

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

SUMMARY

THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER
MORNING

39. Enforcement

39.2 International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime SC77 Doc. 39.2

The Committee:

- a) noted the efforts of Parties to combat wildlife crime and welcome the support provided by ICCWC;
- b) noted that the *ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit* and the *ICCWC Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime* have been revised and updated, and encourage Parties to make use of these tools as anticipated in paragraph 19 c) of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev CoP19) on *Compliance and enforcement*;
- c) encouraged Parties to actively engage in ICCWC initiatives and operations and to reach out to ICCWC for support where needed; and
- d) welcomed the generous contributions from donor Parties enabling the implementation of the ICCWC Strategic Programme.

39.4 Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa SC77 Doc. 39.4

The Committee:

- a) noted the discussions of the working group;
- b) requested the working group to continue its discussions with regards to Decision 19.88 paragraph b);
- c) requested the working group to consider and, if needed, finalize the questionnaire directed to Parties, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, regarding existing access to finance mechanisms for CITES enforcement;
- d) requested the CITES Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties regarding existing access to finance mechanisms for CITES enforcement, once finalized by the working group; and
- e) requested the working group to report on the implementation of Decision 19.88 paragraph b) to the 78th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee.

47. Introduction from the sea..... SC77 Doc. 47

The Committee:

- a) noted the recent adoption of the UN *Agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction*;
- b) noted the responses from Parties provided on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) and summarized in paragraphs 10 to 14 of document SC77 Doc. 47;
- c) noted the revised 10 questions most frequently asked on 'CITES trade from areas beyond national jurisdiction' and the responses prepared by the Secretariat, contained in the Annex to document SC77 Doc. 47 and encouraged Parties to provide further inputs by 31 December 2023;
- d) requested the Secretariat to make the living document available on the CITES webpage and to use it as part of its capacity-building material to test its utility and applicability and collect further feedback;
- e) requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties to seek information on specific challenges with the implementation of Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) and its Annex; and
- f) requested the Secretariat to prepare a further report for its 78th meeting for onward submission to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

67. Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)

67.1 Evidence of continued non-compliant trade in Appendix-II listed shark species (*Carcharhinus longimanus*)..... SC77 Doc. 67.1

The Committee:

- a) requested the Secretariat to prioritize *Carcharhinus longimanus* in its analysis being conducted under Decision 19.223, paragraph c), regarding the mismatch between catch and trade data;
- b) requested all Parties that catch pelagic sharks" to report to the Secretariat on their national level implementation efforts and regulations for implementing the listing of *Carcharhinus longimanus*;
- c) requested the Secretariat compile the responses of Parties and present them to the 78th session of the Standing Committee (SC78);
- d) based on the responses of Parties and the report of the Secretariat, agreed to identify possible cases of non-compliance; consider the development of guidance to support comprehensive reporting of shark trade; identify whether any amendments are necessary to relevant Resolutions of the Conference of Parties;
- e) requested the Secretariat to prioritize *Carcharhinus longimanus* under Decision 19.140, which requests the Secretariat to continue to monitor introduction from the sea implementation; and
- f) in addition to existing obligations to report confiscations or seizures of specimens of *Carcharhinus longimanus* in the annual illegal trade reports, strongly encouraged Parties who are encountering difficulties implementing the listing of this species to submit information to the Secretariat that will draw it to the attention of the Animals Committee or the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

67.2 Report of the Animals Committee SC77 Doc. 67.2

The Committee:

- a) encouraged Parties to report the trade of sharks and rays using the preferred terms and units (as identified in the latest *Guidelines for the preparation and submission for CITES annual reports*) at the species level and consider the addition of taxon-specific terms to assist in the reporting;

- b) reminded Parties of the provisions in paragraph 8) of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Conservation and management of sharks* on expanding national classification system for collecting and reporting of data on shark trade and reminded the Secretariat of the provisions in paragraph 9) of the same Resolution to monitor discussions within the World Customs Organization as it relates to sharks.
- c) encouraged Parties to use the available HS codes when reporting trade in the annual trade reports;
- d) encouraged Parties to consider the development of new digital reporting and traceability mechanisms; and
- e) reminded Parties to consider the appropriate use of pre-Convention permitting for different shark and ray product types for specimens that meet the requirements of Resolution Conf. 13.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of Article VII, paragraph 2, concerning 'pre-Convention' specimens*.

67.3 Report of the SecretariatSC77 Doc. 67.3

The Committee:

- a) noted the progress made on the implementation of Decisions 19.222 to 19.224;
- b) requested the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on sharks and rays to consider the non-scientific aspects of the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2023/027 contained in Annex 2 to document AC32 Doc. 37 (Rev. 1) to implement its mandate;
- c) invited the Secretariat to consider updating the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual and illegal reports* to include explicit guidance on reporting on specimens taken from areas beyond national jurisdiction and report on this at its 78th meeting; and
- d) invited the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on sharks and rays to identify potential solutions to address the challenges associated with the transport of biological samples for research and data collection purposes as a priority.

33. Compliance matters

33.7 Application of Article XIII in Ecuador SC77 Doc. 33.7

The Committee established an in-session drafting group with the mandate to review and revise the recommendations in paragraph 58 of document SC77 Doc. 33.7 The membership of the drafting group was agreed as follows: Brazil (Chair), Ecuador, Japan, New Zealand, Peru, Poland and the United States of America.

33.13 Totoabas (*Totoaba macdonaldi*)

33.13.2 Report of the Secretariat SC77 Doc. 33.13.2

The Committee:

- a) noted the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2023/069 and the associated information provided in document SC77 Doc. 33.13.2;
- b) welcomed the rapid progress made by Mexico with implementation of its compliance action plan;
- c) requested Mexico to:
 - i) take into consideration the observations of the Secretariat as presented in Annex 5 to document SC77 Doc. 33.13.2;

- ii) prepare a report for the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78) on progress with the implementation of targets and associated milestones in its compliance action plan; and
- iii) submit the report to the Secretariat 90 days in advance of SC78, for it to be made available to the Committee for consideration;
- d) requested the Secretariat to continue to monitor Mexico's implementation of its compliance action plan and make the report submitted by Mexico to SC78 in accordance with recommendation c) available to the Committee together with any recommendations the Secretariat may have;
- e) agreed to review Mexico's progress with the implementation of its compliance action plan at SC78 and consider if any further compliance actions or measures are needed;
- f) requested China and the United States of America to invite the Secretariat for a technical mission to have a better understanding of the measures and activities being implemented by these Parties in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs a) to c) of Decision 18.292 (Rev. CoP19);
- g) invited the Secretariat to undertake a third technical mission to Mexico to review and monitor the implementation of the compliance action plan and to assess the situation on the ground;
- h) requested China, Mexico and the United States of America to report to SC78 in accordance with Decision 19.74, and to decide at SC78 if sufficient progress has been made or if further measures are needed regarding any of these three Parties;
- i) subject to the availability of funds and resources, requested the Secretariat to work with INTERPOL and UNODC to convene a Wildlife Inter Regional Enforcement (WIRE) meeting and a Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meeting (RIACM) on totoaba, as anticipated in the [agreed outcome document](#) of the online *Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba*;
- j) notes the progress regarding the study on vaquita and totoaba; and
- k) noted the comments made on the floor, including the request by Mexico for the Secretariat to undertake its mission to Mexico after its missions to China and the United States of America.

33.13.1 Report presented by Mexico as Chairman of the Trilateral Contact Group on law enforcement to combat the illegal trade of totoaba SC77 Doc. 33.13.1

The Committee noted the report presented by Mexico in document SC77 Doc. 33.13.1.