

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



Seventy-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 6–10 November 2023

RECOMENDATIONS RELATED TO DOCUMENT SC77 DOC. 33.7

Recommendations

58. In light of the above, the Standing Committee recommends:

*Regarding management of trade in sharks and rays specimens*

- a) Parties suspend trade in specimens of sharks and rays listed on CITES appendix II before COP 19 from Ecuador or with country of origin Ecuador. The recommendation shall take effect 120 days after the closure of SC 77 unless Ecuador takes measures to ensure the appropriate implementation of Article IV with respect to non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings to the satisfaction of the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, notably through establishing requirements for sustainable levels of trade, including by determining fishing capacity and bycatch limits, and establishing trade quotas for sharks and rays based on available scientific data.
- b) All importing Parties inform the Secretariat of the volumes of CITES-listed sharks and rays specimens imported from Ecuador or with country of origin Ecuador since the listings in Appendix II came into force.
- c) Ecuador strengthens CITES Scientific Authorities by developing their capacities and providing them with sufficient resources to carry out their work, including a population survey of internationally-traded sharks and rays and other CITES-listed aquatic species for the purpose of making NDFs and establishing annual export quotas before authorizing any trade of specimens of CITES-listed sharks and rays species.

*Regarding legislation and the fight against fraud*

- d) Ecuador and Peru strengthen their regulatory frameworks for the management and trade of aquatic species by taking the appropriate measures to enforce the provisions of the Convention as provided in Article VIII, including by considering:
  - i) assessing the capacities, mandates and needs of the competent authorities in the fight against illegal trade, in order to strengthen the control of illegal trade in CITES-listed aquatic species and the fight against transnational organized crime related to the illegal trade in sharks, rays and other aquatic species, and, based on this assessment, strengthening the capacities of crime-fighting services in order to increase CITES controls, based on risk management strategies, including controls at border-crossing points, and to combat transnational organized crime involving fisheries.

- ii) creating a binational platform for cooperation and coordination among the competent authorities involved in the fight against crime, in order to strengthen the monitoring of trade in CITES-listed species and combat transnational organized crime related to the international trade in sharks and rays, as recommended in paragraphs 9 a) and b), and Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on Compliance and enforcement.
- iii) encouraging companies to use innovative technologies to track and monitor vessels, and to adopt best practices to avoid fishery products obtained from illegal fishing or illegal exploitation or illegally traded catch entering their supply chains.

*Regarding trade between Ecuador and Peru*

- e) the Secretariat continue to monitor this case and make recommendations to the Standing Committee. It is further recommended that the Secretariat continue to maintain close contact with Ecuador and Peru and to strengthen cooperation on this case, and seek an invitation from Peru to provide in-country assistance, conduct a technical assessment and a factfinding mission to understand how CITES authorities are ensuring that shark and rays specimens and specimens of other aquatic species are imported and re-exported in compliance with CITES. Subject to the availability of external funds and human resources to conduct that work, the Secretariat shall present its findings and recommendations to the forthcoming Standing Committee meetings.

*Regarding reporting*

- f) Ecuador and Peru report to the Secretariat on progress made in the implementation of these recommendations 90 days before the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78), to enable the Secretariat to submit its report and input to the Standing Committee.