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MEDIA RELEASE

CITES makes Little Progress on Wildlife

Bangkok, 14 March 2013 International wildlife conservation is becoming so politicized that the effective management of species in the future is under threat, IWMC World Conservation Trust warned today as the COP 16 meeting of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) closed in Bangkok.

The meeting concluded by keeping in place listings for five shark species that were agreed in committee sessions by narrow margins earlier in the week. But CITES has not been able to decide how the listings would be implemented, choosing instead to delay them by eighteen months while they try to find a breakthrough.

The implementation of CITES listings for marine fish species is extremely complex. Previously agreed listings have not produced any successful results for conservation. CITES is still struggling to figure out how to implement trade protections for the humphead wrasse, which was listed in 2004.

Eugene Lapointe, President of IWMC World Conservation Trust, said: “CITES is establishing more and more regulations without agreeing how they should be implemented. But everyone knows that CITES cannot find a way to put the listings into effect without causing chaos in fisheries. Piling on more listings is pointless.

“Some countries seem to be supporting these listings to find favor with the large environmentalist lobby that pushes for more and more trade restrictions for wildlife. This is why there is a parade of declarations after high-profile votes. But politics and wildlife conservation don’t mix. Listings that can never be implemented achieve nothing for conservation.”

- Ends -

The International Wildlife Management Consortium (IWMC) World Conservation Trust is an international organization that promotes Sustainable Use as a conservation mechanism, for the protection of the sovereign rights of independent nations and for the respect of diverse cultures and traditions.

Eugene Lapointe, President of IWMC World Conservation Trust was Secretary General of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) from 1982 to 1990.

Working for you with over 70 years of experience in the CITES Secretariat

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