

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

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Sixty-first meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 August 2011

Administrative matters

Financial matters

NON-PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 15th meeting (Doha, 2010) the Conference of the Parties to CITES adopted the following Decisions regarding the non-payment of contributions to the Trust Fund:

***Directed to Parties***

- 15.1 *Parties that are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Convention are urged:*
- a) *to clear all outstanding arrears without delay; and*
  - b) *if unable to clear all outstanding arrears, to enter into arrangements with the Secretariat to mutually agree on a "schedule of payments".*

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

- 15.2 *The Standing Committee is mandated to monitor the payments of contributions from Parties in arrears and to assist the Secretariat in ensuring that future contributions are paid by the due date.*

***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 15.3 *The Secretariat shall continue to monitor Parties that are in arrears of the payment of their financial contributions to the Convention by:*
- a) *sending reminders twice yearly, with copies to the permanent missions in Geneva;*
  - b) *visiting the permanent missions in Geneva of the Parties in arrears for three or more years; and*
  - c) *seeking assistance from regional representatives to the Standing Committee in following up with Parties concerned.*
- 15.4 *The Secretariat shall consider the reasons for which Parties are in arrears with regard to their contributions and assist the Parties concerned on an individual basis to facilitate the payment of outstanding contributions.*

3. As a follow-up to the usual reminders sent to the Parties with arrears, the Secretariat sent letters reminding them of the above-mentioned Decisions, with copies sent to the relevant permanent missions in Geneva. The Secretariat also publishes and regularly updates information on the status of contributions to the CITES Trust Fund, including a table of unpaid contributions, on the CITES website. When Secretariat staff

travel on mission, they are provided with the list of Parties in arrears and are tasked to follow-up with the Parties concerned. The Secretariat also continues to seek the assistance of the regional representatives to the Standing Committee in following up with the Parties within their region.

4. Annex 1 to the present document shows the table of unpaid contributions as of 31 December 2010 with a total arrears from 2008 and prior years of USD 217,055. It should be noted that with the recent reminders that were sent, several Parties responded positively and either settled their contributions in full or made partial payments. However, no Parties contacted the Secretariat to make arrangements and agree on a schedule of payment.
5. The table below presents the information on the number of Parties with arrears and the unpaid contributions at the end of each of the years 2008, 2009 and 2010. During the past two years, the unpaid contributions for 2008 and prior years were reduced by USD 259,853 and the number of Parties that were in arrears with their contributions for those years was reduced by 41. Similarly, the level of unpaid contributions for the year 2009 was reduced by USD 295,792 and the number of Parties in arrears with their contributions due for 2009 was reduced by 27 during the course of 2010.

	As of 31 December 2008	As of 31 December 2009	As of 31 December 2010
Unpaid contributions for 2008 and prior years (USD)	476,908	268,271	217,055
Number of Parties in arrears for 2008 and prior years	83	54	42
Unpaid contributions for 2009 (USD)		367,779	71,987
Number of Parties in arrears for 2009		79	52
Unpaid contributions for 2010 (USD)			152,001
Number of Parties in arrears for 2010			80

6. Annex 2 shows the list of Parties in arrears from 2008 and prior years as of 20 May 2011. It also shows whether the countries have responded to the reminders sent by the Secretariat recently as well as in previous years.
7. The Secretariat contacted the Secretariats of two multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and requested them to provide information concerning the practice followed in order to facilitate the collection of arrears and in dealing with non-payment of contributions.
8. In the case of the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), “the representatives from countries with contributions in arrears three years or more should be excluded from holding office in Convention bodies and denied the right to vote” until their arrears have been paid. This decision is contained in CMS Resolution 9.14 adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 9th meeting. These Parties are also put as ‘low priority’ in the CMS sponsored delegates project.
9. The Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) applies similar measures for Parties that are in arrears and have not responded to reminders. At the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Decision X/45 was adopted which states that the Conference of the Parties “decides that with regard to contributions due from 1 January 2005 onwards, Parties whose contributions are in arrears for two (2) or more years will not be eligible to become a member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties; this will only apply in the case of Parties that are not least developed countries or small island developing States”.

10. Drawing upon the experience of the CMS and the CBD, the Standing Committee may wish to consider making a recommendation to the Conference of the Parties at its 16th meeting to introduce further measures for the Parties that remain in arrears and have not established a schedule for clearing their arrears before CoP16.