

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

Fiftieth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 March 2004

Reports

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2003

1. This document is submitted to the Standing Committee for information.
2. This report has been prepared by the Secretariat pending the closure of the official UNEP accounts for 2003. The report provides information on the provisional expenditures in 2003 (Annex 1), and paid and unpaid contributions (Annexes 2, 3 and 4). It also provides the certified accounts of the CITES Trust Fund for 2002 (Annex 5).

Provisional expenditures in 2003

3. Annex 1 to this report indicates the provisional expenditures in 2003. The total expenditures in 2003 amounted to USD 4.32 million, which is 98.5 per cent of the budget of USD 4.38 million approved by the Conference of the Parties.
4. The expenditures exceeded the approved 2003 budget under some budget lines as detailed in Annex 1. The higher-than-projected expenditures relating to the salaries of staff in the professional and general service categories are attributable to the changes in the UN staff costs for the Geneva duty station during the year 2003, which represent an increase compared to the projected figures used in the preparation of the Secretariat's budget for the current triennium. Nevertheless the increased cost has been offset to a certain extent by savings made under the temporarily vacant posts, and by savings resulting from the cancellation of certain obligations from prior years.

Paid and unpaid contributions to the CITES Trust Fund

5. The status of contributions to the CITES Trust Fund is reported in Annex 2. By 31 December 2003 only 85 Parties had paid their contributions for 2003 and all previous years. The remaining 79 Parties, i.e. 48 per cent of the CITES Parties, had fallen into arrears with their contributions for the years 1992-2003.
6. The actual contributions received in 2003 are shown in Annex 3. The figures reflect the cumulative total received by the end of each month. The contributions received for the current year and prior and future years are indicated separately.
7. Annex 4 provides information on the outstanding contributions to the CITES Trust Fund. The total unpaid contributions for 2003 and prior years as of 31 December 2003 stood at USD 847,567.

Certified accounts

8. The certified accounts of the Trust Fund of the Convention for 2002 are attached as Annex 5. The accounts have been certified as correct and in accordance with the accounting policies and financial regulations and rules of the United Nations. The certified accounts for the CITES Trust Fund are included as an integral part of the certified accounts of UNEP for the year 2002.