

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



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-20 March 2012 and Dublin (Ireland), 22-24 March 2012

Implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15)
on Conservation and management of sharks (Class Chondrichthyes)

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

1. This document has been prepared by the Animals Committee representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson), chair of the working group .
2. In Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) on *Conservation and management of sharks (Class Chondrichthyes)*, the Conference of the Parties instructs the CITES Secretariat to inform FAO of the concerns of the CITES Parties regarding the significant lack of progress in implementing the IPOA-Sharks, and to urge FAO to take steps to actively encourage relevant States to develop NPOA-Sharks.
3. In July 2010, the FAO and CITES Secretariat jointly convened the *Workshop to review the application and effectiveness of international regulatory measures for the conservation and sustainable use of elasmobranchs* in Genazzano, Italy. This workshop was attended by experts from a range of geographic areas and sectors, including scientists, fisheries industry and representatives of the government. The workshop tried to outline the strengths and weaknesses of regulatory measures and to evaluate their effectiveness. If it is finalized in time, the final report of the workshop will be submitted as an information document at the present meeting.
4. During the 29th session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) that was held in Rome, Italy, in February 2011, the CITES Secretariat pointed out that the joint workshop in Genazzano showed that harvest-related measures and trade-related measures could and should be used in tandem, where appropriate, to ensure the successful management of fish.
5. In Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15), the Conference of the Parties also encourages Parties to obtain information on implementation of NPOA-Sharks or regional plans, and to report directly on progress to the CITES Secretariat and at future meetings of the Animals Committee, and "directs the Animals Committee to examine information provided by range States on trade and other available relevant data and information, and report their analyses at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties".
6. At its 15th meeting (Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties agreed that Parties should report on a number of subjects, including sharks, for discussion at meetings of the Animals Committee. The Secretariat listed these reporting obligations in Notification to the Parties No. 2010/027 of 24 August 2010.
7. By the reporting deadline of 15 January 2011 provided in that Notification, the Secretariat had received responses from the European Union (on behalf of 27 Parties), Canada, New Zealand, Peru and the United States of America. Further responses were received before the 25th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC25, Geneva, July 2011) from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Japan and Mexico. At the

* *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.*

25th meeting of the Animals Committee in July 2011, a Working Group considered these 12 reports; however, it was noted that reports had not been received by many key Parties involved in shark fisheries.

8. At AC25, it was agreed that the Secretariat would issue a Notification to the Parties inviting them to provide information on shark species that they believe require additional action to enhance their conservation and management, and to provide information on domestic measures regarding fishing and trade in sharks and rays. The Secretariat included this request for information in Notification to the Parties No. 2011/049 on 10 November 2011.
9. The responses to the Notification that were provided by the deadline of 6 January 2012 are presented in the annex to document AC26 Doc. 16.2 (in the language in which they were received).
10. At AC25, the Animals Committee requested that the Secretariat continue to update the Animals Committee on developments related to the inclusion of standards found in the CITES toolkit on e-permitting with the World Customs Organization data model, particularly with regard to fulfilment of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP15) to report trade in sharks at the species level, where possible, and to report on product codes used for trade in sharks.
11. The Animals Committee also requested that the CITES Secretariat closely collaborate with the FAO Secretariat, pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the two Secretariats, regarding:
 - a) *shark questionnaires to ... States..., to avoid duplication of effort and in particular to maximize the likelihood of responses;*
 - b) *the elaboration of the current FAO review on the implementation of the IPOA–Sharks, in particular the inclusion of trade information and the provision of available information and other support to FAO for this purpose;*
 - c) *review of RFMO shark regulations and their geographical coverage, including stock assessments, ecological risk assessments, conservation and management measures (including trade-related measures); and*
 - d) *report this information to the Animals Committee.*
12. The timing of the FAO's global review of the implementation of the IPOA-Sharks and the timeline for responses to the questionnaire to States on shark fisheries does not coincide well with the CITES timetable. If any relevant data and information becomes available before or at the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee it should be considered then, in order to fulfil the mandate of the Animals Committee with respect to Resolution Conf 12.6 (Rev. CoP15).
13. The Animals Committee requested at AC25 that the Secretariat consult and closely collaborate with the Secretariat of the Convention of Migratory Species on shark issues, pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the two Secretariats, and report to the Animals Committee.
14. Because the proceedings of the *Workshop to review the application and effectiveness of international regulatory measures for the conservation and sustainable use of elasmobranchs* held in Genazzano, Italy, in February 2010, is still not available, and because the Notification to the Parties No. 2011/049 had a deadline of 6 January 2012, the Intersessional Working Group established at AC25 did not meet, and can not report any progress
15. The Animals Committee is invited to note the content of the present document and to examine the information provided by range States on trade and other available relevant data and information as a result of Notifications 2010/027 and 2011/049, together with the final report on the CITES/FAO workshop, if it is available, in order to report their analyses at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.