



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON
THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY
SHARKS**

CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Inf.6

23 December 2015

Original: English

Second Meeting of the Signatories
San José, Costa Rica, 15-19 February 2016

SURVEY ON COOPERATING PARTNERSHIPS

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Overview

1. Upon the request of the Intersessional Working Group (IWG), the Secretariat undertook a survey amongst non-governmental organizations and relevant intergovernmental organizations working on shark conservation and management. The aim of the survey was to evaluate the interest of the aforementioned organizations to associate themselves with the MOU as cooperating partners and the nature of their potential contribution to the MOU.
2. In October 2013, the questionnaire, presented as Annex 1, was sent to 17 non-governmental organizations and four inter-governmental organizations, which were agreed upon by the co-Chairs of the working group, out of which 9 replied and 7 returned a filled in questionnaire (Table 1). The reply letters are attached to this document as Annexes 2a-h.
3. The present analysis of this survey has been taken into consideration by the IWG when developing CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.11.1 on “Cooperating Partners”.

Table 1. Summary of contacted organizations and replies

Organization	Recipients	Reply received	Cooperating partnership intended
Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO)			
CITES	David MORGAN; Tom de Meulenaer; Haruko Okuso	yes	no ¹
FAO	Yimini Ye	no	
INTERPOL	David Higgings, Alistair Mc Donnell	yes	(cooperate without MOU)
UNEP-Regional Seas Conventions	Jacqueline Alder	no	
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)			
Defenders of Wildlife	Alejandra Goyenechea	no	
Deutsche Elasmobranchier Gesellschaft (DEG)	Heike Zidowitz	no	
Ecocean	Brad Norman	no	
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)	Peter Püschel, Ralf Sonntag	yes	yes
IUCN Sharks Specialist Group	Nick Dulvy, Colin Simpfendorfer, Sarah Fowler, Sonja Fordham	yes	potentially
Marine Megafauna Foundation	Andrea Marshall, Simon Pierce	no	
Marine Conservation Society (MCS)	Peter Richardson	yes	yes
Oceana	Monica Brick Peres	no	
Pew Charitable Trust	Imogen Zethoven, Luke Warwick, Maximiliano Bello	no ²	
Project Aware	Ania Budziak	yes	yes
Save Our Seas Foundation (SOSF)	Sarah Fowler, Thomas Peschak, Guy Stevens	no	
Shark Advocates	Sonja Fordham	no	
The Manta Trust	Isabel Ender, Daniel Fernando	yes	yes
TRAFFIC	Glenn Sant	no	
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	Amie Bräutigam	yes	yes
Wild Migration	Margy Prideaux	no	
WWF Global Shark Programme	Ian Campbell, Andy Cornish	yes	yes

1 The CITES Secretariat refers to the existing CMS CITES JOINT WORK PROGRAMME 2015-2020, which also covers activities related to the conservation of sharks and rays.

<http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/common/disc/sec/CITES-CMS-wp-en.pdf>

2 An informal cooperation exists between the Pew Charitable Trust and the CMS Secretariat.

4. In general, all organizations that have replied to the survey, show a great commitment towards the conservation of migratory sharks and rays and have developed many activities in line with this objective.

Current activities to conserve sharks and rays

5. Several organizations undertake research efforts and collect data to inform conservation. These projects include citizen science surveys on migratory shark species such as the basking shark (Marine Conservation Society), as well as photo ID, satellite and acoustic tagging programmes of manta ray populations (The Manta Trust), among others. The IUCN Shark SSG carries out continual assessments of the IUCN Red List Status of species via data collection, research and monitoring activities. At the same time, the impact of policy developments is evaluated and key knowledge gaps and research needs are identified. Research efforts, monitoring and data collection of activities of shark and ray landings, shark and ray ecology and biology, are part of several initiatives.

6. Some organizations' work consists of identifying and establishing protected areas, either through lobby work (for the UK's first MPA for basking sharks in Scottish waters; MCS) to build up a network of marine protected areas that protect critical habitats (WCS) or by providing science-based advice for conservation strategies (IUCN Shark SSG).

7. A major focus of most organizations is sustainable fishing, illegal fishing activities (e.g. illegal shark finning), by-catch mortality and fisheries management (WWF, WCS, MCS, INTERPOL, IFAW, The Manta Trust, Project Aware, IUCN Shark SSG). For example in Indonesia, WCS has developed a protocol to monitor landings of sharks and rays following Indonesia's NPOA. The Manta Trust works on documenting and understanding the extent of mobulid fisheries in critical regions worldwide.

8. Many organizations are also involved in the global and regional policy relevant for shark conservation, i.e. participation in relevant meetings, listing proposals of shark and ray species (WCS, IFAW, IUCN Shark SSG, The Manta Trust) and law enforcement (INTERPOL).

9. Some organizations also work on education and awareness raising, for example through regular communications, growing social media networks, campaigns, working with local governments and involving local people into their activities.

Current and planned contribution to the implementation of the MOU's objectives

Overall, the work that all surveyed organizations are currently undertaking or are planning to undertake greatly contributes to meeting the MOU's main objectives through different approaches. The improvement of the understanding of migratory shark populations through long-term research, monitoring and information exchange is reached by activities such as the

provision of ecological data of shark species (e.g. basking shark) and data collection of some populations of migratory sharks (e.g. mobulid rays). Efforts are being made to monitor fishing activities (e.g. shark and ray landings and by-catch) and to enhance sustainability of fisheries. Some organizations are working to protect critical habitats, identifying hotspots, and aggregation sites and helping to establish marine protected areas for critical habitats. At the same time, many organizations use social media channels and other outreach tools, as well as workshops and regular communications to raise awareness of the conservation issues and to promote their work. National, regional and international cooperation is enhanced for example developing global conservation strategies for certain species and creating worldwide networks of collaborators. Species, habitats and threats are being identified and prioritized with a view to developing conservation measures and enforcement actions are being supported.

Potential support for Signatories, Range States and the Secretariat

10. Sharks MOU Signatories could be supported with:
 - Assistance in developing national policies to ensure compliance with the MOU (WWF)
 - Enhancing shark and ray management efforts (WCS)
 - Providing technical expertise (WWF)
 - Providing vital ecological and spatial information such as information on hotspots (MCS)
 - Implementing activities listed under the MOU objectives through an established network of collaborators (The Manta Trust)
 - Awareness raising campaigns for different audiences and community engagement (IFAW / Project Aware)
 - Informative workshops (IFAW)
 - Meeting costs

11. Sharks MOU Range States could be supported with:
 - Developing policies that are consistent with the Sharks MOU (WWF)
 - Enhancing shark and ray management efforts (WCS)
 - Establishing research collaborations (MCS)
 - Providing expertise that will be useful supporting an informing any work conducted under the MOU objectives (The Manta Trust)

12. The CMS Secretariat could be supported with:
 - Help with expanding shark and ray management efforts (WCS)
 - Ecological data on sharks and rays such as maps on range distributions (MCS)
 - Assistance in developing compliance mechanisms (WWF)
 - Encouraging Range States to join the MOU (WWF)
 - Providing baseline data, advice and technical analysis that underline CMS proposals (IUCN Shark SSG, The Manta Trust)
 - Providing help for conducting workshops on manta and mobula conservation,

- Establishing necessary contacts with experts
- Providing training material for identification trainings that may be organized by the Secretariat
- Connecting the Sharks MOU objectives and commitments across a spectrum of activities (Project Aware)

Most of the organizations are already engaged with activities that help to support the Sharks MOU Signatories, Range States and the Secretariat in many ways, for example working with governments to provide them with information on how to become CMS contracting parties, enhancing shark and ray management efforts and impacts and providing technical assistance and information for CMS proposals. In particular IFAW has done extensive work that contributes to meeting the MOU's objectives and has actively encouraged and assessed relevant governments to join the CMS Sharks MOU³.

³ <http://www.cms.int/sharks/es/news/shark-conservation-spotlight-%E2%80%93-nine-countries-sign-cms-sharks-mou-dubai>

Survey on the potential relevance for conservation IGOs and NGOs as Cooperating Partners to the CMS Sharks MOU

1. Basic Information:

Name of your organization:

Contact details:

Location of Offices:

2. In what way does your organization contribute to shark conservation?

(Please indicate below and provide further information if appropriate)

- Research
- Identification and establishment of protected areas
- Monitoring
- Data collection
- Education/awareness raising
- Species conservation
- Fisheries management/regulation
- Habitat conservation
- Other

3. How does your organization's current (or planned) activities contribute to meeting the MOU's objectives?

Please find the MOU text and the Conservation Plan here:

<http://sharksmou.org/general-documents>

4. Are you interested in becoming a Cooperating Partner to the MOU?

5. Providing as much detail as possible, how could your organization help to support:

- the Sharks MOU Signatories?
- the Sharks MOU Range States?
- the CMS Secretariat?

6. Are you already engaged with any of the activities mentioned in 5?

Annex 2a

Survey on the potential relevance for IGOs as Cooperating Partners to the CMS Sharks MOU

1. Basic Information:

Name of your organization: INTERPOL

Contact details: environmentalcrime@interpol.int

Location of Offices: France, Argentina, Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, El Salvador

2. In what way does your organization contribute to shark conservation?

(Please indicate below and provide further information if appropriate)

- Research X
- Identification and establishment of protected areas
- Monitoring
- Data collection
- Education/awareness raising
- Species conservation
- Fisheries management/regulation X
- Habitat conservation
- Other: X
Assistance on the exchange of criminal intelligence and information among Member countries to INTERPOL.

3. How does your organization's current (or planned) activities contribute to meeting the MOU's objectives? Issue of INTERPOL Notices addressing issues such as, e.g. illegal practice of shark fining, spread of information on modus operandi used by illegal fishing operations.

Note: Project SCALE supports international collaboration on law enforcement for all marine species, including sharks. INTERPOL's role is to support enforcement actions, and emphasizes the importance of creating enforceable law.

Please find the MOU text and the Conservation Plan here:

<http://sharksmou.org/general-documents>

4. Are you interested in becoming a Cooperating Partner to the MOU?

INTERPOL will cooperate with relevant agencies and partners, without the need for any formal MOU or status as a "Cooperating Partner".

INTERPOL is a strictly law enforcement agency, and may not be appropriate for becoming a partner. We are not an advocacy or implementing organization for conservation MOUs. We understand the rationale for conservation laws and will support their enforcement with our tools and services

5. Providing as much detail as possible, how could your organization help to support:

- the Sharks MOU Signatories?
- the Sharks MOU Range States?
- the CMS Secretariat?

6. Are you already engaged with any of the activities mentioned in 5?

Survey on the potential relevance for conservation NGOs as Cooperating Partners to the CMS Sharks MOU

1. Basic Information:

Name of your organization: IFAW International Fund for Animal Welfare

Contact details: Dr. Ralf Sonntag, rsonntag@ifaw.org

Peter Pueschel, ppueschel@ifaw.org (IFAW's CMS Focal Point)

Location of Offices: 15 offices around the world

2. In what way does your organization contribute to shark conservation?

(Please indicate below and provide further information if appropriate)

- Research
- Identification and establishment of protected areas
- Monitoring
- Data collection
- Education/awareness raising
- Species conservation
- Fisheries management/regulation
- Habitat conservation
- Other: Illicit trade Enforcement

3. How does your organization's current (or planned) activities contribute to meeting the MOU's objectives?

- A. Encouraging and assisting relevant governments to join the Shark MOU.
- B. With our expertise IFAW strengthens the MOU negotiations and agreements.
- C. We were holding several regional capacity building workshops in order to help improving shark conservation, especially in the Middle East, this included both education and awareness raising but also training in international fishery management and particularly implementation and enforcement of new legislation to accommodate the recent CITES listings on sharks.
- D. We also work with countries on potential new listings of threatened shark species in CMS and CITES.
- E. We participate at MOU meetings and work in developing its Conservation Plan

4. Are you interested in becoming a Cooperating Partner to the MOU?

Yes

5. Providing as much detail as possible, how could your organization help to support:

IFAW reconfirms its commitment reflected under 4.

- the Sharks MOU Signatories? We work with them on awareness raising concerning the situation of sharks, we have done workshops (see 4). Actively participating at the MOU meetings.
- the Sharks MOU Range States? IFAW is generally committed to promote CMS membership amongst relevant countries and have done so for the Shark MOU especially, reflected in nine Arab countries signing the Shark MoU in March at the regional capacity building workshop.
- the CMS Secretariat? Helping and assisting through our expert advice and support to improve cooperation with countries governments, and where feasible to increase the number of signatories

6. Are you already engaged with any of the activities mentioned in 5?

Yes, in all of them

Survey on the potential relevance for conservation NGOs as Cooperating Partners to the CMS Sharks MOU

1. Basic Information:

Name of your organization: International union for the Conservation of Nature's Shark Specialist group

Contact details: The two co-chairs are Professors Nicholas K. Dulvy & Colin A. Simpfendorfer and their addresses are

NKD – Earth to Ocean research Group,
Department of Biological Sciences,
Simon Fraser University,
8888 University Drive,
Burnaby,
British Columbia,
V5A 1S6, CANADA and

CAS - Centre for Sustainable Tropical Fisheries and Aquaculture
School of Earth and Environmental Sciences
James Cook University
Townsville, Qld 4811
Australia

Location of Offices:

IUCN Shark Specialist Group, Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, British Columbia, V5A 1S6, CANADA

2. In what way does your organization contribute to shark conservation?

(Please indicate below and provide further information if appropriate)

The IUCN SSG is a group of 128 experts from 35 countries distributed among 12 regional groups (roughly reflecting FAO fishing areas) in the fields of shark biology, conservation, management, fisheries and taxonomy, connected by their joint goal to promote the sustainable use, wise management, and conservation of all sharks, rays and chimaeras.

Our vision is for a world where sharks, rays, skates, and chimaeras are valued and managed for *sustainability*.

Our mission is to secure the conservation, management and, where necessary, the recovery of the world's sharks, rays and chimaeras by mobilizing global technical and scientific expertise to provide the knowledge that enables action.

Our Guiding Principle is are that the IUCN Shark Specialist Group (SSG) has long been a trusted source of science-based information and advice on sharks and their relatives. This solid reputation has been built on widespread interest in the IUCN Red List as a means of identifying and prioritizing species at risk, monitoring threats, and evaluating conservation

action. Our work continues to centre on finding expert consensus as to the global status of species, and is guided by the following principles:

- (1) Sharks, rays and chimaeras have ecological, economic, and cultural value;
- (2) Policies regarding these species should be founded on sound science;
- (3) Fishing and other forms of exploitation should be managed for sustainability;
- (4) Minimizing waste is important, particularly given declining food security;
- (5) Communicating the outcomes of SSG initiatives to policy-makers, non-governmental organizations, and the public can lead to improvements in the population status of sharks, rays and chimaeras.

To achieve its mission, the SSG carries out the following *core activities* with respect to sharks, rays, and chimaeras:

1. Continual assessment and reassessment of their IUCN Red List status;
2. Development of prioritized, science-based advice for conservation strategies and policies;
3. Regular communication of findings to a broad range of audiences;
4. Evaluation of the impact of policy developments; and,
5. Identification and prioritization of key knowledge gaps and research needs.

Hence with respect to the CMS questionnaire, our core activities can be classified as follows

1. Continual assessment and reassessment of their IUCN Red List status of SPECIES (**Data collection, Research and Monitoring**);
 2. Development of prioritized, science-based advice for conservation strategies and policies (**Species conservation, Fisheries management/regulation, and Habitat conservation**);
 3. Regular communication of findings to a broad range of audiences (**Education/awareness raising**);
 4. Evaluation of the impact of policy developments (**Monitoring**); and,
 5. Identification and prioritization of key knowledge gaps and research needs (**Research**).
3. How does your organization's current (or planned) activities contribute to meeting the MOU's objectives?

Please find the MOU text and the Conservation Plan here:

<http://sharksmou.org/general-documents>

Hence with respect to the CMS Conservation Plan, our core activities map to the following objectives:

- Continual assessment and reassessment of their IUCN Red List status of SPECIES (**CMS Objective A 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 [Through the development of a Red List Index for Chondrichthyans], 1.6, 1.7; Objective E 14.6**);
- Development of prioritized, science-based advice for conservation strategies and policies (**Objective B 3.1, B 4.1, 4.5, 4.7; C 10.1; E 14.1**);

- Regular communication of findings to a broad range of audiences (**CMS Objective A 2.4, 2.5, Objective D 12.1, 12.2**);
- Evaluation of the impact of policy developments (**CMS Objective A 1.7**); and,
- Identification and prioritization of key knowledge gaps and research needs (**CMS Objective A 1.1**).

4. Are you interested in becoming a Cooperating Partner to the MOU?

Potentially, but we are not sure what it entails.

5. Providing as much detail as possible, how could your organization help to support:

- the Sharks MOU Signatories?
- the Sharks MOU Range States?
- the CMS Secretariat?

That is a great question! We have provided much of the baseline data and technical analyses that underlie the CMS proposals we are unsure of what additional roles we might play.

Are you already engaged with any of the activities mentioned in 5?

Survey on the potential relevance for conservation NGOs as Cooperating Partners to the CMS Sharks MOU

1. Basic Information:

Name of your organization: Marine Conservation Society
Contact details: jls@mcsuk.org; +44(0)1989 566 017
Location of Offices:

2. In what way does your organization contribute to shark conservation? (Please indicate below and provide further information if appropriate)

- Research

We undertake citizen science surveys of basking shark occurrence in UK waters on an annual basis. We report our findings online.

- Identification and establishment of protected areas

We are lobbying for the UK's first MPA for basking sharks in Scottish waters at present (in part using our data from our citizen science projects).

- Monitoring

The first area (research) can also be considered as monitoring.

- Data collection

We carry out data collection using an online tool for the public to report their sightings.

- Education/awareness raising

We raise awareness about the basking shark through press releases based on annual reports on the sharks.

- Species conservation

We were involved in the listing of the shark on the Bonn Convention, and are involved in a species action plan for the shark in UK waters. We've been active in this regard since 2004.

- Fisheries management/regulation

We were involved in fisheries management of the species through listing on CFP (EU) regulations to ban all landings and take (targeted or as bycatch) for the species as a result of the Bonn Convention listing in 2005.

- Habitat conservation

We advocate MPAs or area based protection measures where the data stands up to scrutiny over true hotspot locations of the shark. In terms of maintenance of favourable habitat

conditions WRT food supply, there are oceanic changes in temperature and chemistry that are probably having a deleterious effect on Calanoid copepods. As such, because the species has such a huge range, it is difficult to future-proof particular habitat conservation issues for the species, particularly on an area-based basis. However, the hotspots appear to be partly related to both food, and breeding locations, and should be considered as ‘locked in’ as important habitat areas for the species.

- Other

3. How does your organization’s current (or planned) activities contribute to meeting the MOU’s objectives?

Please find the MOU text and the Conservation Plan here:

<http://sharksmou.org/general-documents>

By provision of significant UK data of the basking shark distribution.

By provision of data to UK government / consultants / industry on case by case basis.

We don’t however undertake trans-boundary collaboration with other non-UK member states that share populations of the shark (e.g. Portugal, France, Ireland, Spain, Norway).

4. Are you interested in becoming a Cooperating Partner to the MOU?

Yes

5. Providing as much detail as possible, how could your organization help to support:

- the Sharks MOU Signatories?

By provision of hotspot information of shark distribution in UK seas.

- the Sharks MOU Range States?

Very little information is given by us on the range states of the sharks, but we collaborate with partners who satellite track the sharks, and can work at an EU – level to divulge this information via the CMS. for example, we partner with the University of Exeter, Cornwall campus, and are planning on tracking sharks tagged in Cornish waters in 2015. Similar work by Dr Witt has already been successful at recording basking shark movement in [Scottish waters](#) in collaboration with Scottish Natural Heritage.

- the CMS Secretariat?

By helping provide similar data and maps on the range distributions of sharks tagged in UK waters proving the importance of protection measures in range states such as Portugal and Spain.

6. Are you already engaged with any of the activities mentioned in 5?

No.

Survey on the potential relevance for conservation NGOs as Cooperating Partners to the CMS Sharks MOU

1. Basic Information:

Name of your organization: The Manta Trust | www.mantatrust.org

Contact details: isabel@mantatrust.org | guy@mantatrust.org

Location of Offices: UK registered charity (1145387) with projects in 16 different countries

2. In what way does your organization contribute to shark conservation?

(Please indicate below and provide further information if appropriate)

- Research – Yes
- Identification and establishment of protected areas – Yes
- Monitoring – Yes
- Data collection – Yes
- Education/awareness raising – Yes
- Species conservation – Yes
- Fisheries management/regulation - Yes
- Habitat conservation - Yes
- Other

3. How does your organization's current (or planned) activities contribute to meeting the MOU's objectives? *Please find the MOU text and the Conservation Plan here:*

<http://sharksmou.org/general-documents>

NOTE: It is understood that the term „Shark“ refers to all sharks, rays and chimaeras listed under CMS, and therefore will include manta and mobula rays if the proposals are approved.

Objective A: Improving understanding of migratory shark populations through research, monitoring and information exchange

In our global network of 16 projects we collaborate closely and regularly exchange information and data related to research and conservation activities conducted across the regions. Several of our projects perform satellite and acoustic tagging, and have generated extensive photo ID databases of manta ray populations to improve our understanding of the movement patterns and migrations of these species, ranging from the Indian Ocean to the Indo-Pacific. In the Maldives, our database includes over 3,000 individuals making it the largest in the world. We are currently working on developing an automatic online software to identify individuals and generate a global database that enables citizen science and public involvement, which can also be accessed by scientists and conservationist for research. Through working closely with WildAid, IUCN and other NGOs we also enhance public awareness for these species and promote information exchange by actively participating in scientific conferences and festivals.

Objective B: Ensuring that directed and non-directed fisheries for shark are sustainable

The sustainability of fishing manta and devil rays is questionable, however we work to document and understand the extent and nature of mobulid fisheries in critical regions around the world. In Sri Lanka and India, recognized as two of the biggest mobulid fishing nations globally, we have collected detailed records of catches over years and this data has been crucial in achieving the new CITES protection for manta rays. We also support any measures in reducing by-catch mortality of these species such as by improving awareness for the new live release guidance for mobulids generated by ICCAT and by providing materials to train government and fisheries officials in species identification under the new CITES legislation. Finally, we work directly with local communities that conduct targeted fisheries for manta rays to develop alternative, sustainable livelihoods for the fishermen.

Objective C: Ensuring to the extent practicable the protection of critical habitats and migratory corridors and critical life stages of sharks

We work together with governments and NGOs to implement national and local protection for manta and devil rays where possible. In Indonesia, the data and work by our local project leader was crucial for developing a justification document that contributed to the government announcing national protection for these species in January 2014. The results generated from over a decade of research in the Maldives also played an important part for the decision of the government in June 2014 to include all rays on the protected species list, and we are currently in discussion with our partners for developing marine protected areas for manta rays in other locations.

Objective D: Increasing public awareness of threats to sharks and their habitats, and enhance public participation in conservation activities

We have an extensive and growing social media network, used to actively promote campaigns and generate public support for conservation activities related to manta and mobula rays. We also collaborate with several NGOs, such as IUCN, PEW and WildAid for raising awareness, for instance we organised a thunderclap campaign for the 14th September CITES implementation date (#Yay4SharksNRays), which achieved a social reach of 4 million people. Within their region, each of our projects also raises awareness for the need to protect mobulids and threats to these species by conducting educational talks at schools and local communities.

Objective E: Enhancing national, regional and international cooperation

In June 2014 the IUCN Shark Specialist Group, the Manta Trust and other mobulid experts convened to develop a global conservation strategy for devil and manta rays in Durban, South Africa. The aim of this strategy is to define the crucial future research needed for these species and to streamline activities for their conservation on a global scale. Through our network of 16 projects across the world we strongly support the implementation of this strategy and promote regional cooperations and collaborations across range states. We also provide support with the implementation of the new CITES legislation for manta rays, which includes contributing to workshops and training of government officials across several nations and regions.

4. Are you interested in becoming a Cooperating Partner to the MOU?

- Yes

5. Providing as much detail as possible, how could your organization help to support:

- *the Sharks MOU Signatories:*

The Manta Trust has projects in 16 countries across the globe where we directly work together and have established relationships with the local community, scientific institutions and government. Throughout this network we focus on collaborating and streamlining activities that are crucial for advancing the research and conservation of these species, and can therefore assist in implementing activities listed under the MoU objectives.

- *the Sharks MOU Range States:*

Our network includes projects in several critical range states for manta and devil rays, such as India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia who are recognized as the largest mobulid fishing nations. Our local team has gathered extensive knowledge and data that will be useful for supporting and informing any work conducted under the MoU objectives.

- *the CMS Secretariat:*

The Manta Trust is generally able to provide advice and help for conducting workshops on manta and mobula conservation, and can establish the necessary contacts if expert knowledge related to any mobulid issue is required. We have developed training materials for mobulid gill plate identification, an Indo-Pacific mobulid guide and are currently working on a Global Mobulid ID project, which includes the generation of a field guide, which might be useful for any trainings conducted by the Secretariat.

6. Are you already engaged with any of the activities mentioned in 5?

Yes, see question 3.

Survey on the potential relevance for conservation NGOs as Cooperating Partners to the CMS Sharks MOU

1. Basic Information:

Name of your organization: Wildlife Conservation Society

Contact details: Amie Bräutigam, Marine Policy Advisor and Sharks and Rays Coordinator

abrautigam@wcs.org

Location of Offices: 2300 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10460 USA (Headquarters)

WCS is an international non-governmental organization headquartered at the Bronx Zoo in New York, USA. WCS saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature. In addition to the Bronx Zoo, WCS owns and operates the New York Aquarium and operates the Central Park, Prospect Park, and Queens Zoos in the New York Metropolitan area. Through our Global Conservation Program, WCS implements over 500 conservation projects in more than 65 countries around the world. Our current marine programs are in: Argentina, Belize, Fiji, Gabon, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, and the USA, with additional marine projects in other countries. We have additional offices in many countries around the world, in Africa (Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia); East and Central Asia (Afghanistan, China, Mongolia, Russia); South and Southeast Asia (Cambodia, India, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam); Latin America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru); North America (USA, Canada); and Europe (UK, Brussels). WCS's New York Aquarium, on Coney Island in Brooklyn, New York, is undergoing a major transformation, including a new building, Ocean Wonders: Sharks! This new exhibit will house more than 115 species of marine wildlife, including sharks, skates, and rays, and incorporate an array of associated exhibits and activities to educate visitors on the threats to sharks and rays and inspire and engage them to act on their behalf

2. In what way does your organization contribute to shark conservation?

(Please indicate below and provide further information if appropriate)

- Research
- Identification and establishment of protected areas
- Monitoring
- Data collection
- Education/awareness raising
- Species conservation
- Fisheries management/regulation
- Habitat conservation
- Other :
- Seascape and Species Conservation Planning
- Protected Area Management
- Stakeholder Engagement and Empowerment

- Capacity Building and Training
- Policy Development and Implementation
- Constituency Building and Education
- Support to Law Enforcement

The following examples illustrate the range of activities conducted by WCS on behalf of sharks and rays around the world:

Indonesia

WCS works with partners in Indonesia to strengthen marine and coastal protected area management, marine species conservation, and fisheries management and enforcement. Much of our work in Indonesia focuses on four key seascapes—Karimunjawa, Aceh, North Sulawesi and Nusa Tenggara Barat but we are increasingly working at the national level

WCS has developed a protocol to monitor landings of sharks and rays and is implementing this protocol in support of implementation of Indonesia's National Plan of Action (NPOA) for sharks and rays. WCS developed the first pilot site for the implementation of the NPOA in Aceh, Sumatra, where we have conducted a range of activities, including refining monitoring methodologies and improving shark fisheries data collection; conducting shark and ray research; improving management measures; increasing awareness on shark and ray conservation issues; and training and institutional strengthening. In Nusa Tenggara Barat WCS is working with local governments, the fishing industry, and communities to build and strengthen a network of marine protected areas that protects critical habitats and enables sustainable use of reef and pelagic marine species, including sharks and rays, and, in Lombok, is working with a local NGO to monitor shark and ray landings.

These two programs enable Aceh and Nusa Tenggara Barat Provinces to fulfill requirements related to monitoring, research and gathering information on elasmobranchs, which is a key action identified in the NPOA for Sharks and Rays.

Following the CITES shark and ray decisions in March 2013, WCS collaborated with other NGOs in Indonesia to assist the Indonesian government to review national legislation relating to the CITES-listed sharks and rays, a process which culminated in Indonesia's conferring complete protection to manta rays from fisheries and trade throughout Indonesian territory. WCS monitored manta catches, product prices, and fishing behaviour at key landing sites in Indonesia prior to this law's coming into force, and these data will be used to determine the effect that enforcement of manta protections is having on catch, prices, trade and fishing activities. We have also helped fishers to identify a range of preferred alternative livelihood options to which they could transition as manta fishing becomes unprofitable.

Building upon a successful approach originally developed for terrestrial species, WCS is assisting Indonesian government enforcement agencies in their identification and arrest of traders in manta and other protected marine species products, and providing legal support to ensure that these cases are pursued and adjudicated fairly. Effective prosecution of these cases through application of the law and judicial processes would help to incentivize compliance with manta, sawfish, and other marine species legal protections and, in so doing, reduce exploitation pressures on these species.

Gabon/Congo Basin Coast

WCS has been involved in marine protected area management in Gabon for over fifteen years and, in recent years, has been an integral part of the Gabon national marine conservation initiative, Gabon Bleu. We collaborate with government on a national scale on many issues, including: monitoring and data collection; management planning and permit review for artisanal fisheries; monitoring, surveillance and observer training for industrial fisheries; monitoring and outreach for marine mammals and sea turtles; and strategic planning and surveillance of pollution and illegal fishing.

WCS has also been working closely with the Government of Gabon for a number of years to improve fisheries management and conserve marine biodiversity, including sharks and rays. WCS has been leading a study monitoring elasmobranch fisheries in Mayumba National Park in southern Gabon, which we are expanding to national scale. WCS is also working with government to develop a national shark and ray conservation strategy to prioritize threats and interventions on behalf of these species.

WCS and partners are pursuing a multi-pronged approach to sharks and ray conservation that incorporates research on shark and ray catches and trade, through monitoring of landing sites and assessments of fishing effort, research on shark and ray ecology (e.g., habitat, reproduction season, length-weight, maturity) through tagging and other studies, and development and implementation, through Gabon Bleu, of management plans that reduce catches and other impacts on sharks and rays.

Global/Regional

WCS also participates in global and regional policy for a of relevance to sharks and rays. As a member of the CITES7 Coalition, we worked with other NGOs and governments to secure the shark and ray listings at CITES in 2013, and we are currently collaborating with the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention to advance shark and ray conservation in the Western Indian Ocean.

Finally, WCS is working with several NGO and donor partners to develop a global initiative for shark and ray conservation incorporating a global conservation strategy, a partnership strategy, operational framework, and other infrastructure supporting a ten-year program to reverse the decline of sharks and rays.

3. How does your organization's current (or planned) activities contribute to meeting the MOU's objectives?

Please find the MOU text and the Conservation Plan here:

<http://sharksmou.org/general-documents>

[As may be discerned from the above, WCS's myriad activities at different scales address all five objectives of the Conservation Plan.](#)

Are you interested in becoming a Cooperating Partner to the MOU?

Yes

4. Providing as much detail as possible, how could your organization help to support:

- the Sharks MOU Signatories?
- the Sharks MOU Range States?
- the CMS Secretariat?

WCS's existing activities are assisting both MOU Signatories and Range States to enhance their shark and ray management efforts and impact. Given WCS's presence in many shark and ray Range States, there is huge scope for expanding these efforts, resources permitting, in conjunction with both governments and the CMS Secretariat. WCS envisages that the global sharks and rays conservation strategy, currently under development with several NGO and donor partners, will help to guide both WCS and others' interventions for the greatest conservation impact while also generating greater political and financial support for these species' conservation and responsible management

5. Are you already engaged with any of the activities mentioned in 5?

Yes

Survey on the potential relevance for conservation NGOs as Cooperating Partners to the CMS Sharks MOU

1. Basic Information:

Name of your organization: World Wide Fund for Nature

Contact details: Ian Campbell – icampbell@wwf.panda.org

Location of Offices: Global

2. In what way does your organization contribute to shark conservation?

(Please indicate below and provide further information if appropriate)

- ~~Research~~
- Identification and establishment of protected areas
- ~~Monitoring~~
- Data collection
- Education/awareness raising
- Species conservation
- Fisheries management/regulation
- Habitat conservation
- Other

3. How does your organization's current (or planned) activities contribute to meeting the MOU's objectives?

Please find the MOU text and the Conservation Plan here:

<http://sharksmou.org/general-documents>

4. Are you interested in becoming a Cooperating Partner to the MOU?

Yes

5. Providing as much detail as possible, how could your organization help to support:

- the Sharks MOU Signatories? WWF would be able to assist signatories in developing national policies to ensure compliance with the MoU. WWF would also be able to provide technical expertise for MoU signatories
- the Sharks MOU Range States? WWF would be able to assist range states in developing policies that are consistent with the Sharks MoU.
- the CMS Secretariat? WWF would be willing to assist the CMS secretariat in developing compliance mechanisms and also working with range states to encourage sign-up to the MoU

6. Are you already engaged with any of the activities mentioned in 5?

Yes – We are currently working with governments to provide them with information on how to become CMS contracting parties and also to encourage them.

Letter from 22 September 2012 regarding Project AWARE Foundation and the CMS MoU on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks

Dear Ms Mrema,

I am writing to express the sincere interest of Project AWARE Foundation in becoming a Cooperating Partner to the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks (MoU).

Project AWARE Foundation, an international nonprofit organization with offices in Australia, UK and US working with scuba divers on two critical issues: sharks in peril and marine debris, is deeply committed to conservation of migratory sharks and the principles and measures of the MoU. We have been proud to add our voice to a call for CMS protections for mantas at CoP10 and have welcomed the Appendix I and II listings for the Giant Manta Ray. Most recently, we have sponsored an IUCN motion on the Conservation and Management of Mako Sharks, overwhelmingly adopted by the IUCN assembly on 15 September 2012. Inter alia, the motion “encourages all fishing nations and entities, particularly Parties to CMS, to support implementation of the CMS MoU for Migratory Sharks, including development of regional conservation plans as appropriate for listed species.” Finally, as a steering committee member of the Shark Alliance for the past six years, we have shown an unwavering commitment to ending the unacceptable practice of finning by working towards an EU wide fins attached policy with no exceptions.

Ms Ania Budziak, our Associate Director for Science and Policy, is attending the First Meeting of Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks taking place in Bonn September 24th-27th, 2012.

Given Project AWARE Foundation’s commitment to date, we would be honored to sign onto the MoU as a Cooperating Partner. Ms Budziak would be pleased, and is hereby authorized as an executive of Project AWARE Foundation, to undertake any formal process required while in Bonn.

Yours sincerely,

Alex S. Earl
Executive Director
alex.earl@projectaware.org

Additional information regarding the potential relevance for conservation NGOs as Cooperating Partners to the CMS Sharks MOU

Broadly speaking, AWARE can contribute to advancing the objectives of the CMS Sharks MoU Conservation Plan through:

- Raising awareness about the CMS Sharks MoU objectives and developments with our audience – the professional and recreational scuba diving community in 183 countries
- Engaging that community, as appropriate, in relevant shark and ray conservation activities related to the CMS Sharks MoU at various scales – from local through national and regional.
- Connecting the CMS objectives and commitments across our spectrum of activity (from national level policy initiatives through RFMO and CITES related work)