



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

CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.12.2  
20 February 2023  
Original: English

4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Signatories (Sharks MOS4)  
Bonn, 28 February – 2 March 2023  
Agenda Item 12

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK (2019-2021)**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

1. This document includes a report on the implementation of the Programme of Work 2019-2021 (POW) ([CMS/Sharks/MOS3/Outcome 3.9](#)) as requested in activity 30 of the POW (see [Annex](#)). The report is based on an analysis of Signatories' National Reports, activities undertaken by the Advisory Committee (AC) and the Secretariat.
2. It was not possible to undertake a review of the Conservation Plan. Since the questions in the National reporting Format are not aligned with the Programme of Work or the Conservation Plan, a review would require a separate evaluation of activities undertaken by the 49 Signatories. This was beyond the current capacity of the Secretariat and the AC.
3. The following color code has been used to provide a quick overview of the level of implementation achieved during the triennium.:

Green:	fully implemented
Yellow:	partially implemented
Red:	not implemented

Action requested:

4. The Meeting is requested to:
  - a) Take note of the report and provide guidance.

## REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK (2019-2021)

No.	Activities	Mandate <sup>1</sup>	Priority ranking <sup>2</sup>	Time frame <sup>3</sup>	Responsible entity <sup>4</sup>	Funding
<b>Species Conservation/Habitat Conservation</b>						
1.	<p>Provide support to the implementation of CMS Concerted Action Plans as adopted in CMS/Sharks/Outcome 3.8.</p> <p>The Secretariat, with support from the AC as required, is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– assist the government of the Philippines with the organization of a regional workshop on the conservation of whale sharks in Southeast Asia.</li> <li>– assist the Principality of Monaco with the organization of regional workshops on the conservation of the Angelshark, in particular in the Mediterranean region.</li> </ul>	MOS3 Outcome 3.8	high	2019-2021	SIG SEC CooP AC	Fundraising
<p><b>Status of implementation:</b></p> <p><b>Whale Shark:</b> Due to Covid19, the organization of a regional workshop on the conservation of whale sharks in Southeast Asia was not pursued during the past triennium. A study on whale shark collision risk in shipping traffic and recommendations to minimize this risk are currently being prepared.</p> <p><b>Angelshark:</b> A Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea has been developed by the AC, with financial support from the Principality of Monaco, and in consultation with the Shark Trust and experts from the Angelshark Project. Refer to <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.7.1</a>, <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.7.3</a>, and <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.1</a> for further details.</p>						
2.	Finalize existing species factsheets and draft species factsheets for species newly listed in Annex 1 of the MOU.	MOS3 Outcome 3.12	high	2019	AC	Budget
<p><b>Status of implementation:</b></p> <p>Factsheets for 11 species groups have been finalized by the AC and are available in the <a href="#">Info Hub</a>. Due to a lack of resources, factsheets could not be developed for all species. Refer to <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.7.3</a> for further details.</p>						
3.	Further develop and prioritize suggested areas of action as contained in Outcome 3.12 with options by taxa, region, and other relevant factors.	MOS3 Outcome 3.12	high	2019-2021	AC	Budget

1 Conservation Plan (CP), Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee (AC TOR), Terms of Reference of the Secretariat (SEC TOR)

2 Core Secretariat activities and suggested priorities (High, Medium)

3 Year(s) during which activity should be implemented

4 Signatories (SIG), Advisory Committee (AC), Secretariat (SEC), Conservation Working Group (CWS), Consultants, Cooperating Partners (CooP)

No.	Activities	Mandate <sup>1</sup>	Priority ranking <sup>2</sup>	Time frame <sup>3</sup>	Responsible entity <sup>4</sup>	Funding
	<b>Status of implementation:</b> Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.5</a> in which a methodology is explained to prioritize species for conservation action based on FAO fishing. This methodology was developed by the AC.					
4.	Facilitate communication and support Signatories with the identification of regional and local projects.	CP 1.2 SEC TOR	core	2019-2021 ongoing activity	SEC AC	Budget
	<b>Status of implementation:</b> Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.7.1</a> , <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.7.3</a> , <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.2</a> , <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.3</a> , and <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.4</a> , in which the AC and Secretariat introduced global and regional initiatives for the conservation of pelagic sharks, rhino rays and the identification of Important Shark and Ray Areas.					
5.	When instructed by Signatories to do so, identify suitable partners for implementation and manage Funding Agreements for conservation projects.	CP 1.2 CP 1.3 SEC TOR	core	2019-2021	SEC AC	Fundraising
	<b>Status of implementation:</b> See <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.7.1</a> , <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.7.3</a> and <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.11.1</a> for details on projects undertaken by the Secretariat in cooperation with Implementing Partners, and with technical support from the AC.					
<b>Fisheries Management and data collection (incl. bycatch)</b>						
6.	Encourage collation of those data that are relevant to RFMOs and stock assessments (e.g. fisheries-independent data, historical and traditional data) and promote their dissemination.	CP 2.6 CP 3.2	medium	2019-2021	SIG	Fundraising
	<b>Status of implementation:</b> Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.8.1</a> and <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/National Reports</a> for information on Signatories' catches from within and outside of their areas of national jurisdiction. The extent to which this activity was implemented by Signatories was not evaluated through the National Reports.					
7.	Promote research focussing on the identification of species-selective fishing gear and bycatch mitigation measures, with emphasis on those Annex 1 listed species which are known to experience high post release mortality (e.g. sawfish, thresher sharks, hammerhead sharks).	CP 4.5	medium	2019-2021	SIG Coop	Fundraising
	<b>Status of implementation:</b> The extent to which this activity was implemented by Signatories was not evaluated through the National Reports.					

No.	Activities	Mandate <sup>1</sup>	Priority ranking <sup>2</sup>	Time frame <sup>3</sup>	Responsible entity <sup>4</sup>	Funding
8.	Set up a repository for relevant information to assist managers, including species identification, bycatch mitigation and safe handling, discard survival, and other relevant fisheries management information. Encourage Signatories to provide such information to the Secretariat.	MOS3	medium	2019-2021	AC SEC SIG	Budget
<b>Status of implementation:</b> The Secretariat has established the <a href="#">Info Hub</a> on its website for this purpose. See also <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.7.1</a> , <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.8.1</a> and <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.11.1</a> .						
9.	Improve, where appropriate, monitoring, implementation and enforcement of relevant spatial management measures.	CP 14.5	medium	2019-2021	SIG	Fundraising
<b>Status of implementation:</b> The extent to which this activity was implemented by Signatories was not evaluated through the national reports.						
<b>Capacity Building</b>						
10.	Implement the Capacity-building Programme for the MOU as adopted in CMS/Sharks/Outcome 3.6 to assist Signatories with the implementation of the Conservation Plan.	CP 1.1 CP 6.2 SEC TOR MOS3 Outcome 3.6	high	2019-2021	SIG AC SEC CooP	Fundraising
<b>Status of implementation:</b> Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.11.1</a> for details on the activities undertaken by the AC and the Secretariat. Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.8.1</a> for details on available guides for species identification and safe handling and release of sharks and rays. Other information regarding implementation of the Capacity-building Programme by Signatories was not captured in the national reports.						

No.	Activities	Mandate <sup>1</sup>	Priority ranking <sup>2</sup>	Time frame <sup>3</sup>	Responsible entity <sup>4</sup>	Funding
11.	<p>Cooperate with the CMS Family on matters related to shark conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contribute to the implementation of               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CMS Res. 12.20 on "Management of Marine Debris";</li> <li>- CMS Res. 12.22 on "Bycatch";</li> <li>- CMS Res. 12.23 on "Sustainable Tourism and Migratory Species";</li> <li>- CMS Res. 12.24 on "Promoting Marine Protected Area Networks in the ASEAN Region";</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Contribute to the preparation of CMS COP13<sup>5</sup> and other relevant meetings of CMS (ScC<sup>6</sup>, StC<sup>7</sup>);</li> <li>- Provide comments on proposals for the inclusion of shark and ray species in the Appendices of CMS to the CMS Scientific Council and Conference of the Parties.</li> </ul>	SEC TOR MOS3	core	2019-2021	SEC AC	Budget
<p><b>Status of implementation:</b> The Secretariat and the AC supported CMS on matters related to shark and ray conservation and contributed to the preparation of CMS COP13 and other relevant meetings. Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/SharksMOS4/Doc.7.1</a> and <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.7.3</a> for details on the activities undertaken by the Secretariat.</p>						
12.	<p>Strengthen synergies and collaborate with CITES<sup>8</sup> and FAO<sup>9</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contribute to the implementation of the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2015-2020 regarding sharks and rays;</li> <li>- Include activities on sharks and rays in a new CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme with the CITES Secretariat in consultation with Signatories;</li> <li>- Organize regular meetings (and teleconferences);</li> <li>- Share best practice;</li> <li>- Coordinate conservation activities;</li> <li>- Share knowledge and expertise.</li> </ul>	SEC TOR	high	2019-2021	AC SEC	Budget + Fundraising
<p><b>Status of implementation:</b> The CMS and CITES Secretariats continue to cooperate on the implementation of the joint CMS/CITES work Programme, which is currently in the process of being updated. Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/SharksMOS4/Doc.7.1</a>.</p>						

<sup>5</sup> 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory species of Wild Animals

<sup>6</sup> Scientific Council

<sup>7</sup> Standing Committee

<sup>8</sup> CITES – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

<sup>9</sup> FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

No.	Activities	Mandate <sup>1</sup>	Priority ranking <sup>2</sup>	Time frame <sup>3</sup>	Responsible entity <sup>4</sup>	Funding
13.	Implement the guidance to the Secretariat and the Signatories on their engagement with RFMOs as agreed in CMS/Sharks/Outcome 3.4.	MOS3 Outcome 3.4	high	2019-2021	SIG SEC CooP	Budget
<p><b>Status of implementation:</b> The extent to which this activity was implemented by Signatories was not evaluated through the national reports. Some Signatories did mention their engagement with RFMOs through their National Report (Australia, Sweden) but this was not directly requested by the national report. Not implemented by the Secretariat due to its limited resources and staff capacity.</p>						
14.	Establish partnerships and strengthen collaboration with other relevant international organizations and agreements dealing with shark science, conservation and management.	CP 13.1 CP 14.3 SEC TOR	core	2019-2021	SEC	Budget
<p><b>Status of implementation:</b> The Secretariat established partnerships and strengthened collaboration with Cooperating Partners, Implementing Partners and IUCN SSC SSG. Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/SharksMOS4/Doc.7.1</a>.</p>						
15.	Encourage all Range States to join CMS and become Signatories to the MOU.	CP 16.2	high	2019-2021	SIG SEC CooP	Budget
<p><b>Status of implementation:</b> The extent to which this activity was implemented by Signatories was not evaluated through the National Report. Implemented by the Secretariat (Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/SharksMOS4/Doc.7.1</a>.)</p>						
16.	Liaise with the IUCN Shark SSG and participate in assessment and conservation planning workshops, where relevant.	CP 13.1	high	2019-2021	AC CWG SEC	Budget
<p><b>Status of implementation:</b> Implemented by the Secretariat and the AC. Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/SharksMOS4/Doc.7.1</a>, <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.7.3</a>, <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.2</a>, and <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.3</a>, and <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.4</a>.</p>						
<b>Management of the Secretariat</b>						
17.	Manage and implement the budget for the MOU.	SEC TOR	core	2019-2021	SEC	Budget
<p><b>Status of implementation:</b> Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.14.1</a>.</p>						

No.	Activities	Mandate <sup>1</sup>	Priority ranking <sup>2</sup>	Time frame <sup>3</sup>	Responsible entity <sup>4</sup>	Funding
18.	Prepare annual budget implementation reports for the information of the Signatories and project reports to donors.	SEC TOR	core	yearly	SEC	Budget
	<b>Status of implementation:</b> Undertaken bilaterally between the Secretariat and donors in accordance with paragraphs 24 and 25 of the Terms of Reference for the Trust Fund.					
19.	Inform and raise awareness about the Sharks MOU in accordance with the "Communication and Awareness raising Strategy of the Sharks MOU.	SEC TOR	core	2019-2021	SEC Consultant	Budget
	<b>Status of implementation:</b> Implemented by the Secretariat. Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/SharksMOS4/Doc.7.1.</a> , <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Inf.7.</a> , <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Inf.8.</a> , and <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Inf.9.</a>					
20.	Prepare publications as required (e.g. domestic legislation, species priorities).	SEC TOR	core	2019-2021	SEC	Budget
	<b>Status of implementation:</b> Implemented by the Secretariat. Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/SharksMOS4/Doc.7.1.</a>					
21.	Compile information, review data, liaise with stakeholders and provide information to Signatories on the implementation and functioning of the MOU.	SEC TOR	core	2019-2021	SEC	Budget
	<b>Status of implementation:</b> Implemented by the Secretariat. Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/SharksMOS4/Doc.7.1.</a>					
22.	Facilitate and encourage regular information exchange and cooperative activities between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– the shark research and conservation community;</li> <li>– stakeholders in all Range States;</li> <li>– Focal Points;</li> <li>– Advisory Committee.</li> </ul>	SEC TOR	core	2019-2021	SEC	Budget
	<b>Status of implementation:</b> Implemented by the Secretariat. Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/SharksMOS4/Doc.7.1.</a>					
23.	Represent the MOU at meetings of other intergovernmental agreements (e.g. CITES, IUCN, FAO), as appropriate to facilitate the achievement of the objectives of the MOU.	SEC TOR	core	2019-2021	SEC	Budget + Fundraising
	<b>Status of implementation:</b> Implemented by the Secretariat. Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/SharksMOS4/Doc.7.1.</a>					
24.	Prepare reports of the Secretariat activities for AC and MOS meetings.	SEC TOR	core	2019-2021	SEC	Budget

No.	Activities	Mandate <sup>1</sup>	Priority ranking <sup>2</sup>	Time frame <sup>3</sup>	Responsible entity <sup>4</sup>	Funding
	Implemented by the Secretariat. Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/SharksMOS4/Doc.7.1.</a> and <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.7.3.</a>					
25.	Recruit and manage the staff and interns of the Secretariat.	SEC TOR	core	2019-2021	SEC	Budget
	<b>Status of implementation:</b> Implemented by the Secretariat. Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/SharksMOS4/Doc.7.1.</a>					
<b>Support for Meetings (MOS, AC and WG)</b>						
26.	Undertake meeting arrangements for the 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Signatories (MOS4): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Identify a venue and liaise with the host government;</li> <li>– Develop the draft agenda in consultation with Signatories;</li> <li>– Coordinate, draft and prepare meeting documents, including posting of documents;</li> <li>– Coordinate and prepare translations into 3 languages (English, French and Spanish);</li> <li>– Support and arrange attendance and travel of sponsored delegates and experts;</li> <li>– Handle contracts with interpreters, report writers and other staff, as required;</li> <li>– Organize and prepare media and press work in collaboration with the Joint Communication Team of CMS;</li> <li>– Prepare and publish a report of the meeting.</li> </ul>	SEC TOR	core	2021	SEC	Budget
	<b>Status of implementation:</b> Implemented by the Secretariat. Please refer to: <a href="https://www.cms.int/sharks/en/SharksMOS4">https://www.cms.int/sharks/en/SharksMOS4</a>					
27.	Undertake meeting arrangements for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC3): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Identify a venue and liaise with the host government;</li> <li>– Develop the draft agenda in consultation with the AC;</li> <li>– Coordinate, draft and prepare meeting documents, including posting of documents;</li> <li>– Support and arrange attendance and travel of sponsored participants and experts;</li> <li>– Handle contracts with interpreters, report writers and other staff, as required;</li> <li>– Organize and prepare media and press work in collaboration with the Joint Communication Team of CMS;</li> <li>– Prepare and publish a report of the meeting.</li> </ul>	SEC TOR	core	2019	SEC	Budget



No.	Activities	Mandate <sup>1</sup>	Priority ranking <sup>2</sup>	Time frame <sup>3</sup>	Responsible entity <sup>4</sup>	Funding
<b>Status of implementation:</b> Implemented by the Secretariat. Please refer to: <a href="https://www.cms.int/sharks/en/meeting/sharks-AC3">https://www.cms.int/sharks/en/meeting/sharks-AC3</a>						
28.	Undertake meeting arrangements for the 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC4): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Identify a venue and liaise with the host government;</li> <li>– Develop the draft agenda in consultation with the AC;</li> <li>– Coordinate, draft and prepare meeting documents, including posting of documents;</li> <li>– Support and arrange attendance and travel of sponsored participants and experts;</li> <li>– Handle contracts with interpreters, report writers and other staff, as required;</li> <li>– Organize and prepare media and press work in collaboration with the Joint Communication Team of CMS;</li> <li>– Prepare and publish a report of the meeting.</li> </ul>	SEC TOR	core	2020	SEC	Budget
<b>Status of implementation:</b> Not implemented due to Covid19 and replaced by regular online meetings. Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/SharksMOS4/Doc.7.1</a> and <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.7.3</a> for detailed information.						
<b>Support of the Advisory Committee</b>						
29.	Assist the Chair of the AC as required to facilitate the work of the Committee and the preparation of meeting documents.	SEC TOR	core	2019-2021	SEC	Budget
<b>Status of implementation:</b> Implemented by the Secretariat. Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/SharksMOS4/Doc.7.1</a> and <a href="#">CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.7.3</a> for detailed information.						
30.	Review the implementation of the Conservation Plan and the Programme of Work and present a report to MOS4. The report should be based on an analysis of National Reports from Signatories, Reports from Cooperating Partners, activities undertaken by the AC and the Secretariat.	SEC TOR	core	2021	SEC	Budget
<b>Status of implementation:</b> Present document. The review of the Conservation Plan was not undertaken due to a lack of capacity.						
31.	Liaise with non-Signatory Range States to provide them with the necessary information to join the MOU and facilitate accession.	SEC TOR	core	2019-2021	SEC CooP SIG	Budget

No.	Activities	Mandate <sup>1</sup>	Priority ranking <sup>2</sup>	Time frame <sup>3</sup>	Responsible entity <sup>4</sup>	Funding
<p><b>Status of implementation:</b> Undertaken by the Secretariat and by CMS management. Non-Signatory Range States continue to be informed by the Secretariat about the objectives of the Sharks MOU and encouraged to join the MOU as a Signatory. Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/SharksMOS4/Doc.7.1</a>.</p>						
<p><b>Fundraising / Mobilization of resources</b></p>						
32.	<p>Identify existing and new opportunities for financial resources to support the long-term implementation of the Conservation Plan and the POW. Expand and enhance fundraising activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a fundraising strategy for the MOU</li> <li>- Raise funds and voluntary annual contributions from Signatories;</li> <li>- Raise funds for joint projects with partners and potential partners;</li> <li>- Explore possibilities of alternative funds (e.g. private sector);</li> <li>- Support funding applications and opportunities for Signatories and Cooperating Partners.</li> </ul>	SEC TOR	core	2019-2021	SIG SEC CooP	Fundraising
<p><b>Status of implementation:</b> Partially implemented by the Secretariat. Please refer to <a href="#">CMS/SharksMOS4/Doc.7.1</a>.</p>						