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Report of the

REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON CAPACITY ASSESSMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW CITES LISTINGS OF SHARKS AND MANTA RAYS

Casablanca, Morocco 11–13 February 2014

Rapport de la

ATELIER CONSULTATIF REGIONAL SUR L'EVALUATION DES CAPACITES POUR LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DE NOUVELLES INSCRIPTIONS DE REQUINS ET DE RAIES MANTA A LA CITES

Casablanca, Maroc 11–13 février 2014

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is the report of the Regional consultative workshop on capacity assessments for the implementation of new CITES listings of sharks and manta rays, which was convened by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department with the logistic support of the Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Product in the Arab Region (INFOSAMAK) in Casablanca, Morocco, from 11 to 13 February 2014. Support for this workshop was provided by EU under the project "Regional consultative meetings to assess capacities to implement new CITES listings of sharks and manta rays (EP/GLO/531/UEP)". The report was prepared by Marcelo Vasconcellos, consultant for CITES and Monica Barone, consultant for FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.

FAO. 2014.
CITES-FAO Report of the Regional consultative workshop on capacity assessments for the implementation of new CITES listings of sharks and manta rays. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 10XX. Rome. XX pp.

ABSTRACT

The 16th Conference of the Parties (CoP 16) of the Convention in International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), held in March 2013, decided to list seven species of sharks and manta rays under CITES Appendix II. These are: *Sphyrna lewini* (Scalloped Hammerhead); *Sphyrna mokarran* (Great Hammerhead); *Sphyrna zygaena* (Smooth Hammerhead); *Carcharhinus longimanus* (Oceanic Whitetip shark); *Lamna nasus* (Porbeagle Shark); *Manta* spp. (*Manta birostris*, Giant Manta, and *Manta alfredi*, Reef Manta). These recent listings, which will come into effect on September 2014, are expected to affect a number of fishery nations that are catching and/or exporting sharks and shark products. The objective of the workshop was to assess the capacity and needs of fishing nations to comply with these new CITES listings. In addiction, the workshop was an opportunity for the main shark fishing nations in West Africa to meet and discuss the status of fisheries and trade in these species and to identify the main technical and institutional issues affecting the implementation of the listings. The results of the workshop will serve as a basis for designing capacity development actions to address the identified issues and improve the readiness of countries to comply with these new CITES listings.

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Feuille de route pour l'implementation des exigences de la CITES concernant les requins et la manta raie ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

DECLARATION DE CASABLANCA ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

1. OPENING AND ARRANGEMENT OF THE MEETING

The Regional Consultative Workshop on Capacity Assessments for the Implementation of New CITES Listings of Sharks and Manta Rays was held in Casablanca, Morocco, from 11 to 13 February 2014. The workshop was organized by FAO, CITES and INFOSAMAK and was attended by representatives from fisheries agencies and CITES authorities from ten West African countries, representatives from the EU and Regional Fisheries Bodies. A complete list of participants is enclosed in Appendix A.

The workshop was opened by Ms Zakia Driouich, Secretary General of the Department of Maritime Fisheries on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries, Mr Aziz Akhanouch, the FAO representative Mr Michael Hage and the CITES representative, Mr David Morgan. Mr Hamady Diop was elected chair of the workshop. The adopted agenda of the workshop is enclosed in Appendix B.

2. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

This workshop provided a platform for African shark-fishing and shark-exporting nations to:

- better understand how the CITES requirements for the recent shark listings can be implemented;
- to identify gaps and short-comings in their shark management systems which need to be addressed to meet the CITES requirements;
- to help FAO and CITES to develop a strategy for immediate assistance to countries who need it most;
- to foster regional collaboration among interested African countries with regard to the implementation of the recent CITES sharks listings

3. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Initial presentations by the CITES and FAO Secretariat provided the background information about the implications of the listings of sharks and rays in CITES Appendix II and the linkages between CITES and sustainable fisheries management. A preliminary overview of the main issues faced by countries in the region was presented based on the analysis of available information and the responses to a questionnaires completed by participating countries prior to the workshop. Individual country reports presented by participants highlighted the characteristics of fisheries and trade in sharks, the institutional arrangements for fisheries management and CITES implementation, as well as the main limitations and needs to ensure appropriate implementation of the new listings of sharks and manta rays.

The ensuing discussions provided elements for the identification of the main needs for the implementation of the Appendix II listings of sharks and manta rays and for the elaboration of a roadmap for capacity development in the region.

4. WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

The participants put in place a drafting committee that proposed a roadmap and a declaration, both discussed and approved in plenary.

4.1 **Roadmap for the implementation of CITES requirements in relation to sharks and manta rays**

Actions to be implemented by the national authorities or RFBs.

REQUIREMENTS AND NEEDS	ACTIONS SHORT TERM (Sept 2014)	SUGGESTED METHODOLOGIES
PUBLIC INFORMATION AND OUTREACH (HIGH)	Increase awareness about the conservation status of the species and the CITES requirements Disseminate decisions of CITES among the stakeholders (customs officers, authorities)	Stakeholder workshops Preparation of communication materials such as brochures, leaflets, etc. Guidance on the issuing of CITES permits, including IFS certificates for catches beyond national jurisdictions. Use other means of communication as appropriate, including TV and radio spots
IMPROVE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CITES IMPLEMENTATION (HIGH)	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	Amend regulations if necessary. 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 Ensure designation through communication by countries ministry of foreign affairs to CITES Secretariat.
ENFORCE COMPLIANCE MEASURES	Strengthen existing Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) mechanisms (e.g)	If necessary, designate authorized landing sites for sharks. Consider the issuing of landing certificates for sharks landed in authorized sites.
ESTABLISH OR STRENGTHEN MANAGEMENT REGIME FOR SHARK FISHERIES	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	Establish, as appropriate, closed nursery and or reproduction areas, gear regulations to minimize discards, min. sizes, restriction of access (licenses), fiscal measures, etc[1] Strengthen human resources and logistic means Conduct baseline studies, incorporate local knowledge and other approaches for data poor situations

[1] See for example FAO. 2012. Report of the FAO/CITES Workshop to Review the Application and Effectiveness of International Regulatory Measures for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Elasmobranchs. Genazzano, Italy, 19–23 July 2010. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report. No. 984. Rome, FAO. 2012. 31 pp

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

REQUIREMENTS AND NEEDS	ACTIONS MID-LONG TERM	SUGGESTED METHODOLOGIES
SUPPORTING MEASURES FOR FISHERS LIVELIHOODS	Encourage the establishment of national and regional mechanisms for diversification of fishing activities of sharks fishermen. Facilitate support measures to address shark value chain	Training, funding, gear buyback, identification of beneficiaries, etc
PUBLIC INFORMATION AND OUTREACH	Increase awareness about the conservation status of the species and the CITES requirement	Include sustainable resource use concepts (e.g. Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries) into school curricula

4.2 Casablanca declaration

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 CITES[2] 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 (e.g)
- 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.

Casablanca, Morocco, 13 February 2014

[2] 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.

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ANNEX B: AGENDA

1. **Opening and arrangement of the meeting**
   - Adoption of the agenda
   - Introduction of participants
   - Introduction of workshop objectives
2. **Implications of the listings of sharks and rays in CITES Appendix II**
   - Requirements for the implementation of the new CITES listing of sharks and manta rays (by CITES)
   - Linkages between the implementation of CITES Appendix II listings and sustainable fisheries management (by FAO)
   - Assessment of the capacity to implement the CITES sharks listings: rationale and regional overview (by FAO)
3. **Country presentations**
4. **Regional initiatives towards the conservation and management of shark fisheries (open for presentation by RFBs)**
5. **Summary of capacity assessment and needs (facilitated by FAO)**
6. **Identification of priority areas for capacity development**
7. **Presentation of the FAO shark fin guide**
8. **Elaboration of a roadmap for capacity development in the region**
9. **Conclusions and adoption of the report**
10. **Closure of the meeting**

The 16th Conference of the Parties (CoP 16) of the Convention in International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), held in March 2013, decided to list seven species of sharks and manta rays under CITES Appendix II. These are: *Sphyrna lewini* (Scalloped Hammerhead); *Sphyrna mokarran* (Great Hammerhead); *Sphyrna zygaena* (Smooth Hammerhead); *Carcharhinus longimanus* (Oceanic Whitetip shark); *Lamna nasus* (Porbeagle Shark); *Manta* spp. (*Manta birostris*, Giant Manta, and *Manta alfredi*, Reef Manta). These recent listings, which will come into effect on September 2014, are expected to affect a number of fishery nations that are catching and/or exporting sharks and shark products. The objective of the workshop was to assess the capacity and needs of fishing nations to comply with these new CITES listings. In addiction, the workshop was an opportunity for the main shark fishing nations in West Africa to meet and discuss the status of fisheries and trade in these species and to identify the main technical and institutional issues affecting the implementation of the listings. The results of the workshop will serve as a basis for designing capacity development actions to address the identified issues and improve the readiness of countries to comply with these new CITES listings.

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