

**Financial and budgetary matters:
Potential financial implications of draft resolutions**

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to note the projected administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions submitted to SC64 for consideration.

Background

1. Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the Convention states that the Secretariat shall report, within 24 hours of the opening of the meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP), on the projected administrative and financial implications of all substantive agenda items submitted to the meeting and before decisions on these items are taken by the Conference of the Parties.
2. As the Rules of Procedure apply *mutatis mutandis* to meetings of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat has prepared Table 1 below which identifies the preliminary projected administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions submitted to the Committee's 64th meeting (SC64) for consideration at COP15. An updated report on administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions will be prepared by the Secretariat for COP15.
3. The proposed actions and associated costs compiled by the Secretariat in Table 1 are taken from the draft resolutions submitted by Contracting Parties, Working Groups or Subsidiary Bodies, or prepared by the Secretariat. The costs listed are the totals for the 2026-2028 triennium, and do not include the cost of days worked by current staff. Concerning staff days, the information provided in the table refers to additional staff days required to carry out the activities and tasks proposed. The staff days required to fulfil activities and tasks that are already included in the core areas of work of the Secretariat and its work plan are not included.

¹ Revised to update information on document SC64 Doc.29.9.

Table 1: Projected administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions for the 2026 – 2028 triennium

Document	Draft resolution	Activities/tasks required	Additional staff days	Cost (CHF) (excluding staff time)
Draft resolutions prepared by the Secretariat				
SC64 Doc.9.3	Draft resolution on financial and budgetary matters	See document SC64 Doc.9.3 for proposed budget scenarios for 2026-2028		
SC64 Doc.13	Draft resolution on responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention on Wetlands		0	0
SC64 Doc.14	Draft resolution on enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions		0	0
SC64 Doc.15.2	Draft resolution on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA)	Secretariat, subject to available resources, to assist in strengthening the capacity of the CEPA Focal Points through the provision of resources, training, toolkits and templates for CEPA activities; and to provide technical support for CEPA National Focal Points through the establishment of a network for their knowledge sharing	0	45,000 (core budget)
SC64 Doc.22.3	Draft resolution on the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards		10	50,000 (voluntary funding)
SC64 Doc.23	Draft resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2025-2028		0	0

Document	Draft resolution	Activities/tasks required	Additional staff days	Cost (CHF) (excluding staff time)
SC64 Doc.25	Draft resolution on the Status of Sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance		0	0
Draft resolutions submitted by Working Groups and the STRP				
SC64 Doc.11	Draft resolution on the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands 2025-2034		0	0
SC64 Doc.12	Draft resolution on implementing the institutional strengthening of the Convention on Wetlands		0	0
SC64 Doc.19	Draft resolution on the future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2026-2028	<p>Secretariat to issue future calls for nominations of STRP Members</p> <p>Secretariat, in consultation with the STRP and partners to further develop an initiative for the enhanced application of Earth observation in wetland inventory, and report to the Standing Committee</p> <p>Secretariat to explore innovative financing mechanisms to support the STRP's scientific and technical work, including the possibility of public-private partnerships and collaborations with the philanthropic sector</p>	<p>0</p> <p>50</p> <p>20</p>	<p>105,000 (core budget)</p>

Document	Draft resolution	Activities/tasks required	Additional staff days	Cost (CHF) (excluding staff time)
SC64 Doc.20	Draft resolution on the establishment of the Waterbird Estimates Partnership (WEP) and delivery of the 2027 edition of Waterbird Population Estimates (WPE2027)	Secretariat, in consultation with the STRP and based on information from the WEP, to update SC67 on the anticipated cost to deliver WPE2027 and enable the activities of the WEP; and Secretariat to provide advice on technical and operational aspects to support establishment and operationalization of the WEP (including facilitating the formation of an interim coordination committee, as per Annex 1)	20	465,000 (voluntary funding)
SC64 Doc.21	Draft resolution on the application of Criteria 6 and 9 to new and existing Wetlands of International Importance	Secretariat to: amend strategic framework; inform other MEAs; and, based on information from the STRP, triennially update the Convention's listing of population estimates and 1% thresholds for Criterion 9 Secretariat, in cooperation with the STRP, to develop capacity-building initiatives on application of Criteria 6 and 9	0 dependent on approach	0 dependent on approach
SC64 Doc.26	Draft resolution on Updates to Ramsar Information Sheets	Secretariat to identify and recommend to the Standing Committee means to enable the automated transfer of data to Ramsar Information Sheet from external sources for specific fields, including species lists ²	3	3,000

² Based on these findings and what solution Contracting Parties choose, as well as the number of Parties who make use of this process, there will be significantly higher (as yet unknown) follow-up costs for:

- Implementation of the chosen solution; and
- Ongoing costs and staff time for data transfer per country where it cannot be fully automated.

Document	Draft resolution	Activities/tasks required	Additional staff days	Cost (CHF) (excluding staff time)
Draft resolutions submitted by the Contracting Parties				
SC64 Doc.29.1	Draft resolution on strengthening action on culture and wetlands	Secretariat, in conjunction with the Ramsar Culture Network and with advice from the STRP as appropriate, to investigate options for developing a targeted programme of culture-related work in support of relevant objectives defined in the Convention's fifth Strategic Plan	5	15,000
SC64 Doc.29.2	Draft resolution on restoration of degraded freshwater ecosystems to support ecological character biodiversity and ecosystem services [and the Freshwater Challenge]		0	0
SC64 Doc.29.3	Draft resolution on strengthening national actions for the conservation and restoration of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway	Request the Secretariat to review the implementation of Resolution X.22	5	0
SC64 Doc.29.4	Draft resolution on promoting incorporation of frontier technology and traditional ecological knowledge in wetland conservation, restoration, management, and wise use	Request STRP to develop a technical report and recommendations to COP17	3	28,000
		Request the Secretariat to report status to Standing Committee	5	0
SC64 Doc.29.5	Draft resolution on achieving the equitable and effective conservation of wetlands as protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)	Secretariat to coordinate with other organizations (UNEP WCMC, CBD Secretariat, Global Environment Facility) to support and advise Contracting Parties. Secretariat to adjust Ramsar Information Sheet template.	5	0

Document	Draft resolution	Activities/tasks required	Additional staff days	Cost (CHF) (excluding staff time)
SC64 Doc.29.6	Draft resolution on improving the Terms of Reference for the Executive Team and the Management Working Group		0	0
SC64 Doc.29.7	Draft resolution on Rights of Nature in Wetlands	Secretariat to develop, compile and maintain a Nature in Wetlands living archive	10	2,500
SC64 Doc.29.8	Draft resolution on youth empowerment and integration: Driving engagement in and the Longevity of the Convention on Wetlands	Secretariat to provide secretariat services for the Working Group	20	0
		Secretariat to [call for voluntary financial contributions]	10	0
SC64 Doc.29.9	Draft resolution on promoting sustainable lifestyles for the wise use of wetlands	STRP to prepare a compilation of the methods, case studies and evidence base to support the integration of sustainable lifestyles in wetlands management	2	15,000
SC64 Doc.29.10	Draft resolution on recognition of river dolphins as key species for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in South America and Asia		0	0
SC64 Doc.29.11	Draft resolution on education and participation as a basis for the management of urban and peri-urban wetlands		0	0
SC64 Doc.29.12	Draft resolution on assessing wetland vulnerability		0	0