

Agenda item 8.3

Ramsar Secretariat budget 2009

Action requested: The Standing Committee is requested to note this report on the budget for the current year and advise the Secretary General as appropriate.

1. Attached to this note is the Core Budget for 2009 to 2012 as approved by COP 10.
2. The Secretary General is not at this stage seeking any changes to the budget for 2009, but he notes the following:
 - Cost of living increases for 2009 of 2.6% have been given to all staff entitled to receive them. A few staff members have also been given performance-related increases. The total cost of salary increases has been limited to the 4% budget increase available.
 - The new budget line for the Partnership Coordinator allocates CHF 88,000 for expenditure in 2009.
 - The 2009 budget of CHF 279,190 is to be allocated to Regional Initiatives – see document SC40-10.
 - 2009 travel budgets may not support the currently anticipated travel plans of the Secretariat.
 - IUCN charges to Ramsar for 2009 are currently being finalised but are expected to be in line with the 2009 budget. The final charges agreed for 2009 will be communicated to the Standing Committee at its May meeting.
3. The Subgroup on Finance is requested to recommend this 2009 budget for the Standing Committee approval.
4. No budget has traditionally been proposed for non-Core activities. Points to note include:
 - There have been no 2008 or 2009 contributions from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).
 - Danone 2009 income – Danone General Communications Funding (Eur 250,000 expected) and Evian Ecole de l'Eau (Eur 131,000 and Eur 150,000 expected).
 - Additional voluntary funding is anticipated for the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), the Wetlands for the Future Fund (WFF), the Small Grants Fund (SGF), and Swiss Grant for Africa (SGA), and a summary of this will be presented to the Ramsar Finance SubGroup meeting in May.
 - For all non-Core activities, expenditure commitments are only made following cash receipt.

- 2009 Voluntary additional contributions from African nations (Resolution X.2, para 15) have to date amounted to CHF 2000 and are being accumulated in a non-core budget line for expenditure on African Regional Initiatives as stipulated in the Resolution.
5. For 2010 contributions we would like to suggest that the Secretariat does not raise provisional invoices in mid-2009, which would then be superseded by final invoices in December 2009 when UN contribution scales are revised, but instead just issue final invoices in December 2009. Contracting Parties can be reminded in writing before the end of the year that the principal of a 4% overall increase applies and that they should budget for a 4% increase for 2010. There is a risk to this approach that cash flow in early 2010 may be detrimentally affected. However, larger Contracting Parties will not pay until final invoices are issued anyway, and the benefit of less administrative work at the Secretariat and less scope for error and confusion for Contracting Parties is considered to be greater.

Core Budget 2009-2012 as approved by COP 10

RAMSAR FOUR % GROWTH BUDGET 2009 to 2012										
EXPENDITURES	COP9 approved		2009	2009	2010	2010	2011	2011	2012	2012
	2008	2008								
	CHF	CHF								
A. SECRETARIAT SENIOR MANAGEMENT		476,466		494,365		512,979		532,338		552,472
i. Salary & social costs (SG)(Ass't) (20%DSG)	447,466		465,365		483,979		503,338		523,472	
ii. Travel on Official Business (International) (2K for NCD)	29,000		29,000		29,000		29,000		29,000	
M. PARTNERSHIP Co-ordinator				87,278		141,696		198,290		257,149
i. Partnership Account			87,278		141,696		198,290		257,149	
B. REGIONAL ADVICE & SUPPORT		1,128,931		1,170,903		1,214,554		1,259,951		1,307,164
i. Salaries & social costs (SRAs, Assistants, Oceania officer)	1,049,304		1,091,276		1,134,927		1,180,324		1,227,537	
ii. Travel on Official Business (International)	79,627		79,627		79,627		79,627		79,627	
C. SUPPORT TO REGIONAL INITIATIVES		279,190		279,190		279,190		279,190		279,190
i. Regional networks (cooperation)	179,190		179,190		179,190		179,190		179,190	
ii. Regional centers (training & capacity-building)	100,000		100,000		100,000		100,000		100,000	

L. COP related costs incurred by the Secretariat	34,952	0	0	0	-
SubTotal	3,796,543	3,951,061	4,111,758	4,278,882	4,452,693 4,452,693
K. IUCN SERVICE CHARGES (13% of expenditures) (Administration, Human Resources, Finance & IT services)	493,551	513,638	534,529	556,255	578,850
J. MISCELLANEOUS	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
i. Bad debt provision	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
ii. Exchange loss	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
iii. Staff termination & repatriation provisions*	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	4,365,094				
TOTAL FORECAST EXPENDITURE		4,539,698	4,721,286	4,910,137	5,106,543
		4,539,698	4,721,286	4,910,137	5,106,543

* Accounting requirement, can be treated as a reserve amount.