

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



Twenty-eighth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Tel Aviv (Israel), 30 August-3 September 2015

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Conservation and management of sharks

GUIDANCE FOR MAKING NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS FOR CITES-LISTED SHARKS

1. This document has been submitted by Germany\* in relation to agenda item 17 on *Conservation and management of sharks*.
2. In 2013, the German Scientific Authority (Fauna) commissioned a report under a project to develop guidance for the development of non-detriment findings (NDFs) for shark species listed in Appendix II of CITES, including a review of existing management measures and the development of guidelines and practical recommendations. The aim was to make this guidance available by September 2014, when the Appendix II listings adopted by the 16th Conference of the Parties (CoP16) in March 2013 would come into force.
3. Progress with this project was reported to the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC27, Veracruz, April 2014) in document [AC27 Doc. 22.3](#). The full report *CITES non-detriment findings guidance for shark species: a framework to assist Authorities in making non-detriment findings (NDFs) for species listed in CITES Appendix II* was presented as document [AC27 Inf.1](#).
4. The 27th meeting of the Animals Committee was informed that the German government proposed hosting a small expert workshop in August 2014 in order to test the NDF procedures set out in the report on selected stocks of Porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) and other listed shark species and analyse the results of these case studies. The AC was invited to note and comment upon the report and to provide advice on how the guidance might be improved and the workshop implemented. The AC's working group on the conservation and management of sharks, attended by 40 representatives of Parties and Observers, discussed the report and other documents and made numerous recommendations (see document [AC27 WG7 Doc. 1](#)).
5. Based on the advice from the Animals Committee's working group on the conservation and management of sharks and additional correspondence from Parties, ten NDF case studies were commissioned from experts: three stocks of Scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*), two stocks each of Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) and Porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*), and one stock each of Great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*), Smooth hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*), and the Oceanic Manta Ray (*Manta birostris*).

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\* 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.

6. An expert workshop held in Bonn, Germany during August 2014 analysed the results of the case studies presented, recognised the need to streamline the guidance, and achieved consensus on 20 recommendations. The procedures and guidance notes were revised accordingly and the report finalised before the Appendix II listings, adopted by CoP16 in March 2013, came into force.
7. The revised guidance report was submitted to the CITES Secretariat and has been placed on the CITES homepage section for sharks and mantas (<http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/shark/index.php>), in English and Spanish.
8. At the kind invitation of the Government of Colombia, the NDF Guidance was presented at the three day *International CITES shark workshop on experiences and strategies for the implementation of the listing of shark species in Appendix II*, held in Santa Marta, Colombia, November 2014. The workshop discussed mechanisms for control and traceability of the trade in CITES-listed shark species and the process for making a non-detriment finding to ensure that any international trade in species listed in Appendix II of CITES is sustainable and legal. The guidance document presented by the German delegation was welcomed and the workshop recommended that it be promoted.
9. Future activities planned under this project include:
  - a) Translation of the NDF Guidance into French, subject to the availability of resources;
  - b) Presentations of the NDF guidance and methodology, upon invitation at future CITES shark workshops and/or capacity-building meetings; and
  - c) Further improvement of the NDF guidance, based upon the advice from and practical experiences of institutions using the document to prepare NDFs – Parties are requested to share such information with the German Scientific Authority.

#### Recommendations

10. The Animals Committee is invited to:
  - a) take note of this document;
  - b) recommend that Parties and institutions make use of the offer in paragraph 9 b) above; and
  - c) recommend that Parties and institutions who use the NDF Guidance report back to the Scientific Authority of Germany with their experiences and advice for further improvements.