



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2017/031

Geneva, 11 April 2017

CONCERNING:

Request for new information on shark and ray conservation
and management activities, including legislation

1. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties agreed to include Silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), all species of Thresher shark (*Alopias* spp.) and all species of Mobula rays (*Mobula* spp.) in Appendix II. To allow time for Parties to resolve the related technical and administrative issues, the entry into force of these listings was delayed by six months for Mobula rays (i.e. on 4 April 2017), and by 12 months for the newly added shark species (i.e. on 4 October 2017).
2. Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation and management of sharks* directs the Animals Committee to examine new information provided by range States on trade and other available relevant data and information, and report their analyses at meetings of the Conference of the Parties. It furthermore encourages Parties to obtain information on implementation of National Plans of Actions for Sharks or regional plans, and to report directly on progress to the CITES Secretariat and at future meetings of the Animals Committee.
3. Furthermore, the Parties adopted Decisions 17.209 to 17.216 on *Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)* at CoP17. Decision 17.211 directs the Secretariat to:
 - a) *issue a notification, requesting Parties to provide new information on their shark and ray conservation and management activities, including legislation, and make the responses available to the Animals Committee for its consideration; and*
 - b) *provide a summary of information in the CITES trade database on trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2000 for consideration by the Animals Committee.*
4. On behalf of the Animals Committee, the Secretariat hereby invites the Parties to submit any new information on shark and ray conservation and management activities. Information of special importance to include in the submission could include the following:
 - a) scientific information concerning sharks and rays, such as the results of stock assessments, management and conservation efforts, and research activities;
 - b) examples of non-detriment findings; information and methods providing guidance for the making of national or regional non-detriment findings;
 - c) challenges faced by Parties in implementing the new listings;
 - d) progress made to address such challenges;
 - e) status of the development, adoption or implementation of National Plans of Action for Sharks, and information on national or regional regulatory measures concerning the management or conservation of sharks and rays;

- f) information on trade in sharks and rays, and other available relevant data and information; and
 - g) legislation concerning the conservation and management of sharks and rays.
5. Parties are requested to submit the information, by **19 May 2017 at the latest** so that it can be made available at the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee (Geneva, 18-22 July 2017).