



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2018/041

Geneva, 24 April 2018

CONCERNING:

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

1. 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 the implementation of National Plans of Actions for Sharks (NPOA-Sharks) or regional plans, and to report directly on progress to the CITES Secretariat and at future meetings of the Animals Committee.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.209 to 17.216 on *Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)*. Decision 17.211, in paragraph a), directs the Secretariat to:

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;
3. Pursuant to Decision 17.211, the Secretariat issued [Notification to the Parties No. 2017/031](#). The responses from the Parties to this Notification were compiled in document [AC29 Doc. 23 A1 \(Rev.1\)](#), and a summary of the information received was presented in document [AC29 Inf. 23](#).
4. Based on these responses and other available information, the Animals Committee formulated several recommendations at its 29th meeting [Geneva, July 2017; see document [AC 29 Com.3 \(Rev. by Sec\)](#)], including one directing the Secretariat to issue a Notification to request Parties to provide concise summaries of any new information on shark and ray conservation and management activities, and collate these for consideration of the Animals Committee at its 30th meeting (AC30, Geneva, July 2018).
5. The Animals Committee further directed the Secretariat to invite Parties “*to highlight any questions, concerns or difficulties they are having in writing or submitting export or import trade documentation for the CITES (UNEP-WCMC) trade database with a view to the Animals Committee developing recommendations at AC30 for how such data (e.g. units reported) and coherence between export and import records may be improved.*”
6. On behalf of the Animals Committee, the Secretariat hereby invites Parties to submit concise summaries of any new information on shark and ray conservation and management activities, or updates of their previous submissions, and to highlight any issues or questions they may have regarding reporting on trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays in their annual reports. Information of special importance to the Animals Committee includes 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;

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- c) Guidance or methods for making national or regional non-detriment findings;
 - d) Challenges faced by Parties in implementing the listings of sharks and rays adopted at CoP17, and 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, including any issues regarding the reporting of trade in CITES-listed species in annual reports; and
 - g) Legislation concerning the conservation and management of sharks and rays.
7. The Secretariat notes that other stakeholders may also hold information that could be pertinent to the discussions of the Animals Committee, in particular regarding point a) above, and therefore also invites such stakeholders to submit concise summaries of their activities to the Secretariat.
8. Parties and stakeholders are requested to submit the information by **11 May 2017 at the latest** so that it can be compiled by the Secretariat and made available at the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee.