

2024 Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors

Dongying City, China

15-17 October 2024

Summary Report

1. Introduction

Resolution XII.10, adopted during the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar COP12), endorsed the establishment of a voluntary Wetland City accreditation system, “Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands”. 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 and attracting support for the wise use and conservation of wetlands and other sustainable development initiatives”. This accreditation scheme grants branding opportunities for cities that maintain a strong and positive relationship with wetlands. To date, 43 local governments from 17 countries are globally recognized 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 Inaugural Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors in October 2019 in Suncheon City, Republic of Korea. During the meeting, Wetland City Mayors in attendance unanimously agreed to establish the “Wetland City Network”.

The second mayors’ roundtable was held in June 2023 in Amiens City, France. Following this event, Dongying City in China hosted the “2024 Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors” in collaboration with the RRC-EA, China Wetland Conservation Association, Department of Natural Resources of Shandong Province, Compliance Office of the Ramsar Convention of China (National Focal Point of China), Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability.

2. Objectives

The 2024 Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors provided a venue for Wetland Cities to:

- establish and strengthen communication channels among Wetland Cities;
- share and exchange information about experiences in managing urban and peri-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 and the Wetland City Network to potential Wetland Cities; and
- involve International Organization Partners (IOPs) and other wetland stakeholders in activities of the Wetland City Network.

3. Participants

More than 200 representatives of Wetland Cities, national and local government offices, international and national non-government organizations, academic institutions, and wetland stakeholders from 11 countries participated in the event. These included the mayors, vice mayors and officials of 21 Wetland

Cities from seven countries in Africa (Morocco and Rwanda), Asia (China, Japan and the Republic of Korea) and Europe (France and Hungary). The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

4. Dates and venue

The three-day event was held on 15-17 October 2024 in Dongying City, China. Indoor sessions were organized at the Dongying Hotel; while, visits to the Yellow River Estuary Cultural Museum, Guangli River and Shandong Yellow River Delta Ramsar Site were arranged as part of the field trip.

5. Meeting structure

The meeting featured two days of technical and policy level discussions, and a one-day field visit. The table below shows the general structure of the meeting.

Day 1 15 October 2024 (Tuesday)	Day 2 16 October 2024 (Wednesday)	Day 3 17 October 2024 (Thursday)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening program • Keynote presentations • Parallel sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary presentations • Meeting of the Wetland City Network • Closing program 	Field visit

*Dongying City hosted a welcome banquet on 14 October 2024 (Monday)

**Bilateral meetings were organized on 15-16 October 2024 (see Item 7 of this report)

6. Program of activities

This section briefly describes specific sessions and activities that transpired during the event. More detailed information can be found in Annex 2.

Opening program

The event officially started with messages from the Vice Governor of Shandong Province in China, Deputy Director General of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) of China, Secretary of the Dongying Municipal Party Committee in China, Deputy Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and RRC-EA Executive Director.

Keynote presentations

Keynote presentations were delivered by the Deputy Director of NFGA's Wetland Management Department, Professor of Beijing Forestry University, and Deputy Secretary General of ICLEI (pre-recorded video). The Executive Director of ICLEI Japan also conveyed a short message. The former IAC Chair served as moderator of the keynote presentations.

Parallel sessions

The roundtable included four parallel sessions during which Wetland Cities and potential Wetland Cities shared their completed, ongoing and planned activities in support of the conservation and wise use of urban wetlands. Moderators representing the IAC, Beijing Forestry University, ICLEI Japan, and Center for East Asian-Australasian Flyway Studies processed the presentations of each parallel session. The complete list of speakers and topics are in Annex 3.

Plenary presentations

Two sets of plenary presentations welcomed inputs from diverse wetland expertise. Speakers of the first set of plenary presentations represented the Beijing Forestry University, The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative, WWF and James Cook University, and Chinese Academy of Sciences. The second set of plenary session speakers delivered presentations on behalf of 35 Percent, International Wetlands and Rivers Beijing, Chongqing University in China, and the Paulson Institute. The Deputy Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the incumbent IAC Chair facilitated the sessions as moderators.

Meeting of the Wetland City Network (meeting proper)

As the policy-level segment of the event, the Meeting of the Wetland City Network provided an opportunity for member Wetland Cities to deliberate on planned programs of the Wetland City Network and other related matters as outlined in the meeting agenda. Agreements made during the meeting are elaborated under Item 8 of this report.

Closing program

The closing program commenced with a ceremonial exchange of tokens between Dongying City, China and Tata City, Hungary as a gesture of appreciation and courtesy between meeting hosts. After the ceremony, Tata City played a promotional video and gave a short message inviting all participants to join the fourth Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors tentatively scheduled in November 2025. Dongying City read the Dongying Declaration and delivered the closing remarks to officially conclude the event.

Field visit

Dongying City organized visits to the Yellow River Estuary Cultural Museum, Guangli River and Shandong Yellow River Delta Ramsar Site— an almost naturally intact estuary, which serves as an important migratory waterbird staging and wintering area.

Presentation files and other downloadable media

Copies of presentation files, and photos and videos of the event can be downloaded at the Wetland City Network website, <https://wetlandcity.org/3rd-roundtable-of-wetland-city-mayors>.

7. Bilateral meetings

The Wetland City Network Strategic Plan 2022-2028 encourages stronger cooperation among Wetland Cities. In support of the Strategic Plan and responding to requests from Wetland Cities, the Roundtable provided an opportunity for Wetland Cities to interact one-on-one and exchange insights through bilateral meetings scheduled in the afternoon of October 15 and 16.

Prior to the Roundtable, the Wetland City Network Secretariat conducted an online survey to seek expressions of interest from Wetland Cities for the bilateral meetings. Part of the survey showed the strength or forte of each Wetland City to guide participating Wetland Cities in the selection process.

Based on survey results and direct communications with Wetland Cities, the Wetland City Network Secretariat has arranged bilateral meetings for the following Wetland Cities:

1. Dongying, China
2. Jining, China
3. Liangping, China
4. Amiens, France

5. Tata, Hungary
6. Niigata, Japan
7. Gochang, Republic of Korea
8. Nagoya, Japan (potential Wetland City)

The pairing and scheduling of Wetland Cities followed the format below:

15 October 2024	16 October 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amiens, France and Liangping, China • Dongying, China and Niigata, Japan • Jining, China and Tata, Hungary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amiens, France and Dongying, China • Gochang, Republic of Korea and Nagoya, Japan • Liangping, China and Tata, Hungary

8. Meeting agreements

A summary of discussions, including decisions and recommended actions, during the Meeting of the Wetland City Network (meeting proper) is presented below:

Agenda item	Remarks
1. Opening and welcome message	As incumbent Chair of the Wetland City Network, Amiens City in France delivered the opening remarks and officially started the meeting.
2. Report of the incumbent Chair of the Wetland City Network	Amiens City reported its accomplishments during its tenure as Chair of the Wetland City Network.
3. Election of new Chair of Wetland City Network	Per usual practice, the current host of the Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors automatically serves as Chair of the Wetland City Network. In this regard, Dongying City in China officially assumed chairmanship of the Network.
4. Adoption of meeting agenda	The meeting agenda was adopted as originally proposed (Annex 4).
5. Report of the Wetland City Network Secretariat	The Wetland City Network Secretariat informed the Members about its contribution to the Network and accomplishments for the period, July 2023 – September 2024.
6. 2024 Wetland City Youth Forum Declaration	Jeju City, Republic of Korea shared its initiative in organizing the 2024 Wetland City Youth Forum held in May 2024 in Jeju City. As the main output of the event, Jeju City explained the rationale and read the 2024 Wetland City Youth Forum Declaration (Annex 5)
7. Dongying Declaration	Dongying City volunteered to draft a statement “Dongying Declaration” on behalf of the Network and introduced the contents during the meeting for approval by the Members. With no comments received, the Members subsequently endorsed the Dongying Declaration (Annex 6).
8. Wetland City Network Action Plan 2025-2028	The Wetland City Network Secretariat presented the draft Wetland City Network Action Plan 2025-2028 for approval by the Members (Annex 7). The following recommendations were raised during the meeting to be incorporated in the Action Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participation of the youth in the internship exchange program between Wetland Cities • facilitate transfer of artificial intelligence-based technologies for monitoring wetlands

Agenda item	Remarks
	The Wetland City Network Action Plan 2025-2028 will be revised to reflect the recommendations and will be circulated to the Members for approval.
9. Wetland City Network Membership Guidelines	The Wetland City Network Secretariat introduced the draft Wetland City Network Membership Guidelines for approval by the Members. No comments were received from the Members. Given this, the Members endorsed the Wetland City Network Membership Guidelines (Annex 8).
10. Sustainable financing mechanism	The Wetland City Network Secretariat presented options for the development of a sustainable financing mechanism to support the implementation of the Wetland City Network Action Plan 2025-2028. These options aimed to spur discussions among the Members. The Wetland City Network Secretariat will continue to coordinate with the Members on follow-on work related to this matter.
11. Internship exchange program	<p>Amiens City shared insights on possible approaches for the internship exchange program. Several points for consideration were suggested during the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for a program that will target the youth, designing the program is important • for university students, the design should take into account the timing or schedule of implementation in view of varying academic calendars of countries • for school children, the program should clearly align with the school curriculum • conduct a survey to identify Wetland Cities that have internship programs and Wetland Schools <p>The Wetland City Network Secretariat will facilitate continuing discussions among the Members as development of the program progresses.</p>
12. Other matters	No other matters were discussed.
13. Date and venue of next meeting	<p>As agreed during the Amiens meeting, Tata City in Hungary will host the 4th Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors. Tata City stated that the city government is planning to hold the next Roundtable in November 2025. Specific meeting dates and venue will be announced later.</p> <p>For 2026, Niigata City in Japan offered to host the 5th Roundtable.</p> <p>The Wetland City Network Secretariat will liaise with Tata City and Niigata City to extend assistance in preparation for the succeeding meetings.</p>
14. Closing message	As the new Chair of the Wetland City Network, Dongying City formally adjourned the meeting.

9. List of annexes

- 1 – List of participants
- 2 – Program of activities
- 3 – Program for parallel sessions
- 4 – Agenda for the Meeting of the Wetland City Network
- 5 – 2024 Wetland City Youth Forum Declaration
- 6 – Dongying Declaration

- 7 – Draft Wetland City Network Action Plan 2025-2028
- 8 – Wetland City Network Membership Guidelines

Annex 1. List of participants

No.	Wetland City / Organization	Name	Designation
1	Changde, China	Sheng Xiaoli	Chief Engineer, Changde Forestry Bureau
2	Changde, China	Hu Yulan	Deputy Director, Forestry Bureau of Dingcheng District
3	Changde, China	He Lie	Staff Member, Changde Wetland Protection and Management Center
4	Changshu, China	Shi Gang	Vice Mayor
5	Changshu, China	Xu Baoshi	Director of the Greening Committee Office, Changshu Natural Resources and Planning Bureau
6	Changshu, China	Mao Minwen	Deputy Section Chief, Changshu Ecological Environment Bureau of Suzhou City
7	Changshu, China	Ma Xiaofeng	Director, Changshu Water Affairs Service Center
8	Changshu, China	Ding Xiangyu	Clerk, Changshu Wetland Protection and Management Station
9	Dongying, China	Yang Guoqiang	Secretary, Dongying Municipal Party Committee
10	Dongying, China	Liang Runsheng	Vice Mayor
11	Dongying, China	Chen Minghai	Director, Municipal Forestry Bureau
12	Dongying, China	Yu Huiyang	Deputy Director, Dongying Natural Resources and Planning Bureau
13	Dongying, China	Wang Feng	Deputy Director, Dongying Natural Resources and Planning Bureau
14	Dongying, China	Zhu Yanfang	Deputy Director, Dongying Natural Resources and Planning Bureau
15	Dongying, China	Wang Xin	Section Chief, Dongying Natural Resources and Planning Bureau
16	Dongying, China	Sun Yanyan	Senior Engineer, Dongying Natural Resources and Planning Bureau
17	Haikou, China	Li Yi	Vice Mayor
18	Haikou, China	Yu Chi	Staff Member, Office of Haikou Municipal People's Government
19	Haikou, China	Qian Jun	Director, Haikou Forestry Bureau
20	Haikou, China	Ren Yiwen	Third-level Section Chief Clerk, Haikou Forestry Bureau
21	Haikou, China	Zhang Yuan	Deputy Director, Haikou Wetland Protection and Management Center
22	Harbin, China	Zheng Zhe	Deputy Secretary General, Harbin Municipal People's Government
23	Harbin, China	Zhang Jinghui	Second-level Inspector, Harbin Forestry and Grassland Bureau
24	Harbin, China	Xing Guangyou	Division Chief, Harbin Forestry and Grassland Bureau
25	Harbin, China	Gong Xuchang	Cameraman, Harbin Daily

No.	Wetland City / Organization	Name	Designation
26	Harbin, China	Chen Fangxin	Office Director, Heilongjiang Harbin Songbei National Wetland Park
27	Hefei, China	Zhang Yiming	Deputy Secretary General, Hefei Municipal People's Government
28	Hefei, China	Yue Changqing	Deputy Director, Hefei Bureau of Forestry and Gardens
29	Hefei, China	Li Xiaoxi	Clerk, Hefei Finance Bureau
30	Hefei, China	Sun Junzhong	Director, Feidong County Forestry Construction Service Center
31	Hefei, China	Gu Yong	Person in Charge, Wetland Management Division, Hefei Bureau of Forestry and Gardens
32	Jining, China	Gong Xiaofang	Vice Mayor
33	Jining, China	Wang Jian	Party Secretary and Director, Jining Natural Resources and Planning Bureau
34	Jining, China	Jia Xiangmeng	Second-level Researcher, Jining Natural Resources and Planning Bureau
35	Jining, China	Hu Lianchang	Director, Jining Forestry Protection and Development Service Center, Jining Natural Resources and Planning Bureau
36	Jining, China	Wang Zhen	Director, Natural Resources and Planning Bureau of Weishan County
37	Liangping, China	Qian Jianchao	Secretary of District Party Committee, Communist Party of China Liangping District Committee, Chongqing
38	Liangping, China	Liu Wenyang	Deputy District Chief, People's Government of Liangping District, Chongqing
39	Liangping, China	Luo Yong	Director, Office of the Communist Party of China Liangping District Committee, Chongqing
40	Liangping, China	Chen Peng	Section Chief, Office of the Communist Party of China Liangping District Committee, Chongqing
41	Liangping, China	Chen Shikang	Director, Liangping District Forestry Bureau, Chongqing
42	Nanchang, China	Yang Yongfu	Deputy Secretary General, Nanchang Municipal People's Government
43	Nanchang, China	Mei Mei	Secretary of Party Leadership Group, Nanchang Forestry Bureau
44	Nanchang, China	Xie Fengjun	Deputy Director, Nanchang Forestry Bureau
45	Nanchang, China	Zhong Yulan	Director, Nanchang Wildlife Protection Center
46	Nanchang, China	Zou Xinjian	Director, Jiangxi Poyang Lake Nanjishan Wetland National Nature Reserve Administration
47	Nanchang, China	Qin Zijie	Fourth-level Section Chief Clerk, Nanchang Wildlife Protection Center
48	Panjin, China	Feng Lei	Deputy Secretary General, Panjin Municipal People's Government
49	Panjin, China	Hou Jun	Director, Panjin Forestry and Wetland Protection Administration

No.	Wetland City / Organization	Name	Designation
50	Panjin, China	Cheng Long	Deputy Section Chief, Panjin Forestry and Wetland Protection Administration
51	Wuhan, China	Chen Ruonan	First-level Section Chief Clerk of Comprehensive Section 9, General Office of Wuhan Municipal People's Government
52	Wuhan, China	Ke Yanshan	Deputy Director, Wuhan Gardening and Forestry Bureau
53	Wuhan, China	Liu Ai	Director, Wildlife Protection and Wetland Division, Wuhan Gardening and Forestry Bureau
54	Wuhan, China	Xue Yi	Third-level Section Chief Clerk, Wild Animal Protection and Wetland Department, Wuhan Municipal Landscape and Forestry Bureau
55	Wuhan, China	Li Peng	Deputy Director, Wuhan Wetland Protection Center
56	Yancheng, China	Tao Xiaolin	Deputy Secretary General, Yancheng Municipal People's Government
57	Yancheng, China	Liu Chang	Deputy Section Chief, Yancheng Municipal People's Government
58	Yancheng, China	Tang Zhongwen	Deputy Director, Yancheng Natural Resources and Planning Bureau
59	Yancheng, China	Zhou Chengming	Deputy Section Chief, Yancheng Natural Resources and Planning Bureau
60	Yinchuan, China	He Kun	Deputy Director, Yinchuan Forestry, Grassland and Gardens Administration
61	Yinchuan, China	Wang Jiangang	Director, Yinchuan Forestry, Grassland and Gardens Administration
62	Yinchuan, China	Wei Pengpeng	Vice Mayor
63	Yinchuan, China	Li Jiabin	Section Chief, Office of Yinchuan Municipal People's Government
64	Yinchuan, China	Dang Yongdong	Director, Yinchuan Wetland Protection Center
65	Amiens, France	Florence Rodinger	Vice Mayor
66	Amiens, France	Julien Laszlo	Director of Environmental Services
67	Tata, Hungary	Levente Murkl	Office Leader
68	Tata, Hungary	Szilvia Gori	Member, Hungarian National Committee of the Ramsar Convention
69	Niigata, Japan	Shoko Nojima	Vice Mayor
70	Niigata, Japan	Masayuki Arai	Director, Niigata City Beijing Office
71	Niigata, Japan	Ryo Takahashi	Section Chief, Environmental Policy Division
72	Niigata, Japan	Qingqing Fan	Officer, Niigata City Beijing Office
73	Ifrane, Morocco	Khadija Ait Kaddour	Wetland City Focal Point
74	Ifrane, Morocco	Yousra Madani	President, Living Planet Morocco
75	Ifrane, Morocco	Mohamed Oussama Belloulid	Freshwater Program Manager, Living Planet Morocco

No.	Wetland City / Organization	Name	Designation
76	Changnyeong, Republic of Korea	Eunyong Ha	Director, Ecotourism and Environment Department
77	Changnyeong, Republic of Korea	Sunjoon Lee	Senior Manager, Changnyeong-gun Upo Ecological Crested Ibis Department
78	Changnyeong, Republic of Korea	Cheonil Kim	Chair, Local Management Committee
79	Changnyeong, Republic of Korea	Gisoon Seong	Vice Chair, Local Management Committee
80	Changnyeong, Republic of Korea	Insik Lee	Principal, Upo Nature School
81	Gochang, Republic of Korea	Cheoltae Kim	Deputy Head of County
82	Gochang, Republic of Korea	Myeongjin Kim	Senior Assistant, Planning and Budget Office
83	Gochang, Republic of Korea	Chan An	Team Manager, Department of Tourism Industry
84	Gochang, Republic of Korea	Jinhee Lee	Senior Assistant, Department of Tourism Industry
85	Gochang, Republic of Korea	Omi Na	Secretary General, Gochang County Ecotourism Association
86	Gochang, Republic of Korea	Daewon Kim	Director, Gochang County Ecotourism Association
87	Gochang, Republic of Korea	Eunjoo Lee	Researcher, Gochang County Ecotourism Association
88	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Younggeun Byun	Vice Mayor
89	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Junghwa Yang	Head, Jocheon-eup
90	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Seunghwan Boo	Manager, Ecological Capital Team, Environment Management Department
91	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Minyoung Kim	Manager, Environmental Management Team, Environment Management Department
92	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Heejung Kang	Officer, Environment Management Department
93	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Changbeom Kim	Director, Local Management Committee
94	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Sangcheol Boo	Director, Local Management Committee
95	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Jeryang Ko	Member, Local Management Committee
96	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Yangsoon Hong	Wetland City Supporting Officer
97	Jeju, Republic of Korea	Hwan Yu	Youth representative
98	Kigali, Rwanda	Theogene Ngaboyamahina	Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming Officer, Rwanda Environment Management Authority / Standing Committee Member representing Africa (Rwanda) / Independent Advisory Committee Member
99	WWF-US / James Cook University, Australia	Missaka Hettiarachchi	Senior Fellow, Environment and Disaster Management Program / Adjunct Professor, School of Science and Engineering
100	Chinese Academy of Sciences, China	Xu Weihua	Vice President, National Park Research Institute
101	International Wetlands and Rivers Beijing, China	Chen Kelin	Director

No.	Wetland City / Organization	Name	Designation
102	Chongqing University, China	Yuan Xingzhong	Professor
103	Paulson Institute	Shi Jianbin	Advisor and Director of Conservation Program
104	Beijing Forestry University, China / Center for East Asian-Australasian Flyway Studies	Guangchun Lei	Professor / Director / Independent Advisory Committee Member
105	Beijing Forestry University, China / Center for East Asian-Australasian Flyway Studies	Lyu Cai	Associate Professor / Deputy Director / Independent Advisory Committee Member
106	Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva	Amir Akhlaghi	Representative / Independent Advisory Committee Member
107	Ministry of Environment, Czechia	Libuse Vlasakova	Ministerial Council Member, Department of International Conventions / Standing Committee Member representing Europe (Czechia) / Independent Advisory Committee Chair
108	The Nature of Cities	Maria Angelica Mejia Pimienta	Regional Curator for Latin America and the Caribbean / Standing Committee Member representing Latin America and the Caribbean (Colombia) / Independent Advisory Committee Member
109	WWF China	Wenwei Ren	Head of Shanghai Regional Program / Independent Advisory Committee Member
110	35 Percent	Matthew Simpson	Director / Independent Advisory Committee Member
111	The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative	Chris Rostron	Coordinator / Independent Advisory Committee Member
112	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretariat	Jay Aldous	Deputy Secretary General / Independent Advisory Committee Observer
113	University of Vienna	Gert Michael Steiner	Professor, Department of Botany and Biodiversity Research / Independent Advisory Committee Member
114	Switzerland	Denis Landenbergue	Independent wetland expert / Independent Advisory Committee Member
115	Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea	Joonwoo Seo	International Cooperation Officer / Independent Advisory Committee Co-Chair
116	Shandong Province, China	Wen Nuan	Vice Governor
117	Shandong Province, China	Zhao Xiaohui	Director General
118	Shandong Province, China	Dong Ruizhong	Deputy Director General
119	Shandong Province, China	Lu Jie	Deputy Secretary General
120	Shandong Province, China	Wang Yuming	Secretary
121	Shandong Province, China	Gao Hongwen	Secretary
122	Shandong Province, China	Liu Yunqing	Section Chief
123	Shandong Province, China	Zhang Zhongdong	Officer
124	Shandong Province, China	Wang Yuhua	Officer

No.	Wetland City / Organization	Name	Designation
125	Shandong Province, China	Wang Bin	Officer
126	Shandong Province, China	Feng Peng	Officer
127	National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China	Yan Zhen	Deputy Director General
128	National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China	Yuan Jiming	Director General, Wetlands Department
129	National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China	Dong Ye	Deputy Director General, Wetlands Department
130	National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China	Liu Zeshi	Secretary
131	National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China	Daming Bao	Deputy Director, Wetland Management Department
132	National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China	Xinxin Hu	Division Director, Ramsar Administrative Authority of China / Independent Advisory Committee Member
133	National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China	Fu Yuanxiang	Section Chief, Southwest Survey and Planning Institute
134	National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China	Sun Ying	Officer
135	National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China	Zhou Zuoyong	Officer
136	National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China / Beijing Forestry University, China	Mingxiang Zhang	Secretary General, Nature Reserve Research Center / Professor
137	Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia	Seung Oh Suh	Executive Director
138	Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia	Norman Emmanuel Ramirez	Program Officer
139	Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia	Seong Bo Kim	Network Officer
140	Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia	Chin Ug Cho	Finance Officer
141	Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia	Hang Ah Kim	Web Officer
142	Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia	Ga-On Lee	Assistant Program Officer
143	Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia	Ahrum Hyung	Assistant Network Officer
144	ICLEI Japan	Togo Uchida	Executive Director

No.	Wetland City / Organization	Name	Designation
145	ICLEI East Asia Secretariat	Ma Yuchen	Senior Project Officer
146	ICLEI East Asia Secretariat	Jiang Yi	Project Coordinator
147	Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea	Solbi Kim	Officer
148	National Institute of Ecology - National Wetland Center, Republic of Korea	Hogyeong Moon	Junior Researcher
149	Upo Ecology Education Institute, Republic of Korea	Jongmyung Lee	Dispatched Teacher
150	Nagoya City, Japan	Satoshi Hirano	Acting Mayor, and Director, Environmental Planning Department
151	Nagoya City, Japan	Rina Itakura	Director (Environmental Education)
152	Nagoya City, Japan	Takaumi Yano	Officer
153	Anhui, China	Zhou Xiaochun	Division chief and Level I Researcher, Wetland Management Division, Anhui Forestry Bureau
154	Anhui, China	Liu Dongdong	Level IV Researcher, Wetland Management Division, Anhui Forestry Bureau
155	Chongming, China	Hu Liuqiang	Deputy District Chief, Chongming District Government
156	Chongming, China	Peng Peipei	Section Chief of Proposal Section, Chongming District Government
157	Chongming, China	Chen Yao	Director, Chongming District Greening and City Appearance Bureau
158	Chongqing, China	Wang Shengbin	Officer, Chongqing Forestry Bureau
159	Chongqing, China	Wang Taiqiang	Director, Chongqing Wetland Protection Management Center
160	Dali, China	Wang Jian	Mayor
161	Dali, China	Zhao Guotai	Director, Office of Dali Municipal People's Government
162	Dali, China	Sun Jiarong	Deputy Director, Dali Forestry and Grassland Bureau
163	Fujian, China	Wang Yimei	Deputy Bureau Chief, Fujian Forestry Bureau
164	Fujian, China	Zhou Dongliang	Director, Fujian Wetland Protection Center
165	Fuzhou, China	Lin Zhiliang	Vice Mayor
166	Fuzhou, China	Fang Haiguo	First-level Section Chief Clerk, General Office of Fuzhou Municipal People's Government
167	Fuzhou, China	Qiu Zhiqiang	Party Secretary and Director, Fuzhou Forestry Bureau
168	Hainan, China	Chen Kang	Deputy Bureau Chief, Hainan Forestry Bureau
169	Hainan, China	Rao Xiaodong	Deputy Bureau Chief, Hainan Wildlife Protection and Management Bureau
170	Hangzhou, China	Cheng Xiaodong	Deputy Secretary General, Hangzhou Municipal People's Government

No.	Wetland City / Organization	Name	Designation
171	Hangzhou, China	Zhu Jiaju	Deputy Director, Hangzhou Forestry and Water Conservancy Bureau
172	Hangzhou, China	Liu Xiang	Deputy Director, Administration of Hangzhou Xixi National Wetland Park
173	Hubei, China	Wang Runzhang	Vice Director, Hubei Forestry Bureau
174	Hubei, China	Tao Lei	Director, Wetland Center of Hubei Forestry Bureau
175	Hunan, China	Li Linshan	Deputy Bureau Chief, Hunan Forestry Bureau
176	Hunan, China	Song Zili	Director, Wetland Center of Hunan Forestry Bureau
177	Jiangsu, China	Lu Zhaoqing	Level II Inspector General, Jiangsu Forestry Bureau
178	Jiangsu, China	Yao Zhigang	Station Chief, Jiangsu Wildlife Protection Station
179	Jiangxi, China	Guo Yingrong	Second grade Inspector, Jiangxi Forestry Bureau
180	Jiangxi, China	Zheng Hui	Level IV Researcher, Wetland and Grassland Management Division, Jiangxi Forestry Bureau
181	Jiujiang, China	Rong Changgui	Vice Mayor
182	Jiujiang, China	Zhong Youlin	Director, Jiujiang Forestry Bureau
183	Jiujiang, China	Hu Youmeng	Section Chief, General Office of Jiujiang Municipal People's Government
184	Lhasa, China	Luo Se	Vice Mayor
185	Lhasa, China	Wang Rongda	Director, Wetland Protection Center of Lhasa Forestry and Grassland Bureau
186	Liaoning, China	Tang Wei	Level II Researcher, Liaoning Forestry and Grassland Bureau
187	Liaoning, China	Zhang Cai	Deputy Director, Liaoning Forestry Development Service Center
188	Ningxia, China	Guo Hongling	Level II Inspector General, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region Forestry and Grassland Bureau
189	Ningxia, China	Wei Xiaoning	Director, Ningxia Wetland Protection Management Center
190	Shanghai, China	Zhu Xinjun	Deputy Bureau Chief, Shanghai Greening and City Appearance Administrative Bureau
191	Shanghai, China	Jin Huiyu	Division Chief, Shanghai Greening and City Appearance Administrative Bureau
192	Suzhou, China	Shi Jiahong	Vice Mayor
193	Suzhou, China	Gu Yijian	Deputy Director, Suzhou Garden and Greening Administration
194	Suzhou, China	Feng Yuqing	Station Chief, Wetland Protection and Management Station, Suzhou Gardening and Greening Administration
195	Wenzhou, China	Chang Lei	Deputy Secretary General, Wenzhou Municipal People's Government

No.	Wetland City / Organization	Name	Designation
196	Wenzhou, China	Wang Rong	Director, Natural Protected Areas and Forest Management Division, Wenzhou Natural Resources and Planning Bureau
197	Wenzhou, China	Yuan Bo	Party Secretary and Chairman, Zhejiang Geology and Mineral Technology Co. Ltd.
198	Yueyang, China	Zhou Heping	Deputy Secretary General, Yueyang Municipal People's Government
199	Yueyang, China	Yao Botao	Deputy Director, Yueyang Municipal People's Government
200	Yunnan, China	Zhao Yongping	Deputy Bureau Chief, Yunnan Forestry and Grassland Bureau
201	Yunnan, China	He Jiafei	Deputy Division Chief, Wetland Management Division, Yunnan Forestry and Grassland Bureau
202	Zhejiang, China	Li Yongsheng	Deputy Bureau Chief, Zhejiang Forestry Bureau
203	Zhejiang, China	Zhang Songcai	Deputy Division Chief, Wildlife and Wetland Management Division, Zhejiang Forestry Bureau

Annex 2. Program of activities

14 October 2024 (Monday)

Time	Activity
18:00 – 20:00	Welcome banquet venue: Yellow River (Huanghe) Hall (2F of main building)

15 October 2024 (Tuesday)

Time	Activity
9:00 – 9:40	<p>Opening messages venue: Huaxia Hall (annex building)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Wen Nuan, Vice Governor, Shandong Province, China • Mr. Yan Zhen, Deputy Director General, National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China • Mr. Yang Guoqiang, Secretary of Dongying Municipal Party Committee, Dongying, China • Mr. Jay Aldous, Deputy Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands • Mr. Seung Oh Suh, Executive Director, Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia
9:40 – 9:55	coffee/tea break photo opportunity
9:55 – 11:45	<p>Keynote presentations venue: Huaxia Hall (annex building)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and management practices of China's international Wetland Cities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Daming Bao, Deputy Director, Wetland Management Department, National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China • Optimization model for ecological conservation and restoration of wetlands in the Yellow River Delta <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Mingxiang Zhang, Secretary General, Nature Reserve Research Center, National Forestry and Grassland Administration; and Professor, Beijing Forestry University • Celebrating cities contributions to protecting and restoration wetlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Kobie Brand, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability; and Regional Director, ICLEI Africa Secretariat (pre-recorded video) <p>Moderator: Dr. Gert Michael Steiner, former Chair, Independent Advisory Committee of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; and Professor, Department of Botany and Biodiversity Research, University of Vienna, Austria</p> <p>(30 minutes per presentation followed by 20-minute panel discussion)</p>
11:45 – 12:00	free visit
12:00 – 13:30	lunch break venue: Yellow River (Huanghe) Hall (2F of main building)

Time	Activity
13:30 – 15:05	<p>Parallel sessions 1 and 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parallel session 1 venue: Huaxia Hall (annex building) • parallel session 2 venue: Meeting Room 301 (3F of main building) <p>(15 minutes per presentation followed by 20-minute panel discussion per parallel session)</p>
15:05 – 15:20	coffee/tea break
15:20 – 16:55	<p>Parallel sessions 3 and 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parallel session 3 venue: Huaxia Hall (annex building) • parallel session 4 venue: Meeting Room 301 (3F of main building) <p>(15 minutes per presentation followed by 20-minute panel discussion per parallel session)</p>
18:00 – 19:30	<p>Buffet supper venue: Yellow River (Huanghe) Hall (2F of main building)</p>
19:30 – 22:00	Meeting of Wetland Cities in China

16 October 2024 (Wednesday)

Time	Activity
9:00 – 10:15	<p>Plenary presentations 1 Partnerships for technical cooperation venue: Huaxia Hall (annex building)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development process and prospects of the International Mangrove Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Lyu Cai, Associate Professor, Beijing Forestry University; and Deputy Director, Center for East Asian-Australasian Flyway Studies • MedWet: A multi-scale approach for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Chris Rostron, Coordinator, The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative • Capacity building for nature-based disaster risk reduction: Wetlands and partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Missaka Hettiarachchi, Senior Fellow, Environment and Disaster Management Program of WWF; and Adjunct Professor, School of Science and Engineering, James Cook University, Australia • Realization of the value of ecological products in national parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Xu Weihua, Vice President, National Forestry and Grassland Administration - National Park Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences <p>Moderator: Mr. Jay Aldous, Deputy Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</p> <p>(15 minutes per presentation followed by 15-minute panel discussion)</p>
10:15 – 10:30	coffee/tea break
10:30 – 11:45	<p>Plenary presentations 2 Current wetland topics venue: Huaxia Hall (annex building)</p>

Time	Activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scaling up wetland conservation and restoration to deliver the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Guidance on including wetlands in NBSAPs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Matthew Simpson, Director, 35 Percent • Wetland School Network in China and Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Chen Kelin, Director, International Wetlands and Rivers Beijing • Wetland ecological restoration based on Nature-based Solutions - The dance of collaborative symbiosis between humans and nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Yuan Xingzhong, Professor, Chongqing University • Developing bird-friendly Wetland Cities to facilitate Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Shi Jianbin, Advisor and Director of Conservation Program, Paulson Institute <p>Moderator: Ms. Libuse Vlasakova, incumbent Chair, Independent Advisory Committee of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; Ramsar National Focal Point of Czechia; and Standing Committee member representing Europe</p> <p>(15 minutes per presentation followed by 15-minute panel discussion)</p>
11:45 – 13:30	lunch break venue: Yellow River (Huanghe) Hall (2F of main building)
13:30 – 16:30	Meeting of the Wetland City Network venue: Meeting Room 301 (3F of main building)
17:00 – 17:30	Closing program venue: Huaxia Hall (annex building) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handover ceremony by the current host city (Dongying, China) • Message from the host city of the next meeting (Tata, Hungary) • Message from current host city (Dongying, China)
18:00 – 20:00	Buffet supper venue: Yellow River (Huanghe) Hall (2F of main building)

17 October 2024 (Thursday)

Time	Activity
9:00 – 12:00	Field visit visit to the Yellow River Estuary Cultural Museum and city parks in Dongying City
12:00 – 14:00	lunch break
14:00 – 18:00	Field visit visit to Shandong Yellow River Delta Ramsar Site
18:00 – 20:00	Buffet supper venue: Yellow River (Huanghe) Hall (2F of main building)

*free time for those who will not join the field visit

Annex 3. Program for parallel sessions

15 October 2024 (Tuesday)

Time	Parallel session 1 Wetland conservation and management Huaxia Hall (annex building)	Parallel session 2 Wetlands and sustainable urban development Meeting Room 301 (3F of main building)
13:30 – 15:05	1. Kigali, Rwanda Rwanda success stories in the rehabilitation of degraded urban wetlands Mr. Theogene Ngaboyamahina, Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming Officer, Rwanda Environment Management Authority; Standing Committee member representing Africa; and IAC Member	1. Dongying, China Dongying: A new ecological city where wetlands and the city achieve each other and humans and nature coexist in harmony Mr. Liang Runsheng, Vice Mayor
	2. Liangping, China The art of achieving harmony between humans and nature: Exploratory practices in wetland protection and management in Liangping District Mr. Qian Jianchao, Secretary of the Liangping City Party Committee	2. Niigata, Japan Local community activities for wetland conservation in Niigata City Ms. Shoko Nojima, Vice Mayor, and Mr. Ryo Takahashi, Section Chief, Environmental Policy Division
	3. Suzhou, China Innovative wetland conservation: The “Suzhou Pathway” Mr. Fan Yuqing, Director of Suzhou Wetland Protection Management Station	3. Wuhan, China High-quality development of international Wetland City with great rivers and lakes Mr. Ke Yanshan, Deputy Director General, Wuhan Municipal Landscape Gardens and Forestry Bureau
	Moderator: Ms. Maria Angelica Mejia Pimienta, Regional Curator for Latin America and the Caribbean, The Nature of Cities; Standing Committee member representing Latin America and the Caribbean; Colombia; and IAC Member	Moderator: Mr. Mingxiang Zhang, Secretary General, Nature Reserve Research Center, National Forestry and Grassland Administration; and Professor, Beijing Forestry University
15:05 – 15:20	coffee/tea break	coffee/tea break

Time	Parallel session 3 Wetlands and climate change Huaxia Hall (annex building)	Parallel session 4 Public engagement in wetland conservation Meeting Room 301 (3F of main building)
15:20 – 16:55	<p>1. Changde, China</p> <p>Changde, a Wetland City in the land of peach blossoms</p> <p>Ms. Sheng Xiaoli, Chief Engineer, Changde Forestry Bureau</p>	<p>1. Changshu, China</p> <p>National participation, jointly protecting the city of wetlands</p> <p>Mr. Xu Baoshi, Party Leadership Group Member and Director, Greening Committee Office, Changshu Natural Resources and Planning Bureau</p>
	<p>2. Haikou, China</p> <p>The beauty of wetlands: The coconut city of time honored Haikou revealing a new scenery</p> <p>Mr. Li Yi, Vice Mayor</p>	<p>2. Hefei, China</p> <p>Social participation empowers wetland protection in Hefei</p> <p>Mr. Yue Changqing, Deputy Director, Hefei Forestry and Landscape Bureau</p>
	<p>3. Panjin, China</p> <p>Cultivate a solid foundation of green ecology and polish the name card of "International Wetland City"</p> <p>Mr. Feng Lei, Deputy Secretary General</p>	<p>3. Jeju, Republic of Korea</p> <p>'Better Together' Jeju Wetland City: Becoming friends with citizens</p> <p>Ms. Byun Youngkeun, Vice Mayor</p>
	<p>4. Nagoya, Japan</p> <p>Initiatives for wetland conservation and wetland education</p> <p>Mr. Satoshi Hirano, Acting Mayor and Director, Environmental Planning Department</p>	
	<p>Moderator: Mr. Togo Uchida, Executive Director, ICLEI Japan</p>	<p>Moderator: Dr. Cai Lyu, Associate Professor, Beijing Forestry University, and Deputy Director, Center for East Asian-Australasian Flyway Studies</p>

Annex 4. Agenda for the Meeting of the Wetland City Network

1	Opening and welcome message	Incumbent Chair, Wetland City Network: Amiens, France
2	Report of the incumbent Chair of the Wetland City Network	Amiens, France
3	Election of new Chair of Wetland City Network	Incumbent Chair, Wetland City Network Members, and Wetland City Network Secretariat
4	Adoption of meeting agenda	Wetland City Network Members
5	Report of the Wetland City Network Secretariat	Wetland City Network Secretariat
6	2024 Wetland City Youth Forum Declaration	Jeju, Republic of Korea
7	Dongying Declaration	Dongying, China
8	Wetland City Network Action Plan 2025-2028	Wetland City Network Secretariat
9	Wetland City Network Membership Guidelines	Wetland City Network Secretariat
10	Sustainable financing mechanism	Wetland City Network Secretariat
11	Internship exchange program	Amiens, France and Wetland City Network Secretariat
12	Other matters	Wetland City Network Members
13	Date and venue of next meeting	Wetland City Network Members
14	Closing message	New Chair, Wetland City Network: Dongying, China

"2024 Wetland City Youth Forum"

Youth Declaration for Wetland Conservation and Sustainable Future (Summary)

May 26, 2024

Education

- Care for wetland conservation and sustainable future actions must be taught through home life.
- Elementary, middle, and high school educational institutions should designate wetland conservation-focused schools and operate education courses for wetland and ecological conservation.
- We need learning opportunities in connection with wetland-related specialized organizations such as wetland centers.

Culture

- As youth in a wetland city, we will post about the wetlands in our city on SNS.
- As youth in a wetland city, there should be opportunities to grow as young wetland interpreters who can interact with other young people from Korea and abroad who visit the wetlands.
- We should appoint “Youth Wetland Conservation Members” within relevant organizations so that the opinions of young people can be reflected regarding wetland conservation and sustainable use.

Citizenship

- As young citizens, we will build and assume leadership an online and offline community where we can communicate and share information about

wetlands.

- We will actively participate in the development of programs centered on wetlands as the subject so that citizens can naturally experience and learn about wetlands.
- We propose planning a citizen-participatory long-term wetland monitoring program.

Technology

- We can develop a wetland-themed adventure mobile game that combines fun and educational value to inform the public about the importance of wetlands.
- We can develop an interface app using eDNA so that citizens can participate in wetland conservation and monitoring.
- We can develop wetland ecosystem protection robots.

Policy

- We propose policies that can support education and raise awareness about wetland conservation.
- We propose policies that promote the development and use of technologies related to wetland conservation.
- We need to establish support measures so that young people can become the main players in wetland conservation and engage in activities and exchanges. As part of this, we request that the Wetland City Youth Forum continue to be held.

Annex 6. Dongying Declaration

We, the Members of the Wetland City Network, gather in Dongying and jointly commit to taking proactive actions for the development of Wetland Cities.

Given the increasing world population and rate of migration to cities, the expansion of urban areas poses a serious threat to wetlands. At the same time, urban wetlands have not received sufficient attention and are even regarded as useless areas.

We recognize that urban wetlands provide a variety of ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits to cities. Urban wetlands can regulate the urban climate, alleviate the heat island effect, purify the air, improve water quality, reduce the impact of disasters such as heavy rain on cities, and increase the livability of cities.

We recognize that Wetland City accreditation promotes the conservation and wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands, bringing sustainable social and economic benefits to the local people.

We confirm that it is necessary to strengthen the protection and wise use of urban wetlands and promote the sustainable development of Wetland Cities through joint efforts of the Members of the Wetland City Network. Considering the vision "Wetland Cities deliver on the wise use of wetlands for the benefit of current and future generations of citizens" put forward in the Wetland City Network Strategic Plan 2022-2028 and the emphasis made in the Wuhan Declaration "promoting the Wetland City accreditation scheme and building Wetland Cities that are climate-resilient, biodiversity-friendly and sustainable".

We urgently declare that, on the occasion of the 2024 Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors and in order to give full play to the role of wetlands in urban development, we must strengthen the exchanges and cooperation among Wetland Cities with a strong will and practical actions, jointly promote wetland protection, and promote the sustainable development of cities.

To this end, we will strive to:

1. Take effective measures to strengthen the protection of urban and surrounding wetlands and promote the wise use of wetlands to build Wetland Cities that are climate-resilient, biodiversity-friendly and sustainable for contemporary and future urban residents;
2. Respect the objective reality, scientifically carry out the investigation, monitoring and evaluation of wetland ecosystems, and be committed to jointly promoting the establishment of a standardized system;
3. Promote the exemplary demonstration role of Wetland Cities in the harmonious coexistence of cities and wetlands, and drive more Wetland Cities to join the Wetland City Network;
4. Strengthen the exchanges and cooperation among Wetland Cities, actively participate in two-way knowledge sharing, human and other resource sharing, carry out talent exchange and scientific and technological training activities, and promote cooperation among cities and between cities and international organizations;
5. Encourage Wetland Cities to introduce relevant laws, regulations and policies, and incorporate wetland protection and restoration into spatial and wetland management plans;
6. Establish an effective financial support mechanism for Wetland City development, and mobilize funds for wetland protection and restoration through government investment, ecological compensation, protection funds, green finance and other measures;

7. Explore methods for sustainable utilization of wetland resources, promote the organic integration of wetlands and urban development, and achieve a win-win situation between ecology and economy;
8. Support scientific and technological innovation in wetland protection and management, promote the application of new technologies and methods, and improve the scientific and technological level of wetland protection and management; and
9. Strengthen the publicity and education on wetland protection, raise the public's awareness on the importance of wetlands, and encourage the public to participate in wetland protection and management.

We firmly believe that through joint efforts, we can achieve sustainable development of Wetland Cities and create a more beautiful and livable urban environment for future generations.

Annex 7. Draft Wetland City Network Action Plan 2025-2028

Purpose

Following the 2nd Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors held in Amiens in France, Members of the Wetland City Network endorsed the Wetland City Network Strategic Plan 2022-2028. The Strategic Plan outlines the vision, objectives and targets of the Network for the next seven years to guide the Network in fulfilling its purpose 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.

The Wetland City Network Action Plan provides the basis for operationalizing the Strategic Plan through specific activities for implementation by the Wetland Cities and the Wetland City Network Secretariat, in cooperation with partner organizations. These activities may be updated, as necessary, to reflect the priority needs of the Wetland Cities.

Action Plan

The Wetland City Network Action Plan prescribes a three-pronged approach to implementation: (1) between Wetland Cities, (2) between Wetland Cities and the Wetland City Network Secretariat, and (3) between Wetland Cities and partner organizations. Each activity in the Action Plan aims to contribute to the achievement of specific targets and objectives under the Strategic Plan.

1. Wetland City – Wetland City

Direct coordination and implementation of activities are freely carried out by Wetland Cities.

- 1.1. establish friendly relations and forge formal partnerships as “sister cities”
- 1.2. collaborate with non-government organizations and government-led educational institutions to promote Wetland Schools and to carry out “school twinning”
- 1.3. share information between Wetland Cities with similar conditions
- 1.4. organize learning exchange visits and internship exchange programs
- 1.5. share and mobilize financial resources for implementation of priority wetland projects

2. Wetland City – Wetland City Network Secretariat

Wetland Cities specifically define activities or services that are expected to be delivered by the Wetland City Network Secretariat.

- 2.1. organize and deliver in-person or virtual training events and technical level meetings
- 2.2. assist in coordinating and establishing cooperation among Wetland Cities
- 2.3. facilitate matching of Wetland Cities based on common characteristics and interests
- 2.4. develop and maintain a website and web magazine for sharing of news articles and related materials from Wetland Cities
- 2.5. establish a communication channel where Wetland Cities can seek technical advice from wetland experts
- 2.6. extend assistance in accessing international grants for projects on wetland conservation and wise use

3. Wetland City – Partner organizations

Wetland Cities identify scientific or technical assistance to be requested from partner organizations or wetland experts.

- 3.1. disseminate case studies on wetland conservation efforts being done in areas other than Wetland Cities
- 3.2. provide technical advice on wetland management planning, monitoring and evaluation, and information that will support decision-making
- 3.3. collaborate with relevant government agencies, non-government organizations and academic institutions to carry out community outreach programs and scientific studies
- 3.4. recommend measures to raise the profile of Wetland Cities by maximizing the benefits derived from the wise use of wetland resources
- 3.5. assist potential Wetland Cities in the accreditation process

Annex 8. Wetland City Network Membership Guidelines

Purpose

The Wetland City Network contributes to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands through the collective efforts of local governments, local communities and other important stakeholders. It 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. These guidelines outline information on formal membership to the Wetland City Network.

Composition of the Wetland City Network

The Wetland City Network operates under a structure comprised of Wetland City Network Members (“Members”), the Wetland City Network Secretariat (“Secretariat”), and observers. Members refer to Wetland Cities that have formally joined the network; while, the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia serves as the Secretariat of the network. Observers represent international, national and local government or non-government organizations that are formally recognized by the Members.

Wetland City Network membership process

Membership to the network by Wetland Cities is purely voluntary. With respect to this principle, Wetland Cities are obliged to submit to the Secretariat an official letter expressing their interest in joining the Wetland City Network as a Member. Upon receipt of the letter and acknowledgement by the Secretariat, Wetland Cities are automatically included in the official roster of Members.

Members may admit international, national and local government or non-government organizations to the network as observers. Potential observers are required to formally express their intent to be part of the network by registering with the Secretariat. To register, an official letter of intent and completed registration form must be submitted to the Secretariat at least six (6) months before each annual meeting of the Wetland City Network. Formal recognition as observer is granted by Members during annual meetings.

Validity, withdrawal and suspension of membership

Membership to the Wetland City Network is a continuing privilege of Wetland Cities and will remain valid unless a Member formally expresses its voluntary withdrawal through written notice. In the same light, membership of Wetland City Network Members that fail to renew their accreditation status will be automatically suspended.