

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



Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

Administrative matters

Financing and budgeting of the Secretariat and of meetings of the Conference of the Parties

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE YEARS 2007 AND 2008

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat and is submitted to the Conference of the Parties for information. It reports on the financial performance of the Secretariat since the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14, The Hague, 2007) and provides an overview of resources and their use for the years 2007-2008.
2. The expenditures for the years 2007 and 2008 are presented by category of service, the format which was approved by the Conference of the Parties at its 13th meeting (Bangkok, 2004). Annex 1 to this document shows the actual expenditure for 2007 which amounted to USD 5.08 million. This is 97.65 % of the modified budget of USD 5.29 million, which was approved at CoP14. Annex 2 shows the actual expenditure for 2008 in the total amount of USD 4.96 million. 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 (Geneva, July 2008).
3. The rising value of the Swiss franc against the US dollar has affected the budget during this period. The higher-than-projected expenditure, specifically on the staff costs was attributable to the depreciation of the US dollar but was offset by savings under some operating budget lines such as travel, communications, office supplies, maintenance of office equipment and hospitality. Savings were also made when the Dutch Government provided substantial financial assistance towards the logistical costs of CoP14.
4. The status of contributions to the CITES Trust Fund as of 31 December 2008 is reported in Annex 3. The paid contributions for 2008 amounted to USD 4,869,165 representing payments of USD 4,511,596 for the current year, USD 269,318 for prior years and USD 88,251 for future years. 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.
5. The actual contributions received in 2007 and 2008 are shown in Annexes 4 and 5 respectively. The figures show a collection rate of 92.82 % in 2007 and 92.66 % in 2008, indicating that payment of contributions from Parties was consistent during the period. The tables also show the cumulative total received by the end of each month and the contributions received for the current, prior and future years.
6. Annex 6 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. The arrears for 2008 were 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. A separate document on non-payment of contributions is presented as CoP15 Doc. 7.6 for discussion at this meeting.
7. Annex 7 presents the statement of income and expenditure and changes in reserve and fund of the CITES Trust Fund for the years 2007-2008. The balance of the CITES Trust Fund on 31 December 2008 stood at USD 2,010,439, of which USD 700,000 represents the minimum operating cash reserve of the CITES

Trust Fund. This balance excludes the unpaid contributions for 2008 and prior years referred to in paragraph 6 above.

8. The certified accounts of the Trust Fund of the Convention and external funding in support of CITES activities for the biennium 2006-2007 and for 2008 are attached as Annexes 8a, 8b, 9a and 9b respectively. The 2006-2007 accounts have been certified as correct and in accordance with the accounting policies and financial regulations and rules of the United Nations. The certified accounts for the CITES Trust Fund and voluntary contributions are included as an integral part of the certified accounts of UNEP for the biennium 2006-2007 which ended on 31 December 2007. The 2008 certified account will be part of the certified accounts of UNEP for the biennium 2008-2009.
9. The Conference of the Parties is invited to note this report.