

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Colombo (Sri Lanka), 23 May – 3 June 2019

REGIONAL WORKSHOP OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN PRE-COP18,
DISCUSSION OF PROPOSALS TO INCLUDE SHARKS AND RAYS
HELD ON APRIL 1 AND 2 IN SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

This document has been submitted by the Dominican Republic in relation with proposals 42, 43 and 44.¹

At a meeting held in Santo Domingo with the participation of experts from: Argentina, the Bahamas, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad Tobago and Senegal, as well as representatives of NGOs and universities (Humane Society International, WCS, IFAW, Florida International University, Jorge Tadeo Lozano University, Stonybrook University, Reef Check, Save Our Seas Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife, Shark Advocates International).

Participating experts from the Latin American and Caribbean Region in the workshop consider proposals 42, 43 and 44, of the mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus* y *Isurus paucus*), guitarfishes (all species of the *Glaucostegidae* family) and wedgefishes (all species of the *Rhinidae* family) respectively, for inclusion in Appendix II of CITES, have the technical elements and are very scientifically solid evidence, including the most robust updated data, for the analyses that will be carried out prior to CoP18. The work behind the evaluations issued by the FAO panel of experts is also recognized.

The information included in these three (3) proposals clearly demonstrates the urgent need to include these three groups of cartilaginous fish in Appendix II. All the information available and addressed in the workshop reflects this and given that in some cases the information is still very incipient but still shows a reduction in populations, the precautionary principle dictates that they should be listed, as reflected in the analysis of the CITES Secretariat and IUCN / TRAFFIC, in which these species meet the criteria to be included in Appendix II of CITES.

* *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.*