

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



Fifty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6-10 July 2009

Administrative matters

Financial matters

REPORT FOR 2008

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

It provides information on the actual expenditures of the Secretariat in 2008 (Annex 1), along with the status of contributions from the Parties (Annexes 2, 3 and 4). It also provides an overview of the availability of the CITES Trust Fund resources and their use in 2008 (Annex 5).

Actual expenditures in 2008

2. Annex 1 to this document shows the actual expenditures in 2008 by category of service, which amounted to USD 4.96 million. Each of these categories includes staff and travel costs as well as general operating expenses. The total expenditure amounted to 97.23 % of the modified budget of USD 5.10 million, which was approved by the Standing Committee at its 57th meeting.
3. The budgetary provision was adequate to cover the projected costs for the majority of items. Higher-than-projected expenditures in the staff costs and the travel of interpreters and members of the technical committees were attributable to the depreciation of the US dollar and the high costs of airfares.
4. The increased cost was offset by savings made under operating budget lines, specifically on office supplies, communications, maintenance of office equipment and hospitality. It should be noted that the cost of IT services has been charged to the UNEP 13 % programme support costs.

Paid and unpaid contributions to the CITES Trust Fund

5. The status of contributions to the CITES Trust Fund is reported in Annex 2. The Secretariat continues to send out reminders twice a year to Parties in arrears, with copies to their permanent missions in Geneva. On 31 December 2008, 41 Parties were in arrears with their contributions for the years 1992-2007.
6. The contributions received in 2008, which total USD 4,511,596, correspond to 95.09 % of receipt and are shown in Annex 3. It also shows the cumulative total received by the end of each month. The contributions received for the current, prior and future years are indicated separately.
7. Annex 4 provides information on the outstanding contributions to the CITES Trust Fund. At the end of 2008, the total unpaid contributions for 2008 and prior years amounted to USD 476,908, of which USD 189,066 was due for the year 2008. This is lower than the unpaid contributions for the year 2007 when the total amounted to USD 290,608, which shows that some Parties with contributions in arrears have fulfilled their pledges and have made payments.

Availability and use of resources

8. Annex 5 presents an overview of the flow and use of the CITES Trust Fund for 2008. The balance of the CITES Trust Fund as of 31 December 2008 stood at USD 2,125,096, of which USD 700,000 represents the operating cash reserve to guarantee the liquidity of the Trust Fund.