

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

ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES IN 2002

1. This report has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The Annex to this document presents the anticipated expenditures for the year 2002, which reflects the actual requirements of the Secretariat.
3. It is expected that the budgetary provisions approved by the Conference of the Parties at its 11th meeting for the majority of items should be adequate to cover the actual costs. There are however a number of insufficiently funded budget lines, which relate to the servicing of the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP12). The cost was calculated in Swiss francs using the indicative exchange rate of USD 1.00 to CHF 1.50 while the average UN exchange rate for 2001 stood at USD 1.00 to CHF 1.69.
4. The Secretariat proposes to transfer anticipated savings from the staff salaries, sub-contracts, office maintenance and printing to lines directly related to the servicing of CoP12 such as salaries and travel of temporary Conference staff (line 1321), Secretariat's staff travel (line 1602), reproduction of pre-session and in-session documents (line 5201) and logistics (line 5302). In addition a minor adjustment is required to cover the projected costs for the communications (line 5301) and maintenance of photocopiers (line 5102) in 2002. These funds can be made available through the transfers from the following lines: 4101 (Office supplies), 4201 (Non-expendable equipment), 5101 (Maintenance of computers) and 5304 (Bank charges).
5. The Standing Committee agreed at its 45th meeting that some flexibility should be provided to the Secretary-General in managing the current's year budget. This should provide the possibility of re-allocating funds between budget lines, when required, without obviously significantly affecting any high-priority items. The total budget approved by the Parties for the financial period may not be exceeded.
6. Following the Standing Committee's instruction, the Secretariat has prepared the draft of a revision to the relevant text in Resolution Conf. 11.2 to propose the above decision for adoption at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The existing text of paragraph 11 of the Terms of Reference for the administration of the CITES Trust Fund annexed to Resolution Conf. 11.2 read as follows:

Upon the request of the Secretary-General of the Convention, after seeking the advice of the Standing Committee, the Executive Director of UNEP should, to the extent consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, make transfers from one object of expenditure to another. At the end of any calendar year of a financial period, the Executive Director of UNEP may proceed to transfer any uncommitted balance of appropriations to the

following calendar year, provided that the total budget approved by the Parties for that financial period shall not be exceeded unless this is specifically sanctioned in writing by the Standing Committee.

The draft revision of the paragraph is presented below:

The Secretary-General of the Convention is authorized, to the extent consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to make transfers from one budget line to another up to a maximum of 20 per cent over and above the annual amount foreseen in the budget under any budget sub-component (e.g. 11, 12, 13, etc.) provided that such action does not significantly affect any high-priority items. Any budget adjustments on a specific budget sub-component over and above the 20 per cent flexibility mentioned above can only be authorized after seeking the advice of the Standing Committee.

7. The Secretariat requests the Standing Committee to approve the proposed modifications to the Secretariat's budget and the revision to the text of Resolution Conf. 11.2, paragraph 11, for inclusion in the revised resolution to be considered at CoP12.