

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



Fifty-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 2-6 October 2006

Strategic and administrative matters

COOPERATION WITH THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 53rd meeting (Geneva, June – July 2005), the Standing Committee approved a draft text of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and CITES, contained in document SC53 Doc. 10.1. As directed by the Committee, the Secretariat forwarded the draft text to FAO for consideration.
3. The Sub-Committee on Fish Trade of the Committee on Fisheries of FAO (COFI:FT) discussed the draft text at its 10th session (Santiago de Compostela, 30 May to 2 June 2006). Many countries were of the opinion that the wording of the draft MoU under consideration was not perfect and that there was room for improvement but they recognized the difficulty of negotiating a text that would be fully acceptable to all Parties. They were therefore willing to accept the existing draft text as a compromise. As a result, the Sub-Committee adopted the MoU without amendments.
4. During their discussions, a number of COFI:FT members expressed appreciation of the good cooperation that had been taking place between FAO and CITES in recent years and there was consensus that cooperation on commercially-exploited aquatic species was necessary. The main areas of activities by FAO on commercially-exploited aquatic species relevant to CITES are summarized in FAO document COFI:FT/X/2006/3, which is annexed to the present document.
5. At the time of writing (July 2006), the Secretariats of CITES and FAO were making arrangements for the MoU to be signed. A copy of the signed MoU will be provided to the Standing Committee at SC54.