

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Fiftieth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 March 2004

Strategic and administrative matters

Financial and administrative matters

BUDGET FOR 2006-2008

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The draft budget proposed for the triennium 2006-2008 is annexed to this document. Its presentation follows the approach taken by some other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention to Combat Desertification), namely to show estimated resources needed for the implementation of specific services. This presentation shows all of the allocations associated with each category of service, including those for staff and travel costs as well as general operating expenses.
3. Requirements for the triennium 2006-2008 by category of service are presented in Annex 1. The budget shows a breakdown for the following: capacity building; cross-cutting support programmes; documentation and meetings; executive direction and management; implementation assistance; legislation, enforcement and compliance; outreach; scientific support; and resources required for office rent and utility charges. Within each category of service the Secretariat has specified activities and resources required for their implementation. It should be noted that all Secretariat staff are contributing to services other than those associated with their functional units. Annex 2 provides the description of categories of service and indicates resource requirements for each. It also provides a comparison between the 2003 budget and the proposed budget for the period 2006-2008. Annex 3 shows the Secretariat's organizational structure and staffing resources.
4. Total programme resources required for the triennium 2006-2008, including programme support costs, are estimated at USD 15,240,841 giving an annual average figure of USD 5,080,280 as compared to the annual average budget of USD 4,727,000 for the period 2003-2005. The budget remains quite modest despite the Convention's global scope and volume of work.
5. The proposed budget for the triennium 2006-2008 represents a 7.5 per cent increase over the amount budgeted for the period 2003-2005. It should be stressed that the proposed budget does not reflect any expansion in staff or programme. Rather, it aims to reconcile the previously estimated costs of operation with the actual costs. The increase is required because of the following factors:
 - a) The increased operational costs of the Secretariat represent 6.7 per cent out of the 7.5 per cent increase sought. Staff costs for 2003-2005 were estimated based on the actual expenditures incurred in 2000-2002. However, this meant losing a margin of

flexibility to buffer the impact of inflation and fluctuations of exchange rates, both of which are incorporated in the UN standard staff costs. Actual staff expenditures now match the UN standard staff costs. With better programmatic and financial management of the Convention, 98.5 per cent of the funds budgeted for the costs of the Secretariat and of meetings were spent in 2003 and the CITES Trust Fund balance is kept at a relatively low level. The proposed budget is designed to address recurrent staff costs for the Secretariat structure that has been approved by the Parties;

- b) The increased requirements, resulting from a rise in cost of services for organizing meetings of the Standing Committee, technical committees and activities implemented by external service providers such as UNEP-WCMC, represent 0.8 per cent out of the 7.5 per cent increase sought;
6. At its 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002) the Conference of the Parties made no provision for rent of office space occupied by the Secretariat and utility charges in its budget for the triennium 2003-2005. The Secretariat has been requested by the Government of the Swiss Confederation, as the country that hosts the Secretariat, to include a provision for office rent in its budget estimates for 2006-2008. It is projected that an additional amount of USD 452,000 will be required in the triennium 2006-2008 if Parties decide to finance the Secretariat's office rent and utility charges from the CITES Trust Fund. This amount represents an additional 3.2 per cent increase over the amount budgeted for the period 2003-2005 (see paragraph 4 above).
 7. The Secretariat seeks the endorsement of the Standing Committee for the submission of the proposed budget for 2006-2008 at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.