

# CIRCULAR

**FILE:** CONV 2/5/1

**DATE:** 7 April 2026

**CIRCULAR:** 26/27

**SUBJECT:** **CITES post-CoP20 shark management workshop - invitation to participate**

**TO:** SPREP National Focal Points  
CITES Authorities  
Fisheries Authorities  
CROP

Dear Members,

The 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties has adopted listing proposals and decisions in relation to shark species, which add to obligations and recommendations related to the management of CITES-listed shark species that were adopted at earlier CITES CoPs. One area of particular urgency for Oceania is the making of non-detriment findings for shark species, whose populations are often migratory, transboundary, and often caught on the high seas, therefore requiring CITES permits for the introduction from the sea.

SPREP will host a CITES post-CoP20 shark management workshop to support governments of the Oceania region in their management of CITES listed sharks. Its main emphasis will be on building capacity for making non-detriment findings for sharks, and regional non-detriment findings templates for CITES-listed shark species caught and traded in Oceania. In addition, the workshop will also address other matters arising from recent CITES discussions on sharks that are relevant to Oceania, and highlight synergies with work undertaken by CROP agencies, CMS, regional fishery agencies, and expert institutions that can contribute to improve regional management of CITES-listed sharks. The workshop will therefore provide Oceania governments and stakeholders with a key opportunity to build capacity, strengthen, and coordinate their efforts to ensure CITES-listed shark species are managed in line with CITES regulations, and that international trade in these is sustainable, legal, and traceable. It will also form the basis of subsequent bilateral follow-up work with selected CITES Parties to support national shark management.

The workshop will take place, as follows:

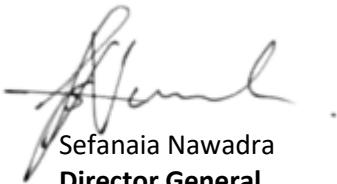
**September 14-17, 2026**  
**Apia, Samoa**, venue to be announced to participants in due time.  
**In person, optional sponsoring for ca. 15 delegates available**  
**Option of remote participation**

SPREP invites governments to nominate delegates responsible for implementing their trade regulations and management provisions for their shark populations.

Up to two CoP20 delegates per CITES Party can be nominated for sponsored participation in the CITES post-CoP20 shark management workshop (ideally one delegate from your national CITES Authorities and one delegate from your national Fishery Authorities). Additional nominations of delegates from other governmental Authorities, and nominations from officially designated Authorities of non-CITES Parties, may be considered, subject to available space and funding.

**Please submit your nominations by 30 June 2026 to [martinh@sprep.org](mailto:martinh@sprep.org), using the attached nomination form. Nominations from CITES Parties need endorsement from designated CITES Management Authorities.** SPREP will inform all nominating Parties of meeting details and availability of funding for sponsored participation, as soon as possible. VISA requirements are the responsibility of the nominees, and early registration and VISA applications are recommended.

Yours sincerely,



Sefanaia Nawadra  
**Director General**

SN/MH/ma

**Att:** Nomination form