



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/029

Geneva, 17 March 2023

CONCERNING:

Call for nomination for participants:
FAO-CITES regional training workshop on
CITES, fisheries, and legal acquisition findings

1. The Secretariat hereby informs Parties that the *FAO-CITES Regional Training Workshop on CITES, Fisheries, and Legal Acquisition Findings* will be held in Manta, Ecuador, from **8 to 11 May 2023**.
2. The workshop will be organized in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and hosted by the CITES Management Authority of Ecuador (National Biodiversity Directory, under the Ministry of the Environment)
3. The Secretariat and FAO welcome all interested Parties to participate in the workshop, whose details are provided below.
4. The Secretariat is grateful to FAO for the continued partnership and for the technical and logistical support, and to Ecuador for agreeing to host the workshop.

Mandate

5. Pursuant to Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev CoP19) on [Legal acquisition findings](#), Decision 19.130 on [Legal acquisition findings](#), and Decision 19.223 on [Sharks and rays \(*Elasmobranchii spp.*\)](#), adopted at 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19, Panama City, 2022) and recognizing the importance of effectively regulating international trade in commercially exploited aquatic species, notably species of sharks and rays, the CITES Secretariat continues to strengthen its partnership with FAO to assist Parties and FAO Members in supporting and enhancing the implementation of CITES through national legislation, with a focus on the fisheries sector and in the making of legal acquisition findings.
6. Decision 19.130, paragraph b) and Decision 19.223, paragraph a) provide as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

19.130 *The Secretariat shall:*

- b) subject to external funding, organize workshops and other capacity-building activities related to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on*

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

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Legal acquisition findings and disseminate training material for the verification of the legal acquisition of CITES specimens;

19.223 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *subject to external funding, continue to provide capacity-building assistance for implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings to Parties, especially developing countries and small island developing states, upon request;*

Date and venue

7. The workshop will be held at the conference room of the [Mantahost Hotel](#) in Manta, Ecuador, for four full days (anticipated from 9.00 AM to 4.00 PM Manta time each day), from **Monday 8 May to Thursday 11 May 2023**.

Information on the regional workshop

8. The **objectives** of the workshop are to:

- raise awareness and strengthen the understanding of CITES requirements and their implementation in the fisheries sector;
- introduce and train participants on the use of the [FAO-CITES Legal Study and Guide](#) (also available in [Spanish](#));
- train participants on the use of the revised version of the Rapid Guide for the Making of legal acquisition findings in marine species; and
- identify States' needs and interests with regards to enhancing national fisheries legislation for a better implementation of CITES in the fisheries sector, and with regards to the making of legal acquisition findings.

9. The expected **outcomes** of the workshop are:

- enabling participants to clearly understand the relationships between CITES and the fisheries sector;
- enhancing participants' knowledge on CITES requirements applicable to international trade in species relevant to the fisheries sector;
- enhancing participants' capacity to use the revised version of the Rapid Guide for the Making of LAFs in marine species; and
- promoting the overall common goal of ensuring responsible, legal and sustainable utilization of aquatic living resources and achieving the Sustainable Development Goal targets 14.4 and 14.A.

Information on participation

10. The regional workshop is designed for the Spanish-speaking Parties of the Latin American region, and will be conducted in **Spanish only**, one of the three official languages of the Convention. No interpretation services will be provided.

11. The regional workshop will be **in-person only**, without the possibility of online participation. It is expected that the workshop will be recorded and that the recordings will be made available on the [CITES YouTube channel](#) in due course.

12. The Secretariat is very pleased to inform prospective participants that the costs for travel, transportation, and accommodation of **two representatives from each selected 10 Parties** will be covered by the Secretariat. The selection of the 10 Parties was made based on the Parties' level of trade in shark species included in CITES Appendix II. The 10 Parties selected from the Latin American region are: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, the Dominican Republic and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
13. The costs for the participation of additional representatives from the 10 selected Parties, as well as of any other Party and FAO Member wishing to participate in the workshop will **not** be covered by the Secretariat.
14. In view of the specialized nature of the workshop, the Secretariat and FAO urge the Parties and FAO Members participating in the workshop to nominate at least **one representative from the national CITES Management Authority** and **one representative from the national Fisheries Authority**. Representatives should have practical knowledge and experience in the following subjects: fisheries and CITES law, and international fisheries trade, with a focus on sharks.

Registration

15. Governmental, inter-governmental, and non-governmental stakeholders planning to participate in the workshop must be accredited by the CITES Secretariat. The following participants may attend or be represented: Parties to the Convention; members of United Nations specialized agencies; intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), especially regional fishery advisory bodies (RFABs) and regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs); non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and major groups, as well as other relevant stakeholders.
16. The Secretariat and FAO encourage the participation of representatives from regional organizations, RFABs and RFMOs, notably, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the Central American Wildlife Enforcement Network (CAWEN), the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), the Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development (OLDEPESCA), and the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS).
17. Interested CITES authorities, IGOs, NGOs, major groups and other stakeholders should communicate via email to FAO their participation in the workshop. An electronic copy of a letter signed by an authorized official containing the names, functional titles, and contact details of each of the designated representatives should be addressed to Ms. Sofia Guevara (email: sofia.narvaezguevara@fao.org) and Ms. Julia Nakamura (email: julia.nakamura@fao.org) as soon as possible, but preferably no later than **31 March 2023**. Participants requiring visas should also indicate this, along with their nationality. The number of places available is limited.

Visas

18. The Secretariat reminds Parties and organizations that their representatives may require visas. They may wish to submit a copy of this Notification together with their visa application to their nearest visa application centre. In addition, pre-registered participants who require a letter from the Secretariat or FAO to assist them in obtaining an entry visa for Ecuador should send their request well in advance, providing detailed information about their travel to Ecuador.
19. All participants are responsible for obtaining any visas that may be required and for the costs involved.
20. In the interest of ensuring that all visas are delivered on time, the Secretariat strongly encourages that applications be made as soon as possible. Participants are also kindly requested to fill out the attached [event participant table](#) and send it to Ms. Sofia Guevara (email: sofia.narvaezguevara@fao.org) to enable visa processing and delivery.

Accommodation

21. After confirmation of registration, FAO will make the accommodation bookings for the registered participants from the selected 10 Parties at the [Mantahost Hotel](#) in Manta, Ecuador, which is the same venue where the workshop will take place.
22. All other participants are requested to make their own accommodation bookings.
23. The Secretariat is very grateful to FAO for the continued partnership and for agreeing to organize this regional workshop, as well as for the technical and logistical support.