



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2015/027

Geneva, 11 May 2015

CONCERNING:

Request for new information on fishery management measures for sharks

1. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties agreed to include several shark species and all manta rays (*Carcharhinus longimanus*, *Lamna nasus*, *Sphyrna lewini*, *S. mokarran*, *S. zygaena*, and *Manta* spp.) in Appendix II. The listing into Appendix II entered into force on 14 September 2014, as communicated through Notification to the Parties No. 2014/042 of 12 September 2014. Several shark species had been included in the CITES Appendices prior to CoP16 (*Pristidae* spp. in Appendix I; *Carcharodon carcharias*, *Cetorhinus maximus* and *Rhincodon typus* in Appendix II).
2. Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Conservation and management of sharks* 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. It furthermore encourages Parties to obtain information on implementation of national or regional plans of actions for the conservation and management of shark stocks, and to report directly on progress to the CITES Secretariat and at future meetings of the Animals Committee.
3. The Animals Committee discussed its mandate concerning sharks at its 27th meeting (Veracruz, April 2014), agreeing that the Secretariat should write a request to Parties for relevant new information that it could consider at its next meeting.
4. On behalf of the Animals Committee, the Secretariat hereby invites Parties to submit new information on shark fishery management measures, with particular emphasis on information pertaining to the shark species and manta rays that were included in Appendix II at CoP16, and the implementation of CITES provisions for trade in these species since 12 September 2014. Of special importance would be:
 - a. available scientific data, such as stock assessment results;
 - b. methodologies providing guidance for the making of non-detriment findings;
 - c. challenges faced by Parties in implementing the new listings;
 - d. progress made to address such challenges;
 - e. 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
 - f. new legislation concerning the conservation and management of sharks and rays.
5. The Secretariat would appreciate receiving any such information by email at info@cites.org by **1 July 2015** so that it can be made available to the Parties at the 28th meeting of the Animals Committee (Tel Aviv, 30 August – 3 September 2015).