

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

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

SHARKS AND RAYS

1. This document has been submitted by the Animals Committee<sup>1</sup>.
2. In Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Conservation and management of sharks*, the Conference of the Parties:

*DIRECTS the Animals Committee to examine new information provided by range States on trade and other available relevant data and information, and report their analyses at meetings of the Conference of the Parties; ...*

*DIRECTS the Animals Committee to make species-specific recommendations at meetings of the Conference of the Parties if necessary on improving the conservation status of sharks;...*

and

*DIRECTS the Animals Committee to report progress on shark and ray activities at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties.*

In the same Resolution, the Conference of the Parties:

*ENCOURAGES Parties to obtain information on implementation of (NPOA-Sharks)<sup>2</sup> or regional plans, and to report directly on progress to the CITES Secretariat and at future meetings of the Animals Committee;*

3. The Animals Committee addressed these mandates at its 27th meeting (AC27, Veracruz, 2014). In support of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP16), the Committee paid particular attention to identifying and advising on the implementation challenges posed by the inclusion of five taxa of sharks and all species of manta rays *Manta* spp. in CITES Appendix II at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013).
4. The findings and recommendations that were agreed at AC27 are as follows:
  - a) The Animals Committee records its thanks to the European Union for its generous donation of 1.2 million Euros towards implementation of the new shark and ray Appendix II listings agreed at CoP16.

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<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.*

<sup>2</sup> *National Plans of Action for the Conservation and Management of Shark Stocks*

- b) The Animals Committee congratulates the Secretariat on its collaboration to date with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) on matters relating to the implementation of the new shark and ray Appendix II listings agreed at CoP16.
- c) The Animals Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue to work closely with FAO, the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species, and Regional Fisheries Management Bodies, both with respect to CITES-listed shark species and, where appropriate, wider issues of shark conservation relevant to Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP16).
- d) The Animals Committee encourages Parties to continue to work to improve collection of data at the species level, especially in respect of CITES-listed species.
- e) The Animals Committee encourages FAO to continue its efforts to improve harmonised tariff codes for shark products and their work on shark identification (iSharkFin).
- f) The Animals Committee recognises the need for further workshops and other capacity building activities to assist in implementation of the Appendix II shark listings. Parties are encouraged to use the CITES website shark portal to inform others of future workshops in their region.
- g) Parties that make non-detriment findings for Appendix II-listed shark and ray species are encouraged to share these on a voluntary basis, either via the CITES website shark portal or bilaterally, as they consider appropriate.
- h) With regard to Germany's draft guidelines, as summarised in document AC27 Doc. 22.3 and set out in document AC27 Inf.1 on the making of non-detriment findings for CITES-listed sharks and manta rays, Parties and individual experts are invited to submit the following to the German Scientific Authority by 15 May 2014:
  - i. Suggestions for stocks for testing of the guidelines at the workshop proposed for August 2014, in Germany;
  - ii. Suggestions of experts to attend the workshop; and
  - iii. Any other comments on the draft guidelines or suggestions that they consider appropriate.
- i) With regard to the management risk assessment outlined in document AC27 Doc. 22.4, Parties are invited to:
  - i. bring this document to the attention of their fisheries and related authorities;
  - ii. together with the material provided in document AC26 Inf. 9 (Intrinsic vulnerability of harvested sharks), to consider this method in the process of making non-detriment findings; and
  - iii. to provide feedback to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- j) Noting the identification materials available to date, the value of for further such materials in relation to shark fins and other shark products, including genetic techniques, is acknowledged, as is the merit for Parties to identify and, where necessary, establish laboratories to assist in the identification of DNA samples.
- k) The Secretariat should ensure that all available guidance material relating to the identification of shark species listed in the Appendices (e.g. iSharkFin) are made available promptly through the shark portal on [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org), including identification of fins and other shark products, and genetic testing protocols.
- l) Parties are encouraged to undertake broad consultation concerning the implementation of the shark listings, for example, with industries involved in the harvest, export or import of the listed species.
- m) Parties are encouraged to involve both fisheries and CITES officials, and those of relevant Regional Fisheries Management Bodies, wherever possible, in meetings, events and processes concerning implementation of shark listings.

- n) The Secretariat should, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP16), issue a Notification to the Parties similar to Notification No. 2013/056 inviting Parties to submit new information on shark fishery management measures, with particular emphasis on information pertaining to the implementation of the listings of sharks and rays agreed at CoP16, especially:
- i. available scientific data, such as stock assessment results;
  - ii. methodologies providing guidance for the making of non-detriment findings;
  - iii. challenges faced by Parties in implementing these listings;
  - iv. progress made to address such challenges;
  - v. progress towards the adoption and implementation of National Plans of Action for Sharks, or other new information on trade in sharks and related matters; and
  - vi. new legislation concerning the conservation and management of sharks and rays.

Such a Notification should be issued in sufficient time to allow the information to be considered at the 28th meeting of the Animals Committee. The Committee should review the information received in response to the Notification - and any other relevant information available at that time - so that it can identify possible gaps and priorities and, where appropriate, make specific recommendations.

- o) The Animals Committee requests the Standing Committee, at its 65th meeting, to consider relevant matters relating to the implementation of shark listings, including the following:
- i. New legislative issues that might arise in exporting, transit and consumer countries;
  - ii. Issues pertaining to chain of custody, including where in the trade chain it is considered essential to be able to identify the products in trade;
  - iii. Issues pertaining to legality of acquisition and introduction from the sea;
  - iv. Existing catch documentation and product certification schemes that could assist in the implementation of Appendix II shark listings; and
  - v. The role of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations.
- p) Both the Standing Committee and the Animals Committee should review the requirements that have been developed for the trade in processed product types of Appendix II species such as crocodile skins, caviar etc. and consider their applicability to shark products containing Appendix II species.

#### Recommendations

5. The Animals Committee invites the Standing Committee to take note of the present document, and to consider the matters indicated in paragraph 4, o) above.