



Our ref: SG/ID/2024/DONOS/01
Your ref: /

**Mr Miguel de Serpa Soares
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and
United Nations Legal Counsel
Headquarters of the United Nations
405 E 45th St
New York, NY 10017**

Geneva, 14 June 2024

Dear Mr de Serpa Soares,

I have the pleasure of writing to you in response to your letter, dated 19 March 2024, in which you solicited the contribution of the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea

First, let me thank you for your kind invitation to attend the meeting of UN Oceans, at the Principals' level,

**[document SC/77 Doc.47](#) on
at its 77th meeting that took place in November 2023**

It is clear that common objectives, a common vision, and complementarity between the new BBNJ Agreement, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and other regional bodies are essential for effective implementation of both CITES and the new Agreement.

I also invite your attention to the fact that all new shark listings adopted at CITES CoP19 in Panama in 2022 have now entered into force (the last ones on 25 November 2023) and, as a result, several hundreds of shark and ray species, among others, are now listed in CITES Appendices. Consequently, their trade is governed by CITES trade rules. More detailed information is provided below.

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Postal address
CITES Secretariat
Palais des Nations
Avenue de la Paix 814
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Decisions on

(Decisions 19237 & 19238); and

An update to the Resolution on

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collaboration between CIIES and the Agreement on BBNJ at the International Day for Biodiversity on 22 May 2024

With regards to enforcement activities supporting (), several activities have taken place, notably on the totoaba () and vaquita (). This includes a study on totoaba and vaquita as well as missions by the CIIES Secretariat to China, Mexico and the United States of America in March and June 2024 to examine activities being implemented by authorities at national and international levels to combat totoaba trafficking. Further, the CIIES Secretariat has also been working with its partners in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) to support the outcomes of the meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba, and at the time of writing is in discussions with partners to convene Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement (WIRE) and Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Management (RIACM) meetings to support Parties' efforts in this regard.

The CIIES Secretariat appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the report of the Secretary-General and agrees to the posting of the present letter on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

Any enquiries regarding the above can be directed to deleul@ciies.org with a copy to info@ciies.org. The CIIES Secretariat remains at your disposal as may be needed.

Yours sincerely,

**Ismael Higuero
CIIES Secretary General**

**Cc: Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs
Emails**
