

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON
DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC COMMON POSITIONS ON
THE PROPOSED LISTING OF COMMERCIALY-EXPLOITED AQUATIC
SPECIES IN TO THE CITES APPENDICES**

**Bangkok, Thailand
30 August–1 September 2022**



**Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
The Secretariat**

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
I. OPENING OF THE CONSULTATION	1
II. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON.....	1
III. BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES AND AGENDA OF THE CONSULTATION	1
IV. OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED LISTING OF COMMERCIALY-EXPLOITED AQUATIC SPECIES INTO THE CITES APPENDICES	2
V. PRESENTATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS ON THE PROVISIONAL LIST COMMERCIALY-EXPLOITED AQUATIC SPECIES (CEAS) INTO CITES APPENDICES ...	6
VI. DRAFTING THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC COMMON POSITIONS ON CEAS	6
VII. OTHER CITES-RELATED ISSUES	6
7.1 Concept Note of Proposal on Transfer of the Thai Population of Siamese crocodile (<i>Crocodylus siamensis</i>) from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II with a Zero Quota for Wild Specimens.....	6
7.2 CoP19 proposed changes to CITES criteria to include a special consideration for all shark and rays	7
7.3 CoP19 proposed suggestion on including socio-economic factors in the CITES criteria and listing decisions	7
VIII. CONCLUSION AND WAYS FORWARD	7
IX. CLOSING OF THE CONSULTATION	9

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30 August–1 September 2022, Bangkok, Thailand

INTRODUCTION

1. The “Regional Technical Consultation on Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Positions on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices” was organized by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) on 30 August–1 September 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand with support from the Government of Japan through the Japanese Trust Fund. The Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) was attended by fisheries experts and National Coordinators from the SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam as well as officers from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, namely: TD, AQD, MFRDMD, and IFRDMD. Representatives from the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of FAO, academe, and relevant agencies also attended the RTC as resource persons. The List of Participants appears in **Annex 1**.

I. OPENING OF THE CONSULTATION

2. The SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee* welcomed the participants to the RTC. She reiterated the importance of the RTC as it is meant to serve as fora for the SEAFDEC Member Countries to discuss the proposed listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices at the forthcoming 19th Session of the Conference of the Parties of CITES (CITES-CoP19) in November 2022. After encouraging the participants to actively participate in the discussion and provide inputs for the development of common positions on the said proposals that would be reflected by the countries, she declared the RTC open. Her Opening Remarks appear in **Annex 2**.

II. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

3. The representative from Cambodia, *Mr. Ouk Vibol*, was unanimously elected as Chairperson of the RTC.

III. BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES AND AGENDA OF THE CONSULTATION

4. The Senior Policy Officer of SEAFDEC Secretariat, *Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn*, informed the Background, Objectives, and Agenda of the RTC. The RTC aimed at updating information on the proposals to be discussed at the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Aquatic Animals and Plants (CITES-CoP19) which will be organized on 14–25 November 2022 in Panama City, Panama for the inclusion of CEAS in CITES Appendices I and II. The RTC was then informed that from the discussion, the positions of the SEAFDEC Member Countries would be developed which would be reflected at CITES-CoP19 including a set of recommendations on the issues related to conservation and utilization of the said CEAS. The Prospectus of the RTC appears in **Annex 3**.

5. The representative from Thailand proposed to add the new Sub-agenda 7.1 “Concept Note of Proposal on Transfer of the Thai Population of Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*) from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II with a Zero Quota for Wild Specimens.” The RTC noted the concern of some countries (e.g. Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia) that crocodiles are not under the purview of fisheries authorities of their respective countries, thus, they were not in the position to provide information and make a decision. Nonetheless, under the sub-agenda 7.1, the note should be indicated that such CITES-CoP19 Proposal is under the purview of fisheries authorities of Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam only.

6. The representative from FAO, *Dr. Kim Friedman*, also proposed the following information to be discussed under Agenda 7.

- Sub-agenda 7.2: CoP19 proposed changes in CITES criteria to include a special consideration for all sharks and rays
- Sub-agenda 7.3: CoP19 proposed suggestion of including socioeconomic factors in the CITES criteria and listing decisions

7. After the discussion, the RTC agreed the amendment of the agenda and adopted the Agenda of the Consultation which appears as **Annex 4**.

IV. OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED LISTING OF COMMERCIALY-EXPLOITED AQUATIC SPECIES INTO THE CITES APPENDICES

8. The RTC was informed of the proposed inclusion of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) in the CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP19. These proposals include:

CoP19 Proposal 37: Include *Carcharhinidae* spp. in Appendix II;

CoP19 Proposal 38: Include *Sphyrnidae* spp. in Appendix II;

CoP19 Proposal 39: Include *Potamotrygon albimaculata*, *P. henlei*, *P. jabuti*, *P. leopoldi*, *P. marquesi*, *P. signata* and *P. wallacei* in Appendix II;

CoP19 Proposal 40: Include *Rhinobatidae* spp. in Appendix II;

CoP19 Proposal 42: Include *Thelenota* spp. in Appendix II; and

CoP19 Proposal 41: Include *Hypancistrus zebra* (Zebra pleco) in Appendix I.

9. The representative from FAO, *Dr. Kim Friedman*, shared the overview of the outcomes of the 7th Meeting of the FAO Expert Advisory Panel, which was held on 18–22 July 2022 at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. In his presentation, he reiterated the CITES listing amendment process where the FAO Expert Advisory Panel assessed the CITES criteria based on the best available scientific evidences. He pointed out that some general discussion points should be considered as follows:

- Challenge commodities from commercially exploited aquatic species in trade have come from an untargeted or incidental species, which fisheries serve for food security not trade and fully utilized dead sharks.
- CITES Party proposals include species with the status of various stocks of the commercially exploited aquatic species differs with regard to qualification against the criteria for listing amendment
- CITES Party proposals presenting “catch all” look-alike lists that outnumber the species proposed for listing and that take no account of practicality, costs and socioeconomic impact of implementing the listing and look-alike controls;
- How to offer CITES conservation support to commercially exploited aquatic species in

the wild, while not impacting the trade of hatchery-reared specimens of the same species.

10. Moreover, *Dr. Friedman* informed the RTC that the report of the 7th Meeting of FAO Expert Advisory Panel would be available by 31 August 2022.

11. The RTC took note of the proposals of CEAS with the technical information presented by the resource persons. Based on information available on aforementioned proposals, and taking into consideration the impacts of the inclusion of the said CEAS in the CITES Appendices, the RTC came up with the following summary of each proposal as follows:

CITES-CoP19 Proposal 37: Include *Carcharhinidae* spp. in Appendix II;

The presentation was made by *Dr. Ahmad bin Ali, Dr. Kim Friedman, Ms. Hamizah*

Information on proposed species

- Approximately 39 species under the family *Carcharhinidae* are found in the region. The species are mostly bycatch from commercial or artisanal fisheries, and are fully utilized.
- Nineteen (19) species of family *Carcharhinidae* have a range of distinctly different sizes, morphological appearances, productivity, fishery and trade profiles, thus, making evaluation as a group difficult.
- The most traded species in the region are “look-alike.” Many species can be differentiable from one another, although some look very similar. In certain cases, it is difficult to quickly identify commodities to species level, but there are marked differences in the trade profiles of these species, and for traders the commodities can be differentiated. Identification to species level is more difficult in the case of meat, cartilage, skin, and oil products.

Views of FAO Expert Advisory Panel¹

- Three (3) species (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*; *C. porosus*; and *Glyphis gangeticus*) meet the CITES criteria; 12 species do not meet; and 4 species have insufficient information.

Impacts of listing in Appendix II

- Two species, *i.e.* *C. longimanus* and *C. falciformis*, are already in Appendix II of CITES. It is anticipated that the listing of all remaining species under the family *Carcharhinidae* including look-alike species would create difficulty in the implementation and management, and would require a lot of resource investment, *e.g.* capacity building on species identification, inspection of specimens, development of non-detriment finding (NDF) documents, etc.

Proposal 38: Include *Sphyrnidae* spp. in Appendix II;

The presentation was made by *Dr. Ahmad bin Ali* and *Dr. Kim Friedman*

Information on proposed species

- *Sphyrna* spp. are caught as bycatch in countries of the Southeast Asian region from inshore and offshore areas and utilized for livelihood and food security.

¹ At the 7th FAO Expert Advisory Panel for the Assessment of Proposals to Amend Appendices I and II of CITES Concerning Commercially-Exploited Aquatic Species (Expert Panel), held at FAO Headquarters from 18 to 22 July 2022.

View of FAO Expert Advisory Panel

- The proposed listing of *Sphyrna tiburo* meets the CITES criteria.

Impacts of listing in Appendix II

- Although *S. tiburo* is not found in the Southeast Asian region, it is anticipated that inclusion of all species in the family as “look-alike” species would impact the export of other shark commodities from the region.
- It is anticipated that the listing of species into the Appendix II would result in not reporting and recording of catch and trade of the species creating difficulty and burden for authorities to collect scientific data to support management of the species.

Proposal 39: Include *Potamotrygon albimaculata*, *P. henlei*, *P. jabuti*, *P. leopoldi*, *P. marquesi*, *P. signata* and *P. wallacei* in Appendix II;

The presentation was made by Assistant Prof. *Somma Janekitkan*, Kasetsart University, *Dr. Kim Friedman*

Information on proposed species

- No species of the family Potamotrygonidae occurs in the natural habitats of the Southeast Asian region.
- Potamotrygons are cultured for ornamental purposes (mostly as hybrids) and traded by countries in the region, *e.g.* Thailand and Malaysia. Breeders that were generally domesticated and imported from other countries were not sourced from the wild. Countries trading (importing/exporting) the species are applying regulations for traders to obtain permit from fisheries authorities.
- Trade of wild caught stingrays has been regulated in Brazil since 1998, including the export numbers of each species and numbers per species plus maximum size that were in place since 2003. In addition, all the Potamotrygonins in this proposal have already been listed since January 2017 under Appendix III.
- Production of Potamotrygonins in aquaculture sector is a positive as it removes pressure on the wild stock.

View of FAO Expert Advisory Panel

- The proposed listing of *P. wallacei* meets CITES criteria; while listing of *P. leopoldi* does not meet CITES criteria.

Impacts of listing in Appendix II

- It is anticipated that the listing of the species into the Appendix II would pose hurdles in trade of aquaculture bred and reared stingrays, *e.g.* documentation requirement to certify facilities and sources of breeders, packaging requirements, export checks of live product in transit, which could impact the growth of the industry. In addition, the breeding facilities are developing market-favored hybrids species that are difficult to identify/record.

Proposal 40: Include *Rhinobatidae* spp. in Appendix II;

The presentation was made by *Dr. Ahmad bin Ali* and *Dr. Kim Friedman*

Information on proposed species

- At least 7 species of guitarfish (family Rhinobatidae) are commonly found in the Southeast Asian region. The small-sized guitarfish species are caught as bycatch mainly from inshore areas and utilized for people's livelihood and food security.
- Large-sized guitarfish species are already listed in the Appendix II. This proposal will add small-sized species that are primarily utilized as food as well as commodities that have lower export value.
- Different species under the same family are difficult to identify/differentiate, especially by parts and in product forms and derivatives.
- The international trade information on these species is limited.

Views of FAO Expert Advisory Panel

- The proposed listing of the six species of guitarfish does not meet the CITES criteria.

Impacts of listing in Appendix II

- It is anticipated that the listing of species into Appendix II would result in not reporting and recording of catch and trade of the species creating difficulty and burden for authorities to collect scientific data to support management of the species.

Proposal 42: Include *Thelenota* spp. in Appendix II

The presentation was made by *Prof. Dr. Jun Akamine* and *Dr. Kim Friedman*

Information on proposed species

- *Thelenota ananas* and *T. anax* are harvested by countries in the Southeast Asian region and traded both domestically and internationally; while *T. rubralineata* is rare in natural habitats and not considered a traded species. However, *Thelenota* spp. are considered as low-value species compared to other market-preferred sea cucumber species, *e.g. Holothuria* spp.
- Identification/differentiation of *Thelonota* species in live and dried form is relatively simple; however, countries, *e.g.* Malaysia is also producing sea cucumber oil (minyak gamat) from other sea cucumber species, which is harder to identify to species level.
- As a result of the long debate, CITES Committee I in COP16 agreed that sea cucumber should be managed by respective countries rather than CITES regulations.

Views of FAO Expert Advisory Panel

- The proposed listing of the three species in the genus *Thelenota* does not meet the CITES criteria.

Impacts of listing in Appendix II

- It is anticipated that the listing of species into Appendix II would create difficulties to trade concerning identification of species as raw materials for products *e.g.* sea cucumber oil, balm.

Proposal 41: *Hypancistrus zebra* (Zebra pleco) in Appendix I.

The presentation was made by *Dr. Kim Friedman*

Information on proposed species

- The habitat of this species is negatively affected by hydroelectric dam in Brazil.
- Brazil has issued several national legal instruments including banning of collection, transportation and exportation of the species since 2005, and listed the species in Appendix III of CITES since 2017.

- The species produced from ornamental fish farms are being traded in some AMSs, *e.g.* in Malaysia and Thailand. Listing of the species in Appendix I would mean that trade in the species (including from captive breeding of ornamental fish farms) would also be prohibited that will result in the loss of sustainable production and livelihoods in the ornamental aquaculture sector.
- Production of Zebra catfish in aquaculture sector is a positive as it removes pressure on the wild stock.

Views of FAO Expert Advisory Panel

- The proposed listing of Zebra catfish in CITES Appendix I does not meet the CITES criteria.

Impacts of listing in Appendix I

- It is anticipated that the listing of the species in Appendix I would make trading of the species produce from captive breeding no longer possible.

V. PRESENTATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS ON THE PROVISIONAL LIST COMMERCIALY-EXPLOITED AQUATIC SPECIES (CEAS) INTO CITES APPENDICES

12. The representative from SEAFDEC Secretariat presented the results of the questionnaire based on the inputs from SEAFDEC Member Countries. (**Annex 5**).

VI. DRAFTING THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC COMMON POSITIONS ON CEAS

13. While agreeing on the format of the “Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the proposed listing of several CEAS into the CITES Appendices”, which includes a summary of technical information on the proposed CEAS, the countries provided their views and positions on each proposal.

14. However, the RTC noted that some countries would consult with the respective offices on their positions and would confirm to SEAFDEC Secretariat by 9 September 2022. The representative from Thailand informed that Thailand would organize the internal meeting on the country’s position with other relevant agencies on 22 September 2022, so that Thailand could possibly confirm during that period. The SEAFDEC Secretariat will also communicate with Singapore for obtaining their inputs and views.

15. After the discussion, the RTC adopted the Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the proposed listing of several CEAS into the CITES Appendices as appear in **Annex 6**.

VII. OTHER CITES-RELATED ISSUES

7.1 Concept Note of Proposal on Transfer of the Thai Population of Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*) from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II with a Zero Quota for Wild Specimens

16. The representative from Thailand, *Mr. Ekkawit Wongsrisung*, presented the Concept Note of Proposal on Transfer of the Thai Population of Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*) from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II with a Zero Quota for Wild Specimens on the basis of Article II, paragraph 2 (a), of the text of the Convention and in accordance with the

Precautionary measures as defined in Annex 4 (A.2.a) of the Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). In his presentation, he stated that the Siamese crocodile is commonly found in Southeast Asian countries, namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam. In Thailand, Siamese crocodile inhabit protected areas located in National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuary Areas. He provided information on the legal instruments to protect the Siamese crocodile for 30 years and emphasized that there is no illegal trade of crocodile species in Thailand. He further informed that all crocodiles and crocodile products in Thailand were produced from registered captive breeding farms for commercial production. Presently, there are more than 200,000 individuals of Siamese crocodile in private farms. All crocodile products in Thailand should be traded only by registered crocodile farms. His presentation appears in **Annex 7**.

17. While Cambodia and Myanmar supported the proposal to transfer the Siamese crocodile from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II as proposed by Thailand, however, Viet Nam will confirm their position after consulting the responsible agency.

18. The representative from Myanmar informed the RTC that crocodiles are not under the responsibility of the Department of Fisheries; he requested the reference documents to support this proposal *e.g.* scientific data, management laws.

19. Thailand requested the countries to convey the Concept Note to the relevant agencies of their respective countries for support at the CITES-CoP19.

7.2 CoP19 proposed changes to CITES criteria to include a special consideration for all shark and rays

20. The representative from FAO informed the RTC of the CITES-CoP19 Doc87.2 requesting changes in CITES criteria for the new approach to the listing of sharks and rays, which was submitted by Senegal. This document suggests that Parties reconsider the way in which they have approached the listing of aquatic species on CITES and look again at the intent of the Convention and the CITES listing criteria (CITES Res. Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)) when considering the listing of vulnerable marine species such as sharks. This document proposed the footnote in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) and add specific references to applying it differently for sharks and rays to account for their biology.

7.3 CoP19 proposed suggestion on including socio-economic factors in the CITES criteria and listing decisions

21. The representative from Japan provided a brief summary of the CITES-CoP19 Doc87.1 on the proposed amendments to the Resolution Conf. 9.24 (REV.COP17), which was proposed by Botswana, Cambodia, Eswatini, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. This document proposes the amendments to the Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) and (if needed) a draft decision on the recognition of livelihoods and food security in proposals for amendment to the Appendices. In this regard, from the fisheries perspective, the countries should consider supporting the amendment taking into consideration the importance of fisheries sector in support of livelihoods and food security.

VIII. CONCLUSION AND WAYS FORWARD

22. The RTC was informed that the adopted “Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES

Appendices at the CITES-CoP19” would be circulated to the SEAFDEC National Coordinators and the participants of the RTC for confirmation, while the SEAFDEC Secretariat would also send the document to the National Coordinator for Singapore to obtain their inputs, views, and positions of the proposals. The SEAFDEC Member Countries were requested to send back their feedback to the SEAFDEC Secretariat by 9 September 2022.

23. The RTC took note of the process and timeline for the finalization of the “Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP19” which would be submitted to SEAFDEC Council for approval and would be subsequently submitted to the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) through the FCG/ASSP Focal Points *ad referendum*, for endorsement to the ASEAN under the ASEAN mechanism. After the discussion, the RTC agreed on the timeline as follows:

Due Date	Actions	Responsible agencies
2 September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAFDEC sends the draft ASEAN-SEAFDEC Positions to the participants of the RTC and NCs for confirmation (and inputs from Singapore) <i>(by email)</i> 	SEAFDEC Sec
9 September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due date for confirmation from the participants of the RTC and NCs and inputs from Singapore sent back to SEAFDEC SEAFDEC sends the final version of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Positions to the participants of the RTC and NCs <i>(by email)</i> 	SEAFDEC MCs
12 September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAFDEC submits the results from the Regional Technical Consultation and final version of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Positions to SEAFDEC Council Directors <i>(by official letter ad referendum)</i> 	SEAFDEC Sec
23 September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due date for approval by SEAFDEC Council 	SEAFDEC MCs
26 September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAFDEC sends the SEAFDEC Council for the final version of ASEAN-SEAFDEC positions for notation <i>(by official letter)</i> 	SEAFDEC Sec
26 September 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAFDEC sends the final version of ASEAN-SEAFDEC positions to the ASEAN Secretariat for endorsement through FCG focal points, ASWGFi, SOM AMAF, and AMAF <i>(by email)</i> 	SEAFDEC Sec, ASEAN Sec
31 October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due date for approval by ASEAN 	ASEAN Sec

Due Date	Actions	Responsible agencies
1 November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SEAFDEC sends the approved ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common positions to NCs and participants of RTC for their communication with the respective delegations who will attend at COP19 (<i>by email</i>) 	SEAFDEC Sec and SEAFDEC MCs
14–25 November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CITES CoP19 	CITES

➤ **Suggestions and follow-up actions**

24. The RTC noted that FAO and SEAFDEC will organize the side events during CITES-CoP19 to share technical information to a wider audience, which would be useful to support the intervention of the countries during the meeting to reflect importance of fisheries to livelihood and food security. Once the side event is confirmed, the invitation would be circulated to all SEAFDEC Member Countries and relevant agencies.

25. The RTC noted that communication products such as short video clips or brochures could be effective and helpful to echo the voices of the fisheries sector in the international fora. In this regard, the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat informed that SEAFDEC would communicate with FAO and develop the concept paper for the video production. The RTC also suggested that the video clips could also include other countries around the world.

26. With regard to the CITES-COP19 Proposal No. 37, the representative from Viet Nam requested SEAFDEC to provide a technical summary paper in order that the countries can prepare for the invention or inform other countries' delegations who will attend the CITES-CoP19.

27. In addition, the representative from Myanmar requested technical support on management measures for the utilization of CEAs in the future.

IX. CLOSING OF THE CONSULTATION

28. The SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, *Dr. Tomoko Nakazato*, thanked the Chairperson, *Mr. Ouk Vibol* for his excellent leadership and facilitation of the discussion during the RTC. She also expressed sincere thanks to the country representatives and resource persons for their valuable contribution and insights on CEAS and other CITES-related issues. Finally, she declared the RTC close. Her Closing Remarks appears in **Annex 8**.

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Opening Remarks

By SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*

Distinguished representatives from SEAFDEC Member Countries, resource persons from FAO, SEAFDEC senior advisor Dr. Ahmad Ali, and Prof Jun from Japan, SEAFDEC officials, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good morning.

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the Regional Technical Consultation on Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Positions on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices.

As we are all aware that the upcoming CITES CoP19 which will be held in November 2022 in Panama, where several Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species are in the agenda for discussion.

SEAFDEC is organizing this Consultation to provide a regional platform for the ASEAN member countries to update and discuss detail information on the status of those proposed species and develop ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Positions in order to reflect during CoP19 meeting.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to all resource persons Dr. Kim, Dr. Ahmad Ali, Prof. Jun for your time and knowledges sharing with us during this Consultation.

I wish you have the fruitful discussion and looking forward to see the results of the discussion in the days to come.

Thank you very much and have a good day.

PROSPECTUS

I. INTRODUCTION

Since the 32nd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee in 2000, SEAFDEC was requested to provide a set of information and update to the AMSs on the proposed listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species (CEA species) into the Appendices of the CITES. In response, SEAFDEC, with the funding support from the Japanese Trust Fund initiated the regional activities under the project on “Assistance for Capacity Development in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues” to follow up on the CITES related information and facilitate and provide a regional platform for discussion towards the development of common/coordinated positions of SEAFDEC Member Countries on the listing of the CEA species into the CITES Appendices prior the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CoP), which holds in every two to three years to review the implementation of the Convention.

Towards the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CoP19), which will be held on 14-25 November 2022 in Panama city, Panama, CITES Secretariat held a series of meetings that includes the 31st Meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31) was organized virtually by CITES to discuss the progress after the last Conference of the Parties (CoP) *i.e.* CoP18 in 2019 and consideration for reporting to the forthcoming CITES CoP19. The AC31 also discussed species-specific issues which are 1) sharks and rays; 2) eels; 3) seahorses; 4) Banggai cardinalfish, and 5) marine ornamental fishes. The results were reported to the 74th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (SC74) during 7-14 March 2022 in France.

Prior this forthcoming CoP19, the CITES Secretariat received the proposal from the members in June 2022 on the provisional list of species for the amendment of Appendices I and II, https://cites.org/eng/cop/19/amendment-proposals/provisional_which included commercially-exploited aquatic species such as sharks and rays and red sea cucumbers among others.

For the preparation of CoP19, the SEAFDEC Council during its 54th Meeting supported SEAFDEC to provide the regional platform to discuss and update information on the proposed listing list of species into the CITES Appendices and facilitate the AMSs to develop the ASEAN-SEAFDEC common/coordinated positions to reflect the regional concerns and interest for addressing at the international fora.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. To obtain the updated information of the provisional list of species into the CITES Appendices for consideration at CoP19
2. To discuss among SEAFDEC Member Countries on the possible impacts of the proposed inclusion of commercially-exploited aquatic species into the CITES Appendices
3. To develop an ASEAN-SEAFDEC common/coordinated positions of the CEAS for CoP19 including a set of recommendations related to the conservation and sustainable utilization of the CEAS

III. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. Information compilation on the CEAS (*e.g.* stock status and its biological information, trade, market) and the possible impacts to the proposed inclusion of commercially-exploited aquatic species into the CITES Appendices.
2. The ASEAN-SEAFDEC common/coordinated positions on the proposed listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species into the CITES Appendices at the CoP19 for further submitted to the SEAFDEC Council and the ASEAN for consideration.

3. Recommendations for the conservation and sustainable utilization of the CEAS

IV. DATE AND VENUE

The RTC will be organized on 30 August-1 September 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand.

V. MODE OF THE CONSULTATION

It is expected that the RTC will be organized with physical attendance of the participants at the venue. However, as only participants who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 would be allowed to attend at the venue, SEAFDEC will arrange the online platform for those who cannot attend at the venue.

VI. EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS

1. Two (2) representatives from SEAFDEC Member Countries comprise of SEAFDEC National Coordinator; or the representative to discuss at the RTC the country's positions on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices for upcoming CITES-CoP19 (see the questionnaire attached herewith); and Senior fishery official or officer of the relevant national agency responsible for representing your respective country to attend the upcoming CITES-CoP19 in Panama.
2. Resource persons and experts from ASEAN Member States, Japan, FAO, etc.
3. Officials from SEAFDEC Secretariat, SEAFDEC/TD, MFRDMD, AQD, IFRDMD,

AGENDA

- Agenda 1: Opening of the Consultation
- Agenda 2: Election of a Chairperson
- Agenda 3: Background, Objectives and Adoption of the Agenda
- Agenda 4: Overview on the Provisional List of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices for Consideration at CoP19
- Agenda 5: Presentation of the Questionnaire results on the Provisional List Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) into CITES Appendices
- Agenda 6: Drafting the ASEAN-SEAFDEC common/ coordinated positions on CEAS
- Agenda 7: Other CITES-related Issues
 - 7.1 Concept Note of Proposal on Transfer of the Thai Population of Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*) from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II with a Zero Quota for Wild Specimens”
 - 7.2 CoP19 proposed changes to CITES criteria to include a special consideration for all shark and rays
 - 7.3 CoP19 proposed suggestion on including socio-economic factors in the CITES criteria and listing decisions
- Agenda 8: Conclusion and Ways forward
- Agenda 9: Closing of the Consultation

**SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE
INFORMATION OF THE PROPOSAL TO LIST AQUATIC ANIMALS
TO THE CITES APPENDICES AT CITES-COP19**

I. INTRODUCTION

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in collaboration with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, with funding support from the Government of Japan through the Japanese Trust Fund, convened the “Regional Technical Consultation on Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices” on 30 August-1 September 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. Attended by fisheries experts and National Coordinators from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam as well as Officers from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, namely TD, AQD, MFRDMD and IFRDMD, and with Resource Person and experts from FAO Rome, etc. The Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) was informed of the proposed inclusion of several commercially exploited aquatic species (CEAS) in CITES Appendices I and II at CITES-CoP19 which will be organized on 14-25 November 2022 in Panama City, Panama.

During the RTC, the countries updated the technical information of the following CEAS, provided technical recommendations, and developed the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Countries’ Positions on the proposals for the possible inclusion of the aforesaid CEAS into the CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP19.

Five proposals of the CEAS were discussed at the RTC as follows:

1. Include *Carcharhinidae* spp. in Appendix II;
2. Include *Potamotrygon albimaculata*, *P. henlei*, *P. jabuti*, *P. leopoldi*, *P. marquesi*, *P. signata*, and *P. wallacei* in Appendix II;
3. Include *Rhinobatidae* spp. in Appendix II;
4. Include *Sphyrnidae* spp. in Appendix II; and
5. Include *Thelenota* spp. in Appendix II.

I. Summary of the Countries' Views

Proposal	Countries' views
<p>1. Include <i>Carcharhinidae</i> spp. in Appendix II</p>	<p>Brunei Darussalam: catch and landing of all sharks in the country has been restricted since 2015.</p> <p>Cambodia: Catching of sharks/rays reported about 300-400 tons/year, consuming locally, catching by trawl net. The common species include: (1) <i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>, (2) <i>Carcharhinus sorrah</i>, (3) <i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i>, and (4) <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchoides</i></p> <p>Indonesia: Sharks under the family of Carcharhinidae were captured as targets and bycatch by longline, utilizing bones and fins. In the past 3 years, the trading of Carcharhinidae reached 2,682,069 kg in total. Target markets include Taiwan and Hongkong. This proposed listing may pose a negative impact to traders because it is a commodity that is widely utilized and commonly found in Indonesian waters including (1) <i>Prionace glauca</i>, (2) <i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>, (3) <i>C. sorrah</i>, (4) <i>C. tjtjot</i>. and (5) <i>C.sealei</i>.</p> <p>Japan: Japan recorded the catch of <i>Prionace glauca</i> (Blue Shark), which were caught by the Japanese fleet during 2016-2020 with an average of 7,000 tons in the Pacific Ocean, and 6,000 tons in the Atlantic Ocean, and 474 tons in the Indian Ocean.</p> <p>The other shark species are caught by longline and drift net only EEZ, and most are consumed fin, meat (fillet, surimi), skin, and gristle.</p> <p>Japan exports all sharks in total amount with a range of 2,000-4300 tons, in value 160-450 M Yen during 2019-2021.</p> <p>Japan imports all sharks in a total amount of 36-109 tons with a value of 57-200 M yen during 2019-2021.</p> <p>All sharks are consumed locally and some are exported to Spain, South Africa, Peru, Panama, Chinese Taipei, Viet Nam, China, etc., and imported from Spain, Chinese Taipei, NZ, Singapore, Korea, etc.</p> <p>The possible impact to country/fisheries/traders if listed by CITES. It will become impossible for fishing fleets operating in the Atlantic Ocean to land blue sharks in Spain, South Africa, etc. because the Japanese CITES authority is not able to issue export permits timely and those importing countries will not accept the landing. Export permits including several certificates will be required for exporting blue shark meat and fin, which would likely discourage smooth and fair trades.</p>
	<p>Lao PDR: No information</p>
	<p>Malaysia: The catch data of <i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i> was reported with few amounts ranging from 20-40 kg per year (2018-2022), which were caught by trawl net and it was fully utilized in the local market. The price is around 3-4 RM/kg.</p>

	<p><i>C. plumbeus</i> is commonly found in Malaysian waters. It was also reported that <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i> (last recorded in 2015), <i>C. borneensis</i> (last recorded in 2004), <i>C. dussumieri</i> (last recorded in 2015) <i>Lamiopsis tephrodes</i> (last recorded in 2015).</p>
	<p>Myanmar: There is no record of the catch of these species in Myanmar. It has been caught as bycatch by bottom trawl and longline. Most are consumed by local people (meat and skin) in the local market, its fin is sold to China.</p>
	<p>Philippines: Intermittent catch data for some species are available. These group of sharks were caught by various fishing gears mostly incidental catches (i.e. drift gillnets, long lines, etc.). The catch were primarily consumed for food.</p> <p>Some species are found very common in Philippines waters include (1) <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>, (2) <i>C. acronotus</i> and (3) <i>C. dussumieri</i></p> <p>Some are common found (1) <i>C. obscurus</i>, (2) <i>C. obscurus</i>, (3) <i>C. plumbeus</i>, (4) <i>C. perezii</i>, and (5) <i>C. signatus</i></p> <p>Thailand: The group has been recorded as bycatch species, and locally consumed. Common species found in Thai waters include (1) <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>, (2) <i>C. plumbeus</i>, (3) <i>C. dussumieri</i>, (4) <i>C. amblyrhynchoides</i>, (5) <i>C. amblyrhynchos</i>, (6) <i>C. amboinensis</i>, (7) <i>C. brachyurus</i>, (8) <i>C. brevipinna</i>, (9) <i>C. falciformis</i>, (10) <i>C. leucas</i>, (11) <i>C. limbatus</i>, (12) <i>C. melanopterus</i>, (13) <i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>, (14) <i>Loxodon macrorhinus</i>, (15) <i>Rhizoprionodon acutus</i>, (16) <i>Scoliodon laticaudus</i>, and (18) <i>Triaenodon obesus</i></p> <p>Some are rarely found, including (1) <i>C. obscurus</i>, (2) <i>Glyphis gangeticus</i>, (3) <i>Negaprion acutidens</i>, (4) <i>Lamiopsis tephrodes</i>, (5) <i>Carcharhinus altimus</i> (6) <i>C. longimanus</i>, (7) <i>C. sealei</i>, (8) <i>Glyphis</i> sp., and (9) <i>R. oligolinx</i></p> <p><i>C. sorrah</i> is commonly found in Thai waters.</p> <p>Viet Nam: - Data was collected through a fishing logbook unclassified to species. Therefore, no routine data are available for Carcharhinidae spp.</p> <p>The data available today is the result of the project to survey fishery resources in Viet Nam for the period 2010-2020. The main fishing gear for catching sharks include trawl net, gillnet, and longline.</p> <p>These sharks are caught and utilized in various forms as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fresh: the caught are kept fresh and in whole in the trawler's net boats until landing. - Dried: dried fish meat, dried skin, and dried cartilage. <p>The price of these sharks is low value, which are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fresh and processed sharks are sold at prices from 2 – 4 US/kg at the market. - There are no data on the trade of this species in the market.

	<p>Shark products are traded in different markets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fresh meat is sold in the domestic market - Dried meat is sold in the market of Ho Chi Minh city and sometimes exported to China. <p>If this group of sharks is listed in the CITES list, it can affect the trading activities. Shark trading is controlled more strictly and requires an export permit.</p> <p>It is difficult to develop “non–detrimment findings” (NDFs) while lacking data on resource surveys, exploitation, trade, and export.</p> <p>Common species found in Vietnam water include: (1) <i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>, (2) <i>C. obscurus</i>, (3) <i>C. porosus</i>, (4) <i>C. plumbeus</i>, (5) <i>C. borneensis</i>, (6) <i>C. hemiodon</i>, (7) <i>C. leiodon</i>, (8) <i>C. perezi</i>, (9) <i>C. signatus</i>, (10) <i>C. acronotus</i>, (11) <i>C. dussumieri</i>, (12) <i>Isogomphodon oxyrhynchus</i>, (13) <i>Glyphis gangeticus</i>, (14) <i>Negaprion acutidens</i>, and (15) <i>Nasolamia velox</i></p>
<p>2. Include (1) <i>Potamotrygon albimaculata</i>, (2) <i>P. henlei</i>, (3) <i>P. jabuti</i>, (4) <i>P. leopoldi</i>, (5) <i>P. marquesi</i>, (6) <i>P. signata</i> and (7) <i>P. wallacei</i> in Appendix II</p>	<p>Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, and the Philippines, Viet Nam: No record of occurrence</p> <p>Thailand: These freshwater stingrays are ornamental fish, which breed on farms in Thailand and are exported to U.S., Indonesia, Philippines, and Mexico.</p> <p>The Department of Fisheries of Thailand is the authority for issuing the CITES import and export permits for these species. Additionally, Thailand has national regulations to regulate that these specimens are legal acquisitions.</p>
<p>3. Include <i>Rhinobatidae</i> spp. in Appendix II</p>	<p>Brunei Darussalam: The catch data was reported in 2021 with the amount of 1.86 mt by trawl nets with a value of USD 2,776.12. It was consumed in the local market. <i>Rhynchobatus djiddensis</i> is a commonly found species in Brunei waters.</p> <p>Indonesia: Rhinobatidae is caught generally as bycatch, which consumed meat and skin. During 2019-2021, found only 4 individuals selling at local/domestic. Indonesia may set a zero quota for exporting <i>R. jimbaranensis</i> and <i>R. penggali</i> which are very commonly found in Indonesia.</p> <p>Japan: There is no catch data for these species. They are caught by trawl net and gillnet, and are consumed meat and fins. Only domestic trade. <i>Rhinobatos hynnicephalus</i> and <i>Rhinobatos schlegelii</i> are commonly found.</p> <p>Lao PDR: No information</p> <p>Malaysia: The catch data of <i>Rhinobatos borneensis</i> was reported during 2018-2021 with a range of 100-550 kg per year, which was caught by trawl net. The catch was fully utilized and sold in the local market at the price of 2-10 RM/kg. <i>Rhinobatos jimbaranensis</i> is commonly found in Malaysian waters</p>

	<p>Myanmar: The proposed species is found only in a few numbers as bycatch in Myanmar waters by bottom trawl net. The catch data were recorded in three species namely: (1) <i>Rhinobatos penggali</i>, total catch, 64.21.8 kg/year, 2018-2019), (2) <i>Rhinobatos annandalei</i>, total catch, 42.28 kg/year, 2018-2019) and (3) <i>Rhinobatos borneensis</i>, total catch, 4647.847 kg/year, 2015-2016) in Yangon Jetty only.</p> <p>They are consumed locally and dry meat mixing other fish and shark species in the local markets, some fins and cartilage are traded to China considering “no strong impact”. <i>Rhinobatos penggali</i>, <i>R. annandalei</i>, and <i>R.borneensis</i> are commonly found and in Myanmar waters.</p> <p>Philippines: Intermittent catch data for some species are available. These group of sharks were caught by various fishing gears mostly incidental catches (i.e. drift gillnets, long lines, etc.). The catch was primarily consumed for food. <i>Rhinobatus typus</i>, <i>Rhinobathus schlegelli</i> (?), <i>Rhinobatos</i> spp. are common found in Philippines waters.</p> <p>Thailand: No catch data is available. Most catches are consumed locally. It is less impact to Thailand due to less utilization of these species as they are bycatch species. However, it might impact overseas fishing. <i>Rhinobatos annandalei</i>, <i>R. borneensis</i> and <i>R. ranongensis</i> are commonly found in Thai waters.</p> <p>Viet Nam: Data was collected through fishing logbook unclassified to species. Therefore, no routine data are available for Rhinobatidae spp.</p> <p>The data available today is the result of the project to survey fishery resources in Vietnam for the period 2010 - 2020.</p> <p>The species are caught by trawls. Most catches of these species are consumed in fresh, dried forms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fresh guitarfish: The caught guitarfish are kept fresh and in whole in the trawler’s net boats until landing. - Dried guitarfish: dried fish meat, dried skin and dried bone. <p>The price of these species is low value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fresh and processed guitarfish are sold at prices from 1.5–3 USD/kg at the market. - There are no data on the trade of this species in the market. <p>Guitarfish products are traded in different markets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fresh meat is sold in the domestic markets - Dried meat is sold in the markets of Ho Chi Minh city. <p>If guitarfish was listed in the CITES list. This can affect trading activities. Guitarfish trading will be controlled more strictly and require an export permit.</p>
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	<p>It is difficult to develop “non–detriment findings” (NDFs) while lacking data on resource surveys, exploitation, trade, and export.</p> <p><i>Rhinobatos fomosensis</i>, <i>Rhinobatos schlegelii</i>, <i>Rhinobatos ocellatus</i>, and <i>Rhinobatos punctifer</i> are very commonly found in Vietnamese waters.</p> <p>25 species under this group are commonly found in Vietnamese waters: <i>Rhinobatos albomaculatus</i>, <i>Rhinobatos annandalei</i>, <i>Rhinobatos annulatus</i>, <i>Rhinobatos blochii</i>, <i>Rhinobatos glaucostigma</i>, <i>Rhinobatos cemiculus</i>, <i>Rhinobatos granulatus</i>, <i>Rhinobatos halavi</i>, <i>Rhinobatos holcorhynchus</i>, <i>Rhinobatos horkelii</i>, <i>Rhinobatos hynnicephalus</i>, <i>Rhinobatos irvinei</i>, <i>Rhinobatos lentiginosus</i>, <i>Rhinobatos leucorhynchus</i>, <i>Rhinobatos leucospilus</i>, <i>Rhinobatos lionotus</i>, <i>Rhinobatos microphthalmos</i>, <i>Rhinobatos obtusus</i>, <i>Rhinobatos percellens</i>, <i>Rhinobatos petiti</i>, <i>Rhinobatos planiceps</i>, <i>Rhinobatos prahli</i>, <i>Rhinobatos productus</i>, <i>Rhinobatos punctifer</i>, and <i>Rhinobatos variegatus</i></p>
<p>4. Include <i>Sphyrnidae</i> spp. in Appendix II</p>	<p>Brunei Darussalam: Nil</p> <p>Indonesia: They were caught as bycatch of approximately 1.474 kg and eat fin and meat. <i>Eusphyra blochii</i> is commonly found in Indonesian waters</p> <p>Japan and Lao PDR: nil/no information</p> <p>Malaysia: No catch data were reported in the past. <i>Eusphyra blochii</i> was lastly recorded in 2004. All hammerhead sharks found in Malaysia are protected under the national laws except <i>Sphyrna lewini</i>.</p> <p>Myanmar: The proposed list is found only in a few numbers as bycatch in Myanmar waters by bottom trawl net.</p> <p>They are consumed locally and dry meat mixing other fish and shark species in the local markets, some fins and cartilage are exported to China, “no strong impact”. <i>Eusphyra blochii</i> is commonly found in Myanmar waters</p> <p>Philippines: No record of occurrence for <i>Eusphyra blochii</i> in the Philippines. The Philippines is not a range state of <i>Sphyrna media</i>, <i>Sphyrna tudes</i>, <i>Sphyrna corona</i> and <i>Sphyrna gilberti</i></p> <p>Thailand: This group is recorded as bycatch species. They are consumed locally. Less impact to Thailand due to less utilization of these species and there are also bycatch species. However, it might impact overseas fishing. <i>Eusphyra blochii</i> is rarely found. <i>S. lewini</i> is commonly found in Thai waters.</p> <p>Viet Nam: Data was collected through fishing logbook unclassified to species. Therefore, no routine data are available for <i>Sphyrnidae</i> spp. The data available today was the result of the project to survey fishery resources in Viet Nam during the period 2010–2020. The</p>

	<p>main fishing gear for catching sharks is the trawl net, gillnet, and longline. <i>Eusphya blochii</i> is commonly found in Vietnamese waters.</p> <p>Several options for the post-harvesting of these species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fresh sharks: The guitarfish are kept fresh and in whole in the trawler's net boats until landing. - Dried sharks: dried fish meat, dried skin, and dried bone. <p>Nevertheless, the price of these species is low value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fresh and processed sharks are sold at prices from 2–4 US/kg at the market. - There are no data on the trade of this species in the market. <p>Shark products are traded in different markets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fresh meat is sold in the domestic markets - Dried meat is sold in the markets of Ho Chi Minh city, and sometimes exported to China <p>If the shark was listed by CITES. This can affect trading activities. Shark trading is required strictly controlled and requires an exporting permit.</p> <p>It is difficult to develop “non-detriment findings” (NDFs) while lacking data on resource surveys, exploitation, trade, and export.</p>
<p>5. Include <i>Thelenota</i> spp. in Appendix II</p>	<p>Brunei Darussalam: No fishing activities for sea cucumber</p> <p>Indonesia: There is no particular fishing gear, they are collected by free hand-picking. Meats are exported to the market. In the past 3 years they have exported 97.038 kg to China and South Korea. <i>T. Ananas</i> is a species of sea cucumber that has a higher value and higher demand compared to other species of <i>Thelenota</i> group</p> <p>Likely resistance from traders as well as small-scale fishers, may emerge if they are included in CITES Appendix II.</p> <p>Japan: No catch data is reported. Mostly consumed in dried sea cucumber, and exported to Chinese Taipei, China. The common species is <i>Thelenota. Ananas</i></p> <p>Lao PDR and Malaysia, Philippines: No information and Nil</p> <p>Myanmar: No catch data is reported. Sea cucumbers are harvested by diving. Dried meat is used in Chinese cuisine. It is reported in 2017-2018, amount of 13,806 MT, 0.150 million USD. It is valued at more than 100 USD/kg. Mainly dried meat is exported to Thailand, China, Japan, Korea, and Singapore</p> <p>Thailand: Two species are commonly found in Thai waters namely: (1) <i>T. ananas</i> and (2) <i>T. anax</i>. Nevertheless, commercial utilization is less, only for local consumption. Lack of study on <i>Thelenota</i></p>

**Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices
at the CITES-CoP19**

(Adopted at the Regional Technical Consultation on Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices on 30 August–1 September 2022)

I. Introduction

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in collaboration with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, with funding support from the Government of Japan through the Japanese Trust Fund, convened the “Regional Technical Consultation on Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices” on 30 August–1 September 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) was attended by fisheries experts and National Coordinators from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam; technical officers from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, namely: TD, AQD, MFRDMD, and IFRDMD; as well as resource persons from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), academes, and relevant agencies of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.

The RTC was informed of the proposals to be discussed at the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Aquatic Animals and Plants (CITES-CoP19) which will be organized on 14–25 November 2022 in Panama City, Panama for inclusion of commercially exploited aquatic species (CEAS) in CITES Appendices I and II as follows:

CoP19 Proposal 37

Inclusion of the grey reef shark (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*), dusky shark (*C. obscurus*), smalltail shark (*C. porosus*), Ganges shark (*Glyphis gangeticus*), sandbar shark (*C. plumbeus*), Borneo shark (*C. borneensis*), Pondicherry shark (*C. hemiodon*), smoothtooth blacktip shark (*C. leiodon*), sharptooth lemon shark (*Negaprion acutidens*), Caribbean reef shark (*C. perezi*), daggernose shark (*Isogomphodon oxyrinchus*), night shark (*C. signatus*), whitenose shark (*Nasolamia velox*), blacknose shark (*C. acronotus*), whitecheek shark (*C. dussumieri*), lost shark (*C. obsoletus*), Pacific smalltail shark (*C. cerdale*), Borneo broadfin shark (*Lamiopsis tephrodes*) and the broadfin shark (*Lamiopsis temminckii*) in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A and B in Annex 2a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

Inclusion of all other species in the family Carcharhinidae (requiem sharks): Genus *Carcharhinus*, Genus *Isogomphodon*, Genus *Loxodon*, Genus *Nasolamia*, Genus *Lamiopsis*, Genus *Negaprion*, Genus *Prionace*, Genus *Rhizoprionodon*, Genus *Scoliodon*, Genus *Triaenodon* and any other putative species of family Carcharhinidae in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(b) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A in Annex 2b of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

CoP19 Proposal 38

Inclusion of *Sphyrna tiburo*, commonly referred to as the bonnethead shark, in CITES Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A and B in Annex 2a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

Inclusion of all remaining species in the Family Sphyrnidae (hammerhead sharks) which are not already listed in CITES Appendix II, including: *S. media*, *S. tudes*, *S. corona*, *S. gilberti*, and

Eusphyra blochii, as well as any other yet to be identified species of the Family Sphyrnidae, in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(b) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A in Annex 2b of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)

CoP19 Proposal 39

Inclusion of *Potamotrygon wallacei* and *P. leopoldi* in CITES Appendix II in accordance with Article II of the Convention and satisfying criteria A and B in Annex 2a of CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)

Inclusion of look-alikes endemic freshwater stingray species that are on the ornamental fish trade legally as *P. henlei* and illegally as *P. albimaculata*, *P. jabuti* from the black stingray group. The illegally exported species such as *P. marquesi* and *P. signata* of the brown stingray group such as *P. wallacei* in accordance with Criteria A of Annex 2b (Conf. 9.24, Rev. CoP17).

CoP19 Proposal 40

Inclusion of the six species of guitarfish (*Acroteriobatus variegatus*; *Pseudobatos horkelii*; *Rhinobatos albomaculatus*; *R. irvinei*; *R. rhinobatos* and *R. schlegelii*) in Appendix II in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2(a) of the Convention, and satisfying criteria A and B in Annex 2a of CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). In addition, to add another 37 species as “look-alikes” in the list.

CoP19 Proposal 42

Inclusion of all species in the genus *Thelenota*, which includes the three species *T. ananas*, *T. anax*, and *T. rubralineata* in Appendix II, in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a) of the Convention.

CoP19 Proposal 41²

Inclusion of *Hypancistrus zebra* in Appendix I in accordance with Article II, paragraph 1 of CITES Convention, and satisfying criterion in Annex 1 B (iii; iv) and Annex 1 C (i; ii) of CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

CoP19 Proposal 13³

Downlisting of *Crocodylus siamensis* (Siamese crocodile) (captive breeding population of Thailand) from Appendix I to Appendix II with zero quota export for wild specimens.

During the RTC, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries provided information on the proposed CEAS including abundance, utilization, and conservation measures applied by the respective species.

This document compiles the technical information as well as views and positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the proposed listing of CEAS into the CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP19. It is expected that the positions derived from the RTC and subsequently approved by the SEAFDEC Council and higher authorities of ASEAN would serve as basis for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to communicate with the authorities responsible for CITES of the respective countries and be reflected by the countries during the CITES-CoP19. It is envisaged that this would help safeguard the fisheries sector in region especially ensuring that the CEAS could be utilized in sustainable manner and would contribute to the people’s livelihood and food security of the region.

² The proposal was raised at the RTC.

³ The proposal was raised at the RTC; crocodiles are under the purview of fisheries authorities in Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam only.

II. Technical Information and Views and Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the Proposed Listing of CEAS into the CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP19

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
37	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approximately 39 species under the family Carcharhinidae are found in the region. The species are mostly bycatch from commercial or artisanal fisheries, and are fully utilized. - Nineteen (19) species of family Carcharhinidae have a range of distinctly different sizes, morphological appearances, productivity, fishery and trade profiles, thus, making evaluation as a group difficult. - The most traded species in the region are “look-alike.” Many species can be differentiable from one another, although some look very similar. In certain cases, it is difficult to quickly identify commodities to species level, but there are marked differences in the trade profiles of these species, and for traders the commodities can be differentiated. Identification to species level is more difficult in the case of meat, cartilage, skin, and oil products. <p>Views of FAO Expert Advisory Panel⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three (3) species (<i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>; <i>C. porosus</i>; and <i>Glyphis gangeticus</i>) meet the 	<p>Cambodia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some species can be found in Cambodian waters as bycatch from small-scale fisheries and traded in local markets. <p>Indonesia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carcharhinidae caught both as target and bycatch. Several species that are commonly traded such as: <i>P. glauca</i>, <i>C. limbatus</i>, <i>C. sorrah</i>, <i>C. tjutjot</i>. Listing may pose resistance from traders/communities and likely complex in the implementation and management given many species are look-alike. <p>Japan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed listing of the species in the Appendix II should not be supported because of many concerns, in particular, the inappropriate use of the “look alike” criteria. Given the listing of many species in block and the 		<p>Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Indonesia Japan Lao PDR Malaysia Myanmar Philippines Thailand Viet Nam</p>	<p>Singapore*</p>

⁴ At the 7th FAO Expert Advisory Panel for the Assessment of Proposals to Amend Appendices I and II of CITES Concerning Commercially-Exploited Aquatic Species (Expert Panel), held at FAO Headquarters from 18 to 22 July 2022.

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
	<p>CITES criteria; 12 species do not meet; and 4 species have insufficient information.</p> <p>Impacts of listing in Appendix II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two species, <i>i.e.</i> <i>C. longimanus</i> and <i>C. falciformis</i>, are already in Appendix II of CITES. It is anticipated that the listing of all remaining species under the family Carcharhinidae including look-alike species would create difficulty in the implementation and management, and would require a lot of resource investment, <i>e.g.</i> capacity building on species identification, inspection of specimens, development of non-detriment finding (NDF) documents, etc. 	<p>various concerns expressed by the ASEAN Member States (AMSs). The countries may further consider the appropriate approach to deal with such the listing in proposal.</p> <p>Malaysia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed listing of the species in the Appendix II should not cover the whole family Carcharhinidae. - Considering that there are several look-alike species to be included in the Appendix II, this listing creates difficulty in implementation and management. 			
38	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Sphyrna</i> spp. are caught as bycatch in countries of the Southeast Asian region from inshore and offshore areas and utilized for livelihood and food security. <p>View of FAO Expert Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed listing of <i>Sphyrna tiburo</i> meets the CITES criteria. <p>Impacts of listing in Appendix II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Although <i>S. tiburo</i> is not found in the Southeast Asian region, it is anticipated that inclusion of all species in the family as “look-alike” species 	<p>Brunei Darussalam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brunei Darussalam banned all types of trade on shark, which includes their body parts, as well as catching, and collection of sharks since 2014. <p>Indonesia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Of all hammerhead species found in Indonesia, only <i>Eusphyra blochii</i> that yet to be included in Appendix II and the species is for local use. <p>Japan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In general, sharks should be managed under the national laws 	<p>Indonesia Malaysia Myanmar Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Viet Nam</p>	<p>Lao PDR Thailand Philippines</p>	<p>Japan Singapore*</p>

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
	<p>would impact the export of other shark commodities from the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is anticipated that the listing of species into the Appendix II would result in not reporting and recording of catch and trade of the species creating difficulty and burden for authorities to collect scientific data to support management of the species. 	<p>and regulations of the respective countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficient evidence was not given to demonstrate that the international trade is the key driver of its stock decline. - It is still unclear whether the other species meet the "look alike" criteria. <p>Malaysia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hammerhead sharks are protected under the national laws. The implementation of shark conservation and management measures should be enhanced to become effective. <p>Myanmar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hammerhead Sharks are commonly found in inshore and offshore waters, caught by various fishing gears, and domestically traded. Catch of sharks should be legally recorded, while data collection and management of the species should be at the regional level. <p>Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Except for <i>Eusphyra blochii</i>, the Philippines is not a range state of the rest of species of hammerhead sharks proposed to be listed. FAO 			

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
		<p>Expert Advisory Panel finds the proposal inadequate to meet the criteria for listing Appendix II</p> <p>Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharks and rays are managed under the NPOA-Sharks with data collection program in place in the country. <p>Viet Nam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many species of sharks are protected in Viet Nam, which include three hammerhead shark species listed into Appendix II. 			
39	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No species of the family Potamotrygonidae occurs in the natural habitats of the Southeast Asian region. - Potamotrygons are cultured for ornamental purposes (mostly as hybrids) and traded by countries in the region, <i>e.g.</i> Thailand and Malaysia. Breeders that were generally domesticated and imported from other countries were not sourced from the wild. Countries trading (importing/exporting) the species are applying regulations for traders to obtain permit from fisheries authorities. - Trade of wild caught stingrays has been regulated in Brazil since 1998, including the export numbers of each species and numbers per species 	<p>Japan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In general, the stock of freshwater aquatic species should be managed by respective countries, and deemed necessary, the countries should consider listing under the Appendix III. <p>Malaysia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listing of the species would create difficulty for trading of hybrid specimens from aquaculture industry, while the development of NDF is complicated as there are no wild broodstock in Malaysia. <p>Philippines</p>		<p>Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Indonesia Japan Lao PDR Malaysia Myanmar Philippines Thailand Viet Nam</p>	<p>Singapore*</p>

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
	<p>plus maximum size that were in place since 2003. In addition, all the Potamotrygonins in this proposal have already been listed since January 2017 under Appendix III.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production of Potamotrygonins in aquaculture sector is a positive as it removes pressure on the wild stock. <p>View of FAO Expert Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed listing of <i>P. wallacei</i> meets CITES criteria; while listing of <i>P. leopoldi</i> does not meet CITES criteria. <p>Impacts of listing in Appendix II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is anticipated that the listing of the species into the Appendix II would pose hurdles in trade of aquaculture bred and reared stingrays, <i>e.g.</i> documentation requirement to certify facilities and sources of breeders, packaging requirements, export checks of live product in transit, which could impact the growth of the industry. In addition, the breeding facilities are developing market-favored hybrids species that are difficult to identify/record. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freshwater stingrays are not endemic to the Philippines and no record of captive breeding. Listing under CITES would affect non-range countries that engage in aquaculture or captive breeding of these species. Listing under Appendix III would be more appropriate. <p>Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed listing of the species in Appendix II could pose difficulties in trading in particular with the captive-bred hybrid species. <p>Viet Nam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aquaculture production of species provide an alternative livelihood opportunity for local communities. - Management of indigenous species should be under the management of the country where the species belong. 			
40	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 7 species of guitarfish (family Rhinobatidae) are commonly found in the Southeast Asian region. The small-sized guitarfish species are caught as bycatch mainly from inshore areas and utilized for people's livelihood and food security. 	<p>Indonesia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Species found in Indonesia are <i>R. jimbaranensis</i> and <i>R. penggali</i>. Both of them are considered as local commodities. <p>Japan</p>		<p>Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Indonesia Japan Lao PDR Malaysia</p>	<p>Singapore*</p>

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large-sized guitarfish species are already listed in the Appendix II. This proposal will add small-sized species that are primarily utilized as food as well as commodities that have lower export value. - Different species under the same family are difficult to identify/differentiate, especially by parts and in product forms and derivatives. - The international trade information on these species is limited. - <p>Views of FAO Expert Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed listing of the six species of guitarfish does not meet the CITES criteria. <p>Impacts of listing in Appendix II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is anticipated that the listing of species into Appendix II would result in not reporting and recording of catch and trade of the species creating difficulty and burden for authorities to collect scientific data to support management of the species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International trade is not the key driver of exploitation. <p>Myanmar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Myanmar has NPOA-Sharks in place, and listing of the species into Appendix II would make the collection of data on catch and trade on the species more difficult. <p>Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Philippines is not a range state of the 7 species of guitarfishes proposed for listing. The proposal does not meet the listing criteria as reviewed by FAO Expert Advisory Panel <p>Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thailand implements national laws to control the import and export of all species under the family Rhinobatidae, and some species are subject to conservation measures. 		<p>Myanmar Philippines Thailand Viet Nam</p>	
42	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Thelenota ananas</i> and <i>T. anax</i> are harvested by countries in the Southeast Asian region and traded both domestically and internationally; while <i>T. rubralineata</i> is rare in natural habitats and not considered a traded species. However, <i>Thelenota</i> spp. are considered as low-value 	<p>Indonesia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generally, does not support the inclusion of all three species into Appendix II. However, species with high utilization (e.g. <i>T. ananas</i>) may be considered to be listed into Appendix. 		<p>Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Indonesia Japan, Lao PDR Malaysia</p>	<p>Singapore*</p>

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
	<p>species compared to other market-preferred sea cucumber species, <i>e.g. Holothuria</i> spp.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification/differentiation of <i>Thelonota</i> species in live and dried form is relatively simple; however, countries, <i>e.g.</i> Malaysia is also producing sea cucumber oil (minyak gamat) from other sea cucumber species, which is harder to identify to species level. - As a result of the long debate, CITES Commission I in COP 16 agreed that sea cucumber should be managed by respective countries rather than CITES regulations. <p>Views of FAO Expert Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed listing of the three species in the genus <i>Thelonota</i> does not meet the CITES criteria. <p>Impacts of listing in Appendix II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is anticipated that the listing of species into Appendix II would create difficulties to trade concerning identification of species as raw materials for products <i>e.g.</i> sea cucumber oil, balm. 	<p>Malaysia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed listing of the three species does not meet the CITES criteria. <p>Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Philippines is a range state of these 3 species of sea cucumbers guitarfishes proposed for listing. The proposal does not meet the listing criteria as reviewed by FAO Expert Advisory Panel 		<p>Myanmar Philippines Viet Nam Thailand</p>	
41	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The habitat of this species is negatively affected by hydroelectric dam in Brazil. - Brazil has issued several national legal instruments including banning of collection, transportation and exportation of the species since 	<p>Cambodia, Malaysia, and Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The captive breeding production of this species by the countries in the region contributed to high-valued aquarium species. The listing of this species will threaten the trade 		<p>Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Indonesia Lao PDR Malaysia Myanmar</p>	<p>Singapore*</p>

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	<p>2005, and listed the species in Appendix III of CITES since 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The species produced from ornamental fish farms are being traded in some AMSs, e.g. in Malaysia and Thailand. Listing of the species in Appendix I would mean that trade in the species (including from captive breeding of ornamental fish farms) would also be prohibited that will result in the loss of sustainable production and livelihoods in the ornamental aquaculture sector. - Production of Zebra catfish in aquaculture sector is a positive as it removes pressure on the wild stock. <p>Views of FAO Expert Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed listing of Zebra catfish in CITES Appendix I does not meet the CITES criteria. <p>Impacts of listing in Appendix I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is anticipated that the listing of the species in Appendix I would make trading of the species produce from captive breeding no longer possible. 	<p>and ornamental fish industry of this species.</p> <p>Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Philippines is not a range state of zebra catfish. Cannot support the proposal as we share the view of FAO Expert Advisory Panel that does not meet the listing criteria for Appendix I. 		<p>Philippines Thailand Japan Viet Nam</p>	
<p>13 (Note: The species is under the purview of fisheries authority only)</p>	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thailand has national laws and regulations protecting the <i>Crocodylus siamensis</i> population as a protected species. There are six protected areas for wild populations in Thailand including national parks, protected areas, and non-hunting areas. 	<p>Cambodia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Downlisting of <i>C. siamensis</i> from Appendix I to Appendix II will enable the trade of farmed specimens and contribute to the livelihood of crocodile farmers in Cambodia. 	<p>Cambodia Myanmar Thailand Lao PDR</p>		<p>Viet Nam**</p>

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in Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All specimens of <i>C. siamensis</i> traded by Thailand are from registered captive breeding farms for commercial production. There is no illegal trade of the species in Thailand. - For other countries in the region, <i>e.g.</i> Cambodia and Viet Nam, crocodile farming also contributes to the livelihood of farmers. <p>Impacts of downlisting from Appendix I to Appendix II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is envisaged that the downlisting of <i>C. siamensis</i> would facilitate the trade of farmed specimens from Thailand and other countries in the region. The zerotrade quota from the wild would not create adverse impacts on the wild population of the species. 	<p>Viet Nam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Viet Nam has crocodile farms. The specimens are exported, and downlisting of <i>C. siamensis</i> will create favorable condition for trading of farmed crocodiles. 			

Remarks:

*Positions of Singapore was informed to SEAFDEC Secretariat through email communication on 27 September 2022.

**Position of Viet Nam on Siamese crocodiles are under the management of the Directorate of Forestry. Country's position would be communicated with the SEAFDEC Secretariat upon Consultation with concerned national authorities.

Concept Note
Proposal on Transfer of the Thai Population of Siamese crocodile
(*Crocodylus siamensis*) from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II
with a Zero Quota for Wild Specimens

1. Proposal

Transfer of the Thai population of Siamese crocodiles (*Crocodylus siamensis*) from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II with a zero quota for wild specimen, on the basis of Article II, paragraph 2 (a), of the text of the Convention and in accordance with the Precautionary measures as defined in Annex 4 (A.2.a) of the Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP 17).

2. Distribution and Population size

Siamese crocodiles are commonly found in Southeast Asia, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam. In Thailand, Siamese crocodiles inhabit in six protected areas that locate in National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary Areas which are: (i) Pang Sida National Park with the total area of 844 square kilometers (km²) and listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2005, (ii) Thung Saraeng Luang National Park with the total area 1,262 km², (iii) Kaeng Krachan National Park with the total area of 2,915 km², listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2021, (iv) Khao Ang Rue Nai Wildlife Sanctuary in Chachaengsao Province, (v) Bueng Boraphet Non-hunting area in Nakorn Sawan Province and (vi) Yod Dome Wildlife Sanctuary in Ubon Ratchatani Province.

Generally, those six protected areas provide suitable habitats, sufficient food supplies, and safe nesting ground including other supporting factors for attaining sustainability of viable wild crocodile population. Furthermore, there are collaborative conservation efforts taken to support the survival of wild population of Siamese crocodiles such as the smart patrol by wildlife rangers and the enhancement of awareness of villagers, communities and general public by engaging them in the wildlife conservation activities, for instances, recapture and return of juvenile crocodiles that are occasionally found during the wet season back to protected areas nearby. In addition, the number of wild Siamese crocodile population both within the protected areas and outside the protected areas can be estimated more than 100 individuals.

3. Legal Instruments

Previously, there were two sets of primary laws in Thailand protecting Siamese crocodile, namely: (i) Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act, B.E. 2535 (1992) and (ii) National Park Act, B.E. 2504 (1961). These Acts contained the provisions for species and habitat protection as well as the provisions for implementing CITES obligations. However, at present, those two primary laws have been amended as (1) Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act, B.E. 2562 (2019) and (2) National Park Act, B.E. 2562 (2019). Moreover, there is an additional primary law related to the conservation of crocodiles, namely the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries, B.E. 2558 (2015).

Those three primary laws have respective provisions protecting crocodile population by protecting species, protecting habitats and prohibiting activities on

illegal crocodile utilization. In particular, those laws protect crocodile species by (i) listing crocodiles on the Protected Species List, (ii) establishing National Park, Sanctuary areas or Non-hunting areas, and (iii) prohibiting or restricting illegal activities causing detrimental to the survival of crocodile species. In addition, such amended laws contain the penalty provisions and the provisions for implementing CITES obligations more comprehensively.

4. Crocodile Management in Thailand

Thailand has policies and practices of implementing crocodile management and conservation in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the CITES as In-situ conservation and Ex-situ conservation. Crocodile species that are found in the protected areas are considered as In-situ conservation, whereas crocodile species in private farms and Zoological Parks are considered as Ex-situ conservation. Those policies and practices are implemented to ensure the survival of crocodile species in Thailand for not becoming extinction. Moreover, the government agencies in collaboration with the private sector have been conducting the re-introduction program by releasing pure-bred Siamese crocodiles in several protected areas.

5. Utilization and Trade

During the past 30 years, from the date of entry into force of the Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act, B.E. 2535, in 1992 to the date of entry into force of its amendment in 2019, there was no illegal trade of crocodile species in Thailand. This is because Thailand has developed a crocodile management plan according to national laws and CITES obligations. All specimens and products derived from crocodile species in Thailand intended for commercial purposes must be obtained from registered crocodile farms only. At present, there are more than 200,000 individual Siamese crocodiles in private farms in Thailand. Also, the exportation of crocodiles and their products for international trade must be produced from crocodile farms that registered with the CITES secretariat for commercial purposes. Currently, there are 29 crocodile farms in Thailand registered with the CITES secretariat.

6. Wildlife Enforcement and Management Measures

Thailand works in close collaboration with range states with in the ASEAN region, particularly Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement (AWG-CITES and WEN) was also established in order to seek further cooperation and collaboration from ASEAN Member States in monitoring illegal wildlife trafficking, combating illegal wildlife trade, sharing relevant information and conducting law enforcement. Hence, the implementation of range states is complied with the respective national laws and requirements of the Convention in addition to appropriate enforcement controls and compliance with requirements of the Convention laid down in Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) Annex 4 (A.2.a) Precautionary Measures.

Closing Remarks

By SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, *Dr. Tomoko Nakazato*

Distinguished representatives from SEAFDEC Member Countries, resource persons, SEAFDEC officials, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good afternoon.

We have reached the end of the Consultation and it is indeed my pleasure to make a few closing remarks.

At the outset, let me firstly express my appreciation to the Chairperson, *Mr. Ouk Vibol* and our Secretary-General, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee* for your excellent leadership and facilitate the discussion.

I would like to sincerely thank to the country representatives and resource persons, Dr. Kim Friedman, Dr. Ahmad bin Ali, Mr. Lawrence Kissol, Assistant Prof. Sommai and Prof. Dr. Jun Akamine for bringing your expertise and valuable inputs and engaging in fruitful and constructive throughout these three-day Consultation.

With your support, we success to have the updated information of the proposed list of commercially exploited aquatic species or CEAS and come up with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Positions on the Proposed Listing of CEAS into the CITES Appendices for consideration at CoP19, which would further consideration by SEAFDEC Council and ASEAN mechanism. I believe that this forum is helpful for the all countries there prepare in participation in the CoP19 in November 2022.

Lastly, I would like to thank the secretariat staff, to make this Consultation a great success. I believe participants might have enjoyed your staying in Bangkok as well as me.

With this note, I would like to declare the Regional Technical Consultation close. I wish you have safe trip back home and keep stay safe until we see again.

Thank you and have a good day.