

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES Secretariat)

and

The Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS Secretariat)

The CITES Secretariat and CMS Secretariat,

Recognizing that wild fauna are important components of biological diversity that fulfil a variety of human and ecological needs, and that these valuable biological resources are increasingly threatened by human activities such as habitat destruction, unsustainable harvesting, trade and other threats;

Recognizing also that species of wild animals that migrate across or outside national jurisdictional boundaries are particularly vulnerable to conflicting conservation and use objectives for the same population, and that they require concerted and coordinated actions by all States across their migratory range in order to maintain or restore a favourable conservation status as a prerequisite to shared sustainable use;

Noting that one of the key goals of the CITES Strategic Vision Through 2005 is to increase cooperation and conclude strategic alliances with international stakeholders, especially relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) such as CMS;

Further noting that Article IX of CMS requires the CMS Secretariat to maintain liaison with, *inter alia*, international organizations concerned with migratory species, that Resolution 6.4 had requested the CMS Secretariat to “actively foster synergy” between other global environmental conventions and CMS and that operational objective 4.4 of the CMS Strategic Plan (2002-2005) calls for the strengthening of operational linkages with partner organizations in particular the main biodiversity related conventions such as CITES;

Acknowledging the longstanding relationship between the CITES Secretariat and the CMS Secretariat;

Recalling that the Conference of the Parties to CITES and the Conference of the Parties to CMS have expressed a desire for the two Conventions to cooperate in order to maximize synergy and avoid duplication; and

Realizing that activities under CITES concern migratory species and issues that also are covered by CMS or Agreements concluded under its auspices

AGREE as follows:

**Article 1
Policy Compatibility**

- a) The Secretariats will cooperate to the extent practicable in the preparation of mutually relevant documents for each others' Conference of the Parties and subsidiary bodies.
- b) The Secretariats will liaise on key issues to promote the compatibility of their respective policy decisions, particularly in relation to other MEAs, IGOs and NGOs.
- c) The Secretariats will coordinate on matters relevant to their administrative and programmatic relationships with relevant agencies of the United Nations.
- d) The Secretariats will liaise on how best to complement each other in promoting their Conventions' shared goals of supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use through their instruments' respective competences on international wildlife trade, and transboundary concerted and cooperative actions on migratory species and their habitats.

**Article 2
Institutional Cooperation**

- a) Each Secretariat will invite the other to be represented regularly in meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the other Convention, and other meetings covering matters of mutual interest.
- b) Each Secretariat will identify the possibilities for the subsidiary bodies of its Convention to participate as observers at meetings of the other Convention.
- c) The Secretariats will inform the respective focal points for each Contracting Party of their cooperative activities. In cases where the Contracting Parties have different focal points for the Conventions, the Secretariats will seek to promote consultation and cooperation between them.

**Article 3
Exchange of Experience and Information**

- a) The Secretariats will regularly exchange information of mutual interest. The CMS Secretariat will encourage the Secretariats of Agreements concluded under the auspices of CMS to regularly share information of mutual interest with the CITES Secretariat.
- b) The Secretariats will develop a data exchange system on species of common concern. This will draw on planned or existing platforms such as the CMS Information Management Plan and CITES databases, while involving partners such as UNEP-WCMC and IUCN as needed.

**Article 4
Coordination of Programmes of Work**

- a) For purposes of this MoU, the focal point for the CITES Secretariat is the Secretary General and the focal point for the CMS Secretariat is the Executive Secretary.

- b) The Secretariats will meet annually to brief each other on their respective activities and plans. They will also decide on joint activities.

Article 5
General Provisions

- a) This MoU shall take effect upon signature by both Secretariats. It shall remain in force unless terminated by 30 days' written notice served by one Secretariat upon the other, or replaced by another agreement.
- b) This MoU can be amended in writing by mutual consent of the Secretariats.
- c) Neither Secretariat shall be legally or financially liable in any way for activities carried out jointly or independently.

Done in the English language on the 18th day of September 2002.

Willem Wijnstekers
Secretary General
*Convention on International Trade
in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna
and Flora*

Arnulf Muller-Helmbrecht
Executive Secretary
*Convention on the
Conservation of Migratory
Species of Wild Animals*