

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



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

Strategic matters

Cooperation with other organizations

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 61st meeting (Geneva, August 2011), the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to invite further comments from Parties on a draft Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) that had been jointly prepared by the CITES Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), pursuant to Decision 15.18 of the Conference of the Parties. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to prepare a further document for consideration at the present meeting.
3. In Notification to the Parties No. 2011/041 of 4 October 2011, the Secretariat explained that the purpose of the draft MoC was “to establish a framework for cooperation in the areas of biological conservation and sustainable use of relevance to food and agriculture, fisheries, forestry and wildlife”. The objective of the MoC was “to promote synergy between the Parties, to ensure complementarity and mutual support in their work, and to serve the member States of FAO and CITES better.”
4. Colombia, Japan and the European Union provided comments on the original draft MoC. The United States of America provided its comments through a completely new draft MoC.
5. The Secretariat revised the original draft MoC to reflect, as best it could, all of the comments received, indicating their source and noting that there were differing views expressed on certain parts of the draft MoC. It then shared the revised draft MoC with the FAO Forest Department in early March 2012.
6. FAO responded in April 2012, suggesting two amendments to the revised draft MoC based on FAO’s substantive review and input received from the FAO legal office. These concern paragraphs b) and c) of item IV on *Cooperation* and have been included in the final draft MoC. FAO reiterated its desire to have a MoC that would place cooperation between the two organizations on a broader basis, including the Forest Department.
7. Annex 1 to the present document contains a clean version of the final draft MoC, while Annex 2 shows the changes that were made to the original draft and the source of those changes. Annex 3, which is in English only, contains the draft MoC proposed by the United States. Annexes 2 and 3 are provided for purposes of information.

Recommendation

8. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee adopt the final draft MoC contained in Annex 1 to this document.