

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

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

Strategic matters

Cooperation with other organizations

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 13th session (Bangkok, 2004), the Conference of the Parties to CITES adopted Resolution Conf. 13.3, Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which directs the Standing Committee to keep under regular review the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the CITES and CMS Secretariats, which was presented at the 49th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, April 2003) (see the Annex to document SC49 Doc. 6.2).
3. At its 53rd meeting (Geneva, June-July 2005), the Standing Committee adopted a list of joint CITES/CMS activities for 2005-2007<sup>1</sup> on the basis of a proposal put forward in document SC53 Doc. 9.
4. In November 2005, the Conference of the Parties to CMS adopted Resolution Conf. 8.11, which stresses the importance of and need for enhanced collaboration among biodiversity-related conventions. In addition, in its Resolution Conf. 8.2, the Conference adopted the CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011, which had four main objectives:
  - a) To ensure that the conservation and management of migratory species are based on the best available information;
  - b) To ensure that migratory species benefit from the best possible conservation measures;
  - c) To broaden awareness and enhance engagement in the conservation of migratory species amongst key actors; and
  - d) To reinforce CMS's overarching and unifying role in the conservation and management of migratory species.
5. In June 2007, at its 14th session, the Conference of the Parties to CITES adopted the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013* in Resolution Conf. 14.2, stipulating in Objective 3.5 that

*Parties and the Secretariat cooperate with other relevant international organizations and agreements dealing with natural resources, as appropriate, in order to achieve a coherent and collaborative approach to species which can be endangered by unsustainable trade, including those which are commercially exploited.*
6. In document SC61 Doc. 15.4 (Rev. 1) submitted at the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC61, Geneva, August 2011), the Secretariat reported on achievements under the *CITES/CMS List of Joint Activities 2008-2011* and requested comments on a draft *CITES-CMS Action Plan 2012-2014* which was subsequently to be presented to the 38th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (StC38). The CITES

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<sup>1</sup> Available at "[http://www.cites.org/common/disc/sec/cms\\_annex.pdf](http://www.cites.org/common/disc/sec/cms_annex.pdf)" (English only).

Standing Committee noted the proposed *CMS-CITES Action Plan 2012-2014* and requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties inviting comments on it in time for these to be considered at StC38.

7. In response to Notification to the Parties No. 2011/034 of 2 September 2011, comments were received from Germany, New Zealand and the United States of America. The Secretariat presented these during the discussion at StC38 in November 2011.
8. The Annex to the present document contains the final *CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2012-2014*, as adopted by StC38. Colleagues in the CMS Secretariat reformatted the version presented at SC61, but other than that and the incorporation of most of the changes proposed by the Parties referred to in paragraph 7, the text is largely unchanged. The draft proceedings of StC38 currently available on the CMS website do not reflect the changes proposed by the Parties referred to in paragraph 7, but these were agreed at the meeting and the minutes will be revised at the forthcoming 40th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee upon a proposal by the CMS Secretariat.

#### Recommendations

9. In paragraph a) of Resolution Conf. 13.3, the Standing Committee is directed to seek reports from the Secretariat on steps taken to implement a more detailed work programme to be developed jointly with CMS. The Standing Committee is therefore requested to endorse the *CITES-CMS Joint Work Programme 2012-2014* contained in the Annex to the present document.

DRAFT CMS CITES JOINT WORK PROGRAMME 2012-2014<sup>1</sup>

**Background:** The CMS CITES Joint Work Programme 2012–2014 comprises a non-exhaustive list of joint activities. It gives priority to previously agreed priority species and issues, but also other species suitable for joint thematic work, such as the conservation and sustainable use of species in a context of community management of natural resources, traditional medicine and the consumption of bushmeat. The activities are organized around four main themes:

- (A) Harmonization;
- (B) Joint activities for shared species;
- (C) Administration and fund-raising;
- (D) Outreach and capacity building.

The secretariats will cooperate in seeking opportunities for the development and funding where applicable of joint projects of mutual interest.

**(A) Harmonization of taxonomy and nomenclature activities**

Joint activities in this area relate to updating the concordance list of species in the Appendices of the two Conventions (CMS and CITES) and establishing a common database, and taking steps to eliminate differences in nomenclature and taxonomy in the Appendices of the two Conventions.

Description of envisaged joint activities	Timeframe
<p><u>Concordance List of Species and Common Database</u></p> <p>A1. On-going update of the concordance list of species in the Appendices of the two Conventions.</p> <p>A2. Work with UNEP-WCMC on establishing a single database accessible from the two websites, taking into account the respective requirements of the two Conventions, regardless of whether the species are shared or not.</p>	<p>2012</p> <p>2012</p>
<p><u>Harmonize Nomenclature and Taxonomy</u></p> <p>A3. Pursue efforts to harmonize the nomenclature and taxonomy in the Appendices of the two Conventions. Consider in particular the harmonization of the CITES and CMS references relating to marine turtles.</p> <p>A4. Raise the possibility of creating a nomenclature and taxonomy committee under the guidance of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB), taking into account any work carried out in the future by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).</p> <p>A5. Critically assess the taxonomic differences between the final joint CMS-CITES species list and the IUCN Red List, and make recommendations for reconciling these.</p>	<p>2012</p> <p>2012</p> <p>2012-13</p>

<sup>1</sup> The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

## **(B) Joint actions for the conservation and sustainable use of shared species**

Joint activities in this area relate to promoting actions for the conservation and sustainable use of shared species, with a focus on:

- West and Central African populations of the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*);
- Sharks, particularly, whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) of South and Southeast Asia, great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) and basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*);
- Saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.);
- Marine turtles of the Atlantic coast of Africa, the Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Ocean (Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae);
- Snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*);
- Sturgeons (*Acipenseriformes*);
- Gorillas (*Gorilla* spp.); and
- Dugongs (*Dugong dugon*).

Other shared species may be added to this list if joint work proves to be necessary to ensure their conservation and meeting the strategic objectives of the two Conventions; for example argali sheep (*Ovis ammon*) and saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) if listed on CMS Appendix II by CMS COP10.

Joint work will include identifying regional stakeholders, including national agencies and NGOs, which could collaborate with or support regional programmes on joint management aims and activities. Working with these stakeholders, the secretariats will develop joint programmes for the conservation and/or sustainable use of these species. Each secretariat will take the lead where appropriate focusing on their respective mandates. Joint working groups may be established to guide and oversee the implementation of these activities. Together, the secretariats will identify indicators for species activities, which monitor the effectiveness of the programmes.

The secretariats will also respond to any recommendations and resolutions, pertaining to joint CITES/CMS work, adopted during any relevant meetings.

Description of envisaged joint activities	Timeframe
<p><u>African elephant</u></p> <p>B1. Follow up on the outcomes of the second joint meeting of the parties to the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the West African elephant (CMS MoU) and the CITES Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme for West Africa , held on 22 June 2011, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In the context of the African Elephant Action Plan, assisting countries to progress trans-boundary projects benefitting elephants in West Africa;</li><li>• Providing support to secure funding for these projects;</li><li>• Following-up on the implementation of the projects, and submitting progress reports on these projects to the Standing Committees by December 2014;</li><li>• Organize at least one further joint meeting between the CMS MoU and MIKE by December 2014 (subject to external funding).</li></ul> <p>B2. Maximize the synergies between the CMS MoU and MIKE in West Africa.</p>	<p>2012-2014</p> <p>On-going</p>

Description of envisaged joint activities	Timeframe
B3. Ensure synergies with the African Elephant Action Plan.	On-going
B4. Continue to seek further options for collaboration in West Africa to improve coherence between the two Conventions, particularly in areas such as elephant management, management of human-elephant conflicts, illegal trade in specimens and capacity-building.	On-going
B5. Follow up on any decisions adopted at CMS CoP10 regarding the feasibility of a CMS instrument for Central African Elephants. This will be informed by the results of a study entitled “Analyzing gaps and options for enhancing elephant conservation in Central Africa”. The decision could lead to closer collaboration between CMS and the CITES MIKE programme in the region (subject to external funding).	Will depend on decisions adopted at CMS CoP10
<u>Sharks</u>	
B6. CITES will participate in finalizing the Conservation Management Plan that will be annexed to the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (CMS Sharks MOU).	2012
B7. CITES will participate in the first meeting of the signatories to the Sharks MOU (MOS1).	2012-2013
B.8 CMS/CITES Secretariats to organize trilateral meetings with FAO in order to optimize the implementation of the Conservation Management Plan and to enable the organizations to test, in their respective fields, its application to the three species currently shared between the two instruments and FAO, namely, the whale shark, white shark and basking shark (subject to external funding).	2013
B9. CMS and CITES will use the CMS Sharks MOU meeting to further discussions on turtles and other shared marine species.	2012
<u>Saiga antelope</u>	
B10. CMS and CITES will collaborate to identify a host country, and jointly fundraise for the third meeting of the signatories of the Saiga MoU to be held in 2014/2015, including for expert participation at the meeting (subject to external funding).	2014
B11. The CITES Secretariat will participate in the implementation of the Medium-Term International Work Programme for the Saiga Antelope (2011-2015) and in particular in the implementation of measures pertaining to trans-boundary anti-poaching and law enforcement activities, and the sustainable use of and trade in the saiga antelope. CMS and CITES will investigate the possibility of making use of the experience of the CITES MIKE programme on monitoring poaching.	On-going
B12. CITES will explore, as per CITES decision 14.97 (Rev. CoP15), possibilities to establish a mechanism to use funds from the traditional Asian medicine industry for <i>in situ</i> conservation of the saiga antelope. The aim being that consumer countries will contribute to improving the conservation status of the saiga. For example, follow up on the priorities for population-specific action that were proposed by the Urumqi workshop on the conservation and sustainable use of the saiga antelope (27-29 September 2010).	On-going
<u>Marine turtles</u>	
B13. CITES and CMS will explore the possibility of organizing a meeting of the secretariats of conventions and other governmental bodies (FAO, RFMOs) dealing with marine turtles, in order to make an overall assessment of the obligations of each one towards their contracting Parties, to compare experiences and improve efficiency through cooperation and synergy (subject to external funding).	2013

Description of envisaged joint activities	Timeframe
<p><u>Snow leopard</u></p> <p>B14. CITES and CMS will consult the IUCN Cat Specialist Group in order to assess how the two Conventions can contribute to improving the situation of this species.</p> <p>B15. CMS and CITES will investigate options for their attendance at the Snow Leopard Summit in Kyrgyzstan, currently planned for 2012, to be hosted by the President of Kyrgyzstan, with the assistance of the German NGO Naturschutzbund Deutschland e.V.</p>	<p>2012</p> <p>2012</p>
<p><u>Gorillas</u></p> <p>B16. CMS and CITES will cooperate on enforcement issues relating to gorillas. CITES is a partner in the International Consortium for Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCCWC) a cooperation of CITES, INTERPOL, World Bank and the World Customs Organization which will seek relevant gorilla-specific information from CMS for the ICCWC work plan.</p> <p>B17. CMS will discuss with CITES and INTERPOL the implementation of the database collecting and consolidating information on wildlife crime globally. Investigate making the database available for the use of focal points and the technical committee of the CMS Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and Their Habitats.</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>2012</p>
<p><u>Other species</u></p> <p>B18. For other species, such as sturgeons, the South American fur seal and the dugong: continue discussions in order to assess how CMS and CITES could best add value to the conservation status of the species, through for example: community management of resources, non-detrimental trade and sustainable use, and monitoring emerging threats such as climate change.</p> <p>B19. Prepare a critical assessment of the differences in the criteria for inclusion of shared species and the reasons for which they are listed in the Appendices of the two Conventions</p>	<p>2012 – 14</p> <p>2012-13</p>

### **(C) Administrative and fund-raising cooperation**

Joint activities in this area relate to coordinating and updating this work programme and matters of mutual interest, such as by exchanging experience and information, and promoting joint fund-raising for proposed joint activities.

Description of envisaged joint activities	Timeframe
<p><u>Secretariat coordination meetings</u></p> <p>C1. An annual secretariat coordination meeting, and regular teleconference calls as required, will be held to update this Joint Work Programme and for continued cooperation and organization of joint activities.</p>	<p>Annual and as-required</p>
<p><u>Exchange information</u></p> <p>C2. Information exchange, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calendars of meetings;</li> <li>• Meeting invitations;</li> </ul>	<p>On-going</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lists of administrative and scientific focal points in Parties;</li> <li>• Pertinent draft documents in advance of Convention meetings, including strategic plans;</li> <li>• Details of procedural and administrative developments; and</li> <li>• Guidelines whose joint adoption is mutually supportive.</li> </ul>	
<b>Fundraising</b> C3. Raise funds for joint projects already planned and those that will be proposed during the term of this Joint Work Programme.	On-going

**(D) Outreach and capacity building activities (strengthening existing cooperation between secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions)**

Joint activities in this area relate to such activities as representation of one secretariat by the other at events of mutual interest to save participation costs and promote synergy, jointly undertaking activities on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and following up on work undertaken by inter-agency liaison groups.

Description of envisaged joint activities	Timeframe
D1. Investigate possibilities for coordinated outreach and capacity building activities and representation of one secretariat by the other at events of mutual interest to reduce costs and promote synergies. This may include joint presentations and/or joint statements.  A good example of this would be joint participation in relevant regional capacity building workshops on updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and thereby also helping to facilitate national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the development of national biodiversity targets in the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.	On-going
D2. Jointly attend, or represent the other secretariat, at meetings of interagency groups including those listed below, collaborate with follow-up to such meetings and actions as required, and encourage such groups to assist in the implementation of CMS and CITES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG);</li> <li>• Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) processes;</li> <li>• Environment Management Group (EMG) and the Issue Management Group on Biodiversity (IMG4);</li> <li>• 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.</li> </ul>	On-going
D3. Share experience about the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA).	On-going

## D4. Possibilities for other joint activities so far include the following:

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|-------------------|--|
| 2012: March:      | 26th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee.   |
| May:              | 16th session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD. |
| June:             | United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) (Rio + 20).                                   |
| June:             | 11th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the RAMSAR Convention.                        |
| July:             | 62nd meeting of the CITES Standing Committee.  |
| September:        | 6th IUCN World Conservation Congress.  |
| October:          | 1st meeting of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force.   |
| Late in the year: | CMS 40th Standing Committee.   |
|                   |  |
| 2013: March:      | 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES.  |
|                   |  |
| 2014: April:      | 27th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee.   |
| July:             | 65th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee.  |
| During 2014:      | Preparations for the first IUCN-led World Congress on Species.   |