

**15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties  
to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

**“Protecting wetlands for our common future”  
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 23 - 31 July 2025**

**Convention on Wetlands COP15 Doc.3.2**

**Provisional working programme**

**Wednesday 23 July 2025**

08:00 – 19:00	Registration (continues each day until 31 July)
09:00 – 12:00	Regional meetings
12:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 16:00	Regional meetings
16:30 – 18:30	<b>65th Meeting of the Standing Committee</b> (subsequently to meet as the Conference Bureau)
18:45 – 20:15	Meeting of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives

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**Thursday 24 July 2025**

08:00 – 20:00	Registration (continued)
10:00 – 11:00	<b>Opening ceremony</b>  <i>Welcome video on wetlands</i> <i>National Anthem</i> <i>Flag handover ceremony</i> <i>H.E. opening statement</i> <i>Opening statements (5 min each)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Representative of China</i></li><li>- <i>CEO of the Global Environment Facility</i></li><li>- <i>Head of IUCN</i></li><li>- <i>Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands</i></li><li>- <i>Representative of IOPs</i></li></ul>
11:00 – 13:00	<b>High-level ministerial segment</b>  <i>H.E. opening statement</i> <i>Ministerial statements</i>

13:00 – 15:00	Lunch break
14:30 – 18:30	20.1 Wetland City Accreditation: Presentation of certificates
15:00 – 18:00	Regional meetings
18:30 – 20:30	Welcome reception by the Host Country

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## Friday 25 July 2025

08:00 – 19:00	Registration (continued)
08:00 – 08:45	Meeting of the Conference Bureau
08:45 – 09:45	Regional meetings
10:00 – 13:00	<b>Plenary session</b>
	2. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents and remarks by the President
	3. Adoption of the provisional agenda and working programme
	3.1 Provisional agenda
	3.2 Provisional working programme
	4. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure
	5. Appointment of the Credentials Committee and any other committees
	6. Admission of observers
	7. Report of the Chair of the Standing Committee
	8. Report of the Secretary General and overview of the implementation of the Convention
	8.1 Global implementation
	8.2 Work of the Secretariat
13:00 – 15:00	Lunch break
15:00 – 17:30	<b>Plenary session</b>
	9. Report of the Secretariat pursuant to Article 8.2 on the List of Wetlands of International Importance
	10. Report of the Chair of the CEPA <sup>1</sup> Oversight Panel on implementation of the CEPA Programme 2016-2024

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<sup>1</sup> CEPA: Communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness.

11. Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)
12. Report of the Secretariat on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives
13. Report of the Secretariat on enhancing decision-making procedures and maintaining effective operation of the Convention during exceptional circumstances
14. Report of the Secretariat on assessment of progress on wetland restoration
15. Report of the Secretariat on opportunities to further strengthen the Convention's contribution to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
16. Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of Resolution XIV.20
17. Report of the Secretariat on administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions
18. Financial report for 2019-2021 by the Chair of the Subgroup on Finance of the Standing Committee, and proposed budget for the 2023-2025 triennium
- 20.2 Report of the Independent Advisory Committee on the implementation progress and financing of the Wetland City Accreditation

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**15th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15) will take place from 23 to 31 July 2025 in Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe).**

**Saturday 26 July 2025**

*08:00 – 19:00* Registration (continued)

*08:00 – 08:45* Meeting of the Conference Bureau

*08:45 – 09:45* Regional meetings

*10:00 – 13:00* **Plenary session**

22. Consolidation of existing Resolutions
  - 22.1. Consolidated Resolution on the assessment of wetland values and services
  - 22.2 Consolidated Resolution on water, water-related and water-management matters
  - 22.3 Consolidated Resolution on inventories
23. Consideration of the draft resolutions and recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee

- 13:00 – 15:00 Lunch break
- 15:00 – 18:00 **Plenary session**
23. Consideration of the draft resolutions and recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee (continued)
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### **Sunday 27 July 2025**

- 08:00 – 08:45 Meeting of the Conference Bureau
- 08:00 – 19:00 Registration (continued)
- 08:45 – 09:45 Regional meetings
- 10:00 – 13:00 **Plenary session**
23. Consideration of the draft resolutions and recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee (continued)
- 13:00 – 15:00 Lunch break
- 15:00 – 18:00 **Plenary session**
23. Consideration of the draft resolutions and recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee (continued)
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### **Monday 28 July 2025**

- 08:00 – 08:45 Meeting of the Conference Bureau
- 08:00 – 19:00 Registration (continued)
- 08:45 – 09:45 Regional meetings
- 10:00 – 13:00 **Plenary session**
23. Consideration of the draft resolutions and recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee (continued)
- 13:00 – 15:00 Lunch break
- 15:00 – 17:00 **Plenary session**
19. Election of contracting Parties to the Standing Committee for 2025-2028
23. Consideration of the draft resolutions and recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee (continued)

17:00 – 18:00 21. Presentation of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award winners

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### **Tuesday 29 July 2025**

08:00 – 08:45 Meeting of the Conference Bureau (if needed)

Field visits

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### **Wednesday 30 July 2025**

08:00 – 08:45 Meeting of the Conference Bureau

08:00 – 19:00 Registration (continued)

08:45 – 09:45 Regional meetings

#### **10:00 – 13:00 Plenary session**

23. Consideration of the draft resolutions and recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee (continued)

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch break

#### **15:00 – 18:00 Plenary session**

23. Consideration of the draft resolutions and recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee (continued)

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### **Thursday 31 July 2025**

08:00 – 15:00 Registration (continued)

08:30 – 08:45 Meeting of the Conference Bureau  
(with Standing Committee 2025-2028 members as observers)

08:45 – 09:45 Regional meetings

#### **10:00 – 13:00 Plenary session**

24. Report of the Credentials Committee

23. Consideration of the draft resolutions and recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee (continued)

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch break

#### **15:00 – 17:00 Plenary session**

25. Date and venue of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
26. Any other business
27. Adoption of the report of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
28. Close of the meeting

*17:30 – 18:30*

**66th meeting of the Standing Committee** (incoming members to elect officers, subgroup and working group members, and agree the date and venue of the first full meeting)

## Annex 1

### Order for consideration of draft resolutions at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

Agenda item	Agenda title	Document number
23.1	Draft resolution on financial and budgetary matters	COP15 Doc.23.1
23.2	Draft resolution on the responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention on Wetlands	COP15 Doc.23.2
23.3	Draft resolution on the Strategic Plan of the Convention 2025 – 2034	COP15 Doc.23.3
23.4	Draft resolution on enhancing the Convention’s visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions	COP15 Doc.23.4
23.13	Draft resolution on [updates to] Ramsar Information Sheets	COP15 Doc.23.13
23.24	Amended draft resolution on the Ramsar List	COP15 Doc.23.24
23.10	Draft resolution on future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2023-2025	COP15 Doc.23.10
23.11	Draft resolution on establishment of the Waterbird Estimates Partnership (WEP) and delivery of the 2027 edition of Waterbird Population Estimates (WPE2027)	COP15 Doc.23.11
23.12	Draft resolution on application of Criteria 6 and 9 to new and existing Wetlands of International Importance	COP15 Doc.23.12
23.15	Draft resolution on restoration of degraded freshwater ecosystems to support ecological character biodiversity and ecosystem services	COP15 Doc.23.15
23.18	Draft resolution on achieving the equitable governance and effective conservation of wetlands as protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)	COP15 Doc.23.18
23.16	Draft resolution on strengthening national actions for the conservation and restoration of waterbird flyways	COP15 Doc.23.16
23.8	Draft resolution on the process for recruiting a new Secretary General	COP15 Doc.23.8
23.9	Draft resolution on implementing the institutional strengthening of the Convention on Wetlands	COP15 Doc.23.9
23.21	Draft resolution on recognition of river dolphins as key species for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in South America and Asia	COP15 Doc.23.21
23.20	Draft resolution on promoting sustainable lifestyles for the wise use of wetlands	COP15 Doc.23.20
23.19	Draft resolution on youth empowerment and integration: driving engagement in and the longevity of the Convention on Wetlands	COP15 Doc.23.19

Agenda item	Agenda title	Document number
23.17	Draft resolution on promoting incorporation of new technology and traditional knowledge in wetland conservation, restoration, management, and wise use	COP15 Doc.23.17
23.22	Draft resolution on education and participation as a basis for the management of urban and peri-urban wetlands	COP15 Doc.23.22
23.14	Draft resolution on strengthening action on culture and wetlands	COP15 Doc.23.14
23.23	Draft resolution on assessing pressures on and risks to wetlands	COP15 Doc.23.23
23.7	Draft resolution on the status of Sites in the List of Wetlands of International Importance	COP15 Doc.23.7
23.6	Draft resolution on CEPA	COP15 Doc.23.6
23.5	Draft resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives	COP15 Doc.23.5
23.25	Draft resolution: Thanks to the host country, the Republic of Zimbabwe	COP15 Doc.23.25