

Agenda item 8

Towards a new budget framework for COP10

Action requested: The Subgroup on Finance is invited to consider the suggested method for presenting the Core Budget and provide its advice to the Standing Committee on this matter.

1. During discussions in September 2006 between the Standing Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, the Chair of the Subgroup on Finance, and the Secretariat, the issue of the form of the framework and presentation of the Convention's Core Budget was discussed.
2. One option that was considered in those discussions was to reorganize the main budget line headings in such a way as to group all forms of expenditure (staff salaries and social costs, travel costs, service costs, etc.) under a series of major headings for each of the thematic work areas under which the Convention and its Secretariat operates. It was felt that this might allow Parties to see more clearly what implementation purposes the various budget line amounts in the Core Budget are applied to.
3. The attached table has been prepared by the Secretariat to provide the Standing Committee with an initial suggestion of how such a reorganized budget **might** be presented. To provide the example, the attached table uses the budget expenditures from the COP9-approved core budget for 2007.
4. It must be stressed that this table is provided for illustrative purposes only. The overall budget figure and allocations in this illustration are unchanged from those approved by COP9; rather each of the budget lines in the COP9-approved format has been reallocated to one or more of the thematic work areas used for the illustration, solely in order to suggest what an eventual COP10 budget proposal might look like if Standing Committee should find this approach to be promising.

Illustration of Core Budget organized by thematic work areas

2007 EXPENDITURES – by Thematic Work Areas	Sub-totals (CHF)	Thematic totals (CHF)
A. SECRETARIAT SENIOR MANAGEMENT		525,729
i. Salaries & social costs (SG/DSG)	488,729	
ii. Travel on Official Business (International)	37,000	
B. REGIONAL ADVICE & SUPPORT		1,296,928
i. Salaries & social costs (SRAs, Oceania officer, Assistants, DSG-RA)	1,223,928	
ii. Travel on Official Business (International)	73,000	
C. SUPPORT TO REGIONAL INITIATIVES		202,382
i. Regional networks (cooperation)	102,382	
ii. Regional centers (training & capacity-building)	100,000	
D. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SERVICES		263,310
i. STRP (implementation/meeting & staff costs)	203,310	
ii. Ramsar Sites Information Service	160,000	
E. CEPA - COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION & PUBLIC AWARENESS		464,446
i. Salaries & social costs	322,196	
ii. Communications & Reporting implementation	142,250	
F. ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT		703,633
i. Administration (salaries & social costs + IUCN services)	485,875	
ii. Human Resources (salaries & social costs + IUCN services)	93,913	
iii. Other employment benefits	98,470	
iv. Staff hiring and departure costs	25,375	
G. FINANCE MANAGEMENT		433,328
i. Salaries & social costs	178,048	
ii. Finance Services - IUCN	255,280	
H. OPERATING COSTS		194,789
i. Information Technology (IT) services - IUCN	66,489	
ii. Operating Costs	91,500	
iii. Travel on Official Business (contingency)	11,800	
iv. Purchase & Maintenance of Equipment/Office Supplies (including depreciation)	25,000	
I. STANDING COMMITTEE SERVICES		71,735
i. Standing Committee delegates' support	46,360	
ii. Simultaneous interpretation at SC meetings	25,375	
J. MISCELLANEOUS		50,000
i. Bad debt provision	50,000	
ii. Exchange loss		
COP related costs incurred by the Secretariat		
TOTAL FORECAST EXPENDITURE	4,206,277	4,206,277