

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

Forty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 22-25 April 2003

Strategic and administrative matters

Memoranda of Understanding

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION
OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS (CMS)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The Conference of the Parties adopted the following decision at its 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002):
 - 12.5 *The Standing Committee shall keep under regular review the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the Secretariats of CITES and CMS on 18 September 2002, in particular with a view to:*
 - a) *seeking reports from the CITES Secretariat on steps taken to implement a more detailed work programme to be developed jointly with CMS in early 2003; and*
 - b) *ensuring that CITES initiatives in respect of the following species or taxonomic groups complement, reinforce and, as far as possible, benefit from the regional collaboration already being undertaken or envisaged in the framework of CMS:*
 - i) *saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*), snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*) and west and central African populations of African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*);*
 - ii) *marine turtles of the Atlantic coast of Africa, the Indian Ocean / Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Ocean;*
 - iii) *the whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) of South and Southeast Asia; as well as the great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*); and*
 - iv) *sturgeons (*Acipenseriformes*).*
3. The Secretary-General of CITES and the Executive Secretary of CMS met during the 22nd session of the UNEP Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Nairobi, 3-7 February 2003) to identify key elements for a more detailed work programme that would implement the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concluded on 18 September 2002.

4. Based on those initial discussions, staff of the two Secretariats met on 14 February 2003 in the Geneva offices of the CITES Secretariat to begin developing a work programme. During this meeting, the Secretariats reviewed and exchanged information on:
 - States party to each Convention, and States party to agreements under CMS;
 - nature of and lessons learned from MoUs and work plans concluded by CITES and CMS with other institutional partners;
 - current work to develop institutional relationships with other partners;
 - outcomes of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (Bonn, September 2002) and the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES;
 - past, ongoing and planned activities concerning certain species listed in both Conventions;
 - programmatic priorities and emerging substantive issues; and
 - forthcoming meetings and workshops.
5. It was agreed to keep the initial work programme modest, focusing on three to four joint activities that could be achieved during the period 2003-2004. It was further agreed to consider presenting all or a portion of the work programme in the form of a table that could be more easily adjusted in the future. A draft of the work programme will be prepared as soon as possible for review within each Secretariat. After internal review a final text will be developed and signed by the Secretary-General of CITES and the Executive Secretary of CMS. The agreed work programme will then be transmitted to the Standing Committee.

Recommendation

6. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee take note of the progress made in developing a joint work programme between CITES and CMS, and postpone its review of the implementation of the work programme and MoU to its 50th meeting.