

RAMSAR WETLAND CONSERVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS AND EVIAN SPECIAL PRIZE 2024

[The Convention on Wetlands announces a call for nominations 2024 for the ninth edition of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards and Evian Special Prize by Danone.](#)

Established in 1996, the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards celebrate and recognize individuals and organizations for contributions towards promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Award recipients will each receive the Evian Special Prize of USD 10,000 provided by Danone.

The Award includes the following three categories:

1. The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for Innovation: recognizing a person, project, programme, or policy that has contributed to the conservation and wise use of wetlands through an innovative technique or approach.
2. The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for Young Wetland Champions: recognizing an individual or group of young people aged between 18 and 30 years for contributions to the conservation, wise use, and restoration of wetlands.
3. The Ramsar Wetland Indigenous Peoples Conservation and Wise Use Award: recognizing groups or individuals for outstanding leadership and transformative projects led by or involving indigenous peoples.

The deadline for submitting nominations is [30 September 2024](#). Nominations can be submitted by completing the [nomination form](#).

[The official website presents further information such as the selection criteria, useful for participating in the Award.](#)

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The importance of wetlands

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The Convention

The Convention on Wetlands is the intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. Almost 90% of UN member states, from all the world's geographic regions, have acceded to become "Contracting Parties".



“ecosystem services” that they provide humanity, ranging from freshwater supply, food and building materials, and biodiversity, to flood control, groundwater recharge, and climate change mitigation. Yet study after study demonstrates that wetland area and quality continue to decline in most regions of the world. As a result, the ecosystem services that wetlands provide to people are compromised.

Managing wetlands is a global challenge and the Convention presently counts 172 countries as [Contracting Parties](#), which recognize the value of having one international treaty dedicated to a single ecosystem. The Convention uses a broad definition of wetlands. This includes all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, mangroves and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and salt pans.

The Contracting Parties confirmed in 2005 that their vision for the Ramsar List is “to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits/services”.

Today, the Ramsar List is the world’s largest network of protected areas. There are over 2,400 Ramsar Sites on the territories of 172 Convention Contracting Parties across the world, covering more than 2.5 million square kilometers. The network of Ramsar Sites is truly global, and includes coastal and inland wetlands of all types in all six Convention on Wetlands regions.

The world’s first Site was the Cobourg Peninsula in Australia, designated in 1974. The largest Sites are Rio Negro in Brazil (120,000 square kilometres), and Ngiri-Tumba-Maindombe in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Queen Maud Gulf in Canada; these Sites each cover over 60,000 square km. Others are as small as one hectare. The countries with the most Sites are the United Kingdom with 175 and Mexico with 142. Bolivia has the largest area with 148,000 square km under the Convention protection; Canada, Chad, Congo and the Russian Federation have also each designated over 100,000 square km.

To know more

[The Ramsar Wetlands Conservation Awards](#)

[Resolution 1996 for the establishment of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award](#)

[Resolution 2022 about the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards](#)

[Previous editions of the Award](#)

[The importance of Wetlands](#)

[Global Wetland Outlook: Special edition 2021](#)

[The Ramsar List](#)

[The Convention of Wetlands website - Ramsar.org](#)



[List of Wetlands of international importance](#)

[World Wetlands Day](#)

[World Wetlands Day - Events](#)

