



12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Resolution XII.1

Financial and budgetary matters

1. RECALLING the budgetary provisions established by paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 6 of the Convention on Wetlands;
2. ACKNOWLEDGING WITH APPRECIATION the prompt payment by the majority of Contracting Parties of their contributions to the core budget of the Convention, but NOTING WITH CONCERN that a number of Parties still have significant outstanding contributions (COP12 DOC.15 Rev1);
3. NOTING WITH GRATITUDE the additional voluntary financial contributions made by many Contracting Parties through their Ramsar Administrative Authorities and other agencies, including some development assistance agencies, and also the contributions made by non-governmental organizations and private companies for activities undertaken by the Secretariat, but NOTING WITH CONCERN the continuing decline in such voluntary contributions;
4. ACKNOWLEDGING WITH APPRECIATION the financial and administrative services provided to the Secretariat by IUCN, underpinned by the Services Agreement between Ramsar and IUCN revised in 2009;
5. NOTING that Contracting Parties have been kept informed of the financial situation of the Secretariat through the audited annual financial statements for the years from 2011 to 2014 and the reports of the Standing Committee meetings in 2012, 2013 and 2014; and
6. RECOGNIZING the need to continue to strengthen financial partnerships with relevant international organizations and other entities and to explore additional funding opportunities through their existing financial mechanisms;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. ACKNOWLEDGES that since the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP11) in 2012 the Secretariat has managed the Convention's funds prudently, efficiently and openly;
8. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Contracting Parties that have served in the Subgroup on Finance of the Standing Committee during the past cycle, and in particular to Canada, which has acted as Chair of the Subgroup;
9. DECIDES that the Terms of Reference for the Financial Administration of the Convention contained in Annex 3 to Resolution 5.2 (1993) shall be applied *in toto* to the 2016-2018 cycle;

10. FURTHER DECIDES that the Subgroup on Finance, as established by Resolution VI.17, is to continue to operate under the aegis of the Standing Committee and with the roles and responsibilities specified in that Resolution;
11. NOTES that CHF 115,000 of 2013-2015 reserve funds was used to sponsor eligible COP12 delegates in order to ensure all parties could participate effectively; and FURTHER NOTES that this does not represent a precedent for the Convention and is seen as a one-time special exception to the normal practice given the global economic climate and the difficulty in securing voluntary funds from Contracting Parties and other external sources;
12. REQUESTS the Secretary General to continue efforts to solicit external funds to repay the funds used from the reserve under these extraordinary circumstances and to report back at future meetings of the Subgroup on Finance on progress in this regard; and FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary General to ensure that COP13 delegate sponsoring is a priority for fund-raising to avoid this situation in the future;
13. NOTES that the 2016-2018 budget includes a core element funded by contributions from Contracting Parties, prepared on the basis that there are no fundamental changes to the operation of the Secretariat during 2016-2018, and a non-core unfunded element to be financed by voluntary contributions, and APPROVES the combined budget for the 2016-2018 cycle as attached in Annex 1 to enable the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
14. AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee, with the advice of its Subgroup on Finance, to revise core budgetary allocations between budget lines in the light of significant positive or negative changes during the cycle to costs, rates of inflation, interest and tax income projected in the budget, without increasing the contributions of Parties or increasing the charges paid to IUCN above the budgeted 13% maximum;
15. AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee, with the advice of its Subgroup on Finance, to revise non-core budgetary allocations and priorities depending upon the success of the Secretariat in securing voluntary funding for these activities;
16. DECIDES that the contribution of each Contracting Party to the core budget (other than those making only voluntary contributions) should be in accordance with the scale of assessments for the contributions of Member States to the United Nations budget as approved by the UN General Assembly, which for those only paying voluntary contributions is applied on an indicative basis, and except in the case of Contracting Parties which, in applying the UN scale, could make annual contributions to the Ramsar Convention core budget of less than CHF 1,000, in which case the annual contribution will be that amount;
17. URGES all Contracting Parties to pay their contributions promptly by 1 January of each year, or as soon thereafter as that country's budget cycle will permit;
18. URGES Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions to make a renewed effort to settle them as expeditiously as possible to enhance the financial sustainability of the Convention through contributions by all Contracting Parties, and REQUESTS the Secretariat to contact Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions in excess of three years and work with them to identify appropriate options and actions for addressing the situation and initiating a plan for making payment of contributions, and to report back to each Standing Committee meeting and meeting of the Conference of the Parties on activities taken in this regard and results achieved;

19. NOTES with concern the continued decline in voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties and URGES Contracting Parties and others to seek to reverse this trend in order to fund the important non-core element of the 2016-2018 combined budget, and WELCOMES voluntary contributions from any donor for activities not mentioned in Annex 3, but which support the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024;
20. REQUESTS that the Secretariat continue to develop new approaches and tools, including signature initiatives, as appropriate, to secure voluntary financial support for currently unfunded priority projects, as listed in Annex 3;
21. REAFFIRMS its conviction that the Convention's Small Grants Fund is of great value in terms of the implementation of the Convention, and URGES Parties and others to find CHF 1,000,000 over the next triennium (Annex 3) to secure the efficient operation of this programme;
22. REQUESTS that the Standing Committee review the operation of the programme during the triennium and definitively conclude whether the Parties should continue or cease the Small Grants Fund for the consideration of the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
23. EXPRESSES GRATITUDE to the governments of Switzerland and the United States of America and to the Danone and MAVA Foundations for their voluntary contributions to non-core activities of the Convention; namely, the Swiss Grant for Africa, Wetlands for the Future, World Wetlands Day, and the Ramsar Culture Network, respectively;
24. REAFFIRMS the decision taken at COP11 (Resolution X1.2) that the Reserve Fund:
 - a. provides for unforeseen and unavoidable expenditures;
 - b. receives realized core budget surpluses (or is applied to deficits);
 - c. should not be lower than 6% of the annual core budget of the Convention and not greater than 15%;
 - d. should be administered by the Secretary General with the approval of the Subgroup on Finance as established by the Standing Committee;
25. REQUESTS the Secretariat to endeavour to maintain the Reserve Fund over the 2016-2018 triennium in accordance with this budget and to report annually to the Standing Committee on the status and propose to its Subgroup on Finance for its concurrence prior to any uses of the Fund;
26. APPROVES the staffing table for the Secretariat in terms of staff numbers and position (according to the IUCN Human Resources Function Group) for the triennium, as contained in Annex 4, and NOTES that any requested changes to staff numbers or function group of staff is to be discussed with the Executive Team for its concurrence;
27. REQUESTS that the Secretary General does not use consultants on a regular basis as a way of delivering core Secretariat functions and that all consultants are used for very short-term, fixed tasks deemed necessary to deliver on the implementation of the Convention, and FURTHER REQUESTS that anything beyond this normal practice be discussed with the Executive Team;
28. REQUESTS the Secretariat to utilize the UN Conference on Trade and Development's list of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) when determining eligibility for sponsorship for delegate

travel and to consider SIDS as eligible for support whether or not they are formally classified as such on economic grounds in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list;

29. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to ensure that COP13 is prepared in such a way as to enable negotiations on the draft resolutions to commence as early as possible and no later than the afternoon of the first day of COP; and
30. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to make all efforts to ensure that revised draft resolutions are translated into all official languages during COP13 to enable full and effective participation by all delegations.

- Annex 1 Combined budget for 2016-2018**
- Annex 2 Illustrative core budget contributions by Contracting Party for 2016-2018**
- Annex 3 Analysis of 2016-2018 budgeted non-core items, in order of priority**
- Annex 4 Approved Secretariat staff (core) for 2016-2018**

Annex 1
Combined budget for 2016-2018

2016-2018 Combined Budget	2016		2017		2018	
	Core	Non-Core	Core	Non-Core	Core	Non-Core
CHF 000'S						
INCOME						
Parties' Contributions	3,779		3,779		3,779	
Voluntary contributions	1,065		1,065		1,065	
Income Tax	225		225		225	
Income Interest	12		12		12	
TOTAL INCOME	5,081		5,081		5,081	
EXPENDITURES						
A. Secretariat Senior Management	798		798		798	
B. Partnership Coordinator	250		250		250	
C. Regional Advice and Support	1,342		1,342		1,342	
D. Support to Regional Initiatives	120		120		120	
E. Scientific and Technical Services	212		212		212	
F. Communications	569		569		569	
G. Administration/R/SIS/Web	896		896		896	
H. Operating Costs	95		95		95	
I. Standing Committee Services	150		150		150	
J. IUCN Administrative Service Charges (maximum)	540		540		540	
K. Provisions, Legal	110		110		110	
1. Ramsar Advisory Missions		200		200		200
2. STRP 2016-2018 Programme		100		100		100
3. RSIS, IM and IT (Website)		58		58		59
4. Pre-COP13 Regional Meetings		217		217		216
5. COP13 (2018) Sponsorship (eligible delegates)		200		200		200
6. Arabic Language Translation		83		83		84
7. Small Grants Funds		333		333		334
8. Regional Initiative Networks and Centres		50		50		50
9. Ramsar CEPA Programme (2016-2021)		100		100		100
10. On-line system for National Reports		58		58		59
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	5,081	1,399	5,081	1,399	5,081	1,402
TOTAL SALARY COSTS – staff salaries and related costs	3,429		3,429		3,429	
	67%		67%		67%	
TOTAL TRAVEL COSTS	155		155		155	
	3%		3%		3%	

Annex 2

Illustrative core-budget contributions by Contracting Party for 2016-2018

Illustration based on:			
Membership as at 1 January 2015	2016 Core Contribution	2017 Core Contribution	2018 Core Contribution
UN Scale of Assessments 2015*	CHF	CHF	CHF
Albania	1,000	1,000	1,000
Algeria	6,686	6,686	6,686
Andorra	1,000	1,000	1,000
Antigua & Barbuda	1,000	1,000	1,000
Argentina	21,082	21,082	21,082
Armenia	1,000	1,000	1,000
Australia	101,215	101,215	101,215
Austria	38,944	38,944	38,944
Azerbaijan	1,952	1,952	1,952
Bahamas	1,000	1,000	1,000
Bahrain	1,903	1,903	1,903
Bangladesh	1,000	1,000	1,000
Barbados	1,000	1,000	1,000
Belarus	2,733	2,733	2,733
Belgium	48,704	48,704	48,704
Belize	1,000	1,000	1,000
Benin	1,000	1,000	1,000
Bhutan	1,000	1,000	1,000
Bolivia	1,000	1,000	1,000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,000	1,000	1,000
Botswana	1,000	1,000	1,000
Brazil	143,184	143,184	143,184
Bulgaria	2,294	2,294	2,294
Burkina Faso	1,000	1,000	1,000
Burundi	1,000	1,000	1,000
Cambodia	1,000	1,000	1,000
Cameroon	1,000	1,000	1,000
Canada	145,624	145,624	145,624
Cape Verde	1,000	1,000	1,000
Central African Republic	1,000	1,000	1,000
Chad	1,000	1,000	1,000
Chile	16,300	16,300	16,300
China	251,231	251,231	251,231
Colombia	12,640	12,640	12,640
Comoros	1,000	1,000	1,000
Congo	1,000	1,000	1,000
Costa Rica	1,854	1,854	1,854
Côte d'Ivoire	1,000	1,000	1,000
Croatia	6,149	6,149	6,149
Cuba	3,367	3,367	3,367

* Revised UN Scale will be applied, when released.

** As previously, 22% of total contributions from Parties.

Illustration based on:			
Membership as at 1 January 2015	2016 Core Contribution	2017 Core Contribution	2018 Core Contribution
UN Scale of Assessments 2015*	CHF	CHF	CHF
Cyprus	2,294	2,294	2,294
Czech Republic	18,837	18,837	18,837
Democratic Republic of Congo	1,000	1,000	1,000
Denmark	32,941	32,941	32,941
Djibouti	1,000	1,000	1,000
Dominican Republic	2,196	2,196	2,196
Ecuador	2,147	2,147	2,147
Egypt	6,539	6,539	6,539
El Salvador	1,000	1,000	1,000
Equatorial Guinea	1,000	1,000	1,000
Estonia	1,952	1,952	1,952
Fiji	1,000	1,000	1,000
Finland	25,328	25,328	25,328
France	272,947	272,947	272,947
Gabon	1,000	1,000	1,000
Gambia	1,000	1,000	1,000
Georgia	1,000	1,000	1,000
Germany	348,492	348,492	348,492
Ghana	1,000	1,000	1,000
Greece	31,135	31,135	31,135
Grenada	1,000	1,000	1,000
Guatemala	1,318	1,318	1,318
Guinea	1,000	1,000	1,000
Guinea-Bissau	1,000	1,000	1,000
Honduras	1,000	1,000	1,000
Hungary	12,981	12,981	12,981
Iceland	1,318	1,318	1,318
India	32,502	32,502	32,502
Indonesia	16,885	16,885	16,885
Iran, Islamic Republic of	17,373	17,373	17,373
Iraq	3,319	3,319	3,319
Ireland	20,399	20,399	20,399
Israel	19,325	19,325	19,325
Italy	217,069	217,069	217,069
Jamaica	1,000	1,000	1,000
Japan	528,668	528,668	528,668
Jordan	1,074	1,074	1,074
Kazakhstan	5,905	5,905	5,905
Kenya	1,000	1,000	1,000
Kiribati	1,000	1,000	1,000
Kyrgyz Republic	1,000	1,000	1,000
Lao Peoples Republic	1,000	1,000	1,000
Latvia	2,294	2,294	2,294
Lebanon	2,050	2,050	2,050
Lesotho	1,000	1,000	1,000

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Illustration based on:			
Membership as at 1 January 2015	2016 Core Contribution	2017 Core Contribution	2018 Core Contribution
UN Scale of Assessments 2015*	CHF	CHF	CHF
Liberia	1,000	1,000	1,000
Libya	6,930	6,930	6,930
Liechtenstein	1,000	1,000	1,000
Lithuania	3,563	3,563	3,563
Luxembourg	3,953	3,953	3,953
Madagascar	1,000	1,000	1,000
Malawi	1,000	1,000	1,000
Malaysia	13,713	13,713	13,713
Mali	1,000	1,000	1,000
Malta	1,000	1,000	1,000
Marshall Islands	1,000	1,000	1,000
Mauritania	1,000	1,000	1,000
Mauritius	1,000	1,000	1,000
Mexico	89,893	89,893	89,893
Monaco	1,000	1,000	1,000
Mongolia	1,000	1,000	1,000
Montenegro	1,000	1,000	1,000
Morocco	3,026	3,026	3,026
Mozambique	1,000	1,000	1,000
Myanmar	1,000	1,000	1,000
Namibia	1,000	1,000	1,000
Nepal	1,000	1,000	1,000
Netherlands	80,718	80,718	80,718
New Zealand	12,347	12,347	12,347
Nicaragua	1,000	1,000	1,000
Niger	1,000	1,000	1,000
Nigeria	4,392	4,392	4,392
Norway	41,530	41,530	41,530
Oman, Sultanate of	4,978	4,978	4,978
Pakistan	4,148	4,148	4,148
Palau	1,000	1,000	1,000
Panama	1,269	1,269	1,269
Papua New Guinea	1,000	1,000	1,000
Paraguay	1,000	1,000	1,000
Peru	5,710	5,710	5,710
Philippines	7,515	7,515	7,515
Poland	44,946	44,946	44,946
Portugal	23,132	23,132	23,132
Republic of Korea	97,310	97,310	97,310
Republic of Moldova	1,000	1,000	1,000
Romania	11,029	11,029	11,029
Russian Federation	118,978	118,978	118,978
Rwanda	1,000	1,000	1,000
Saint Lucia	1,000	1,000	1,000
Samoa	1,000	1,000	1,000

* Revised UN Scale will be applied, when released.

** As previously, 22% of total contributions from Parties.

Illustration based on:			
Membership as at 1 January 2015	2016 Core Contribution	2017 Core Contribution	2018 Core Contribution
UN Scale of Assessments 2015*	CHF	CHF	CHF
Sao Tome and Principe	1,000	1,000	1,000
Senegal	1,000	1,000	1,000
Serbia	1,952	1,952	1,952
Seychelles	1,000	1,000	1,000
Sierra Leone	1,000	1,000	1,000
Slovakia	8,345	8,345	8,345
Slovenia	4,880	4,880	4,880
South Africa	18,154	18,154	18,154
South Sudan, Republic of	1,000	1,000	1,000
Spain	145,087	145,087	145,087
Sri Lanka	1,220	1,220	1,220
Sudan	1,000	1,000	1,000
Suriname	1,000	1,000	1,000
Swaziland, Kingdom of	1,000	1,000	1,000
Sweden	46,850	46,850	46,850
Switzerland	51,095	51,095	51,095
Syrian Arab Republic	1,757	1,757	1,757
Tajikistan	1,000	1,000	1,000
Thailand	11,664	11,664	11,664
The FYR of Macedonia	1,000	1,000	1,000
Togo	1,000	1,000	1,000
Trinidad and Tobago	2,147	2,147	2,147
Tunisia	1,757	1,757	1,757
Turkey	64,809	64,809	64,809
Turkmenistan	1,000	1,000	1,000
Uganda	1,000	1,000	1,000
Ukraine	4,831	4,831	4,831
United Arab Emirates	29,037	29,037	29,037
United Kingdom	252,743	252,743	252,743
United Republic of Tanzania	1,000	1,000	1,000
Uruguay	2,538	2,538	2,538
Uzbekistan	1,000	1,000	1,000
Venezuela	30,599	30,599	30,599
Viet Nam	2,050	2,050	2,050
Yemen	1,000	1,000	1,000
Zambia	1,000	1,000	1,000
Zimbabwe	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total	3,778,744	3,778,744	3,778,744
Other contributions			
United States of America**	1,065,799	1,065,799	1,065,799
Grand Total	4,844,543	4,844,543	4,844,543

* Revised UN Scale will be applied, when released.

** As previously, 22% of total contributions from Parties.

Annex 3

Analysis of 2016-2018 budgeted non-core items, in order of priority

No.	NON-CORE FUNDS 2016 – 2018	3 Year Funding Requirement (CHF)
1	Ramsar Advisory Missions for Parties requiring assistance	600,000
2	STRP 2016-2018 programme of work support	300,000
3	RSIS, IM/IT (Website) Continuing Development	175,000
4	Pre-COP13 regional meetings (delegates support and meeting costs for preparatory meetings)	650,000
5	COP13 (2018) sponsorship to eligible delegates	600,000
6	Arabic language introduction and translation support	250,000
7	Small Grants Funds for protection and wise use of wetlands	1,000,000
8	Regional Initiative Networks and Centres support (priority activities).	150,000
9	Ramsar CEPA Programme (2016-2021), exclusion of World Wetlands Day	300,000
10	On-line system for National Reports, reporting and indicators development	175,000
	TOTAL	4,200,000

Annex 4

Approved Secretariat staff (core) for 2016-2018

Team	2015	2016	2017	2018
ASMGT	S, M2, P1	S, M2, P1	S, M2, P1	S, M2, P1
BPART	M1	M1	M1	M1
CREGS	M1 (4), P1, Interns (4)	M1 (4), P1, Interns (4)	M1 (4), P1, Interns (4)	M1 (4), P1, Interns (4)
ESTRP	P1	P1	P1	P1
FCOMM	M1, P2, P1	M1, P2, P1	M1, P2, P1	M1, P2, P1
GADMI	P2, P1 (2), A3 (3)	P2, P1 (2), A3 (3)	P2, P1 (2), A3 (3)	P2, P1 (2), A3 (3)

*2015 staff numbers and position (according to the IUCN Human Resources Function Group) shown for reference.

**Team refer to the categorization of Expenditures as listed in Annex 1: Secretariat Senior Management (ASMGT); Partnership Coordinator (BPART); Regional Advice and Support (CREGS); Scientific and Technical Services (ESTRP); Communications (FCOMM); Administration/RSIS/Web (GADMI).