



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SHARKS

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FIRST MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE
CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SHARKS
Bonn, Germany, 24-27 September 2012
Agenda Item 7

REPORT OF THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT

(Prepared by the Interim Secretariat)

Background

1. The CMS Secretariat is currently providing Secretariat services on an interim basis, in line with paragraph 27 of the MoU.
2. In accordance with paragraph 34 of the MoU, the CMS Secretariat acts as the instrument's Depository.

Interim Staffing arrangements

3. As outlined in Document CMS/Sharks/MOS1/Doc.10.1, the Interim Secretariat requires a portion of the CMS Agreement Officer's time, as well as that of an additional part-time position, which has been made available by the German Government. This P2 level position, which has 40 per cent of its time assigned to the Sharks MoU, will run from August 2011 to July 2014.

Preparation of the First Meeting of the Signatories

4. The major task of the Interim Secretariat to date has been to organize the First Meeting of the Signatories. As well as the two staff members listed above, this has involved the support of many other CMS Staff members.

Status of Signatures and Recruitment Efforts to Date

5. The MoU was opened for signature on 12 February 2010 and it entered into effect on the first day of the following month, 1 March 2010.
6. As noted in document CMS/Sharks/MOS1/Inf.7, as of 1 September 2012 there were 25 Signatories to the MoU. The most recent signature was obtained from the United Kingdom (also on behalf of a number of its overseas territories) in June 2012.

7. The CMS Secretariat together with its officers in Washington DC (USA) and Apia (Samoa), Abu Dhabi (UAE) and Bangkok (Thailand) has been active in recruitment efforts to increase membership in the MoU.

8. In the lead-up to this First Meeting of the Signatories of the MoU, two NGOs submitted formal requests to become Cooperating Partners in line with paragraph 30 of the MoU (see CMS/Sharks/MOS1/Doc.6.2). A further three NGOs have informally expressed their interest in doing so in the near future.

9. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has recently written to the CMS Secretariat, expressing its interest in signing the MoU, and requesting further information.

Fundraising

10. As outlined in greater detail in the document CMS/Sharks/MOS1/Doc.10.1 the Interim Secretariat has secured funding from the European Commission, the USA, Germany, Australia and Monaco for the organization of the First Meeting of the Signatories and the implementation of some activities in the Conservation Plan after adoption.

Awareness Raising

11. The Interim Secretariat represented the MoU at several international meetings related to shark conservation, including the 62nd Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee and the FAO Committee on Fisheries, in order to raise awareness on the objectives of the MoU and to promote the present meeting.

Cooperation with other Organizations

12. The Joint Work Plan between the CMS and CITES Secretariats, adopted by the CMS Standing Committee in November 2011, urges close cooperation between the Secretariats, particularly in the development of the Sharks MoU Conservation Plan.

13. A number of CMS Partner NGOs have expressed an interest in cooperating on activities relating to shark conservation. It has not been possible to develop any joint activities at this stage.

List of Designated National Contact Points

14. Paragraph 15a of the MoU invites Signatories to designate an authority or an authorized scientist as a national focal point for all matters relating to the implementation of the MoU and to communicate their name and address to the Secretariat. By letter dated 25 March 2012 the Secretariat contacted Signatories, transmitted to them the Designated Authority and Focal Point Form (UNEP/CMS/MS/MoS1/Inf.9), with the request to complete and return it as soon as possible. A further reminder was sent out in April 2012

15. As of 14 September 2012, 18 out of 25 Signatories had provided the Secretariat with the name of their national focal point. These are contained in document CMS/Sharks/MOS1/Inf.8.

16. The Secretariat requests Signatories, if they have not yet done so, to please designate a national focal point for the MoU and provide the information to the Secretariat as soon as possible. This should be done in writing from the Minister of the ministry competent for the Migratory Sharks' conservation and management.

Action requested:

- a) Signatories are invited to take note of the Interim Secretariat's report.
- b) Signatories are requested to designate a national focal point for the MoU, if this has not already been done, and to update any contact information for existing focal points.
- c) Representatives of Range States eligible to sign the MoU are invited to inform the Meeting of their Government's intention to sign the MoU.
- d) The Meeting is invited to consider ways and means to increase membership of the MoU.