

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

Fifty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Bangkok (Thailand), 1 October 2004

Strategic and administrative matters

Financial and administrative matters

PARTIES WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS ARE IN ARREARS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 50th meeting (SC50, Geneva, March 2004) the Standing Committee decided that the Secretary-General should, in consultation with the Parties concerned, prepare a plan for the Parties whose contributions to the Trust Fund were significantly in arrears. The Secretariat therefore invited all Parties not having paid their contributions for all or part of the years 1992-2003 to propose a plan to provide for the payment of contributions in arrears within a limited period. The Secretariat requested Parties to submit such a plan by 31 May 2004. The correspondence on this issue was sent to the relevant permanent missions in Geneva. In addition, the Secretary-General met with the Ambassadors of the 25 Parties with the highest level of arrears and requested them to assist in having them settled, if necessary on the basis of a payment plan. This initiative was welcomed by all permanent representatives visited and all responded positively.
3. In addition a number of countries responded in writing positively and either settled their unpaid contributions for 2003 and prior years in full (the Central African Republic, the Dominican Republic, Kazakhstan, Malawi, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Lucia and Tunisia) or made partial payments [Belarus, Brazil, Iran (Islamic Republic of)]. Four Parties [Côte d'Ivoire, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Peru and the Syrian Arab Republic] informed the Secretariat that they would settle their contributions in arrears by the end of the current triennium. Venezuela pledged to pay its unpaid contributions in full and soon but did not indicate the date for doing this. However there was no response received from the remaining Parties.
4. The Annex to this document provides the information on outstanding contributions to the CITES Trust Fund for the years 1992-2003 at the time of SC50 and as of 15 September 2004. The total unpaid contributions amount to USD 645,502. Fifty-five CITES Parties remain in arrears with their contributions. The effect of the efforts since SC50 was that Parties' arrears were reduced by USD 129,019. Of the total amount outstanding for the years 1992-2003, 70 per cent is attributable to five Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ukraine and Venezuela.
5. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee urge all Parties whose contributions are in arrears to pay them before the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to submit a payment plan for this purpose to the Secretariat before 31 December 2004. Payment plans are not only a tool for reducing the amounts due but also provide a means to demonstrate commitment to meeting Parties financial obligations under the Convention. The Secretariat will prepare a report on the status of the submission and implementation of payment plans for consideration at meetings of the Standing Committee and of the Conference of the Parties. The Conference of the Parties might consider possible compliance measures to ensure timely and

full payment of the contributions to the CITES Trust Fund once the “Guidelines on compliance with the Convention” are adopted.