



## REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSALS

CoP20 Prop.28 to CoP20 Prop.37 (inclusive) and CoP20 Prop.39

- **RECALLING** the Preamble of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) which states that “*wild fauna and flora in their many beautiful and varied forms are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the earth which must be protected for this and the generations to come*” (underlying, ours);
- **EMPHASIZING** the imperative to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations Development Goals SDG1 *No Poverty*, SDG2 *Zero Hunger* and SDG3 *Good Health and Well-being*, prerequisites to achieving long-lasting and efficient conservation objectives, including those pursued by SDG 14 *Life Below Water* and SDG 15 *Life on Land* ;
- **CONSCIOUS** of the obligation we all share to protect the integrity of CITES as a major international instrument promoting conservation of wild species for the benefit of both humans and wild species;
- **CONSIDERING** that the efficiency of CITES could be seriously jeopardized by the uncontrolled listing in the Appendices, of unqualified species, therefore reducing/eliminating the potential of true conservation initiatives;
- **CONCERNED** that “threats” mentioned to justify the aquatic species proposals, could offer the illusion that CITES is the Panacea for all environmental problems;
- **AWARE** that the lack of proper scientific justifications, could lead to conclusion that adherence to CITES Criteria and to its Legal Parameters, is no longer a listing requirement;
- **QUESTIONING** the lack of credible scientific information used to justify certain proposals;
- **CONCERNED** that the abuse of the “Precautionary Principle” and the “Look Alike Principle” could reduce even eliminate the effectiveness of these two fundamental concepts;
- **CONSCIOUS** of the ever increasing costs associated with the preparation, organisation and conduct of a CoP for the Host country, the Secretariat, the

Parties and other participants, and of the absolute necessity to manage those financial resources in the most efficient and timely manner;

- **REAFFIRMING** their unquestionable and irrefutable support for the Human Rights of the Aboriginal, Coastal and Rural communities (ARC), mainly with respect to their rights to Livelihoods and Food Security;
- **NOTING** with appreciation the outcome of the 8<sup>th</sup> FAO Expert Panel in fulfilling the difficult and complex task of evaluating 11 proposals on Aquatic Species submitted for consideration at CoP20;
- **RECALLING** the Initial Assessment of the Proposals by the CITES Secretariat, transmitted through Notification 2025/102 of 26/08/2025.

### **WE, the undersigned institutions and individuals**

Respectfully **REQUEST** Parties proponents of the following proposals

Prop. 28	Oceanic whitetip shark <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	II → I
Prop. 29	Flake, Tope, School sharks <i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>	→ II
Prop. 30	Manta rays <i>Mobulidae spp.</i>	II → I
Prop. 31	Whale shark <i>Rhincodon typus</i>	II → I
Prop. 32	Guitar fish <i>Glaucostegus spp.</i>	Annotation
Prop. 33	Wedgefishes <i>Rhinidae spp.</i>	Annotation
Prop. 34	Gulper sharks (14 species) <i>Centrophoridae spp.</i>	→ II
Prop. 35	Eels <i>Anguilla spp.</i>	→ II
Prop. 36	Sea cucumber <i>Holothuridae</i>	→ II
Prop. 37	Sea Cucumber <i>Holothuria lessoni</i>	II → I
Prop. 39	Abalone	Annotation

To withdraw these proposals from the Agenda of the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, with immediate effect; and

**URGE** the European Union, as proponent or co-proponent of several proposals, to exercise its leadership by indicating its immediate withdrawal of its own proposals (CoP20 Prop. 36 and CoP20 Prop. 37) and withdrawing its co-sponsorship from other proposals

### **Signatories from the World of Sustainable Use**

- AFRI WILD SERVICES
- African Legend Safaris
- Afrikan Skins & Horns wildlife traders
- Afrikan Tanning & Taxidermy
- All Japan Association for Sustainable Eel Aquaculture
- Association des chasseurs de phoques intra-Québec, Canada
- Bar Y Ranching Trust

- Benkoe Safaris
- Boshpoort Safaris PTY
- CG Botha Boerdery (Farm)
- China Fisheries Association Eel Industry Working Committee
- CVV ENVIRO
- De Duine Safaris
- DK Safaris PTY
- Ecolife Expeditions
- EMIAC Moz Lda (Freight forwarders)
- EMIAC Pty Ltd (Freight forwarders)
- Endofaun Zoo and Endangered Wildlife Breeding Centre
- EPIC HUNTING SAFARI
- Farmall Parrots
- Fur Institute of Canada
- Global Guardian Trust, Japan
- Hunters Heart Taxidermy
- Imperani
- International Fur Federation
- International Professional Hunters Association
- Ivory Education Institute, USA
- IWMC World Conservation Trust
- Japan Fisheries Association
- Juranso Gameranch
- Kalahari Lion Safaris
- LD Family Trust Farms
- Legend Trophies Taxidermy
- LIVIN Livelihoods International
- Mabalingwe Ludum Wild
- Mabalingwe Wild PTY
- Mabalingwe Game Reserve PTY
- Mabula Pro Safaris
- Multana Safaris Pty LTD
- National Hunting and Shooting Association NPC, South Africa
- Pamaenons PTY Gamefarm
- Parrot Breeders Association of South Africa (PASA)
- Private Rhino Owners' Association, South Africa (PROA)
- Raap en Skraap Boerdery/Farms
- Rance Rural Development (Pty), Ltd, International
- Rance Safaries, South Africa
- SCK Safaris
- She Safaris
- Shingelani Safaris
- Snakebite Assist
- South African Association of Reptile Keepers
- South African Predators Association (SAPA)
- South African Taxidermy & Tannery Association (SATTA)
- South African Wingshouters Association
- Sustainable Use Coalition Southern Africa (SUCO-SA)

- Tara Wildlife
- Thaba Mahaka Taxidermy
- Thandeka Safaris
- True Green Alliance, Southern Africa
- Tshwane Herpetological Association
- Wild Origins India
- Wildlife Ranching South Afrika (WRSA)
- Wildschutberg GR
- York Safaris
- ZI Safari Tiel Pty Ltd
- Zoological Live Animal Suppliers cc

**Individuals/ Academics**

- Adinda Boshoff
- Arno Naude
- Burger Geldenhuys
- Carlos Mazal
- John Nash
- Maria Auret
- Maryn Goldblatt
- Michael Burmeister
- Michael O'Brien
- Pieter Booyens
- Richard York
- Terrence Anderson

This document is open for signatures until 30 September 2025.