

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

Species trade and conservation

Conservation and management of sharks [Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP16)]

RESPONSE TO THE NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES NO. 2015/027
INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY MALAYSIA

The attached information document has been submitted by Malaysia in relation to agenda item 17.*

a. Available scientific data, such as stock assessment results

i. Collection of scientific data is on-going. A pilot project was conducted in 2013. Research to record landings data of sharks and rays (including hammerhead sharks and manta rays) at species level was started in the first week of July 2015 at Miri in State of Sarawak; Tawau, Sandakan, Kota Kinabalu, and Semporna in State of Sabah; and Bagan Datoh, Manjong, Bagan Panchor and Pantai Remis in State of Perak.

b. Methodologies providing guidance for the making of non-detriment findings

i. Information on sharks is needed up to species level before a non-detriment findings (NDF) study can be done. As such, Malaysia has successfully conducted a pilot project on sharks data collection at special level in the state of Perak in 2013 under SEAFDEC initiative. In 2015, the program has been extended for implementation in the site of Sabah (4 sites), Sarawak (1 site) and Perak (2 sites).

c. Challenges faced by Parties in implementing the new listings

- i. Limitation of skills in sharks and rays identification including their derivatives.
- ii. Limitation of skills in sharks and rays data collection at species level.

d. Progress made to address such challenges

i. Managers/ enforcement officers have attended trainings with regards to the identification of sharks and rays abroad (China, Sri Lanka and India in 2014) as well as within Malaysia (2014: Sabah and Perak with 1 program each, and 2015 (as of July) : Sabah and Sarawak with 1 program each)

* 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.

- ii. Enforcement personnel are currently utilizing the new field identification guide for sharks (by PEW) and rays (by Manta Trust) at entry/exit points.
- iii. Statistic staff of Department of Fisheries Malaysia have attended trainings on sharks and rays data collection : 3 programs since 2014 conducted by SEAFDEC in Terengganu
- iv. Sharks and rays data collection at species level program that was introduced in 2013 in the state of Perak has been extended for implementation in the state of Sabah (4 sites), Sarawak (1 site) and Perak (2 sites) in 2015.

e. Progress towards the adoption and implementation of National Plans of Action for Sharks, or other new information on trade in Sharks and related matter

- i. Malaysia 2nd National Plan of Action (NPOA) for the Conservation and Management of Shark (Plan 2) was completed and published in 2014.
- ii. Malaysian government imposed zero quota export on the newly listed sharks and rays effective 14th September 2014.
- iii. Malaysian government, on May 2014, ban the serving of shark fin soup at all official events.
- iv. Malaysian government and NGOs to continuously conduct the "Say No to Shark Fin" campaign throughout the country (at least 3 programs have been conducted since 2014).
- v. Malaysian government to continuously conduct capacity building program especially for enforcement personnel and awareness program for the general public (at least 6 programs have been conducted since 2014).
- vi. Department of Fisheries Malaysia and University of Putra Malaysia (UPM) in 2015 are currently undertaking studies in the state of Sabah on:
 - (a) Feasibility for the establishment of shark sanctuary; and
 - (b) Marketing and socio-economy.
- vii. Department of Fisheries Sabah is currently revising its SOP for rescuing and handling stranded endangered marine species (including sharks)

f. New legislation concerning the conservation and management of sharks and rays

- i. Malaysian government imposed new fishing licence condition in 2014 : sharks caught 'must be landed with fins attached'.