

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



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Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014

Regional matters

Reports of regional representatives

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The attached document has been submitted by Colombia as Regional representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean region. It is an addendum to document SC65 Doc. 50.3, and it is provided in the languages in which it was submitted².

¹ Translation provided by the author.

² 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.

REPORT FROM BRAZIL

Activities of the Management Authorities with CITES

I. Cooperation activities in the region.

Regional workshop organized in Brazil (Recife, 2-4 December 2013)

The workshop also to increase awareness of the international measures related to the conservation and management of sharks. Participants identified regional needs, and the next steps required to apply the inclusion of sharks in CITES in countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Some of the priorities indicated included scientific studies on the status of shark species, national legislation, harmonization of customs codes for the trade in sharks, and technology transfer for DNA testing. It is expected that these priority areas will help to orientate planned activities between now and September 2014.

The participant Countries identified the following priorities, needs and next steps:

Improvement of fisheries management, including identification and monitoring of species.

- Use of ecological risk assessments, seeking the help of scientific experts in regional fisheries management organizations (RFMO) for relevant species of tuna, in order to determine the status of the populations of shark species included in CITES, in the absence of evaluations of stocks.
- Share species identification guides with fishermen and government officials (customs, CITES authorities, Ministry of Fisheries) as appropriate, in order to assist identification of species and improve the monitoring of CITES shark species.
- Develop a regional program for hammerhead sharks marking.
- Seek financing and install at least one portable laboratory for DNA analysis in each country. Meanwhile, each country can identify and set up agreements with universities in their countries that have genetic laboratories.
- Ensure the implementation of fisheries permits in each country, in order to facilitate monitoring.

Provide education on CITES requirements.

- Implement public programs on CITES and prepare the relevant national regulations to help raise the level of awareness of sharks included in CITES lists, which will come into force in September 2014, and related requirements.
- Inform fishermen about how the adequate identification of species can improve the prices they receive for their products.

Establish procedures for the implementation of measures in trade to enforce CITES

- Moving forward the use of electronic permits for CITES
- See how Ecuador's tracking program can be implemented in other countries.
- Work to harmonize Customs codes for shark and shark products in trade.
- Consider the harmonized form of OSPESCA for landed catches as an example of a standardized data report for shark catches, and try to apply it in order to improve monitoring of trade in sharks.
- Review procedures developed to monitor the catching and trade of other species, including in CITES (for example, *caoba*), in order to help orientate the monitoring of shark products, included in CITES trade.
- Work to identify regional priorities, develop and share ideas and sources of finance.
- Review of regulatory frameworks, identify gaps in legislation in order to reduce them.

- Contact and make use of experts, such as experts in genetic identification techniques, contact laboratories that have equipment, in order to request equipment for countries that have none.

Provide training on implementation.

- Identify all actors involved in the CITES-listed sharks and shark products trade, and then, organize national meetings for all those involved in the trade (not only fisheries authorities or environmental authorities).
- Improve Inter-Agency coordination in relation to the implementation of CITES requirements, sharing information and improving communications.
- Develop an e-toolkit, which can be used for training when there are changes in personnel engaged in law enforcement.
- Train customs officers, including the training of airport and port authorities, to take genetic samples when necessary.
- Develop and share orientation between countries in the Region about ways of making NDFs for CITES-listed shark species, preferably on a regional basis.

Next steps

- Create a flow diagram or info-graph with all steps to be implemented towards implementation of requirements for CITES sharks, which would contain everything from fishing through to export (including information about populations, fishing limits, and management plans, control points, identification of species and fins, genetics, etc), to help obtain a clear picture of the entire process.
- FAO has identified three areas which need assistance as a priority - West and Central Africa, South-East Asia and Latin America. CITES /FAO will hold regional consultation workshops with countries as to their needs, and receive specific request for assistance. They are only in position to finance the participation of priority countries, but other countries can finance their own participation. The first will be for Africa at bringing in early 2014, followed by Latin America in March 2014; and Asia in April 2014. They intend to develop a range of projects in support of the implementation of CITES-listed shark species, ideally before September 2014.
- Disseminate the information on the tools, and information needed to help implementation of CITES-listed shark species at national level, in coordination with relevant authorities (including Customs authorities).
- Develop and implement custody-chain mechanisms and legal acquisition findings for CITES-listed shark species.
- Strengthen national capacities with identification tools, including DNA techniques.
- Harmonize Customs codes at regional level.
- Hold a regional workshop on NDFs.
- Create a list of topics for all participants, so that all information can be regularly exchanged, including ways of providing assistance in making suggestions to each other.

Report from COLOMBIA

I. Implementation of COP 16 decisions.

Sharks and rays (Decision 16.129)

On 4 October 2013, the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, representing Colombia, signed adherence to the Memorandum of Understanding on migratory sharks of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), thus formalizing Colombia's role as a signatory of that international instrument.

Freshwater stingrays (Decision 16.133 and 16.134)

The Alexander von Humboldt Institute coordinated with experts from range countries in the development of document IX Freshwater Rays (*Potamotrygonidae*) in South America. Part I. Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Guyana, Suriname and French Guyana: on diversity, bioecology, and use and conservation (now going to press).

This effort to integrate knowledge had the participation of Paraíba Federal University, Brazil, Instituto Humboldt, and Amazon Scientific Research Institute SINCHI (both from Colombia), together with some 20 organizations (universities, NGOs, fishing authorities, etc), from five countries, and included collaboration and co-authorship of 39 experts who provided information for the document.

Further, Colombia, with the coordination of the National Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority- AUNAP - held a workshop on 24-26 April 2013, to review the achievements of the National Action Plan for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, Rays, and Chimaeras in Colombia (PAN), agreeing on necessary strategies and commitments. Working groups were formed to draw up an operating plan for 2013-2016, through macro-projects, including one which is expected to provide information on fisheries and populations with an emphasis on the species *Paratrygon aiereba*, *Potamotrygon motor*, *P. magdalenae* and *P. scheoderi*. This will enable measures to be taken for the management of conservation of freshwater rays. At the same time, on 22nd October 2013, a workshop was held for the social dissemination of the progress made in information on trade, conservation and management of freshwater rays in Colombia, led by MADS.

Further information on the application of these decisions in Colombia can be found in the informative document sent to the CITES Animals Committee³.

The inclusion of white tip sharks and hammerhead sharks in CITES Appendix II

The Action Plan for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, Rays and Chimaeras in Colombia (*PAN-Tiburones, Colombia*), published by the Colombian Government in 2010, was formalized by a Presidential Decree (Decree 1124/2013), stating that implementation would be the responsibility of MADS, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development – MADR -, and the National Fisheries and Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority – AUNAP.

Based on regulations issued by AUNAP, targeted shark fishing was banned throughout Colombia, as was the use of steel leaders in tuna fishing, with ocean lines and hooks (AUNAP Resolution 0744/2012). Further, regulations were issued for incidental industrial fishing (AUNAP Resolution 190/2013), and guidelines were issued for actions to secure the recording of catch values, and the fishing of sharks, at the level of species.

Some amendments were made to a new resolution banning shark finning in Colombia (AUNAP Resolution 375/2013), and this is now being implemented. Actions are being taken to categorize and regulate commercialization at species level on a local, national and international scale, for sharks and shark products, principally meat and fins.

According to the most recent meeting of the Fisheries Executive Committee (FEC), and according to Resolution 334/2013, a zero quota was set for shark fishing for 2014 in Colombia, with specifications for a maximum percentage of bycatch, from which artisan fishermen are excluded.

Twenty two projects have been completed and documented, 8 have been formulated and 48 are in execution, in relation to *PAN-Tiburón Colombia* action lines, including particularly the determination of breeding areas in the Pacific and Caribbean, studies of the life histories of elasmobranchii in the Pacific (*Alopias pelagicus* and *Sphyrna lewin*).

³ [Http://cites.org/default.files/common/com/ac/27/S-AC27-Inf-10.pdf](http://cites.org/default.files/common/com/ac/27/S-AC27-Inf-10.pdf)

Further information on the implementation of *PAN-Tiburón Colombia* is in the informative document sent to the CITES Animals Committee⁴.

Regional cooperation on the management and trade in queen conch (*strombus gigas*) (Decision 16.141 to 16.146)

In relation to the decision on the queen conch (*strombus gigas*), the Government of Colombia decided to organize an international workshop to define a regional working agenda, relevant strategies for the appropriate development of the decision adopted by the CITES Parties at COP 16. The intention is to invite administrative and scientific authorities of CITES, and the fisheries authorities of the countries of the *strombus gigas* range area to the workshop, which is proposed to be held in September 2014 (date to be defined).

Members of the Queen Conch Group, the CITES Secretariat and FAO, will all be invited to make a comprehensive evaluation which will lead to the definition of strategies to develop recommendations in the Declaration of Panama, and CITES decisions.

The objective of the workshop is "to evaluate and define a working agenda, incorporating relevant strategies for the appropriate development of recommendations, with an emphasis on NDF and conversion factors contained in the Declaration of Panama and CITES COP 16 decision".

⁴ <http://cites.org/sites/default/files/commonb/con/ac/27/S-AC27-Inf-11.pdf>