

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-second meeting of the Animals Committee
Lima (Peru), 7-13 July 2006

Conservation and management of sharks

REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The Conference of the Parties has given a series of instruction to the Animals Committee in relation to the conservation and management of sharks. In Resolution Conf. 12.6 on Conservation and management of sharks, the Committee is directed to:

examine information provided by range States in shark assessment reports and other available relevant documents, with a view to identifying key species and examining these for consideration and possible listing under CITES;

and

make species-specific recommendations at the 13th meeting and subsequent meetings of the Conference of the Parties if necessary on improving the conservation status of sharks and the regulation of international trade in these species.

Decision 13.43, also states that:

The Animals Committee, taking account of the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the conservation and management of sharks and on CITES implementation issues relating to listed marine species shall:

- a) review implementation issues related to sharks listed in the CITES Appendices with a view inter alia to sharing experiences that may have arisen and solutions that may have been found;*
- b) identify specific cases where trade is having an adverse impact on sharks, in particular those key shark species threatened in this way;*
- c) prepare a report on trade-related measures adopted and implemented by Parties that are aimed at improving the conservation status of sharks; and*
- d) report on the above at the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties.*

3. At its 21st meeting (Geneva, May 2005), the Animals Committee established a working group and agreed to the following:
 - a) The Secretariat should issue a Notification to the Parties as drafted by the working group and amended by the Committee, to seek information relevant to point a) of Decision 13.43, with the responses to be reviewed by the working group.
 - b) The Secretariat should make CoP13 Doc. 35 on the Conservation and management of sharks available to the FAO Secretariat and to invite FAO to make use of any sections it felt would help contribute to the planned FAO Expert Consultation on the Implementation of the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.
 - c) Parties should ensure that CITES Authorities consult with their fisheries agencies before the planned FAO Expert Consultation.
 - d) The working group should review both the list of species prepared at the 20th meeting of the Animals Committee (Johannesbourg, March-April 2004) and those listed in document CoP13 Doc. 13.35 with a final draft to be circulated before to the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee.
 - e) The working group Chairman should liaise with the representative of the United States of America in order to determine the best way to advance work on the application of Customs codes to shark products.
 - f) The working group should continue its activities intersessionally by email and, subject to the availability of funds, at an intersessional meeting.
4. With the support of the United States of America and WWF International, the working group met at Slimbridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 4 to 6 April 2006. The working group was assisted by shark conservation and shark fisheries experts as listed in the minutes of the working group meeting (see document AC22 Inf. 3). The meeting was organized by the Shark Specialist Group of IUCN and chaired by the regional representative of Oceania.
5. The Working Group reviewed:
 - a) implementation issues through analysis of responses to Notification to the Parties 2005/044 of 11 August 2005;
 - b) trade-related threats to sharks; and
 - c) the list of species prepared at AC20 and those listed in document CoP13 Doc. 13.35 in order to identify key species facing trade-related threats.
6. The results of these three reviews and related recommendations are reported in documents AC22 Doc. 17.2, Doc. 17.3 and Doc. 17.4 respectively.

MEMBERSHIP OF ANIMALS COMMITTEE INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP
ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS

Committee members and alternates

Mr Hay* (Representative for Oceania) [Chairman]

Mr Jolón Morales (Representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean)

Dr Giam* (Alternative Representative for Asia)

Observer Parties:

Australia*

Belgium

Canada

China*

Germany*

Greece

Ireland

Mexico*

South Africa

Spain*

United States of America*

Observers from inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations:

IUCN/SSC Shark Specialist Group*

The Ocean Conservancy*

Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association Ltd*

Swan International

Species Management Specialists Inc.

WWF International*

TRAFFIC International*

* present at the intersessional meeting of the working group held in Slimbridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 4-6 April, 2006.