

## Standing Committee actions arising from COP12 Resolutions and SC50 Decisions

1. The table below provides a list of the operative paragraphs of COP12 Resolutions in which the Standing Committee has been requested to undertake actions.
2. The Secretariat has highlighted the main aspects of each task as emboldened text.
3. The table also identifies the SC52 agenda item under which each matter will be considered and notes any related documents.

### Operative paragraphs of COP12 Resolutions for the attention of SC52

<i>Actions arising from relevant COP12 Resolutions</i>	<i>SC52 agenda item and SC52 documents</i>
<b>Financial and budgetary matters</b>	
Resolution XII.1: <i>Financial and budgetary matters</i> : XII.1. 10: FURTHER DECIDES that the <b>Subgroup on Finance</b> , as established by Resolution VI.17, <b>is to continue to operate under the aegis of the Standing Committee</b> and with the roles and responsibilities specified in that Resolution;	Meeting of the Sub-Group on Finance
XII.1.14. AUTHORIZES <b>the Standing Committee</b> , with the advice of its Subgroup on Finance, <b>to revise core budgetary allocations between budget lines in the light of significant positive or negative changes during the cycle</b> 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	Sub-Group on Finance item b. Doc.SC52-18 <i>Update on Ramsar Financial Matters</i>
XII.1.15. AUTHORIZES <b>the Standing Committee</b> , with the advice of its Subgroup on Finance, <b>to revise non-core budgetary allocations and priorities depending upon the success of the Secretariat in securing voluntary funding</b> for these activities;	Sub-Group on Finance and Working Group on Resource Mobilization. Doc.SC52-20 <i>Report on the review of resource mobilization from all sources, especially as it relates to fundraising</i>
XII.1.22. <b>REQUESTS that the Standing Committee review the operation of the programme during the triennium</b> and definitively conclude whether the Parties should continue or cease the Small Grants Fund for the consideration of the 13 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;	Working Group on Resource Mobilization. Doc.SC52-20

<i>Actions arising from relevant COP12 Resolutions</i>	<i>SC52 agenda item and SC52 documents</i>
<p>XII.1.24. REAFFIRMS the decision taken at COP11 (Resolution X1.2) that <b>the Reserve Fund:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. provides for unforeseen and unavoidable expenditures;</li> <li>b. receives realized core budget surpluses (or is applied to deficits);</li> <li>c. should not be lower than 6% of the annual core budget of the Convention and not greater than 15%;</li> <li>d. <b>should be administered by the Secretary General with the approval of the Subgroup on Finance as established by the Standing Committee;</b></li> </ul>	<p>Meeting of the Sub-Group on Finance item a. Doc.SC52-18</p>
<p>XII.1.25. <b>REQUESTS the Secretariat to endeavour to maintain the Reserve Fund</b> over the 2016-2018 triennium in accordance with this budget <b>and to report annually to the Standing Committee on the status</b> and propose to its Subgroup on Finance for its concurrence prior to any uses of the Fund;</p>	<p>Meeting of the Sub-Group on Finance item a. Doc.SC52-18</p>
<b>COP13 preparation</b>	
<p>Resolution XII.4 <i>The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee [...]</i></p> <p>XII.4.7. <b>REQUESTS the Standing Committee to focus on the decisions of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties and all preceding COP decisions by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. <b>Overseeing the preparation of the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties</b> between the next host country of the Conference of Parties in 2018 and the Secretariat;</li> </ul>	<p>Sub-Group on COP13. Doc.SC52-02 <i>Progress with preparations for COP13</i></p>
<b>Strategic Plan: National Reports and Indicators</b>	
<p>Resolution XII.2: <i>The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024:</i></p> <p>XII.2.17. 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<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee (SC51);</p>	<p>Agenda Item 16: Update on the preparation of the National Report format for COP13 Doc. SC52-13 <i>Draft format for National Reports to COP13</i></p>
<p>XII.2.28. REQUESTS the expert group to report on possible indicators to the Standing Committee; and <b>INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee, as a high priority, to refine the potential indicators and present the proposal to COP13 for approval.</b></p>	<p>Completed. SC51 Inf.Doc.05 <i>Summary of the meeting of an expert group on indicators for the Ramsar Strategic Plan</i></p>
<b>Accommodation of UN languages</b>	
<p>Resolution XII.3: <i>Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature [...]</i></p> <p>XII.3.26. REQUESTS the Secretariat to develop a strategy to be presented at SC51 and <b>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.</b></p>	<p>Management Working Group Agenda item 6: Approval of terms of reference for a future language strategy for the Convention Doc. SC52-03 <i>Consultancy support for the development of a strategy outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of</i></p>
<p>XII.3.28. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee, <b>through the Management Working Group, to monitor the progress made in the drafting of the strategy</b> 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;</p>	<p><i>of a strategy outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of</i></p>

<b>Actions arising from relevant COP12 Resolutions</b>	<b>SC52 agenda item and SC52 documents</b>
<p>XII.3.29. ALSO REQUESTS the Standing Committee <b>to submit a report and its recommendations to the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties</b>, 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;</p>	<p><i>the Convention</i></p>
<p>Resolution XII.4 <i>The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee</i> [...]</p> <p>XII.4.7. <b>REQUESTS the Standing Committee to focus on the decisions of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties and all preceding COP decisions by:</b></p> <p>h. <b>Guiding the Secretary General’s development of the strategy</b> outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention;</p>	
<p><b>Resource Mobilization</b></p>	
<p>Resolution XII.7 <i>Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention</i></p> <p>11. REQUESTS the Secretary General to prioritize fundraising activities to fund non-core budget activities from all sources, with a view to significantly increasing non-Party contributions, and to report regularly to the Standing Committee, including on funds raised;</p>	<p>Management Working Group</p> <p>Doc.SC52-04 <i>Report of the Acting Secretary General</i></p>
<p>Resolution XII.4 <i>The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee</i> [...]</p> <p>7. <b>REQUESTS the Standing Committee to focus on the decisions of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties and all preceding COP decisions by:</b></p> <p>e. <b>Guiding the Secretariat’s activities</b> 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>Meeting of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization</p>
<p>Resolution XII.7 <i>Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention</i></p> <p>13. REQUESTS that the <b>Standing Committee establish, at its 50<sup>th</sup> meeting, a mechanism of the Contracting Parties and Secretariat to develop a Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework and Work Plan</b>, 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 <b>to present it to the 51<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee for its consideration;</b></p>	<p>Executive Team document on <i>Interim Arrangements for the Ramsar Secretariat</i></p> <p>Doc.SC52-20 <i>Report on the review of resource mobilization from all sources, especially as it relates to fundraising</i></p>
<p>Standing Committee Decision SC50-4: The Standing Committee agreed to lead an open ended working group to review resource mobilization and the partnership framework and plan and report back to SC51.</p>	<p>Working Group on Resource Mobilization</p>
<p><b>Synergies with other MEAs and other international institutions</b></p>	
<p>Resolution XII.3: <i>Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature</i> [...]</p> <p>XII.3.42. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to report annually on progress on implementing Resolution XI.6 on Partnership and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions to the Standing Committee;</p>	<p>Agenda item 19. a. Progress on implementing Resolution XI.6 on Partnership and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions</p>

<i>Actions arising from relevant COP12 Resolutions</i>	<i>SC52 agenda item and SC52 documents</i>
XII.3.46. REQUESTS the Secretary General and the Standing Committee to facilitate the selection of the representatives to participate in the workshops led by the biodiversity convention exploring synergies among the conventions;	Doc. SC52-15 <i>Progress on implementing Resolution XI.6 on Partnership and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions</i> Completed. SC51 Agenda Item 20.
Resolution XII.7 <i>Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention</i> XII.7.14. REQUESTS the Standing Committee as a high priority task and with the committed assistance of the Secretariat and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel <b>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</b> , that may be referred to the GEF through the Conference of the Parties to the CBD;	Secretariat sent Diplomatic Note 2015/4 of 30 July 2015 <i>Responding to the Convention on Biological Diversity's Decision XII/30 "Financial mechanism"</i>
Resolution XII.4 <i>The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee [...]</i> 7. <b>REQUESTS the Standing Committee to focus on the decisions of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties and all preceding COP decisions by:</b> g. <b>Responding to the request from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to provide elements of advice, as appropriate</b> , 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	Diplomatic Note 2015/4 of 30 July 2015 <i>Responding to the Convention on Biological Diversity's Decision XII/30 "Financial mechanism"</i>
XII.7.21. REQUESTS the Secretariat to strengthen partnerships with other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) such as inter alia the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the CBD and others, in order to enhance synergies and sharing of resources, avoid duplication and enhance implementation, respecting the mandate of each Convention; and <b>REQUESTS the Secretariat to provide to the Standing Committee at its 51st meeting a plan on how to increase cooperation with other MEAs and report regularly actions to the Standing Committee;</b>	Doc. SC52-15 <i>Progress on implementing Resolution XI.6 on Partnership and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions</i>
<b>Management instruments</b>	
Resolution XII.3: <i>Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature [...]</i> XII.3.57. RECOGNIZES the collaboration between the Secretariat and IUCN and the progress made to evaluate the work already achieved, <b>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;</b> and ENCOURAGES them to collaborate further to continue to enhance the implementation of the Convention;	Management Working Group

<i>Actions arising from relevant COP12 Resolutions</i>	<i>SC52 agenda item and SC52 documents</i>
<p>XII.3.58. REQUESTS, in order to facilitate <b>further collaboration between the Secretariat and IUCN, the Standing Committee to establish at its 50<sup>th</sup> 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</b>, 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, <b>and to provide the Standing Committee with a report on these discussions at its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting and at each Standing Committee meeting thereafter;</b></p>	<p>Meeting of the Working Group on Improving Management Instruments</p>
<p>Resolution XII.4 <i>The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee</i> [...]</p> <p>XII.4.7. <b>REQUESTS the Standing Committee to focus on the decisions of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties and all preceding COP decisions by:</b> [...]</p> <p>b. <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</b> and implementation through clear, effective and understandable rules and procedures as a follow up to 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>Meeting of the Working Group on Improving Management Instruments</p>
<p>Standing Committee Decision SC50-8: <b>The Standing Committee agreed the establishment of a working group to oversee the implementation of CEPA and a working group to improve existing management instruments between IUCN, the Standing Committee and the Secretary General.</b></p>	<p>Meeting of the Working Group on Improving Management Instruments</p>
<p><b>Secretariat reporting and work planning</b></p>	
<p>Resolution XII.4 <i>The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee</i> [...]</p> <p>XII.4.7. <b>REQUESTS the Standing Committee to focus on the decisions of the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties and all preceding COP decisions by:</b></p> <p>c. <b>Developing and immediately implementing a system of reports</b> – 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>Agenda item 7 Report of the Acting Secretary General Doc. SC52-04 <i>Report of the Acting Secretary General</i></p>
<p>8. REQUESTS the Secretary General to develop a work plan based on these COP12 decisions to be submitted to the Standing Committee before the end of October 2015 and presented by the Secretary General at the 51st meeting of the Standing Committee for its consideration;</p>	<p>Agenda item 12 Secretariat work plans, item a. Work plan for the 2016-2018 triennium (Doc.SC52-07) and item b. Work plan for 2016 (Doc.SC52-08)</p>

<i>Actions arising from relevant COP12 Resolutions</i>	<i>SC52 agenda item and SC52 documents</i>
<b>Schedule of Standing Committee meetings</b>	
<p>Resolution XII.4 <i>The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee</i> [...]</p> <p>10. DECIDES that the 51<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee is to be held before the end of 2015 and REQUESTS that the Standing Committee develops a preliminary schedule for Standing Committee meetings for the coming triennium;</p>	<p>Completed. SC51 held 23-27 November 2015.</p>
<b>Delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance</b>	
<p>Resolution XII.5 <i>Proposed new framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention</i></p> <p>17. FURTHER CONFIRMS that the Conference of Parties will approve the STRP priority thematic work areas for each triennium, <b>that the Standing Committee will continue to have overall responsibility for the delivery of this programme</b>, 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;</p>	<p>Management Working Group</p> <p>Agenda Item 14. Report of the Chair of the STRP including 14a. STRP work plan for 2016-2018 Doc.SC52-10 <i>Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and amended draft STRP 2016-2018 work plan</i></p>
<p>19. DECIDES to dissolve the STRP Oversight Committee and <b>INSTRUCTS the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee to take over the role of the STRP Oversight Committee</b> which was established in Resolution IX.11, and to oversee the work of the STRP as indicated in Annex 1 to this Resolution;</p>	<p>Management Working Group</p>
<p>21. <b>DECIDES that the Standing Committee at its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting will approve the STRP work programme for the coming triennium</b>, built around the priority thematic work areas determined and approved by the Conference of the Parties, in line with the Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024;</p>	<p>Agenda Item 14. Report of the Chair of the STRP including 14a. STRP work plan for 2016-2018 Doc.SC52-10</p>
<p>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 <b>and INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to amend the list during the triennium as appropriate</b>;</p>	
<b>Ramsar Regional initiatives</b>	
<p>Resolution XII.8 <i>Regional initiatives 2016-2018 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention</i></p> <p>9. INSTRUCTS the <b>Standing Committee to undertake a review of the Operational Guidelines for regional initiatives</b> 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, <b>and adopt the necessary amendments no later than the 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee (SC52)</b>;</p>	<p>Meeting of the Working Group on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives</p> <p>Agenda Item 15. Ramsar Regional Initiatives 15 a. Report of the Working Group to review the current Operational Guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives</p>
<p>10. APPROVES the validity and use of the Operational Guidelines for regional initiatives, as adopted for 2013-2015, for the period 2016-2018, until the amendments requested are adopted by the Standing Committee;</p>	

<i>Actions arising from relevant COP12 Resolutions</i>	<i>SC52 agenda item and SC52 documents</i>
12. REQUESTS the Standing Committee <b>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</b> 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;	Doc.SC52-11 <i>Update on Ramsar Regional Initiatives</i>
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;	Agenda Item 15d. Consideration of new Regional Initiatives Doc.SC52-12 <i>Proposals for new Ramsar Regional Initiatives</i>
24. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee <b>to prepare a summary of its annual assessments, which reviews the operations and success of the regional initiatives operating during the period 2016- 2018</b> , for Contracting Parties' consideration at the 13 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties;	
<b>CEPA</b>	
Resolution XII.9 <i>The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024</i> XII.9.11. REQUESTS the CEPA Oversight Panel to continue to monitor and report on CEPA issues at the national level within the Convention and the progress of implementation of the CEPA Programme as established by this Resolution, and to advise the Standing Committee and the Secretariat on the CEPA work priorities at the national and international levels;	Agenda item 20. CEPA and Secretariat Communications  Agenda Item 20.a. Report of the CEPA Oversight Panel
XII.9.27. REQUESTS the Secretary General to report on the progress of improving the Ramsar website to the Standing Committee and to COP13;	Doc.SC52-04 <i>Report of the Acting Secretary General</i>
Resolution XII.3: <i>Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature [...]</i> XII.3.31. 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 12 Secretariat work plans, item a. Work plan for the 2016-2018 triennium (Doc.SC52-07)  Agenda item 20.e. Update on the Ramsar web site and the Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS) site
Resolution XII.4 <i>The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee [...]</i> XII.4.7. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to focus on the decisions of the 12 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties and all preceding COP decisions by: f. Guiding the Secretariat's efforts in improving the Ramsar website and related services and the use of the RSIS database;	
XII.9.9. REQUESTS the Standing Committee at its 51 <sup>st</sup> Meeting <b>to establish a mechanism of the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat which will guide the communication activities of the Secretariat</b> , 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).	Report to the Management Working Group of the Working Group on CEPA Implementation  Agenda item 20.b. Revised CEPA Action Plan for the Ramsar Secretariat 2016-2018

<i>Actions arising from relevant COP12 Resolutions</i>	<i>SC52 agenda item and SC52 documents</i>
Standing Committee Decision SC50-8: <b>The Standing Committee agreed the establishment of a working group to oversee the implementation of CEPA</b> and a working group to improve existing management instruments between IUCN, the Standing Committee and the Secretary General.	Meeting of the Working Group on CEPA Implementation