

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



Fifty-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 2-6 October 2006

Strategic and administrative matters

Financial matters

COLLECTION OF ARREARS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The Standing Committee addressed the problem of non-payment of contributions during its several meetings convened in the years 2001-2005. At its 53rd meeting (SC53, Geneva, June – July 2005) the Standing Committee decided that its regional representatives and the Secretary-General should strengthen their efforts to consult with Parties whose contributions were in arrears, requesting payment of those arrears and, if appropriate, commitment to a payment plan. Furthermore the Standing Committee decided to consider at the present meeting appropriate action concerning Parties in arrears that had not submitted a payment plan by the end of 2005.
3. The Secretariat urged all Parties that had not paid their contributions for all or part of the years 1992-2005 to pay them or to submit to the Secretariat a payment plan for this purpose by the end of 2005. The correspondence on this issue was copied to the relevant permanent missions in Geneva and the regional representatives to the Standing Committee.
4. Annex 1 to this document provides information on the outstanding contributions to the CITES Trust Fund for the years 1992-2004 at the time of SC53 and on 31 August 2006. The total unpaid contributions on 31 August amounted to USD 490,600. Since SC53, Parties' arrears for the years 1992-2004 have therefore been reduced by USD 196,469.
5. By 31 August 2006, only 15 out of the 52 Parties concerned had responded positively and either settled their unpaid contributions for 2004 and prior years in full (Grenada, Honduras, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Palau, Swaziland, Tunisia and Ukraine) or made partial payments (Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Georgia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines). Morocco pledged to pay its unpaid contributions during the course of 2006. However there was no response from the remaining 36 Parties.
6. Annex 2 presents information on the outstanding contributions to the CITES Trust Fund on 31 August 2006. The total unpaid contributions for 2006 and prior years amounted to USD 1,050,478 of which USD 338,893 is due for 2006, USD 220,985 for 2005 and USD 490,600 for 2004 and prior years.
7. The experience gained over the past years suggests that a regular formal review followed by action to persuade Parties in arrears to settle their unpaid contributions has been effective to a certain extent. However, in spite of the concerted efforts there is still a significant number of Parties that fail to meet their financial obligations under the Convention, in some cases for a considerable number of years.

8. The Standing Committee might wish to consider appropriate action concerning Parties that have neither paid their arrears nor submitted a payment plan for this purpose. In this regard, the Standing Committee is reminded that an overview of the measures taken by other multilateral instruments for dealing with non-payments of contributions was provided in document SC53 Doc. 11.4.