

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

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES FOR 2004

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. Annex 1 to this document presents the anticipated expenditures for the year 2004, which reflect the anticipated requirements of the Secretariat.
3. It is expected that the budgetary provision approved by the Conference of the Parties at its 12th meeting should be adequate to cover the anticipated costs for the majority of items. However there are insufficiently funded budget lines, which relate to the salaries of the staff in the professional and general service categories. The UN staff costs for the Geneva duty station have been raised and therefore are higher than the projected staff costs used in the preparation of the Secretariat's budget for 2004.
4. It is estimated that an additional amount of USD 210,000 will be required to cover the projected costs of the Secretariat's staff in 2004. Taking into account that the Secretariat is unable to identify savings of the same amount under other budget lines and that the Secretariat's budget does not provide for contingencies, the Secretariat requests the Standing Committee to allocate an additional amount of USD 191,000 to offset any potential over-expenditure as a result of changes in the staff costs. The Secretariat proposes to draw down these additional funds from the CITES Trust Fund balance. It is projected that at the end of 2003 the Trust Fund balance will be USD 1.41 million and it will not be reduced below USD 700,000 at the start of either the year 2004 or the year 2005, as required in Resolution Conf. 12.1. An overview of the projected income to and expenditures from the Trust Fund in the triennium 2003-2005 is provided in Annex 2.
5. The Secretariat requests the Standing Committee to approve the proposed transfers between budget lines and the increase of USD 215,830, which includes the corresponding provision for programme support costs, in the Secretariat's budget for 2004.