

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



Seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 3 - 8 February 2025

Report Finance and Budget Subcommittee (FBSC)

1. The Finance and Budget Subcommittee (FBSC) of the Standing Committee met four (4) times during the period 3 – 8 February 2025. The present report contains the recommendations of the Subcommittee for consideration of the Standing Committee.
2. Representatives from the below regions were present at the meetings as follows:
 - a) Africa: Kenya and Tanzania
 - b) Asia: Japan
 - c) Central and South America and the Caribbean: Brazil
 - d) Europe: European Union
 - e) North America: United States of America
 - f) Oceania: New Zealand
 - g) Depositary Government: Switzerland
3. Ms. Sarah Bagnall (Oceania – New Zealand), acting as chair of the FBSC during the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee.
4. The Secretary-General of CITES and the Administrative and Fund Management Officer and representative from UNEP were assisting the meetings of the FBSC.

Recommendations:

Agenda item 7: Financial matters

5. The FBSC recommends that the Standing Committee:
 - a) Approve the reports on the costed programme of work for the full year of 2023 and for the period up to 30 September 2024;
 - b) Approve the request to transfer the amount of USD 40,500 budgeted for year 2024 (under Standing Committee – conference staff-interpretation) to year 2025 to cover the actual 78th meeting of the Standing Committee meeting in February 2025; and
 - c) Take note of other information provided in the report.

Agenda item 8: Report on proposed budget scenarios for 2026-2028

6. The FBSC recommends that the Standing Committee:

- a) Request the Secretariat to brief the FBSC virtually by end of March 2025 on the draft budget scenarios and opportunities for cost savings (e.g. streamlining agenda items, document volume and translated pages) and revenue and, if the FBSC requests, again when reports for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties have been finalised;
- b) Request the Secretariat to prepare a budget scenario for true Zero Nominal Growth, in which any increases in salary costs would be offset by decreases in the budget elsewhere, resulting in a flat budget;
- c) Note that the FBSC has advised the Secretariat on desired information to facilitate the discussion on the budget scenarios at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- d) Encourage Parties to consider the number of decisions and their associated costs when submitting or referring decisions to the Conference of the Parties taking into account the impact on the limited resources of the Secretariat.

Agenda item 9.1: Administrative matters – report of the Secretariat

7. The FBSC recommends that the Standing Committee take note of the report.

Agenda item 9.2: Administrative matters – report of the UNEP

8. The FBSC recommends that the Standing Committee take note of the report and request UNEP to make available the UNEP Partnership Policy to Parties.

Agenda item 13: Arrangements for meetings of the Conference of the Parties

9. The FBSC was unable to make a decision on recommendation 17 b). Therefore, the FBSC recommends that the Standing Committee:

- a) Note the Secretariat's request to include a new budget line for arrangements of meetings of the Conference of the Parties in the operational budget under the CITES Core Trust Fund (CTL) for the triennium 2026-2028; and
- b) Invite the Secretariat to refer this request to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.