THE CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

65th meeting of the Standing Committee

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 23 July 2025

**SC65 Doc.8.1**

**Financial and budgetary matters:**

**Update on financial matters for 2024 and 2025**

**Actions requested:**

The Standing Committee is invited to:

i. review and accept the audited financial statements for 2024 as of 31 December 2024;

ii. note the core budget results for 2024;

iii. approve the carrying forward of funds from 2024 to 2025, as proposed in paragraph 9 and presented in column C of the table in Annex 4;

iv. take note of the surplus balances described in paragraphs 10 to 17;

v. note the status of non-core funding and voluntary contributions for 2024 described in paragraphs 19 to 22;

vi. approve the 2025 budget, as described in paragraph 23 and presented in Annex 4; and

vii. approve the allocation under core budget line D “Support to Ramsar Regional Initiatives” to eligible RRIs as described in paragraph 25.

**Background**

1. This report addresses the financial matters concerning the core and non-core budgets of the Convention on Wetlands for 2024, and the core budget for 2025.

2. At its 64th meeting (SC64), through Decision SC64-39, parts i), ii), iii) and v) respectively, the Standing Committee noted: the interim estimates of the core budget 2024 results; the status of non-core balances and voluntary contributions for 2024; the estimated carry forward of pre-committed and unspent funds from 2024 to 2025; and the estimated surplus balances. The Standing Committee furthermore approved through Decision SC64-39 iv) the temporary use of reserve funds as a loan to supplement voluntary funding for support to sponsored delegates at the 15th meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties (COP15).

3. The above decisions were informed by document SC64 Doc.9.1[[1]](#footnote-2), which presented interim results to the end of September 2024, and updated estimates presented during SC64 in January in the report of the Subgroup on Finance, document SC64 Com.2[[2]](#footnote-3). The present document presents the final results and balances for 2024, which have been validated by the auditors and are now submitted for approval at SC65.

**2024 results: core budget**

4. The 2024 audited financial statements are included at Annex 1 of the present document. The Standing Committee is invited to review and accept the 2024 audited financial statements in Annex 1. The full 2024 audited financial statements including the notes and audit opinion have also been published on the Convention website.[[3]](#footnote-4)

5. A summary of the 2024 core budget results is included at Annex 2. Annex 2 shows the final income and expenditure for 2024 (confirmed by the financial statements in Annex 1) and the balance as of 31 December 2024 for each budget line and category.

6. The table at Annex 2 shows:

* column A, the budget for 2024 of CHF 5,081K approved through Resolution XIV.1 on *Financial and budgetary matters*[[4]](#footnote-5);
* column B, the allocation of CHF 196K of 2021 budget savings, approved through the same Resolution;
* column C, the 2023 carry forward to 2024 for a total of CHF 1,232K, approved by the Standing Committee at SC63;
* column D, the resulting amended budget for 2024 for a total of CHF 6,509K;
* column E, the expenditure as of 31 December 2024 for a total of CHF 5,370K;
* column F, the Secretariat’s proposed adjustments to 2024 balances between approved budget lines (the overall approved 2024 core budget remains unchanged); and
* column G, the balance to be carried forward to 2025 for a total of CHF 1,065K.

7. At the end of 2024, the core budget balance was CHF 1,065K. This included CHF 899K of funds that were pre-committed/planned in 2024 to be spent in 2025, and CHF 166K of savings. Table 1 below provides a summary of these sub-totals.

8. The following points are highlighted for the Standing Committee’s consideration:

a. Projected income was as budgeted except for income tax, which was CHF 31K under budget due to vacancies, and interest income which was CHF 44K higher than budgeted;

b. Overall salary costs of CHF 3,609K corresponded to a budget implementation rate of 94% and 67% of overall expenditure;

c. Staff provisions increased by CHF 31K as a result of increases in the staff termination provision of CHF 28K and in the staff repatriation provision of CHF 3K;

d. In 2024, provisions for outstanding contributions amounted to CHF 113K, which was CHF 37K less than the approved total budget for 2024. More details are provided in document SC65 Doc.8.2 *Status of annual contributions*.

e. Through Decision SC62-44, the Standing Committee approved the repurposing of unspent core fund allocations for Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs). In 2024, CHF 11K was allocated for a RAM in Sierra Leone. In 2025, the Secretariat will utilize the remaining available funds to support the finalization of this RAM, to an estimated amount of CHF 8K, and other RAM requests that lack funding from non-core voluntary contributions, to the available total amount of CHF 77K. The updated report on RAM funds utilized in 2025 will be submitted to the Standing Committee at its 67th meeting (SC67).

8. During SC64, the Standing Committee through Decision SC64-39 iii) noted the estimated carry-forward of pre-committed and unspent funds from 2024 to 2025 reported in Annex 1, column C within the report of the Subgroup on Finance, document SC64 Com.2[[5]](#footnote-6).

9. The Secretariat proposes to carry forward the total pre-committed and uncommitted/unspent funds of CHF 1,065K to 2025, as noted above in paragraph 6 and below in the third column of Table 1, “Carry forward 2025”. This is in line with Decision SC57-50 in which the Standing Committee decided that uncommitted/unspent balances for budget lines can be carried forward to the next year within the triennium and presented to the following meeting of the Subgroup on Finance.

*Table 1: Summary of 2024 core budget funds to be carried forward (in ‘000 CHF, includes possible rounding differences)*

| **Category / Department** | **Pre-committed/ planned 2024 to be spent in 2025 (A)** | **Uncommitted /unspent 2024 carry forward to 2025 (B)** | **Carry forward 2025  (C=A+B)** | **Comments for carry forward 2025** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Resource Mobilization and Outreach | 82 | 0 | 82 | **Pre-committed/planned:** (i) 44K CEPA Programme; (ii) 24K Communications, Translations, Publications and Reporting Implementation and (iii) 14K Web/IT-support. |
| Regional Advice and Support | 266 | 0 | 266 | **Pre-committed/planned:** (i) 85K implementation of Ramsar Advisory Missions postponed to 2025 and (ii)181K vacancies and benefits. |
| Support to Ramsar Regional Initiatives | 19 | 155 | 174 | **Pre-committed/planned:** (i) 19K Amazon-Basin RRI  **Uncommitted/unspent:** 155K unallocated from 2023 and 2024 RRI budgets. |
| Scientific and Technical Services | 301 | 0 | 301 | **Pre-committed/planned:** (i) 65K STRP implementation, (ii) 12K for SP5, (iii) 36K implementation for inventories continues in 2025, (iv) 84K Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS) maintenance and development, (v) 62K RSIS technical support for the triennium and (vi) 42K staff benefits. |
| Administration/ Web | 145 | 0 | 145 | **Pre-committed/planned:** (i) 75K staff hiring and departure costs, (ii) 14K office supplies and equipment and (iii) 56K capacity building plan implementation continues. |
| Standing Committee Services | 26 | 11 | 37 | **Pre-committed/planned:** 26K review of resolutions.  **Uncommitted/unspent:** (i) 4K Effectiveness Working Group, implementation and (ii) 7K enhancing efficiency and collaboration. |
| IUCN Administrative Service Charges | 8 | 0 | 8 | **Uncommitted/unspent:** 8K IUCN administrative charge. |
| Legal Services | 52 | 0 | 52 | **Pre-committed/planned:** (i)26K legal fees and (ii) 26K provisions. |
| **Total core carry forward 2025** | **899** | **166** | **1,065** |  |

**2024 reserve and surplus**

10. The statement of income and expenditure for 2024 in the audited financial statements (see Annex 1, table II) shows that the core fund balance at the end of the year 2024 was CHF 3,501K. This includes the 2023 core fund balance (at the beginning of 2024) of CHF 3,783K, and the net expenditure over income for 2024 of CHF 282K, as per the audited financial statements and 2024 core results for the period 1 January to 31 December 2024 (see Annex 1).

11. The 2024 core balance includes the reserve fund of CHF 762K. This corresponds to 15% of the annual core budget, the maximum level approved by the Contracting Parties at COP14, in paragraph 32 of Resolution XIV.1 on *Financial and budgetary matters*[[6]](#footnote-7).

12. The core balance also includes a total of CHF 196K approved by COP14 from the 2019-2021 triennium core budget surplus (Resolution XIV.1, paragraphs 15 and 16) to be used in 2025. This total includes CHF 76K to cover the gap created in the core budget and CHF 120K to increase the provision for outstanding contributions in 2025.

13. The balance also includes a carry forward of CHF 1,065K, as detailed in Table 1 above, to be spent in 2025 and so included in the final core 2025 budget (see Annex 4).

14. Through Decision SC64-39 iv) the Standing Committee approved the temporary use of surplus funds as a loan to supplement voluntary funding for COP15 sponsored delegate support to a maximum of CHF 486K. The updated status of voluntary funds received for this purpose as of the end of March 2025, and the current shortfall of CHF 359K, is provided in paragraph 21 below. After COP15, the Secretariat will provide to the Standing Committee at SC67 a report on the funds raised and repayment of the loan.

15. The final resulting core 2024 surplus for consideration and allocation by the Standing Committee is CHF 1,119K. Table 2 below summarizes the details.

*Table 2: 2024 core surplus to be allocated (in ‘000 CHF)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **(I) Core fund balance at 31 December 2024 per audited statements** | **3,501** |
| **Reserve, approved and pre-committed:** |  |
| Reserve fund at 15% (Resolution XIII.2, paragraph 33) | 762 |
| COP14-approved use of savings for 2025 (Resolution XIV.1, paragraph 15) | 76 |
| COP14-approved use of savings for 2025 (Resolution XIV.1, paragraph 16) | 120 |
| Carry-forward balances (Table 1) | 1,065 |
| Committed for temporary use of reserve funds as a loan to complement voluntary funding for COP15 delegate support | 359 |
| **(II) Total reserve, approved and pre-committed** | **2,382** |
| **(III= I-II) 2024 core surplus after reserve, approved and pre-committed – to be allocated** | **1,119** |

16. The surplus is due to accumulated unspent funds carried forward from 2020 to the end of 2024. This resulted from lower implementation of budgeted activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly those involving travel (e.g., meetings of governing and subsidiary bodies, and Secretariat travel), as well as vacancies caused by delays in staff recruitment.

17. The Subgroup on Finance shared its initial considerations regarding allocation of surplus funds in document SC64 Com.2, paragraph 5:

*“The Subgroup discussed a preliminary assessment of funding gaps for future consideration for surplus allocation, pending COP15 Decisions on Budget Scenarios and Draft Resolutions.*

*“The following list is in no order of priority and is not exhaustive:*

*- WEP Doc 18, Annex 5*

*- Outstanding Contributions 2026-2028*

*- 0% scenario (if scenario 0% topped up is approved to cover the gap)*

*- Earth Observation*

*- COP16 costs in 2028 (if scenario 11.3% is not approved)*

*“The Subgroup will consider additional steps and decisions at the intersessional meeting of Subgroup on Finance prior to the SC65 meeting.”*

**2024 results: non-core funding status and voluntary contributions**

18. Through Decision SC64-39 ii), the Standing Committee during the meeting in January 2025 noted the interim estimates of the status of the non-core balances and voluntary contributions for 2024.

19. The voluntary contributions received up to 31 December 2024 are outlined in Table 3 below. As instructed by the Standing Committee through Decision SC53-32, the table provides an overview of the contributions received and their designated use.

*Table 3: Project income from voluntary non-core contributions received in 2024 (in ‘000 CHF, includes possible rounding differences)*

| **Donor** | **Income amount** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Austria | 5 | COP14 sponsored delegate support |
| Canada | 36 | Women in wetlands |
| China | 188 | China presidency support |
| Danone | 66 | Danone project activities |
| Finland | 9 | STRP workplan 2023-2025 |
| Germany | 252 | Wise use of Caribbean wetlands |
| Nagao Wetland Fund | 58 | NEF Japan |
| Norway | 12 | STRP workplan 2023-2025 |
| Republic of Korea | 187 | Enhance implementation of the Convention |
| Switzerland | 50 | COP14 sponsored delegate support |
| Switzerland | 40 | Pre-SC64 regional meeting |
| Switzerland | 50 | National wetlands inventories |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 22 | STRP workplan 2023-2025 |
| United States of America | 13 | Ramsar Site assessment |
| Zimbabwe | 599 | COP15 meeting |
| **Total voluntary non-core contributions 2024** | **1,587** |  |

20. In 2024 Contracting Parties and other potential donors were approached regarding funding of other budgeted non-core priority items identified in Annex 4 of Resolution XIV.1. A main priority in this regard for Parties to be aware of in 2024 and 2025 is funding for COP15, especially for the participation of sponsored delegates.

21. The estimated budget for sponsored delegates necessary for all Contracting Parties to participate fully in COP15 is CHF 584K. Up to 31 March 2025, CHF 225K had been received. Thus, the shortfall at that date to fully cover participation of 124 eligible delegates was CHF 359K. This is lower than the amount of CHF 486K that was approved by Decision SC64-39 iv) and has been reflected in Table 2 above.

22. The Secretariat would like to express its sincere appreciation to Contracting Parties and other donors for their voluntary contributions to non-core activities of the Convention.

*African voluntary contributions*

23. In 2024, a voluntary contribution of CHF 1,000 was received from Contracting Parties in the Africa region. The funds available for future distribution total CHF 13K, as reported in document SC65 Doc.8.2 *Status of annual contributions.*

**Core budget 2025**

24. An overview of the 2025 budget is provided in Annex 3. It includes the COP14-approved budget of CHF 5,081K; the authorized use of the 2021 budget savings of CHF 196K; and the funds carried forward from the 2024 budget to be spent in 2025 totalling CHF 1,065K. The total proposed core budget for 2024 is thus CHF 6,342K.

25. As noted in document SC65 Doc.9 *Report of the Secretariat on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives for 2024 and 2025*, the Secretariat invites the Standing Committee at SC65 to consider and approve the allocation of funds to RRIs proposed in the 2025 core budget. The Secretariat reports the request for allocation of CHF 30K to the Southern Africa Ramsar Regional Initiative (SARRI) and CHF 30K to the Danube WILDisland Ramsar Regional Initiative for their activities in 2025.

**Annex 1**

**Audited financial statements as of 31 December 2024 (Swiss reporting format)**

**I. Balance sheet as of 31 December**[[7]](#footnote-8)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *in thousands of Swiss francs (CHF '000s)* | **Notes** | **2024** |  | **2023** |
| **ASSETS** |  |  |  |  |
| **Current assets** |  |  |  |  |
| Cash and short term bank deposits |  | 7,255 |  | 7,176 |
| Contracting Party receivables (net) | 6 | 372 |  | 221 |
| Other account receivables | 7 | 277 |  | 45 |
| **Total current assets** |  | 7,904 |  | 7,442 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Fixed assets (net)** | 9 | 22 |  | 22 |
| **Total non-current assets** |  | 22 |  | 22 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL ASSETS** |  | **7,926** |  | **7,464** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES** |  |  |  |  |
| **Current liabilities** |  |  |  |  |
| Amount owed to IUCN |  | 136 |  | 230 |
| Other Payables | 8 | 770 |  | 609 |
| Accrued liabilities |  | 53 |  | 88 |
| **Total current liabilities** |  | 959 |  | 927 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Provisions** |  |  |  |  |
| Staff repatriation | 5 | 186 |  | 183 |
| Staff leave | 5 | 114 |  | 139 |
| Staff termination | 5 | 228 |  | 201 |
| **Total provisions** |  | 528 |  | 522 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Fund and Reserves** |  |  |  |  |
| Core reserve fund | 11 | 3,501 |  | 3,783 |
| Non-core Projects | 12 | 2,938 |  | 2,232 |
| **Total fund and reserves** |  | 6,439 |  | 6,015 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES** |  | **7,926** |  | **7,464** |

**II. Statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **2024** | | | | |  | **2023** | | | | |
| *in thousands of Swiss francs  (CHF '000s)* | **Notes** | **Core Funds** | **Non-Core Projects** | |  | **Total** |  | **Core Funds** | **Non-Core Projects** | |  | **Total** |
| **Income** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *External income:* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Contributions from Contracting Parties |  | 3,779 |  | - |  | 3,779 |  | 3,779 |  | - |  | 3,779 |
| US voluntary contributions |  | 1,066 |  | - |  | 1,066 |  | 1,066 |  | - |  | 1,066 |
| African voluntary contributions |  | - |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | - |  | 2 |  | 2 |
| Project income |  | - |  | 1,587 |  | 1,587 |  | - |  | 1,672 |  | 1,672 |
| Swiss tax rebates | 10 | 193 |  | - |  | 193 |  | 189 |  | - |  | 189 |
| **Total external income** |  | **5,038** |  | **1,588** |  | **6,626** |  | **5,034** |  | **1,674** |  | **6,708** |
| Transfer between core and non-core project |  | 0 |  | 0 |  | 0 |  | (140) |  | 140 |  | 0 |
| **Total Income** |  | **5,038** |  | **1,588** |  | **6,626** |  | **4,894** |  | **1,814** |  | **6,708** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Expenditure** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Operating expenditure:* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Resource Mobilisation and Outreach |  | (616) |  | (74) |  | (690) |  | (448) |  | (163) |  | (611) |
| Regional Advice, Initiatives and Support |  | (1,154) |  | (647) |  | (1,801) |  | (1,113) |  | (860) |  | (1,973) |
| Scientific and Technical Services |  | (872) |  | (54) |  | (926) |  | (735) |  | (1) |  | (736) |
| Management, Governance, Operations and Support |  | (2,689) |  | (46) |  | (2,735) |  | (2,453) |  | (39) |  | (2,492) |
| **Total operating expenditure** |  | **(5,331)** |  | **(821)** |  | **(6,152)** |  | **(4,749)** |  | **(1,063)** |  | **(5,812)** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Net Surplus/(Deficit) before Other Income/(Expenditure)** |  | **(293)** |  | **767** |  | **474** |  | **145** |  | **751** |  | **896** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Other income/(expenditure):* | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net financial income/(expense) |  | 125 |  | 1 |  | 126 |  | (79) |  | (3) |  | (82) |
| Non-recurring or prior period expense |  | - |  | (62) |  | (62) |  | - |  | (211) |  | (211) |
| Provisions and write-offs (expense) |  | (114) |  | - |  | (114) |  | (213) |  | - |  | (213) |
| ***Total other income/(expenditure)*** |  | **11** |  | **(61)** |  | **(50)** |  | **(292)** |  | **(214)** |  | **(506)** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Net Surplus/(Deficit) after Other Income/(Expenditure)** |  | **(282)** |  | **706** |  | **424** |  | **(147)** |  | **537** |  | **390** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCE** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **for the year ended 31 December** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **2024** | | | | |  | **2023** | | | | |
| *in thousands of Swiss Francs (CHF '000s)* |  | **Core Funds** | **Non-Core Projects** | |  | **Total** |  | **Core Funds** | **Non-Core Projects** | |  | **Total** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fund balance at the beginning of the year |  | 3,783 |  | 2,232 |  | 6,015 |  | 3,930 |  | 1,695 |  | 5,625 |
| Net income/(expenditure) for the year | 11 | (282) |  | 706 |  | 424 |  | (147) |  | 537 |  | 390 |
| **Fund balance at the end of the year** |  | **3,501** |  | **2,938** |  | **6,439** |  | **3,783** |  | **2,232** |  | **6,015** |

**III. Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *in thousands of Swiss francs (CHF '000s)* | **2024** | |  | **2023** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Cash flow from operations** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations** | **424** |  |  | **390** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Depreciation of fixed assets | 8 |  |  | 8 |
| Increase / (decrease) in provisions for membership dues in arrears | 113 |  |  | 211 |
| Increase / (decrease) in staff leave and repatriation liabilities | (23) |  |  | 30 |
| Increase / (decrease) in the provision for staff termination | 27 |  |  | 17 |
| (Increase) / decrease in membership dues receivables (gross) | (263) |  |  | (42) |
| Increase / (decrease) in payables to partner organisations | (94) |  |  | 335 |
| (Increase) / decrease in other accounts receivable | (233) |  |  | (11) |
| Increase / (decrease) in membership dues paid in advance | 4 |  |  | (66) |
| Increase / (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 97 |  |  | (48) |
| Increase / (decrease) in social charges payable | 26 |  |  | (22) |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total cash flow from operations** | **86** |  |  | **802** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Cash flow from investing activities** |  |  |  |  |
| Purchase of fixed assets | (7) |  |  | (3) |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total cash flow from investing activities** | **(7)** |  |  | **(3)** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Net cash inflow/(outflow) for the year** | **79** |  |  | **799** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Cash and short term deposits at the beginning of the year | 7,176 |  |  | 6,377 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Cash and short term deposits at the end of the year** | **7,255** |  |  | **7,176** |

**Annex 2**

**2024 Core results for the period 1 January to 31 December 2024**

*(CHF ‘000s, includes possible rounding differences)*

| **2024 Ramsar Budget**  **COP14 Approved**  **CHF ‘000s** | **Approved budget (COP14-approved)**  **(A)** | **COP14-authorized use of 2021 budget savings**  **(B)** | **Pre-committed 2023 to be spent in 2024**  (**SC63 approved)**  **(C)** | **Total 2024 budget**  **(D)**  **=A+B+C** | **Actual income and expenditure**  **(E)** | **Secretariat proposal budget adjustment**  **(F)** | **Balance**  **(G) =(D)-(E)+(F)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **INCOME** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parties’ Contributions | 3,779 | 0 | 0 | 3,779 | 3,779 | 0 | 0 |
| Voluntary contributions | 1,065 | 0 | 0 | 1,065 | 1,065 | 0 | 0 |
| Income Tax | 225 | 0 | 0 | 225 | 194 | 0 | 31 |
| Other Income (including Interest Income) | 12 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 52 | 0 | (40) |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | **5,081** | **0** | **0** | **5,081** | **5,090** | **0** | **(9)** |
| **EXPENDITURE** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A. Secretariat Senior Management and Governance | 1,062 | 5 | 0 | 1,067 | 1,281 | 215 | 0 |
| Salaries, social costs and other benefits | 1,022 | 0 | 0 | 1,022 | 1,161 | 139 | 0 |
| Travel | 40 | 5 | 0 | 45 | 121 | 76 | 0 |
| B. Resource Mobilization and Outreach | 508 | 45 | 263 | 816 | 668 | (66) | 82 |
| Salaries, social costs and other benefits | 352 | 0 | 6 | 358 | 390 | 32 | 0 |
| CEPA Programme | 30 | 0 | 109 | 139 | 45 | (50) | 44 |
| Comms, Translations, Publications and Reporting Implementation | 60 | 40 | 110 | 210 | 179 | (7) | 24 |
| Web/IT support and Development | 56 | 0 | 38 | 94 | 53 | (27) | 14 |
| Travel | 10 | 5 | 0 | 15 | 1 | (14) | 0 |
| C. Regional Advice and Support | 1,316 | 10 | 292 | 1,618 | 1,109 | (244) | 266 |
| Salaries, social costs and other benefits | 1,249 | 0 | 177 | 1,426 | 1,057 | (188) | 181 |
| Travel | 67 | 10 | 19 | 96 | 40 | (56) | 0 |
| Ramsar Advisory Missions | 0 | 0 | 96 | 96 | 11 |  | 85 |
| D. Support to Regional Initiatives | 100 | 0 | 120 | 220 | 46 |  | 174 |
| Regional networks and centres - available budget not allocated in 2023 and 2024 | 71 | 0 | 84 | 155 | 0 |  | 155 |
| Danube WILDisland RRI 2024 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 29 |  | 0 |
| Southern African RRI 2023 activities carry over | 0 | 0 | 12 | 12 | 12 |  | 0 |
| Amazon Basin RRI 2023 carry over | 0 | 0 | 24 | 24 | 5 |  | 19 |
| E. Scientific and Technical Services | 817 | 5 | 373 | 1,195 | 939 | 45 | 301 |
| Salaries, social costs and other benefits | 649 | 0 | 37 | 686 | 644 |  | 42 |
| Travel | 18 | 0 | 21 | 39 | 31 | (8) | 0 |
| Travel STRP Chair | 5 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 2 | 0 |
| STRP implementation | 35 | 5 | 61 | 101 | 36 |  | 65 |
| STRP meetings | 50 | 0 | 6 | 56 | 107 | 51 | 0 |
| Strategic Plan SP5 (2022 - 2024) | 0 | 0 | 50 | 50 | 38 |  | 12 |
| SDG 6.61 (Inventories) | 0 | 0 | 42 | 42 | 6 |  | 36 |
| Ramsar Sites Information Service (maintenance and development) | 60 | 0 | 63 | 123 | 39 |  | 84 |
| Ramsar Sites Information Service (technical support for the triennium 2023-2025) | 0 | 0 | 90 | 90 | 28 |  | 62 |
| F. Administration/RSIS/Web | 478 | 11 | 137 | 626 | 448 | (34) | 144 |
| Salaries, social costs and other benefits | 331 | 0 | 8 | 339 | 356 | 17 | 0 |
| Staff hiring and departure costs | 52 | 0 | 36 | 88 | 13 |  | 75 |
| Travel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 0 |
| Equipment/Office Supplies | 95 | 0 | 28 | 123 | 58 | (51) | 14 |
| Planning and Capacity building | 0 | 11 | 65 | 76 | 20 |  | 56 |
| G. Standing Committee Services | 150 | 0 | 41 | 191 | 238 | 84 | 37 |
| Standing Committee delegates’ support | 45 | 0 | 0 | 45 | 54 | 9 | 0 |
| Standing Committee meetings | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 37 | 27 | 0 |
| SC translation | 60 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 110 | 50 | 0 |
| Simultaneous interpretation at SC meetings | 35 | 0 | 0 | 35 | 33 | (2) | 0 |
| Effectiveness Working Group | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 |  | 4 |
| Enhance efficiency and collaboration (Res. XIV.3) | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 0 |  | 7 |
| Resolutions review (Res. XIII.4) | 0 | 0 | 30 | 30 | 4 |  | 26 |
| H. IUCN Administrative Service Charges (maximum) | 541 | 0 | 1 | 542 | 534 |  | 8 |
| Administration, Human Resources, Finance & IT services | 541 | 0 | 1 | 542 | 534 |  | 8 |
| I. Miscellaneous - Reserve Fund | 109 | 120 | 5 | 234 | 106 | 0 | 128 |
| Staff Provisions | 20 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 31 | 11 | 0 |
| Provision for outstanding contributions | 30 | 120 | 0 | 150 | 113 | (11) | 26 |
| Exchange rate gains / losses | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (76) |  | 76 |
| Legal Services | 59 | 0 | 5 | 64 | 38 |  | 26 |
| **TOTAL EXPENDITURE** | **5,081** | **196** | **1,232** | **6,509** | **5,370** | **0** | **1,065** |
| Rounding |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |  |
| **SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)** |  |  |  |  | **(282)** |  | **1,065** |

**Annex 3**

**Projects financed by non-core funds for the period 1 January 2024 - 31 December 2024**

*(CHF ‘000s, includes possible rounding differences)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Number** | **Project Name** | | **Balance (deficit) at 31 December 2023** | **Income during 2024** | **Expenditure during 2024** | **Project transfers and cross charges** | **Balance (deficit) at 31 December 2024** |
|  |  | | (DR)/CR | (DR)/CR | (DR)/CR | (DR)/CR | (DR)/CR |
| **International Cooperation** | | |  |  |  |  |  | |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| R100265 | SGA-Pre-2016 | | 148 | - | (7) | - | 141 |
| R100267 | SGA-RSIS | | 90 | - | (9) | - | 81 |
| R100364 | WFF-2014 | | 26 | - | - | - | 26 |
| R100365 | WFF - 2015-2021 | | 150 | - | (7) | - | 143 |
| R100408 | Nagao Wetland Fund (NEF Japan) | | 131 | 59 | (53) | (6) | 131 |
| R100409 | ROK 2023-2025 | | 182 | 187 | (63) | (19) | 287 |
| **Total of International Cooperation** | | | **726** | **245** | **(139)** | **(25)** | **809** | |
| **Listed Sites** | | |  |  |  |  |  |
| R100110 | RAM | | 18 | - | - | - | 18 |
| R100108 | RAM (CH 2016) | | 45 | - | - | - | 45 |
| **Total of Listed Sites** | | | **63** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **63** | |
| **Other** |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| R100100 | Admin | | 333 | - | (24) | 70 | 379 |
| R100102 | RSIS redevelopment | | 38 | - | (5) | - | 33 |
| R100103 | Web redevelopment | | 21 | - | - | - | 21 |
| R100104 | Development | | 22 | - | - | - | 22 |
| R100105 | Science review | | 33 | - | (2) | - | 31 |
| R100106 | Strategic Plan 2016 | | 18 | - | - | - | 18 |
| R100190 | Water cycle | | 11 | - | (10) | - | 0 |
| R100311 | Rio Cruces | | 52 | - | - | - | 52 |
| R100642 | COP15 – Zimbabwe | | (7) | 599 | (9) | - | 584 |
| R100643 | COP15 sponsored delegates | | - | 95 | - | - | 95 |
| R100644 | China presidency support | | - | 188 | (2) | - | 186 |
| R100817 | Danone 2022-2024 | | 63 | 66 | (63) | (8) | 58 |
| R100904 | STRP non-core | | 145 | - | - | - | 145 |
| R100915 | Gender work | | 2 | 36 | (35) | (3) | 0 |
| R100916 | Capacity building non-core | | 33 | - | (12) | - | 20 |
| R100917 | National wetland inventories | | 251 | 50 | (57) | (5) | 240 |
| R100918 | Youth and wetlands | | 139 | (62) | (10) | - | 67 |
| R100919 | Ukraine Assessment | | 160 | 13 | (163) | (1) | 9 |
| R101006 | Climate change | | 50 | - | (16) | - | 34 |
| R101007 | Tropical peatlands | | 15 | 12 | (15) | - | 12 |
| R101008 | STRP workplan 2023-2025 | | 27 | 31 | (27) | (3) | 28 |
| **Total of Other** | | | **1,406** | **1,028** | **(449)** | **50** | **2,035** | |
| **Regional Initiatives** | | |  |  |  |  |  |
| R100146 | Caribbean Wetlands | | (7) | 253 | (234) | (26) | (14) |
| R100200 | AVC, African Regional Initiatives | | 42 | 1 | - | - | 43 |
| **Total of Regional Initiatives** | | | **36** | **254** | **(234)** | **(26)** | **29** | |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grand Total** | |  | **2,231** | **1,528** | **(822)** | **0** | **2,936** |

**Annex 4**

**Proposed core budget 2025**

*(CHF ‘000s, includes possible rounding differences)*

| **2025 Ramsar Budget COP14 Approved**  **CHF ‘000s** | **Approved budget (COP14-approved)**  **(A)** | **COP14 authorised use of 2021 budget savings**  **(B)** | **2024 carry-forward to 2025**  **(C)** | **Total 2025 budget**  **(D)= (A)+(B)+(C)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **INCOME** |  |  |  |  |
| Parties’ Contributions | 3,779 | 0 | 0 | 3,779 |
| Voluntary contributions | 1,065 | 0 | 0 | 1,065 |
| Income Tax | 225 | 0 | 0 | 225 |
| Other Income (including Interest Income) | 12 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | **5,081** | **0** | **0** | **5,081** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **EXPENDITURE** |  |  |  |  |
| A. Secretariat Senior Management | **1,062** | **5** | **0** | **1,067** |
| Salaries, social costs and other benefits | 1,022 | 0 | 0 | 1,022 |
| Travel | 40 | 5 | 0 | 45 |
| B. Resource Mobilization and Outreach | **508** | **45** | **82** | **635** |
| Salaries, social costs and other benefits | 352 | 0 | 0 | 352 |
| CEPA Programme | 30 | 0 | 44 | 74 |
| Comms, Translations, Publications and Reporting Implementation | 60 | 40 | 24 | 124 |
| Web/IT support and Development | 56 | 0 | 14 | 70 |
| Travel | 10 | 5 | 0 | 15 |
| C. Regional Advice and Support | **1,316** | **10** | **266** | **1,592** |
| Salaries, social costs and other benefits | 1,249 | 0 | 181 | 1,430 |
| Travel | 67 | 10 | 0 | 77 |
| Ramsar Advisory Missions | 0 | 0 | 85 | 85 |
| D. Support to Regional Initiatives | **100** | **0** | **174** | **274** |
| Regional networks and centres – unallocated | 40 | 0 | 155 | 195 |
| Danube WILDisland RRI 2025 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Southern African RRI 2025 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| Amazon Basin 2024 carry over | 0 | 0 | 19 | 19 |
| E. Scientific and Technical Services | **817** | **5** | **301** | **1,123** |
| Salaries, social costs and other benefits | 649 | 0 | 42 | 691 |
| Travel | 18 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Travel STRP Chair | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| STRP implementation | 35 | 5 | 65 | 105 |
| STRP meetings | 50 | 0 | 0 | 50 |
| Strategic Plan SP5 (2022 - 2024) | 0 | 0 | 12 | 12 |
| SDG 6.61 (Inventories) | 0 | 0 | 36 | 36 |
| Ramsar Sites Information Service (maintenance and development) | 60 | 0 | 84 | 144 |
| Ramsar Sites Information Service (technical support for the triennium 2023-2025) | 0 | 0 | 62 | 62 |
| F. Administration/Web | **478** | **11** | **145** | **634** |
| Salaries, social costs and other benefits | 331 | 0 | 0 | 331 |
| Staff hiring and departure costs | 52 | 0 | 75 | 127 |
| Travel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Equipment/Office Supplies | 95 | 0 | 14 | 109 |
| Planning and Capacity building | 0 | 11 | 56 | 67 |
| G. Standing Committee Services | **150** | **0** | **37** | **187** |
| Standing Committee delegates’ support | 45 | 0 | 0 | 45 |
| Standing Committee meetings | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| SC translation | 60 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| Simultaneous interpretation at SC meetings | 35 | 0 | 0 | 35 |
| Effectiveness Working Group | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Enhance efficiency and collaboration (Res. XIV.3) | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| Resolutions review (Res. XIII.4) | 0 | 0 | 26 | 26 |
| H. IUCN Administrative Service Charges (max.) | **541** | **0** | **8** | **549** |
| Administration, Human Resources, Finance & IT services | 541 | 0 | 8 | 549 |
| I. Miscellaneous - Reserve Fund | **109** | **120** | **52** | **281** |
| Staff Provisions | 20 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| Provision for outstanding contributions | 30 | 120 | 26 | 176 |
| Exchange rate gains / losses | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Legal Services | 59 | 0 | 26 | 85 |
| **TOTAL EXPENDITURE** | **5,081** | **196** | **1,065** | **6,342** |

1. <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc64-doc91-financial-budgetary-matters-report-financial-matters-2024-2025-30-september>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc64-com2-financial-budgetary-matters-report-meeting-subgroup-finance-23-january-2025>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/financial-statements-year-ended-31-december-2024-report-independent-auditor>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiv1-financial-budgetary-matters>. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc64-com2-financial-budgetary-matters-report-meeting-subgroup-finance-23-january-2025>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiv1-financial-budgetary-matters>. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. See the notes to the audited statements at <https://www.ramsar.org/document/financial-statements-year-ended-31-december-2024-report-independent-auditor>. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)