



## 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

## OUTCOME OF THE FUTURE SHAPE OF CMS PROCESS

*(Prepared by the Interim Secretariat)*

1. The *Intersessional Process Regarding the Future Shape of CMS* was launched at COP9 with a mandate set out in Resolution 9.13 and its addendum containing terms of reference for a Working Group to explore possibilities for strengthening the contributions of the CMS and the CMS Family to worldwide conservation, management and sustainable use of migratory species over their entire range. This work was done with the help of consultants, the Environmental Regulation and Information Centre (ERIC).

2. The intersessional process was shaped in three phases:

- Phase 1 assessed the concerns in detail and reviewed the organization and activities of the CMS and its instruments. The aim was to produce a critical analysis of the current situation, focusing on advantages and disadvantages of the present arrangements, and identifying issues where improvements could and should be envisaged.
- Phase 2 was dedicated to identifying measures that could improve the current arrangements in the CMS Family.
- Phase 3 had developed three options:

Option 1 – essential measures that could be largely accomplished in a single intersessional period if commenced immediately after COP10.

Option 2 – Option 1 activities plus additional, highly desirable, measures that could be implemented within the existing structures of the CMS Family, but which would need longer to implement, and have some additional cost implications.

Option 3 – Option 1 & Option 2 activities plus additional measures that would require more profound, long-term changes, which might require amendments to the legal texts of instruments within the CMS Family. There would also be additional cost implications.

3. CMS Resolution 10.9 *Future Structure and Strategies of the CMS and CMS Family* (contained in Annex 1 of this document) was adopted in November 2011. It lists a set of activities according to priorities assigned by the Parties:

- (1) Alignment with international environmental governance reform
- (2) Improved partnership working, which foresees closer collaboration with other MEAs, IGOs, NGOs, the private sector
- (3) Enhancing scientific research and information, e.g. in connection with the development of IPBES
- (4) Enhancing communication and seeking opportunities to develop awareness of CMS and CMS Family, e.g. through a redesign of the website
- (5) To carry out a global gap analysis at the Convention level and to assess resources appropriateness
- (6) Coordinated strategic plans for the CMS Family
- (7) Restructuring of Scientific Council to maximize expertise and knowledge capacity
- (8) Identifying opportunities for cooperation and coordination at the local and regional level through the creation of synergies based on geography, to be achieved by means of greater regional presence through coordinators with assistance from UNEP, NGOs, Parties and MEAs
- (9) Harmonization and interoperability of information management and reporting systems where appropriate and applicable for the CMS Family
- (10) Strengthening the coordination and servicing of MOUs, by ensuring appropriate staffing levels of the CMS Agreements Unit
- (11) Seek opportunities to coordinate meetings between institutions, working groups and across the CMS Family agreements
- (12) Actions to prioritize the growth of CMS and the CMS Family
- (13) Seeking opportunities to expand and develop capacity-building across the CMS Family, e.g. by CMS providing centralized related services
- (14) Seeking opportunities to expand and enhance fundraising activities, by coordinating with partners and stakeholders
- (15) Enhanced collaboration between CMS agreements, by (a) cooperation and coordination between agreement programmes and projects based on species clustering, thematic issues or geography as appropriate, and (b) if appropriate, cooperation and coordination between agreement Secretariats e.g. based on species clustering or on geography

(16) Monitoring of implementation

4. For each of these activities, the resolution specifies short-term and medium- to long-term actions to be taken. Short-term actions are to be addressed in the period 2012-2014 and to be carried out with means provided by the core CMS budget, voluntary contributions from Parties, or donations from sponsors.

5. Many of these activities concern current actions which the CMS Secretariat, CMS Agreements and MOUs and partner organizations have already invested considerable effort in. CMS Parties thus provided confirmation that these efforts are in line with their priorities, and provided guidance as to the next steps to be taken.

6. An overview of progress made by the CMS Secretariat in the implementation of this resolution will be presented to the 40<sup>th</sup> CMS Standing Committee Meeting in November 2012 (UNEP/CMS/StC40/Doc.13). MOU Secretariats or Coordinating Units will be requested to provide input to this report and those to be presented to future meetings.

7. Given that many of the prioritized activities concern not only CMS but the entire CMS Family, Signatories to the Sharks MOU should take note of CMS Resolution 10.9 and support its implementation.