

Report of the Meeting of the Subgroup on Finance Part II

This Report includes the recommendations for the Standing Committee consideration made during the second meeting of the Subgroup on Finance on 27 June 2019.

This Report addresses the remaining issues that were not covered in the Part I report. Both Report Part I and Part II of the Subgroup on Finance should be considered together in order to cover all Subgroup on Finance issues.

1.a Report on financial matters for 2018 (DOC SC57-7.1) (cont'd)

iii. The Subgroup on Finance recommended the Standing Committee to approve the allocation of 2018 surplus (as per Table 1 below).

Table 1: Allocation of 2018 core surplus (in '000 CHF)

Allocation of core surplus	
Complement amount needed to increase the reserve for outstanding contributions	121
Net amount to replenish the non-core AVC project (IUCN oversight review)(DOC SC57-7.3, paragraph 18)	33
Resolutions review (resolution XIII.4)	20
Ramsar advisory missions (a RAM has been requested by Malawi to the Lake Chilwa Site)	30
Project proposal writing capacity building RRI	5
2020 Planning (facilitator for development of annual work plan)	10
Legal status analysis consultancy	15
Capacity building related to triennium challenges	20
50th Anniversary – campaign development	15
WWD 2021 (year 2021 budget shortfall due to decrease in Danone funding)	30
Inventories (support to CPs in the completion of wetlands inventories)	50
Operational reserve (Resolution XIII.2, paragraph 15)	228
Total proposed use 2018 surplus	577
Core surplus balance remaining	0

1.b Non-core funding status and voluntary contributions for 2018 (DOC SC57-7.1) (cont'd)

- v.bis. The Subgroup on Finance invited the Standing Committee to approve the allocation of Ramsar Regional Initiatives Resources core budget as follows:
1. 2019 Budget line "Support to Regional Initiative" of CHF 100K allocated as per Table 2, noting that given that no information had been received yet from SenegalWet regarding the unspent balance from previous years and their capacity to implement an additional contribution for 2019, the Subgroup requested the Secretariat to contact this initiative to seek this information. If this additional allocation of CHF25K was not needed by SenegalWet or the initiative's representatives do not respond by the Secretariat's deadline, then the amount should be allocated equally between the remaining three initiatives listed below in Table 2.
 2. The Secretariat was asked to report to the Subgroup on Finance inter-sessionally on the outcome of this situation.

Table 2: Allocation of 2019 core budget "Support to Regional Initiatives" (in '000 CHF)

Description	
Senegal Basin Regional Initiative	25
Amazon River Basin Regional Initiative	25
Central Asia Regional Initiative	25
Indo-Burma Regional Initiative	25
Total allocation	100

3. The Subgroup on Finance noted the carry forward from 2018 budget line "Support to Regional Initiatives –General" of CHF 21K and invited the Standing Committee to approve that the amount should be used for the operation of the Working Group on Regional Initiatives as per Resolution XIII.9, paragraph 9.
- viii. In Part I Report the Subgroup on Finance invited the Standing Committee to approve the external auditor's proposed modification for the calculation of the provision for outstanding Contracting Party contributions (DOC SC57-7.1, paragraph 42, option a.) and accordingly to increase the provision. The source of funding for this increase of CHF 178K is CHF 57K of 2018 carry forward resulting from the reduction in the provision for 2018 and CHF 121K use of 2018 core surplus (see Table 1 above).
- viii. 2. The Subgroup on Finance recommended the Standing Committee to request the Secretariat to explore the practicality of a group approach or other creative solutions for confirmation of outstanding Contracting Party balances for the 2019 audit.

3. Other matters discussed (DOC SC57-7.1) (cont'd)

- In accordance with the responsibilities defined in Resolution 5.2: Financial and budgetary matters, Annex 3, paragraph 8, the Subgroup on Finance agreed that uncommitted/unexpended balances for budget lines can be carried forward to the next

year within the triennium and presented to the following meeting of the Subgroup on Finance.

4. Report on “Small Grants Fund – Proposal for final beneficiaries” (DOC SC57-7.4)

- i. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee take note of the actions taken by the Secretariat to phase out the Small Grants Fund programme.
- ii. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee review and approve the proposed selection of recipients to receive funding from the Small Grants Fund, as per Table 4 below.

Table 4: Proposed grant recipient for endorsement of Small Grants Fund (in '000 CHF)

Description	
Tanzania: Adapting indigenous/traditional knowledge and innovations to maintain wetland dependent lifestyles (CHF 34,876)	34.9
Cambodia: Strengthen Cambodia’s wetland conservation through enhancing Ramsar site management effectiveness and improving site legal status (CHF 35,000)	35.0
Mexico: Integración en la planificación y estrategia de comunicación de Ramsar MX (CHF 29,526)	29.5
Paraguay: Strengthening Paraguay’s capacity of conservation and wise use of wetlands (CHF 34,818)	34.8
Subtotal allocation to Recipients	134.2
Remaining balance	2.8
Total balance	137.0

- iii. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee approve the use by the Secretariat of the remaining Small Grants Fund balance of CHF 2.8K (CHF 2,779) for the development of updated guidance for Parties on how to prepare and write project proposals.