



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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MEETING TO IDENTIFY AND ELABORATE AN OPTION FOR
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATORY SHARKS
UNDER THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES
Mahe, Seychelles, 11-13 December 2007

STATEMENT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING AGREED BY PARTICIPANTS

1. The Participants considered that an agreement developed under Article III, IV and V of CMS would add value to current global shark conservation and management efforts, and that the process to develop such an agreement should continue with a view to finalising the proposed instrument at or before the 9th Conference of the Parties to CMS in December 2008*. The goal of the agreement should be *to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for migratory sharks listed in the Annexes of the agreement.*
2. Participants focused their deliberations on those elements of a shark conservation agreement that they believed would be essential irrespective of the precise form of the final instrument. This included key elements related to **the geographical scope, species covered, fundamental principles, shark conservation/management components (including non-consumptive use) and co-operation with other bodies.**
3. With regard to **geographical scope**, participants agreed that for the purpose of this instrument, it should be global in scope with opportunity to incorporate regional or species-specific initiatives where required.
4. With regard to **species covered** there was consensus that the agreement should focus on the three species listed in the Appendices of CMS. In addition there should be an enabling mechanism built into the agreement that allows Parties to add species to the agreement.
5. Three **fundamental principles** recommended were (i) the need to address the broad range of measures that deal with shark conservation and management; (ii) the need for precautionary and ecosystem approaches to shark conservation; and (iii) the need for cooperation and immediate engagement with the fisheries industry, FAO and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), if the development of this instrument and shark conservation and management in general is to be successful. Participants were of the view that the CMS instrument could re-invigorate the implementation of the FAO IPOA for sharks by incorporating and building on it.

* The working group documents as amended by the Plenary provide further details on the issues summarized in this paper and can be consulted at Annex A. These will guide the preparation of a draft agreement.

6. **Shark conservation and management components** should include:

- measures to build capacity (e.g., research & monitoring, enforcement, compliance) in developing countries to manage sharks;
- identification and protection of critical shark habitats and migration routes;
- the creation of a standardized species-specific global shark database;
- coordination of stock assessments and research;
- promotion and regulation of non-consumptive use including ecotourism;
- processes to encourage the prohibition or strict control of shark finning;
- active cooperation with the fisheries industries;
- studies of shark aggregation and breeding ground and shark behaviour and ecology;
- strict conservation measures for species listed on Appendix I of CMS in accordance with Article III of the Convention;
- regulation of exploitation of species listed on Appendix II of CMS;
- encouragement of relevant bodies to set targeted fishery quotas, and effort and other restrictions;
- processes to encourage restrictions of shark by-catch in non-directed fisheries; and
- Enforcement and compliance measures, including observers on fishery vessels.

7. Further consideration should also be given to include within the agreement provisions to encourage

- global promotion of shark conservation and wise use;
- reducing pollution, marine debris and ship strikes; and
- reporting structure on measures taken to comply with the agreement.

8. With regard to **cooperation with other bodies** the participants agreed that the new agreement should establish a technical and advisory body including representatives of CITES, IUCN, FAO and RFMOs. The Executive Secretary should approach RFMOs individually by letter to follow up the meeting (see CS1). The Chairman of the meeting should deliver messages on behalf of the meeting to the FAO and the European Commission (see CS1).

9. The meeting also considered the **institutional structure** and **funding** for the agreement. Options were identified for further analysis by an inter-sessional group prior to discussion at a second meeting in 2008. Participants strongly recommended the use of existing bodies and mechanisms wherever possible to maximize synergies and reduce costs. It was acknowledged that the final choice of institutional options, and any central funding from CMS, would need to be agreed at the second meeting and at the next CMS Conference of the Parties in December 2008.

10. The meeting recommended that the text of a **draft CMS agreement** incorporating the conclusions reached should be prepared by the CMS Secretariat in consultation with an inter-sessional steering group comprising Australia, Chile, Costa Rica, EC, New Zealand and Seychelles. This would be circulated to all participants and interested organisations for further consideration and refinement at a follow-up meeting in the first half of 2008, as well as for subsequent discussion with, and reflection by, potential partners and UN organizations within the global shark conservation and management community. The CMS Secretariat offered to host the next meeting at its headquarters in Bonn, Germany in the first half of 2008, subject to the availability of resources.