CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

48th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Gland, Switzerland, 26-30 January 2015

**SC48-09 Rev.1**

[**Ramsar financial matters 2014 / 2015**](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-standing-40th-meeting-of-the-22812/main/ramsar/1-31-41%5e22812_4000_0__)

**Actions requested:**

Standing Committee is invited to note the contents of this report and:

* 1. review the attached 2014 draft financial statements as of 30 November 2014, and the Secretary General’s proposals for the use of the excess Reserve Fund balance and surplus as at 31 December 2014;
  2. approve any necessary adjustments to the COP11-approved core budgets for 2015;
  3. approve the Secretary General’s proposed changes to the approved COP11 budget;
  4. determine other necessary actions relating to the Small Grants Fund and Resolution XI.2 paragraph 20; and
  5. direct the Secretariat on the relevant COP12 draft resolutions to be prepared.

1. Attached at Annex 4 is a draft of the 2014 balance sheet (in the Swiss reporting format) as of 30 November 2014. The audit of the 2014 accounts is due to take place in March 2015. Audited financial statements will be made available on the Convention website. Attached at Annex 5 is a summary of the 2014 core budget, actual income and expenditure at 30 November 2014 and forecast to 31 December 2014, against what was budgeted at COP11. These are presented in the Ramsar reporting format.

**2014 results – core**

1. Note: the financial statements are as of 30 November 2014.
2. In 2014, Ramsar migrated to the new IUCN accounting system. The migration and implementation took longer than anticipated resulting in a lack of financial reports until mid -September 2014 for August 2014. Additionally, some reports are still not available automatically (for example, income and expense statement) and have to be prepared manually. It is expected that basic additional reports will be available by 28 February 2015.
3. **The 2014 core budget summary is attached at Annex 5.** Because the financial year 2014 is not complete, the summary focuses on the budget up till end of November 2014. It shows approved budget, actuals until 30 November 2014, a forecast to 31 December 2014 and a variance between forecast and budget. The following points are highlighted for the Standing Committee’s information:
   1. Income was generally as budgeted except for income tax and interest. The Swiss government reimburses expatriate income tax contribution (living in Switzerland). A combination of an underspend of salaries and a reduction in the number of expatriates living in Switzerland resulted in a decrease of the income tax reimbursement, which is forecast to be CHF 55,000 less than budget. Interest income is CHF 8,000 less than budget.

* 1. Salary costs are less than expected due to several factors: insurance reimbursement of the Deputy Secretary General (DSG) salary, the Partnership Coordinator position remaining vacant until mid-April 2014, the departure of the Finance Officer in June 2014 and the need for two rounds of hiring to find a suitable Finance Officer, salary savings for new hires, and recruitment and moving costs of new DSG not spent.
  2. No IUCN-imposed cost-of-living increases or any other salary increases have come into effect since 2011.
  3. Allocations of CHF 120,000 to Regional Initiatives were made as agreed at SC47 (Decision SC47-10).
  4. Following Decision SC47-15, surplus reallocations for the Strategic Plan (CHF 76,000), Ramsar Advisory Missions (CHF 50,000), Translation of SC48 documents (CHF 90,000) and COP12 delivery (CHF 150,000) were made as agreed.
  5. There were only very modest exchange losses (CHF 5,000). Rates were generally stable and holdings are properly balanced.
  6. Line item K. Miscellaneous – Reserve Fund is comprised of: reserve fund, bad debt and outstanding contributions, legal, exchange losses and staff repatriation, leave and termination.
     1. Staff termination, repatriation and vacation pay provisions are expected to be CHF 100,000, reflecting the future costs of any actions in 2014.
     2. Reserve funds remain at 14% of annual core budget so the additional provision of CHF 75,000 is not required as they are within the 6-15% of annual core budget as decided at COP11 (Resolution XI.2, Financial and Budgetary Matters, paragraph 21.c). The provision for Reserves is needed for unexpected costs (see item 4.a. above).
     3. Legal Costs of CHF 60,000 were as budgeted.
     4. The provision for potential bad debts (outstanding contributions) is calculated at CHF 78,000 as of 30 November 2014, compared with a budget of CHF 50,000. This needs to be reviewed at year end, once all contributions are collected.

1. Annex 5 shows an overall 2014 forecast core surplus of CHF 290,000 even after a shortfall of Income Tax income and Interest income of CHF 61,000. However, there are expected provision allocations of CHF 160,000, leaving an available surplus of CHF 130,000.
2. The CHF 130,000 core surplus is calculated from: CHF 351,000 (surplus) less CHF 61,000 (income tax and interest) less CHF 160,000 (provisions). The Secretary General proposes the following use of the surplus funds subject to the advice from the Finance Subgroup.

* 1. Due to the migration and implementation of the new accounting system, there was a lack of any information from IUCN on the status of budgets for the first 8.5 months of 2014, and so it has been necessary to pursue a path of budgetary caution. Considering the lateness and uncertainty when budgetary information was eventually made available, it was not feasible to use potentially available funds cost effectively in the remaining two months, and so the use of remaining funds now needs to be decided upon by the Finance Subgroup.
  2. In assessing possible investments to advise the Finance Subgroup, we have looked at the budgetary decisions of SC47, and note that all remaining actions to be funded for COP12 are covered with respect to logistics coordination, regional meeting costs and Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB) participation. Given that good news, we have also considered the potential use of funds for COP 12 attendance by delegates, but remind the Finance Subgroup that this would go against all previous decisions not to use Core funds for COP costs.
  3. Looking at other options for funding, we have looked at the non-core budget from COP11 (see attached at Annex 1 the relevant figures from Annex III of Resolution XI.2). We note that many of the items include new positions that could only be guaranteed funding for one year, and therefore are unlikely to be considered, or items that cannot be funded until related decisions are taken by future meetings. Others can be seen to have been achieved in this or previous budgets.
  4. The Secretary General has therefore proposed two items from the 2013- 2015 non-core budget details in Annex 1 that could be funded without the need for future decisions to be taken and also includes two new items that are considered to fit within the Vision and Goals of the new Strategic Plan and would strongly support greater visibility and stature of the Convention and increase awareness and participation in wetlands. He seeks the opinions of the Finance Subgroup on disposition of the available funds of CHF 130,000 and asks the Subgroup to choose from among the following:
     1. **Priority.** Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) for Parties unable to self-fund their missions, considering the increasing need and recognition of the value of the RAMs around the world in all geographies. – **Request for CHF 50,000**.
     2. **Priority**. Support for World Wetlands Day 2015 to increase the current level of support from Danone with preparation and dissemination of products such as leaflets and posters and other materials for promotion of WWD 2015

– **Request for CHF 80,000**

* + 1. **New item.** Preparation of the first “**Ramsar Compendium**” - a folder with one page summaries of each Ramsar Site, for a region of the world or for Uruguay as COP12 host, which would give a set of stunning images, map and other key information on the Sites, with proposed government co-financing (counterpart finance of CHF 25,000), to act as a model for other countries/regions (see attached summary as Annex 2) – **Request for CHF 25,000**.
    2. **New Item.** Preparation and launch of a publication, with Star Alliance support, on the “**Ramsar effect**” in Africa that would show ten illustrated stories of why the Ramsar Convention is so important and useful to Parties, and how it has helped people and nature and the role of stakeholders. Each story would display the best practices of wise use management and restoration of Ramsar Sites and show how challenges were positively resolved. Each “Ramsar Effect” publication would be made available through the web and in hard copy, and used to stimulate its replication around the world (see attached summary as Annex 3) – **Request for CHF 90,000**.

**2014 results: non-core budget**

1. As of 30 November 2014, CHF 556,000 of voluntary cash contributions were received in 2014, of which CHF 345,000 came from Danone for its continuing commitment to help Ramsar communicate its mission (specifically, promote human well-being and healthy wetlands), CHF 90,000 from the Government of Switzerland and CHF 30,000 from WWF Global Angola for the Swiss Grants for Africa programme, while Canada (Minister of Environment and Environment Canada), South Korea, Japan, WWF, Norway, UNEP-ROWA and Star Alliance variously supported regional meetings. Over the year, project expenditures were approximately CHF 1,460,000. Income, and therefore resulting expenditure, was considerably less than the CHF 3,400,000 budgeted for 2014.
2. Other non-core results are not yet shown because they are expected to change significantly in December 2014, and will be reported on orally to the Finance Subgroup.

**2014 balance sheet**

1. In Annex 1, the balance sheet is at 30 November 2014. The Convention has high cash balances as a result of the payment of project funds and some Contracting Party 2014 contributions made in advance, and reasonable year-end external and IUCN creditor balances. It is a strong balance sheet with a significant unrestricted reserve fund balance and a net restricted projects balance of just over CHF 2.9 million. (This net balance includes accumulated voluntary funds and ring-fenced contributions from core funds from 2014 and earlier, which are due to be disbursed after 31 December 2014.)

**2015 core budget**

1. Attached in Annex 6 is the 2015 core budget detail, as approved by COP11, together with proposed amendments as described below.
2. The Secretary General is proposing the continuation of all current staff positions with the following changes to staff positions. All changes would fit within the 2015 core budget, as approved by COP11:
   1. Continuation of all current positions funded by the core budget (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, 4 Senior Regional Advisors, 1 Regional Officer (Oceania - outposted), 1 Regional Affairs Officer{ to be replaced by 1 Regional Officer (Africa)}, 4 Regional team interns, 1 Head of Partnerships/Fundraising, 1 STRP Support Officer, 1 Finance Officer, 1 Documentation Officer, 1 Head of Communications/CEPA, 1 Communications Officer, 3 Administrative Assistants) and 1 IT Officer {new post}.
   2. Proposed changes to the staff complement, as above, are covered below and are contingent on approval of the changed functions of the Regional Affairs Officer and the additional IT Officer post for 2015, but all costs fit within the same budget, as approved by COP11.
   3. It is proposed that the post of the Regional Affairs Officer, on the departure of the incumbent in February 2015, be revised to carry on the full duties of a (junior) Regional Officer for Africa. There is already one Regional Officer supporting Oceania, but Africa is considered to be the first priority for additional support for the regional teams with over 50 Parties and considerable needs.
   4. It is also proposed that three more Regional Officers should be hired as soon as possible, funds permitting, to support the Parties of Americas, Asia and Europe. The call for more Regional Officers, each reporting to the relevant Senior Regional Advisor, responds to the increasing priority needs of Parties for support and advice and the ever increasing work related to both Ramsar Sites and other wetlands and the needs to respond to the new Strategic Plan. Such posts will help to better support Parties in their needs for technical support in using and updating the new RSIS, analysis, investigation and resolution of Article 3.2 files, helping to make regional initiatives happen and securing finance for regional and national initiatives. It is proposed that the other functions of the Regional Affairs Officer will be transferred to the proposed new IT Officer (see below).
   5. An IT Officer is proposed from 2015 to bring together various functions and add value to the Secretariat by having one person manage our virtual estate and drive upgrades in the website, database, RSIS, and documentation management software, while building the capacity of Parties for entry of site data to the new RSIS and ensuring reports to COP etc are provided in a timely fashion. Currently, the IT functions are partly covered by a part-time IT position to support RSIS and database management as well as the Regional Affairs Officer, but the demands are beyond current staff capacity and this new position represents a more logical solution to our growing IT needs and the growing complexity of the virtual estate.
3. The COP11 agreed budget for RSIS development project and web redevelopment project (**line items Gv** and **Gvi)** are somewhat reduced because the majority of work is completed. The excess funds from these projects are re-allocated to the new IT officer and the limited remaining core funds allocated for these activities will be wisely spent on continuing update of the IT functions, and support for improvement to the archive functions.
4. The Subgroup on Finance will eventually make recommendations to Standing Committee 49 relating to the allocation of core funding to Regional Initiatives (budget **line** **D**) which are both eligible during the period 2013-2015 and determined by the Standing Committee to meet the Operational Guidelines. Further information on the proposals to be considered will be prepared in preparation for SC49.
5. Negotiations with IUCN regarding their 2015 services and increased charges have yet to be concluded. Questions have been raised again in a meeting in November on the level and quality of services rendered, in some areas of support. For instance, in the beginning of 2014, Ramsar accounts were migrated to the new IUCN accounting system. The time to migrate fully was grossly underestimated and resulted in the inability to produce a financial report until the reporting month of August 2014. Discussions are continuing to date on the level of the service charges, under different areas, including the additional costs of CHF 33,500 for migration and implementation. It is still not known if the IUCN service fees would be in line with those budgeted.
6. **Line item Kii**, relating to necessary increases in the provision for outstanding contributions from Parties and exchange rate losses, depends on various controllable and uncontrollable factors including global economic factors, Contracting Party commitments and Secretariat inputs. (For more on outstanding contributions please see DOC SC48-10.)
7. Given the opening satisfactory reserve fund balance, budget **Line item Ki**, the CHF 75,000 budgeted addition to the reserve fund in 2015, will not be required. The Subgroup on Finance and Standing Committee will consider within their reserve fund deliberations (see paragraph 5 above) how this 2015 budget line could be best reallocated.
8. Given the opening satisfactory Miscellaneous fund balance (provisions for exchange rate losses, staff termination, repatriation and leave), budget **Line item Kiv**, the CHF 35,000 budgeted addition to the provision fund in 2015, will not be required. The Subgroup on Finance and Standing Committee will consider within their reserve fund deliberations (see 5 above) how this 2015 budget line could be best reallocated.
9. Securing voluntary funding for the COP-approved activities must be a Contracting Party and Secretariat priority throughout 2015.

**COP12 Finances**

1. The Secretariat has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Uruguay regarding COP12. COP financing will be a joint challenge for the host and the Secretariat, with both committed to maximising impact and minimising cost.
2. **COP12 Administrative budget**. The Government of Uruguay agreed to transfer USD 600,000 to support the Secretariat’s COP costs. In November 2014, they transferred USD 419,971 corresponding to the 70% of the agreed COP12 budget, as previously agreed.
3. The estimated budget gap for COP12 of USD 350,000, covering three key unfunded activities, was resolved by SC47-15, which allocated from the reserve surplus CHF 90,000 for translation (French and Spanish) of SC 48 documents and CHF 150,000 for COP12 delivery. Switzerland also confirmed that it would be providing an additional voluntary contribution of CHF 100,000 for translation of documents for COP12 and Uruguay has taken the steps with donors to cover the reporting of the meeting by the IISD Earth Negotiations Bulletin team.

1. **Other COP funding requirements**. In addition to the shortfall identified above, the Convention needs to secure financial support of USD 1,390,000 to sponsor COP12 delegates to attend the meeting.

**Substantive matters for COP12: Small Grants Programmes**

1. The Secretariat oversees three grants programmes, of which two are regional programmes with single funders (the Swiss Grant for Africa and the USA-funded Wetlands for the Future). The worldwide Small Grants Fund (SGF) has potentially limitless donors and provides wetland grants for any developing country and country with an economy in transition. But currently the SGF relies exclusively on a falling number of voluntary contributors.[[1]](#footnote-1)
2. An update on SGF activities was sent to the members of Standing Committee in October 2013. It summarized the non-earmarked funds available for immediate allocation after the closure of several funded projects. Based on the technical evaluations first completed in 2010 and 2011 and updated in 2013, these funds have since been allocated to two project proposals received from Anguilla and Iraq.
3. In November 2013, a new edition of the SGF portfolio was published and promoted, listing all SGF projects submitted and evaluated in 2010 and 2011 and still open for funding. So far, no significant donor interest has resulted.
4. The Secretariat expects that the Standing Committee will not ask it to launch a request for new project proposals for the 2015 SGF cycle, considering the sums currently available, the expectation to raise other funds in the short term, and the long list of projects still seeking support.
5. Although raising funds for the SGF has recently proved challenging, other organizations through their own small grants programmes have provided significant backing to the Ramsar Convention’s objectives. For example, since 1992, the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF SGP) has provided over USD 450 million to 14,000 projects from 125 countries, and has leveraged a similar level of co-funding. More than 600 of the projects which it has supported were related to wetlands, including 150 in Ramsar Sites. .
6. The Head of Partnerships will further evaluate the extent to which these different funding sources have supported wetlands-related projects, to better understand the relevance of current funding mechanisms. This research will leave the Contracting Parties better informed and the Secretariat better able to support their efforts to access further funding for the wise use of wetlands.

**Substantive matters for COP12: draft resolution on 2016-2018 finances**

1. The Secretariat will prepare budget scenarios for 2016-2018, which include a core budget (funded from Party contributions) and a non-core budget, consistent with the current formats and the developing Fourth Strategic Plan for 2016-2021. The Secretariat will solicit initial input for the 2016-2018 budgets from the Subgroup on Finance at SC48 and get further feedback from the Subgroup before it formally issues a budget proposal document with d**e**tailed explanations for SC48.
2. For more discussion on proposals for a resolution related to non-payment of contributions see DOC SC48-10.

**Annexes**

1. Non-Core budget from 2013-2015 cycle (Annex III of Resolution XI.2)
2. Explanatory Sheet on a proposal for preparation of a regional or national “Ramsar Compendium” on Ramsar Sites
3. The Ramsar Effect: Making regional best practices actionable and replicable
4. Unaudited financial statements 2014 (Swiss reporting format)
5. 2014 Core Results, with COP11 approved budget, actuals at 30 November 2014 and forecast to 31 December 2014 and variance from approved budget to forecast
6. 2015, COP11 Approved Budget and Proposed Budget

**Annex 1**

**2013-2015 budgeted non-Core expenditures (from Annex III of Resolution XI.2):**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Non-core budget item | Three year funding requirement  CHF |
| 1. Junior Partnership/fundraising officer to support the Partnership coordinator and build the unit. Could be JPO or other. | B | 390,000 |
| 1. 1 Regional Officer to support each of the 4 regional teams in the Secretariat, from 2014. Could be JPO. | C | 1,174,000 |
| 1. Support to Regional Initiative Networks and Centres. Funding for the priority activities. | D | 900,000 |
| 1. STRP programme of work for 2013-2015 (Strategy 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.9, 2.5, 3.1), including the Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS) project (but excluding the RSIS project in item 8 below) | E | 1,905,000 |
| 1. Junior officer as webmaster/social media officer to strengthen the communications team | F | 390,000 |
| 1. IT Officer to, inter alia, drive upgrades in the website and documentation management software, allow for InforMEA participation and support other database management and upgrades. Also to oversee electronic RSIS and Ramsar Sites Database overhaul project | G | 390,000 |
| 1. Interpretation for Standing Committee sub group meetings | I | 75,000 |
| 1. Investment in Electronic RSIS submission and RIS database processes and software | 1 | 400,000 |
| 1. World Wetlands Day (currently funded by Danone) at the current level, i.e., preparation and dissemination of products such as leaflets and posters and other CEPA materials for customization and promotion of WWD (Strategy 4.1) | 2 | 300,000 |
| 1. Emergency Ramsar Advisory Missions for Parties unable to self-fund their missions (Strategy 2.4, 2.6) | 3 | 450,000 |
| 1. Delivery of one CEPA action planning workshop and other CEPA actions to support the Core-funded CEPA activities (Strategy 4.1) | 4 | 300,000 |
| 1. CHF 1 million per annum of resourcing for the Small Grants Fund and CHF 400,000 in other grant funding in order to keep the three current grant programmes operational. (Support to many 2009-2015 Strategies, including 1.3 and 5.1) | 5 | 4,200,000 |
| 1. Annual regional meetings (technical), with enhanced funding in the pre-COP year to fund delegates and meeting costs for COP preparatory regional meetings | 6 | 1,050,000 |
| 1. Sponsorship to bring eligible delegates to COP12 in 2015 (Strategy 3.3, 4.2) | 7 | 1,200,000 |
| 1. 2016-2021 visioning process and 2016-2021 Strategic Plan, with significant input from Contracting Parties and other relevant stakeholders for 2016-2021 | 8 | 250,000 |
|  |  |  |
|  | CHF | 13,374,000 |

**Annex 2**

**Country or Regional Compendium of Ramsar Site Profiles**

**Purpose**

Underline the “Ramsar effect” by synthesising information from a range of sites and presenting it in highly digestible form. In the process:

* Give Parties to the Convention an incentive to update their RSIS entries
* Engage policy-makers with a tool that is interesting, and can also be directed to different purposes
* Provide wetland visitor centres with relevant and interesting handout materials
* Promote wetland-based eco-tourism
* Engage youth with fun facts

**Key target audiences**

Policy makers to better appreciate their investment in Ramsar Sites and the associated values

Eco-tourists and other tourists seeking an overview of natural attractions

Visitors to Wetland Visitor Centres

Schools and educational centres

**Format**

Compendium folder for a given country or region, containing individual Ramsar Wetland Profile sheets for each Ramsar Site in the country or region

Each Wetland Profile sheet would contain:

* Basic site information (location, boundaries, extent)
* Major types of animals and plants present
* How the site is being managed and how this integrates with local communities, and shows a sustainable use of wetland resources
* Human interest stories showing how the Ramsar Site helps alleviate poverty and improves quality of life for local residents
* Details on the range and estimated value of the benefits and services that the Site provides (e.g. water purification, coastal protection, eco-tourism, fishery. etc.)

The sheets would be contained in a Wetland Compendium folder featuring

* Introduction to the country, its climate and landscape
* Map of the area in question with an overview of all Ramsar Sites
* Interesting facts on Ramsar Sites (total number, area, highest, most biodiverse, etc.)

**Options for proceeding**

*Option 1:* identify one country (e.g. Uruguay) and work with the relevant authorities in packaging the first Compendium at country level. Uruguay could have interest in producing this type of item in time for COP

*Option 2:* take one region (e.g. Africa) and produce a Compendium that covers the full range of sites on the continent. This could also be produced in time for COP, underlying poverty alleviation and water security effects; and in the process encouraging African Parties to update RSIS.

**Annex 3**

**The Ramsar Effect:**

**Making regional best practices actionable and replicable**

**Challenge**

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran 1971) has over 40 years of expertise and knowledge about the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

The key challenge for the Convention over the coming five years is to slow, stop and reverse the loss and degradation of wetlands. Recent studies indicate that at least 64% of the world’s wetlands have been lost since 1900.

Allied to this challenge is the urgent need to make the policy-makers and the general public aware of the vital benefits that wetlands provide to humanity, including:

* Provision of water for human life and agriculture
* Purification of polluted water and replenishment of groundwater
* Provision of food (from wetland rice paddies, and as the breeding and spawning ground for almost all commercial fish types)
* Relief from flooding and drought through the natural storage and release of water
* Coastal protection in a changing time with greater storms and rising sea levels
* Carbon storage in all wetlands; particularly peatlands (which alone store twice as much carbon as found in all the world’s forests)

**Depth of expertise available**

The Ramsar Convention maintains a detailed database on all designated Wetlands of International Importance, called Ramsar Sites (Ramsar Sites Information System or RSIS), which outlines the extent of each site, the wildlife present, hydrological and cultural aspects, risks and the general conditions of the area.

The Convention has also issued a wealth of detailed Technical Reports and Briefing Notes, which cover various aspects of wetlands issues with full scientific detail.

What is missing is a set of stories [“capstone”] for harnessing the knowledge and learnings and translating them into easily understandable case studies, with a regional perspective that views wetland issues through the perspective of a particular geography.

**Proposed solution**

Develop a series of regional best practice case studies that are aimed at key stakeholders and policy-makers who face similar challenges and need positive examples – either in that region or in comparable ones. The goal is to package best practices into a digestible, actionable format that is useful to stakeholders in helping reverse the trend in wetlands loss or manage wetlands wisely.

To that end, we have asked each of the four Ramsar Regional advisors to recommend ten case studies within their regions which could act as Best Practice examples. In each region, we seek to illustrate:

* A cross-section of countries and wetland types
* How the Ramsar Convention has contributed to spectacular turnarounds in wetland loss and degradation
* What sorts of specific actions have proved to be effective in a given region, with particular attention to both the geographic and cultural contexts
* How communities and stakeholders can be integrated into the sustainable, wise use of wetlands
* How local traditions and knowledge can inform sustainable wetlands use

The proposal is to develop a pilot set of case studies for the African region, and use this to develop a template for similar regional surveys. We are in the process of developing a proposed timing and budget for this first phase.

**Annex 4**

**Unaudited financial statements 30 November 2014 (Swiss reporting format)**



**Annex 5**

**2014 Core Results, with COP11 approved budget, actuals at 30 November 2014 and forecast to 31 December 2014 and variance from approved budget to forecast**



**Annex 6**

**2015, COP11 Approved Budget and Proposed Budget**

\*\* Education grants and home leave

\*\*\*Costs of housing search, family moves to Switzerland (flights and possessions)

1. In Resolution XI.2 paragraph 20, the Parties reaffirmed their conviction that the Convention’s grants programmes, including the Small Grants Fund, are of great value to the implementation of the Convention, and invited additional voluntary contributions to secure their efficient operation. They asked the Standing Committee to review the operation of the programmes during the triennium, and the Secretariat to make the Small Grants Fund a priority in all fundraising efforts. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)