

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

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Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

Administrative matters

Financial matters

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2011

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. This report provides information on the costed programme of work (CPW) for 2011, along with the actual expenditures incurred (Annex 1) and the status of contributions from the Parties (Annexes 2-5). It also provides an overview of the status of the CITES Trust Fund resources and their use as of 31 December 2011 (Annex 6).

Costed programme of work

3. During the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, August 2011), the Finance and Budget Subcommittee emphasized that the difficulties arising from currency fluctuations may require an extraordinary drawdown from the Trust Fund reserve amounting to approximately 5 to 10 % of the 2011 CPW. The total Trust Fund expenditure for 2011, including the programme support costs, amounted to USD 5.51 million, which is 4.38 % over the budget of USD 5.28 million.
4. It should be noted that the total salary cost was approximately USD 480,000 over its budgetary provisions. This, along with the higher costs of organizing the committee meetings, contributed to the over-expenditure for this period. The Secretariat took measures to minimize these over-expenditures through savings in other areas. This resulted in the increases being offset by savings of approximately USD 250,000 from the Secretariat's programmatic activities and its operational and office running costs, such as office supplies and equipment, travel, publications, communication and hospitality.
5. Additionally, external funds received from various donors, specifically from the European Commission, facilitated the implementation of various activities identified in the CPW without the use of Trust Fund resources. It should therefore be noted that the Secretariat relied on external funds for most of its activities related to capacity building, enforcement, legislation, scientific support and cooperation with other organizations. The sources of external funds are identified in Annex 1 along with the funds secured for each activity.
6. Besides the European Commission, the other major donors for the support of CITES activities were France, Germany, Hong Kong SAR (China), Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States. These countries, along with the European Commission, continue to provide funding for the Secretariat's programme of work, specifically on capacity building, scientific support, national legislation, enforcement support, knowledge management, the MIKE programme and, most recently, the African Elephant Fund.
7. Furthermore, the participation of the Secretariat in workshops, meetings or events was sometimes funded by the government or organization hosting these activities. These included events hosted by the International Tropical Timber Organization, the European Commission, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and the University of Eastern Finland.

8. Expenditure for each activity funded by external sources is also shown in Annex 1. Any unspent balance for each activity has been carried over to the same or a similar activity of the 2012 CPW.

#### Paid and unpaid contributions to the CITES Trust Fund

9. Annex 2 shows the status of contributions as of 31 December 2011. Annex 3 shows the summary of the paid contributions for 2011, which amounts to USD 5,220,373 and represents payments of USD 4,440,618 for the "current year" (2011), USD 192,850 for prior years and USD 586,905 for future years. The 2011 payment represents a payment rate of 86.05 % of the total 2011 assessed contributions. The payment percentage for 2011 is lower than for previous years because of the non-payment of contributions by three Parties, namely Greece, Italy and Mexico, whose total contributions represent approximately 6 % of the assessed contributions. The Secretariat continues its efforts to try to collect the contributions from these Parties.
10. The Secretariat sends reminders to the Parties whose contributions are in arrears, with a copy to their permanent missions in Geneva. The regional representatives to the Standing Committee have also been contacted to seek assistance in following up with those Parties in arrears.
11. Annex 4 shows the unpaid contributions as of 31 December 2011. It should be noted that some Parties who were in arrears for several years have sent payment and are continuing to make payments to eventually have their contributions current. These are: El Salvador, Iran (the Islamic Republic of), Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Suriname and Uzbekistan. The updated table of unpaid contributions from 2011 and prior years is attached as Annex 5.

#### Availability and use of resources

12. Annex 6 (available in English only) presents an overview of the flow and use of the CITES Trust Fund for the biennium 2010-2011. The balance of the CITES Trust Fund reserve as of 31 December 2011 stood at USD 2,298,264, of which USD 700,000 represents the operating cash reserve to guarantee the liquidity of the Trust Fund.

#### Recommendation

13. The Secretariat requests the Standing Committee to note and accept this report on the costed programme of work for 2011.