



10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Healthy wetlands, healthy people”

Changwon, Republic of Korea,
28 October-4 November 2008

Agenda item XIV

Ramsar COP10 DR 2, Rev. 1

Draft Resolution X.2

Financial and budgetary matters

(See also COP10 DOC. 17 for a listing of Contracting Parties with unpaid contributions and COP10 DOC. 18 for explanatory notes on the four 2009-2012 budget options, as well as a glossary of financial terms.)

[DR 1 Rev. 1 corrects certain errors in the original version of Annex II (30 September 2008).]

1. RECALLING the budgetary provisions established by Article 6, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Convention;
2. ACKNOWLEDGING WITH APPRECIATION the prompt payment by the majority of Contracting Parties of their contributions to the core budget of the Convention, but NOTING WITH CONCERN that a number of Parties are still significantly in arrears (COP10 DOC. 17);
3. NOTING WITH GRATITUDE the additional financial contributions made by many Contracting Parties through their Ramsar Administrative Authorities and other agencies, including some development assistance agencies, and also the contributions made by non-governmental organizations and the private sector for activities undertaken by the Secretariat;
4. ACKNOWLEDGING ONCE MORE WITH APPRECIATION the financial and administrative services provided to the Secretariat by IUCN; and
5. NOTING that Contracting Parties have been kept informed of the financial situation of the Secretariat through the financial audited reports for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 and the reports of the Standing Committee meetings in 2006, 2007, and 2008 that have been circulated to Contracting Parties;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

6. NOTES WITH PLEASURE that since the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties in 2005 the Secretariat has managed the Convention's funds prudently

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and efficiently, and APPRECIATES improved financial reporting arising from the new management arrangements with IUCN;

7. URGES the Secretary General, in managing the budget, to attempt to refill the Reserve Fund established by Resolution VI.17 (2006), which will also partly fulfil the need to have a prudent reserve in the unlikely event of the sudden dissolution of the Secretariat;
8. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Contracting Parties that have served in the Subgroup on Finance of the Standing Committee during the past cycle, and in particular to the United States of America, which acted as Chair of the Subgroup;
9. DECIDES that the Terms of Reference for the Financial Administration of the Convention contained in Annex 3 to Resolution 5.2 (1993) shall be applied *in toto* to the 2009-2012 cycle;
10. FURTHER DECIDES that the Subgroup on Finance, as established by Resolution VI.17, shall continue to operate under the aegis of the Standing Committee and with the roles and responsibilities specified in that Resolution;
11. APPROVES the budget for the 2009-2012 cycle as attached as Annex I to enable the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
12. AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee, with the advice of its Subgroup on Finance, to change budgetary allocations between budget lines in the light of significant positive or negative changes during the cycle to the rates of inflation and interest income projected in the budget;
13. RECOGNIZES that the establishment of a Transition Committee of the Management Working Group ([COP10 DR 4]), involving the Chair of the Subgroup on Finance, will strengthen the continuity of the Subgroup's work in the future;
14. DECIDES that the contribution of each Contracting Party to this budget (other than those making voluntary contributions) should be in accordance with the scale of assessments for the contribution of Member States to the United Nations budget as approved by the UN General Assembly, except in the case of Contracting Parties which, in applying the UN scale, would make annual contributions to the Ramsar Convention budget of less than CHF 1,000, in which case the annual contribution shall be that amount. The difference between the assessed contribution for these Contracting Parties according to the UN scale and the minimum threshold of CHF 1,000 shall be allocated, when actual payments have been effected, to another budget line or lines of the core budget, on the advice of the Standing Committee's Subgroup on Finance. All other Contracting Parties will continue to be assessed in accordance with the UN scale of contributions as indicated in Annex II, except in the case of those Contracting Parties making voluntary contributions, as indicated in Annex I;
15. CALLS UPON all Contracting Parties to pay their contributions promptly by 1 January of each year, or as soon thereafter as that country's budget cycle will permit, URGES Contracting Parties in arrears to make a renewed effort to settle them as expeditiously as possible, and AGREES that the Standing Committee at its 40th meeting should further

consider options for dealing with Parties that are consistently in arrears with payments to the Convention; and

16. AFFIRMS that the rate of increase of the Ramsar Convention budget for the 2009-2012 cycle shall not be considered as setting a precedent for the budget of any other international convention [and has been passed noting the official position of concerned Parties supporting zero nominal growth for all international conventions].

Annex I: Budget approved for 2009-2012

Annex II: Contracting Parties' contributions, 2009

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(See attached tables in PDF format)