

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

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Fifty-third meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 June-1 July 2005

Strategic and administrative matters

COOPERATION AND SYNERGY WITH THE CONVENTION ON THE  
CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS (CMS)

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 49th meeting (Geneva, April 2003), the Standing Committee was provided with a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that had been concluded between the Secretariats of CITES and CMS and was advised that the Secretariats had initiated discussion on the development of a detailed work programme (document SC49 Doc. 6.2). The Committee requested the CITES Secretariat to circulate the draft work programme electronically to Standing Committee members for their comments before it was finalized and signed. The Committee agreed to postpone review of implementation of the MoU and work programme until its following meeting.
3. The work programme was still under development at the time of the 50th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, March 2004), so it was not included as an agenda item.
4. At its 13th meeting (Bangkok, 2004), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following provisions in Resolution Conf. 13.3 on Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals:

*DIRECTS the Standing Committee to 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; 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) *the saiga antelope (Saiga tatarica), the snow leopard (Uncia uncia) and the west and central African populations of the African elephant (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); and*

*DIRECTS the Secretariat, in keeping with the spirit of the above-mentioned Memorandum of Understanding, to extend invitations to CMS and its related Agreements to participate in meetings pertaining to species and issues of common concern.*

5. A draft work programme (in the form of a list of joined activities) developed by the Secretariats of CITES and CMS is contained in the Annex to this document.
6. Pursuant to Resolution Conf. 13.3 and in keeping with the Memorandum of Understanding, the CITES Secretariat will extend an invitation to the CMS Secretariat to participate in upcoming meetings of the Animals Committee and Standing Committee as well as the sub-regional enforcement-related workshop being organized in Urumqi, China, that will address, *inter alia*, the saiga antelope.
7. The Secretariats have agreed to meet in the near future to review their cooperation to date and to make specific plans for finalizing and implementing the work programme.

#### Recommendation

8. The Secretariat invites the Standing Committee to comment on the draft work programme, with the understanding that these comments can be incorporated into a final version of the work programme which would then be signed by the Secretariats of CITES and CMS.

DRAFT CITES/CMS LIST OF JOINED ACTIVITIES 2005-2007

Activity	Priority <sup>1</sup>	Main actors (other actors)	Indicative tasks	Status / Comments
Generate and verify concordance list of species shared on CITES/CMS Appendices.	M	CITES and CMS bodies (UNEP-WCMC IUCN-ELC)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Generate a basic list using the CMS Information Management System, contact UNEP-WCMC and IUCN-ELC to address feasibility of improving basic list and develop list format.</li> <li>2. Identify and clarify taxonomic and species listing issues in collaboration with relevant experts or the CITES Nomenclature Committee.</li> <li>3. Consider ways to better link CITES and CMS information on shared species.</li> <li>4. Make concordance list available on the web sites of the CMS and CITES Secretariats before CITES CoP14 (2007) and CMS CoP9 (2008).</li> </ol>	<p>A concordance list between CITES and CMS Appendices can be generated from the CMS Information Management System, but the resulting list should be reviewed by UNEP-WCMC and/or other experts, and tested against the CMS Global Register of Migratory Species (GROMS). The list should address inconsistencies in taxonomy or nomenclature, if necessary. Discrepancies can be expected for marine mammals, because taxonomic reference lists of CITES and CMS differ. CMS is reviewing taxonomic issues as part of another internal project and CITES has ongoing nomenclature work under the Nomenclature Committee. Taxonomy has been identified in the Vilim report as an area for better cooperation and synergy between CITES and CBD.</p>
Exchange experience on administrative matters and enhance mutual representation.	M and Ong	CITES and CMS bodies (CBD)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify ways for the results of the Vilim workshop on CITES/CBD cooperation and synergy to be extended to CMS.</li> <li>2. Set priorities for cooperation on administrative matters and mutual representation.</li> <li>3. Compare operation and structure of technical committees.</li> <li>4. Consult with each other when the CITES or CMS strategic plan is being reviewed. [see CITES Decision 13.1]</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Secretariats already shared experiences on host State arrangements and strategic plans, but CITES could benefit from input on how CMS develops and implements GEF projects and otherwise finances conservation. When attending meetings, one Secretariat may be keeping an eye out for issues of interest to the other.</li> <li>2. The CITES Secretariat intends to attend the 13th meeting of the CMS Scientific Council (November 2005) and to share with the CMS Secretariat the CITES experience with technical committees.</li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> H: High priority (immediate); M: Medium priority (by the end of 2006); Ong: Ongoing.

Activity	Priority <sup>1</sup>	Main actors (other actors)	Indicative tasks	Status / Comments
<p>Share species and other substantive information that may be of mutual interest (e.g. on projects, activities, data, documents, reviews etc.) and identify priority issues for both Secretariats.</p> <p>Ensure close cooperation and coordination on actions concerning priority species and issues. In particular, ensure that CITES and CMS initiatives regarding the following species and taxonomic groups complement, reinforce and benefit from each other: snow leopard; African elephant; marine turtles; whale shark and great white shark; sturgeons; great apes; and houbara bustard [see CITES Resolution Conf. 13.3].</p> <p>Compare the work programmes and meeting agendas of both conventions to identify activities of mutual interest (i.e. the CITES Animals Committee as well as Standing Committees and CoPs of both conventions), ensure that relevant documentation is exchanged and shared, and there is mutual consultation where necessary.</p>	<p>H and Ong</p>	<p>CITES and CMS bodies (CBD; IUCN)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Exchange information on CITES and CMS work related to falcons (e.g. CITES workshop on falcons; review of significant trade under CITES) and determine opportunities for undertaking joint activities.</li> <li>2. Ensure that CMS and CITES work related to the saiga antelope is mutually supportive (e.g. collaborate on implementation of the scientific and management aspects of the CMS Saiga Action Plan; promote ratification and entry into effect of the Saiga MoU; organize a first meeting of the signatories; jointly participate in planned Urumqi workshop; develop a joint work plan on saiga). [see CITES Decisions 13.27, 13.31, 13.33 and 13.35]</li> <li>3. Exchange experiences of CITES and CMS on ex situ production and in situ conservation as well as area versus species-based conservation. [see CITES Decision 13.78 and Vilim report]</li> <li>4. Arrange a visit by CITES Secretariat to CMS Secretariat and participation of CITES Secretariat in meeting of the CMS Scientific Council.</li> <li>5. Determine whether CMS might contribute to species identification work required in CITES.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initial information has been exchanged in relation to falcons and houbara bustard.</li> <li>2. The CMS and CITES Secretariats have done cooperative work on the saiga antelope in the past (e.g. the Elista workshop where the Saiga Action Plan was developed) and recently agreed to act in parallel to encourage adoption of the Saiga MoU and Action Plan. The CITES Secretariat shared information with the CMS Secretariat on a project to implement CITES Decision 13.35.</li> <li>3. In the past, the CITES and CMS Secretariats had discussions about possible cooperation in relation to sturgeons.</li> <li>4. CMS and/or its agreements have provided input to proposals to list species in CITES Appendices.</li> <li>5. The Secretariats have considered in general the complementary nature of the CITES and CMS mandates and data.</li> <li>6. The CITES Secretariat included targeted actions to collaborate with CMS in its new work programmes 2005-07, identifying time frames, responsibilities and expected outputs.</li> </ol>