

ZERO CONTRIBUTION GROWTH OPTION

1. At its 50th meeting (Geneva, March 2004), the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare, for the information of the Parties, a budget that would reflect a zero growth in the Parties' contributions in the triennium 2006-2008.
2. This would require a reduction of USD 1,458,279 of the proposed 2006-2008 Trust Fund budget. However, out of this amount, USD 271,200 is required to cover office maintenance costs. The absence of any provision for such costs was discussed by the Standing Committee at its 50th meeting and it was agreed that a provision should be made. Therefore the Secretariat has excluded from the zero growth option the provision of USD 271,200 for the office maintenance costs, which implies a 1.9 per cent increase in Parties' contributions.
3. A remaining budget reduction of USD 1,187,079 could be achieved by implementing a combination of the options presented in the table below. The presented options reflect the recommendations of the Standing Committee which stressed the importance of maintaining capacity building, enforcement and legislation, and scientific support programmes at their current levels and made suggestions with regard to areas where savings could be made, which include the organization of meetings of the permanent committees and the preparation and distribution of official documents and publications.

Options		Expected savings in the triennium 2006-2008	Reduction in the required increase of contributions
1	Reduce administrative costs by eliminating a budgetary provision for external consultants	USD 118,650	0.84%
2	Reduce costs for publications by providing them electronically only (newsletter) and reduce Trust Fund contributions to others (Checklist, ID Manual)	USD 203,400	1.43%
3 or	Convene all meetings of the Standing Committee in non-CoP years only	USD 84,750	0.60%
4 or	Convene meetings of the Standing Committee every year and hold them in a single language only	USD 111,870	0.79%
5	Convene all meetings of the Standing Committee in non-CoP years and hold them in a single language only (this option incorporates also the savings in option 3 and 4 above)	USD 159,330	1.12%
6 or	Convene meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees each year in Geneva only	USD 117,520	0.83%
7 or	Convene all meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees in non-CoP years and in Geneva only (this option incorporates also the savings in option 6 above)	USD 291,450	2.06% including the reduction of 0.83% proposed in option 6 above
8 or	Convene all meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees in Geneva in non-CoP years and hold them in a single language (this option incorporates also the savings in options 6 and 7 above)	USD 449,740	3.17% including the reduction of 2.06% proposed in option 7 above

Options		Expected savings in the triennium 2006-2008	Reduction in the required increase of contributions
9	Merge the Animals and Plants Committees and convene a five-day meeting in non-CoP years and in Geneva only	USD 465,560	3.28%
10	Abolish the payment of travel and accommodation to the representatives of all CITES Committees	USD 336,740	2.37%
11	Convene meetings of the Conference of the Parties in Geneva only unless any candidate host country pays the difference in costs between their proposed venue and Geneva	USD 138,000	0.97%
12	Reduce administrative costs by not filling the vacant GS post during the triennium 2006-2008	USD 190,000	1.34%

4. Options 3, 4 and 5 are exclusive of one another, and so are options 6, 7, 8 and 9.