

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September – 5 October 2016

SUMMARY OF RATIONALE BEHIND THE LISTING OF CHILEAN DEVIL RAY  
(*MOBULA TARAPACANA*) AS VULNERABLE IN THE IUCN RED LIST

This document has been submitted by Fiji, in relation to agenda item 88 on *Proposals to amend Appendices I and II* and amendment proposal CoP17 Prop. 44 on *Inclusion of the genus Mobula spp. in Appendix II*.<sup>\*</sup>

---

<sup>\*</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.*

## Summary of rationale behind the listing of Chilean Devil Ray (*Mobula tarapacana*) as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List

This document has been submitted by Fiji in relation to amendment proposal CoP17 Prop. 44 on *Inclusion of the genus Mobula spp. in Appendix II*.

---

This is a summary document highlighting the rationale behind the listing of Chilean Devil Ray (*Mobula tarapacana*) as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species<sup>1</sup> in the assessment for this species completed in 2016. The status change from Data Deficient (2006) to Vulnerable (2016) is a non-genuine change as a result of new information.

1. Increasing international trade in gill plates has led to the expansion of largely unregulated and unmonitored manta and devil ray (*Manta* and *Mobula* spp.) fisheries worldwide.
2. Trade pressure has likely increased for the gill plates of devil rays (including the Chilean Devil Ray) as a result of declining availability of manta ray gill plates resulting from their recent CITES Appendix II listing.
3. The Chilean Devil Ray is taken as bycatch of gillnet, purse seine, and longline fisheries in the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans, and is targeted opportunistically in fisheries in Peru, western Africa, and Indonesia for both meat consumed domestically and gill plates for international trade.
4. The lack of species-specific catch, fishing effort, and population data necessitates the use of genus-wide inferences on population reduction. Where documented, devil ray catches are decreasing yet fishing effort is stable or increasing, suggesting that populations are declining.
5. In the last decade, significant reductions (>50%) have been either inferred or suspected in three regions: Southeast Asia, Eastern Pacific, and Indian Ocean (particularly in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, where they are heavily fished). In these three regions, these declines are equivalent to population reductions of a minimum of 80% over three generation spans.
6. In three other regions, Chilean Devil Ray is suspected to be (a) Near Threatened in the eastern Atlantic, and Data Deficient in the (b) central Pacific and (c) western Atlantic.
7. While the relationship between these regional declines and the global population trend is not directly known and there is considerably uncertainty surrounding trend data, wide-ranging movements and migration probably connect these regions and hence steep local declines are likely to influence global population sizes.

Based on the points mentioned above, the Chilean Devil Ray is suspected to have declined by at least 30% over the past three generations (30 years) throughout its global range, which, combined with rising international trade value and demand for devil ray gill plates, domestic demand for meat, high intrinsic sensitivity to overexploitation, and the likelihood that fishing effort will increase, leads to this species being assessed as Vulnerable.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/full/60199/0>