

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

51st Meeting of the Standing Committee

Gland, Switzerland, 23-27 November 2015

SC51-03

Matters arising for the Standing Committee from COP12 Resolutions

Action requested

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.

Explanatory note

1. Table 1 below provides a list of the operative paragraphs of COP12 Resolutions in which the Standing Committee has been requested to undertake work.
2. The Secretariat has highlighted the main aspects of each task as emboldened text.
3. The table also identifies the SC51 agenda item under which each matter will be considered and notes any related SC51 documents.

Table 1 : Operative Paragraphs of COP12 Resolutions for the Attention of SC51

Res. No.	Topic	Tasks	SC51 agenda item and documents
XII.1	Financial and budgetary matters	10. FURTHER DECIDES that the Subgroup on Finance , as established by Resolution VI.17, is to continue to operate under the aegis of the Standing Committee and with the roles and responsibilities specified in that Resolution;	Subgroup on Finance Agenda item 24 DOCs. SC51-18, SC51-22
		14. AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee , with the advice of its Subgroup on Finance, to revise core budgetary allocations between budget lines in the light of significant positive or negative changes during the cycle to costs, rates of inflation, interest and tax income projected in the budget, without increasing the contributions of Parties or increasing the charges paid to IUCN above the budgeted 13% maximum	
		15. AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee , with the advice of its Subgroup on Finance, to revise non-core budgetary allocations and priorities depending upon the success of the Secretariat in securing voluntary funding for these activities;	

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		<p>22. REQUESTS that the Standing Committee review the operation of the programme during the triennium and definitively conclude whether the Parties should continue or cease the Small Grants Fund for the consideration of the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;</p> <p>24. REAFFIRMS the decision taken at COP11 (Resolution X1.2) that the Reserve Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. provides for unforeseen and unavoidable expenditures; b. receives realized core budget surpluses (or is applied to deficits); c. should not be lower than 6% of the annual core budget of the Convention and not greater than 15%; d. should be administered by the Secretary General with the approval of the Subgroup on Finance as established by the Standing Committee; 	
XII.2	National Report	17. REQUESTS the Secretariat and the Standing Committee to develop the COP13 National Report Template to provide a more user- friendly instrument that reflects the goals and targets of the new Ramsar Strategic Plan, for consideration at the 51 st Meeting of the Standing Committee (SC51);	Agenda Item 12 DOC. SC51-09
	Indicators	28. REQUESTS the expert group to report on possible indicators to the Standing Committee; and INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee, as a high priority, to refine the potential indicators and present the proposal to COP13 for approval.	Agenda Item 11
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	Concerning accommodation of UN languages: 26. REQUESTS the Secretariat to develop a strategy to be presented at SC51 and REQUESTS the Standing Committee to monitor progress and advise as necessary, subject to the availability of resources, outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention.	Management Working Group Agenda Item 23 DOC. SC51-17
		28. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee, through the Management Working Group, to monitor the progress made in the drafting of the strategy pertaining to a phased approach to language integration, including efforts to fully integrate Spanish and French into the work of the Convention, in accordance with COP decisions;	

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		29. ALSO REQUESTS the Standing Committee to submit a report and its recommendations to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties , containing the strategy with a view to address accommodation of the Arabic language into the Convention supported by a financial mechanism and options for a step-by-step introduction of Arabic into the work of the Convention subject to the availability of resources;	
		31. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, with the assistance of Contracting Parties and Regional Centres and guided by the Management Working Group, to build up an online library of official and non-official government translated Ramsar documents to be publicly accessible, and report the status of progress to COP13 , and REQUESTS Parties to provide such documents to the Secretariat;	Agenda Item 22
	Concerning improvement of synergies	57. RECOGNIZES the collaboration between the Secretariat and IUCN and the progress made to evaluate the work already achieved, and 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 ; and ENCOURAGES them to collaborate further to continue to enhance the implementation of the Convention;	Management Working Group
		58. REQUESTS, in order to facilitate further collaboration between the Secretariat and IUCN, the Standing Committee to establish at its 50th meeting a mechanism of the Contracting Parties with balanced regional participation that will, taking into account the needs of the Contracting Parties and the Ramsar Secretariat , facilitate discussions between the Ramsar Secretariat and IUCN, in order to seek ways of improving the current operations of the Secretariat and enhancing the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, and to provide the Standing Committee with a report on these discussions at its 51st meeting and at each Standing Committee meeting thereafter ;	
XII.4	The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Ramsar Convention	7. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to focus on the decisions of the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and all preceding COP decisions by: a. Strengthening transparency within the work of the Convention to enhance sharing information and communication as well as facilitating the evolution of decisions, guidance and implementation of the Convention in cooperation with Parties, IOPs and stakeholders; b. Improving existing management instruments between IUCN, the Standing Committee and the Secretary General to facilitate that the Secretariat effectively serves the Contracting Parties in their activities and implementation through clear, effective and understandable rules and procedures as a follow up to	Management Working Group

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		<p>a Standing Committee 48 decision “to initiate a process led by the Management Working Group to review agreements, policies, guidelines and other mechanisms that regulate the relations between and the division of responsibilities between the Standing Committee, the Executive Team, the Chair of the Standing Committee, the Secretary General and IUCN, including in relation to managing the Secretariat including staff management”;</p> <p>c. Developing and immediately implementing a system of reports – the first being sent by 15 September 2015, and whose frequency will be established by the Executive Team – from the Secretary General to the Executive Team, IUCN General Director and interested Standing Committee members and Observer Parties, containing information on the progress of work of the Secretariat with focus on the main priorities adopted by the COP, the Secretariats’ travelling and meetings etc., as well as the status of the core and noncore budget, and including an overview of the staff and consultancy contracts;</p> <p>d. Overseeing the preparation of the 13th Conference of the Parties between the next host country of the Conference of Parties in 2018 and the Secretariat;</p> <p>e. Guiding the Secretariat’s activities including its fundraising to implement the Strategic Plan, the STRP activities and the CEPA action plan, Ramsar Advisory Missions and other approved non-core budget activities;</p> <p>f. Guiding the Secretariat’s efforts in improving the Ramsar website and related services and the use of the RSIS database;</p> <p>g. Responding to the request from 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, and to oversee that the Secretary General transmits this advice in a timely manner to the Executive Secretary of the CBD; and</p> <p>h. Guiding 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;</p>	

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		9. DECIDES that the current Executive Team (Romania, South Africa, and Canada) continue its tenure and continue to oversee the completion of the 360 degree evaluation process of the Secretary General and inform the key findings and recommendations of the evaluation to the Transition Committee of the Management Working Group (established under Resolution X.4) by 15 September 2015; and further REQUESTS the incoming Executive Team to explore the means of implementing the recommendations stemming from the 360 degree evaluation process in advance of the 51st meeting of the Standing Committee and report on the findings, recommendations and their implementation at that meeting;	
XII.5	Proposed new framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention	17. FURTHER CONFIRMS that the Conference of Parties will approve the STRP priority thematic work areas for each triennium, that the Standing Committee will continue to have overall responsibility for the delivery of this programme , and that the Chair of the STRP will report to each Standing Committee meeting on the Panel's progress with tasks, and propose for the consideration of the Standing Committee any adjustments to the programme which the Panel considers necessary;	Management Working Group Agenda Item 15
		19. DECIDES to dissolve the STRP Oversight Committee and INSTRUCTS the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee to take over the role of the STRP Oversight Committee which was established in Resolution IX.11, and to oversee the work of the STRP as indicated in Annex 1 to this Resolution;	
		21. DECIDES that the Standing Committee at its 51st meeting will approve the STRP work programme for the coming triennium , built around the priority thematic work areas determined and approved by the Conference of the Parties, in line with the Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024;	
		27. APPROVES the list, in Annex 2 of this Resolution, of bodies and organizations which may be invited to participate as observers in the meetings and processes of the STRP and INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to amend the list during the triennium as appropriate ;	
XII.7	Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention	13. REQUESTS that the Standing Committee establish, at its 50th meeting, a mechanism of the Contracting Parties and Secretariat to develop a Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework and Work Plan , to include development of fundraising targets and timetables for the Secretariat to deliver on the non-core priorities set out in Annex 3 of Resolution XII.1, and to present it to the 51st meeting of the Standing Committee for its consideration ;	Management Working Group

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		14. REQUESTS the Standing Committee as a high priority task and with the committed assistance of the Secretariat and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel to respond to the invitation from the Parties to the CBD to provide elements of advice, as appropriate, concerning funding of national and transboundary wetlands initiatives , that may be referred to the GEF through the Conference of the Parties to the CBD;	Management Working Group DOC. SC51-06
XII.8	Regional initiatives 2016-2018 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention	9. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to undertake a review of the Operational Guidelines for regional initiatives to support the implementation of the Convention, as adopted for 2013-2015 through Standing Committee Decision SC46-28 and published on the Ramsar website, taking into account issues, among others, of governance, capacity, fundraising, and programmatic approach in alignment with the Ramsar Strategic Plan, and adopt the necessary amendments no later than the 52nd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC52);	Agenda item 14 DOCs. SC51-11 and SC51-12
		12. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to continue to assess annually, based on the reports submitted, according to the format adopted through Standing Committee Decision SC41-21, the functioning of Ramsar regional initiatives in relation to the Operational Guidelines, the implementation of the Convention and the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, seeking support from the CEPA Oversight Panel as required;	
		15. FURTHER DECIDES that the levels of financial support from the Convention core budget to individual regional initiatives for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 will be determined annually by the Standing Committee , based on the most recent reports and updated work plans to be submitted according to the required format and timetable, and informed by the specific recommendations made by the Subgroup on Finance;	
		24. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to prepare a summary of its annual assessments, which reviews the operations and success of the regional initiatives operating during the period 2016- 2018 , for Contracting Parties' consideration at the 13 th meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties;	

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XII.9	The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024	9. REQUESTS the Standing Committee at its 51 st Meeting to establish a mechanism of the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat which will guide the communication activities of the Secretariat , including setting priorities and guiding the design of the Secretariat's CEPA Action Plan, monitor the effectiveness of the Plan, and report to the Management Working Group at each of its meetings, and FURTHER REQUESTS that the resulting mechanism work to develop with advice of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) a new approach for advising and supporting CEPA in the Convention to be submitted to the 13th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP13).	Management Working Group Agenda Item 17 DOC. SC51-14