



CITES Secretariat's response to the OLA/DOALOS request for information (email dated 2 May 2025)

According to **Article XV, para. 2, b)** of the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#) (CITES), regarding amendments to Appendices I and II for marine species, “[the Secretariat] shall also consult inter-governmental bodies having a function in relation to those species especially with a view to obtaining scientific data these bodies may be able to provide and to ensuring co-ordination with any conservation measures enforced by such bodies. The Secretariat shall communicate the views expressed and data provided by these bodies and its own findings and recommendations to the Parties as soon as possible.”

The **CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030**, which was adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its 18th meeting (CoP18), as included in [Resolution Conf. 18.3](#), highlights the importance of cooperation through the objectives under Goal 5 “Delivery of the CITES Strategic Vision is improved through collaboration”:

- Objective 5.1 Parties and the Secretariat support and enhance existing cooperative partnerships in order to achieve their identified objectives.
- Objective 5.2 Parties encourage the formation of new, innovative and mutually sustainable alliances between CITES and relevant international partners, where appropriate to advance CITES’ objective and mainstream conservation and of sustainable use of biodiversity.
- Objective 5.3 Cooperation between CITES and international financial mechanisms and other related institutions is enhanced in order to support activities that contribute to CITES implementation and enforcement.

[Resolution Conf. 16.4](#) on Cooperation of CITES with other **biodiversity-related conventions** encourages Parties to consider further opportunities to strengthen the cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at all relevant levels; and recommends that Parties further strengthen the cooperation, coordination and synergies among the focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and other partners at the national level to enhance coherent national-level implementation of the Convention.

Within this framework, the CITES Secretariat has built strong and effective cooperation with relevant **organizations, instruments and processes**, as reflected in the following Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties (listed in chronological order):

- [Resolution Conf. 18.5](#) on Cooperation and synergy with the World Heritage Convention
- [Resolution Conf. 18.4](#) on Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

- [Resolution Conf. 16.5](#) on *Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity*
- [Resolution Conf. 14.4](#) on *Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber*
- [Resolution Conf. 13.3](#) on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*
- [Resolution Conf. 13.2](#) (Rev. CoP14) on *Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines*
- [Resolution Conf. 12.4](#) (Rev. CoP18) on *Cooperation between CITES and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources regarding trade in toothfish*
- [Resolution Conf. 11.4](#) (Rev. CoP12) on *Conservation of cetaceans, trade in cetacean specimens and the relationship with the International Whaling Commission*
- [Resolution Conf. 10.4](#) (Rev. CoP14) on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity*

In line with the mandate given by the Parties, the Secretariat has also developed and is implementing Memoranda of Understanding, and equivalent cooperation Agreements as well as Joint Work Programmes with key intergovernmental organizations, specifying the scope of cooperation and defining the activities and expected outcomes, including the following:

- Memorandum of Understanding and Joint Work Programmes with the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)**.

In line with the current [Joint Work Programme 2021-2025](#), endorsed by the Standing Committee in its 73th meeting (SC73; online, May 2021) the two Organizations cooperate in the implementation of joint activities around five themes, i.e. (a) harmonization of species-specific information; (b) joint activities addressing shared species; (c) joint activities on issues of common interest; (d) implementation and fundraising; and (e) outreach and capacity building.

- Memorandum of Understanding with the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**.

The two Organizations cooperate on issues related to exchange of information of common interest and areas of concern, capacity building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, provision of advice to CITES on CITES listing criteria, consultations in the scientific and technical evaluation of proposals for amendments to CITES Appendices based on the criteria agreed by the Parties to CITES etc.

- Two Memoranda of Understanding with the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** on [BioTrade](#) and [ASYCUDA](#).

Cooperation on BioTrade Initiative aims to ensure the conservation of species, enhance the livelihoods of poor people in remote and marginal areas and promote business opportunities for entrepreneurs that comply with CITES requirements and national legislation.

Cooperation on ASYCUDA aims among others at the provision of joint technical assistance by engaging in the design, development and implementation of an ASYCUDA module for international trade in CITES-listed species (ACITES).

- Memorandum of Understanding with the **Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)**.

Collaborative activities under the MoU include consultations on matters of mutual concern, exchange of information, participation in governing bodies meetings as observers, awareness raising and capacity building activities, etc.

- Memorandum of Understanding with the **World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)**

The cooperation under the MoU is built around four main components, i.e. (1) Mutual consultation and cooperation; (2) Exchange of information and documents; (3) Technical cooperation; and (4) Reciprocal representation.

- Guidelines for cooperation between the **International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)** and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

The cooperation focuses on communication, as necessary and appropriate, to share information on issues and species of common interest, and to facilitate communication, collaboration, and information exchange among national representatives to ICCAT and national CITES Authorities as feasible and appropriate.

- Memorandum of Understanding with the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**

The purpose of cooperation is to facilitate and strengthen cooperation and establish a formal basis of collaboration between the two Organizations to better assist implementation of the Convention and to strengthen further collaboration to improve transport conditions of CITES specimens. This includes an agreement to strengthen mutual cooperation on the safe and secure transport of CITES specimens and the combating of illegal trade in CITES specimens as well as to endeavor to recommend mutually relevant standards, guidelines and recommendations

- Memorandum of Understanding with the **World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)**

The general fields of cooperation include the care and placement of confiscated animals and transport of live animals as well as research, conservation, sustainable use, capacity building and training, communication and public awareness raising.

- Memoranda of Understanding with [INTERPOL](#), the [World Customs Organization](#), the [Lusaka Agreement Task Force](#), the [UN Task force on Illicit Wildlife Trade and Forest Products](#), the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs ([DEFRA](#)) of the United Kingdom and the United States [Fish and Wildlife Service](#).

Cooperation is focused on combatting illegal wildlife trade.

- Memorandum of Understanding with the **Secretariat of the Basel Convention and with the Ozone Secretariat** ([MoU](#))

The scope of cooperation includes sharing of information on matters of common interest, invitation of each other as observers to meetings of common interest, joint implementation of measures, organization of trainings and capacity building activities, dissemination of general information of common interest to relevant authorities etc.

- Memorandum of Cooperation with the **Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services** ([IPBES](#))
- Memorandum of Understanding with **the International Union for Conservation of Nature** ([IUCN](#))

General tasks covered under the MoU include provision of scientific information, development and implementation of field projects, assistance with training activities, scientific and technical advisory role and facilitation role, including Range States Dialogues and liaison with other conservation conventions and organisations

The CITES Secretariat is member in **cooperation groups, partnerships and consortia**, bringing together different Organizations in line with their respective mandates, for the achievement of common goals:

- [Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions](#) (BLG)

The BLG currently comprises the heads of the Secretariats of the eight biodiversity-related Conventions with the aim to explore opportunities for collaboration and increased coordination, and to exchange information within an agreed [Modus Operandi](#).

- [International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime](#) (ICCWC)

ICCWC is the collaborative effort by the CITES Secretariat, [INTERPOL](#), the [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\)](#), the [World Bank](#) and the [World Customs Organization \(WCO\)](#) working to bring coordinated support to the national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to the sub-regional and regional networks that, on a daily basis, act in defense of natural resources.

A [Letter of Understanding](#) was signed for ICCWC establishment.

- [Collaborative Partnership on Forests](#) (CPF)

The CITES Secretariat is member of the CPF since 2018. The CPF is an informal, voluntary arrangement among international organizations, institutions and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests.

The mission of CPF is to help enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals, to promote the sustainable management for all types of forests, and to strengthen long-term political commitment to that end. The CPF consists of [15 international organizations](#).

- **[Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management \(CPW\)](#)**

CITES Secretariat is member of the CPW. The CPW is a voluntary partnership of 13 international organizations with substantive mandates and programmes to promote the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources.

The CPW, provides a platform for addressing wildlife management issues that require national and supra-national responses and also works to promote and increase cooperation and coordination on sustainable wildlife management issues among its members and partners.

- **[UN-Oceans](#)**

The CITES Secretariat is member of UN-Oceans.

UN-Oceans is an inter-agency mechanism that seeks to enhance the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of competent organizations of the United Nations system and the International Seabed Authority in relation to activities relating to oceans and coastal areas, within existing resources, in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the respective competences of each of its participating organizations and the mandates and priorities approved by their respective governing bodies.

More information on cooperation and partnerships on can be found in the dedicated [webpage](#) on CITES website.