

**51st Meeting of the Standing Committee
Annotated Draft Agenda**

Monday 23 November 2015

09:00-11:00 Closed meeting of the Transition Committee of the Management Working Group
(Report on the findings, recommendations and implementation of 360 degree appraisal of Secretary General)

11:00-13:00 Meeting of the Management Working Group

- a) Report of Secretary General on the progress of work of the Secretariat with focus on the main priorities adopted by the COP, the Secretariats' travel and meetings as well as the status of the core and non-core budget, and including an overview of the staff and consultancy contracts (DOC. SC51-06).

The Secretary General will provide the report as a response to para.7 item c of Resolution XII.4, *The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Ramsar Convention.*

- b) Consideration of the current Rules of Procedure and possible extension to subsidiary bodies of the Convention (SC51 INF.DOC.01).

The Secretariat will explain certain legal issues relating to adoption of the Rules of Procedure (ROP) at the conclusion of the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention (COP12), and their applicability for the management of meetings over the next triennium. In addition, the Management Working Group can consider the options as discussed in SC48 with regards to the specific development of ROPs for subsidiary bodies.

- c) Consideration of the work-programme to improve existing management instruments between IUCN, the Standing Committee and the Secretary General and Report of the Secretariat on agreements and guidelines with IUCN in line with Resolutions IX.24 and XII.4 on improving management of the Ramsar Convention in cooperation with the Management Working Group (SC51 INF.DOC.02); and discussion of the respective roles and tasks under the above-mentioned decisions as they relate to the efforts of the Working Group established at SC50 as requested by Resolution XII.3, to improve existing management instruments between IUCN, the Standing Committee and the Secretary General.

Through Decision SC50-8, the Standing Committee agreed the establishment of a Working Group to improve existing management instruments between IUCN, the Standing Committee and the Secretary General. The working group is formed by Kenya, Romania, Senegal, Switzerland, the United States of America, and Uruguay.

On the other hand, Para 57 of Resolution XII. 3 *Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions* urges the Secretariat to update all agreements and guidelines with IUCN in cooperation with the Management Working Group and in line with Resolution IX.24 on improving management of the Ramsar Convention.

Accordingly the Management Working Group may consider that the related mandates under Resolutions XII.4 and XII.3 be addressed under the established Working Group to improve existing management instruments between IUCN, the Standing Committee and the Secretary General.

The Working Group will report back to Plenary at Agenda item 24 (currently the Friday a.m. Session).

- d) Progress Report from Working Group to oversee the implementation of CEPA.

Standing Committee 50 agreed the establishment of a working group to oversee the implementation of CEPA. The following Contracting Parties volunteered to join the group to oversee implementation of CEPA: Democratic Republic of Congo, Honduras, Kenya, Romania, Seychelles, and the United States of America.

- e) Progress report from the Working Group on Resource Mobilization.

The Standing Committee (Decision SC50-4) agreed to lead an open ended working group to review resource mobilization and the partnership framework and plan and report back to SC51. Colombia, Kenya and the United States of America lead the working group. Any Standing Committee member could join this group which would work virtually, meeting once a year at the Standing Committee meetings.

- f) Report on the selection process of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel

The chair of the Management Working Group will briefly report on the actions taken for the selection of the STRP members for the 2016-2018 triennium under Resolution.XII.5 *Proposed new framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention*.

- g) Report on progress in provision of elements of advice from Parties concerning the funding of the national priorities that may be referred to the Global Environment Facility through the CBD COP (Decision XII/30 - Financial Mechanism).

Under Resolution XII.4 para.7 item g, the Secretariat will report on the activities taken to respond to Decision XII/30-Financial Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to provide elements of advice, as appropriate, concerning the funding that may be referred to the Global Environment Facility through the CBD Conference of the Parties.

- h) Report on progress of the Secretary General's development of the strategy outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention (DOC. SC51-17)

The Secretary General will report on the actions undertaken as a response to para.26 of Resolution XII.3 concerning accommodation of Convention languages.

15:00-18:00 Meeting of the Subgroup on Finance

According to Decision SC50-2, Subgroup members are: for Africa, Senegal (chair); for Asia, Republic of Korea; for Europe, Estonia; for Latin America and the Caribbean, Suriname; for North America, the United States of America; for Oceania, Australia; and Canada to serve as outgoing Chair of the Subgroup.

The Subgroup will discuss and prepare recommendations on all financial issues included under the items listed below.

- a) 2016 budget approval (DOC. SC51-18)
- b) Status of core and noncore budget (Review of core and projects income and expenditure, including audited financial statements)
- c) Status of the Reserve Fund and proposals for use of remaining surplus funds
- d) Update on payment of contributions (DOC. SC51-19)
- e) Overview of the staff and consultancy contracts
- f) Report on efforts to raise funds for COP12 delegates as per Resolution XII.1 (DOC. SC51-20)
- g) Report and discussion on prioritization of fundraising activities to fund non-core budget activities from all sources, with a view to significantly increasing non-Party contributions (DOC. SC51-21)
- h) Report on use of the Small Grants Fund (SGF) (DOC. SC51-22)

Tuesday 24 November 2015

08:15-09:45 Regional meetings

10:00-13:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

1. Opening statements
 - a) Chair of the Standing Committee, Uruguay
 - b) IUCN (Director General or someone on her behalf)
 - c) Statement on behalf of the six International Organization Partners
 - d) Secretary General, Christopher Briggs
2. Adoption of the Agenda (DOC. SC51-01)
3. Admission of Observers

According to Resolution XII.4, all Contracting Parties may be represented at Standing Committee meetings as observers. In addition, the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel and the International Organization Partners are also invited to attend as observers, "as well as other experts and/or institutions that the Standing Committee may deem appropriate for assisting in

its consideration of particular agenda items". The Standing Committee will need to agree to admit formally other observers that have registered to attend SC51.

4. Matters arising from Decisions of the 49th and 50th meetings of Standing Committee (DOC. SC51-02)

The Secretariat will make reference to the decisions made by Standing Committees 49 and 50 and the recent progress made in the implementation of its decisions and the next steps to consider on these matters under the agenda items of its 51th meeting.

5. Matters arising from COP12 Decisions (DOCs. SC51-03 and SC51-04)

The Standing Committee is invited to note the list of tasks requested from the 12th Conference of Parties by COP12 Resolutions for the 2015-2018 triennium, and to confirm that all such tasks are addressed under the agenda items of its 51st meeting.

Please note that a group photograph will be taken at the end of the morning session.

15:00-18:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

6. Establishment of the Standing Committee Subgroup on COP13

Under the Convention it has been an established practice to set up a subgroup to advise and provide support for the preparations of each COP as it was the case for COP12. The Standing Committee will need to agree to the establishment of such a subgroup, whose membership would be decided in regional discussions during the session and reported back to the Committee.

7. Report of the Chair of the Management Working Group

The Chair of the Management Working Group will present to the Standing Committee the group's recommendations based on the agenda items discussed on 23 November.

8. Report of the Chair of the Standing Committee (DOC. SC51-05)

9. Report of the Chair of STRP and consideration of STRP work programme (DOC. SC51-13)

The Chair of the STRP will present the report and the work programme for the Panel for 2016-2018 for Standing Committee approval based on Resolution XII.5 *Proposed new framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention*.

10. Report of the Secretary General (DOC. SC51-06)

The Secretary General will present a report based on Resolution XII.4 para.7.

11. Secretariat Work Plans for 2016-2018 triennium and for 2016 (DOCs. SC51-07 and SC51-08)

The Secretariat will present its proposal for the work to be carried out in the 2016-2018 triennium and year 2016.

18:30 Reception (Foyer)

Wednesday 25 November 2015

08:15-09:45 Regional meetings

10:00-13:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

12. Report on the meeting of a regionally representative expert group held back-to-back with the meeting of the CBD's Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on additional Indicators for the Strategic Plan (SC51 INF.DOC.05).

The Secretariat will report on the outcomes of the meeting as a response to the mandate under paras 27 and 28 of Resolution XII.2 *The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024*.

13. Progress report on the preparation of the National Report Format for COP13 (DOC. SC51-09)

As a response to para.17 of Resolution XII.2 *The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024*, the Standing Committee is invited to take note of the actions and time frame for the development of the COP13 National Report Format, provide advice on the overall approach for its development and request the Secretariat to prepare a draft National Report Format for COP13 for consideration at its 52nd meeting.

14. a. Progress on implementing Resolution XI.6 on *Partnership and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions* to the Standing Committee and plans on how to increase cooperation with other MEAs (DOC. SC51-10) with updates on formal agreements and joint work plans of the Ramsar Convention and partners (DOC. SC51-23 Rev.2), and on UNEP's options paper on enhancing synergies between MEAs (SC51 InfDoc.04).
- b. Selection of five regional representatives from Standing Committee to attend the Informal Advisory Group (IAG) to the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG).

The Secretariat will report on the main activities undertaken under Resolution XI.6, specifically under the Biodiversity Liaison Group and the scientific bodies of the biodiversity related conventions (CSAB), CMS and UNEP and other institutions. A plan to increase cooperation with other MEAs as a response to para.21 of Resolution XII.7 *Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention* is proposed for Standing Committee consideration, and guidance requested on the process for signing or renewal of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), Memoranda of Co-operation (MOCs) and Joint Work Plans (JWPs).

Draft memoranda presented for the consideration of Standing Committee include:

- A proposed revision and update to the Joint Work Plan between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) to cover the period until 2017 (SC51-23 Rev.2, Annex 2);
- A draft of a proposed new MOU between UNEP and the Ramsar Convention (SC51-23 Rev.2, Annex 3);
- A draft of a proposed new MOC between the Nagao Natural Environment Foundation (NEF) and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat (SC51-23 Rev.2, Annex 4);
- A draft MOU on the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia (SC51-23 Rev.2, Annex 5);
- Draft Terms of Reference for collaboration between the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and Shell, on using wetlands for carbon capture and storage (SC51-23 Rev.2, Annex 6).

Contracting Parties will report back to Plenary on the representation at the IAG of the BLG at Agenda item 26 (currently the Friday p.m. Session).

14:00-15:00 (meeting of the Subgroup on COP13 to be confirmed)

15:00-18:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

15. Report of regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention and approval of new regional initiatives for the period 2016-2018 (DOCs. SC51-11 and SC51-12)

The Secretariat will present the progress on work requested through Resolution XII.8, Regional Initiatives 2016-2018 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention since COP12 and the proposals of new regional initiatives received for Standing Committee approval. An oral report will also be presented on the outcomes of the meeting of Regional Initiative coordinators on 22 November.

16. Report on the submission to IPBES a request for a thematic assessment on the current status and trends of wetlands, including their condition, and explore further how the Convention can contribute to the work of IPBES, including the regional and global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The STRP Chair will report on the progress and status of the request to IPBES and actions taken to contribute to its work.

Thursday 26 November 2015 (*No regional meetings on this day as time taken up with travel to Palais des Nations building on 26th November*)

10:00-13:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

17. Report on CEPA Oversight Panel composition and CEPA Action Plan (DOC. SC51-14)

The Secretariat will present the proposal for the composition of the CEPA Oversight Panel for Standing Committee approval, as well as the CEPA Action Plan.

18. Report on preparations for World Wetlands Day 2016 and World Wetlands Themes for 2017 and 2018 (DOC. SC51-15)

The Executive Committee has confirmed “Wetlands for Our Future: Sustainable livelihoods” as the theme for World Wetlands Day (WWD) in 2016. The Secretariat will update the Standing Committee on the preparations for WWD 2016 and present the themes proposed for WWD 2017 and 2018 for Standing Committee approval.

19. Progress on improving the Ramsar website

The Secretariat will present an update on the actions taken for the improvement of the current Ramsar website based on users’ recommendations and feedback.

15:00-18:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

20. The Status of Ramsar Sites (DOC. SC51-16)

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the report on the updated information on the status of sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance and to advise on activities to be undertaken by regional representatives on the Standing Committee and those Contracting Parties directly concerned, and to instruct the Secretariat as appropriate on specific measures to be taken.

21. Update on the RSIS database

The Secretariat will present an update on the current status of operation of the RSIS database.

22. Progress report on build up an online library of official and non-official government translated Ramsar documents to be publicly accessible on the website.

Based on para.31 of Resolution XII.3 *Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions*, the Secretariat will present ways forwards to fulfill this mandate.

Friday 27 November 2015

08:15-09:45 Regional meetings

10:00-13:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

23. Report of the Subgroup on Finance (DOCs. SC51-18, SC51-19, SC51-20, SC51-21 and SC51-22)

The Chair of the Subgroup on Finance will present the recommendations of the Subgroup to the Standing Committee.

24. Report of the Working Group to improve existing management instruments between IUCN, the Standing Committee, and the Secretary General

15:00-18:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

25. Report of the Standing Committee Subgroup on COP13

The Chair of the Subgroup will present to the Standing Committee the report of the discussions.

26. Report back on Ramsar representation to attend the IAG of the BLG

Other matters:

27. Date and venue of the 52nd Meeting of the Standing Committee

28. Adoption of the report of the meeting

29. Any other business

30. Closing remarks