

# Report of the Secretary General

## 54<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee

23 April – 27 April 2018



# Document SC54-5: Highlights

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## **Scope:**

- Since SC53
- issues covered in other SC54 documents + updates

**Continue to strengthen the work of Secretariat** to deliver mandate (Art 8), implement decisions COP and SC and support implementation of Strategic Plan by Contracting Parties:

- Strengthening **service** to CPs' decision-making and accountability
- Increasing **relevance** of wetlands and the Convention to sustainable development policy objectives
- Strengthening **support** and **enabling** implementation
- Strengthening the Secretariat's **efficiency** and **effectiveness**

# Strengthening service to Contracting Parties' decision-making and accountability



= major priority for improvement

- Strengthening support to governing and subsidiary bodies
- Prioritize in team's work – core function in Work Plan
- Accountability to CPs' decisions

## Highlights:

- SC53 + support provided to working groups
- STRP21 + high priority tasks
- Preparations for SC54
- 5 Regional pre-COP meetings
- Preparations for COP13
- National reports



# Increasing relevance of wetlands and the Convention to global-national sustainable development policy objectives



- Engagement in **strategic** policy processes that enable implementation of SP
- Synergies and collaboration – team approach

## Highlights

- 2030 SDG agenda
  - Co-custodianship of SDG 6.6.1 on wetland extent with UNEP and streamline from Ramsar National Reports approved by IAEG-SDGs
  - SDG 14: UN Ocean Conference, New York, 5-9 June 2017 + focal point for Community of Ocean Action on Mangroves
  - SDG 15: active in CBD e.g. SP + Biodiversity Liaison Group
- UNFCCC COP2, UNEA + Global Peatland Initiative
- Strengthen links with Geneva missions: Briefing on Ramsar and SDGs, June 2017





# Increasing relevance of wetlands and the Convention to global-national sustainable development policy objectives



## Other highlights

- UNCCD, Ordos, 6 – 9 September 2017
- CMS COP 12, Manila, 23 – 28 October 2017
- 5<sup>th</sup> plenary session of IPBES, Bonn, 7 – 10 March 2017 + input biodiversity + regional assessments
- Water Week, Stockholm, 24 – 31 August 2017
- UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit global workshop for integrated monitoring of SDG6, The Hague, 21-23 November 2017
- Contribution to GEO-6 (Freshwater Chapter)
- Contribution to IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories
- Collaboration with AEWA



# Strengthening support and enabling implementation



- Support provided in the designation of **42 Ramsar Sites**
- Support in the update of information for **122** existing Ramsar Sites
- Data completion finalized for **1,095** Ramsar Sites
- Support provided in **7 Ramsar Advisory Missions**
- **(4) Ramsar Advisory Missions** planned for 2018



# Strengthening support and enabling implementation

## Strengthening **enabling** role :

- Capacity building: promoting + joint and internet-based approach:
  - **RSIS** training: **4 webinar** sessions in **3 languages** (53 -23 CPs)
  - **National Reports Online Reporting System** training: webinar tutorial + skype calls
  - GlobWetland Africa Toolbox
- Support regional initiatives/work
- Strategic partnerships : IOPs





# Strengthening support and enabling implementation



## Resource mobilization – highlights

- Director of Resource Mobilization & Outreach
  - Strategy at SC54
  - In 2017 **CHF 422,000** in non-core resources have been mobilized e.g.
    - **CHF 81,000** fundraised for RAMs
    - **CHF 45,000** fundraised for pre-COP meetings
  - Renewed partnership with **Danone**
- + Assistance to CPs to raise funds

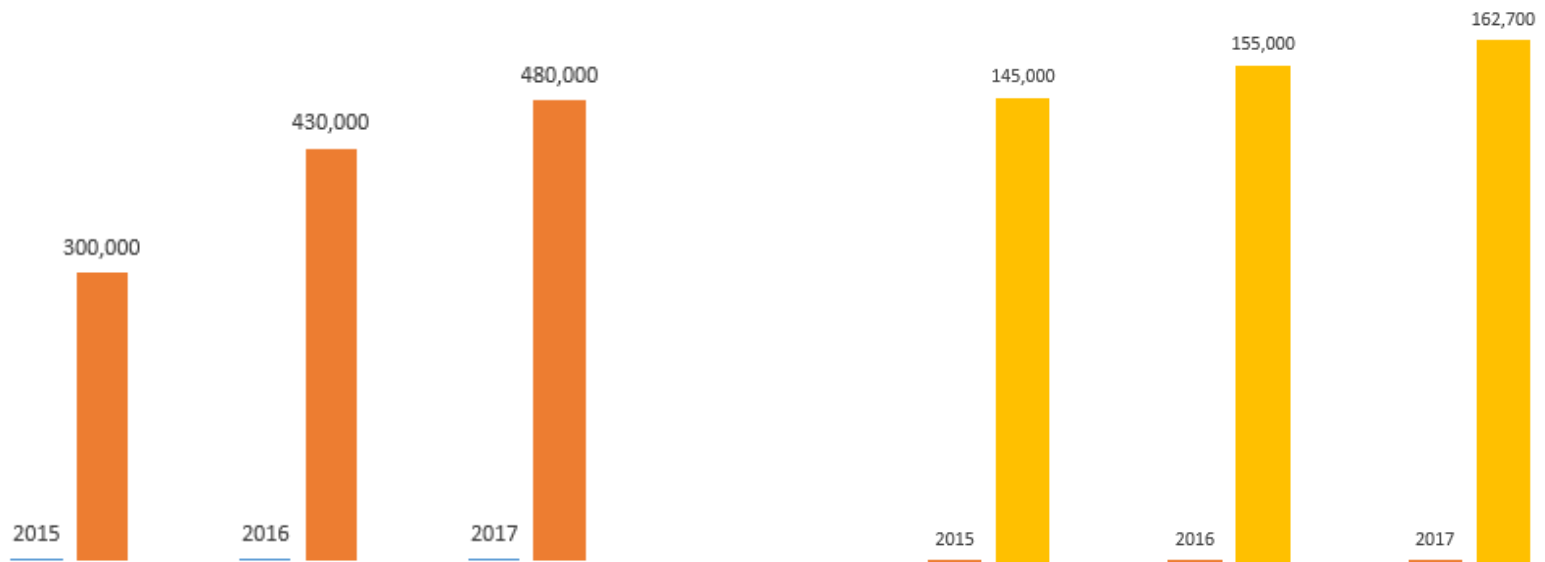




# Enhancing the visibility of wetlands and the Convention



- Nearly half million users visited website in 2017
- Social media – steady increase in engagement



# Enhancing the visibility of wetlands and the Convention



- UN Ocean Conference
  - UNFCCC COP23
  - UNEA3
  - CMS COP12
- => CEPA Plan

3 Comms  
campaigns

20 events

100,000  
potential reach



# Enhancing the visibility of wetlands and the Convention

- World Wetlands Day global campaign 2018



**1507**

Registered events  
2016



**116**

Countries  
in 2018

# Strengthening the Secretariat's efficiency and effectiveness

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## => **Organize to deliver**

- Improving financial management
- Building coherence and team work:
  - Planning Workshop for the Secretariat conducted 20 – 22 January, 2017 (building on the results of first workshop + lessons learning)
  - Staff training activities in 2017 including survey
- Filling capabilities gaps
- Development of Standard Operating Procedures



