



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

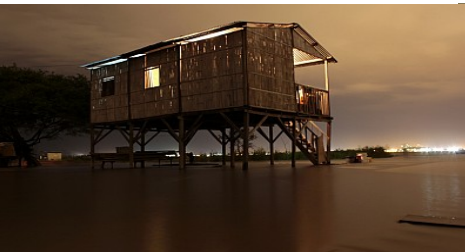
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Ramsar Subgroup On Finance Report: 2012-2015

COP12, Punta del Este, 1-9 June 2015

Elizabeth Hess, Canada

Chair Subgroup on Finance



Agenda



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- Subgroup on Finance
- 2012 year end accounting
- 2013-2015 Core budget
- Outstanding Contributions
- Proposed 2016-2018 budget scenarios



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Agenda Item a. Subgroup on Finance 2013-2015 Triennium



Subgroup on Finance



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- Budgetary provisions established by paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 6 of the Convention on Wetlands
- Members for 2013-2015 triennium
 - Standing Committee reps- Burundi, Canada (Chair), Chile, Denmark, Fiji, Republic of Korea
 - Outgoing Chair - Finland
 - Secretariat- Secretary General and Finance Officer *ex officio*
- Meetings of the Subgroup
 - SC46-2013, Gland, 8-12 April 2013
 - SC47-2014, Gland, 24-28 March 2014
 - SC48-2015, Gland, 26-30 January 2015
 - SC49-2015, Punte del Este, 1 June 2015



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Agenda Item b. 2012 Year end accounting



2012



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- Ended with a positive balance.
- Standing Committee 46:
 - I. Approved the audited final 2012 financial statements, subject to any final minor adjustments/audit completion;
 - II. Noted the healthy Reserve Fund balance of CHF 812,000 at the beginning of the new triennium; and
 - III. Urged the Secretariat to manage itself more efficiently to ensure all staff took their allocated annual leave, so as to minimize any future financial liability.



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Agenda Item c. 2013-2015 Core Budget



2013-2015 Core Budget (COP12 DOC.14, Annex 5)



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Triennium Core Budget*						
CHF 000's	Core Actuals	Core Actuals	Core Budget**		2013-2015	
	2013	2014	2015	Total	COP11 Budget	Variance
INCOME						
i. Parties' Contributions	3,782	3,779	3,779	11,340	11,337	3
ii. Voluntary contributions	1,048	1,066	1,065	3,179	3,195	-16
iii. Income Tax	215	168	225	608	675	-67
iv. Income Interest	3	2	12	17	36	-19
v. Miscellaneous Income		105		105		105
TOTAL INCOME	5,048	5,120	5,081	15,249	15,243	6
EXPENDITURES						
A. Secretariat Senior Management	807	727	811	2,345	2,475	-130
B. Partnership Coordinator	203	228	259	689	933	-244
C. Regional Advice and Support	1,332	1,364	1,339	4,034	4,041	-7
D. Support to Regional Initiatives	115	121	120	356	480	-124
E. Scientific and Technical Services	209	170	210	588	630	-42
F. Communications, Documentation, CEPA	497	660	589	1,745	1,518	227
G. Administration/RSIS/Web	758	556	898	2,212	2,262	-50
H. Operating Costs	97	83	95	275	291	-16
I. Standing Committee Services	60	68	85	213	255	-42
J. IUCN Administrative Service Charges (maximum)	549	515	566	1,630	1,698	-68
K. Miscellaneous	338	169	110	617	660	-43
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,965	4,661	5,081	14,707	15,243	-536
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	83	459	0	542	0	542
Staff Costs (salary and related)	3,289	3,089	3,435	9,812	9,990	-178
Staff Costs, % of total	66%	66%	68%	67%	66%	
Travel	139	139	165	443	495	-52
Travel Costs, % of total	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	

Notes:

* More information can be found in Standing Committee and Finance Subgroup reports during the period.

** 2015 Core budget as approved at SC48

- Ended with a positive balance.
- SC46:
 - I. Allocated CHF 129,719 to the following six Regional Initiatives, as requested for their activities in 2013:

➤ East African centre	CHF 35,000
➤ Niger river basin network	CHF 30,000
➤ La Plata river basin network	CHF 16,700
➤ Caribbean network	CHF 15,000
➤ Mangroves and coral reefs network	CHF 20,000
➤ Carpathian Wetland Initiative	CHF 13,019
 - II. Decided not to formally relaunch the Small Grants Fund for 2014;
 - I. Requested the Secretariat to review the status of current Small Grants Funds portfolio and seek ways of refreshing it (pending further review and redevelopment of mechanisms for funding small projects of national priority, in relation to the terms of Resolution XI.2 and the finalization of the Strategic Framework for Ramsar Partnerships, for Standing Committee consideration)

- Ended with a positive balance
- SC47:
 - I. Approved the 2013 financial statements, subject to any final minor adjustments and audit completion
 - II. Noted the excess reserve fund balance of CHF 291,000.
 - III. Allocated CHF 120,000 to the following Regional Initiatives:

➤ East African centre	CHF 28,000
➤ Niger river basin network	CHF 30,000
➤ La Plata river basin network	CHF 16,000
➤ Caribbean network	CHF 16,000
➤ Mangroves and coral reefs network	CHF 20,000
➤ Carpathian Wetland Initiative	CHF 10,000

2014 continued



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IV. Directed the surplus (CHF 366,000) as follows:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| ➤ Strategic Plan | CHF 76,000 |
| ➤ Regional Advisory Missions | CHF 50,000 |
| ➤ Translation, French/Spanish, of SC48 docs | CHF 90,000 |
| ➤ COP12 delivery | CHF 150,000 |

III. Asked the Secretary General (consulting with the Executive Team as necessary) to determine which of the three urgent, unfunded needs for COP 12 delivery (logistics coordination, regional meeting costs, ENB participation) most need this funding, taking into account other voluntary contributions received for COP12 during 2014.

- **SC48:**

- I. **Directed the 2014 surplus (CHF 345,000) as follows:**

➤ Provisions (staff)	CHF 100,000
➤ ENB (COP 12 support)	CHF 50,000
➤ Ramsar Advisory Missions (Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Uganda)	CHF 75,000
➤ Staff Training	CHF 20,000
➤ Ramsar Regional Centres (capacity building workshops on strategic plan (CHF10k each)	CHF 40,000
➤ Communications (STRP translation ~ CHF 20k; Site Manager Publication ~CHF 20k; Post COP priorities ~ CHF 20k)	CHF 60,000

- II. **Requested the Secretariat not to launch a request for new project proposals for the 2015 Small Grants Fund cycle.**

2015, continued



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- **Urgent request to Subgroup in April, 2015:**
 - I. **Allocated (CHF 285,000) from reserve for sponsored COP12 delegates**

 - II. **Items committed continued**
 - **Provisions (staff) CHF 100,000**
 - **ENB (COP 12 support) CHF 50,000**
 - **Ramsar Advisory Missions (Nicaragua) CHF 25,000**

 - III. **Items on hold: Staff Training, Strategic Plan Workshops, Communications, Ramsar Advisory Missions (Sierra Leone, Uganda)**

2015 continued



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- **SC49:**

- I. **Allocated CHF 106,800 to the following Regional Initiatives:**

- Niger river basin network CHF 42,000
 - La Plata river basin network CHF 18,000
 - Caribbean network CHF 18,000
 - American mangroves and reefs network CHF 20,000
 - Carpathian Wetland Initiative CHF 6,300
 - Black and Azov Sea coast CHF 2,500

- II. **Decided CHF 285,000 surplus to be allocated at SC 50. Proposal:**

- Ramsar Advisory Missions (Sierra Leone, Uganda) CHF 50,000
 - Staff Training CHF 20,000
 - Ramsar Regional Centres (capacity building workshops on strategic plan (CHF10k each) CHF 40,000
 - Communications (STRP translation ~ CHF 20k; Site Manager Publication ~CHF 20k; Post COP priorities ~ CHF 20k) CHF 60,000
 - Sponsor Delegate Support (reserve fund repayment) CHF 115,000



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Agenda Item d. Outstanding Contributions over the triennium



Outstanding Contributions, 2006- 2014



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Year	Year in Arrears	Unpaid (CHF '000s)	Running Balance
2006	9	66	
2007	8	16	82
2008	7	20	102
2009	6	24	126
2010	5	44	170
2011	4	50	220
2012	3	64	284
2013	2	273	556
2014	1	387	943
Total		943	

CHF 943,000 represents 20% of Secretariat core budget

Outstanding Contributions, Regional



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By region, arrears >3 years

	2014		2013	
	Count	Amount	Count	Amount
Africa	19	135,000	18	196,000
Asia	4	14,000	6	40,000
Europe	1	2,000	1	4,000
Neotropics	3	41,000	3	91,000
Oceania	4	28,000	4	36,700
	31	220,000	32	367,700

- Arrears: 40% improvement from 2013
- 31 countries have outstanding contributions of > 3 years

Outstanding Contributions, Actions



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- Sending of reminders and statements via diplomatic and other government channels to specific Parties;
- Visits and follow-up communications to Geneva-based permanent missions of Parties with arrears;
- Sustained verbal and written reminders to National Focal Points and Administrative Authority contacts;
- Reminders to African Contracting Parties of their Ouagadougou Commitments and formal notifications in January 2014, advising them of contribution arrears and the realities and risks relating to receipt of future voluntary funding from certain donor Contracting Parties.
- SC47:
 - I. Decided not to include a DR for SC48 consideration on this subject.



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Agenda Item e. Proposed Budget Scenarios 2016-2018



Three proposed core budget scenarios 2016-2018 (COP12 DR1 Rev.1)



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- Three core budget scenarios proposals (COP12 DR1 Rev.1, Annex 1):
 - 0% increase, no changes from 2013-2015 budget
 - 2% increase, CHF 102,000
 - Ramsar Advisory Missions, CHF 50,000
 - Salary increase on merit, CHF 30,000
 - Staff training, CHF 22,000
 - 4% increase, CHF 203,000
 - Hire Regional Officer (Americas), CHF 123,000
 - Ramsar Advisory Missions, CHF 50,000
 - Salary increase on merit, CHF 30,000

Per Annum, CHF 000's	Scenario		
	A, 0%	B, 2%	C, 4%
Ramsar Advisory Missions	0	50	50
Regional Officer	0	0	123
Salary increase for merit	0	30	30
Training	0	22	0
Total	0	102	203

The additional activities for 2% and 4% proposals are mutually exclusive

Reminder: Core budget is used for



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- Secretariat Senior Management
- Partnership Coordinator
- Regional Advisor and Support
- Support for Regional Initiatives
- Regional Networks and Centres
- Scientific and Technical Services
- Communication
 - CEPA Program
 - Comms, Translations, Publications, Reporting Implementation
- Administration/ RSIS/Web
 - Ramsar Sites Information Services
 - Web/IT Support and Development
- Operating Costs
 - General
 - Equipment/Office Supplies
- Standing Committee Services
 - SC delegates support
 - SC meetings
 - SC translation
 - Simultaneous translation at SC meetings
- IUCN Administration Services Charge
- Miscellaneous- Reserve Fund
 - Reserve Fund
 - Provisions

Proposed non-core funds, 2016-2018 (COP12 DR1 Rev.1)



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- **The Non-Core unfunded proposals are:**
 - Based on proposed 2016-2021 strategic plan
 - Considered necessary to deliver proposed strategic plan
 - Largely anticipated to be funded by Contracting Parties, but also non-Contracting Parties, including foundations, individuals, and the private sector

Proposed non-core budget scenario, 2016-2018 (COP12 DR1 Rev.1, Annex 2)



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Budget item	NON-CORE FUNDS 2016 – 2018 (CHF)	Three year funding requirement
1	Cost of three Regional Officers to support Parties requests for advice on: site updates and RSIS, Art 3.2 files, regional initiatives, project oversight, resource mobilization, indicators, etc.	900,000
2	Ramsar Advisory Missions for Parties requiring assistance	620,000
3	Support for development of a Global Partnership for Wetland Restoration, facilitating focussed project support in line with SP4 goals via partnerships and Party support	500,000
4	Support the introduction of the Arabic language into all aspects of the website, RSIS, media, publications and support for Arabic speaking Parties	1,400,000
5	Setting up contacts with, and running a virtual network for wetland professionals, aligned with the online portal on capacity building under regional initiatives, to help deliver targeted materials, build capacity, exchange experiences and increase information flow across countries and people	360,000
6	Support new STRP programme of work for 2016-2018 with provisions to carry out review of process and products from STRP and align to new strategy and into delivery of tailored technical advice in response to identified needs	750,000
7	Support to Regional Initiative Networks and Centres. Funding for their priority activities.	820,000
8	Increase level of engagement with GlobWetlands, NASA, JAXA and ESA in order to provide benefits of earth observation and citizen engagement to Parties and use current progress to leverage further improvements in data set and availability of big Data	350,000

Proposed non-core budget scenario, 2016-2018 (COP12 DR1 Rev.1 , Annex 2)



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Budget item	NON-CORE FUNDS 2016 – 2018 (CHF)	Three year funding requirement
9	Support and co-funding for developing the Ramsar Culture Network and broader efforts to increase appreciation of 'Wetlands, Culture and Livelihoods', which is initially supported by Mava Foundation	400,000
10	CHF 700,000 per annum of resourcing for the Small Grants Funds for protection and wise use of wetlands	2,100,000
11	Development of the online reporting systems and indicators for the Ramsar 4th Strategic Plan (2016-2021)	230,000
12	Ramsar CEPA Programme (2016-2021)	600,000
13	World Wetlands Day	150,000
14	Developing a 'Ramsar Sites Outlook' report, similar to the recently published 'IUCN Conservation Outlook' report	225,000
	COP 13 EXPENSES	
15	Costs of Full pre-COP regional meetings to support delegates and meeting costs for COP13 preparatory meetings	650,000
16	Sponsorship to bring eligible delegates to COP13 in 2018	600,000
CHF	TOTAL	10,655,000

Meetings of the Subgroup on Finance



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Cancun Room

- **Thursday June 4th**
 - 13:15 – 14:45
 - 18:30 – 21:00
- **Friday June 5th**
 - 13:15 – 14:45
 - 18:30 – 21:00
- **Saturday June 6th**
 - 13:15 – 14:45

Conclusion



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- Secretariat has managed the Convention's funds during 2013-15 triennium prudently, efficiently, and openly
- Despite several actions by Secretariat, outstanding contributions remain a concern
- Thanks to the members of the Subgroup on Finance