

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

Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Strategic matters

COOPERATION WITH ORGANIZATIONS AND
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat. It focuses on cooperation with United Nations (UN) bodies, UN specialized agencies, multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and intergovernmental organizations not covered under other agenda items. CITES cooperates as well with national and international academic or research institutions, scientific associations, private sector associations and non-governmental organizations. Local and indigenous communities have also expressed interest in enhancing cooperation with CITES in particular areas of relevant interest.

2. Cooperation between CITES and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and organizations is the focus of Goal 3 of the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013 (CITES Strategic Vision)* which states that the Convention should:

Contribute to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by ensuring that CITES and other multilateral instruments and processes are coherent and mutually supportive.

3. Cooperation with other MEAs and organizations, as appropriate, is also required to achieve Goals 1 and 2 of the *CITES Strategic Vision*, with each Goal being mutually reinforcing. The extent of cooperation varies considerably and is determined by the CITES mandate and the Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties (see document SC61 Doc. 14.1 on "Progress report on the implementation of the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013*").

4. A vast number of Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties call for cooperation with specific MEAs or organizations on issues of common concern. In addition, CITES has entered into cooperative memoranda of understanding (MoUs) or work programmes with various MEAs or organizations, attended meetings of the relevant governing and subsidiary bodies, exchanged information and experience, and undertaken joint activities. This allows each partner to enhance its awareness of the role and purpose of the other and to contribute to each other's effective implementation¹.

5. In its report for the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC61, Geneva, August 2011) on *Cooperation with other organizations— Overview* (see document SC61 Doc. 15.1), the Secretariat suggested that the cooperation efforts undertaken to implement Goal 3 could be seen as falling into several clusters. These clusters have been slightly adjusted for the present document as follows:

- Biodiversity: biodiversity-related and other conventions;
- Enforcement: international organizations and agreements dealing with law enforcement;
- Finance: international financial mechanisms and other related institutions;
- Natural resources: international organizations and agreements dealing with natural resources;

¹ The CITES website contains a section Cooperation and partnerships at <http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/coop.php> with links to major Resolutions and Decisions related to cooperation with other MEAs and organizations, as well as the different MoUs involving CITES.

- Science: international environment and science organizations; and
- Trade and transport: international transport, trade and development organizations.

In addition to these thematic clusters, the Secretariat is part of several overarching cooperation mechanisms and partnerships (e.g. the Environment Management Group) and it also engages with relevant regional agreements and organizations (e.g. the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization) as described in more detail below.

6. The relevance of CITES to multiple sectors is reflected in paragraph 203 of the outcome document *The Future We Want*² of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, 2012), where States said (emphasis added):

*We recognize the important role of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), **an international agreement that stands at the intersection between trade, environment and development**; promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; should contribute to tangible benefits for local people; and ensures that no species entering into international trade is threatened with extinction. We recognize the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife where firm and strengthened action needs to be taken on both the supply and demand sides. In this regard, we emphasize the importance of effective international cooperation among relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations. We further stress the importance of basing the listing of species on agreed criteria.*

7. In paragraph 89 of *The Future We Want*, States also referred directly to the contribution which MEAs make to sustainable development in saying (emphasis added):

*We recognize the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). We acknowledge the work already undertaken to enhance synergies among the three Conventions in the chemicals and waste cluster (the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions). **We encourage parties to MEAs to consider further measures, in these and other clusters, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance coordination and cooperation among MEAs, including the three Rio Conventions as well as with the UN system in the field.***

8. Several documents for the present meeting address specific partnerships or areas of cooperation, such as the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), and are cross-referenced below. As mentioned in paragraph 1 above, the primary aim of this document is to describe cooperation between CITES and other MEAs or organizations which is not addressed in other documentation for the present meeting.

International organizations

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

9. Since the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15, Doha, 2010), there has been extensive cooperation between CITES and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the conservation and sustainable use of sharks. A key example of this cooperation was the FAO-CITES workshop to review the application and effectiveness of international regulatory measures for the conservation and sustainable use of elasmobranchs (Genazzano, July 2010). The workshop report is available at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2445e/i2445e00.pdf>. More details about this area of cooperation are contained in document CoP16 Doc. 61 on *Sharks and stingrays*.
10. As indicated in other discussion documents for the present meeting, the Secretariat has also worked with FAO on the humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*), sturgeons and paddlefish (particularly on stock assessments and Total Allowable Catch estimation methodologies for Caspian Sea sturgeon species), sea cucumbers and criteria for inclusion of species in Appendices I and II. As in the past, FAO is expected to provide input for the present meeting on any amendment proposals for marine species, through an FAO Expert Advisory Panel.

² [See http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/727The%20Future%20We%20Want%2019%20June%201230pm.pdf](http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/727The%20Future%20We%20Want%2019%20June%201230pm.pdf).

11. Both CITES and FAO provided technical support at a meeting on community-based natural resource management, organized by Austria and the European Commission (Vienna, May 2011), and FAO also participated in a meeting on bushmeat (Nairobi, June 2011) which was jointly organized between the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and CITES. The FAO Legal Department has continued to participate actively as a member of the Standing Committee Working Group on Introduction from the Sea.
12. Representatives of FAO attended the 61st and 62nd meetings of the Standing Committee (SC61, Geneva, August 2011; and SC62, Geneva, July 2012) as well as the 25th and 26th meetings of the Animals Committee (AC25, Geneva, July 2011; and AC26, Geneva and Dublin, March 2012). Following CoP15, the CITES Secretariat participated in the 29th and 30th meetings of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI-29, Rome, January – February 2011; and COFI-30, Rome, July 2012). In 2011, for the first time, the Secretary-General appeared before FAO-COFI and made an intervention on collaboration between FAO and CITES³. The Secretariat also attended and made an intervention at COFI-30 in 2012
13. In March 2011, the CITES Secretariat was invited by the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) to become a 'core affiliate' of the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Diseases (later renamed the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health), which CMS had jointly established with FAO. The Secretariat participated in a workshop to launch the Task Force, which was held in Beijing during June 2011. The Secretariat reported on this matter at AC26. The Committee recognized the importance of wildlife trade and wildlife diseases, and the linkages with CITES, but believed that wildlife diseases were best addressed by other organizations, such as the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). It was also concerned about the Secretariat's limited resources for becoming involved in these issues. The Animals Committee recommended to the Standing Committee that the Secretariat's status in the scientific Task Force be changed from "core affiliate" to "observer" or "partner", a recommendation that was endorsed by the Standing Committee at SC62 and then implemented by the Secretariat.
14. In September 2012, the Secretariat participated in the first FAO-Wildlife for Improved Livelihoods and Development (FAO-WILD) Advisory Group Meeting to launch the new FAO Partnership Programme on Wildlife Management.
15. Decision 15.18 of the Conference of the Parties envisages a broadening of the scope of cooperation with FAO. The Secretariat reported on the implementation of this Decision at SC61 and SC62 in documents SC61 Doc. 15.5 and SC62 Doc. 14.4, respectively. At SC62, the Standing Committee agreed to establish a working group whose task was to prepare a revised draft memorandum of cooperation, on the basis of document SC62 Doc. 14.4 Annex 1, for consideration at the 63rd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC63, Bangkok, March 2013). If this work is completed at SC63, then the Secretariat would consider that Decision 15.18 has been implemented and can be deleted.

International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

16. Resolution Conf. 14.4 on *Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber* provides CITES and ITTO with a broad framework for their cooperative efforts. The Secretary-General visited the Executive Director of ITTO in Yokohama in October 2010 to discuss enhancing CITES/ITTO cooperation further, and CITES has strengthened its cooperation with ITTO since CoP15.
17. The *ITTO-CITES programme for implementing CITES listings of tropical timber species* (Phase I) began in 2006. Progress under the Programme has been reported through a series of newsletters and a dedicated website hosted by ITTO (http://www.itto.int/cites_programme). In paragraph b) of Decision 15.93, adopted at CoP15, which concerns the Plants Committee Working Group on Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species, the Secretariat is directed to continue its joint work with ITTO and report on progress at the present meeting.
18. At the 19th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC19, Geneva, April 2011), the Secretariat provided Committee members with Issue #8 (December 2010) of the ITTO-CITES Programme newsletter as an information document (see document PC19 Inf. 8). At the 20th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC20, Dublin, March 2012), the Secretariat provided a progress report on activities under the CITES-ITTO Programme from April 2011 to March 2012 (see document PC20 Doc. 19.2).

³ See http://www.cites.org/eng/news/SG/2011/20110201_sg_remarks_cofi.php.

19. Phase I of the ITTO-CITES programme, implemented between 2006 and 2011, was generously supported by contributions of the European Commission and other donors (Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland the United States of America and the private sector). The total budget of the first phase reached USD 4.5 million.
20. During Phase I, the eight participating countries (Brazil, Cameroon, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Malaysia, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia) received the financial and technical support needed to implement more than 30 national projects and 10 regional and international activities. The participating countries established their priorities for implementing the national projects under the programme. In most instances, the projects were dedicated to strengthening their capacity to make non-detriment findings (NDFs) for four key species of trees included in CITES Appendix II: *Swietenia macrophylla* (bigleaf mahogany from Central and South America and the Caribbean), *Pericopsis elata* (afroformosa from Africa), *Prunus africana* (African cherry tree) and *Gonystylus* spp. (ramin from Asia).
21. A summary of the main successes of Phase I of the ITTO-CITES programme is provided below:
 - a) Peru strengthened its capacity to make NDFs for trade in bigleaf mahogany, and provided relevant information to the Plants Committee at its 17th meeting (Geneva, April 2008), causing the Committee to determine that it was not necessary to include the country in its Review of Significant Trade for this species;
 - b) Cameroon strengthened its capacity to make NDFs for afroformosa and thereafter provided a report on the management plan that it was implementing for this species at PC19, causing the Committee to determine that it was not necessary to include the country in its Review of Significant Trade for this species;
 - c) Cameroon established a voluntary zero export quota for the African cherry tree in 2009, after the Standing Committee began assessing Cameroon's compliance with recommendations made under the Review of Significant Trade in this species. Under the ITTO-CITES programme, Cameroon has since established a scientifically-sound NDF that allowed it to reopen a management area for producing dry bark of this species in a sustainable manner. Since lifting its voluntary zero export quota, Cameroon has been able to reopen other production areas in the country;
 - d) In 2009, the Standing Committee issued a recommendation to suspend trade in the African cherry tree from the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a result of this country's failure to implement recommendations made by the Plants Committee under the Review of Significant Trade. At SC62, the Democratic Republic of the Congo provided information which demonstrated that support under the ITTO-CITES Programme had enabled it to strengthen its capacity to make NDFs for this species. Consequently, the Standing Committee agreed to withdraw its recommendation to suspend trade provided that future exports were managed under an annual export quota. The country now continues to make progress in re-establishing the sustainable harvest of and trade in this species; and
 - e) Both Indonesia and Malaysia continue to make progress in ensuring the conservation, management and sustainable use of ramin species, and they have been able to set annual harvest and export quotas for these species that are consistent with the provisions of Article IV of the Convention.
22. In December 2011, the European Commission agreed to support the continuation of the ITTO-CITES Programme through a Phase-II activity entitled *ITTO-CITES Implementation for Tree Species and Trade/Market Transparency (TMT)*. The Phase-II grant proposal has a total budget of EUR 7.5 million, of which approximately EUR 5 million has been committed by the European Commission. In accordance with the Commission's requirements, contributions from other donors are needed to ensure that one-third of the total Programme budget is funded from other sources. The objectives of this Phase II are to ensure that international trade in CITES-listed tree species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation, and to increase the quality of forest trade information so as to facilitate better policy planning. Phase II will continue the work of ITTO and CITES in helping target countries to ensure that trade in selected CITES-listed tree species is legal, sustainable and traceable.
23. It is anticipated that Phase II of the ITTO-CITES Programme will continue to be implemented in a country-driven manner with an expansion in scope to include additional CITES-listed timber and tree species as well as additional range States. Project activities in Phase II will be overseen by an advisory committee composed of representatives of the target countries, donors, the ITTO and CITES Secretariats, and trade as well as other civil society stakeholders. Currently, activities submitted by the eight Phase-I target

countries, with budgets totaling over USD 2 million, are pending funding under Phase II of the ITTO-CITES Programme.

24. Some of the expected outputs of Phase II include: improved population inventories or inventory designs for CITES-listed tree species in participating range States; the installment and use of national systems for tracking or monitoring harvest of and trade in CITES-listed tree species; the organization of regional training workshops to exchange information and experiences; a decreased number of Standing Committee recommendations to suspend trade with range States of CITES-listed timber species covered by the Programme; and an increased capacity of Parties to undertake NDFs for these species.
25. All target countries in the programme are CITES Parties or ITTO member countries. The duration of Phase II is expected to be four years starting in 2012. For further information, Parties are invited to visit the ITTO-CITES Program's website mentioned in paragraph 17 above. In addition, a joint ITTO-CITES side event will be held in the margins of the present meeting with the envisaged participation of, *inter alia*, target countries (subject to available resources), donors, the Executive Director of ITTO, the Secretary-General of CITES and technical focal points from the ITTO and CITES Secretariats.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

26. The administrative and programmatic relationship between CITES and UNEP is governed by the MoU between the Standing Committee and the Executive Director of UNEP concerning secretariat services to and support of the Convention, as well as a delegation of authority from the Executive Director of UNEP to the Secretary-General of CITES. The MoU came into effect on 1 September 2011⁴. Details about cooperation between CITES and UNEP are contained in various sections of this document and in document CoP16 Doc. 7.
27. The Secretariat participated in the First International Chiefs of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Summit (Lyon, March 2012), jointly organized by ICPO-INTERPOL and UNEP. It explained the role and function of CITES and highlighted the potential of ICCWC to combat wildlife crime to participating enforcement officers from around the world.
28. The Secretary-General served on the Executive Committee for, and participated in, the World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability, which was organized by UNEP in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, immediately before Rio+20 (June 2012), addressing 250 judges, prosecutors and auditors general on the role and purpose of CITES, the current trends in wildlife crime, and the role of the judiciary in combating such crimes.
29. In June 2012, the Secretariat provided a series of briefings to the UNEP regional focal points for biodiversity-related conventions located in the Regional Office for Africa, the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Office for Europe, the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Regional Office for West Asia. After their CITES briefing, the focal points obtained similar briefings from the Secretariats of the Convention on Wetlands (also known as the "Ramsar Convention") and CMS. Since June 2012, the CITES Secretariat has been in communication with the focal points to follow up on opportunities for regional or national support that were identified during the CITES briefing.
30. The MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative brings together 34 global and regional MEAs, which are serviced by 20 Secretariats hosted by different UN bodies [FAO, UNEP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and UN headquarters]. It is supported by UNEP and co-chaired by the CITES Secretariat. The Initiative welcomes the participation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as institutional host of the Ramsar Convention and invites observers involved in MEA data and information, such as the Environment Management Group, IUCN, the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL), and the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN – Columbia University).
31. One of the main objectives of the IKM Initiative is to build technical capacity in the MEA secretariats through the establishment of expert networks and communities of practice. In this context, InforMEA (<http://www.informeamea.org>) is the first project established under this Initiative. In summary, InforMEA harvests CoP decisions and resolutions, news, events, MEA membership, national focal points, national

⁴ See <http://www.cites.org/common/disc/sec/CITES-UNEP.pdf>.

reports, and implementation plans from MEA secretariats and links this information to terms taken from respective CoP agendas. Using InforMEA, therefore, Parties to all MEAs, including CITES Parties, and national MEA focal points can easily search, locate and retrieve information on specific subjects held by different MEAs.

Regional agreements

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)

32. CITES is referenced in the *Amazonian strategic cooperation agenda* of ACTO, specifically in Subtopic A.3: *Management, monitoring and control of wild flora and fauna species endangered by trade*⁵. The objective of this Subtopic is to "Strengthen institutional and technical capacity in the Amazon countries from a regional perspective to manage, monitor and control wild flora and fauna species endangered by trade". In this connection, the Secretariat has worked with the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO to organize several subregional preparatory meetings for meetings of the CITES scientific committees, Standing Committee and Conference of the Parties. The two Secretariats also collaborated in the organization of two specific meetings on *CITES and livelihoods* and *National legislation to implement CITES*. These activities were conducted with the financial and technical assistance of the European Commission and the Amazon Regional Program (supported by the Dutch Directorate-General for International Cooperation or DGIS, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development or BMZ and German Society for International Cooperation or GIZ).⁶
33. The CITES Secretariat is collaborating with the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO on a project on e-permitting systems and the establishment of Single Windows for member countries. The project is co-funded by the European Commission and the Governments of Germany and the Netherlands. This collaboration ensures that efforts are not duplicated, financial resources are optimized and best use is made of available expertise. IN 2001, the Secretariat organized with the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO a meeting in Brasilia, Brazil, for member countries on the implementation of e-permitting systems and Single Windows for the region, South-South collaboration and joint initiatives. During this meeting, Brazil also offered access to its technology and know-how, and invited member countries to begin discussion on funding proposals under the Brazilian Agency for Development.

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

34. Following CoP15, the Secretariat engaged closely with ICCAT, for example through the first appearance and intervention by a CITES Secretary-General at an ICCAT Commission meeting (the 17th ICCAT Special Meeting of the Commission held in Paris, France, in November 2010)⁷. The Secretariat reported to the Standing Committee on its cooperation with ICCAT in document SC61 Doc. 15.7 and document SC62 Doc. 14.6.
35. In November 2011, the ICCAT Commission adopted *Guidelines for Cooperation between ICCAT and CITES*. The Standing Committee adopted the same *Guidelines* at SC62 (see the Annex to document SC62 Doc. 14.6). As provided in Article XV of the Convention, ICCAT and other inter-governmental bodies having a function in relation to marine species will be consulted by the Secretariat on any amendment proposals involving such species submitted for consideration at the present meeting.

League of Arab States (LAS)

36. The Secretariat has been invited to attend a future meeting of the working group on biodiversity- and desertification-related MEAs of the League of Arab States to be held in 2013, and is planning to do so, subject to external funding.

Organization of American States (OAS)

37. The Secretariat has worked with the Organization of American States (OAS) to organize meetings which are aimed at raising awareness about CITES among interested stakeholders. These meetings include a Dialogue on *Implementation of core priorities of CITES* hosted by the OAS in Washington D.C, United

⁵ See http://www.otca.info/portal/admin/_upload/apresentacao/AECA_eng.pdf.

⁶ More information on joint activities is available at http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20120621_ACTO.php.

⁷ A summary of the Secretary-General's intervention is available at: http://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_10-11_I_1.pdf.

States, in September 2010⁸ and another Dialogue on *Governance for Sustainability: Basic Tools, Principles and Stakeholder Roles*, in preparation for Rio+20, organized in September 2011⁹. The CITES and OAS Secretariats are currently developing a cooperative MoU for future work on, *inter alia*, legislation and policies for CITES implementation.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

38. Following a regional CITES workshop on *Strengthening implementation capacity to ensure sustainable wildlife management and non-detrimental trade*, convened by SPREP in March 2012¹⁰, CITES and SPREP continued to collaborate in an effort to develop a joint several-year capacity-building project, aimed at improving the implementation of CITES in the Pacific region (particularly for marine species) and at assisting non-Party Pacific Island States in joining CITES.
39. This corresponds to the SPREP *Strategic Plan 2011-2015*, which includes 'Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management' as one of its four strategic priorities. One of the 2015 Goals under this priority is that: "Non-Party Pacific Island States join CITES, begin implementing wildlife protection legislation, receive training and develop model law".

Biodiversity-related and other conventions

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

40. Collaboration between CITES and CMS is well established and guided by Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the 2002 MoU between the Secretariats*. There are several discussion documents for the present meeting which refer to specific areas of cooperation between CITES and CMS.
41. An updated joint work programme for the period 2012-2014 was adopted at the 38th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee in November 2011, and by the CITES Standing Committee at SC62. The Secretariat reported to the Standing Committee on its overall cooperation with CMS in documents SC61 Doc. 15.4 (Rev. 1) and SC62 Doc. 14.3. In addition to the activities described in the joint work programme, there have been exchanges of secretariat staff to provide additional support for the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (CMS COP10, Bergen, November 2011) and the present meeting. Such exchanges contribute to mutual awareness and supportiveness between the two secretariats and enhance the skills and knowledge of involved staff.
42. The Secretariat, through its MIKE programme, continued to collaborate closely with the CMS Secretariat regarding the conservation of African elephants in West and Central Africa. After the first successful joint meeting in 2009 (Accra, Ghana), the second joint meeting of the *Memorandum of Understanding under CMS concerning conservation measures for the West African populations of African Elephant* (CMS MoU on elephants) and the MIKE Steering Committee for West Africa was held in June 2011 in Niamey, Niger. The MIKE programme also assisted CMS in convening the second meeting of signatories to the CMS MoU on elephants, held in conjunction with the joint CMS-CITES MIKE meeting. The Secretariat provided assistance to the CMS Secretariat in undertaking a gap analysis to determine the need for a CMS MoU on elephants in Central Africa, with the results of this evaluation being presented at CMS COP10.
43. The 116 Parties to CMS adopted Resolution 10.28 at CMS CoP10. The Resolution lists the saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) in CMS Appendix I, excluding the population of Mongolia. It also calls for the establishment of a Saker Falcon Task Force (STF) under the auspices of the UNEP/CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MoU). The Secretariat attended the first meeting of this Task Force in Abu Dhabi in March 2012. It assisted in finalizing the Task Force's Work Plan for 2012-2014, aimed at developing and implementing a Saker Falcon Global Action Plan, and agreed to lead on tasks relating to sustainable use of and international trade in the species. Work in this regard has been initiated.
44. In accordance with the joint work programme mentioned in paragraph 41 above, the CITES Secretariat participated in the First Meeting of the Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding on the

⁸ See <http://www.oas.org/DSD/EnvironmentLaw/Wild%20Fauna%20and%20Flora%20CITES.htm>.

⁹ See http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/rio+20/Dialogue_1.asp.

¹⁰ See a related news item on the SPREP website at: <http://sids-l.iisd.org/news/sprep-hosts-cites-meeting-for-the-pacific/>.

Conservation of Migratory Sharks (CMS Sharks MoU), held in Bonn, Germany, from 24 to 27 September 2012¹¹. During the meeting, the signatories to the MoU adopted a Conservation Plan which contains, among other things, provisions relating to the international trade in shark products and related law enforcement (CMS/Sharks/Outcome 1.1). The Plan will be available soon on the CMS website and its implementation will have direct relevance for CITES Parties.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

45. CITES Parties have for some time provided for collaboration between CITES and CBD, through Resolutions Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity*, Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on *Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines* and Conf. 13.10 (Rev. CoP14) on *Trade in alien invasive species*. In addition, a draft resolution on *Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the the Convention on Biological Diversity* has been submitted for consideration at the present meeting by the Plants Committee (see document SC62 CoP16 Doc. 16). From the CBD side, references to cooperation between CBD and CITES are contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/17 on *Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives*¹² that was presented at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CBD (CBD CoP11, Hyderabad, 2012) by the CBD Secretariat.
46. The MoU between CITES and CBD dates back to 1996 and the related work plan is now out of date. The CITES and CBD Secretariats have had initial discussions about the need to revisit and revise these instruments, taking note of paragraph 12 of Decision X/20 adopted at CBD CoP10 (Nagoya, 2010), and will consult further before March 2013.
47. The Secretariat reported on cooperation with CBD at SC61 and SC62 in documents SC61 Doc. 15.3 and SC62 Doc. 14.2, respectively. Past decisions adopted by CBD in relation to CITES were described in document SC61 Doc. 15.3.
48. Before and during CBD CoP10, the Secretariat urged the adoption of an inclusive Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and an inclusive set of Aichi Targets to which CITES and other MEAs and organizations could contribute. The Secretariat identified the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as one of the key vehicles for achieving more coherence at the national level. Historically, few if any NBSAPs made reference to CITES or activities related to it. Through the development of NBSAP guidance material¹³ and its participation in several regional NBSAP workshops, the Secretariat has sought to encourage and assist CITES authorities to contribute to the development, review, revision and implementation of NBSAPs. Among other things, references to CITES in the NBSAP could help Parties obtain GEF funds for CITES-related projects.
49. In view of the CITES Secretariat's limited human and financial resources, it is important that CITES Parties, the CBD Secretariat and implementing bodies, such as UNEP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), take an active and leading role in ensuring that CITES authorities are directly involved in capacity-building activities related to NBSAPs and that the Convention is properly and appropriately referenced in a country's NBSAP. UNEP, through its Division on Environmental Law and Conventions, has taken recent steps in this direction.
50. With generous support from the European Commission, the CITES and CBD Secretariats convened a joint meeting of the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat and the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group during June 2011 in Gigiri, Kenya. This was attended by experts representing 43 governments and United Nations agencies, international and national organizations, and indigenous and local communities. Participants in the joint meeting shared updates on the conservation and sustainable use of species hunted for bushmeat in tropical and subtropical countries, and formulated revised recommendations of the CBD Liaison Group on Bushmeat, incorporating those from the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group¹⁴.
51. At the end of the joint meeting, the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group met for an additional day. This meeting was convened by the CITES Secretariat and attended by representatives of FAO, UNEP Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP), IUCN, TRAFFIC, the Center for International Forestry Research

¹¹ See a related press release at: http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2012/09_sep/sharks_mou_pr_270912_e.pdf.

¹² See <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-11/official/cop-11-17-en.pdf>.

¹³ See <http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2011/E026A.pdf>.

¹⁴ The outcomes of the meetings mentioned above were presented at SC61 in documents SC61 Doc. 42 and SC61 Inf. 9.

(CIFOR), and indigenous and local communities from Central Africa. The report of the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group to the present meeting is presented in document CoP16 Doc. 70.

52. In August 2012, and under the auspices of the Aichi Biodiversity Target Task Force in which CITES participates, the CBD Secretariat requested the CITES Secretary-General to describe the Convention's contribution to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for a newsletter for civil society entitled "Square Brackets". The final publication will be accessible online at a URL address to be communicated in the future. A guest article on the topic had previously been provided for IISD on the linkages between the effective implementation of CITES and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.¹⁵
53. Following an inquiry from the CBD Secretariat, the CITES Secretariat expressed interest in participating in a collaborative partnership on sustainable wildlife management. In this connection, the Secretariat completed a questionnaire about its expectations for such a partnership, the key experiences it could offer, suggestions for its organization and the resources it could contribute to such a partnership.

UNESCO World Heritage Convention (WHC)

54. In August 2012, the Secretariats of CITES and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention discussed the issue of elephant poaching at 16 World Heritage sites, which are also designated sites for the CITES programme on Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE). This overlap of monitored sites presents a good opportunity for collaboration between the two Conventions. More examples of and details on the existing and potential collaboration between designated MIKE sites and World Heritage sites in Africa, in terms of the management of protected areas, *in situ* capacity building, and biodiversity monitoring, are provided in document CoP16 Doc. 53.1.

International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (IWC)

55. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.4 (Rev. CoP12) on *Conservation of cetaceans, trade in cetacean specimens and the relationship with the International Whaling Commission*, the Secretariats of CITES and IWC have advised each other about meetings of mutual interest, revised the schedule of species and stocks protected from commercial whaling by the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, and otherwise exchanged information of mutual interest.

Other conventions dealing with illegal trafficking

56. The Secretariat collaborates with the Secretariats of the Basel Convention and the Montreal Protocol pursuant to a cooperative MoU on illegal traffic in hazardous and other wastes, ozone-depleting substances covered under the Montreal Protocol and flora and fauna covered by CITES. In June 2012, the Secretariat participated (through an environmental prosecutor seconded by the Attorney General of Sao Paulo, Brazil) in a workshop for Central and Eastern Europe countries on the prosecution of illegal trafficking of hazardous wastes under the Basel Convention, organized in Bratislava, Slovakia, by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. The Secretariat gave a presentation on CITES to raise awareness of the role of prosecutors' networks in combating environmental crime. A second prosecutors' workshop is tentatively planned to be held in Latin America during 2013.

International transport, trade and development organizations

57. The Secretariats of CITES and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) concluded a cooperative MoU in December 2011 aimed at assisting Parties with implementing the Convention, especially in relation to the transport of live animals, the care and placement of confiscated live animals, research, capacity building and the conservation and sustainable use of CITES-listed species.
58. The Secretariat reported at SC61 and SC62 on its cooperation with the World Trade Organization (see document SC61 Doc. 15.8 and the summary record of SC62¹⁶). A cooperative MoU was concluded between CITES and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in March 2010 and a similar agreement is under development between CITES and the International Trade Centre (ITC). Information on specific cooperation between CITES, UNCTAD and ITC is contained in document CoP16 Doc. 57 on *Snake trade and conservation management*.

¹⁵ See http://www.cites.org/eng/news/SG/2011/20110909_SG_IISD_art.php.

¹⁶ At the time of writing (October 2012), the summary record of SC62 was still in preparation.

59. The Secretariat collaborated with United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) on updating of the CITES e-permitting toolkit. The new Toolkit includes additional standards to ensure traceable trade.

Biodiversity Indicators Partnership

60. Decision 15.11, adopted at CoP15, directs the Secretariat to continue to provide its services as a key indicator partner in the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, consulting the Animals, Plants and Standing Committees where necessary, and to report on its work in this regard at the present meeting.
61. The Secretariat has maintained its engagement with the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership. It reported on progress at PC19 and AC25, drawing particular attention to the final report of the first phase of the Partnership entitled *Biodiversity indicators and the 2010 Target: Experiences and lessons learnt from the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership*, which can be found in document PC19 Inf. 1¹⁷.
62. Since CBD CoP10 in October 2010 and the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Partnership has focused more on regional capacity building for indicator development, with global-level discussions taking place in a CBD Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. For reasons of economy, the interests of the CITES Secretariat have been represented by the Ramsar Secretariat in meetings of this Expert Group. The AHTEG prepared recommendations¹⁸ for the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), which took note of its suggested indicative list of indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
63. The CBD SBSTTA recommended to CBD COP11 that the CBD Executive Secretary be requested to collaborate with the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and others to assist CBD Parties to use and develop these indicative indicators, including at the regional and national levels.
64. The CBD SBSTTA further recommended to CBD CoP11 that the CBD Executive Secretary, *inter alia*, "[e]xplore options for the further harmonization of global indicators and their use between the Convention on Biological Diversity and other conventions, regional agreements and processes, and promote further collaboration including through the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions" (SBSTTA 15 Recommendation XV/1).
65. In view of the evolving framework for the development of indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Secretariat recommends that Decision 15.11 be deleted and that it continue to promote the Convention in this regard under Goal 3, Objective 3.4 of the *CITES Strategic Vision*, namely:

The contribution of CITES to the relevant Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development goals set at [the World Summit on Sustainable Development] is strengthened by ensuring that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted at sustainable levels.

Overarching cooperation mechanisms or partnerships involving other MEAs and organizations

Environment Management Group (EMG)

66. The Environment Management Group (EMG), a United Nations system-wide coordination body chaired by the Executive Director of UNEP, comprises all UN bodies, its specialized agencies and conventions hosted by the UN such as CITES. EMG members work in a targeted and time-bound manner through Issue Management Groups (IMGs). The CITES Secretariat participates in the IMG on Biodiversity and has also contributed on occasion to the IMG on Green Economy.
67. During CBD CoP10, the EMG launched its report entitled *Advancing the biodiversity agenda: A UN system-wide contribution*. Chapter 10 of the report provides a useful overview of the interlinkages among and complementary efforts of MEAs (including CITES) and UN bodies in the implementation of the biodiversity agenda, which has helped raise awareness of the role and purpose of CITES.

¹⁷ See <http://www.cites.org/common/com/PC/19/ESF19-01.pdf>.

¹⁸ See <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-15/information/sbstta-15-inf-06-en.pdf>.

68. The IMG on Biodiversity recently concluded a progress report on the contribution of the United Nations System to the Biodiversity Strategic Plan and a preliminary synthesis report on *Mapping contributions of the UN agencies and conventions to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets*. These documents contain inputs provided by the CITES Secretariat and raise awareness of CITES and the importance of effectively implementing CITES to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.¹⁹

***Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and
Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB)***

69. The BLG was established under CBD in 2004 and comprises the executive heads of the secretariats for the CBD, the Ramsar Convention, WHC, CMS, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources and CITES. Its purpose is to enhance coherence and cooperation in the implementation of the conventions through information exchange, increased coordination and synergistic activities. As mentioned in document SC61 Doc. 15.1, the Secretariat hosted a meeting of the BLG in April 2011.
70. There is generally one face-to-face meeting of the BLG every year and a retreat among BLG members, building on similar retreats held in 2010 and 2011, is envisaged to be held in Geneva in November 2012. The BLG has enabled MEA Secretariats to address administrative and substantive issues that are of common interest, especially before meetings of the Conference of the Parties to these MEAs. The BLG could play a useful role in relaying CoP decisions and priorities to the Plenary of the newly established Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). More details on IPBES are contained in document CoP16 Doc. 17.
71. The Secretariat and the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees have participated regularly in meetings of CSAB. CSAB was established in 2007, at the suggestion of the CITES Secretariat, and its purpose is to provide a forum for discussing areas of cooperation and collaboration on the scientific issues addressed in various convention and their translation into policy. The most recent CSAB meeting was hosted by CITES and took place after the joint sessions of the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee and 20th meeting of the Plants Committee (AC26/PC20, Dublin, March 2012).

Recommendation

72. The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt the draft decisions contained in the Annex to this document and otherwise take note of this report.
73. As reflected in paragraph 15 above, the work envisaged under Decision 15.18 may be completed at SC63 and, if so, the Secretariat would consider that Decision has been implemented and can be deleted.
74. As reflected in paragraph 65 above, the Secretariat believes that Decision 15.11 has been implemented and should therefore be deleted.

¹⁹ These documents are available at: www.unemg.org.

DRAFT DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Directed to the Secretariat

16.XX The Secretariat shall:

- a) undertake a review of activities related to cooperation found in valid Resolutions and Decisions to assess whether and how they could be rationalized and consolidated;
- b) report its findings and recommendations at the 65th and 66th meetings of the Standing Committee, which may include proposals for revised or new resolutions of the Conference of the Parties related to cooperation;
- c) in undertaking the review referred to in paragraph a), work with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to consider and, if necessary, agree on the revision of the existing cooperation mechanisms between them; and
- d) report at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the results of this work.