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30 June 2003

The Secretariat  
Convention on International Trade  
in Endangered Species (CITES)  
International Environment House  
Cherin des Anemones, CH 1219 Chateleina  
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Sir

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) BETWEEN CITES AND FAO**

I would like to make reference to the 49<sup>th</sup> meeting of CITES in April 2003 and "Notification to the Parties" on the subject of developing a Memorandum of Understanding between CITES and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). We have studied the draft MoU and hereby submit our comments per the invitation. Our position hinges on the principle of sustainable use of natural resources, including marine living resources.

I. Article 1 suggests that CITES would work together with FAO on a procedure of future FAO involvement in the scientific evaluation of proposals for listing or transferring commercially exploited aquatic species in CITES appendices. We take cognisance of the fact that FAO and its regional fisheries management bodies have the necessary scientific competence, and based on decades of data can sufficiently describe the status of world fish stocks. With this in mind we call for the procedure to give greater FAO influence on the final decisions regarding the placing of commercially exploited aquatic species in CITES appendices.

II. We have no problem with the rest of the Articles and would suggest that they be adopted as they are.

I trust this submission will assist in how the final MoU will be framed for the benefit of all parties.

Yours faithfully

Joseph Matlhare  
**Director of Wildlife and National Parks**