

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

Sixty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014

Strategic matters

Capacity building

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE CITES LISTING OF SHARKS AND MANTA RAYS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted proposals to include five taxa of sharks and all species of manta rays *Manta* spp. in CITES Appendix II. The entry into effect of these listings was delayed by 18 months, until 14 September 2014 to enable Parties to address relevant technical and administrative issues.
3. Several activities have been undertaken by range States, Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in support of these listings. These include a project entitled *Strengthening capacity in developing countries for sustainable wildlife management and enhanced implementation of CITES wildlife trade regulations, with particular focus on commercially-exploited aquatic species*, which was financed by the European Union and implemented by the CITES Secretariat.
4. The EU-CITES project was officially launched in October 2013. The Secretariat is implementing it in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). CITES and FAO are collaborating on a number of activities, in particular on the planning and organization of regional consultative workshops, as well as on the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, national fisheries legislative support, and liaison activities with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies. The Secretariat has also provided financial and technical support to regional and subregional meetings and workshops.
5. A web portal with information on sharks (<http://cites.org/eng/prog/shark>) has been developed on the CITES website to provide Parties and other stakeholders with pertinent technical and administrative information on the implementation of the CITES-listings of sharks and manta rays. This includes various capacity building resources, such as identification materials, PowerPoint presentations for training purposes, reference materials, and a calendar of meetings and events related to sharks and manta rays.
6. In May 2013, the CITES Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2013/023 on *Request for information on planned and ongoing capacity-building activities on CITES-listed shark species*. Only a small number of responses were received from Parties. A summary of them is available on the sharks web portal. The Secretariat welcomes any further information on ongoing and planned activities, which will be added to the shark web portal.

## Recommendation

7. The Secretariat invites the Standing Committee to:
  - a) note this document; and
  - b) encourage Parties and other stakeholders to continue undertaking capacity-building activities in support of the listings, and to provide suggestions to improve future capacity-building activities to implement the new CITES-listing of sharks and manta rays, and information that can be made available in the shark web portal of the CITES website.