



## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

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### Contracting Parties with outstanding annual contributions

#### Background

1. Article 6.6 of the Convention states: “Each Contracting Party shall contribute to the budget according to a scale of contributions adopted by unanimity of the Contracting Parties present and voting at a meeting of the ordinary Conference of the Contracting Parties.”
2. Annual (assessed) contributions from Parties are used to finance the Convention’s Core Budget. Each year, the Secretariat invoices Parties for their annual contributions. Swiss franc invoicing is based upon the approved Core Budget and the current UN Scale of Assessments. (The current UN Scale of Assessments is adjusted on a pro rata basis to reflect the actual membership of the Convention at the beginning of the year.) Income is recognized on invoicing and a receivable is recorded, assuming full collection.
3. Most Contracting Parties pay their assessed contributions on a timely basis. Some Parties, for a number of (often valid) reasons, do not pay their contributions on such a timely basis, and sometimes not in the year in which they fall due. The Secretariat is regularly in touch with these Parties and is able to agree payments at specified future dates, without this severely affecting the operations of the Convention or the Secretariat.
4. Before each financial year end, the Secretariat assesses the status of outstanding contributions, based on the amounts and lengths of time outstanding, and records a provision accordingly. Every annual increase in the provision reduces the Core funds available to spend.<sup>1</sup>
5. Core contributions, outstanding contributions and the provision against them have been gradually increasing over time, and those since 2010 are shown in Table 1.

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<sup>1</sup> No outstanding contributions are written off. The Standing Committee is advised if a Party expressly advises that it does not recognize their outstanding contributions and/or has no intention of paying them.

Table 1: Outstanding contributions and provision for non-collection, 2010-2014

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>CHF'000</b>	<b>CHF'000</b>	<b>CHF'000</b>	<b>CHF'000</b>	<b>CHF'000</b>
Assessed contributions from Parties	3,482	3,625	3,780	3,782	3,779
Voluntary contribution from USA	942	872	930	1,048	1,066
Cumulative outstanding assessed contributions at end of year	760	736	759	759	915
Provision for non-collection	332	361	361	385	483

6. Annex 1 lists Parties with outstanding contributions and the number of years that they are outstanding. Parties should note that these are contributions from 2014 and earlier which were outstanding as of 31 December 2014, and that the total of these outstanding contributions has increased to CHF 915,000.

## Annex 1

### Membership receivables, 2014 and prior, outstanding at 31 December 2014

Region		Annual contribution	No of years outstanding	Region		Annual contributions	No of years outstanding
		CHF				CHF	
Africa	Nigeria	36,392	9	Europe	The FYR of Macedonia	5,000	5
Africa	Mauritania	16,577	9 *	Europe	Slovenia	5,514	2
Africa	Guinea-Bissau	16,367	9 *	Europe	Greece	28,649	1
Africa	Dem. Rep. Of Congo	15,846	9	Europe	Russian Federation	24,336	1
Africa	Sierra Leone	14,000	9 *	Europe	Portugal	23,132	1
Africa	Djibouti	12,000	9 *	Europe	Ukraine	4,831	1
Africa	Liberia	9,110	9 *	Europe	Serbia	1,952	1
Africa	Cape Verde	9,000	9	Europe	Malta	1,000	1
Africa	Sudan	9,000	9			<u>94,414</u>	
Africa	Sao Tome and Principe	8,000	8 *	Neotropics	Saint Lucia	11,000	9
Africa	Niger	7,192	7 *	Neotropics	Antigua & Barbuda	7,000	7
Africa	Central African Republic	7,000	7	Neotropics	Venezuela	105,612	6
Africa	Mali	6,044	7 *	Neotropics	Cuba	9,980	3
Africa	Libya	34,600	6	Neotropics	Belize	3,000	3
Africa	United Rep. Of Tanzania	5,000	5	Neotropics	Nicaragua	2,518	3
Africa	Togo	3,795	4	Neotropics	Brazil	286,716	2
Africa	Gambia	3,261	4	Neotropics	Guatemala	2,639	2
Africa	Cameroun	3,247	4	Neotropics	Dominican Republic	3,434	2
Africa	Senegal	3,170	4	Neotropics	Ecuador	3,153	2
Africa	Madagascar	3,000	3	Neotropics	Grenada	2,000	2
Africa	Comoros	2,000	2	Neotropics	Jamaica	2,000	2
Africa	Lesotho	2,000	2	Neotropics	Other (4 countries)	3,923	1
Africa	Kingdom of Swaziland	2,000	2			<u>442,974</u>	
Africa	Zimbabwe	2,000	2	Oceania	Papua New Guinea	15,205	9
Africa	Tunisia	2,741	2	Oceania	Palau	12,000	9
Africa	Cote d'Ivoire	1,517	2	Oceania	Samoa	3,532	4
Africa	Burkina Faso	1,512	2	Oceania	Kiribati	1,000	1
Africa	Malawi	1,056	2			<u>31,737</u>	
Africa	Other (9 Countries)	8,150	1				
		<u>245,577</u>					
Asia	Uzbekistan	10,930	9	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<u>915,026</u>	
Asia	Yemen	7,000	7	<b>ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS</b>			
Asia	Bahrain	7,238	4				
Asia	Syrian Arab Republic	5,364	4 *	Note: African Parties have an additional CHF160,000 of voluntary contributions outstanding			
Asia	Lebanon	4,905	3				
Asia	Bangladesh	2,500	3				
Asia	Turkmenistan	2,030	3				
Asia	Mongolia	2,014	3				
Asia	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	22,841	2				
Asia	India	32,502	2	Key			
Asia	Nepal	2,000	2	* No payment since acceding to Convention			
Asia	Jordan	1,000	1				
		<u>100,324</u>					