

## Report of the Executive Team and the Chair of the Standing Committee

### Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to note the present report of the Executive Team and the Chair of the Standing Committee.

### Background

1. This report provides an overview of the work carried out by the Chair of the Standing Committee and the Executive Team following the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC61) which was held on 13 November 2022, following the conclusion of the 14th meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties (COP14).
2. The role and composition of the Executive Team is set out in Resolution XIII.4, paragraph 4, which notes that “the Standing Committee’s oversight of the Secretariat is conducted on its behalf between meetings of the Standing Committee by its Executive Team (Chair, Vice Chair, and Chair of the Subgroup on Finance) with the Secretary General”.
3. At SC61, following China’s election as Chair, Gabon was elected as Vice Chair. During the establishment of the Subgroup on Finance, the Standing Committee did not elect a chair and in Decision SC61-05, the Standing Committee agreed to defer consideration of the election of the Chair of the Subgroup until the Subgroup members could consult and submit recommendations to the Standing Committee for it to decide via electronic means.

### Work undertaken by the Chair of the Standing Committee

4. At SC61, China was elected as the new Chair of the Standing Committee to serve through to COP15. China presided over the 61st meeting following its election.
5. Following SC61, the Chair met virtually with the Secretary General of the Convention to discuss the vision and priorities for the new triennium and how the Chair can best support both the Secretariat and Contracting Parties.
6. During the period of this report, the Chair has provided the Secretary General with ongoing guidance on administrative matters including intersessional decisions to be taken by the Standing Committee and preparations for SC62.
7. The Chair facilitated the selection of a Chair for the Subgroup on Finance and supported the intersessional Standing Committee approval process.

8. The Chair of the Standing Committee conducted the probationary assessment of the Secretary General during the first three months of her being in the role in accordance with IUCN rules and procedures.

#### **Work undertaken by the Executive Team**

9. Given that a Chair for the Subgroup on Finance was not elected at SC61, the establishment of the Executive Team has been delayed. The Standing Committee in May 2023 decided via electronic means, as requested in Decision SC61-05, that the United States of America would serve as the Chair of the Subgroup on Finance. With this decision the Executive Team was established, comprised of China, Gabon and the United States of America.
10. A virtual meeting of the Executive Team was held on 24 May 2023 at which the Secretariat briefed the new Executive Team on their roles and responsibilities in accordance with the terms of reference considered by the Standing Committee in document SC57 Doc.12, and discussed preparations for SC62.
11. The Executive Team will meet virtually on 22 June and in person on 3 September, in advance of SC62, to discuss preparations and management of the meeting.