

Status of Working Groups of the Standing Committee 2016-2018

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i. take note of the review of the status of the Working Groups of the Standing Committee 2016-2018; and
- ii. confirm and complete the status of the different Groups as appropriate.

Background

1. The Secretariat has reviewed the arrangements for Working Groups established through COP Resolutions and Standing Committee decisions to operate under the Convention. Annex 1 summarizes the findings.
2. From the review, the Secretariat noted that some groups do not have full clarity regarding their reporting arrangements and their duration.
3. Accordingly, the Secretariat invites the Standing Committee to confirm and complete the status of the Groups, and provide any additional guidance as appropriate to ensure full clarity on the operation of such mechanisms of the Convention.

Annex 1

Working Groups of the Standing Committee 2016-2018

Working Group / Sub-group	COP Resolution/SC Decision	Composition	Report to	Term	Action
Working Group to Oversee the Implementation of CEPA.	Paragraph 9 of Resolution XII.9 <i>The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024.</i>	Democratic Republic of Congo, Honduras, Kenya, Romania, Seychelles, United States of America.	Management Working Group at each SC.	Indefinite	
	Decision SC50-8: "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."	Chair: South Africa	COP13		
CEPA Oversight Panel	Resolution IX.18 <i>Establishment of an Oversight Panel for the CEPA activities of the Convention.</i>	Australia, Finland, Lesotho, Senegal. CEPA NGO NFPs: Australia, Myanmar. STRP CEPA Expert: Ramsar Secretariat Head of Communications (nominated in accordance with Resolution XII.5, Annex 1, Paragraph 6). IOP representative: Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT). Regional Ramsar Centre representative: Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO). Vice-Chair of the STRP. Chair: Australia (Vice-chair of the SC).	SC	Indefinite	

Working Group / Sub-group	COP Resolution/SC Decision	Composition	Report to	Term	Action
COP13	Decision SC51-16: "The Standing Committee agreed to establish a Sub-Group on COP13 with the following composition: Australia representing Oceania, Cambodia representing Asia, Canada representing North America, Honduras representing Latin America and the Caribbean, Romania representing Europe, Tunisia representing Africa, United Arab Emirates (Chair) as host country for COP13, and Uruguay as host country for COP12. Other Contracting Parties could serve as observers of the Sub-Group."	Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Honduras, Romania, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay. Chair: United Arab Emirates.	SC	2018	
Facilitation Working Group	Paragraph 58 of Resolution XII.3 <i>Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions.</i> Relate para 7b Resolution XII.4 <i>The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Ramsar Convention.</i> Decision SC50-8: "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."	Kenya, Romania, Senegal, Switzerland, United States of America, Uruguay. Chairs: United States of America and Uruguay.	SC	Indefinite	
Finance	Decision SC50-2: "The Standing Committee elected the following members of the Subgroup on Finance: for Africa, Senegal; 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. Canada to serve as outgoing Chair of the Subgroup."	Australia, Canada, Estonia, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Suriname, United States of America. Chair: Senegal.	SC	2018	

Working Group / Sub-group	COP Resolution/SC Decision	Composition	Report to	Term	Action
Management Working Group	Resolution IX.24 <i>Improving management of the Ramsar Convention.</i> Decision SC50-6: "The Standing Committee nominated the following to serve as the Management Working Group: Romania as outgoing SC Chair for the 2012-2015 triennium, South Africa as outgoing SC Vice-Chair for the 2012-2015 triennium, Uruguay as current SC Chair, Australia as current SC Vice-Chair, Senegal as current Chair of the Subgroup on Finance and Canada as outgoing Chair of the Subgroup on Finance. The STRP Chair for the 2012-2015 triennium was also called to serve while designation of the Chair of the STRP for the triennium 2015-2018 is pending. The Standing Committee welcomed statements by Fiji, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and the United States of America that they would observe the Management Working Group as interested Contracting Parties."	Australia, Canada, Fiji, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uruguay. STRP Chair. IUCN. Secretary General <i>ex officio</i> . Chair: Uruguay.	SC and the COP	Indefinite	
Transition Committee of the Management Working Group	Resolution X.4 <i>Establishing a Transition Committee of the Management Working Group.</i>	Australia, Canada, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Uruguay. Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General <i>ex officio</i> . Chair: Uruguay	SC (not clearly specified)	Indefinite	Reporting body to be clarified. If Rule 25.5 e) were applied, the Committee would report to the SC.
Resource Mobilization	Resolution XII.7 <i>Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention.</i> 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."	Colombia, Kenya, United States of America. Chair: United States of America	SC	Chair confirmed that its mandate is completed.	

Working Group / Sub-group	COP Resolution/SC Decision	Composition	Report to	Term	Action
Regional Initiatives	Decision SC51-11: "The Standing Committee agreed to establish a new Working Group to examine the implications of the proposed new Operational Guidelines for Regional Initiatives and asked the Secretariat to support the setting up of this group.	Contracting Parties representing regional initiatives: Argentina, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Italy, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, South Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Tunisia, Uruguay. Chair: Uganda	SC	Not specified	
Staffing	No decision from SC	According to Annex 3 SC52 report: Australia, Canada, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, United States of America, Uruguay. Chair: Canada	MWG (not specified)	The Chair confirmed that the mandate was completed at SC52.	
Language Strategy	No decision as such from the Standing Committee. SC52 agreed to establish an open-ended informal working group, comprising at least Colombia, Senegal, UAE, USA and Romania, to review the Terms of Reference set out in Annex 1 to Doc. SC52-03 and asked the group to provide revised terms of reference for the Committee to consider later in the meeting.	Colombia, Senegal, UAE, USA and Romania.	SC (Not specified) Not clear who is the chair. Note: Per paragraph 28 of Resolution XII.3, the MWG oversees the formulation of the Strategy.	Not specified	To clarify decision, reporting governance body and chair.