



COP14  **2022**

14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

**“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”
Wuhan, China, and Geneva, Switzerland 5-13 November 2022**

Resolution XIV.9

The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards

1. NOTING the achievements of the Convention in promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands, and the many individuals, organizations and governments which have contributed significantly to this achievement;
2. RECALLING Resolution VI.18 on *Establishment of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards*;
3. RECONFIRMING the need for Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards to recognize and honour such contributions as a means of motivating greater and continued support for the Convention’s cause in the future; and
4. ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of the financial support from donors that make the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards more attractive by enabling prize funds;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

5. DECIDES that the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards should be presented on the occasion of each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
6. DECIDES that individuals and groups, of all nations, are invited to submit nominations;
7. DECIDES that any individuals or organizations (including government institutions, sub-national authorities, non-governmental organizations, private companies and community groups), as well as permanent or temporary co-operations between individuals and/or organizations of any nation or region, can be nominated, as long as the nominee fulfils the eligibility criteria and performs well under the Award criteria, as described in Annex 1.
8. DECIDES that the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award categories, further described in Annex 1, will be:
 - i. The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Wise Use Award;
 - ii. The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for Innovation;
 - iii. The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for Young Wetland Champions;
 - iv. The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for Science;
 - v. The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for CEPA; and
 - vi. The Ramsar Wetland Indigenous Peoples Conservation and Wise Use Award.

9. DECIDES that the Standing Committee may decide upon Ramsar Wetland Merit Awards for nominees for the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards that do not receive another Award. This may be done if a nominee stands out because of a long-term contribution or commitment to the conservation and wise use of wetlands, characterized by excellence or notable achievements;
10. DECIDES that the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) at each of its ordinary meetings will decide upon the budget and the number of Awards and in what categories Awards are to be selected for the coming Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award cycle;
11. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to do the following for each Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award cycle:
 - i. consider if the latest decision of the COP on Award categories and budget are still suitable when it is time to call for nominations, and if not adjust the decision in an appropriate way;
 - ii. decide on the deadline for the nominations and any other actions in order to establish an appropriate timetable for this process;
 - iii. decide the Award recipients in a closed session;
 - iv. ensure that the draft resolution on the coming budget includes information about funds that can be allocated for the Awards, and what categories are to be chosen for the coming Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award cycle; and
 - v. ensure that the Subgroup on COP selects and recommends Award recipients, or replace it with a subset of the Standing Committee if asked to do so by the Subgroup on COP;
12. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to do the following for each Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award cycle:
 - i. support the nomination process described in Annex 1, so that the Standing Committee can take a decision on the Awards (for example, seeking sponsors if needed, announcing the call for nominations, compiling data about the nominations, evaluating them and preparing shortlists of possible candidates). If needed, advice can be given by members of appropriate Convention bodies;
 - ii. ensure that information on the nominations and the decision on the Award recipients is not made public prematurely;
 - iii. arrange everything for the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards ceremony; and
 - iv. help to raise the profile of the Award recipients in different kinds of media;
13. DECIDES that the Standing Committee's decisions on the Awards are final and cannot be appealed against;
14. DECIDES that the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award recipients will receive a trophy and a certificate and a cash award subject to available funding; ALSO DECIDES that Ramsar Wetland Merit Awards recipients will receive a trophy and a certificate subject to available funding;
15. RECOMMENDS in line with Annex 1 that the Awards ceremony be held physically at the meeting of the COP, followed by a reception to favour exchanges between recipients and all delegates according to the allocated budget and, optionally, that national ceremonies be held in the recipients' countries after the ceremony at the COP;
16. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to promote the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards, both when the call for nominations of potential candidates opens, and when announcing Award recipients; and

17. DECIDES to retire the Resolution and Standing Committee decisions listed for retirement in Annex 2. There are no Recommendations including Ramsar Wetland Awards that need to be retired.

Annex 1

Categories, eligibility criteria, Award criteria and procedures

Description of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award categories:

1. The Conference of the Contracting Parties and in some cases the Standing Committee can decide upon which of the categories below are to be used in the coming Award cycle.
 - i. *The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Wise Use Award*, rewarding a person, project, programme or policy that has made a significant documented contribution to the long-term sustainable use of wetlands, either at specific wetland sites (including Wetlands of International Importance) or on a broader scale, and that can be replicated elsewhere. The concept of the wise use of wetlands, defined as “the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development” is at the heart of the Ramsar philosophy.
 - ii. *The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for Innovation*, rewarding a person, project, programme or policy that has contributed to the conservation and wise use of wetlands through an innovative technique or approach.
 - iii. *The Ramsar Conservation Award for Young Wetland Champions*, rewarding a young person or a group of young people that has contributed to the wise use of wetlands, through activities including, but not limited to, awareness raising, campaigning, restoration and other conservation efforts. For the purpose of this Award, people between 18 and 30 years old or groups with members and leader between 18 and 30 years old at the time of the nomination will be considered.
 - iv. *The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for Science*, rewarding a scientist or a group of scientists that contributes to the advancement of sciences in any of their branches important for wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services.
 - v. *The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for CEPA*, rewarding the best initiative for communication, capacity building, education, participation, and awareness for wetlands, as well for as the results of the activities.
 - vi. *The Ramsar Wetland Indigenous Peoples Conservation and Wise Use Award*, aiming to promote outstanding projects led by or involving Indigenous Peoples, to specifically acknowledge outstanding leadership and transformative projects either led by or involving Indigenous Peoples.

Eligibility criteria

2. Nominees must be alive at the time of nomination. Awards will not be given posthumously.
3. Self-nominations and requests for study grants will not be accepted.
4. Nominations of current members or invited experts of subsidiary bodies of the Convention such as the Standing Committee and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, or of Secretariat staff members, will not be accepted.

5. Nominations that do not meet the deadline will not be accepted.
6. Direct approaches regarding the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards from the nominator, the nominee or the Contracting Party in which the nominee is active to members of the Standing Committee (acting as the selection committee) or attempts to influence their decision on Awards recipients will disqualify any nominee from further consideration.
7. Individuals, groups and organizations that have been convicted of, or are under investigation for, a criminal offence connected to the wetland project or career or deed that they have been nominated for will not be eligible. Examples of such offences are having illegal work conditions, committing money laundering or accounting violations, performing projects without necessary permits or having violated conditions in such permits.

Award criteria

8. *Independent of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award category*, the selection of Award recipients will be based on the satisfaction of several of the following criteria:
 - i. A proven and documented record of achievement and success in the relevant category;
 - ii. A direct link between activities and the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands through the wise use of wetlands including the network of Wetlands of International Importance, whether locally, sub-nationally, nationally, regionally or globally;
 - iii. The approaches, outcomes or capacity to be replicated of activities, to inspire others or to serve as practical examples for others;
 - iv. The significance of achievements, regardless of the geographic scale of their impact;
 - v. The demonstrable impact of activities on awareness of wetlands and their values and the services they provide; and
 - vi. The clarity with which the nomination is presented, and the activities and achievements described.
9. *The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Wise Use Award category* will favour nominees which demonstrate outstanding achievement in meeting one or several of the following criteria:
 - i. Demonstrable positive outcomes of sustainable wetland practices;
 - ii. Demonstrable overall benefits in the area where activities are being implemented;
 - iii. Demonstrated use of the ecosystem approach within a sustainable development context;
 - iv. A mission and purpose that relates directly to the conservation of wetlands; and
 - v. Reconciliation of sustainable resource-use practices with long-term wetland conservation objectives.
10. *The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Wise Use Award for Innovation category* will favour nominees which demonstrate innovative actions supporting the conservation and wise use of wetlands, whether through new techniques or new approaches, which meet one or several of the following criteria:
 - i. An innovation which is truly a new concept rather than a variation of an existing one;
 - ii. The demonstrable usefulness and impact of the innovation;
 - iii. Its demonstrable applicability, practicality, and replicability; and
 - iv. Wide recognition of the innovation.
11. *The Ramsar Conservation Award for Young Wetland Champions category* will favour nominees which demonstrate innovative actions supporting the conservation and wise use of wetlands, whether through new techniques or new approaches, and which meet the first criterion and one or several of the other following criteria:

- i. Individuals nominated should be between 18 and 30 years old at the time of nomination. The members and leader(s) of nominated groups should be within the same age range. Dates of birth will be requested;
 - ii. A proven and documented record of achievement in activities or projects on the conservation and wise use of wetlands. These may involve community work, research, awareness raising, restoration work, or any other activity undertaken to benefit wetlands;
 - iii. The activity or project should clearly refer to the mission of the Convention on Wetlands; and
 - iv. Projects or activities should either have been finalized during the last three years before the nomination or be in an advanced implementation stage to be considered.
12. *The Ramsar Wetland Indigenous Peoples Conservation and Wise Use Award category* will favour nominees (which may be groups or individuals) that demonstrate outstanding leadership in wetland projects either led by, or involving, Indigenous Peoples and meet at least one of the following criteria:
- i. Achieved positive outcomes for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly for key ecosystems or places of importance to Indigenous Peoples;
 - ii. Enhanced sustainable livelihoods and wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples through the wise use of wetlands;
 - iii. Promoted the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples, and/or supported the connection of Indigenous Peoples to lands, seas and territories;
 - iv. Implemented transformative projects that halt or reverse wetland loss and degradation, while integrating the values, world views and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples;
 - v. Demonstrated an enhanced role or recognition of Indigenous Peoples in the governance, management or protection of wetlands, including at Wetlands of International Importance.

Nomination conditions for all nominees and complementary conditions for the award recipients

- 13. Nominations should be submitted to the Convention Secretariat in English, French or Spanish, using the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award form available from the Secretariat in Gland, Switzerland, and on the Convention website (<https://www.ramsar.org/activity/the-ramsar-awards>).
- 14. The nomination will include a summary of up to 250 words describing the achievements of the nominee and the reasons for the nomination.
- 15. The form should be accompanied by a document of up to 2,500 words, providing the necessary background, explaining how the nomination corresponds to the objectives and criteria of the Award, and providing an assessment of the results achieved.
- 16. Nominations should be accompanied by letters of recommendation from two independent individuals (not including the nominator) who are not related to the nominee, and do not work in the same organization, who can assess the nominee's contributions and can be contacted by the evaluation panel.
- 17. Nominations for the Ramsar Wetland Indigenous Peoples Conservation and Wise Use Award, if not submitted by an organization representing the Indigenous Peoples leading or involved in the project, must be accompanied by a letter of support from the Indigenous Peoples and/or their representative organization.

18. The nomination will be assessed on the basis of the nomination form, the additional information provided and the letters of reference.
19. Nominations should be accompanied by at least one high-resolution photograph of the nominee (person or team) in electronic form (minimum size of 1920 x 1080 pixels) with photo credits and permission for use by the Convention Secretariat at its discretion, including when announcing the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award recipients.
20. Limited additional information such as images, short videos or links to web resources may also be provided, preferably in electronic form, to illustrate the nomination.
21. All Award recipients will be requested to provide at least 20 high-resolution images illustrating their activities and achievements, with captions, photo credits and permission for use by the Secretariat at its discretion and by organizations or individuals that have donated prize funds for Award publicity material in different media.

Selection procedure

22. The Convention Secretariat will evaluate the nominations received and submit a shortlist with recommendations to the Standing Committee for its consideration. In undertaking this evaluation, the Secretariat may seek the advice of members of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, the Communication, Capacity Building, Education, Participation, and Awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel or others, as appropriate.
23. If the numbers of nominations are low and/or the contributions are weak, the Secretariat may suggest adding to the shortlist older nominations of strong character that were not awarded earlier.
24. The Subgroup on COP working group will select and recommend the Award recipients from the shortlists and the Standing Committee will decide the Award recipients.

Announcement and presentation of Awards

25. The Secretariat will be in contact with the Award recipients, letting them know what sponsors have donated prize funds, and ask if they accept the Award and if so to which persons information on the Award ceremony is to be sent.
26. The Award recipients will be presented during the Conference of the Contracting Parties and Award recipients will participate physically at COP depending on the allocated budget during the Awards ceremony.
27. The Secretariat will put together a film containing sequences of the Awards ceremony as well as films and pictures from the nominations and publish it on the Convention website and in suitable social media.

Annex 2

Compilation of Resolutions and Standing Committee decisions to be retired

1. The table below shows the existing Resolutions including information on the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards. There is a description on what parts are concerned and what is suggested to happen to them. The Resolutions have been found by searching for “awards” in the subset of Resolutions among the documents on the Convention website.

Resolutions	Paragraphs/parts concerned	Suggested for retirement by this Resolution or not
Resolution VI.18 <i>Establishment of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards</i>	All	Outdated and to be retired by this Resolution.
Resolution VII.1 <i>Regional Categorization of countries under the Convention, and composition, roles and responsibilities of the Standing Committee, including tasks of Standing Committee members</i>	Paragraph 20 k)	Will probably be retired by a resolution retiring all Resolutions that are obviously outdated.
Resolution X.12 <i>Principles for partnerships between the Ramsar Convention and the business sector</i>	Paragraph 9 first part (about the appreciation to the Danone Group and the Evian Special Prize).	Needs to be addressed during the compilation work on existing Resolutions.
Resolution XI.19 <i>Adjustments to the terms of Resolution VII.1 on the composition, roles, and responsibilities of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention</i>	Annex 1 Paragraph 19 j)	Will probably be retired by a resolution retiring all Resolutions that are obviously outdated.
Resolution XI.2 <i>Financial and budgetary matters</i>	Annex 1, half of one of the budget lines	Will probably be retired by a resolution retiring all Resolutions that are obviously outdated.
Resolution XII.4 <i>The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Ramsar Convention</i>	Annex 1 Para 19 j	Will probably be retired by a resolution retiring all Resolutions that are obviously outdated.
Resolution XIII.4 <i>Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention</i>	Annex 1 Para 19 j	Will probably be retired by a resolution retiring all Resolutions that are obviously outdated.

2. The table below shows the existing Standing Committee decisions including information on the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards. There are also some “decisions” made by the Standing Committee that have not been recorded as decisions but are referred to in the report of the meetings. In the table those are either recognized as lacking a decision number or that there is no formal decision made. There is a description on what parts are concerned and what is suggested to happen to them. The Standing Committee decisions have been found by searching

for “awards” in the subset of Standing Committee decisions and reports among the documents in the Convention website.

Standing Committee decisions about Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards content (generalized and shortened)	Standing Committee decision number (and paragraphs in the Standing Committee meeting report)	Retirement by this Resolution
Decision on having a draft resolution for Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards and parts of its content.	SC17.10 (90-92)	Outdated and to be retired.
Decisions on establishing, asking for reviews, and updating; Terms of Reference for the Award, responsible jury/selection committee, categories, criteria, timelines, and prize sizes including thanks to the donor the Danone Group.	SC19.25 (182, 183) SC20.9 (103-106) SC20.10 (103-106) SC25-16 (135-138) SC30-8 (92) SC35-3 <i>first part</i> (63) SC36 no formal decision (16) SC41-9 (76) SC47-03 f (Item 6 about COP12) SC53-13 (82-85) <i>Doc 13</i> SC58-22 (21, 24-32) Intersessional decision, January-February 2021	Outdated and to be retired. For SC47-03, only part f) is to be retired by this Resolution. For SC35-3, the whole Decision can be deleted as the last part is mentioned below.
Decisions on trying by different means to get more nominees.	SC26-no ID (288) SC42-11 (74, 76-77, 84)	Outdated and to be retired.
Decision that previous Award recipients should be invited to nominate candidates or to form an alumni club and that their success should be published.	SC35-3 <i>last part</i> (63)	Outdated and to be retired (that includes both the first and last part, see above).
Decisions announcing the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award recipients.	SC21.3 (88-90) SC31-14 (131) SC37-no ID SC43-2 (32-33) SC48-no ID (19-20, 28-29 ,134) SC54-13 (191, 205-208) SC57-16 (Item 21.1 Bis)	Outdated and to be retired.
Decisions about how to address the Ramsar Wetland Innovation Award in 2018.	SC55-15 (51) SC57-16 (Item 21.1 Bis)	Outdated and to be retired.