

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

Forty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 12-15 March 2002

Strategic and administrative matters

Financial and administrative matters

Report of the Finance Subcommittee

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2001

1. This report has been prepared by the Secretariat pending the closure of the official UNEP accounts for 2001.
2. The Annex to this report reflects the provisional expenditures in 2001. All figures are shown in Swiss francs. The conversion rate used to calculate the expenditures in Swiss francs from the CITES accounts maintained in US dollars is USD 1.00=CHF 1.69. This is the average of the UN operational rates for the year 2001.
3. The total expenditures in 2001 amounted to CHF 7.50 million, which is 98.8 per cent of the budget of CHF 7.59 million approved by the Conference of the Parties. This level of expenditure is the highest in the history of the Convention and was made possible by careful planning and budgeting and timely transfers under the procedure referred to in paragraph 4. The Chairman of the Standing Committee has agreed that the Secretariat may utilize the unspent funds to cover the cost of the activities that were rescheduled for 2002. This involves convening a meeting of the Working Group on the implementation of the Strategic and Action Plans to establish priority among those activities, and the completion of a comprehensive survey of sturgeon stocks in the Caspian and Black Seas. Any unspent balance for 2001 will contribute to reducing the risk of a shortage of funds in the next triennium. The overview of flow and use of the resources is presented in document SC46 Doc. 9.1.3 (Rev. 1) Annex 5.
4. Following the procedure agreed on at the 45th meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat consulted with the Chairman and sought his approval to transfer savings resulting from the Personnel Component and the Prior Years Adjustments to high-priority activities such as training, capacity building and regional assistance. A new line 'Sturgeon verification missions' (line 3301a) was established to facilitate the sturgeon verification missions to the Caspian littoral countries.
5. The expenditures exceeded the approved 2001 budget under some budget lines: Translation of documents (line 1201), General consultancy (line 1202), Technical assistance (line 1203), Travel of staff to CoP and SC (line 1602), Significant trade – animals (line 2103), Significant trade-plants (line 2104), Seminars (line 3201), Training courses (line 3202), Animals Committee (line 3303), Maintenance costs of the office (line 4301), Maintenance of photocopiers (line 5102), CoP-related documents (line 5201), Permits on security paper (line 5203), Other publications (line 5204), Communications (line 5301), Logistic for regional seminars (line 5303) and Hospitality (line 5401).
6. In all cases the increased cost was accommodated through the adjustments of the budget lines under the procedure referred to in paragraph 4.

7. This report is submitted to the Standing Committee for its information.