



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2020/081

Geneva, 22 December 2020

CONCERNING:

Membership of Standing Committee intersessional working groups

1. This Notification is issued at the request of the Chair of the Standing Committee.
2. At its 72nd meeting (SC72, Geneva, August 2019), the Standing Committee established a number of intersessional working groups to address matters referred to it by the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The full list and membership of these working groups can be found [here](#).
3. Through intersessional decision-making, the Standing Committee further agreed to establish two new intersessional working groups as follows:

Labelling system for trade in caviar

Taking into account work undertaken previously by the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee, the working group shall:

- a) consider the practical challenges in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention with regard to the application of the “CITES guidelines for a universal labelling system for the trade in and identification of caviar” contained in Annex 1 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish* in light of the recognized shift in many instances from trade in wild-caught specimens to non-wild specimens produced in aquaculture facilities;
- b) as needed, prepare draft recommendations for CoP19 to address the identified challenges with the aim of arriving at a practical approach for trade in caviar from aquaculture production, including as necessary amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17); and
- c) report on the above to the Standing Committee.

Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)

Taking into consideration the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2020/016 requesting for new information on shark and ray conservation and management activities, the working group shall:

- a) develop guidance on the making of legal acquisition findings, and related assessments for introductions from the sea for CITES-listed shark species in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 on *Legal acquisition findings*;
- b) develop new guidance or identify existing guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives with an emphasis on the shark meat trade, in particular for specimens caught prior to the inclusion of the species in Appendix II; and
- c) report its findings under Decision 18.224, paragraphs a) and b) to the Standing Committee.

4. The Committee hereby invites those Parties and observer organizations that have been accredited to attend previous CITES meetings to indicate their interest in joining the intersessional working groups indicated in paragraph 3 above. Such Parties and observers are requested to convey their interest by clicking on this link: <https://sc-iwgs.questionpro.com>. The deadline for declaring an expression of interest through this online platform is **15 January 2021**.
5. Prior to their confirmation of membership, national non-governmental organizations should provide a letter or email from their national Management Authorities approving their participation in the working group in accordance with Rule 4.2 of the Standing Committee's Rules of Procedure. If an observer organization that has not attended past CITES meetings wishes to participate in the two new intersessional working groups, they should provide the necessary documentation outlined in Rule 4.2.
6. After this deadline, the Standing Committee will confirm the final membership of these intersessional working groups on the CITES website, ensuring respect for its Rules of Procedure concerning the balance of representation between Parties and observers, as indicated in Rule 17.1.