Current status of the Reserve Fund

**Action requested:** The Standing Committee is invited to note the contents of this report and consider the Secretary General’s suggestions about the use of the Reserve Fund excess.

1. The Reserve Fund (established by Resolution VI.17, 1996) is comprises excess/deficit funds from each year’s core budget to be used to meet unforeseen and unavoidable expenditures. The resources kept in the Reserve Fund are limited to a maximum of 1/12th of the core budget of the current fiscal year. The Fund is to be administered by the Secretary General under the guidance of the Subgroup on Finance as established by the Standing Committee.

2. In Resolution X.2 (2008), para 21, the Contracting Parties requested the Secretary General to report to the Standing Committee on the status of the Reserve Fund and consult with the Standing Committee regarding the use of any excess resources of the Fund.

3. At 31 December 2007 the Fund stood at CHF 484,000, CHF 130,000 above the maximum. At 31 December 2008 the Reserve Fund per the unaudited accounts was 459,000 but should be no greater than 1/12th of CHF 4,365,000, i.e. CHF 364,000. The Secretary General has requested that CHF 100,000 of the Reserve be released and recommends allocation as follows:

   - First, to cover the deficit of CHF 34,000 on the COP10 project.
   - Secondly, to establish a project to provide a CHF 16,000 to finance ad hoc legal work that the Secretariat urgently needs to support its core and project activities.
   - Thirdly, to provide a CHF 40,000 project for working with the World Tourism Organization to highlight the role of wetlands in economic development. It is hoped that this will also lead to joint activities with the tourism sector and new income in 2009 and 2010.
   - Fourth, to provide CHF 10,000 to top up the fund for Ramsar Advisory Missions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carry forward from 2000</td>
<td></td>
<td>397,181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2001 Adjustments to the Fund**
- Annual contribution 1993: 119
- Deficit from 2001: (16,485)

**2002 Adjustments to the Fund**
- Deficit from 2002: (168,660)

**2003 Adjustments to the Fund**
- Deficit from 2003: (193,921)

**2004 Adjustments to the Fund**
- Deficit from 2004: (23,635)

**2005 Adjustments to the Fund**
- Surplus from 2005: 105,619

**2006 Adjustments to the Fund**
- Surplus from 2006: 214,012

**2007 Adjustments to the Fund**
- Surplus from 2007: 170,398

**2008 Adjustments to the Fund**
- Deficit from 2008: (25,910)
- Transfer to projects: (100,000)

**TOTAL to 31 Dec 2008**: 358,839

The Reserve Fund is comprised of excess/deficit funds from each year’s budget. It also receives annual contributions prior to 1994.

**Note:**
Resolution VI.17 of COP6 established that “the resources kept in the Fund should not be higher
at any time than one-twelfth of the core budget of the current fiscal year”. One-twelfth of the 2008 budget approved by COP9 is CHF 363,758

For an excess:
At 31.12.08 there was an excess in the Reserve Fund. The Secretary General has decided to release CHF 100,000. He would like to propose that this amount is used as follows:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COP10</td>
<td>34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WWW 2009</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal fund</td>
<td>16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAM support</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>