

**Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**

**29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee  
Gland, Switzerland, 26-28 February 2003**

**DOC. SC29-12**

Agenda item 10.4

**Fundraising for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund (SGF), the Ramsar Endowment Fund (REF), the Voluntary Fund for the Convention's Outreach Programme (CEPA Fund), and the STRP work**

**Action requested:** The Standing Committee is requested to provide guidance to the Bureau on fundraising for several purposes and, if possible, to undertake firm commitments, as a body and as individual members, to assist the Bureau in these endeavors.

**Small Grants Fund (SGF)**

1. The Bureau will continue to raise funds for each year's cycle of the SGF. For this purpose, every year the Bureau approaches the Ramsar Administrative Authority in the Contracting Parties which are OECD members to request voluntary contributions to the Fund. Normally, this is done once the projects submitted for the year's cycle have been evaluated, so as to provide potential donors with a list of projects that in principle will be considered for support. The appeal is also sent to Swedish Sida, the only development assistance agency that has been making yearly contributions for the past five years.
2. The Bureau will welcome advice on other possible sources of funding for the SGF.

**Ramsar Endowment Fund (REF)**

3. If the Standing Committee approves the *modus operandi* for the REF and the REF board is established soon, as proposed in the draft decision prepared by the Bureau (DOC. SC29-11), the Bureau should prepare a fundraising strategy for consideration by the REF Board as soon as possible.
4. In the meantime, the Bureau will appreciate guidance and support from the Standing Committee on the approaches that could be made to different types of potential donors, including:
  - a) Ramsar Contracting Parties;
  - b) The GEF and the World Bank
  - c) Foundations
  - d) Business companies
  - e) National and international NGOs
  - f) Individuals
  - g) Others?

### **Voluntary Fund for the Convention's Outreach Programme (CEPA Fund)**

5. It would seem that fundraising for the CEPA Fund could be than with more possibilities of success on the basis of a project document outlining a series of key activities (and budgets) for the implementation of Resolucion VIII.31 on the *The Convention's Programme on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) 2003-2008*.
6. Again, advice, guidance and assistance from the Standing Committee on this matter will be welcome.

### **The work of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)**

7. For the STRP work there are funds in the core budget, as follows:
  - a) SFR 110,000 per year for the STRP Support Service; and
  - b) SFR 42,000 (2003), 20,000 (2004), and 45,000 (2005) to provide assistance to attend STRP meetings for members requiring it.
8. In addition, the Bureau is still holding SFR 18,267 from the contribution of the USA for STRP-related work.
9. These sums will not be sufficient for the STRP to undertake all of its substantive work, notably for hiring consultants to assist in the drafting of key STRP documents, as is envisaged in the *modus operandi* adopted by Resolution VIII.28.
10. In addition, it is possible that the institution hosting the STRP Support Service will require additional funds for the full, smooth and effective operation of the Service, particularly in relation to the development and support to the network of STRP National Focal Points.
11. Consequently, it would seem advisable that, once the Standing Committee has taken its decision on the priorities for the STRP work during the triennium and on the STRP Support Service, the Bureau should prepare a fundraising document covering all the funding needs for the STRP in this period.