

Report of the Subgroup on Finance

52nd meeting of Standing Committee
17 June 2016



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Background

- **Members for 2016-2018 triennium**
 - Standing Committee reps- Australia, Estonia, Republic of Korea, Senegal (Chair), Suriname, United States of America
 - Outgoing Chair - Canada
 - Secretariat- Secretary General and Finance Officer *ex officio*
- **Standing Committee agenda papers**
 - SC52-18, Rev.1, Financial Matters 2014/2015
 - SC52-19, Outstanding Contributions
- **Meetings of Subgroup on Finance**
 - Monday, 13 June 2016
 - Thursday, 16 June 2016
 - Friday, 17 June 2016



2014 Surplus Allocation

The Subgroup on Finance recommends that the Standing Committee direct the remaining balance of the 2014 surplus of CHF 6,000 to the reserve fund.

SC51 Approved			
Description	Budget	Actual	Variance
Core Surplus	459	459	0
Committed:			
ENB (COP12 support) (SC48)	50	49	-1
Ramsar Advisory Missions (Nicaragua,SC48)	25	25	0
Staff provision (SC48)	94	94	0
Sponsor Delegate Support (reserve fund repayment)	125	129	4
SC51, Nov 23-27, 2015 (SC50)	155	146	-9
Support for website development	10	10	0
Remaining Balance	0	6	6

2015 Core budget

The Subgroup on Finance recommends that the Standing Committee notes

- the audited 2015 financial statements as presented in document SC52-18, Rev.1, Annex 1,
- the 2015 deficit of CHF 337,000, and
- the reserve fund balance of CHF 372,000 (7.3% of core budget income)



2015 Non-Core budget

- Voluntary contributions as of 31 December 2015: CHF 1,200,000
- Voluntary contributions, United States of America, USD 1,150,000
- The Subgroup recommends the Standing Committee thanks the following Parties and partners who provided voluntary contributions in 2015: Australia, Austria, Benin, Canada, Chad, Finland, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Korea (Republic of), Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, Uruguay, CBD, Danone, MAVA, Star Alliance, UNEP-ROWA, WWF



Outstanding Contributions

- 39 countries have outstanding contributions of greater than 3 years
- As of 31 December 2015, total amount of all unpaid contributions is CHF 1,350,000
- The Subgroup recommends that the Standing Committee notes the current status of Parties' outstanding annual contributions and encourages the Secretariat to:
 - For countries with arrears greater than 3 years (from end 2015)
 - Work with the Ramsar focal point to identify the appropriate government official/minister (individual) who can resolve outstanding annual contributions,
 - Notify the individual, in writing, of status of outstanding contributions, with copy to Finance Minister (or equivalent), and
 - Request acknowledgement and/or payment of their outstanding contributions.
 - African countries recommend to Standing Committee to instruct the Secretariat to make an assessment of the voluntary contributions of this region and to make a report at SC53, and additionally, develop a draft resolution changing the word voluntary to “additional” taking account the consideration of this region.
- The Subgroup encourages parties with outstanding contributions to resolve them with the Secretariat.

Outstanding Contributions



The Subgroup on Finance recommends that the Secretary General proposes a 2018 austerity budget, to address the increasing amount of outstanding contributions, for consideration at Standing Committee 53.



2016 Budget

The Subgroup on Finance recommends that there is no need to change 2016 core and non-core budget.

The Subgroup on Finance expects a surplus at end of 2016 and intends to replenish the reserve fund (>12%) with this surplus.



2017 Core Budget

The approved Core budget for 2017 is CHF 5,081,000.

The Subgroup recommends that the Standing Committee confirms the 2017 budget as approved at COP12.

Ramsar Core Budget, 2017		2017
CHF 000'S		FINAL
INCOME		
Parties' Contributions		3,779
Voluntary contributions		1,065
Income Tax		225
Income Interest		12
TOTAL INCOME		5,081
EXPENDITURES		
A. Secretariat Senior Management		798
Salaries and social costs		674
Other employment benefits		79
Travel		45
B. Partnership Coordinator		250
Salaries and social costs		188
Other employment benefits		52
Travel		10
C. Regional Advice and Support		1,342
Salaries and social costs		1,201
Other employment benefits		56
Travel		85
D. Support to Regional Initiatives		120
Regional networks and centers		120
E. Scientific and Technical Services		212
Salaries and social costs		110
Other employment benefits		2
Travel		10
STRP implementation		40
STRP meetings		50
F. Communications		569
Salaries and social costs		434
Travel		5
CEPA Program		30
Comms, Translations, Publications and Reporting Implementation		100
G. Administration/RSIS/Web		896
Salaries and social costs		629
Other employment benefits		5
Staff hiring and departure costs		25
Ramsar Sites Information Service (maintanance and develop)		117
Web/IT support and Development		120
H. Operating Costs		95
General		80
Equipment/Office Supplies		15
I. Standing Committee Services		150
Standing Committee delegates' support		45
Standing Committee meetings		10
SC translation		60
Simultaneous interpretation at SC meetings		35
J. IUCN Administrative Service Charges (maximum)		540
Administration, Human Resources, Finance & IT services		540
K. Miscellaneous - Reserve Fund		110
Provisions		50
Legal Services		60
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		5,081
TOTAL SALARY COSTS – staff salaries and related costs		3,429
		67%
TOTAL TRAVEL COSTS		155
		3%

Staffing

The Subgroup recommends the Standing Committee makes an amendment to “Resolution XII.1, Annex 4, Approved Secretariat staff (core) for 2016-2018” to add one core staff member, Regional Officer, Oceania, because a core funded position was not included in the staff list due to employment conditions (see table below):

Team	2015	2016	2017	2018
ASMGT	S, M2, P1	S, M2, P1	S, M2, P1	S, M2, P1
BPART	M1	M1	M1	M1
CREGS	M1 (4), P1, Interns (4)	M1 (4), P1 (2), Interns (4)	M1 (4), P1 (2), Interns (4)	M1 (4), P1 (2), Interns (4)
ESTRP	P1	P1	P1	P1
FCOMM	M1, P2, P1	M1, P2, P1	M1, P2, P1	M1, P2, P1
GADMI	P2, P1 (2), A3 (3)	P2, P1 (2), A3 (3)	P2, P1 (2), A3 (3)	P2, P1 (2), A3 (3)

The Subgroup notes that core funds will not be used to support a Regional Officer for Asia (salary, travel or other activities)