



**Presentation by Zimbabwe on Ramsar
Convention on Wetlands COP15
Hosting Preparedness**

at the

**63rd meeting of the Standing
Committee (SC63)
Gland, Switzerland
June 2024**

The logo for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. It features a teal background with white wavy lines at the top. The word "Ramsar" is written in large, white, serif font. Below it, "Convention on Wetlands" is written in a smaller, teal, sans-serif font.

Ramsar
Convention
on Wetlands

Presentation Elements

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Introduction

- ▶ At the close of the Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP14) held in Geneva in November 2022, Zimbabwe expressed interest in hosting the Fifteenth meeting.
- ▶ A Cabinet Decision on the hosting of the Convention on Wetlands COP15 by Zimbabwe in July 2025 was then made at Cabinet's third meeting of 28 February 2023.
- ▶ Since then the country has been actively preparing for the successful hosting of this global meeting.

Updates

Signing of the Host Agreement

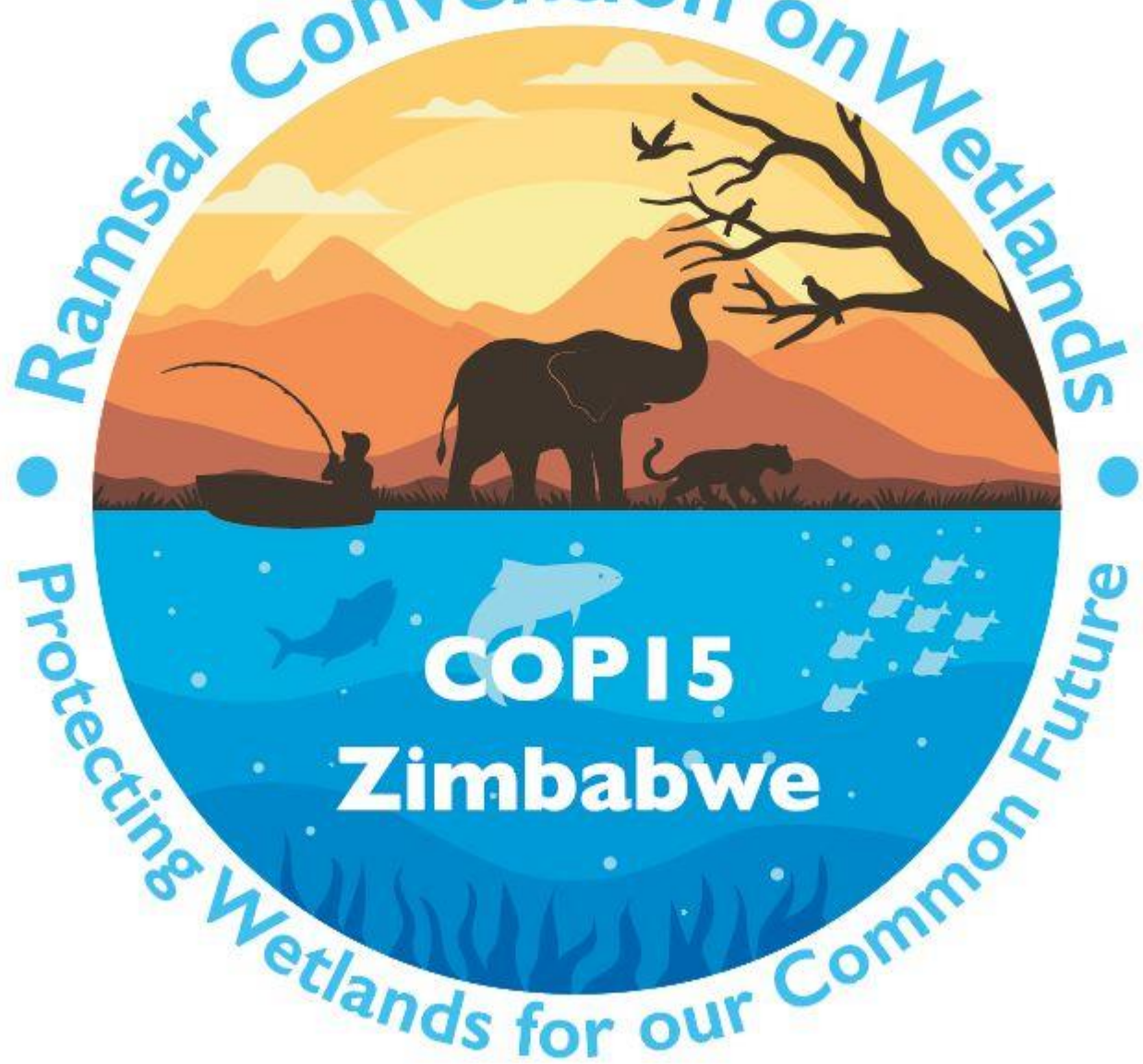
- ▶ The Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Dr Musonda Mumba visited Zimbabwe between 2-5 March 2024. The purpose of the visit was for signing of the Host Agreement with the Government of Zimbabwe.
- ▶ The Host Agreement was signed on the 4th of March 2024 and the Government of Zimbabwe was represented by the former Minister of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, Hon N.M Ndhlovu.

COP15 Dates

- ▶ The Standing Committee has approved the date and location of COP15 to be 23-31 July 2025 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

COP15 Theme and Logo

- ▶ The proposed theme for COP15 is ***“Protecting Wetlands for our Common Future.”***
- ▶ The proposed logo has also been developed and shared with the Secretariat for comments and endorsed by the Subgroup on COP15. It is being presented here, to members of SC63, for the Committees’ consideration and approval.



**COP15
Zimbabwe**



Logo Elements Explained

Design Elements:

- 1. Iconography:** The central element of the logo features a stylized representation of the iconic African landscape with a stunning Zimbabwe sunset, symbolizing the natural beauty and significance of this unique wetland ecosystem.
- 2. Water and bird motif:** The serene waters at the base of the hills represents the harmonious coexistence of people, land and water animals and their habitats.
- 3. Circular frame:** The circular frame signifies unity, collaboration, and global cooperation in wetland conservation efforts.
- 4. Colour palette:** The vibrant colours—azure blue, and warm gold—reflect the vitality and diversity of wetlands.

Website and COP15 App

- ▶ The Ministry has officially engaged personnel at ZimParks to assist with developing a website and a COP15 mobile application.
- ▶ These two are expected to provide COP participants with meeting information and access to meeting documents.
- ▶ The work is currently underway.

Second Assessment Visit by the Secretariat

- ▶ Following Zimbabwe's expression of interest in hosting the Fifteenth Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Wetlands in 2025, the Secretariat has visited Zimbabwe to assess its preparedness.
- ▶ The Secretariat was represented by Mr Jay Aldous (Deputy Secretary General), Mr Zebedee Njisuh (Senior Advisor Africa) and Ms Delphine Brémond (Conference and Governance Services Officer). The delegation was welcomed by the Deputy Liaison Officer, Mr. E. Samuriwo, DG EMA Mr A. Chigona and the Ramsar Zimbabwe Focal Point Mr. P. Mangisi. Representatives from various Ministries and Departments also attended the meeting.



Outcome of the Secretariat Second Visit

- ▶ The purpose of the visit was for the Secretariat to assess the Country's preparations for Hosting COP15.
- ▶ The main areas of focus included: venue, conference facilities, accommodation and transport logistics.
- ▶ The Secretariat also had the opportunity to interact with both organizing committees for COP15.

COP15 Organising Committees

Hosting COP15 requires participation of different Ministries, institutions and players with different key roles during COP15. Two committees have been established at national and local level. These Committees meet on a monthly basis as part of preparations for hosting COP15.

1. Inter-ministerial Committee – Harare

Chaired by the Ministry of Environment

2. Local Organising Committee – Victoria Falls

Chaired by the Town Clerk.

COP15 Organising Teams

Sub Committees have been created with different roles that include among the following;

- ▶ **Transport and Logistics:** Chaired by Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development and Members being; Central Mechanical Equipment Department (CMED), Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA), Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), Airports Company of Zimbabwe (ACZ), Department of Immigration, Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA)
- ▶ **Accommodation & Conferencing:** Chaired by Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife and Members being; Ministry of Tourism and Hospitality Industry, Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA), Zimparks, President's Department, Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology Postal and Courier Services, Environmental Management Agency (EMA), Forestry Commission.

COP15 Organising Teams (cont'd)

- ▶ **Communication and information:-** Chaired by Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology Postal and Courier Services- Members being; Ministry of Information Publicity and Broadcasting Services, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ministry of Tourism and Hospitality Industry, President's Department, ZTA, EMA, Forestry Commission and Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife.
- ▶ **Health and environment-** Chaired by Ministry of Health and Child Care- Members being; EMA, ZTA, Forestry Commission, Ministry of Energy and Power Development , Min of Local Government and Public Works
- ▶ **Entertainment, tours and excursions-** Chaired by Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife- Members being ; ZTA, Zimparks, Ministry of Local Government and Public Works, EMA, Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage.
- ▶ **Protocol and security-** Chaired by President's Department and Members being; ZRP, EMA, Zimparks , ZTA, Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Update on Venue and Accommodation

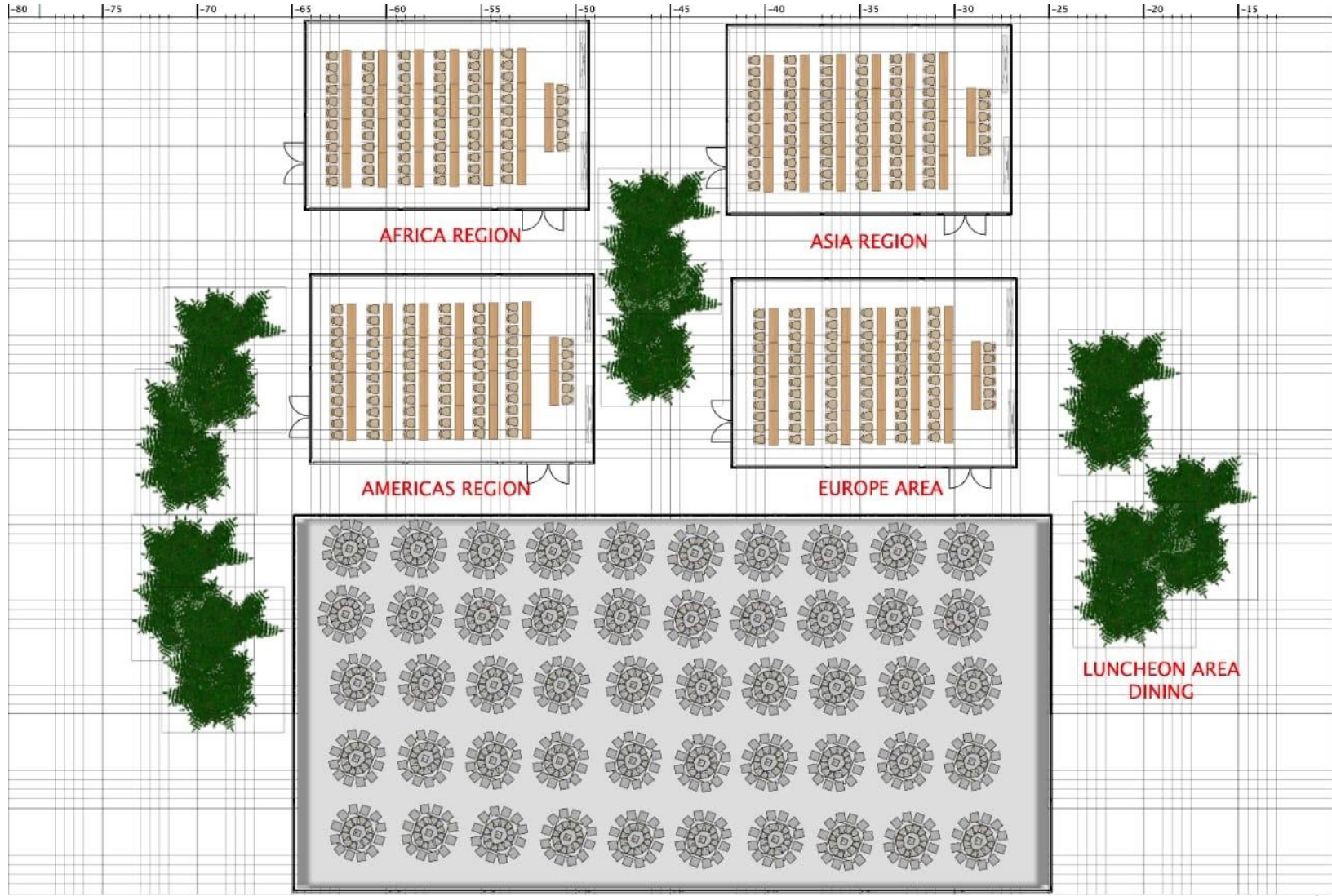
Venue (meeting & office space, exhibition, registration, internet/WiFi, hybrid connection, interpretation, catering)

- ▶ The conference hotel availed all the available rooms and the rooms allocated according to the Host Agreement.
- ▶ The balance of the meeting rooms will be accommodated in temporary structures set up by Rooney's, i.e. the main plenary, meeting rooms for regional groups, feeding tents, exhibition tents.
- ▶ All meeting rooms as well as accommodation rooms at the conference hotel have been block booked.

Venue and Accommodation (cont'd)

- ▶ Further, 120 rooms at Rainbow Hotel, Cresta Hotel and Shearwater village for sponsored delegates were block booked and payment commitment letters have been sent to hotel management.
- ▶ Rooney's showed the team some of their tents which they erected for a National event (Wedding Expo Event) to the satisfaction of the Secretariat.
- ▶ As agreed, Rooney's and Elephant Hills Hotel finalized the layout map of all the outside facilities.





High-level Event

- ▶ Zimbabwe has prepared a proposal for the High-level Segment of the COP. The proposal is to host this event at Presidential level.
- ▶ Participants will make presentations on any one the following topics: Small wetlands for community livelihoods, Addressing the quadruple planetary threat of biodiversity loss, land degradation, climate change, and pollution through nature based solutions and Action on Wetland Restoration within the context of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

Transport and Logistics

- ▶ 13 international and regional airlines that land in Harare and two (2) that operate locally. Eleven international and regional airlines plus two domestic flights land in Victoria Falls.
- ▶ A request was made to increase local flights from Harare to Victoria Falls.
- ▶ The sub-committee is still working on the shuttle plan to transport delegates to and from the airport, hotel and conference venue.

Information Communication Technology

- ▶ The Ministry has identified Public Relations officials from each of its parastatals one from Ministry of Information Publicity and Broadcasting Services to work with the Secretariat Communication officers.
- ▶ The Secretariat is assisting with the engagement of a supplier for conferencing equipment in Switzerland.

Visas

- ▶ Zimbabwe has three visa regimes: visa free, visa on arrival and online visa.
- ▶ Delegates are advised to know the specific requirements for their country of origin and apply in advance.
- ▶ Exemptions only apply to diplomats or special passports.

Field Visits

Tentatively, 3 field trips have been identified all close to the venue.

- ▶ Rainforest,
- ▶ Zambezi boat cruise, and
- ▶ Game drives in Zambezi National Park.

The numbers and scheduling plans for the delegates are being finalized.

The sub-committee to submit the budgets for these 3 field trips.

Signing of Host Agreement in Pictures



Signing of Host Agreement in Pictures



Secretariat Second Visit in Pictures



Secretariat Second Visit in Pictures

