

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

Forty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 22-25 April 2003

Strategic and administrative matters

Financial and administrative matters

BUDGET CYCLE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 46th meeting (Geneva, March 2002) the Standing Committee agreed to propose that future budgets always cover a three-year period and that the medium-term budgets, such as the one presented in Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 11.2 should no longer be prepared.
3. The Conference of the Parties did not approve the above-mentioned proposal at its 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002) and referred the issue of a three-year budget cycle to the Standing Committee to be addressed intersessionally.
4. The proposed change in the budget cycle would have implications for the timing of meetings of the Conference of the Parties that would be held every third year (in fact, in the middle year of each triennium) rather than every two-and-a-half years. Moving to a three-year cycle for meetings of the Conference of the Parties would generate savings on the Trust Fund budget that finances these meetings. In addition this new time-frame would facilitate the seeking of the external funding required to support developing countries' participation at these meetings.
5. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee maintain its earlier proposal regarding the change of the two- and three-year budget periods to a three-year period with the discontinuation of the medium-term budgets and approve the new time-frame for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties.