

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



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

Administrative matters

Financial matters

AFRICAN ELEPHANT FUND

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC61, Geneva, August 2011), the Secretariat reported that an African Elephant Fund (AEF) and a related Steering Committee had been established in accordance with Decision 14.79 (Rev. CoP15) see document SC61 Doc. 44.2 (Rev. 1) and its Annex 1].
3. As agreed between the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the CITES Secretary-General, the AEF was established under UNEP as a Multi-Donor Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the *African elephant action plan* (adopted by African elephant range States in March 2010). As also agreed, programme support costs will be charged at a rate of 7 % on the expenditures incurred for activities and projects financed by the AEF.
4. The AEF took effect on 1 February 2011 and its establishment was approved at the 26th meeting of the UNEP Governing Council held later that month.
5. The membership of the AEF Steering Committee comprises eight range States representing the four subregions of Africa (currently Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and the Sudan) and three donor States which qualified as members by committing funds to the AEF in the amount of USD 50,000 or more (France: USD 63,000; Germany: USD 108,000; and the Netherlands: USD 66,000). The CITES Secretariat and UNEP are *ex officio* members of the AEF Steering Committee.
6. Following SC61, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland committed USD 128,000 to the AEF and South Africa pledged ZAR 200,000, equivalent to approximately USD 25,000. This brings the total funds received and committed to date to USD 390,000.
7. The first meeting of the AEF Steering Committee was hosted by South Africa in Kruger National Park from 12 to 14 December 2011. Financial support for this meeting was provided by Germany, and financial as well as logistical support was provided by South Africa.
8. Outcomes of the first meeting of the AEF Steering Committee included the election of a chair (South Africa) and an alternate chair (Botswana), the adoption of Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the Steering Committee, and agreement on criteria for evaluation and selection of proposals submitted to the AEF Steering Committee. Furthermore, the Steering Committee reviewed in detail and decided on a number of project proposals from African elephant range States to implement the *African elephant action plan*.

9. Decision 14.76 provides that:

Parties, trading countries, the ivory carving industry, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other donors are called upon to contribute significantly to the African Elephant Fund for the implementation of the African elephant action plan and the programme for Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) to ensure their establishment and maintenance.

10. As stated in Notification to the Parties No. 2012/023 of 12 March 2012, the Secretariat strongly encourages future contributions to the AEF, which should be deposited in the UNEP Trust Fund account. Parties are also invited to examine the possibility of seconding a government official to UNEP or the CITES Secretariat to provide secretarial services to the AEF Steering Committee, and assist in enhancing and promoting the AEF. Such a supporting position would be of major importance to facilitate the regular operations of the Fund. In April 2012, the Chair of the AEF Steering Committee addressed a similar request for secretarial support to the Executive Director of UNEP.

Recommendation

11. The Standing Committee is asked to note this report.