

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on  
International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

and

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Concerning

Commercially-exploited aquatic species

December 2003

RECALLING the recommendation in February 2002 of the COFI Sub-committee on Fish Trade, a subsidiary body to the FAO Committee on Fisheries, that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) be established between FAO and CITES; and

FURTHER RECALLING the decision of the Conference of the Parties to CITES at its 12th meeting in November 2002 directing the Standing Committee to conclude a MoU with FAO to establish a framework for cooperation;

The Standing Committee on behalf of the Conference of the Parties to CITES and the Director-General on behalf of FAO (the 'signatories') agree on the following scope and methods of cooperation.

### **Article 1**

#### **Scientific evaluation of CITES listing proposals**

The signatories will develop a procedure for ensuring future FAO involvement in the scientific and technical evaluation of proposals for including commercially exploited aquatic species in the CITES Appendices or for transferring them from one Appendix to another or deleting them in accordance with Article XV, paragraphs 1 and 2(b) of the Convention. Once agreed by the CITES Standing Committee and the FAO Sub-committee on Fish Trade, a description of this procedure will be annexed to and considered part of this MoU.

### **Article 2**

#### **Capacity building for natural resource management**

- a) The signatories will cooperate as appropriate to facilitate capacity building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on issues relating to commercially exploited aquatic species and related law enforcement efforts.
- b) The signatories will communicate and exchange information regularly and bring to each other's attention areas of concern where there is a role for the other to play or where there are implementation difficulties that need to be taken into consideration and addressed.

### **Article 3**

#### **Technical and legal issues of common interest**

The signatories will identify and work together to address technical and legal issues of common interest regarding commercially exploited aquatic species.

**Article 4**  
**Coordination of work**

- a) The Secretariats to CITES and FAO will meet annually to discuss implementation of this MoU and if needed to prepare joint work plans for carrying out specific activities. The results of these meetings will be provided to the CITES Standing Committee and the FAO Sub-committee on Fish Trade for review and input and where appropriate, for approval.
- b) The Secretariats to CITES and FAO will periodically report on work completed under the MoU to the Conference of the Parties to CITES and the FAO Committee on Fisheries, respectively.

**Article 5**  
**General provisions**

- a) This MoU will take effect on the date of signature by both signatories. 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.
- b) Unless otherwise agreed, neither signatory will be legally or financially liable in any way for activities carried out jointly or independently under this MoU. Separate letters of agreement or other arrangements, with specific budgets and resource identification, will be concluded for individual activities involving the commitment of financial resources by either signatory.

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Ken Stansell  
Chairman, Standing Committee  
On behalf of the Conference  
of the Parties to CITES

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Jacques Diouf  
Director-General  
On behalf of FAO

Date:

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