



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

CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Decisions/
Rev.1
28 June 2023
Original: English

4th Meeting of the Signatories (Sharks MOS4)
Bonn, 28 February – 2 March 2023

DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

Election of Officers

1. Signatories elected Mohamed Omar Said (Kenya) to be the Chair and Jürgen Friedrich (Germany) to be Vice-Chair.

Credentials Committee

2. The members of the Credentials Committee established for MOS4 were Comoros, Costa Rica, Portugal, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, and the United States of America. The USA served as chair. The Committee reported that credentials had been accepted from 25 Signatories.

Amendments to the Sharks MOU Annex 1

Outcome Document: [CMS/Sharks/Outcome 4.1](#)

3. Signatories agreed by consensus to include the Tope Shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*) in Annex 1.

Conservation Measures

Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea

4. Signatories
 - a) Welcomed the work undertaken by the Advisory Committee, with support from the Secretariat to develop the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea (SSAP Angelshark Med).
 - b) Recommended CMS Parties adoption of the SSAP Angelshark Med at the 14th Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP14).
 - c) Recommended CMS Parties and Sharks MOU Signatories to implement the SSAP, once adopted by CMS.
5. Implementation activities were agreed and included in the Programme of Work (2023-2025).

Development of a conservation strategy and action plans for pelagic sharks and rays

6. Signatories welcomed the initiative and progress made by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission Shark Specialist Group (IUCN SSC SSG) in developing a global conservation strategy and regional action plans for pelagic sharks and rays and agreed to support the approach outlined in [CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.2/Rev.1](#) as revised by MOS4.
7. Implementation activities were agreed and included in the Programme of Work (2023-2025).

Development of a conservation strategy and action plans for rhino rays

8. Signatories
 - a) Welcomed the Initiative by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission Shark Specialist Group (IUCN SSC SSG) to develop a global conservation strategy and regional action plans for rhino rays and agreed to support the IUCN SSC SSG to advance these approaches.
 - b) Requested the Secretariat to continue to liaise with the IUCN SSC SSG on the implementation of their initiative to conserve rhino rays with initial focus on the Indo-West Pacific region.
9. Implementation activities were agreed and included in the Programme of Work (2023-2025).

Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs)

10. Signatories
 - a) Welcomed the initiative and progress made by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission Shark Specialist Group (IUCN SSC SSG) in developing robust selection and review criteria for identifying “Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs)” that complement and contribute to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and the IUCN Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).
 - b) Acknowledged the Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA) criteria and identification process described in *Hyde et al. 2022* and *Notarbartolo di Sciara 2022* and the ISRA Guidance Document posted on the ISRA website (sharkrayareas.org) for Sharks MOU Annex 1-listed species. Signatories made minor changes to these criteria as included in Annex 1 of [CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.4/Rev.1](#).¹
 - c) Acknowledged that Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) are an advisory, expert-based classification that can be used as a valuable resource for the integration of shark, ray, and chimaera species into existing and future national, regional, and international conservation strategies.
 - d) Agreed to, where possible, support and encourage the IUCN SSC SSG to advance these approaches in consultation with Signatories and Range States.
 - e) Agreed to support the IUCN SSC SSG, as appropriate and as feasible, with the

¹ With view to criterion C (Life-history) Signatories agreed to emphasized that species occurrence data a should be compiled, where available, to include information on age structure, reproductive status, sex, and seasonality.

identification of ISRAs including sharing relevant information and expertise, and for example by providing data where available.

- f) Requested the Secretariat to continue to liaise with the IUCN SSC SSG and to report back to MOS5 on progress.

11. Implementation activities were agreed and included in the Programme of Work (2023-2025).

Regional prioritization of shark and ray species listed in Sharks MOU Annex 1 and CMS Appendices

12. Signatories

- a) Requested the Advisory Committee to continue developing the methodology presented in [CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.5/Rev.1](#) as revised by Signatories during MOS4, taking on board comments made during the MOS, and requests the AC to report the results back to MOS5 and agreed to provide financial support to implement this activity.
- b) Requested the AC to continue to better identify CMS- and Sharks MOU-listed species and conservation measures of highest priority at regional scales (per FAO² Major Fishing Area).

13. Implementation activities were agreed and included in the Programme of Work (2023-2025).

Improving reporting of landings data for species listed in Annex 1 of the Sharks MOU

Outcome Document: [CMS/Sharks/Outcome 4.2](#)

14. Signatories

- a) Acknowledged the result of the study undertaken as outlined in [CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.6](#).
- b) Adopted and agreed to implement “*Recommendations to Signatories to improve reporting of landings data for species listed in Annex 1 of the Sharks MOU*”, provided in Outcome 4.2 from this meeting.
- c) Requested the Advisory Committee, in collaboration with Cooperating Partners and the Conservation Working Group, to
- update the analysis of landings data,
 - undertake additional analyses, and
 - develop guidelines for how nations could appraise their national landings data to improve quality control of data being submitted.

15. Implementation activities were agreed and included in the Programme of Work (2023-2025).

² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Reviewing fisheries-induced mortality of shark and ray species listed in Sharks MOU Annex 1 and CMS Appendices

16. Signatories

- a) Agreed to assist CMS in the implementation of CMS COP13 Decisions 13.62 (a) and 13.63 (b).
- b) Welcomed the proposed approach as suggested by the Advisory Committee to focus on fisheries-induced mortality instead of bycatch for the reasons outlined in CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.7.
- c) Agreed to undertake the pilot study for FAO Fishing Areas 37 (Mediterranean and Black Seas) and 87 (Southeast Pacific).

17. Implementation activities were agreed and included in the Programme of Work (2023-2025).

Capacity Building Programme

Global compendium of the conservation status and management measures of sharks

Outcome Document: [CMS/Sharks/Outcome 4.3](#)

18. Signatories adopted the proposal to establish a “*Global compendium of the conservation status and management measures of sharks*” and included this activity in the Programme of Work (2023-2025).

Programme of Work (2023-2025)

Outcome Document: [CMS/Sharks/Outcome 4.4](#)

19. The Meeting adopted a Programme of Work for the triennium 2023-2025 guiding the Signatories, the AC, the Conservation Working Group, Cooperating Partners and the Secretariat.

Advisory Committee

Outcome Document: [CMS/Sharks/Outcome 4.5](#)

20. Three new members were appointed to the AC, filling one vacant position for the Africa region, and replacing two longstanding members, who had both served three terms, one each from Africa and Europe.

Administrative and Budgetary Matters

Outcome Document: [CMS/Sharks/Outcome 4.6](#)

21. The Signatories adopted budget scenario 2, which aimed to provide adequate resources for the MOU for the triennium 2023-2025. The new budget is contained in Annex 1 to the document.
22. Furthermore, Signatories adopted the Indicative Scale of Contributions as provided in Annex 2 and the revised Terms of Reference for the Trust Fund, provided in Annex 3 and requested the UNEP Executive Director to extend the Trust Fund for a further three years.

Date and Venue of the next Meeting

23. Signatories applauded the offer from the Government of Kenya to host the 5th Meeting of the Signatories in the coastal city of Mombasa. The date for the meeting was tentatively agreed for the second half of 2025.