

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

Fifty-third meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 June-1 July 2005

Finance Subcommittee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Strategic and administrative matters**

11. Financial matters

11.1 Report for 2004..... SC53 Doc. 11.1

The Secretariat introduced document SC53 Doc. 11.1. The Subcommittee noted the report.

11.2 Estimated expenditures for 2005..... SC53 Doc. 11.2

The Secretariat introduced document SC53 Doc. 11.2. The Subcommittee recommended that the Standing Committee agree to the transfer between budget lines and to use savings made under the post of Deputy Secretary-General to offset potential over-expenditures.

11.3 Cost-saving measures and staff-time allocations for the triennium 2006-2008 SC53 Doc. 11.3

The Secretariat introduced document SC53 Doc. 11.3. The Subcommittee noted the cost-saving measures approved at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP13, Bangkok, 2004) that had to be implemented in the triennium 2006-2008 in order to maintain the programme expenditures within the financial resources approved by the Parties.

11.4 Budget containment strategies ..... SC53 Doc. 11.4

The Secretariat introduced document SC53 Doc. 11.4. The Subcommittee recommended or noted the following:

a) Collection of arrears

The Standing Committee should discuss the following proposal by the representative of Oceania (Australia):

- i) *The Standing Committee requests that its regional representatives strengthen their efforts to consult with Parties currently in arrears, requesting payment of those arrears and, if appropriate, commitment to a payment plan.*
- ii) *Parties in arrears at the end of 2005 and which have not submitted a payment plan will be considered non-compliant.*
- iii) *The Standing Committee shall consider appropriate action concerning non-compliant Parties at its 54th meeting.*

b) Consideration of official bids from Governments for relocation of the Secretariat to a lower-cost location

The Subcommittee was of the opinion that the Standing Committee had no mandate to invite official bids for relocation of the Secretariat. However interested Parties could submit offers to host the Secretariat for consideration at CoP14 in accordance with terms of reference to be developed by Canada and to be agreed by the Standing Committee.

c) Negotiations of reduction in the 13 per cent Programme Support Costs

The Chairman informed the Subcommittee that he would hold talks with the UNEP representative and would keep the Standing Committee informed of the results thereof.

11.5 Shifting the financial burden to the trade ..... SC53 Doc. 11.5

The observer from Israel introduced document SC53 Doc.11.5. The Subcommittee recommended that any potential work on new funding mechanisms be undertaken by the Strategic Plan Working Group of the Standing Committee and should take into account document CoP13 Doc. 14 which dealt with the financing of the conservation of and sustainable international trade in species of wild fauna and flora.

### **Interpretation and implementation of the Convention**

20. African elephant

20.3 Short-term funding of MIKE ..... SC53 Doc. 20.3

The Secretariat introduced document SC53 Doc. 20.3. The Subcommittee could not reach a consensus on the proposal outlined in this document and therefore did not make any recommendation.