

“Wetlands: water, life, and culture”

**8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**

Valencia, Spain, 18-26 November 2002

Resolution VIII.27

Financial and budgetary matters

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;
3. NOTING WITH GRATITUDE the additional financial contributions made by many Contracting Parties through their Ramsar Administrative Authority 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 Ramsar Bureau, as shown in the information document Ramsar COP8 DOC. 12;
4. ACKNOWLEDGING ONCE MORE WITH APPRECIATION the effective financial and administrative services provided by IUCN – The World Conservation Union to the Ramsar Bureau; and
5. NOTING that Contracting Parties have been kept informed of the financial situation of the Convention secretariat through the financial audited reports for fiscal years 1999 and 2000 and the minutes of the Standing Committee meetings in 1999, 2000 and 2001, circulated to Contracting Parties in due time;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

6. NOTES WITH PLEASURE that since Ramsar COP7 in 1999 the Ramsar Bureau has managed the Convention’s funds prudently and efficiently, ending each year with a small budget surplus which has been reverted into the Reserve Fund established by Resolution VI.17;
7. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Contracting Parties that have served in the Subgroup on Finance of the Standing Committee during the past triennium, and in particular to Armenia, which acted as Chair of the Subgroup;
8. DECIDES that the Terms of Reference for the Financial Administration of the Convention contained in Annex 3 to Resolution 5.2 shall be applied *in toto* to the 2003-2005 triennium;
9. 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 therein;

10. APPROVES the budget for the 2003-2005 triennium as attached as Annex I to enable the implementation of the annual work plans of the Ramsar Bureau;
11. DECIDES that the contribution of each Contracting Party to this budget shall 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 for 2003 (Annex II) and yet to be approved for the years 2004 and 2005, except in the case of Contracting Parties which, in applying the UN scale, would make annual contributions to the Convention Budget of less than SFR 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 SFR 1,000 shall be allocated, when actual payments have been effected, to budget line 9 of the core budget (COP-related costs incurred by the Bureau). All other Contracting Parties will continue to be assessed in accordance with the UN scale of contributions as indicated in Annex II; and
12. CALLS UPON all Contracting Parties to pay their dues promptly by 1 January of each year, and URGES Contracting Parties in arrears to make a renewed effort to settle them.

Annex I

Core budget 2003-2005 (Swiss francs)

INCOME

The forecast income for 2003-2005 represents a 4% increase per year, based on the forecast income for 2002. The annual 4% increase is composed of 1.5% to cover inflation and 2.5% real growth (see actual figures at the bottom of the Expenditure chart in the next page).

	2002 (Forecast)	2003	2004	2005
1. Contributions from Parties	2,520,121	2,649,869	2,748,338	2,843,619
2. Voluntary contribution USA	696,960	732,284	760,256	787,322
3. Swiss income tax rebate	200,000	220,000	230,000	240,000
4. Interest	120,000	130,000	140,000	160,000
TOTAL INCOME	3,537,081	3,732,153	3,878,594	4,030,941
Budgeted expenditure		3,678,564	3,825,707	3,978,735
Difference*		53,589	52,887	52,206

* Items 1 and 2 of the income are calculated by applying the UN scale of assessments to the proposed expenditure (see next page), minus item 3 and 4 of the income. Nevertheless, in accord with Resolution VII.28, the minimum to be paid by a Party is one thousand Swiss francs per year. At the time of COP8, for 68 developing countries and countries with economies in transition, this is more than their percentage of contribution according to the UN scale. This creates the difference of income versus expenditure shown here. This additional amount, or portion thereof which is actually collected, shall be transferred to budget line 9 of the core budget (COP-related costs incurred by the Bureau), as per paragraph 11 of Resolution VIII.27.

Notes on income

1. Annual contributions from Contracting Parties (see Annex II with the list of contributions for 2003).
2. Voluntary contribution by the United States of America, equivalent to 22% of the total amount to be paid by Contracting Parties.
3. The Swiss Government, in addition to paying its annual dues, donates to the Ramsar core budget the income tax paid by the non-Swiss staff employed by the Ramsar Bureau.
4. Interest earned on deposits of cash not immediately needed for disbursement.

Annex I				
CORE BUDGET 2003-2005				
(Swiss francs)				
EXPENDITURES		2003	2004	2005
1	STAFF COSTS			
a)	Salaries and social charges	2,120,243	2,183,850	2,249,365
b)	Other employment benefits	194,536	198,427	202,395
c)	Staff hiring and departure costs	25,000	15,000	15,000
2	SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SERVICES			
a)	Ramsar Database	160,000	180,000	200,000
b)	STRP Support Service	110,000	110,000	110,000
3	SUPPORT TO REGIONAL INITIATIVES	82,386	86,150	89,596
4	TRAVEL ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS (International)	110,000	115,000	120,000
5	PURCHASE & MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT / OFFICE SUPPLIES (including depreciation)	20,000	23,000	25,000
6	ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES & OPERATING COSTS			
a)	IUCN Services	452,000	460,000	468,000
b)	Operating Costs	97,000	97,000	100,000
c)	Simultaneous interpretation at SC meetings		15,000	15,000
7	COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTING			
a)	Publications	145,000	150,000	150,000
b)	Newsletter			
8	SUBSIDIARY BODIES			
a)	Standing Committee delegate support	42,000	45,000	45,000
b)	STRP members' support	42,000	20,000	45,000
c)	Regional representatives' support			
9	COP related costs incurred by the Bureau	43,399	107,280	123,379
10	MISCELLANEOUS			
a)	Bad debt provision	20,000	20,000	20,000
b)	Exchange loss			
	TOTAL FORECAST EXPENDITURE	3,678,564	3,825,707	3,978,735
	FORECAST INCOME *	3,678,564	3,825,707	3,978,735

* Including interest & Swiss income tax rebate

4% increase based on the 2002 forecast income and composed of:				
	1.5% Inflation	53,056	55,178	57,386
	2.5% Growth	88,427	91,964	95,643
		141,483	147,143	153,028

Annual Contributions for the year 2003

(Note: For the fiscal years 2004 and 2005, see paragraph 11 of the Resolution.)

	2003	2003	2003
MEMBER STATE	UN	Ramsar	AnnCont
	%	%	CHF
Albania	0,00300	0,00302	1.000
Algeria	0,07000	0,07040	2.343
Argentina ¹	1,14900	1,15549	38.461
Armenia	0,00200	0,00201	1.000
Australia	1,62700	1,63619	54.462
Austria	0,94700	0,95235	31.700
Azerbaijan	0,00400	0,00402	1.000
Bahamas	0,01200	0,01207	1.000
Bahrain	0,01800	0,01810	1.000
Bangladesh	0,01000	0,01006	1.000
Belarus	0,01900	0,01911	1.000
Belgium	1,12900	1,13538	37.792
Belize	0,00100	0,00101	1.000
Benin	0,00200	0,00201	1.000
Bolivia	0,00800	0,00805	1.000
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0,00400	0,00402	1.000
Botswana	0,01000	0,01006	1.000
Brazil	2,39000	2,40350	80.002
Bulgaria	0,01300	0,01307	1.000
Burkina Faso	0,00200	0,00201	1.000
Burundi	0,00100	0,00101	1.000
Cambodia	0,00200	0,00201	1.000
Canada	2,55800	2,57245	85.625
Chad	0,00100	0,00101	1.000
Chile	0,21200	0,21320	7.096
China	1,53200	1,54065	51.282
Colombia	0,20100	0,20214	6.728
Comoros	0,00100	0,00101	1.000
Congo	0,00100	0,00101	1.000
Costa Rica	0,02000	0,02011	1.000
Cote d'Ivoire	0,00900	0,00905	1.000
Croatia	0,03900	0,03922	1.305
Cuba	0,03000	0,03017	1.004
Cyprus	0,03800	0,03821	1.272
Czech Republic	0,20300	0,20415	6.795
Dem.Rep. Congo	0,00400	0,00402	1.000

¹ Argentina requested that in applying the United Nations scale of assessment, its contribution for 2003 be adjusted by the rate proposed by the United Nations Committee on Contributions, unanimously adopted by all the Committee's members at its 62nd session. The Committee on Contributions recommended by consensus that, when assessing Argentina's contribution for 2003, the General Assembly should apply a rate of 0.969% instead of the rate of 1.149% originally foreseen.

Denmark	0,74900	0,75323	25.072
Dominican Republic	0,02300	0,02313	1.000
Ecuador	0,02500	0,02514	1.000
Egypt	0,08100	0,08146	2.711
El Salvador	0,01800	0,01810	1.000
Estonia	0,01000	0,01006	1.000
Finland	0,52200	0,52495	17.473
France	6,46600	6,50251	216.440
Gabon	0,01400	0,01408	1.000
Gambia	0,00100	0,00101	1.000
Georgia	0,00500	0,00503	1.000
Germany	9,76900	9,82417	327.004
Ghana	0,00500	0,00503	1.000
Greece	0,53900	0,54204	18.042
Guatemala	0,02700	0,02715	1.000
Guinea	0,00300	0,00302	1.000
Guinea-Bissau	0,00100	0,00101	1.000
Honduras	0,00500	0,00503	1.000
Hungary	0,12000	0,12068	4.017
Iceland	0,03300	0,03319	1.105
India	0,34100	0,34293	11.415
Indonesia	0,20000	0,20113	6.695
Iran, Islamic Rep.of	0,27200	0,27354	9.105
Ireland	0,29400	0,29566	9.841
Israel	0,41500	0,41734	13.892
Italy	5,06475	5,09335	169.535
Jamaica	0,00400	0,00402	1.000
Japan	19,51575	19,62596	653.263
Jordan	0,00800	0,00805	1.000
Kenya	0,00800	0,00805	1.000
Latvia	0,01000	0,01006	1.000
Lebanon	0,01200	0,01207	1.000
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0,06700	0,06738	2.243
Liechtenstein	0,00600	0,00603	1.000
Lithuania	0,01700	0,01710	1.000
Luxembourg	0,08000	0,08045	2.678
Madagascar	0,00300	0,00302	1.000
Malawi	0,00200	0,00201	1.000
Malaysia	0,23500	0,23633	7.866
Mali	0,00200	0,00201	1.000
Malta	0,01500	0,01508	1.000
Mauritania	0,00100	0,00101	1.000
Mauritius	0,01100	0,01106	1.000
Mexico	1,08600	1,09213	36.352
Monaco	0,00400	0,00402	1.000
Mongolia	0,00100	0,00101	1.000
Morocco	0,04400	0,04425	1.473
Namibia	0,00700	0,00704	1.000
Nepal	0,00400	0,00402	1.000
Netherlands	1,73800	1,74781	58.177
New Zealand	0,24100	0,24236	8.067
Nicaragua	0,00100	0,00101	1.000
Niger	0,00100	0,00101	1.000

Nigeria	0,06800	0,06838	2.276
Norway	0,64600	0,64965	21.624
Pakistan	0,06100	0,06134	2.042
Panama	0,01800	0,01810	1.000
Papua New Guinea	0,00600	0,00603	1.000
Paraguay	0,01600	0,01609	1.000
Peru	0,11800	0,11867	3.950
Philippines	0,10000	0,10056	3.347
Poland	0,37800	0,38013	12.653
Portugal	0,46200	0,46461	15.465
Republic of Korea	1,85100	1,86145	61.960
Republic of Moldova	0,00200	0,00201	1.000
Romania	0,05800	0,05833	1.941
Russian Federation	1,20000	1,20678	40.168
Saint Lucia	0,00100	0,00101	1.000
Senegal	0,00500	0,00503	1.000
Sierra Leone	0,00100	0,00101	1.000
Slovak Republic	0,04300	0,04324	1.439
Slovenia	0,08100	0,08146	2.711
South Africa	0,40800	0,41030	13.657
Spain	2,51875	2,53297	84.312
Sri Lanka	0,01600	0,01609	1.000
Suriname	0,00200	0,00201	1.000
Sweden	1,02675	1,03255	34.369
Switzerland	1,27400	1,28119	42.645
Syrian Arab Republic	0,08000	0,08045	2.678
Tajikistan	0,00100	0,00101	1.000
Thailand	0,29400	0,29566	9.841
The FYR of Macedonia	0,00600	0,00603	1.000
Togo	0,00100	0,00101	1.000
Trinidad & Tobago	0,01600	0,01609	1.000
Tunisia	0,03000	0,03017	1.004
Turkey	0,44000	0,44248	14.728
Uganda	0,00500	0,00503	1.000
Ukraine	0,05300	0,05330	1.774
United Kingdom	5,53600	5,56726	185.310
United Rep of Tanzania	0,00400	0,00402	1.000
USA ⁽¹⁾	0,00000	0,00000	
Uruguay	0,08000	0,08045	2.678
Uzbekistan	0,01100	0,01106	1.000
Venezuela	0,20800	0,20917	6.963
Viet Nam	0,01600	0,01609	1.000
Yugoslavia	0,02000	0,02011	1.000
Zambia	0,00200	0,00201	1.000
TOTALS	77,56200	78,00000	2.649.869
⁽¹⁾ Other Contributions	22,00000	22,00000	732.284
TOTAL	99,56200	100,00000	3.382.154