

## 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 for the period following the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC62) which was held from 4-8 September 2023 through 4 March 2024, the date of publication for SC64 documents.
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. The membership of the Executive Team is comprised of China as the Chair of the Standing Committee, Gabon as the Vice Chair of the Standing Committee and the United States of America as the Chair of the Subgroup on Finance. China as the Chair of the Standing Committee serves as the Chair of the Executive Team.

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

4. Following SC62, the Chair has held regular virtual meetings with the Secretary General of the Convention to discuss management of the Secretariat and the Secretary General’s vision and priorities for the triennium and how the Chair can best support both the Secretariat and Contracting Parties.
5. During the period of this report, the Chair has provided the Secretary General with ongoing guidance on technical and administrative matters.
6. The Chair of the Standing Committee conducted the annual performance assessment of the Secretary General in accordance with IUCN rules and procedures. The Chair conducts quarterly check-in calls with the Secretary General to remain apprised of administrative and management matters.

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

7. A virtual meeting of the Executive Team was held on 22 November 2023 at which the Secretariat briefed the Executive Team on the preparation of SC63, status of preparations for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15) and finalizing the host country agreement with the host of COP15, World Wetlands Day 2024 plans and the proposed process for the preparation, submissions and review of draft resolutions for COP15.
8. During this meeting the Executive Team agreed to convene a meeting of the Management Working Group for 15 January 2024 to update the Management Working Group on activities and progress with the Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA), the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), COP15 preparations and finalization of the guidance document for the recruitment of a new Secretary General.
9. The Executive Team has made itself available during the reporting period to provide ongoing guidance on administrative and governance matters as requested by the Secretariat.