



**COMMISSION SOUS-RÉGIONALE DES PÊCHES
SUB-REGIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**Dakar Declaration regarding Proposals to List
Shark and Ray Species in the CITES Appendices
at the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

- . Recognizing the International Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Sharks adopted in 1999 by the FAO Committee on Fisheries and the Sub-regional Shark Plan of Action adopted and implemented since 2001 by the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) with the support of numerous partners;
- . Recognizing the National Plans of Action for Sharks that are in place in each of the SRFC countries (Mauritania, Senegal, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, and Sierra Leone) and have strengthened capacities for species identification, shark fisheries monitoring, and adoption of measures regulating exploitation of the most threatened shark and ray species;
- . Considering the Resolution adopted by the SRFC Ministers of Fisheries at the 19th Ordinary Session of the Conference of Ministers in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, in December 2012, which emphasizes the need to vote in favor of the proposals to include shark and ray species in the CITES Appendices at the 16th Meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP16) convening in Bangkok, Thailand from 3 to 14 March 2013;
- . Taking into account the independent advice and technical assessments of the CITES shark listing proposals published by the FAO Expert Advisory Panel and IUCN-TRAFFIC;
- . Noting, in spite of the many efforts, the continuing and worrisome decline of populations of sharks and rays, the increase in number of localized species extinctions, and the absence of evidence of improvement and rebuilding of shark and ray populations in the countries represented at this meeting;
- . Recognizing the role of distant markets in the dynamics of shark exploitation and the current lack of measures to regulate international trade of sharks and rays and their products in West and Central Africa;
- . Having considered the meeting's presentations on the CITES treaty and its implications for the conservation of sharks and rays, as well as the specific details of the CITES listing proposals Nos. 42 through 46 concerning several species of sharks and rays;
- . Having considered (??) the opportunities and tools available through CITES, CMS, and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) for strengthening capacities for monitoring and management of exploitation and international trade of sharks and rays;
- . Having considered the decisions of the European Union and United States of America to vote in favor of Proposals 42 through 46 at the 16th Meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties;
- . Emphasizing the need to strengthen the monitoring and management capacities of the countries of the Atlantic coast of Africa in order to ensure the conservation of species and management of shark and ray fisheries;
- . Recognizing the responsibility of the governments represented, as CITES member States, to implement CITES;

The Participants in the Workshop on the Proposals to List Shark and Ray Species in the CITES Appendices at the 16th CITES CoP, convened 20-21 February 2013 in Dakar, Senegal:

- . Express their conviction as to the scientific justification of the different proposals for listing certain species of sharks and rays in CITES Appendices I and II, Nos. 42 through 46;
- . Underscore the need to strengthen the technical dialogue between fisheries and environment departments in preparing countries' voting positions on these proposals at CITES CoP16;
- . Recommend vigorously that the countries of the Atlantic coast of Africa, as inspired by the member countries of the SRFC, strive for a common position in favor of the shark and ray listing proposals;
- . Commit to report back through government levels a synthesis of the workshop's findings in order that their countries' delegations to CITES CoP16 receive, prior to their departure for Bangkok, the relevant documents and information provided at the workshop and can base their countries' votes on Proposals 42 through 46 on the best available scientific information as well as on the SRFC Ministerial Resolution;
- . Recommend that the countries' delegations work actively to exchange information and supporting arguments in favor of Proposals 42 through 46 during the entire CITES CoP16 meeting;
- . Encourage vigorously i) future collaborative efforts in the region for maximization and exchange of experience; ii) an initiative in support of such efforts by organizations fostering cooperation in aquatic resource management; and iii) assistance from development partners for strengthening national capacities for implementing national and regional Plans of Action for sharks and for implementing the decisions that will be taken at CITES CoP16.

Concluded in Dakar, 21 February 2013

By All Participants

Representatives of CITES authorities

**Mauritania
Senegal
The Gambia
Cape Verde
Guinea Bissau
Guinea
Sierra Leone
Liberia
Ivory coast
Ghana
Benin
Nigeria
Niger
Gabon**

Representatives of Fisheries Ministries

**Mauritania
Senegal
The Gambia
Cape Verde
Guinea Bissau
Guinea
Sierra Leone**