

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



Sixty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 August 2011

Strategic matters

Cooperation with other organizations

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. On 19 November 2010, the Secretary-General addressed the participants in the 17th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) held in Paris. This was the first time in the history of the Convention that the CITES Secretary-General participated in an ICCAT meeting. His address can be found at:

http://www.cites.org/eng/news/SG/2010/20101119_sg_statement_ICCAT.php
3. During the meeting, the ICCAT Chair proposed that further cooperation be developed between the secretariats of the two organizations before the 22nd Regular Meeting of the Commission to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 11 to 19 November 2011. This was agreed.
4. On 31 May 2011, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT provided the Secretariat with proposed guidelines for cooperation between ICCAT and CITES, which are contained in the Annex to this document.
5. At the time of writing this document (June 2011), the CITES Secretariat was in the process of reviewing the draft and preparing comments to share with the ICCAT Secretariat. Thereafter, the Secretariat will work with the ICCAT Secretariat to develop a revised draft which might be submitted at the present meeting for the Standing Committee's endorsement.

Recommendation

6. The Standing Committee is invited to express its views on the proposed guidelines for cooperation between ICCAT and CITES, contained in the Annex to this document, and to note the information provided above.

PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR COOPERATION

BETWEEN

THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)

AND

THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES)

Hereinafter referred as the “Parties”

WHEREAS, ICCAT cooperates in maintaining the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes found in the Atlantic Ocean at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes;

WHEREAS, CITES is a international conservation agreement between governments established to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants is sustainable;

WHEREAS, ICCAT and CITES share objectives regarding the conservation of the populations of tuna and tuna like species;

WHEREAS, ICCAT has adopted statistical document programmes and catch documentation scheme for the purpose of identifying the origin of Atlantic swordfish, bigeye tuna and bluefin tuna and control trade for such species;

RECOGNIZING that the Secretariats of both Parties would benefit from a better communication and exchange of information of common interest among them;

RECALLING that at the 17th Special Meeting of ICCAT (Paris, 19-27 November 2010), it was agreed to work on a guidelines for cooperation between the Secretariats of both Parties in order to strengthen the cooperation, the following is proposed:

1. The Parties will communicate and exchange information of common interest and areas of concern where there is a role for the other to play or where there are implementation issues that need to be considered.
2. The Parties will be invited as observers to meetings under their respective auspices where subjects that are of common interest will be discussed.
3. ICCAT shall provide any information deemed necessary to CITES on tuna and tuna-like fishes of the ICCAT Convention area to approach the listing criteria.
4. ICCAT will work together with CITES to ensure adequate consultations in the scientific and technical evaluation of proposals for including, transferring or deleting commercial-exploited tuna and tuna-like fishes of the ICCAT Convention area in the CITES Appendices based on the criteria agreed by the Parties to CITES, and both Parties will address technical and legal issues relating to the listing and implementation of such listings.
5. The CITES Secretariat will inform ICCAT of all relevant proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II concerning tuna and tuna-like fishes of the ICCAT Convention area. Such information shall be provided to ICCAT in order to carry out a scientific and technical review of such proposals in a manner deemed appropriate and for the resulting output to be transmitted to the CITES Secretariat. The CITES Secretariat shall communicate the views expressed and data provided from this review and his own findings and recommendations, taking due account of the ICCAT review, to the Parties of CITES.
6. The Secretariats of both Parties will report on work completed under these Guidelines to the ICCAT Commission and to the Conference of the Parties to CITES.

7. Unless otherwise agreed, neither Party will be legally or financially liable in any way for activities carried out jointly or independently under this MoU.
8. These Guidelines will take effect on the date of its adoption by the ICCAT Contracting Parties and the CITES Parties. It will remain in force unless terminated by 90 days' written notice served by one upon the other, or replaced by another agreement. It may be amended by written mutual agreement.
9. ICCAT will report to the Conference of the Parties to CITES the data concerning the implementation of its statistical document programmes and catch documentation schemes.