CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distr: GENERAL

UNEP/CMS/Recommendation 8.16

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

MIGRATORY SHARKS

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Eighth Meeting (Nairobi, 20-25 November 2005)

Acknowledging the obligations of the global community to conserve, protect and manage migratory sharks as underpinned by, *inter alia*, the Convention on Biological Diversity, CMS, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and the FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, and FAO's Committee on Fisheries;

Recognising that under CMS, Range States should take action to conserve, protect and manage migratory species, and endeavour to conclude Agreements to promote the conservation and management of migratory species;

Noting that several shark species are already listed in Appendices I and II;

Aware of the vital ecosystem role played by sharks, and the significant and continuing mortality of sharks listed on Appendix I and II through a range of impacts, including habitat destruction, target fisheries, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and as fisheries by-catch; and

Noting the importance of cooperation between Range States in furthering research, awareness raising, trade monitoring and by-catch reduction of migratory sharks, and that these activities could greatly strengthen conservation outcomes for migratory sharks;

The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

1. *Requests* all Parties to strengthen measures to protect migratory shark species against threatening processes, including habitat destruction, IUU fishing and fisheries by-catch;

2. *Encourages* the FAO Committee on Fisheries to promote greater uptake of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks as a matter of urgency;

3. *Calls* upon Range States of migratory sharks listed on Appendix I or II to develop a global migratory sharks conservation instrument, in accordance with Articles III and V of the Convention, noting that discussions on the development of the instrument could, *inter alia*:

(a) consider the potential value of developing subsidiary regional and/or species specific conservation management plans to the instrument;

(b) involve, to the greatest extent possible, governments, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and local communities;

(c) identify, as appropriate, effective mechanisms to mitigate threats such as by-catch, entanglement in marine debris, and IUU fishing;

(d) identify viable and practical alternatives to consumptive uses of migratory sharks while recognising the cultural and economic importance of these species for some communities; and

(e) develop mechanisms to facilitate developing country participation in the implementation of the future instrument; and

4. *Requests* the Secretariat to bring this recommendation to the attention of the FAO Committee on Fisheries, and CITES, and to explore future avenues of cooperation with these organisations as well as with Range States of migratory sharks that will lead to enhanced protection, conservation and management of these sharks.

S:_WorkingDocs\Species\Sharks\Mtg_Dec_2007_Seychelles\Res_Rec\CP8Rec_8_16_Migratory_Sharks_E.doc