



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/113

Geneva, 15 September 2023

CONCERNING:

SINGAPORE

Call for nomination of participants:
Training workshop on sharks, rays, and sea cucumber identification

1. This Notification is published at the request of Singapore.
2. Singapore, Hong Kong SAR of China, Bloom Association (HK) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) are jointly organizing an in-person training workshop on sharks, rays, and sea cucumber identification in Singapore, from 17 to 18 October 2023. All interested Parties are welcomed to participate in the workshop.

Objectives of the training workshop

3. This workshop is held in view of the recent listing of additional species of sharks, rays, and sea cucumbers on Appendix II at the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19, Panama City 2022) last year, some of which will soon enter into effect in November 2023.
4. The objectives of the workshop are to:
 - a) promote a better understanding of the trade in shark fins and sea cucumbers;
 - b) equip frontline officers with tools (e.g. [Fin Finder](#)) and skillsets to identify shark fins and sea cucumbers;
 - c) discuss trends and patterns of illegal trade in sharks, rays, and sea cucumbers; and
 - d) introduce reference materials and tools available to assist officers with rapid species assessment.
5. Detailed information about the program can be found in Annex A of this notification.

Information on participation

6. The meeting will be in-person only, without the possibility of online participation.

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

Postal address:
CITES Secretariat
Palais des Nations
Avenue de la Paix 8-14
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

[cites.org](https://www.cites.org)

7. The workshop will be fully conducted in English only, one of the three official languages of the Convention. No interpretation services will be provided.
8. Given the capacity of the venue, please nominate only two (2) officers per country as the primary nomination. Should you wish to nominate more than two officers, please indicate them as secondary nominations. Participation of secondary nominations will be subject to the availability of space, which will be communicated at the next stage once primary nominations are confirmed.
9. Travel costs, accommodation and meals should be borne by your agency or respective governments.
10. All participants are responsible for checking visa requirements for Singapore and must complete the health declaration before arrival, cover the cost of their visas as well as obtain necessary medical and welfare insurance to cover the full duration of the meeting.
11. Please submit your nomination by **7 October 2023** through the online registration form at <https://go.gov.sg/wildlife-id-workshop> or by scanning the QR code below.



<https://go.gov.sg/wildlife-id-workshop>

Contact

12. Enquiries related to the training workshop can be directed to Ms Xie Renhui (xie_renhui@nparks.gov.sg) and Ms Steffi Tan (steffi_tan@nparks.gov.sg).

Annex A: Program Schedule for Training Workshop on Sharks, Rays, and Sea Cucumber Identification

Time	Program
17 October 2023	
9:30 – 9:40	Welcome & introduction to the training (NParks, national CITES Management Authority of Singapore)
9:40 – 10:00	Overview of sharks and global implementation of shark CITES listings (Luke Warwick, Wildlife Conservation Society) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current status of global shark populations • Global CITES implementation measures • Q&A
10:00 – 10:45	Importance of Singapore and Hong Kong SAR of China in shark fin & sea cucumber trade (Stan Shea, Bloom Association HK) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on origins, transportation methods & make-up of Hong Kong shark fin imports, as well as destinations for re-exports • Results from recent shark fin survey in Hong Kong • Q&A
10:45 – 11:00	Tea break
11:00 – 11:30	Implementation of CITES regulations in Hong Kong (Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, CITES Management Authority of Hong Kong SAR of China) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulations on trade in sharks and sea cucumbers in Hong Kong • Seizure and investigation • Q&A
11:30 – 12:00	Implementation of CITES regulations in Singapore (NParks, Singapore) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulations on trade in sharks and sea cucumbers • Science and technology • Fin Finder mobile application • Q&A
12:00 – 12:30	Consolidation and country sharing
12:30: – 13:30	Lunch provided
13:30 – 15:00	Shark fin identification session (Dr. Rima Jabado, Elasmobranch Project) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresher of ID on previous listed shark species • Identification of newly CITES listed species • 10-min break • Identification of Wedgefishes and Giant guitarfishes

15:00 – 15:30	Q&A on shark fins
15:30 – 16:30	Tour of Singapore's Centre for Wildlife Forensics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Molecular analysis laboratory
16:30 – 16:40	Closing of Day 1 (NParks, Singapore)

Time	Program
18 October 2023	
9:30 – 9:35	Day 2 Welcome (NParks, Singapore)
9:35 – 10:00	Recap of Day 1 session on shark identification
10:00 – 10:20	Importance of Singapore and Hong Kong SAR of China in sea cucumber trade (Stan Shea, Bloom Association HK)
10:20 – 11:05	Sea cucumber identification session (Megan O' Toole) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trade & identification of sea cucumbers
11:05– 11:15	Q&A on sea cucumber
11:15 – 11:45	Wrap up and closing remarks
11:45: – 12:45	Lunch provided