

Matters arising for the Standing Committee from COP11 Resolutions

Action requested. The Standing Committee is invited to note the list of tasks requested from the Committee by COP11 Resolutions for the 2013-2015 triennium, and to confirm that all such tasks are addressed under the agenda items of its 46th meeting.

Explanatory note

1. The tabulation provided below provides a list of the operative paragraphs of COP11 Resolutions in which the Standing Committee has been requested to undertake work.
2. The Secretariat has highlighted the main aspects of each task as emboldened text.
3. The table also identifies the SC46 agenda item under which each matter will be considered and notes any related SC46 documents.

Res No.	Topic	Tasks	SC46 agenda item and documents
XI.1	Secretariat hosting	<p>15. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to establish at its 46th meeting a mechanism of the Contracting Parties that will, taking into account the needs of the Contracting Parties and the Ramsar Secretariat, facilitate negotiations between the Ramsar Secretariat and the Director-General of IUCN, evaluate the work already achieved and seek ways of improving the current operations of the Secretariat and enhancing the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, and provide the Standing Committee with a report on these negotiations at its 47th meeting;</p> <p>17. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee through an appropriate Working Group representative of Parties to develop strategies that explore:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) accommodation of UN languages into the Convention;</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b) elevation of Ramsar visibility and stature, including <i>inter alia</i> enhancing high-level political engagement in the work of the Convention at national, regional and global level; the working group will among other possibilities look into establishing a ministerial segment at the COP including the topics to be addressed at this level;</p>	<p>Management Working Group;</p> <p>Agenda item 8;</p> <p>DOCs. SC46-07 & 46-08</p>

		<p>c) enhancement of synergies with MEAs and other international entities including through Regional Initiatives;</p> <p>d) increase involvement in UNEP's initiatives and programs regarding biodiversity-related MEAs to enhance cooperation and synergies between Ramsar and UNEP;</p> <p>and INVITES all Parties to participate in this group and its discussions including through electronic means where feasible;</p> <p>18. REQUESTS the Working Group to provide each Standing Committee meeting with a progress report including any implications such as financial ones and recommendations, and ALSO REQUESTS the Standing Committee to submit a report, including its recommendations, to the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.</p>	
XI.2	Budget	<p>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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>21. DECIDES that the Reserve Fund:</p> <p>a) provides for unforeseen and unavoidable</p>	<p>Subgroup on Finance;</p> <p>Agenda item 12;</p> <p>DOCs SC46-12 & 46-13</p>

		<p>expenditures;</p> <p>b) receives realized core budget surpluses (or deficits);</p> <p>c) should not be lower than 6% of the annual core budget of the Convention and not greater than 15%;</p> <p>d) should be administered by the Secretary General with the approval of the Subgroup on Finance as established by the Standing Committee;</p>	
XI.5	Regional Initiatives	<p>10. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to continue to assess annually, based on formal reports submitted on time, the extent to which the existing Regional Initiatives continue to meet the standards of the Operational Guidelines and actively contribute to the implementation of the Convention;</p> <p>11. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to revise the guidelines on Regional Initiatives in such a manner that a precise evaluation of their activities and their administrative and financial management and long-term sustainability is possible and to use these new guidelines to determine the level of support (financial or otherwise) in the coming triennium;</p> <p>12. AGREES to earmark financial support in the Convention core budget line “Support to Regional Initiatives”, as listed in Resolution XI.2 on financial and budgetary matters, to be allocated to existing Regional Initiatives for development activities during the period 2013-2015, provided that they are determined by the Standing Committee to fully meet the Operational Guidelines;</p> <p>13. DECIDES that the levels of financial support to individual Regional Initiatives for the years 2013, 2014, and 2015 through that budget line will be determined by the Standing Committee during its annual meetings, based upon updated financial and work plans to be submitted in the required format not later than two months prior to its annual meetings, and with the benefit of the specific recommendations made by the Subgroup on Finance;</p> <p>26. REQUESTS the CEPA Oversight Panel to work with the representatives of the Ramsar Regional Centres to identify and advise on the capacity building needs for RRC staff to optimize their performance, and REQUESTS the Standing Committee to assess the functioning of Ramsar Regional Centres in relation to the Operational Guidelines and the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015, requesting support from the CEPA Oversight Panel as required;</p> <p>27. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to prepare a summary report, based on its annual assessments,</p>	<p>Subgroup on Finance;</p> <p>Agenda item 11;</p> <p>DOC. SC46-11</p>

		<p>which reviews the operations and success of the Regional Initiatives operating during the period 2013-2015, for Contracting Parties' consideration at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.</p>	
XI.6	Cooperation	<p>31. REQUESTS the Contracting Parties, the Standing Committee, the Secretariat and the STRP to implement the actions set out in Annex 2 of this Resolution [concerning engagement with the IPBES].</p>	<p>Agenda item 4; DOC. SC46-03</p>
XI.16	Efficient delivery of scientific and technical advice	<p>23. FURTHER AGREES that the review will be undertaken by members of the Management Working Group and any other interested Contracting Parties and International Organization Partners since they have been key actors of the Convention since its beginning, with no conflict of interest and appointed by the Standing Committee, and that:</p> <p>i) the review committee should, through appropriate appointments, include expertise familiar of the development of the Ramsar Convention, the STRP, the responsibilities of Contracting Parties, and implementation on the ground, and also with knowledge of other international science platforms including not only IPBES but also other subsidiary scientific platforms and bodies. It should also include expertise and knowledge of the operational needs of Contracting Parties and in particular the needs of local wetland managers and policy makers;</p> <p>ii) the review committee should consult with all relevant entities and their representatives, including <i>inter alia</i> the STRP Chair and members, CEPA Oversight Panel, Secretariat staff, Contracting Party national focal points, Ramsar Site managers, other wetland managers, International Organization Partners, and representatives of other bodies associated with Ramsar, such as the biodiversity-related MEAs, who can offer advice and guidance;</p> <p>iii) the review committee should engage widely with Parties and should present a clear assessment of the present situation and recommendations that will be submitted to the Standing Committee for consideration during the 2013-2015 triennium. Recommendations will include suggestions for mechanisms within the Convention to implement any proposed changes, with assessment of their financial implications, and a Draft Resolution for COP12 consideration; and</p> <p>iv) the cost and duration of the review should be taken</p>	<p>Management Working Group; Agenda item 13; DOC. SC46-14</p>

		<p>into consideration, and the work of the review committee should be focused and should use cost-effective means of working so as to keep its activity within reasonable limits and minimize costs. The Chairs of the Standing Committee, its Subgroup on Finance, the Management Working Group and the STRP plus the Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee should review the STRP line items in the budget to direct their use as necessary towards implementing this Resolution; and</p> <p>24. REQUESTS the Secretariat to support the establishment of the review committee and its work, as needed and according to clear specifications to be provided by the Standing Committee.</p>	
XI.18	STRP <i>modus operandi</i>	<p>18. CONFIRMS that the Standing Committee will continue to have overall responsibility for the work of the STRP, that the Chair of the STRP will report to each Standing Committee meeting on the Panel's progress with its programme of work and priorities as established by the COP (Resolution XI.17) and Standing Committee, and that the STRP will report to Standing Committee on any adjustments to its programme it considers necessary and on any new tasks proposed during the intersessional period in relation to emerging issues;</p>	<p>Agenda item 16; DOC. SC46-16</p>