korea	Ms. JiYoung YANG	Staff, Department of Climate and Environment
64	Seogwipo, Republic of Korea	Ms. JeongA KIM	Staff, Department of Climate and Environment
65	Suncheon, Republic of Korea	Mr. KwanKyu ROH	Mayor
66	Suncheon, Republic of Korea	Ms. SeonSoon KIM	Director of Public Administration and Public Relations
67	Suncheon, Republic of Korea	Mr. IkSang JANG	Director, Suncheon Bay Conservation Division
68	Suncheon, Republic of Korea	Mr. TaeGyun JEONG	Head of Public Relations Planning Team
69	Suncheon, Republic of Korea	Mr. SeungOk KANG	Head of Landscape Facilities Team
70	Suncheon, Republic of Korea	Mr. GyeongHyeon HONG	Head of Facilities Team
71	Suncheon, Republic of Korea	Mr. HyunCheol KIM	Team Leader of Video Promotion Team
72	Suncheon, Republic of Korea	Mr. JunBu SONG	Member of video promotion team
73	Suncheon, Republic of Korea	Mr. EunBin HWANG	General Affairs Department
74	Ghar El Melh, Tunisia	Ms. Sana MEZOUGH	International Consultant
75	Ramsar France Association	Mr. Jerome BIGNON	President
76	Ramsar France Association	Mr. Bastien COIC	Network Leader
77	Ramsar France Association	Mr. Denis BERLEMONT	Communication Officer
78	Ramsar France Association	Mr. Thierry LECOMTE	Treasurer
79	Abbeville, France	Mr. Pascal DEMARTHE	Maire
80	Abbeville, France	Ms. Valeriane LEMAN	Chargée de mission Biodiversité
81	Abbeville, France	Mr. Sebastien COLOMBEL	Directeur de cabinet - Ville d'Abbeville
82	Abbeville, France	Ms. Monique BOULART	Maire-adjointe
83	Abbeville, France	Mr. Noe FERRARI	Agent territorial
84	Ministère de la Transition écologique	Ms. Ghislaine FERRERE	Chargée de mission Milieux humides - Convention de Ramsar
85	General Inspectorate for the Environment and Sustainable Development, France	Ms. Flore LAFAYE DE MICHEAUX	Environment, Resources and Risks
86	NGO (Amiens, France)	Mr. Karl TOURAIS	Financial and Administrative Manager
87	NGO (Amiens, France)	Mr. Pierre HAVET	Président de l'Union des Pêcheurs de l'Amiénois
88	NGO (Amiens, France)	Ms. Marion BEAUREPAIRE	Chargée de mission des marais de Sacy
89	Monceau, France	Ms. Teresa DIAS	Mayor, President of Natura 2000, and Administrator of Ramsar France Association
90	French Biodiversity Agency	Mr. Florent MERLE	Deputy Director, European and International Relations
91	French Biodiversity Agency	Ms. Ava MONCOZET	Apprentice International Negotiation Support Officer Water, European and International Relations Directorate
92	Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea	Mr. Chulhee HAN	Assistant Director
93	Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea	Mr. Songhyun KIM	Researcher

<b>No.</b>	<b>Wetland City / Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
94	National Institute of Ecology, Republic of Korea	Mr. Hogyeong MOON	Junior Researcher
95	Association Secrétariat MedWet (Initiative Régionale Ramsar)	Ms. Isabelle PERROUD	Chargée de l'Administration et des Finances
96	Al-Shafi City, Basra Governorate, Iraq	Mr. Saad Ismael ASHOOR	Mayor
97	Convention on Wetlands Secretariat	Mr. Zebedee Feka NJISUH	Senior Adviser for Africa and Focal Point for Wetland City Accreditation
98	Switzerland	Mr. Denis LANDERBERGUE	Wetland Expert
99	Alexander Von Humboldt Institute for Research on Biological Resources, Colombia	Ms. Maria Angelica MEJIA PIMIENTA	Program Coordinator for Policy, Legislation and Decision Making
100	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	Ms. Alexandra Marie HUGHES	Project Manager, International Engagement
101	Convention on Wetlands	Mr. Jay ALDOUS	Deputy Secretary General
102	Department Somme Council, France	Mr. Stephane HAUSSOULIER	President
103	Departmental Council of the Somme, France	Ms. Cassandre CHOMBART	Ramsar Officer
104	Departmental Council of the Somme, France	Mr. Cedric BERQUEZ	Director of the Somme Valley, Ideal Valley
105	University of Vienna, Austria	Mr. Gert Michael STEINER	Professor, and IAC Chair
106	Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea	Mr. Joonwoo SEO	International Cooperation Officer, and IAC Member (Technical Advisor)
107	RM Wetlands & Environment Ltd, UK	Mr. Robert MCINNES	Managing Director
108	Amiens Energies, France	Mr. Richard MALOT	Technical Director
109	World Wide Fund for Nature	Mr. Wenwei REN	Head of Shanghai Regional Program, and IAC Member (representative of IOP)
110	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	Mr. Christopher ROSTRON	International Engagement Manager, and IAC Member (representative of CEPA Oversight Panel)
111	United Nations Environment Programme	Ms. Karen SUDMEIER-RIEUX	Senior Technical Advisor
112	ICLEI - Africa Secretariat	Ms. Laura LOUW	Professional Officer: Biodiversity Advocacy and International Liaison, and IAC Co-Chair
113	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Mr. YangBo KIM	Director General, Jeju Provincial Government, Republic of Korea
114	35percent	Mr. Matthew SIMPSON	Director, and IAC Member (representative of STRP)
115	Ministry of Environment, Czechia	Ms. Libuse VLASAKOVA	Ramsar National Focal Point, and IAC Member (representative of Europe)
116	Rwanda Environment Management Authority, Rwanda	Mr. Theogene NGABOYAMAHINA	Ramsar National Focal Point, and IAC Member (representative of Africa)
117	Amiens, France	Ms. Brigitte FOURE	Mayor
118	Amiens, France	Mr. Bruno BIENAIME	Deputy Mayor
119	Amiens, France	Ms. Florence RODINGER	Deputy Mayor



<b>No.</b>	<b>Wetland City / Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
120	Amiens, France	Ms. Stephanie DAPSANCE	Direction Générale Adjointe Attractivité du Territoire, Directrice de la Mission des Affaires européennes et internationales
121	Amiens, France	Ms. Celine ROHART	Direction Générale Adjointe Attractivité du Territoire, Mission des Affaires européennes et internationales
122	Amiens, France	Mr. Julien LASZLO	Directeur des services à l'environnement
123	Amiens, France	Mr. Laurent GAVORY	Chef de projet espaces naturels
124	Amiens, France	Mr. Gilles RYCKEBUSH	DGA Aménagement du Territoire
125	Amiens, France	Mr. Alexandre TANCHON	Wastewater Treatment Manager
126	Amiens, France	Mr. Olivier CREPIN	Project Manager
127	Amiens, France	Mr. Omar El Gnaoui	Technical Officer
128	Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia	Mr. Seungoh SUH	Executive Director
129	Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia	Mr. Norman Emmanuel RAMIREZ	Program Officer
130	Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia	Ms. Seongbo KIM	Network Officer
131	Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia	Mr. Chinug CHO	Finance Officer
132	Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia	Ms. Hangah KIM	Web Officer
133	Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia	Ms. Sara CEDDIA	Assistant Network Officer
134	Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia	Ms. Gaon LEE	Assistant Program Officer

## Annex 2. Program of activities

### 8 June 2023 (Thursday)

Time	Activity
9:00 – 9:40	<p><b>Opening messages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Brigitte Foure, Mayor, Amiens City, France</li> <li>• Mr. Seung Oh Suh, Executive Director, Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia / Wetland City Network Secretariat</li> <li>• Mr. Jay Aldous, Deputy Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</li> <li>• Mr. Kwan-kyu Roh, Mayor, Suncheon City, Republic of Korea (incumbent Chair of Wetland City Network)</li> <li>• Mr. Stephane Haussoulier, President, Departmental Council of the Somme, France</li> <li>• Ms. Flore Lafaye de Micheaux, General Inspectorate for the Environment and Sustainable Development, France</li> </ul>
9:40 – 9:50	photo opportunity (with dignitaries of opening program)
9:50 – 10:30	<p><b>Keynote presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature in the City <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Mr. Bruno Bienaime, Deputy Mayor for Nature in the City, Health, Ecological Transition and Cycling Promotion, Amiens City, France</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Marshlands and peat bogs of the Somme and Avre Valley (Somme Valley, Ideal Valley) project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Ms. Cassandre Chombart, Ramsar Officer, and Mr. Cedric Berquez, Director of the Somme Valley, Ideal Valley, Departmental Council of the Somme, France</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10:30 – 10:45	coffee break
10:45 – 11:45	<p><b>Plenary presentations</b></p> <p>Insights on the Wetland City Accreditation scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing of experience from the past two trienniums and recommendations on the future of the IAC and the accreditation scheme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Prof. Gert Michael Steiner, Professor, University of Vienna, Austria; and Chair, Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention; and Mr. Joon-woo Seo, International Cooperation Officer, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea; and IAC Member (Technical Advisor)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Benefits of becoming a Wetland City <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Mr. Rob McInnes, Managing Director, RM Wetlands &amp; Environment Ltd, and President, Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
11:45 – 12:00	photo opportunity (all participants)
12:00 – 13:30	lunch break and Wetland City Forum
13:30 – 15:15	<p><b>Parallel sessions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 presentations per parallel session, 20 minutes per presentation, followed by 25 minutes panel discussion</li> </ul>
15:15 – 15:30	coffee break

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
15:30 – 17:15	<b>Parallel sessions (continued)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 presentations per parallel session, 20 minutes per presentation, followed by 25 minutes panel discussion</li> </ul>
17:15 – 19:00	<b>Free time</b>
19:00 – 20:00	<b>Gala dinner at <a href="#">Musée de Picardie</a></b>

### 9 June 2023 (Friday)

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
9:00 – 9:20	<b>Special presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valorization of wastewater from the city of Amiens in its heating network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Richard Malot, Technical Director, Amiens Energies, France</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
9:20 – 10:15	<b>Plenary presentations</b> Programs of international organizations (including International Organization Partners of the Convention on Wetlands) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From water bird habitat protection to Ramsar wetland city building: The evolution of China's wetland conservation strategy with WWF's perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Wenwei Ren, Head of Shanghai Regional Program, WWF; and IAC Member (representative of IOP)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Delivering urban wetland programmes for people, biodiversity and climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Chris Rostron, International Engagement Manager, WWT; and IAC Member (representative of CEPA Oversight Panel)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> Moderator: Mr. Jay Aldous, Deputy Secretary General, Convention on Wetlands
10:15 – 10:30	coffee break
10:30 – 12:00	<b>Plenary presentations</b> Programs of international organizations (including International Organization Partners of the Convention on Wetlands) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetlands and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Karen Sudmeier-Rieux, Eco-DRR Technical Advisor, Disasters and Conflicts Branch, United Nations Environment Programme</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Introducing CitiesWithNature - Supporting Wetland City Accreditation and Wetland City Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ms. Laura Louw, Professional Officer: Biodiversity Advocacy and International Liaison, ICLEI - Africa Secretariat; and IAC Co-Chair</li> </ul> </li> <li>• MIDAs Project: Supporting Multi-Internationally Designated Areas as model sites for biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and green economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr. Yang Bo Kim, Expert, MAB Research and Policy Section, UNESCO</li> </ul> </li> </ul> Moderator: Prof. Gert Michael Steiner, Professor, University of Vienna, Austria; and IAC Chair
12:00 – 13:30	lunch break and Wetland City Forum
13:30 – 16:00	<b>Meeting proper</b> (see meeting agenda)

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Closing program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handing over of tokens by Host City to Wetland City Mayors</li> <li>• Message from Mr. Runsheng Liang, Vice Mayor, Dongying City, China</li> <li>• Message from Mrs. Brigitte Foure, Mayor, Amiens City, France</li> </ul>
16:30 – 18:30	visit to the <a href="#">Hortillonnages</a>
18:30 – 19:30	<b>Dinner at Fagots Island</b>

### **10 June 2023 (Saturday)\***

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
9:00 – 18:00	<b>Excursion to <a href="#">Baie de Somme</a></b> 9:00 - departure from Amiens 12:45 - lunch at the House of Baie de Somme 14:45 - visit to Hourdel Point 18:00 - return to Amiens

\*free time for those who will not join the excursion; meals (lunch and dinner) are the responsibility of the participants

### Annex 3. List of parallel sessions

#### 8 June 2023 (Thursday)

Time	Parallel session 1 Room: Amphithéâtre Jules Verne	Parallel session 2 Room: Amphithéâtre CPM
13:30 – 15:15	1. Water and sanitation - Mr. Alexandre Tanchon and Mr. Olivier Crepin, Amiens, France	1. Belval En Argonne, un joyau de la biodiversité - Mr. Philippe Gille, Mayor, Belval En Argonne, France
	2. Wetland Conservation, Expanded Borders and the Threat of Climate Change - Mr. Andrew Black, Mayor, Sackville, Canada	2. Research and exploration of small wetlands - Dr. Shuqing An, Director, Nanjing University Ecological Research Institute of Changshu, China
	3. The Conservation, Management and Sustainable Development of Yancheng Yellow Sea Wetland, China Coastal Wetland Natural World Heritage - Mr. Qijiang Wu, Director, Yancheng Wetlands and World Natural Heritage Conservation and Management Center	3. Fortified Lake City, Beautiful Yinchuan - Mr. Xiangyu Wang, Deputy Mayor, Yinchuan, China
	4. Wetland City Suncheon, Republic of Korea - Mr. Kwan-kyu Roh, Mayor, Suncheon City, Republic of Korea	
	Panel discussion	Panel discussion
	Moderator: Dr. Matthew Simpson; Director, 35percent; President - Society of Wetland Scientists Europe; and IAC Member (representative of STRP)	Moderator: Mr. Rob McInnes, Managing Director, RM Wetlands & Environment Ltd, and President, Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program
15:15 – 15:30	break	break
15:30 – 17:15	1. Wetlands Make Cities Better: Practice of wetland city construction in Dongying - Mr. Runsheng Liang, Vice Mayor, Dongying, China	1. Hefei Wetland Protection and Management - Mr. Fengyang He, Vice Mayor, Hefei, China
	2. The City of Waters: Tata - Mr. Balazs Rigo, Vice Mayor, Tata, Hungary	2. Learning Wetland Cities - Mr. Javad Mahmoodi, Mayor, Bandar Khamir, Iran
	3. Conservation, Problems and Measures of Wetlands in Niigata - Mr. Hiroshi Kiyama, Director, Niigata, Japan	3. "Together, Better": Wetland conservation with Jeju citizens - Mr. Byung Sam Kang, Mayor, Jeju City, Republic of Korea
	4. Healthy wetlands Seogwipo with full of happiness - Mr. Jong Woo Lee, Mayor, Seogwipo City, Republic of Korea	4. Ghar el Melh Lagoon, Tunisia: A brief history of its conservation, management and community role - Ms. Sana Mezoughi, International Consultant, Ghar El Melh, Tunisia
	Panel discussion	Panel discussion
	Moderator: Mr. Theogene Ngaboyamahina, Ramsar National Focal Point, Rwanda; and IAC Member (representative of Africa)	Moderator: Ms. Libuše Vlasakova, Ramsar National Focal Point, Czechia; and IAC Member (representative of Europe)

#### Annex 4. Meeting agenda

No.	Item	Responsible person/s
1	Opening and welcome message	Incumbent Chair, Wetland City Network and Wetland City Network Secretariat (RRC-EA)
2	Introduction of new members of the Wetland City Network	Incumbent Chair, Wetland City Network and Wetland City Network Secretariat (RRC-EA)
3	Election of new Chair of Wetland City Network	Incumbent Chair, Wetland City Network and Wetland City Network Secretariat (RRC-EA)
4	Adoption of meeting agenda	Wetland City Network Members
5	Report on accomplishments of the Wetland City Network for the period: 2019-2022	Wetland City Network Secretariat
6	Terms of Reference of Wetland City Network	Wetland City Network Members
7	Draft Wetland City Network Strategic Plan 2022-2028	Wetland City Network Secretariat
8	Ramsar COP14, Resolution XIV.11: Wetland education in the formal education sector	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea
9	Other matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Youth Forum Initiative (proposed by Jeju City, Republic of Korea)</li></ul>	Wetland City Network Members
10	Date and venue of next meeting	Wetland City Network Members
11	Closing message	New Chair, Wetland City Network

## **Terms of Reference of the Wetland City Network**

### **Purpose**

Wetland Cities of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands provide a huge potential to promote the conservation and wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands in support of the Ramsar Strategic Plan. The establishment of a network of Wetland Cities aims to contribute to the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands through collective efforts of local governments and communities.

The Wetland City Network will serve as a platform that (1) enables effective communication among Wetland Cities, (2) promotes information exchange on experiences and lessons learned in managing urban and peri-urban wetlands with respect to local policies, (3) facilitates dialogues to develop environmental and socio-economic cooperation among Wetland Cities, and (4) provides access to exchanges of resources among network members.

### **Membership and Composition**

Wetland Cities accredited by the Convention on Wetlands may join the network as members.

The Wetland City Network may accept observers, provided that they comply with the following criteria:

1. international, national and local level governmental or non-governmental organizations that demonstrate willingness to support the activities of the Wetland City Network;
2. cities that are interested in becoming a Wetland City and joining the Wetland City Network;
3. formally expresses intent to become an observer of the Wetland City Network; and
4. officially registered as observer by the Wetland City Network Secretariat.

### **Secretariat**

The Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia will serve as Secretariat of the network. The functions of the Secretariat shall be as follows:

1. organize or assist the host city in organizing the regular meetings of Wetland City Mayors;
2. maintain close coordination and communication among members;
3. facilitate the exchange of information among members;
4. coordinate technical and policy discussions among members through specific working groups;
5. promote the network via its website and social networking sites, among other forms of media;
6. forge camaraderie and partnerships among members, and assist members in developing programs that may provide funding opportunities for the sustainability of the network; and
7. invite cities and organizations that are interested to participate in network activities.

### **Operation**

1. Wetland Cities may strive to actively participate in all network activities.
2. Members of the network may meet regularly on an annual basis through the Mayors' Roundtable. The Mayors' Roundtable aims to serve as the main forum for decision-making on priority issues by consensus and may be conducted in person or via hybrid format, subject to the availability of resources of members.

3. Network members may also hold virtual technical level meetings, as necessary, in between Mayors' Roundtables.
4. Network members may share information and experiences on the development and implementation of wetland-related policies and programs related to conservation, wise use, management, education, among others.

### **Financial Arrangements**

1. Members may participate in activities of the network, including attendance to regular meetings, by utilizing their own resources.
2. Members may share financial resources with the Wetland City Network Secretariat or with other members to support the implementation of the Wetland City Network Strategic Plan and of other relevant activities as mutually agreed by the members.

### **Review of Terms of Reference**

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed by members of the Wetland City Network at least once every three (3) years in accordance with the cycle of the Meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar COP). Any amendments to this Terms of Reference shall require deliberation and approval by the Wetland City Network.





# Wetland City Network Strategic Plan 2022-2028

## Background

Resolution XII.10, adopted during the Convention on Wetlands' Conference of the Contracting Parties in 2015 (COP12), endorsed the establishment of the "Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention". Under this resolution, Contracting Parties recognize "the huge potential of urban areas in terms of education and public awareness related to wetlands conservation" and that the accreditation scheme "can assist cities, Contracting Parties and stakeholders in promoting awareness on the wise use and conservation of wetlands". This accreditation scheme grants cities with branding opportunities and global recognition as model cities that maintain a strong and positive relationship with wetlands.

Since COP13, numerous cities have been formally accredited as Wetland Cities. In support of the accreditation scheme, the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia (RRC-EA) volunteered to assist in forging a stronger network of Wetland Cities by organizing the first Mayors' Roundtable on 23-25 October 2019 in Suncheon City, Republic of Korea. At this roundtable, the Wetland Cities unanimously agreed to establish the "**Wetland City Network**" and assigned the RRC-EA to serve as Secretariat of the Wetland City Network.

## Vision of the Wetland City Network

The vision of the Wetland City Network is that:

***The Network delivers on the wise use and conservation of wetlands for the benefit of nature and current and future generations of citizens***

## Purpose of the Wetland City Network

Wetland Cities provide a huge potential to promote and deliver on the wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands. The establishment of an effective Wetland City Network contributes to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention through the collective efforts of local governments, local communities and other important stakeholders.

The Wetland City Network serves as a platform that:

- 1) Enables effective communication among Wetland Cities;
- 2) Promotes information exchange on experiences and lessons learned in managing urban and peri-urban wetlands with respect to local policies;
- 3) Facilitates dialogues to develop environmental and socio-economic cooperation among Wetland Cities; and
- 4) Provides access to exchanges of resources among network members.

## Strategic Objectives and Targets of the Wetland City Network

Four strategic objectives have been formulated based on the deliberations at the 1<sup>st</sup> Roundtable of the Wetland Cities' Mayors. A fifth strategic objective has been included to ensure that Wetland Cities continually implement wise use approaches and that wetlands are managed, restored and created for the benefit of nature and current and future generations of citizens in the face of threats from climate change, environmental degradation and other emerging issues.

### **Objective 1: Communication**

The collective knowledge and experience of the Network is greater than any one Wetland City. Strong and effective communication among, and beyond, the Network is essential to ensure that Wetland Cities, their citizens and nature benefit.

- Target 1.1: Representatives of all Wetland Cities attend the annual Mayors' Roundtable meetings,
- Target 1.2: The Wetland City Network Secretariat communicates effectively with the Wetland Cities.
- Target 1.3: Wetland Cities and the Wetland City Network Secretariat seek to promote the Wetland City Network through a variety of media and through co-badging with relevant parties and events.

### **Objective 2: Knowledge exchange**

Different Wetland Cities experience different challenges and develop a variety of wetland management solutions. Across the Network, different policy and practical interventions will be developed and implemented. Knowledge exchange among the Wetland City Network and also with other stakeholders will be essential to strengthen wetland wise use and to deliver on the wider obligations under the Convention on Wetlands.

- Target 2.1: Wetland Cities exchange knowledge among the Network through various forms of media, platforms, as well as exchange programs, ad hoc training and other practical approaches.
- Target 2.2: Wetland Cities exchange knowledge with observer cities aspiring to be accredited under the Convention on Wetlands.
- Target 2.3: Wetland Cities actively engage with two-way knowledge sharing with other stakeholders including *inter alia* the Convention's Secretariat, the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel, Ramsar Regional Initiatives, the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs), national and local government and non-governmental organizations, civil society organisations (CSOs), academic institutions, schools and other interested parties.
- Target 2.4: Wetland Cities seek to engage and share knowledge with other international organisations involved in sustainable cities including *inter alia* the Convention on Biological Diversity, UN-Habitat, UNEP and ICLEI.

### **Objective 3: Cooperation**

The Wetland City Network provides a platform for dialogues to develop environmental and socio-economic cooperation. Cooperation can be between two Wetland Cities or among

several Wetland Cities, depending on the objective, and will focus on achieving shared environmental and socio-economic outcomes.

Target 3.1: Wetland Cities actively cooperate among the Network on demonstrable shared environmental and socio-economic outcomes.

#### **Objective 4: Resourcing**

The Wetland City Network and its members will aim to share resources, including human resources, and to mobilize and leverage additional resources within and beyond the Network.

Target 4.1: Wetland Cities have undertaken sharing of human resources to deliver on wetland wise use.

Target 4.2: Wetland Cities have worked together to seek and secure additional resources for the implementation of priority programs on wetland wise use.

#### **Objective 5: Implementation**

Receiving Wetland City accreditation marks the starting point in a process. Wetland Cities will aspire to continually improve and enhance their wetlands to address environmental degradation, climate change and other emerging issues. Wetland Cities will also aim to implement positive practical and policy-related actions that demonstrate an on-going commitment to wise use principles and to securing the inter-generational benefits that wetlands can provide for citizens.

Target 5.1: Wetland Cities implement measures to improve their wetlands and continue to uphold wetland wise use principles as models of good governance.

Target 5.2: Wetland Cities proactively develop wetland-related policies that contribute to socially and environmentally sustainable urban and peri-urban wetlands.

Target 5.3: Wetland Cities ensure the full participation of wetland stakeholders in spatial planning and wetland management.

Target 5.4: Wetland Cities understand and integrate the multiple values of wetlands into spatial and wetland management planning.

Target 5.5: Wetland Cities manage, restore and create wetlands to optimise the benefits they provide to citizens.

### **Reporting and review**

The Wetland City Network Strategic Plan covers the period 2022-2028, or the equivalent of two COP cycles. The Wetland Cities are encouraged to report on progress towards the specific Objectives and Targets in advance of the COP. The Wetland City Network Secretariat is encouraged to compile a report for consideration and presentation at the COP to demonstrate implementation of the Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan should be reviewed, and updated where appropriate, on a two COP-cycle basis to ensure that it is still relevant for the delivery against the Vision.