

Casablanca Declaration & Roadmap for the Implementation of CITES Requirements in Relation to Sharks and Manta Rays

Casablanca, Morocco, 13 February 2014



Main outputs of the FAO/CITES Workshop on Capacity Assessments for the Implementation of New CITES listing of Sharks and Manta Rays



CASABLANCA DECLARATION

We, the representatives of fisheries and CITES authorities from Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria and Senegal, at the FAO/CITES “Regional Consultative Workshop on Capacity Assessments for the Implementation of new CITES Listings of Sharks and Manta Rays” (Casablanca, Morocco, from 11 to 13 February 2014), reviewed and discussed the implementation of the new CITES listings for sharks and manta rays agreed at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES¹ to be effective from 14th September 2014.

Having in mind the conservation and sustainable use of sharks,

we considered and scrutinized the currently available legal, administrative and management regimes on shark fisheries in the countries participating at the workshop. We recognized the need for strengthening the regional collaboration among African countries to ensure a future sound management and sustainable use of these valuable resources;

we recommend that African countries that fish and trade sharks consider using the roadmap agreed by the meeting which includes the following short-term actions:

- Increase awareness about the conservation status of the species and the CITES requirements
- Disseminate decisions of CITES among the stakeholders (customs officers, authorities)
- Ensure that national laws adequately incorporate the provisions of CITES and the new CITES listings
- Ensure coordination between fisheries and CITES authorities
- Ensure the designation of appropriate bodies to administer CITES for sharks and other commercially exploited aquatic species
- Strengthen existing Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) mechanisms
- Promote the conservation and management of sharks through the adoption of minimum precautionary measures to address known sources of mortality.
- Improve the monitoring and reporting of catch and trade data
- Compile available knowledge on biological, ecological and economic aspects of the listed species
- Assess whether existing measures for tracing shark products are sufficient to confirm that exported specimens and products are of legal origin.
- Improve capacity building

We encourage all countries to join and actively participate in relevant Regional Fishery Bodies to strengthen collaboration and harmonization of national regulations and approaches with regard to the management and sustainable use of shark species and commercially exploited aquatic species in general.

We appeal to our governments and donors to support the efforts by African countries to improve measures for implementing CITES regulations for sharks and manta rays, and for the conservation and sustainable use of sharks and rays in particular and other commercially exploited aquatic species in general.

We thank the European Union for funding the workshop, the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting it and FAO, the CITES Secretariat and the Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Arab Region (INFOSAMAK) for their support in the organization of the event.

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¹ Oceanic whitetip (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*), great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*), smooth hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna zigaena*), the porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) and the genus *Manta* spp, the entry into force of the inclusion in Appendix II of which is 14 September 2014.

ROADMAP – Short term actions

REQUIREMENTS AND NEEDS	ACTIONS SHORT TERM (Sept 2014)	SUGGESTED METHODOLOGIES
PUBLIC INFORMATION AND OUTREACH (HIGH)	<p>Increase awareness about the conservation status of the species and the CITES requirements</p> <p>Disseminate decisions of CITES among the stakeholders (customs officers, authorities)</p>	<p>Stakeholder workshops</p> <p>Preparation of communication materials such as brochures, leaflets, etc.</p> <p>Guidance on the issuing of CITES permits, including IFS certificates for catches beyond national jurisdictions.</p> <p>Use other means of communication as appropriate, including TV and radio spots</p>
IMPROVE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CITES IMPLEMENTATION (HIGH)	<p>Ensure that national laws adequately incorporate the provisions of CITES and the new CITES listings</p> <p>Ensure coordination between fisheries and CITES authorities</p> <p>Ensure the designation of appropriate bodies to administer CITES for sharks and other commercially exploited aquatic species</p>	<p>Amend regulations if necessary.</p> <p>Involve appropriate bodies to advise CITES management authorities as appropriate, for example through: i) establishing and implementing new or strengthening existing advisory technical committees, ii) designation of appropriate bodies as Scientific Authorities</p> <p>Ensure designation through communication by countries ministry of foreign affairs to CITES Secretariat.</p>
ENFORCE COMPLIANCE MEASURES	<p>Strengthen existing Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) mechanisms</p>	<p>If necessary, designate authorized landing sites for sharks.</p> <p>Consider the issuing of landing certificates for sharks landed in authorized sites.</p>
ESTABLISH OR STRENGTHEN MANAGEMENT REGIME FOR SHARK FISHERIES	<p>Promote the conservation and management of sharks through the adoption of minimum precautionary measures to address known sources of mortality.</p> <p>Improve the monitoring and reporting of catch and trade data</p> <p>Compile available knowledge on biological, ecological and economic aspects of the listed species</p>	<p>Establish, as appropriate, closed nursery and or reproduction areas, gear regulations to minimize discards, min. sizes, restriction of access (licenses), fiscal measures, etc¹</p> <p>Strengthen human resources and logistic means</p> <p>Conduct baseline studies, incorporate local knowledge and other approaches for data poor situations</p>

ROADMAP – Mid-to-long term actions

REQUIREMENTS AND NEEDS	ACTIONS MID-LONG TERM	SUGGESTED METHODOLOGIES
STRENGTHEN MANAGEMENT REGIME FOR SHARK FISHERIES	<p>Development and implementation of National Plan of Action (NPOA) for sharks.</p> <p>Improve regional cooperation and coordination through exchange of information and harmonization of management measures.</p> <p>Promote co-management approaches to fisheries.</p> <p>Improve the monitoring and reporting of catch and trade data</p> <p>Improve knowledge on biological, ecological and economic aspects of the listed species</p>	<p>Development of annual programme for the implementation of the NPOA-Sharks</p> <p>Establishment of national and regional working groups through existing RFBs.</p> <p>Strengthen existing professional fishers organizations</p> <p>Create or strengthen mechanisms for stakeholder participation in decision making</p> <p>Training in the identification of shark species and products in trade</p> <p>Production of field guides and other materials/tools to facilitate the identification of specimens in catches and in trade</p> <p>Increase the level of attention to sharks in national research priorities (graduate programs, research grants, etc)</p>
ENFORCEMENT OF COMPLIANCE MEASURES	<p>Broaden and develop additional MCS capabilities to fight Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing</p>	<p>Use Vessel Monitoring Systems, transponders, logbooks, inspections, observers, etc. as appropriate</p> <p>Consider adoption of international instruments to fight IUU fishing, e.g. Port State Measures Agreement and IPOA-IUU</p>
ESTABLISH OR IMPROVE MECHANISMS AND CAPACITY TO ENSURE TRACEABILITY OF SHARK CATCHES	<p>Explore ways to adapt existing catch or trade documentation systems for other species to the listed shark species</p>	<p>Consider auditing mechanisms for the shark catch certification systems</p>
ESTABLISH OR IMPROVE MECHANISMS AND CAPACITY FOR TRACING SHARK PRODUCTS IN TRADE	<p>Assess whether existing measures for tracing shark products are sufficient to confirm that exported specimens and products are of legal origin.</p> <p>Improve capacity building</p>	<p>Production of identification tools for products.</p> <p>Training on traceability mechanisms such as catch certification, trade documentation and eco-labelling</p>
IMPROVE ENGAGEMENT OF FISHERIES SECTOR IN CITES PROCESSES	<p>Ensure appropriate technical expertise at CITES meetings.</p>	<p>Consider the participation of fisheries officers as observers in Animals Committee, CITES Working Groups and CoP</p>
SUPPORTING MEASURES FOR FISHERS LIVELIHOODS	<p>Encourage the establishment of national and regional mechanisms for diversification of fishing activities of sharks fishermen.</p> <p>Facilitate support measures to address shark value chain</p>	<p>Training, funding, gear buyback, identification of beneficiaries, etc</p>
PUBLIC INFORMATION AND OUTREACH	<p>Increase awareness about the conservation status of the species and the CITES requirement</p>	<p>Include sustainable resource use concepts (e.g. Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries) into school curricula</p>