

# Report of the Subgroup on Finance

51st meeting of Standing Committee  
27 November 2015



# Context

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# Background

- **Members for 2016-2018 triennium**
  - Standing Committee reps- Australia, Estonia, Republic of Korea, Senegal (Chair), Suriname, United States of America
  - Outgoing Chair - Canada
  - Secretariat- Secretary General and Finance Officer *ex officio*
- **Standing Committee agenda papers**
  - SC51-18, Financial Matters 2014/2015/2016
  - SC51-19, Outstanding Contributions
  - SC51-20, Report on efforts to raise funds for COP12 delegates
  - SC51-21, Report on prioritization of fundraising activities
  - SC51-22, Status and recommendations of Small Grants Fund
- **Meetings of Subgroup on Finance**
  - Wednesday 25 November 2015
  - Thursday, 26 November 2015
  - Friday, 27 November 2015



# Reallocation of 2014 Surplus Funds

- The Subgroup on Finance recommends that the Standing Committee direct that the surplus of CHF 459,000 be allocated as follows:

Description	SC51
	Actual
<b>Core Surplus</b>	<b>459</b>
<b>Committed:</b>	
ENB (COP12 support)	50
Ramsar Advisory Missions (Nicaragua)	25
Staff provision	94
<b><i>Subtotal, Committed</i></b>	<b><i>169</i></b>
<b>Core Surplus, Remaining Balance</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>Proposal for Remaining Surplus:</b>	
<b>Sponsor Delegate Support</b>	125
<b><i>Subtotal, Proposal</i></b>	<b><i>125</i></b>
<b>Core Surplus, Remaining Balance</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>SC51, Nov 23-27, 2015</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>Support for website development</b>	10
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<b>0</b>

# 2014 Core budget

The Subgroup on Finance recommends that the Standing Committee approve the audited 2014 financial statements as presented in document SC51-18, Annex 1.

Reserve Fund remains at:

- CHF 709,000
- 14% of core budget income



# 2015 Non-Core budget

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- Voluntary contributions of as of 31 October 2015: CHF 1,200,000
- Voluntary contributions, United States of America, USD 1,150,000
- The Subgroup recommends the Standing Committee thanks the following Parties and partners who provided voluntary contributions in 2015: Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, Uruguay, CBD, Danone, MAVA, Star Alliance, UNEP-ROWA, WWF



# 2015 Income Statement

The Subgroup on Finance recommends that the Standing Committee approves the new 2015 income statement presentation for Swiss statutory reporting requirements as required by Swiss Law.

<b>Income</b>
<i>External Income</i>
Contributions from Contracting Parties
US Voluntary Contributions
African Voluntary Contributions
Project Income
Financial Income
Provisions (income)
<i>Total external income</i>
Transfer between core and projects
<b>Total Income</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>
<i>Operating Expenditure</i>
Communications (Outreach)
Regional Advice, Initiatives and Support
Scientific and Technical Services
Partnerships
Management, Operations and Support
<i>Total Operating Expenditure</i>
<i>Other Income (Expenditures)</i>
Financial Expenses
Provisions (expense)
<i>Total Other Income Expenditures</i>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>

# COP12 and COP13 finances

- The Subgroup on Finance recommends the Standing Committee notes that Uruguay transferred USD 180,000 (CHF 173,118) in June 2015 and thanks Uruguay for the prompt payment.
- The Subgroup on Finance recommends that fund raising for COP12 is discontinued at the end of 2015 and the sponsored delegate deficit of CHF 125,000 be taken from the 2014 surplus re-allocation to be taken from 2014 surplus.
- The Subgroup on Finance recommends that fundraising for COP13 begins from 2016.



# Outstanding Contributions

- 33 countries have outstanding contributions of 3 years or more.
- As of 31 October 2015, total amount of all unpaid contributions is CHF 1,544,000
- The Subgroup recommends that the Standing Committee notes the current status of Parties' outstanding annual contributions and encourages the Secretariat to continue to take actions to resolve this and report it to Standing Committee 52.
- The Subgroup recommends that the Standing Committee notes the actions of the Secretariat since SC 48 to reduce the number of outstanding contributions, specifically:
  - Sending reminders and statements via diplomatic and other government channels;
  - Visits and follow-up communication to Geneva-based permanent missions of Parties with outstanding contributions; and
  - Sustained verbal and written reminders to National Focal Points and Administrative Authority contacts.
- The Subgroup encourages parties with outstanding contributions to resolve them with the Secretariat.

# 2016 Core Budget, Revisions

<b>Ramsar Combined Budget, 2016, SC51 Revisions</b>	
CHF 000'S	
<b>A. Secretariat Senior Management</b>	
Salaries and social costs	
Other employment benefits	
Travel	
<b>B. Partnership Coordinator</b>	
Salaries and social costs	
Other employment benefits	
Travel	
<b>G. Administration/RSIS/Web</b>	
Staff hiring and departure costs	
Travel	
Ramsar Sites Information Service (maintanance and develop)	
<b>I. Standing Committee Services</b>	
Standing Committee delegates' support	
Standing Committee meetings	
Simultaneous interpretation at SC meetings	
<b>K. Miscellaneous - Reserve Fund</b>	
Reserve Fund	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	
<b>TOTAL SALARY COSTS – staff salaries and related costs</b>	
<b>TOTAL TRAVEL COSTS</b>	

2016	2016	2016
COP12 Approved	SC51 Proposal	Variance
798	605	-193
674	554	-120
79	26	-53
45	25	-20
250	64	-185
188	47	-141
52	17	-35
10		-10
896	981	85
70	120	50
	10	10
92	117	25
150	165	15
45	50	5
10	15	5
35	40	5
110	388	278
	278	278
5,081	5,081	
		0
3,429	3,081	-348
67%	61%	0%
155	135	-20
3%	3%	0%

# 2016 Core Budget

The Subgroup on Finance recommends that the Standing Committee agrees to changes to the COP12 approved 2016 core budget for a variety of line items (shown here) noting that the overall budget remains the same.

Ramsar Combined Budget, 2016			
CHF 000'S			
	2016	2016	2016
	COP12	SC51	Variance
	Approved	Proposal	
<b>INCOME</b>			
Parties' Contributions	3,779	3,779	
Voluntary contributions	1,065	1,065	
Income Tax	225	225	
Income Interest	12	12	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5,081</b>	<b>5,081</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
<b>A. Secretariat Senior Management</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>-193</b>
Salaries and social costs	674	554	-120
Other employment benefits	79	26	-53
Travel	45	25	-20
<b>B. Partnership Coordinator</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>-185</b>
Salaries and social costs	188	47	-141
Other employment benefits	52	17	-35
Travel	10		-10
<b>C. Regional Advice and Support</b>	<b>1,342</b>	<b>1,342</b>	
Salaries and social costs	1,201	1,201	
Other employment benefits	56	56	
Travel	85	85	
<b>D. Support to Regional Initiatives</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>	
Regional networks and centers	120	120	
<b>E. Scientific and Technical Services</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>212</b>	
Salaries and social costs	110	110	
Other employment benefits	2	2	
Travel	10	10	
STRP implementation	40	40	
STRP meetings	50	50	
<b>F. Communications</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>569</b>	
Salaries and social costs	434	434	
Travel	5	5	
CEPA Program	30	30	
Comms, Translations, Publications and Reporting Implementation	100	100	
<b>G. Administration/RSIS/Web</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>85</b>
Salaries and social costs	629	629	
Other employment benefits	5	5	
Staff hiring and departure costs	70	120	50
Travel		10	10
Ramsar Sites Information Service (maintenance and develop)	92	117	25
Web/IT support and Development	100	100	
<b>H. Operating Costs</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>95</b>	
General	80	80	
Equipment/Office Supplies	15	15	
<b>I. Standing Committee Services</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>15</b>
Standing Committee delegates' support	45	50	5
Standing Committee meetings	10	15	5
SC translation	60	60	
Simultaneous interpretation at SC meetings	35	40	5
<b>J. IUCN Administrative Service Charges (maximum)</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>540</b>	
Administration, Human Resources, Finance & IT services	540	540	
<b>K. Miscellaneous - Reserve Fund</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>278</b>
Reserve Fund		278	278
Staff termination & repatriation provisions			
Provisions	50	50	
Legal Services	60	60	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>5,081</b>	<b>5,081</b>	
			0
<b>TOTAL SALARY COSTS – staff salaries and related costs</b>	<b>3,429</b>	<b>3,081</b>	<b>-348</b>
	67%	61%	0%
<b>TOTAL TRAVEL COSTS</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>-20</b>
	3%	3%	0%

# 2016 Non-core budget

The Subgroup on Finance recommends that the Standing Committee approves the 2016 non-core budget as approved at COP12.

No.	NON-CORE FUNDS 2016 – 2018	3 Year Funding Requirement (CHF)	Yearly Funding Requirement
1	Ramsar Advisory Missions for Parties requiring assistance	600,000	200,000
2	STRP 2016-2018 programme of work support	300,000	100,000
3	RSIS, IM/IT (Website) Continuing Development	175,000	58,333
4	Pre-COP13 regional meetings (delegates support and meeting costs for preparatory meetings)	650,000	216,667
5	COP13 (2018) sponsorship to eligible delegates	600,000	200,000
6	Arabic language introduction and translation support	250,000	83,333
7	Small Grants Funds for protection and wise use of wetlands	1,000,000	333,333
8	Regional Initiative Networks and Centres support (priority activities).	150,000	50,000
9	Ramsar CEPA Programme (2016-2021), exclusion of World Wetlands Day	300,000	100,000
10	On-line system for National Reports, reporting and indicators development	175,000	58,333
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,200,000</b>	<b>1,400,000</b>