RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

54th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Gland, Switzerland, 23 – 27 April 2018

**Doc. SC54-21.6**

**Draft resolution on peace and the sustainable management of biodiversity in Ramsar Sites**

*Submitted by the Central African Republic*

**Action requested:**

* The Standing Committee is invited to review the attached draft resolution for consideration at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
* [Insérer toute autre mesure requise du Comité permanent]

**Information for the Standing Committee**

Given the importance of the biological diversity in the northern part of the Central African Republic, forming part of the Lake Chad Basin, and the southern part belonging to the Congo Basin, and in view of these riches that are today threatened by the impacts of armed conflict, it is essential to preserve and manage these different environments sustainably.

In the aftermath of the military-political crisis, a National Plan for Recovery and Peacebuilding [Plan National de Relèvement et de Consolidation de la Paix, RCPCA] 2017-2021 highlighted the protection of biodiversity in the Central African Republic.

*The application’s financial implications*

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| Paragraph (number and essential part of the text) | Actions | Cost (CHF) |
| 1. i : ASKS the Standing Committee to support the inclusion of the drawing up of an inventory of the post-conflict fauna, flora and fisheries resources, contracting a specialized institution for this purpose | The Secretariat will coordinate the draft inventory, WWF Central Africa will provide technical assistance for the recruitment of 2 consultants for 2 months | 10,000 |
| 1. ii : REQUESTS the Standing Committee to integrate the implementation of resilience activities relating to biodiversity with internally displaced people in particular (training, income-generating activities, the creation and management of micro-projects) as well as alternative development and conversion activities | The Secretariat will coordinate the project through the WWF and small grants | 20,000 |
| 1. iii : ASKS the Standing Committee to support the drawing up and publication of the Convention and the documents ratifying the Convention | The Secretariat will provide financial assistance for the draft edition and the publication of the Convention and the documents relating to the ratification of the Convention by the National Assembly of the Central African Republic | 5,000 |
| 2. i : ASKS the Standing Committee to support the Focal Points and NGOs in marking World Wetlands Day at a national level and in the Ramsar Sites already registered by the Secretariat | The Secretariat will coordinate the project by  mobilizing resources allowing for trips to the Sites | 10,000 |
| 3. i : ASKS the Standing Committee to provide the training for Focal Points in the mastery of mechanisms for the implementation of the Convention and the related mobilization of the necessary funds ; | The Secretariat will coordinate the project for the training of Focal Points, and a Consultant will draw up the report | 10,000 |
| 3. ii : identify and train the stakeholders for the sustainable management of wetlands across the country, by organizing visits for experience sharing? | The Secretariat will coordinate the organization of intra-regional exchange visits | 10,000 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **65,000** |

In order to achieve this, the following draft resolutions have been drawn up.

**Draft resolution XIII.xx**

**Peace and the sustainable management of biodiversity in Ramsar Sites**

1. RECALLING the 4th Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 that calls on actions to be undertaken by the Contracting Parties supported by the Secretariat, and in accordance with the Central African Republic’s National Plan for Recovery and Peacebuilding (RCPCA) 2017-2021 in the field of biodiversity;

i) ASKS the Standing Committee to support the inclusion of the drawing up of an inventory of the post-conflict fauna, flora and fisheries resources, contracting a specialiZed institution for this purpose;

ii) REQUESTS the Standing Committee to integrate the implementation of resilience activities relating toizing biodiversity and internally displaced people in particular (training, income-generating activities, the creation and management of micro-projects) as well as alternative development and retraining activities;

iii) ASKS the Standing Committee to support the drawing up and publication of the Convention and the documents ratifying the Convention.

2. AWARE of financial issues:

i) RECOGNIZING the State’s limited capacity after the armed conflict to mobilize the required financial resources for national and international commitments;

ii) ASKS the Standing Committee to support the Focal Points and NGOs in marking World Wetlands Day at a national level and in the Ramsar Sites already registered by the Secretariat.

3. RESEARCH and capacity building:

i) RECOGNIZING the lack of capacity building for implementing the Convention;

ii) ASKS the Standing Committee to provide the training for Focal Points to master mechanisms for the implementation of the Convention and the related mobilization of the necessary funds;

iii) REQUESTS the Standing Committee to identify and train the stakeholders in the sustainable management of wetlands across the country, by organizing visits for experience sharing.

THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

4. URGES the SECRETARIAT to reduce the financial package in order to allow for the implementation of the Convention and the continuation of the designation of ten new potential Sites of international importance in the Logone-Chari region in the North to help the Central African Republic through the provision of small grants for the implementation of awareness-raising and capacity-building activities by WWF Central Africa.