

**Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention
Call for Applications
Triennium 2019-2021**

1. Resolution XII.10 on *Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention* formalized a framework to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands and regional and international co-operation, as well as to generate sustainable socio-economic benefits for local populations.
2. Resolution XII.10 states that: “This accreditation would encourage cities that are close to and depend on wetlands, primarily Wetlands of International Importance, but also other wetlands, to establish a positive relationship with these wetlands through increased participation and awareness and consideration of wetlands in local planning and decision making.”
3. Paragraph 7 of the *Framework for Wetland City accreditation of the Ramsar Convention* annexed to Resolution XII.10 states that: “a candidate city for the Wetland City accreditation would be approved as an accredited Wetland City by the Independent Advisory Committee, after being proposed by the Contracting Party on whose territory it stands and completing the accreditation procedure described below. Newly accredited cities join the global network of Wetland Cities established by this framework. Accreditation as a Wetland City of the Ramsar Convention is not intended to confer any legal rights or legal obligations on the city or the Contracting Party.”
4. Resolution XII.10 calls (in paragraphs 13 and 14) for Contracting Parties to submit proposals to the Secretariat for forwarding to the Independent Advisory Committee. According to paragraph 15.b of the annexed Framework, these proposals should be submitted “within one year of the closing of the previous meeting of the Conference of the Parties”. This round of proposals for COP14 takes place in accordance with paragraph 15.b. The Standing Committee Decision SC57-21 approved the timeline for the process in the 2019-2021 triennium for the Wetland City Accreditation.
5. The Ramsar Secretariat invites Contracting Parties to submit proposals to the Secretariat for forwarding to the Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) for review.

Process

Step I: Contracting Parties level

Candidate cities are requested to fill the Accreditation Form (Annex 1) and send it by 31 December 2019 to the Head of Ramsar Administrative Authority (Head of AA) to check and streamline the content and add an endorsement letter. Head of AA to send proposals to the Ramsar Secretariat by 15th March 2020.

Step II: Ramsar Secretariat level

Secretariat to forward proposals to the IAC by 15th April 2020.

Step III: Independent Advisory Committee level

All proposals received by the IAC will be assessed based on the criteria defined within the Resolution XII.10.

The IAC to review applications and determine which cities to accredit two months before SC59 in 2021.

Resolution XII.10; Annex, Criteria

13. *To be formally accredited, a candidate for the Wetland City accreditation of the Ramsar Convention must satisfy the national standards used to implement each of the following international criteria:*
 - a. *It has one or more Ramsar Sites or other significant wetlands fully or partly situated in its territory or in its close vicinity, which provide(s) a range of ecosystems services to the city;*
 - b. *It has adopted measures for conservation of wetlands and their services including biodiversity and hydrological integrity;*
 - c. *It has implemented wetland restoration and/or management measures;*
 - d. *It considers the challenges and opportunities of integrated spatial/land-use planning for wetlands under its jurisdiction;*
 - e. *It has delivered locally adapted information to raise public awareness about the values of wetlands, and encouraged the wise use of wetlands by stakeholders through, for example, establishing wetland education/information centres; and*
 - f. *It has established a local Wetland City of the Ramsar Convention committee with appropriate knowledge and experience on wetlands and representation of and engagement with stakeholders to support the Wetland City accreditation of the Ramsar Convention submission and the implementation of proper measures for fulfilling the obligations under the accreditation.*
14. *Examples for satisfying the Wetland City accreditation of the Ramsar Convention criteria may include the following approaches:*

- a. *Appropriate standards regarding water quality, sanitation and management in the entire area under the city's jurisdiction;*
- b. *Sustainable agricultural, forest, fish, aquaculture, tourism and pastoral production systems contributing to the conservation of the Ramsar Site(s);*
- c. *Evaluations of the socio-economic and cultural values as well as the ecosystem services of the Ramsar Site(s) and other significant wetlands, and good practices to conserve them; and*
- d. *Where appropriate, plans for disaster prevention and management which address hazards which relate to the Ramsar Site(s) and other significant wetlands such as accidental pollution or flooding.*

Step IV: Accreditation

The Independent Advisory Committee review the applications and determine which cities to accredit and report its decision at least 60 days before SC59 in 2021.

Standing Committee (SC59) to review the report of the Independent Advisory Committee and approve recommended cities for accreditation and transmit to the Conference of the Parties;

The Secretary General provides the Contracting Party at COP14 with an accreditation certificate, containing the Ramsar Convention logo, for the Wetland City, which is valid for six years.

The status of each accredited Wetland City of the Ramsar Convention can be reviewed by the Independent Advisory Committee upon the relevant Contracting Party's request every six years.

Dates and deadlines

15 July to 31 December 2019

City to send applications to Head of Ramsar Administrative Authority (Head AA)

By 2 months before Standing Committee (SC59)

IAC to review applications and determine which cities to accredit.

15 March 2020

Head of AA to forward completed applications to Ramsar Secretariat

At Standing Committee (SC59) 2021

IAC to report its decision to SC59.
SC59 to review and approve IAC recommended cities.

15 April 2020

Ramsar Secretariat to forward applications to Independent Advisory Committee (IAC)

At COP14

Announcement and awarding of accredited cities.

Nominations to be sent to Ramsar Mailbox: ramsar@ramsar.org