

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



Sixty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Trade control and traceability

TRANSPORT OF LIVE SPECIMENS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The transport of live specimens was last discussed by the Standing Committee at its 62nd meeting (SC62, Geneva, July 2012). The joint session of the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee (AC27/PC21, Veracruz, 2014) were informed of developments since the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013) in document AC27/PC21 Doc. 13.¹ Additional and new information relevant to the mandate of the Standing Committee is provided below.

Cooperation with IATA

3. In October 2013, the Secretariat gave a PowerPoint presentation on "Trade in shark products under CITES" to a closed session of the Live Animals and Perishables Board (LAPB) of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) held in Luxembourg. The purpose of the presentation, and the subsequent question and answer session, was to ensure that participating airlines were fully informed about CITES requirements for international trade in listed shark species before they took any policy-related decisions aimed at ensuring that any shark product cargo they carried was legal, sustainable and traceable. The CITES Secretariat encouraged airlines to consult with their national CITES Management Authorities before adopting any policy decisions on this issue. The Secretariat also drew their attention to the analysis by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) of national implementation of the International Plan of Action on Sharks (IPOA-sharks), which contains a comprehensive list of shark-related measures in Member States' national legislation, as well as shark-related measures adopted by Regional Fishery Management Organizations.
4. In January 2014, the Secretariat held a video conference with FAO colleagues on cooperation regarding sharks and rays, and used this opportunity to provide them with relevant background material on the cooperation between CITES and IATA in relation to trade in shark products.
5. The Secretariat was asked to assist IATA with another presentation on trade in shark products for the 19th meeting of the IATA Environmental Committee (ENCOM) held in February 2014 in Singapore, under an agenda item on "transport of cargo suspected to be illegal or unsustainable". Unfortunately, neither the Secretariat nor the CITES Management Authority of Singapore was able to attend that meeting. The CITES Secretariat therefore encouraged the IATA Secretariat to share the Luxembourg CITES presentation with ENCOM participants. The Secretariat recently learned that the CITES presentation was not given but that a session was held on the airline response to requests from non-governmental organizations for bans on the transport of shark products. A significant increase in voluntary bans was reported at the meeting. The IATA Secretariat has asked whether the CITES Secretariat could attend the next ENCOM meeting scheduled to be held in South Africa in October 2014.
6. On 31 March 2014, following consultations with the IATA Secretariat, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2014/016 on the Updated IATA Regulations for the Transport of Live Animals and Plants. It

¹ Available at <http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac-pc/ac27-pc21/E-AC27-PC21-13.pdf>

is noted in this Notification that the 2014 IATA Live Animals Regulations include a new *Appendix G – CITES Guidelines for the Non-Air Transport of Live Wild Animals and Plants*.

7. The Secretariat was unable to attend the 32nd meeting of the IATA Live Animals and Perishables Board, held in Miami in April 2014, but it consulted with the IATA Secretariat before the meeting. At the time of writing this document, the IATA and CITES Secretariats are in contact to discuss the changes being made to the IATA Live Animals Regulations; this may require the *CITES Guidelines* to be amended. The two secretariats have agreed to coordinate this effort and plan to meet in Geneva in May or June 2014 to further discuss the draft cooperative memorandum of understanding that is currently under negotiation.

Cooperation with OIE

8. Representatives of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and CITES Secretariats have had an opportunity to exchange relevant information and experience in several contexts. These include meetings of the IATA/LAPB, the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (established under the Convention on Biological Diversity) and the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW).
9. The OIE and CITES Secretariats began working to develop a draft cooperative memorandum of understanding in September 2013. The secretariats attempted to complete a final draft for presentation to the OIE Council during its meeting at the end of February 2014, so the draft MoU could thereafter be presented to the OIE World Assembly in May 2014 for final approval. Unfortunately, this could be not achieved within this short timeframe and the secretariats will now work towards presenting a draft MoU to the next meeting of the OIE Council in October 2014.

Recommendation

10. The Secretariat invites the Standing Committee to take note of the information contained in this document.