



11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands: home and destination”

Bucharest, Romania, 6-13 July 2012

Resolution XI.2

Financial and budgetary matters

1. RECALLING the budgetary provisions established by Article 6, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Convention on Wetlands;
2. ACKNOWLEDGING WITH APPRECIATION the prompt payment by the majority of Contracting Parties of their contributions to the Core budget of the Convention, and NOTING WITH CONCERN that a number of Parties still have outstanding contributions (COP11 DOC. 15);
3. NOTING WITH GRATITUDE the additional voluntary 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, and UNDERLINING the importance of such voluntary contributions to the non-core budget;
4. ACKNOWLEDGING WITH APPRECIATION the financial and administrative services provided to the Secretariat by IUCN, underpinned by the Services Agreement between Ramsar and IUCN revised in 2009;
5. NOTING that Contracting Parties have been kept informed of the financial situation of the Secretariat through the audited annual financial statements for 2008 to 2011 and the reports of the Standing Committee meetings in 2009, 2010 and 2011 that have been circulated to Contracting Parties; and
6. RECOGNIZING the need to continue to strengthen financial partnerships with relevant international organizations and other entities and to explore additional funding opportunities through their existing financial mechanisms consistent with those institutions' mandates and existing programming;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. ACKNOWLEDGES that since the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties in 2008 the Secretariat has managed the Convention's funds prudently, efficiently and openly;

8. ACKNOWLEDGES the Contracting Parties that have served in the Subgroup on Finance of the Standing Committee during the past cycle, and in particular Finland, which has 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 V.2 (1993) will be applied *in toto* to the 2013-2015 cycle;
10. FURTHER DECIDES that the Subgroup on Finance, as established by Resolution VI.17, will continue to operate under the aegis of the Standing Committee and with the roles and responsibilities specified in that Resolution;
11. NOTES that the 2013-2015 budget includes a Core element funded by contributions from Contracting Parties, prepared on the basis that there are no fundamental changes to the operation of the Secretariat during 2013-2015, and a non-Core unfunded element to be financed by additional voluntary contributions, and APPROVES the combined budget for the 2013-2015 cycle as attached in Annex I to enable the implementation of the 2009-2015 Strategic Plan of the Convention;
12. AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee, with the advice of its Subgroup on Finance, to revise Core budgetary allocations between budget lines in the light of significant positive or negative changes during the cycle to costs, rates of inflation, interest and tax income projected in the budget, without increasing the contributions of Parties or increasing the charges paid to IUCN above the budgeted 13% maximum;
13. AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee, with the advice of its Subgroup on Finance, to revise non-Core budgetary allocations and priorities depending upon the success of the Parties and Secretariat in securing voluntary funding for these activities;
14. DECIDES that the contribution of each Contracting Party to the core budget (other than those making only voluntary contributions) should be in accordance with the scale of assessments for the contributions of Member States to the United Nations budget as approved by the UN General Assembly, which for those only paying voluntary contributions is applied on an indicative basis, and except in the case of Contracting Parties which, in applying the UN scale, could make annual contributions to the Ramsar Convention Core budget of less than CHF 1,000, in which case the annual contribution will be that amount;
15. NOTES WITH GRATITUDE that at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties the Contracting Parties of Africa contributing less than CHF 2,000 agreed to increase their payments to that level, and that the difference between CHF 2,000 and their annual assessment will form a voluntary contribution specifically earmarked for African Regional Initiatives;
16. URGES all Contracting Parties to pay their contributions to the core budget promptly by 1 January of each year, or as soon thereafter as that country's budget cycle will permit;
17. URGES Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions to make a renewed effort to settle them as expeditiously as possible to enhance the financial sustainability of the Convention through contributions by all Contracting Parties, and REQUESTS the

Secretariat to contact Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions in excess of three years and work with them to identify appropriate options and actions for addressing the situation and initiating a plan for making payment of contributions, and to report back to each Standing Committee meeting and meeting of the Conference of the Parties on activities taken in this regard and results achieved;

18. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and others to increase additional voluntary contributions to fund the important non-Core element of the 2013-2015 combined budget, which includes, *inter alia*, the work of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, the Ramsar Sites Information Service, Ramsar Advisory Missions, Regional Initiatives and Centres, and the Small Grants Fund;
19. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue to develop new approaches and tools to secure voluntary financial contributions for priority projects;
20. REAFFIRMS its conviction that the Convention's grants programmes, including the Small Grants Fund, are of great value in terms of the implementation of the Convention and INVITES Parties and others to make additional voluntary contributions to secure the efficient operation of these programmes, REQUESTS the Standing Committee to review the operation of the programme during the triennium, and ALSO REQUESTS the Secretariat to make the Small Grants Fund a priority in all fundraising efforts;
21. DECIDES that the Reserve Fund:
 - a) provides for unforeseen and unavoidable expenditures;
 - b) receives realized core budget surpluses (or deficits);
 - c) should not be lower than 6% of the annual core budget of the Convention and not greater than 15%;
 - d) should be administered by the Secretary General with the approval of the Subgroup on Finance as established by the Standing Committee;

and that this decision supersedes Resolution VI.17 (1996), paragraph 10;

22. REQUESTS the Secretary General to endeavor to increase the Reserve Fund over the 2013-2015 triennium in accordance with this budget and to report annually to the Standing Committee on the status and propose to its Subgroup on Finance for its concurrence prior to any uses of the Fund; and
23. AFFIRMS that the Ramsar Convention budget for the 2013-2015 cycle shall not be considered as setting a precedent for the budget in subsequent years or of any other international convention.

Annex I: Combined Budget for 2013-2015.

Annex II: Illustrative Core budget contributions by Contracting Party.

Annex III: Analysis of 2013-2015 budgeted non-Core expenditures.

ANNEX I - Ramsar 2013-2015 Combined Budget, in CHF'000

	2013		2014		2015	
	Core CHF'000	Non-Core CHF'000	Core CHF'000	Non-Core CHF'000	Core CHF'000	Non-Core CHF'000
INCOME						
i. Parties' contributions	3,779	-	3,779	-	3,779	-
ii. Voluntary contributions	1,065	3,400	1,065	4,637	1,065	5,337
iii. Income Tax	225	-	225	-	225	-
iv. Income Interest	12	-	12	-	12	-
TOTAL INCOME	5,081	3,400	5,081	4,637	5,081	5,337
EXPENDITURES						
A. Secretariat Senior Management	825	-	825	-	825	-
B. Partnership Coordinator	311	130	311	130	311	130
C. Regional Advice and Support	1,347	-	1,347	587	1,347	587
D. Support to Regional Initiative Networks & Centres	160	300	120	300	120	300
E. Scientific and Technical Services	210	635	210	635	210	635
F. Communications, Documentation, CEPA	506	130	506	130	506	130
G. Administration/RSIS/Web	754	130	794	130	794	130
H. Operating Costs	97	-	97	-	97	-
I. Standing Committee Services	85	25	85	25	85	25
J. IUCN Administrative Service Charges (maximum)	566	-	566	-	566	-
K. Miscellaneous - Reserve Fund	75	-	75	-	75	-
K. Miscellaneous - Bad debt/exchange/legal	145	-	145	-	145	-
1. RSIS and RIS database	-	100	-	100	-	200
2. World Wetlands Day	-	100	-	100	-	100
3. Ramsar Advisory Missions	-	150	-	150	-	150
4. CEPA Action Planning Workshops	-	100	-	100	-	100
5. Grants Programmes - SGF/WFF/SGA	-	1,400	-	1,400	-	1,400
6. Regional Meetings	-	150	-	750	-	150
7. COP Delegates and Ramsar Award	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
8. Strategic Visioning/Planning for 40+ and 2016-2021	-	50	-	100	-	100
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	5,081	3,400	5,081	4,637	5,081	5,337
TOTAL SALARY COSTS**-- staff salaries and related costs	3,330	260	3,330	797	3,330	797
	66%	8%	66%	17%	66%	15%
TOTAL TRAVEL COSTS	165		165		165	
	3%		3%		3%	

** COP recognises that salary costs budgets are frozen, but has no desire to reduce Core budget positions over the period, and that if IUCN obliges staff cost increases, exceeded budget lines will be dealt with from the reserve fund.

ANNEX II - ILLUSTRATIVE CORE BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS BY CONTRACTING PARTY 2013-201

Illustration, based on:				
Membership as at 11.7.12		2013 Core Contribution	2014 Core Contribution	2015 Core Contribution
UN Scale of Assessments 2010-2012*		CHF	CHF	CHF
1310-00091	Albania	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00001	Algeria	6,242	6,242	6,242
1310-00145	Antigua & Barbuda	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00003	Argentina	13,996	13,996	13,996
1310-00002	Armenia	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00004	Australia	94,264	94,264	94,264
1310-00005	Austria	41,499	41,499	41,499
1310-00124	Azerbaijan	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00099	Bahamas	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00102	Bahrain	1,902	1,902	1,902
1310-00006	Bangladesh	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00149	Barbados	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00116	Belarus	2,048	2,048	2,048
1310-00007	Belgium	52,423	52,423	52,423
1310-00112	Belize	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00118	Benin	1,000	1,000	1,000
131000161	Bhutan	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00008	Bolivia	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00128	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00096	Botswana	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00009	Brazil	78,561	78,561	78,561
1310-00010	Bulgaria	1,853	1,853	1,853
1310-00011	Burkina Faso	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00132	Burundi	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00115	Cambodia	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00150	Cameroon	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00012	Canada	156,391	156,391	156,391
1310-00146	Cape Verde	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00148	Central African Republic	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00072	Chad	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00013	Chile	11,509	11,509	11,509
1310-00014	China	155,513	155,513	155,513
1310-00110	Colombia	7,022	7,022	7,022
1310-00084	Comoros	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00109	Congo	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00015	Costa Rica	1,658	1,658	1,658
1310-00093	Côte d'Ivoire	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00016	Croatia	4,730	4,730	4,730
1310-00123	Cuba	3,462	3,462	3,462
1310-00125	Cyprus	2,243	2,243	2,243
1310-00017	Czech Republic	17,019	17,019	17,019
1310-00100	Republic of Korea	110,210	110,210	110,210
1310-00092	Democratic Republic of Congo	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00018	Denmark	35,891	35,891	35,891
1310-00135	Djibouti	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00131	Dominican Republic	2,048	2,048	2,048
1310-00019	Ecuador	1,951	1,951	1,951
1310-00020	Egypt	4,584	4,584	4,584
1310-00113	El Salvador	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00136	Equatorial Guinea	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00022	Estonia	1,951	1,951	1,951
1310-00151	Fiji	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00023	Finland	27,601	27,601	27,601
1310-00024	France	298,591	298,591	298,591
1310-00025	Gabon	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00094	Gambia	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00105	Georgia	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00026	Germany	391,002	391,002	391,002

Illustration, based on:		2013 Core Contribution	2014 Core Contribution	2015 Core Contribution
Membership as at 11.7.12		CHF	CHF	CHF
UN Scale of Assessments 2010-2012*		CHF	CHF	CHF
1310-00027	Ghana	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00028	Greece	33,697	33,697	33,697
1310-00161	Grenada	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00029	Guatemala	1,365	1,365	1,365
1310-00030	Guinea	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00031	Guinea-Bissau	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00032	Honduras	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00033	Hungary	14,191	14,191	14,191
1310-00034	Iceland	2,048	2,048	2,048
1310-00035	India	26,041	26,041	26,041
1310-00036	Indonesia	11,606	11,606	11,606
1310-00038	Iran, Islamic Republic of	11,362	11,362	11,362
1310-00156	Iraq	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00037	Ireland	24,285	24,285	24,285
1310-00098	Israel	18,726	18,726	18,726
1310-00039	Italy	243,779	243,779	243,779
1310-00103	Jamaica	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00040	Japan	611,032	611,032	611,032
1310-00041	Jordan	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00153	Kazakhstan	3,706	3,706	3,706
1310-00042	Kenya	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00133	Kyrgyz Republic	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00159	Lao Peoples Republic	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00087	Latvia	1,853	1,853	1,853
1310-00114	Lebanon	1,609	1,609	1,609
1310-00139	Lesotho	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00137	Liberia	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00119	Libya	6,291	6,291	6,291
1310-00043	Liechtenstein	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00044	Lithuania	3,170	3,170	3,170
1310-00045	Luxembourg	4,389	4,389	4,389
1310-00111	Madagascar	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00097	Malawi	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00085	Malaysia	12,338	12,338	12,338
1310-00046	Mali	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00047	Malta	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00138	Marshall Islands	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00049	Mauritania	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00127	Mauritius	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00050	Mexico	114,892	114,892	114,892
1310-00104	Monaco	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00106	Mongolia	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00154	Montenegro	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00048	Morocco	2,828	2,828	2,828
1310-00140	Mozambique	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00142	Myanmar	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00090	Namibia	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00051	Nepal	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00052	Netherlands	90,460	90,460	90,460
1310-00053	New Zealand	13,313	13,313	13,313
1310-00101	Nicaragua	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00054	Niger	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00122	Nigeria	3,804	3,804	3,804
1310-00055	Norway	42,475	42,475	42,475
1310-00057	Pakistan	3,999	3,999	3,999
1310-00134	Palau	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00056	Panama	1,073	1,073	1,073
1310-00058	Papua New Guinea	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00089	Paraguay	1,000	1,000	1,000

Illustration, based on:		2013 Core Contribution	2014 Core Contribution	2015 Core Contribution
Membership as at 11.7.12		CHF	CHF	CHF
UN Scale of Assessments 2010-2012*		CHF	CHF	CHF
1310-00059	Peru	4,389	4,389	4,389
1310-00060	Philippines	4,389	4,389	4,389
1310-00061	Poland	40,378	40,378	40,378
1310-00062	Portugal	24,919	24,919	24,919
1310-00063	Romania	8,631	8,631	8,631
1310-00121	Republic of Moldova	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00064	Russian Federation	78,122	78,122	78,122
1310-00147	Rwanda	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00130	Saint Lucia	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00141	Samoa	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00152	Sao Tome and Principe	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00065	Senegal	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00081	Serbia	1,804	1,804	1,804
1310-00143	Seychelles	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00117	Sierra Leone	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00066	Slovakia	6,925	6,925	6,925
1310-00067	Slovenia	5,023	5,023	5,023
1310-00068	South Africa	18,775	18,775	18,775
1310-00021	Spain	154,928	154,928	154,928
1310-00069	Sri Lanka	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00144	Sudan	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00070	Suriname	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00071	Sweden	51,887	51,887	51,887
1310-00083	Switzerland	55,105	55,105	55,105
1310-00107	Syrian Arab Republic	1,219	1,219	1,219
1310-00126	Tajikistan	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00108	Thailand	10,192	10,192	10,192
1310-00086	The FYR of Macedonia	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00088	Togo	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00073	Trinidad and Tobago	2,146	2,146	2,146
1310-00074	Tunisia	1,463	1,463	1,463
1310-00075	Turkey	30,088	30,088	30,088
1310-00158	Turkmenistan	1,268	1,268	1,268
1310-00076	Uganda	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00095	Ukraine	4,243	4,243	4,243
1310-00155	United Arab Emirates	19,067	19,067	19,067
1310-00077	United Kingdom	322,048	322,048	322,048
1310-00120	United Republic of Tanzania	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00078	Uruguay	1,317	1,317	1,317
1310-00129	Uzbekistan	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00079	Venezuela	15,312	15,312	15,312
1310-00080	Viet Nam	1,609	1,609	1,609
1310-00157	Yemen	1,000	1,000	1,000
1310-00082	Zambia	1,000	1,000	1,000
		3,778,744	3,778,744	3,778,744
Other contributions				
21371-0001	United States of America**	1,065,799	1,065,799	1,065,799
TOTALS		4,844,543	4,844,543	4,844,543

* Revised UN Scale will be applied, when released.

** As previously, 22% of total contributions from Parties

Annex III: Analysis of 2013-2015 budgeted non-Core expenditures

	None Core budget item	Three year funding requirement CHF
1. Junior Partnership/fundraising officer to support the Partnership coordinator and build the unit. Could be JPO or other.	B	390,000
2. 1 Regional Officer to support each of the 4 regional teams in the Secretariat, from 2014. Could be JPO.	C	1,174,000
3. Support to Regional Initiative Networks and Centres. Funding for the priority activities.	D	900,000
4. STRP programme of work for 2013-2015 (Strategy 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.9, 2.5, 3.1), including the Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS) project (but excluding the RSIS project in item 8 below)	E	1,905,000
5. Junior officer as webmaster/social media officer to strengthen the communications team	F	390,000
6. IT Officer to, <i>inter alia</i> , drive upgrades in the website and documentation management software, allow for InforMEA participation and support other database management and upgrades. Also to oversee electronic RSIS and Ramsar Sites Database overhaul project	G	390,000
7. Interpretation for Standing Committee sub group meetings	I	75,000
8. Investment in Electronic RSIS submission and RIS database processes and software	1	400,000
9. World Wetlands Day (currently funded by Danone) at the current level, i.e., preparation and dissemination of products such as leaflets and posters and other CEPA materials for customization and promotion of WWD (Strategy 4.1)	2	300,000
10. Emergency Ramsar Advisory Missions for Parties unable to self-fund their missions (Strategy 2.4, 2.6)	3	450,000
11. Delivery of one CEPA action planning workshop and other CEPA actions to support the Core-funded CEPA activities (Strategy 4.1)	4	300,000
12. CHF 1 million per annum of resourcing for the Small Grants Fund and CHF 400,000 in other grant funding in order to keep the three current grant programmes operational. (Support to many 2009-2015 Strategies, including 1.3 and 5.1)	5	4,200,000
13. Annual regional meetings (technical), with enhanced funding in the pre-COP year to fund delegates and meeting costs for COP preparatory regional meetings	6	1,050,000
14. Sponsorship to bring eligible delegates to COP12 in 2015 (Strategy 3.3, 4.2)	7	1,200,000
15. 2016-2021 visioning process and 2016-2021 Strategic Plan, with significant input from Contracting Parties and other relevant stakeholders for 2016-2021	8	250,000
	CHF	13,374,000