

((English and Spanish only / únicamente en inglés y español / seulement en anglais et espagnol))

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



Twenty-seventh meeting of the Animals Committee
Veracruz (Mexico), 28 April – 3 May 2014

Interpretation and application of the Convention

INFORMATION ON SHARKS IN COLOMBIA

This document has been submitted by Colombia*, in relation to item 23 of the agenda.

* *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.*



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**PROSPERIDAD
PARA TODOS**

**INFORMATION ON SHARKS IN COLOMBIA TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE 27TH
MEETING OF THE CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE**

Response to notification 056-2013, paragraph 1 b)

In relation to notification 056 from 2013 issued by the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) Secretariat which requests information to be presented at the 27th Animals Committee meeting; the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) and the National Authority of Aquaculture and Fisheries (AUNAP), presents information on the National Plan of Action for Sharks for Colombia in the following points:

Administration and regulation of shark resources in Colombia: Under the Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, Rays and Chimera (PAN-Tiburones Colombia) which was published by the Colombian government in the year 2010, it is important to emphasize that this Plan was presented by the government of Colombia by a presidential decree (Decree 1124 from 2013), which established that the implementation will be the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the National Authority of Aquaculture and Fisheries. The following actions have been developed by the government of Colombia to date in relation to the powers of the aforementioned institutions:

- Based on regulations issued by AUNAP, directed fishing of sharks is prohibited throughout the country, and the pelagic longline tuna fishery is prohibited from using wire leaders (Resolution 0744 of 2012 AUNAP). Also there is a similar regulation on bycatch by industrial fisheries (Resolution 190 of 2013 AUNAP) and actions have been taken to ensure the recording of landing values and fishing of sharks at a species level.
- A new resolution was adopted that prohibits shark finning in Colombia (Resolution 375 of 2013, AUNAP), which is in the implementation phase.
- Actions are being developed to classify and regulate to the species level the trade (local, national and international) of shark products, primarily the meat and fins.
- In accordance to the last meeting of the Executive Committee on Fisheries (CEP) and its Resolution 334 of 2013, a zero (0) quota was established for shark resources for 2014 in Colombia, with an exception with a maximum percentage for bycatch for artisanal fishers. This is supported by research and monitoring actions conducted in the field, which support the protection in regulations of this vulnerable fisheries resource.
- Finally, MADS on behalf of the country, acceded to the CMS Sharks MOU on October 4, 2013, formalizing Colombia's role as a signatory to this international instrument.

Specific progress on the implementation of PAN Tiburones Colombia: During the month of April 2013 a strategic workshop on the national level was held to evaluate the progress and success of PAN Tiburones Colombia, with the goal of identifying strategies to strengthen the different actions and activities that need to be implemented by the government of Colombia. The main results from the implementation of the Shark Plan of Action of Colombia are the following:

- The Action Plan presents a framework that allows the coverage of five (5) specific geographic zones in the country: Pacific continental, Pacific inland, Caribbean continental, Caribbean inland and inland waters.
- There are 22 recorded completed projects, 8 developed and 48 in progress which are related to the action steps of the PAN Tiburones Colombia, among which are the creation of breeding areas in the Pacific and Caribbean, studies of life history of two elasmobranch species in the Pacific (*Alopias pelagicus* and *Sphyrna lewini*) and the determination of patterns of migration of some species in the Pacific Colombian waters through satellite tagging, which are led by the Office of the Generation of Knowledge and Information of AUNAP.
- There are numerical databases that can generate scientific information to evaluate shark populations.
- There are ongoing scientific publications with different international institutions like OSPESCA with inputs that will assist with decision making such as calculations to estimate the total length of individuals using the trunk length and the interdorsal length which can be used as a fisheries management tool.
- There are financial resources available for the implementation of the PAN through research projects.
- There are useful tools (guides, protocols) for the monitoring of the species and the control and monitoring of the fisheries.

Additionally, we identified all the positive developments that were triggered by the implementation of the PAN Tiburones including:

- The Action Plan has served as a tool to guide research which has led to the positioning of the topic within the country.
- Since its beginning it has served as a good example of integration and inter-institutional cooperation (State + NGOs + Academia + Communities) and a good opportunity for the joint research initiatives on management, control and monitoring.
- It increased efforts to improve the collection of statistical information specific to sharks, through the creation of an information protocol application, Fisheries Statistical Service of Colombia -SEPEC and the Program of Fisheries Observers of Colombia -POPC.
- Increase of regulatory measures specific to sharks (regulation of wire leaders, finning ban and declaration of fisheries resource).
- Inclusion of 5 species in Appendix II of CITES, which is associated with the actions of the Plan regarding the identification of species to regulate and monitor international trade.
- A single Regional Action Plan that includes freshwater rays.

INFORMATION ON SHARKS IN COLOMBIA TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE 27TH MEETING OF THE CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE

Response to notification 056-2013, paragraph 1 e)

In relation to notification 056 from 2013 issued by the CITES Secretariat which requests information to be presented at the 27th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee; regarding paragraph 1 e), from Decisions 16.59, 16.60 and 16.61, the following is presented by MADs and the Alexander von Humboldt Institute of Biological Resources Research present information associated with the identification manuals by Colombia and the location on the internet where they can be downloaded electronically.

16.60 *Parties are encouraged to support the efforts of the Working Group:*

- a) *Providing the Secretariat information on available identification and guidance material that is used by Parties, and particularly by enforcement and inspections officers, to facilitate implementation of the Convention.*
- b) *Evaluating the status of pending identification materials and identify difficulties associated with the completion of this material; and*
- c) *Consulting with enforcement and inspection officials to assess current needs with regard to identification materials and guidance needs, and possible improvements to meet those needs.*

CITES species identification manuals in Colombia

1. López Camacho, R. y D. Cárdenas López. 2002. **Manual de identificación de especies maderables objeto de comercio en la Amazonia colombiana**. Bogotá, D.C., Colombia: Instituto Amazónico de Investigaciones Científicas, SINCHI, 100 p.: ISBN: 958-97235-6-X¹

2. Reyes, J. y N. Santodomingo, 2002. **Manual de identificación CITES de Invertebrados Marinos de Colombia**. Medellín: Servigráficas, Serie de Documentos generales /INVEMAR; No. 8; Serie Manuales de identificación CITES de Colombia. ISBN 958-96972-8-3 Manual de identificación CITES de Invertebrados Marinos de Colombia. 100 pp. ISBN de la Serie: 958-96972-7-5 Manuales de identificación CITES de Colombia²

3. Roda, J., A.M Franco, M.P Baptiste, C Múnera. y D.M. Gómez 2003. **Manual de identificación CITES de aves de Colombia**. Serie Manuales de Identificación CITES de Colombia. Instituto de Investigación de Recursos Biológicos Alexander von Humboldt y Ministerio de Ambiente, Vivienda y Desarrollo Territorial, Bogotá. 352 pp. ISBN de la serie: 958.96972-7-5 Manuales de Identificación CITES de Colombia³

¹ <http://www.sinchi.org.co/images/pdf/dfpublicaciones/ManualMaderas.pdf>

² <http://www.invemar.org.co/noticias.jsp?id=2999&idcat=153&pagina=1>

³ <http://www.datafauna.veterinariosvs.org/manual-de-identificacion-cites-de-aves-de-colombia/>