



## IMPLEMENTING CITES LISTINGS OF SHARKS AND MANTA RAYS 2013 - 2016



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

**CITES** : Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

**EU** : European Union

**FAO** : Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**ICCAT** : International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

**IOTC** : Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

**IPOA-Sharks** : International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks

**NDF** : Non-Detriment Finding

**NPOA-Sharks** : National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks

**RFB** : Regional Fishery Body

**RFMO** : Regional Fisheries Management Organization

**SEAFDEC** : Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

**UN** : United Nations

**WCPFC** : Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

## IMPLEMENTATION OF CITES FOR TRADE IN SHARKS AND MANTA RAYS INCLUDED IN APPENDIX II

At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, March 2013), the Conference of the Parties to CITES decided to include five shark species and all manta rays in Appendix II. Three other shark species had already been included in Appendix II over the past decade. Species listed in CITES Appendix II are not necessarily threatened with extinction, but their international trade is regulated to ensure legality and avoid utilization incompatible with their survival in the wild.

These listings pose challenges and opportunities for Parties in ensuring the legality, sustainability and traceability of international trade in CITES-listed aquatic species that are exploited commercially.

Since 2013, various stakeholders have been working together to facilitate the implementation of these listings, among which the CITES project on *“Strengthening capacity in developing countries for sustainable wildlife management and enhanced implementation of CITES wildlife trade regulations, with particular focus on commercially exploited aquatic species”*, financed by the European Union (EU) with a contribution of EUR 1.2 million covering the period 2013-2016.

### SHARKS AND MANTA RAYS INCLUDED IN CITES APPENDIX II AT COP16



*Carcharhinus longimanus*  
(Oceanic whitetip shark)



*Lamna nasus*  
(Porbeagle shark)



*Sphyrna lewini*  
(Scalloped hammerhead  
shark)



*Sphyrna mokarran*  
(Great hammerhead  
shark)



*Sphyrna zygaena*  
(Smooth hammerhead  
shark)



*Manta* spp.  
(Manta ray)

## CITES-FAO JOINT INITIATIVE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SHARKS AND MANTA RAYS

FAO is the only global agency with a mandate that includes fisheries, aquaculture, and working with national governments and regional fisheries bodies. In support of the implementation of the CITES listings of sharks and manta rays, CITES and FAO have collaborated extensively since 2013 on :

- Analysis of available shark fishery and trade data to prioritize the countries that receive assistance from the EU-CITES project;
- FAO-CITES regional consultative workshops for Africa and Asia;
- Development of training and awareness materials (PowerPoint presentations and leaflets);
- Key interventions by CITES at relevant FAO and RFMO meetings, and organization of joint side events;
- Incorporation of actions relating to the new CITES-listed sharks and manta rays into existing FAO programme activities :
  - > NPOA-Sharks,
  - > National fisheries legislation review,
  - > iSharkFin shark identification software,
  - > International shark trade and traceability,
  - > RFMO management database with reference to relevant measures regulating shark and manta ray bycatch.

### ► Want to know more about CITES and FAO involvements at meetings?

[www.cites.org/eng/prog/shark/calendar.php](http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/shark/calendar.php)

### ► Interested in the tools and information materials developed by CITES and FAO on sharks?

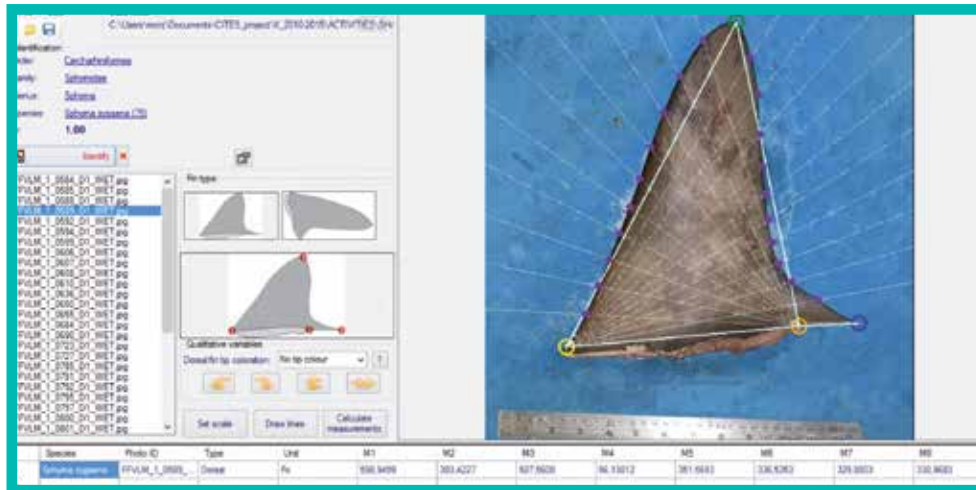
[https://cites.org/eng/prog/shark/Information\\_resources\\_from\\_Parties\\_and\\_other\\_stakeholders](https://cites.org/eng/prog/shark/Information_resources_from_Parties_and_other_stakeholders)

# IDENTIFICATION TOOLS FOR SHARK PRODUCTS

Rapid and accurate identification of shark and manta ray specimens in international trade is one of the key challenges acknowledged by CITES Parties. Many shark and manta ray identification materials exist in a variety of formats and languages, which can be searched through an online database at : [www.cites.org/eng/prog/shark/resources.php](http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/shark/resources.php)

New technologies are increasingly used to complement the more traditional identification guides. For example, iSharkFin is an innovative new system that uses machine learning techniques to identify shark species from shark fin shapes. iSharkFin was developed by FAO in collaboration with the University of Vigo, with financial support from the Government of Japan and the EU-CITES project. iSharkFin assists port inspectors, customs agents, fish traders and others in identifying shark species by uploading a photo of a fin to the online system.

FAO is planning the development of mobile app versions of iSharkFin, broadening their potential reach and use.



► Want to use iSharkFin or learn more about it?

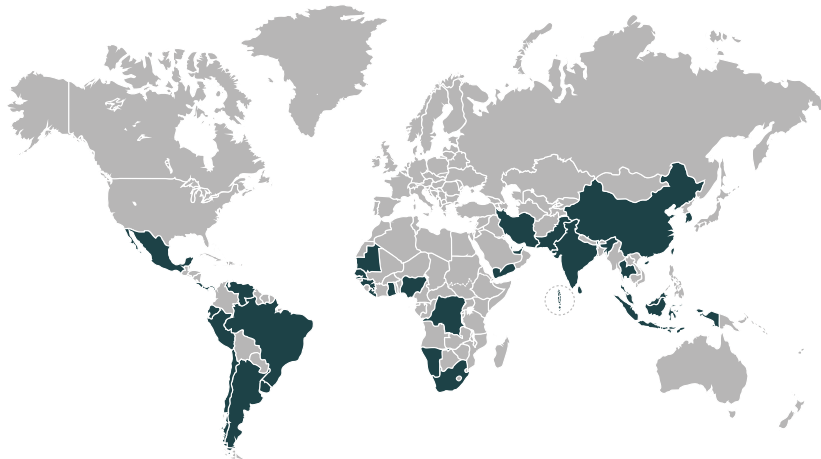
[www.fao.org/ipoa-sharks/tools/software/isharkfin/en/](http://www.fao.org/ipoa-sharks/tools/software/isharkfin/en/)

## FOCAL COUNTRIES OF THE EU-CITES PROJECT

The FAO study “Priority regions and countries impacted by the recent CITES listings of marine elasmobranchs” identified 34 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean that should be prioritized for receiving assistance from FAO and CITES.

These countries were identified based on the following criteria :

1. Range states for one or more of the recently listed elasmobranchs.
2. Reported significant catches and/or exports of sharks.
3. Recognized as “developing countries” by the UN, assigning priorities to those that are classified as “low-income food-deficit countries” by FAO, or “least developed countries” and “small island developing states” by the UN.



► In August 2014, the CITES Secretariat commissioned a study to assess the implementation capacity and needs of these countries. An outline summary can be found at : [https://cites.org/eng/prog/shark/Information\\_resources\\_from\\_Parties\\_and\\_other\\_stakeholders](https://cites.org/eng/prog/shark/Information_resources_from_Parties_and_other_stakeholders)

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RFMOs AND RFBS

Areas of competence of some RFMOs and RFBs



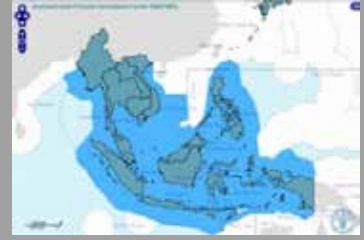
ICCAT



IOTC



WCPFC



SEAFDEC

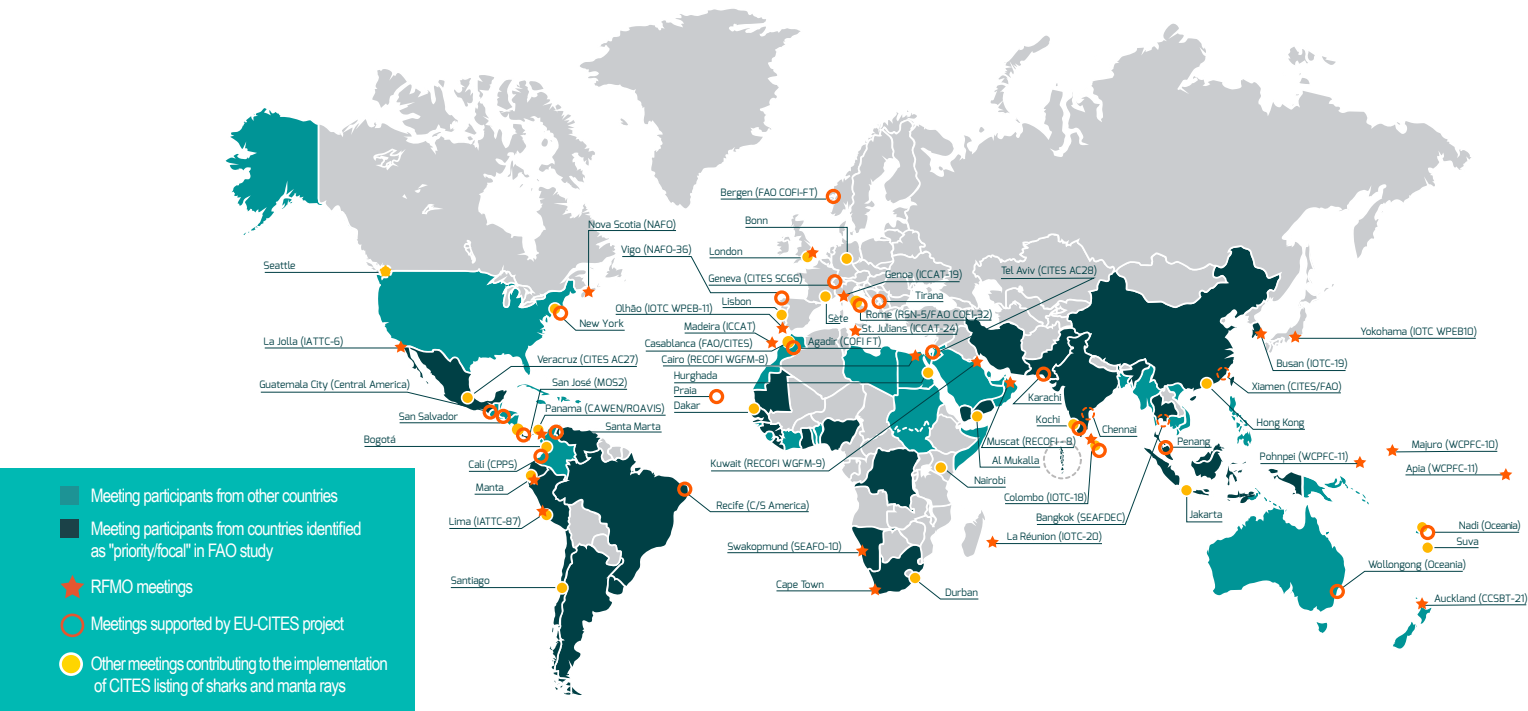
Source: <http://www.fao.org/figis/geoserver/factsheets/rfbs.html>

RFMOs and RFBs are vital partners in research, training, data collection, data analysis and the development of management plans for commercially significant marine species. They are regional networks of national fisheries agencies, that have experience in shark management, but may not have actively participated in the implementation of CITES so far. The CITES Secretariat is communicating in particular with three RFMOs (ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC), which are involved in certain shark fisheries issues, as well as with the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network.

The EU-CITES project is supporting SEAFDEC and ICCAT for the implementation of shark stock data collection and assessment in selected countries. This in turn contributes to the development of NDFs. Discussions are also underway with other RFMOs on possible collaboration.

# MEETINGS OF THE EU-CITES PROJECT AND OTHER WORKSHOPS

Across the globe, CITES Parties, the CITES Secretariat, FAO, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations have been active in preparing for, and discussing the new CITES listings.



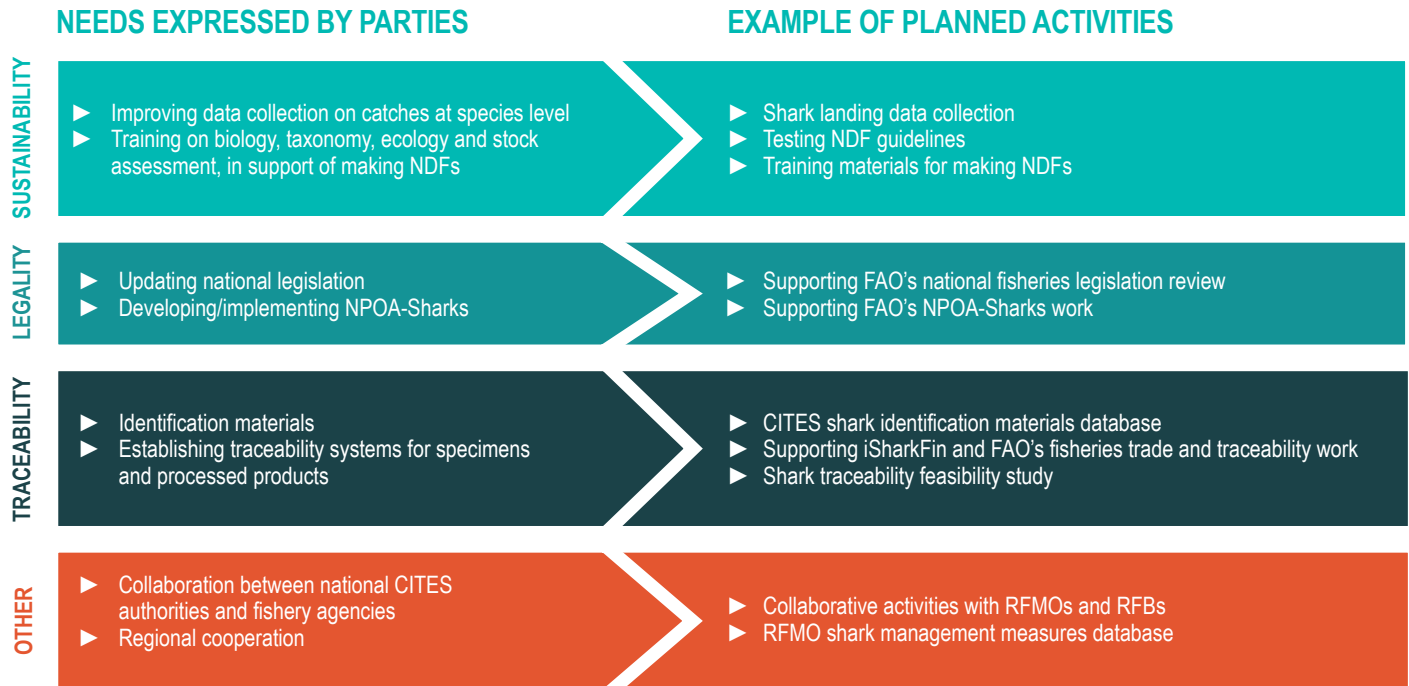
The above map is based on information communicated to the CITES Secretariat and includes events up to August 2016.

For detail on these and other shark-related events, please see [www.cites.org/eng/prog/shark/calendar.php](http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/shark/calendar.php)



## WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED SO FAR ... AND PLANNING AHEAD

The regional workshops, targeted surveys and face-to-face discussions revealed priority capacity needs by Parties for implementing the Appendix II listings of sharks and manta rays. During 2015-2016, demonstration activities (a limited number of different types of activities to test impact) will be conducted in order to respond to these needs. The outcomes of these demonstration activities will inform further wide-ranging capacity building support.



## SHARING INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE

CITES has developed a dedicated web portal on its website for Parties and stakeholders to share information and experience, as well as for the public to learn more about the CITES listing of sharks and manta rays : [www.cites.org/prog/shark](http://www.cites.org/prog/shark)

The CITES web portal offers various tools for information and experience sharing :

- Sharks and manta rays events/meetings calendar;
- Shark identification materials database;
- Shark NDF guidelines and tools;
- Archive of national and regional reports, studies, posters, multimedia, and links to other sites.

The portal also contains a variety of other resources from CITES and FAO for the implementation of new shark and manta ray listings.



► Do you have any information you would like to share on the CITES web shark portal?  
Please send us an email at : [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org)

More information on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is available at : [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)

More information on the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is available at : [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

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