

October 2013

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE

Fourteenth Session

Bergen, Norway, 24–28 February 2014

UPDATE ON CITES RELATED ACTIVITIES

Executive Summary

This document provides an updated overview of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) related activities undertaken by the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department (FI) since the report of the thirteenth session of the COFI Sub-Committee of Fish Trade (COFI:FT) in 2012. These include the outcome of the Fourth FAO Panel for CITES that evaluated proposals to amend CITES Appendices with commercially-exploited aquatic species, and the work conducted by FAO to improve capacity in the assessment and management of listed species.

Suggested action by the Sub-Committee:

- Provide guidance on setting thematic priorities for FI regarding its future work related to CITES within the framework of the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- Comment on the conclusion of CITES regarding the application of criterion B and the introductory text of Annex 2a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15) to commercially exploited aquatic species proposed for inclusion on Appendix II.
- Comment on the proposal of providing methodological guidance to the FAO Expert Advisory Panel with regard to its Terms of Reference (ToRs), in particular paragraph 5, second bullet (*“comment, as appropriate, on technical aspects of the proposal in relation to biology, ecology, trade and management issues, as well as, to the extent possible, the likely effectiveness for conservation”*).
- The Sub-Committee may again consider addressing the current scarcity of regular programme funds for the CITES-related activities by FAO and recommend a viable solution.

INTRODUCTION

1. CITES is an international agreement established with the objective to protect and conserve endangered species by ensuring that their survival is not threatened by international trade. Roughly 5 000 species of animals and 29 000 species of plants are subjected to protection by CITES against over-exploitation through international trade. Those species are listed in one of three Appendices, and international trade in these species is controlled according to the degree of protection they require.
2. The CITES Appendices currently include close to 100 commercially-exploited aquatic species of fish, molluscs and echinoderms, including the basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*), great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*), whale shark (*Rhincondon typus*), all species of sawfishes (*Pristidae*), sturgeons (*Acipenser brevirostrum* and *A. sturio*), European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), Napoleon wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*), all species of seahorses (*Hippocampus spp.*), Caribbean queen conch (*Strombus gigas*), giant clams (*Tridacnidae*) and one species of sea cucumbers (*Isotichopus fuscus*). Moreover, at the last CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP16) held in Bangkok, Thailand, 3–14 March 2013, CITES Parties included five additional sharks and all manta rays in Appendix II. The associated legal measures with these new listings will come into effect in September 2014.
3. In 2006, an MoU¹ was signed between FI and CITES to formalize the intentions of the two organizations in strengthening the cooperation on common issues related to commercially-exploited aquatic species. The MoU has been considered an important achievement by many FAO Member Countries and Parties to CITES.
4. This report provides an updated overview of the CITES related activities undertaken by FI since the thirteenth session of COFI:FT in February 2012, including the outcome of the Fourth FAO Expert Advisory Panel for the Assessment of Proposals to Amend Appendices I and II of CITES Concerning Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (FAO Panel for CITES) that evaluated seven proposals (for a total of nine species and one genus) to amend CITES Appendices with commercially-exploited aquatic species and the other work conducted under the work plan and the Trust Fund project on “CITES and commercially-exploited aquatic species, including the evaluation of listing proposals (Phase I and Phase II)”².

THE APPLICATION OF CITES CRITERIA TO COMMERCIALY EXPLOITED AQUATIC SPECIES

5. In 2010, after some discussions between FAO and the CITES Secretariat over the correct interpretation of the CITES listing criteria for inclusion of commercially exploited aquatic species in CITES Appendix II, the CoP15 directed the CITES Animals Committee to “... *develop guidance on the application of criterion B and the introductory text of Annex 2 a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15)*³ to commercially exploited aquatic species proposed for inclusion on Appendix II”. FAO was invited to present its views and therefore convened the “*FAO Workshop to review the application of CITES criterion Annex 2aB to commercially-exploited aquatic species*”⁴ and submitted the report to the CITES Animals Committee in July 2011.” FAO also contributed to the Criteria Working Group set up by the CITES Animals Committee, in particular to clarify basic fish stock assessment approaches including the precautionary approach used by the FAO Panel for CITES.
6. The guidance of the Animals Committee on the application of CITES criterion Annex 2aB is contained in CoP16 Doc. 71 (Rev. 1)⁵ and remains rather inconclusive by allowing the co-existence of different interpretations of the CITES criterion 2aB for commercially-exploited aquatic species. In

¹ <http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/sec/FAO-CITES-e.pdf>

² Nearly all of the work over the last eight years by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department on CITES-related issues has been possible because of funds provided by the Government of Japan through the Trust Fund project on CITES.

³ <http://www.cites.org/eng/res/all/09/E09-24R15.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2235e/i2235e00.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/16/doc/E-CoP16-71.pdf>

particular it states that “*there are diverse approaches to the application of Annex 2a criterion B in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15). The Animals Committee finds that it is not possible to provide guidance preferring or favouring one approach over another. The Animals Committee recommends that Parties apply Annex 2a criterion B to draft or submit proposals to amend the CITES Appendices, explain their approach to that criterion, and how the taxon qualifies for inclusion in Appendix II*”. The CoP16 accepted this outcome and decided to not pursue the matter any further.

7. This result means that FAO can continue to apply the CITES biological listing criteria to commercially-exploited aquatic species in the manner that was established by its experts and adopted by its Members. However, it is a concern that the unresolved understanding by CITES with regard to the application of the biological listing criteria for commercially exploited aquatic species could potentially lead to a lack of clarity regarding the validity of the scientific advice provided by the FAO Panel for CITES.

“INTRODUCTION FROM THE SEA”

8. FAO participated in the CITES working group on “Introduction from the Sea” established in 2008 to revise Resolution Conf. 14.6. FAO continued to work after the CoP15 to address some questions related to high seas captures that were not yet resolved, in particular issues regarding chartering and the role of flag states and port states in the import/export process. The FAO Legal Department attended relevant working group meetings and provided technical input to the discussions. The proposed revisions of the working group to Resolution Conf. 14.6 are recorded in CoP16 Doc. 32 (Rev.1)⁶, which was adopted by the CoP16 by majority vote. With this decision, the working group on “Introduction from the Sea” has concluded its work.

ASSISTANCE IN RELATION TO LISTED SPECIES

SHARKS

9. The recent listings of several sharks demonstrate that a large number of countries are concerned about the status and fisheries of vulnerable elasmobranchs. The FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks 1999) was developed to address these concerns, and FAO Members expect to be regularly updated on the national and regional implementation of the IPOA Sharks and also expect that FAO assists in particular developing countries in improving the management and assessment of shark stocks in their waters.

10. The most recent FAO review of the implementation of the IPOA Sharks was finalized in 2012⁷ and focused on the top 26 shark-fishing nations and entities as well as the ten most relevant Regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs). It reviewed not only the existence of national or regional plans of action for sharks, but also summarized the main fishery management regimes (paying particular attention to any regulations related to sharks including scientific assessments and relevant research). In addition, the review looked at the quality of shark reporting to FAO by these nations and entities and whether they had adopted measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The draft IPOA Sharks implementation review was available to COFI in 2012, and a summary of the main results was presented during a side event at the CoP16.

11. Currently, FAO is undertaking an analysis of international shark trade data. This will be complemented by a qualitative analysis made available to FAO Members. In addition FAO is working for the improvement of the international trade statistics of sharks, skates and rays through the proposal of introducing specific codes for these species, by different product forms, in the 2017 edition of the Harmonized System (HS) classification maintained by the World Customs Organization (WCO). This classification is used as a basis for the collection of trade statistics by nearly all countries in the world.

⁶ <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/16/doc/E-CoP16-32.pdf>

⁷ Fischer, et al. 2012. *Review of the Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks*. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1076. Rome, FAO. 120 pp. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3036e/i3036e00.htm>

For shark fins in cured form, the FAO proposal includes detail by species (i.e. hammerhead sharks, oceanic whitetip sharks, porbeagle shark and blue shark), some of which have been included in Appendix II of CITES. In this respect, CITES has expressed its appreciation to the FAO proposal through a supporting letter to WCO in November 2012.

12. Through the FishFinder Programme, FAO is making considerable efforts to help improve fishery and shark data by providing a range of shark identification tools. In 2012, it finalized a catalogue and pocket guides on North Atlantic sharks and batoids⁸ and an identification guide for deep-sea sharks of the Indian Ocean is almost concluded. Moreover, a global shark fin guide (for dorsal, pectoral and caudal fins of about 40 species) is currently being created with financial support from the government of Japan. This guide will include an image recognition software tool to allow non-experts (e.g. customs officers and vessel or port inspectors) to reliably identify whole shark fins and should become available in late 2014.

SEA CUCUMBERS

13. In 2007, the CoP14 requested that the CITES Secretariat cooperate with FAO concerning the conservation and trade in sea cucumbers and support relevant capacity-building activities. For this purpose a CITES working group on sea cucumbers was established. FAO initiated a number of activities to develop sound sea cucumber management^{9,10} and conservation measures, including the production of a global sea cucumber identification guide¹¹ and conducting capacity-building workshops for fishery managers^{12,13} to familiarize them with potential regulatory measures and management actions in support of ecologically sustainable and socially accepted fisheries for these species. In 2013, the CoP16 agreed that the working group on sea cucumbers had fulfilled its mandate and it was discontinued.

QUEEN CONCH

14. Queen conch has been listed in CITES Appendix II since 1992, but continuous concerns about unsustainable levels of exploitations have kept this species under a Significant Trade Review process by CITES since 1995. Embargo restrictions currently apply to three Caribbean queen conch exporting countries.

15. Through WECAFC, FAO supported the first meeting of the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM working group on queen conch in Panama in October 2012¹⁴. This meeting was attended by delegates from 23 countries and territories and produced the “Declaration of Panama City” which anticipated, among other things, the development of a regional plan for the management and conservation of queen conch. FAO and CITES were requested to cooperate with states on the improvement and standardization of trade data and statistics (through regionally agreed conversion factors) for queen conch and its derivatives such as pearls, shells and opercula. In this context attention is drawn to the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1042 from 2009 on “*Conversion factors for processed queen conch to nominal weight*”¹⁵.

16. FAO will continue providing technical assistance to relevant countries to improve the management of queen conch, to help in adopting regionally agreed conversion factors, and to facilitate the establishment of an auditable “chain of custody” procedure so that catches of queen conch can be

⁸ Ebert, D.A. & Stehmann, M.T.W. 2013. Sharks, batoids and chimaeras of the North Atlantic. FAO Species Catalogue for Fishery Purposes No. 7, Rome, FAO. 523pp.

⁹ Purcell, S.W. Managing sea cucumber fisheries with an ecosystem approach. Edited/compiled by Lovatelli, A.; M. Vasconcellos and Y. Yimin. 2010. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper; 520. Rome, FAO. 157p.

¹⁰ FAO. 2010. Putting into practice an ecosystem approach to managing sea cucumber fisheries. Rome, FAO. 81 pp.

¹¹ Purcell, *et al.* Commercially important sea cucumbers of the world. FAO Species Catalogue for Fishery Purposes. No. 6. Rome, FAO. 2012. 150 pp. 30 colour plates. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i1918e/i1918e.pdf>

¹² <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2658e/i2658e.pdf>

¹³ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3223e/i3223e.pdf>

¹⁴ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3193t/i3193t.pdf>

¹⁵ <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/012/i0996b/i0996b00.pdf>

traced back to their catch location and not just at their point of landing or point of export. FAO is also working for the improvement of trade statistics of Stromboid species through the insertion of specific codes in the FAO proposal for the revision of the above mentioned 2017 edition of the HS classification.

INTERNAL REVIEW OF STATUS OF TRENDS OF COMMERCIALY-EXPLOITED AQUATIC SPECIES LISTED IN CITES APPENDIX I OR II

17. The FAO project on CITES is in the process of undertaking an internal review of current stock status and abundance trends of the commercially-exploited aquatic species listed under CITES. The review is based on accessible bibliographic information about species-specific recent bio-ecological and abundance data. Currently, this review is available for 10 elasmobranchs listed on CITES Appendices I and II. In the future, other species listed under CITES will also be reviewed.

18. This internal review is quite different from the work performed by the FAO Panel for CITES when evaluating proposals for listing commercially-exploited aquatic species under one of the CITES Appendices. Instead it is intended to provide, as far as possible, a summary of accessible recent scientific information on bio-ecological characteristics (including population dynamics), geographic distribution and abundance trends. The main objective of this activity is to provide updated basic information to regional and national fishery managers on the global status of the commercially-exploited aquatic species listed under CITES.

FAO PANEL FOR CITES

19. The fourth FAO Panel for CITES was convened in Rome from 3 to 8 December 2012 in accordance with the MoU between CITES and FAO, which specifies that FAO should carry out a scientific and technical review of all relevant proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II. The 2012 FAO Panel for CITES received funding from the Governments of Germany, Japan and New Zealand as well as from the FAO regular programme.

20. The preparation for the fourth FAO Panel for CITES followed FAO standard rules and procedures including the principle of equitable geographical representation and drawing from a roster of recognized experts consisting of scientific and technical specialists in commercially-exploited aquatic species.

21. The report of the 2012 FAO Panel for CITES was published as FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1032¹⁶. The summaries of the assessments for each species are available as COFI:FT/XIV/2014/Inf.7.

22. The ToRs of the FAO Panel for CITES stipulate that the Panel should: 1) *“assess each proposal from a scientific perspective in accordance with the CITES biological listing criteria, taking account of the recommendations on the criteria made to CITES by FAO;”* and 2) *“comment, as appropriate, on technical aspects of the proposal in relation to biology, ecology, trade and management issues, as well as, to the extent possible, the likely effectiveness for conservation”*.

23. The fourth FAO Panel for CITES consisted of a core group of 8 experts and 15 specialists on the species being considered, as well as on aspects of fisheries management and international trade relevant to those species. In addition, two invited observers attended the 2012 Panel, one from the CITES Secretariat and one from the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

24. Following regular procedures, the 2012 FAO Panel for CITES applied the CITES biological listing criteria (Res. Conf. 9.24 [Rev. CoP15]) in accordance with FAO's initial advice to CITES on criteria suitable for commercially-exploited aquatic species.

¹⁶ FAO. 2013. Report of the fourth FAO Expert Advisory Panel for the Assessment of Proposals to Amend Appendices I and II of CITES Concerning Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species, Rome, 3–8 December 2012. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. R1032. Rome, FAO. 161 pp. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap999e/ap999e.pdf>

25. In 2012, COFI provided additional guidance regarding the ToRs of the Panel by requesting the FAO Panel for CITES “to strengthen its consideration of technical issues related to fisheries management and international trade consistent with the Panel’s Terms of Reference while underscoring the primary scientific role of the Panel”. In response to this request, in preparing for the 2012 Panel, FAO paid particular attention to: (a) inviting more experts than in the past for comments on technical aspects of the proposal thus ensuring that half of the Panel was composed of experts on fisheries management, international fish trade and CITES implementation; (b) re-structuring the report of the FAO Panel for CITES to give more emphasis on comments on technical matters; and (c) contracting a fisheries socio-economist to substantively contribute to the draft report for the FAO Panel for CITES. However, the Panel noted that the technical aspects involved in the implementation of CITES listings are context-specific and need to be considered on a case-by-case basis. To improve knowledge on these technical aspects, the Panel recommended the implementation of more empirical studies on the impacts and factors influencing the successful implementation of CITES listings of commercially-exploited aquatic species.

26. The Panel welcomed the presentations by representatives of the proponents of the seven proposals at the beginning of its meeting. Both the presentations of the proposals and the opportunity to request clarification from the representatives of the proponents after initial Panel discussions greatly improved the information available to the Panel and its ability to make informed assessments of the proposals.

27. In relation to the proposals, the Panel noted that the quality of the data and information varied and emphasized that the presentation of reliable indices, quantitative wherever possible, is central to determining whether species meet criteria for inclusion in the Appendices. Even where information is difficult to quantify, all efforts should be made to present the information in a form that can be objectively assessed.

28. The fourth FAO Panel for CITES also noted that little information on the relative importance of international trade in driving exploitation was presented in some proposals. In part, this is often due to the lack of information on this subject, resulting from the lack of species level tariff codes for many species in trade. In 2009, the Panel had suggested that CITES Parties and FAO encourage the WCO to establish specific headings within the standardized tariff classification of the Harmonized System to record trade in sharks and their products at the species level. FAO is assisting in this process and has submitted the above mentioned proposal to the WCO for the inclusion of a large number of shark product codes.

29. The fourth FAO Panel for CITES considered the following seven proposals submitted to the CITES COP16¹⁷:

- **Proposal 42.** Proposal to include *Carcharhinus longimanus* (oceanic whitetip shark) in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a). The proposal includes an annotation stating that “the entry into effect of the inclusion of *Carcharhinus longimanus* in CITES Appendix II will be delayed by 18 months to enable Parties to resolve the related technical and administrative issues”.
- **Proposal 43.** Proposal to include *Sphyrna lewini* in Appendix II in accordance with Article II 2(a) and inclusion of *S. mokarran* and *S. zygaena* in Appendix II in accordance with Article II 2(b). The proposal includes an annotation stating that “the entry into effect of the inclusion of these species in CITES Appendix II will be delayed by 18 months to enable Parties to resolve the related technical and administrative issues”.
- **Proposal 44.** Proposal to include *Lamna nasus* (Bonnaterre, 1788) in Appendix II in accordance with Article II 2(a). The proposal includes an annotation stating that “the entry into effect of the inclusion of *Lamna nasus* in CITES Appendix II will be delayed by 18 months to enable Parties to resolve related technical and administrative issues”.
- **Proposal 45.** Proposal to transfer *Pristis microdon* from Appendix II to Appendix I of CITES in accordance with Article II, paragraph 1.

¹⁷ The complete FAO report on proposed listings is distributed as COFI:FT/XIV/2014/Inf.7.

- **Proposal 46.** Proposal to include the genus *Manta* in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a).
- **Proposal 47.** Proposal to include the Ceja River stingray *Paratrygon aiereba* in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a). The proposal includes an annotation stating that “the entry into effect of the inclusion of *Paratrygon aiereba* in CITES Appendix II will be delayed by 18 months to enable Parties to resolve the related technical and administrative issues”.
- **Proposal 48.** Proposal to include the freshwater stingrays *Potamotrygon motoro* and *P. schroederi* in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a). The proposal includes an annotation stating that “the entry into effect of the inclusion of *Potamotrygon motoro* and *Potamotrygon schroederi* in CITES Appendix II will be delayed by 18 months to enable Parties to resolve the related technical and administrative issues”.

30. The main advice of the FAO Panel for CITES is reported in COFI:FT/XIV/2014/Inf.7. The recommendations produced independently by the CITES Secretariat on the listing proposals concurred in six of the seven proposals with the FAO Panel advice. Disagreement was only for the genus *Manta* where the CITES Secretariat recommended the proposal be adopted by CITES Parties.

31. The CITES CoP16 adopted five of the seven proposals for inclusion of commercially-exploited aquatic species in Appendix I or II (which will enter into force in September 2014). Thus, for the following species CITES regulations of international trade will apply:

- *Carcharhinus longimanus* (oceanic whitetip shark) (Appendix II)
- *Sphyrna lewini* (scalloped hammerhead shark), *S. mokarran* (great hammerhead shark) and *S. zygaena* (smooth hammerhead shark) (Appendix II)
- *Lamna nasus* (porbeagle shark) (Appendix II)
- *Pristis microdon* (freshwater sawfish) (Appendix I)
- *Manta* spp. (manta rays)

FUTURE ACTIVITIES BY FAO

CONTINUATION OF CURRENT WORK

32. FAO intends to continue working on a number of activities described above, in particular those related to the IPOA Sharks and queen conch. FAO is also committed to attend relevant CITES meetings (e.g. Animals Committee and Standing Committee) over the next two years to: (1) present FAO data, activities and views on the conservation and management as well as on the international trade of commercially exploited aquatic species to CITES Parties; and (2) to report back to FAO about relevant issues and developments in CITES.

33. FAO is also prepared to support activities related to the conservation, management and trade of sturgeons (all species of the order *Acipenseriformes* are listed under CITES Appendices I or II¹⁸), in particular with regard to improving the identification of species and products in trade. According to CITES, international trade of caviar from wild sturgeon is below 20 tonnes per year since 2005 (in contrast to over 150 tonnes in the late 1990s), while caviar from aquaculture is steadily increasing and reached over 35 tonnes in 2010; this trend is even more pronounced for sturgeon meat¹⁹. A reliable identification of wild versus cultured sturgeons and their products in trade is therefore important to facilitate the international trade of sturgeon from aquaculture, and the CoP16 consequently asked for a review of identification techniques for sturgeon specimens in trade²⁰. As a result of the collaboration of FAO with WCO, the coverage of the international trade statistics for caviar has been further improved through the insertion of a specific code on caviar, separated from caviar substitutes, in the new HS classification entered into force on 1st January 2012.

¹⁸ *Acipenser brevirostrum* and *A. sturio* are listed under Appendix I, the other 28 species under Appendix II.

¹⁹ <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/16/doc/E-CoP16-60-02.pdf>

²⁰ http://www.cites.org/eng/dec/valid16/16_136-138.php

COLLABORATION WITH THE CITES SECRETARIAT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CITES LISTINGS OF SHARKS AND MANTA RAYS RECENTLY INCLUDED IN APPENDIX II

34. The MoU between CITES and FAO stipulates that “*the signatories will cooperate as appropriate to facilitate capacity building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on issues relating to commercially-exploited aquatic species listed on the CITES Appendices*”. Therefore, FAO and CITES are currently collaborating to assist countries with the implementation of the recent listings of sharks and manta rays included in CITES Appendix II. As a first step FAO has started consultations with countries that are most impacted by these listings, in particular developing countries, to ascertain their most urgent requirements for assistance. Based on the information and the specific requests received from these countries, FAO will develop priority areas for its subsequent technical work in collaboration with CITES and relevant RFMOs.

ELABORATION OF GUIDELINES FOR COMMENTS ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSALS

35. Over the past 15 years, FAO has developed comprehensive guidance on the application of the biological CITES listing criteria for the FAO Panel for CITES. However, similar guidance on methods and approaches to be used for the comments on technical aspects of a proposal does not exist. As a result of the interest by many COFI members to strengthen these comments and to ensure that the advice of the FAO Panel for CITES remains objective and fact-based, the development of a framework of recommended and scientifically sound approaches and instructions is recommended. This could be used by the Panel (and by proponents) for the review and evaluation of fisheries management and international trade data of commercially exploited aquatic species proposed to be listed under one of the CITES Appendices.

36. FAO proposes to convene a workshop with the aim of initially identifying the key fisheries management and international trade issues of relevance in the context of CITES listings of commercially-exploited aquatic species. This will be followed by a review of the impacts and factors influencing the successful implementation of CITES listings of commercially-exploited aquatic species, which would lead to the provision of guidance to the FAO Panel for CITES in relation to approaches and methods to be used. This activity will require additional extra-budgetary funds as it has not been anticipated in the context of the current FAO project on CITES, or in the FAO Regular Programme.