

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LISTING OF SHARKS SPECIES IN CITES APPENDIXES, 29 November – 1st December 2016.

Customs authority - Recommendations

- 1) Adapt risk assessment procedures to prevent goods containing wildlife species from being selected for the green circuit to allow Customs officers to inspect declared goods before countersigning/ validating CITES permits.
- 2) Develop procedures to allow Customs officers to physically inspect specimens for which permits are issued before countersigning/validating the permit at the time of export/import.
- 3) Ensure that the designation of goods in Customs declarations use the appropriate nomenclature of species to be imported/exported to ensure the accuracy of CITES provisions and the enforcement of permits against traded goods.
- 4) Coordinate with CITES Management and Scientific Authorities to develop risk assessment methods adapted to each country to facilitate customs controls (taking into account the listing of species in the CITES Appendices, the country of origin, high risk products, the weight of goods, intelligence from other countries or the World Customs Organization on trafficking, and live animals/plants and their products prohibited for export or import).
- 5) Encourage cooperation between CITES authorities, Customs, enforcement officers and all agencies involved in the implementation of CITES to efficiently fight against illegal wildlife trade.
- 6) Physically inspect goods before countersigning / validating CITES permits in cases identified as being high risk during the customs clearance process.
- 7) Designate, train and equip one/several CITES focal point(s) within Customs.
- 8) Involve the WCO national focal point in charge of intelligence in the fight against illegal trade in CITES species.
- 9) Strengthen the capacity, provide training to Customs officers and provide border crossings that have no access to the Internet with a copy of the latest CITES Appendices to allow them to implement necessary controls.
- 10) Develop information/ intelligence sharing procedures between relevant authorities at the national and international levels.
- 11) Define procedures to support Customs officers in the identification of CITES specimens (identification expert points of contact to be provided to Customs).
- 12) Define national procedures for the management of confiscated specimens, in particular live animals, by Customs officers.

- 13) Coordinate regular discussions between Customs and relevant authorities to allow efficient implementation of CITES.

CITES Management and Fisheries authorities recommendations

- 1) Strengthen the capacity of the Scientific Authority to support the CITES Management authority in the implementation of CITES.
- 2) Develop pre-consultation mechanisms at the national level between the CITES scientific authority, the CITES management authority and relevant stakeholders to define conditions for the issuance of permits.
- 3) Implement a precautionary approach for the conservation of relevant species or groups of species when scientific data is insufficient or nonexistent.
- 4) Identify and use existing tools to develop non-detriment findings (e.g. IUCN, CITES master courses, Working Group, etc)
- 5) Strengthen data collection at all levels (monitoring at landing sites, Customs control sites, scientific fisheries observers, etc.) to fight against wildlife crime and improve the quality of scientific information used to issue more accurate findings for the sustainable management of species.
- 6) Develop sub-regional and international scientific cooperation through train the trainer trainings and in situ capacity building regarding data collection and analysis, and the issuance of non-detriment findings.
- 7) Develop and update national plans of action for the conservation and sustainable management of shark and ray populations.
- 8) Include provisions on the exploitation and sustainable management of shark fisheries in national laws and regulations (i.e. through revisions or amendments of national regulations).
- 9) Establish a system to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Dakar Action Plan on sharks.
- 10) Involve all relevant national scientific and technical experts in the issuance of findings delivered by the Scientific Authority.
- 11) Strengthen synergies and collaboration between the focal points of relevant international agreements (e.g. CITES, CMS, CBD, etc).
- 12) Designate, as relevant, a focal point within fishery agencies in particular, with expertise in shark and rays species as well as in aquatic species in general.