

## **Memorandum of Cooperation**

**between**

**The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade  
in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**

**and**

**The Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform  
on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretariat of the Convention") and the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretariat of IPBES"),

Collectively referred to hereinafter as "the Participants",

*Recalling that*

1. The aim of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention" or "CITES") is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival;
2. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention adopted, in Resolution Conf. 16.3 (Rev. CoP17), the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020, including a suite of strategic goals and targets with the purpose to improve the working of the Convention, so that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted at sustainable levels; and to ensure that CITES policy developments are mutually supportive of international environmental priorities and take into account new international initiatives, consistent with the terms of the Convention;
3. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (hereinafter referred to as "Intergovernmental Platform" or "IPBES") seeks to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human wellbeing and sustainable development, and further recalling that its functions are:
  - a) To identify and prioritize key scientific information needed for policymakers on appropriate scales and to catalyse efforts to generate new knowledge;
  - b) To perform regular and timely assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages;
  - c) To support policy formulation and implementation by identifying policy-relevant tools and methodologies to enable decision makers to gain access to those tools and methodologies and, where necessary, to promote and catalyse their further development;
  - d) To prioritize key capacity-building needs to improve the science-policy interface at appropriate levels.

Recalling also that

4. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its seventeenth meeting adopted Decisions 16.13-16.16 (RevCoP17) on the linkages between CITES and IPBES, *inter alia* recommending that the Parties consider promoting actions to reinforce linkages between IPBES and CITES, requesting the Standing Committee to establish a working group on IPBES and requesting the CITES Secretariat to continue to track and contribute to the work of IPBES bodies;

Intend as follows:

### **I. Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Cooperation is to promote cooperation between the Participants with respect to mutually relevant activities conducted in the framework of the Convention and the Intergovernmental Platform, with a view to promoting synergies between, avoiding overlaps and unnecessary duplication of, and ensuring effective cooperation on, such activities.

### **II. Cooperation**

To achieve the purpose set out in Article 1, the Parties intend, where relevant and appropriate to:

- a) Promote their mutual cooperation through regular exchanges of information on their relevant respective activities; the participation of their concerned respective officers in relevant meetings, as appropriate; and the holding of consultations on the preparation of their respective official documents by making available to one another drafts of relevant documents and providing comments on such documents, where appropriate and feasible;
- b) Encourage cooperation and information exchange between their respective focal points with a view to promoting mutual cooperation at the national and international levels;
- c) Facilitate and encourage the provision of mutual technical support, *inter alia*, to promote technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building at the national and regional levels;
- d) Facilitate, where appropriate, the participation of their technical experts on issues of mutual relevance covered by their respective programmes of work;
- e) Facilitate synergy between mutually relevant activities of their governing bodies.

### **III. Work plans**

With a view to implementing this Memorandum of Cooperation, the Participants may craft work plans concerning joint activities.

### **IV. Financial aspects**

The implementation of activities arising from under this Memorandum of Cooperation is subject to the availability of funding for this purpose.

### **V. Reporting and further guidance**

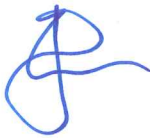
Each Participant intends to report to its respective governing body and subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, on progress made in the implementation of this Memorandum of Cooperation and seek further guidance from such body or bodies regarding new areas of cooperation with the other Participant.

## VI. Review, modification and discontinuation

- a) This Memorandum of Cooperation does not impose, and is not intended to impose, any legally binding commitments on either Participant. It may be reviewed by the Participants, either collectively or individually, to assess its effectiveness, and it may be modified at any time by mutual accord of the Participants.
- b) This Memorandum of Cooperation will become effective upon signature by both Participants and remain effective until 31 December 2019. It may be discontinued earlier by either Participant by giving notice in writing to the other Participant no less than six months in advance of the end date of the Memorandum of Cooperation.

Signed this 7th day of March, in 2017:

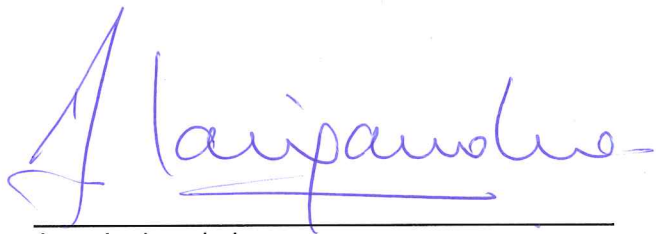
For the CITES Secretariat:



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John Scanlon  
Secretary-General  
Convention on International Trade in Endangered  
Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

For the IPBES Secretariat:



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Anne Larigauderie  
Executive Secretary  
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on  
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services