

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

24th Meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee
Gland, Switzerland: 29 November – 2 December 1999

DOC. SC24-17

Agenda item 10.2

Review of 1999 core and projects income and expenditure

Action requested: The Standing Committee is requested to receive the report of the Subgroup on Finance concerning:

- i) the core budget income and expenditure for the current fiscal year; and
- ii) implementation of projects managed by the Bureau.

i) Core budget income and expenditure for 1999

1. Attached are the charts showing core budget income and expenditure at 31 August 1999 and a forecast to 31 December 1999.
2. The forecast income to 31 December 1999 shows only a small deviation from the forecast income for the year approved by the Standing Committee at its 1998 annual meeting.
3. Concerning expenditures, there are some deviations from the forecast expenditures approved by the Standing Committee, as follows:
 - a) Staff costs: minor savings
 - b) Travel on official business: considerable savings due, to a large extent, to the fact that the preparations for COP7 forced staff to reduce travel and attendance at meetings.
 - c) Publications: considerable over-expenditure due to more translation costs and the production of promotional materials.
 - d) COP7 Conference costs: the Bureau expenditure concerning COP7 amounted to SFR 878,771, of which only SFR 815,429 were raised, creating a deficit of SFR 63,342 that should be absorbed now by the core budget.
4. Overall the forecast to 31 December 1999 indicates that the fiscal year should be closed, again, with a balanced budget.

RAMSAR CONVENTION BUREAU			
FORECAST OF CORE INCOME FOR 1999			
AT 31.08.99			
(in Swiss Francs)			
INCOME	1999 APPROVED BUDGET	1999 INCOME AT 31.08.99	FORECAST INCOME TO 31.12.99
1999 contributions	2,182,950	1,915,664	2,175,086
Voluntary contributions - USA	725,000	725,000	725,000
Swiss tax rebate (on non-Swiss employees)	150,000	-	135,000
Interest	110,000	56,500	105,725
Administration fee [1]			
Small Grants Fund	70,000	35,730	42,730
Wetlands for the Future	0	-	20,000
Swiss Grant	0	-	13,445
Project cross charges (staff time) [2]	5,000	16,000	16,000
TOTAL INCOME	3,242,950	2,748,894	3,232,986

Notes

[1] Ten per cent administration fee approved by the 10th Meeting of the Standing Committee (St Petersburg Beach, USA, 5-9 November 1991) and levied on all allocations from the Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use to cover staff time devoted to administering the Fund.

[2] Bureau staff paid out of the core budget working on projects which have earmarked funds (project administration).

Ramsar CORE BUDGET				
Expenditures at 31.08.1999 and Forecast to 31.12.1999				
EXPENDITURES		Approved* Budget Forecast	Actual Expenditures (to 31 August 1999)	Forecast Expenditures to 31.12.99
1	STAFF COSTS			
	a) Salaries and social charges	1,878,000	1,244,309	1,655,967
	b) Staff position funded from overheads on projects	85,000	40,648	86,032
	c) Staff Hiring/Departure costs	50,000	36,570	169,415
2	SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SERVICES			
	a) Ramsar Database	110,000	110,000	110,000
	b) Management Guidance Procedure	0	0	0
	c) Consultants	0	67,949	70,000
3	TRAVEL ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS (International)	110,000	34,954	60,000
4	PURCHASE & MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT/ OFFICE SUPPLIES (including depreciation)	30,000	134	35,000
5	ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES & OPERATING COSTS			
	a) IUCN Services	355,000	355,000	355,000
	b) Operating Costs	100,000	31,059	70,800
6	COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTING			
	a) Publications	130,000	191,054	230,000
	b) Newsletter	30,000	0	23,000
7	STANDING COMMITTEE & OTHER COMMITTEES			
	a) Standing Committee delegate support	38,500	0	38,500
	b) STRP members' support	38,500	20,000	20,000
	c) Regional representatives' support	20,000	0	20,000
	d) Standing Committee chair fund	0	0	0
8	CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES			
	a) Cost of the conference	100,000	100,000	163,342
	b) Conference delegate support	0	0	0
9	RAMSAR SMALL GRANTS FUND	100,000	0	100,000
10	RESERVE FUND	0	0	0
11	BAD DEBT PROVISION	60,000	0	60,000
12	EXCHANGE GAIN/LOSS & MISCELLANEOUS	2,000	927	15,000
TOTAL CORE BUDGET		3,237,000	2,232,604	3,282,056

ii. Status of projects managed by the Convention Bureau

5. The following charts present a summary report of the financial transactions during the period 1 January – 31 August 1999 related to some 25 projects managed by the Bureau. These are activities for which earmarked contributions have been received. Some of them are on going activities, such as the Ramsar Advisory Missions and the Small Grants Fund mechanisms; others are one-off activities, such as the publication of a book or the organization of a meeting.
6. The chart provides in the first column a brief explanation of the type of activity. Ramsar Bureau staff will be happy to provide detailed reports on the actions undertaken in the past, or being carried out, under each of the projects. The financial books are also available to provide details about income and expenditure.