

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



Fifty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Doha (Qatar), 12 March 2010

Strategic and administrative matters

COOPERATION WITH THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF  
MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

1. This document has been prepared jointly by the CITES and CMS Secretariats.

Background

2. At its 13th session (Bangkok, 2004), the Conference of the Parties to CITES adopted Resolution Conf. 13.3, *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*, which directs the Standing Committee to keep under regular review the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the CITES and CMS Secretariats, which was presented at the 49th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, April 2003) (see document SC49 Doc. 6.2).
3. At its 53rd meeting (Geneva, June-July 2005), the Standing Committee adopted a list of joint CITES/CMS activities for 2005-2007 on the basis of a proposal put forward in document SC53 Doc. 9.
4. In November 2005, the Conference of the Parties to the CMS adopted Resolution Conf. 8.11, which stresses the importance of and need for enhanced collaboration among biodiversity-related conventions. In addition, in its Resolution Conf. 8.2, the Conference adopted the *CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011*, which had four main objectives:
  - a) Having the best available information on which to base decisions;
  - b) Ensuring that conservation measures are undertaken in a coordinated and cooperative way;
  - c) Widening awareness of key issues among relevant target audiences; and
  - d) Developing and mobilizing human capacity and financial resources to implement needed conservation measures.
5. In June 2007, at its 14th session, the Conference of the Parties to CITES adopted the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013* in Resolution Conf. 14.2, stipulating in Objective 3.5 that:
 

*Parties and the Secretariat cooperate with other relevant international organizations and agreements dealing with natural resources, as appropriate, in order to achieve a coherent and collaborative approach to species which can be endangered by unsustainable trade, including those which are commercially exploited.*
6. In July 2008, at its 57th meeting, the CITES Standing Committee endorsed the revised list of joint CITES/CMS activities for 2008-2010, while urging caution in any attempts to move towards a harmonization of species nomenclature, in view of the practical implications of any changes. Some Parties also requested to extend joint work to other species, such as *Artocephalus australis*, *Dugong dugong* or *Vicugna vicugna*.

7. In November 2008, at its 34th meeting, the CMS Standing Committee also approved the list of joint CITES/CMS activities put forward in document UNEP/CMS/StC34/3.
8. On the basis of the document adopted by the CMS Standing Committee at its 34th meeting, the Conference of the Parties to CMS at its ninth session (Rome, 1-5 December 2008), requested, in resolution UNEP/CMS/Resolution 9.6, the CMS Secretariat to elaborate concrete measures in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat towards the implementation of the existing Memorandum of Understanding to meet the 2010 target. In the same Resolution, the Conference also noted the proposal made at the 15th meeting of the CMS Scientific Council (Rome, 27-28 November 2008) concerning the harmonization of nomenclature used in the CMS and CITES Appendices, and asked the CITES Animals Committee to consider the state of the discussions at its meeting in April 2009, as covered in recommendation UNEP/CMS/Recommendation 9.4.

#### Joint activities undertaken since 2008

9. At the end of 2007, pursuant to Resolution Conf. 13.3 referred to in paragraph 2 above, the CITES and CMS Secretariats decided to prepare a draft list of joint activities for the period 2008 to 2010 (see the Annex to this document). This list made allowance for the achievement of past activities.
10. The joint activities set forth for the period 2008 to 2010 take into account the 2010 Biodiversity Target and contribute to it. The list gives priority to the species identified as priorities in Resolution Conf. 13.3, and has three main themes:
  - a) Harmonization of taxonomy and nomenclature;
  - b) Joint actions for the conservation and sustainable use of shared species; and
  - c) Administrative and fund-raising cooperation.
11. The activities undertaken since 2008 are described in the Annex.
12. The synergies resulting from the activities listed in the Annex already demonstrate that such activities can stimulate species conservation, at the same time as incorporating into it consideration of the effects relating to other priority issues such as climate change, the means for subsistence and the preservation of services provided by ecosystems, poverty alleviation and the well-being of human populations, as well as a more targeted utilization of financial resources. The Secretariats therefore intend to continue cooperating in fund-raising efforts for such activities.
13. France has provided EUR 32,000 (approximately USD 46,000) to enable the Secretariat to hire a consultant to advance synergy with CMS and to continue the work that the latter convention had already funded from its own resources up to the middle of 2009. The funding agreement set forth in 2009 by the French Government indicates that there will be a second contribution of EUR 63,000 in 2010, subject to availability of financial resources, in order to continue this project. For its part, and with a view to collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, CMS has received funds from France and Monaco to allow it to undertake the activities needed to develop this cooperation (organization of related multilateral meetings). The CITES and CMS Secretariats take this opportunity to express their thanks to the Governments of France and Monaco for their generous support.
14. Given the prospect of additional support from France, the arrival of a new Secretary-General and the time-frame of meetings of the Standing Committee, the CITES Secretariat, with the agreement of the CMS Secretariat, suggests that the programme of joint activities 2008-2010 be extended until the end of 2011. The Secretariat intends to propose a revised programme of joint activities for the period 2012-2014 at the Committee's 61st meeting. The Committee is invited to approve this proposal which will then be submitted at the 37th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee.

CITES/CMS LIST OF JOINT ACTIVITIES 2008-2010

STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION (DECEMBER 2009)

Activities	Indicative list of common tasks	Comments	Summary of activities undertaken
<p>Harmonization of taxonomy and nomenclature</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Finalize an updated concordance list of species in the Appendices of the two Conventions.</li> <li>2. Identify differences in nomenclature/taxonomy in the respective Appendices.</li> <li>3. Strive to eliminate these through the scientific subsidiary bodies and CoPs.</li> <li>4. Establish a common database for species covered by the two Conventions.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1-4. This activity will facilitate the practical cooperation between the Conventions and assist the understanding of our shared activities by partner organizations, other stakeholders and the general public.</li> <li>4. UNEP-WCMC would appear a natural partner in such an exercise.</li> </ol>	<p>1-4. Comparison made of the lists.</p> <p>Joint presentation of the work involved in advancing the harmonization of the taxonomy and nomenclature in the species lists used by CITES and CMS, at the second meeting of the Chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions (25 May 2008, Bonn). Support by the Committee.</p> <p>Preparation and review of document UNEP/CMS/ScC/Doc. 8 on harmonization of taxonomy and nomenclature at the 15th meeting of the CMS Scientific Council (Rome, November 2008).</p> <p>Adoption of recommendation UNEP/CMS/9.4/Rev.1; review of this document by the CITES Animals Committee. The harmonization proposed mainly concerns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The new reference adopted by the CMS Scientific Council</li> </ol>

Activities	Indicative list of common tasks	Comments	Summary of activities undertaken
			<p>relating to marine mammals;</p> <p>2) A proposal regarding harmonization of taxonomy and nomenclature for birds;</p> <p>3) The benefit there would be in creating a nomenclature and taxonomy committee under the guidance of the Chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB). (The progress made in harmonization of the nomenclature for mammals is described in CITES document CoP15 Doc. 12.)</p> <p>4) Integration of CITES data in the CMS database and of CMS data in the CITES database to be completed.</p>
<p>Joint actions for the conservation and sustainable use of shared species</p>	<p>1. Using the updated concordance list and focussing initially on: the saiga antelope (<i>Saiga tatarica</i>), snow leopard (<i>Uncia uncia</i>); west and central African populations of the African elephant (<i>Loxodonta africana</i>); marine turtles of the Atlantic coast of Africa, the Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Ocean; whale shark (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>) of south and Southeast Asia; great white shark (<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>) and sturgeons (Acipenseriformes), identify regional stakeholders and relevant national, regional and interregional agencies or NGOs that could collaborate or support regional programmes on joint management aims and</p>	<p>1-2. In the interests of efficiency and cost-effectiveness, joint actions on shared species need to be undertaken wherever possible. The different focuses of the Conventions are often complementary. Acting together, the Secretariats can provide the leadership required to stimulate action to improve the conservation and sustainable use of shared species.</p> <p>In the absence of the external</p>	<p>1-3. The African elephant: Presentation of CMS activities relating to elephants to the national focal points of the CITES MIKE programme (Mombasa, June 2008). Agreement secured from the MIKE representatives for development of a joint MIKE/CMS MoU<sup>1</sup> activity. Organization of a joint meeting in Accra, Ghana, on 1 April 2009, of the national focal</p>

<sup>1</sup> CMS Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the West African Populations of the African Elephant

Activities	Indicative list of common tasks	Comments	Summary of activities undertaken
	<p>activities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Working with these stakeholders, develop joint programmes for the conservation and/or sustainable use of these species. Each Secretariat taking the lead where appropriate with CITES focussing on sustainable use and CMS on recovery of species. Establish joint working groups as appropriate to guide and oversee the implementation of these activities.</li> <li>3. Together, identify indicators for these shared species, which demonstrate the effectiveness of the programmes, fit with existing Convention indicators and monitor progress towards the 2010 target and beyond.</li> <li>4. Identifying relevant decisions proposed or taken by the governing bodies of CITES and CMS in order to encourage Parties to ensure policy coherence across the two conventions and coherent implementation of the conventions at national level.</li> </ol>	<p>funding required, the Secretariats will continue routine exchange of information on shared species and engage in limited joint actions where time and funding permit.</p>	<p>points of the CMS MoU and the West Africa steering committee of the MIKE programme.</p> <p>Adoption of a joint declaration concerning the joint preparation of 12 cross-border projects and of a summary of the cross-border range areas of elephants in West Africa. Preliminary development of the 12 cross-border project summary sheets.</p> <p>1-4. Participation by the CITES Secretariat in the CMS CoP9 (Rome, December 2008) and statement in plenary to the national focal points on the decisions taken on listings of sharks in the CITES Annexes.</p>
<p>Administrative and fund-raising cooperation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake annual meetings of Secretariats to review the MoU, work plan and matters of mutual interest.</li> <li>2. Exchange experience with using and ideas for expanding the Knowledge Management portal for biodiversity-related MEAs (<a href="http://www.inforMEA.org">www.inforMEA.org</a>), calendars of meetings, meeting invitations, lists of administrative and scientific focal points in Parties, pertinent draft documents in advance of Convention meetings including strategic plans, details of procedural and administrative developments and guidelines whose joint adoption might be mutually supportive.</li> </ol>	<p>1-2. Represents a formalization of tasks which already occur on a more informal and <i>ad hoc</i> basis.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Two meetings of CMS and CITES in 2009 (Geneva, February and August 2009). In February, the overall topic of the discussions had to do with the implementation of the list of joint activities and distribution of tasks. In August 2009, the discussion dealt, in the light of the change that had taken place at CMS, with the joint exercises whose implementation had been confirmed.</li> <li>2-3. Funds have been obtained by CITES to hire a consultant (see</li> </ol>

Activities	Indicative list of common tasks	Comments	Summary of activities undertaken
	3. Promote joint fund-raising for projects on shared species.		paragraph 13 of this document), and by CMS to develop projects related to the list of joint activities.
Outreach and capacity building	1. Explore possibilities for coordinated outreach and capacity building activities and representation of one Convention Secretariat by another at events of mutual interest to save participation costs and promote synergy.		February 2009: Representation of the CMS Secretariat by the CITES Secretariat at the technical meeting of the United Nations EMG (Environmental Management Group) (Nairobi, 14-15 February 2009) on the basis of a position paper provided to the CITES representative.