

Partnerships for better management of CITES-listed marine species

Collaboration between CITES and fisheries stakeholders



Many actors are involved in implementing the CITES listings of sharks and manta rays, some with little or no experience with CITES before.

The EU-CITES marine species project provides unique opportunities for establishing **new partnerships and stronger working relationships, particularly with key stakeholders in the international fisheries sector.**

The project also encourages CITES Parties to **involve national fisheries agencies** for better coordination and cooperation at the national level in implementing the new listings.

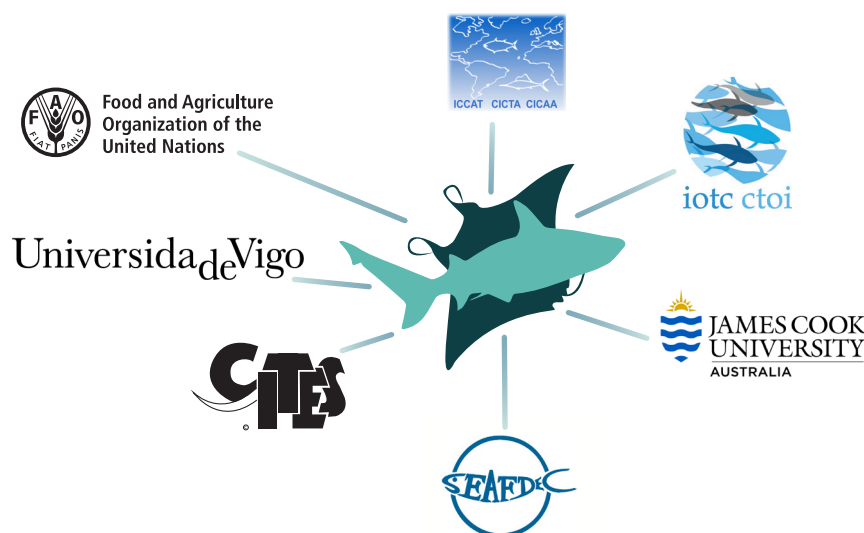
CITES partnered with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the sole global agency with a mandate that includes fisheries, aquaculture, working with governments and regional fisheries bodies.

Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) are regional networks of national fisheries agencies working for the conservation and management of shared fishery resources.

Many RFMOs and RFBs work on shark by-catch management, and are vital partners for CITES in research, training, data collection, data analysis and the development of regional and national management plans for commercially significant marine species. The project allows CITES to engage with a small number of them to incorporate CITES-related elements in their programmes.

Benefits of partnerships:

- Enables CITES to collaborate with fisheries sectors at regional and national levels and in various areas (fishing/capture, processing, trade) through existing expert networks
- Facilitates communication between CITES and fisheries agencies/communities at the national level
- Ensures that enhanced sustainable fisheries management measures translate into better CITES implementation and vice versa



Outcomes and lessons

- ✓ Unprecedented number of joint activities with two RFMOs, one RFB and FAO on areas that complemented existing work plans/programmes of the partners
- ✓ Successful partnerships allowed CITES to participate in other relevant international fora on fisheries, fish trade, by-catch, and FAO Port State Measures Agreement
- ✓ Existing partnerships brought in heightened interest from other RFMOs, RFBs and national bodies
- ✓ Early, flexible engagement is essential to identify common areas of interest, resolve technical administrative challenges, and to allow the collaboration to develop over time

Looking into the future...

Continued partnerships with fisheries sector stakeholders will be essential for keeping up the momentum that has been gained through this initiative.

Possible future areas of work that depend on collaboration with partnerships:

- Enhance compatibility between RFMO measures for sharks and rays and CITES
- Better national and regional NDFs, including assistance with data collection and use
- Mitigate potentially negative effects of listing and promote socio-economic incentives for small artisanal fisheries
- Assist with implementation and understanding of Introduction From the Sea (IFS)
- User-friendly identification tools for sharks and rays in trade

For more information about partnerships:

- FAO: factsheet # 5
- ICCAT: factsheet # 7
- IOTC : factsheet # 9
- JCU-CSTFA: factsheet # 6
- SEAFDEC: factsheet # 8