

Report of the Executive Team and Chair of the Standing Committee

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to note the present report of the Executive Team and Chair, and the previous report published as document SC58 Doc.5.

Background

1. This report of the Executive Team and Chair provides an overview of the work which they have carried out since the publication of the previous report to the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC58), on 30 March 2020.¹
2. The previous report, document SC58 Doc.5, was not considered by the Standing Committee at its virtual meeting held on 23 and 25 June 2020. Therefore, the Standing Committee is invited to take note of document SC58 Doc.5.

Work undertaken by the Executive Team

3. The Executive Team provided guidance to the Secretariat in the preparation of the virtual SC58 meeting held on 23 and 25 June 2020. This included guidance on how to engage Standing Committee members in identifying time-critical issues that needed to be addressed during this meeting, as well as on how best to conduct a virtual meeting that facilitated full, equitable and transparent participation by Standing Committee members.
4. The Executive Team provided guidance following the virtual meeting in June, in rescheduling SC58 to October 2020 and then ultimately cancelling SC58 when it was determined that a face-to-face meeting could not take place. The Executive Team then provided further guidance on the consultative process for intersessional decisions as required by the Rules of Procedure.

Work undertaken by the Chair of the Standing Committee

5. During this period, the Chair presided over the meetings of the Executive Team, the virtual meeting of the Standing Committee, and meetings of the Management Working Group (10 June and 2 November), the latter focusing on the work of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel. The Chair provided guidance to the Secretariat with regard to the organization of meetings of the Executive Team and of the virtual session and consultation processes of the Standing

¹ See document SC58 Doc.5 *Report of the Executive Team and Chair of the Standing Committee*, at: <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc58-doc5-report-of-the-executive-team-and-chair-of-the-standing-committee>

Committee. The Chair also engaged in preparations for the Consultative Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (“Bern II”) held in December 2020, in which representatives of Contracting Parties participated on behalf of the Convention on Wetlands.

6. The Chair of the Standing Committee also advised the Secretary General on administrative matters on her request, and conducted the annual assessment of the Secretary General in accordance with IUCN rules and procedures.