



Second Meeting of the Signatories
San José, Costa Rica, 15-19 February 2016
Agenda Item 9

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK (2016-2018)
TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SHARKS**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. A draft Programme of Work (PoW) has been developed to provide guidance to the Signatories, the Advisory Committee (AC) and the Secretariat, for the next triennium 2016-2018. The activities of the Conservation Plan and the management mandates of the MOU have been converted into concrete, applicable tasks to conserve and manage migratory sharks and their habitats in the most effective manner.
2. The draft PoW contains priority actions for implementation identified by the AC, focusing on the top priorities of the Conservation Plan, and as described in document CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.8.3.1. In addition the PoW specifies the core functions assigned to the Secretariat and the AC in their respective Terms of Reference providing a list of concrete tasks and activities.
3. A study to identify the priority conservation measures for species listed in Annex 1 of the MOU was concluded to complement the draft PoW (refer to CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.9.2). The detailed priority actions that were identified in this study can be reviewed in CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Inf.11 and are tailored to the species-specific and regional needs.
4. The draft PoW proposes the establishment of two working groups under the AC. Based on the above mentioned study on species priorities (CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.9.2) and the activities incorporated in the draft PoW, the Species Working Group (SWG) would be composed of scientific experts who will assist the AC in developing species-specific and regional Action Plans and follow the Terms of Reference (see CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.13.2) established at the First Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC1). The Bycatch Working Group (BWG) would develop a strategy for engaging with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMO) with the main objective of supporting research and providing recommendations to modify existing fishing gear and tactics, establishment and effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas or develop new technologies to minimize bycatch of sharks. It will

also identify priority actions for species and propose joint activities with relevant Regional Seas Convention and RFMOs, as proposed in document CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.11.2.

5. The draft PoW as well as the species-specific priority actions will be discussed and prioritized at the AC1. Recommended revisions to the draft of the PoW will become available, immediately after AC1, in document CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.13.2.

6. Coupled with these recommendations, this document should be discussed taking into account the limited financial and staffing resources of the Sharks MOU, including the allocation of funds and the proposed budget for the next triennium (refer to CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.10.1).

7. A significant amount of time is required, particularly from the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee Members, but also from Signatories and Cooperating Partners, to implement the activities successfully. It should also be taken into consideration that the Secretariat and the AC require support from consultants to undertake specific studies which require a certain expertise. The implementation of certain activities is subject to funding being available. Signatories may earmark voluntary contributions to the implementation of specific activities of the PoW.

Action requested:

The Meeting of the Signatories is invited to:

- a) Review and approve the draft 2016-2018 Programme of Work, including the changes and recommendations of the AC1 (CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.13.2);
- b) Consider the establishment of the Species Working Group (SWG) and the Bycatch Working Group (BWG), under the Advisory Committee;
- c) Allocate funding sources to the activities of the PoW.

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Activity No.	Activities	Mandate ¹	Priority ranking ²	Time frame ³	Responsible entity ⁴	Funding ⁵
Species Conservation						
1.	Establish a Species Working Group (SWG) under the Advisory Committee	CP 1.1	high	2016	AC SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2 + Fundraising
2.	Review and identify species-specific priority research and conservation needs, taking into account regional differences	CP 1.1	high	2016-2018	AC SWG Cooperating Partners Consultant	Budget scenarios 1 and 2 + Fundraising
3.	Review new information on negative impacts on sharks, best practices and guidelines. Make recommendations to Signatories and other relevant authorities for further action.	CP 1.6	medium	2016-2018	AC SWG Cooperating Partners Consultant	Budget scenarios 1 and 2 + Fundraising
4.	<p>Convene a SWG workshop to develop species-specific Action Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Compile, review and incorporate already existing Conservation strategies into Action Plans (e.g IUCN SSG Sawfish Conservation Strategy and Devil and Manta Conservation Strategy) ➤ Refer to CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.9.2 	CP 1.1 CP 1.7	high	2017	AC SWG SEC Consultant	Budget scenario 1 + Fundraising

¹ Conservation Plan (CP) and the Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee and 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), Species Working Group (SWG), Bycatch Working Group (BWG), Consultants, Cooperating Partners

⁵ Fundraising Scenario 1 or 2 from the proposed budget 2016-2018 CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.10.1 and activities that require special fundraising

Activity No.	Activities	Mandate ¹	Priority ranking ²	Time frame ³	Responsible entity ⁴	Funding ⁵
5.	Provide recommendations to the AC and produce reports on activities to AC meetings	SWG ToR	high	As required	SWG	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
6.	Facilitate communication and support Signatories in the identification of regional and local research projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consult regularly with Focal Points ➤ Based on the outcomes of the Species-specific Action Plans (<i>Activity 1</i>), communicate to focal points relevant activities to be implemented in their region ➤ Seek funding opportunities (refer to activity 70) 	CP 1.2 SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
7.	When instructed by Signatories to do so, identify or develop suitable conservation projects, partners for implementation and manage Funding Agreements	CP 1.2 CP 1.3 SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Fundraising
Bycatch						
8.	Establish a Bycatch Working Group (BWG) under the Advisory Committee	CP 1.6 CP 5.2 CP 6.3	high	2016	AC SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
9.	Convene a BWG Workshop to develop a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) Engagement Strategy, including the elaboration of joint activities (Refer to CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.11.2)	CP III CP 15.1	high	2017	AC BWG SEC Consultant	Budget scenario 1
10.	Review new information on bycatch of sharks and post-release mortality studies to assess efficiency of management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Make recommendations to Signatories and other relevant authorities for further action. ➤ Seek opportunities to fund and support continued studies to determine the post-release mortality of commercially exploited sharks at a regional level and to improve the collection of data 	CP 1.6 CP 4.5 CP 5.2 CP 6.3	medium	2016-2018	AC BWG SEC	Budget scenario 1

Activity No.	Activities	Mandate ¹	Priority ranking ²	Time frame ³	Responsible entity ⁴	Funding ⁵
11.	Coordinate with fisheries specialists, RFMOs and the relevant Stakeholders to develop and adopt a standard protocol for fisheries data collection and monitoring, with the overall aim to improve species-specific reporting of catch and landing and validation of data for short and long-term analysis.	CP 2.2 CP 3.2	high	2017-2018	AC BWG	Fundraising
12.	Liaise with CMS Bycatch Working Group and participate in CMS bycatch workshops	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	AC BWG SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
13.	Provide recommendations to the AC and produce reports on activities to AC meetings		Core	As required	BWG	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
14.	Review and compile historical landings and markets data for key species (catch, effort, spatial distribution) to fill data gaps and integrate the data into conservation and management actions (desk study)	CP 3.2	medium	2016-2018	AC BWG Consultant	Fundraising
Fisheries Management and data collection						
15.	Expand and encourage fisheries-independent research (e.g. historic data on commercially exploited species) to provide additional data for use in the fishery stock assessments and to inform relevant RFMOs	CP 2.6 CP 3.2	medium	2016-2018	SIG AC BWG SEC	Fundraising
16.	Promote research focussing on the identification of species-selective fishing gear	CP 4.5	medium	2016-2018	SIG AC SEC	Fundraising
17.	Fund and support national and international training courses in : ➤ data collection ➤ shark identification ➤ handling and safe release protocols	CP 1.2	high	2016-2018	SIG AC SEC	Fundraising
18.	Assist in drafting of legislative text for enforcing and implementing fisheries regulations	CP 6.1 CP 6.2	medium	As required	AC SEC Cooperating Partners	Fundraising

Activity No.	Activities	Mandate ¹	Priority ranking ²	Time frame ³	Responsible entity ⁴	Funding ⁵
19.	Encourage all range states to join CMS and become signatories to the MOU, and to comply with the decisions and recommendations.	CP 16.2	high	2016-2018	SIG SEC Cooperating Partners	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
20.	Present recommendations and position statements to government officials and fishing industry representatives at relevant international meetings and workshop	CP 4.5 CP 6.1 CP 6.2 CP 6.3	medium	as required	AC SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
21.	When possible, participate with observer status in relevant international meetings (IOTC, ICCAT, etc.) or send experts to participate on behalf of the MOU	CP 4.5 CP 6.1 CP 14.3	medium	2016-2018	AC SEC Cooperating Partners	Budget scenario 1
22.	Coordinate between CITES, IUCN,TRAFFIC to facilitate CMS and CITES Appendix I listings and raise awareness through regional capacity building workshops on sustainable harvest and trade	CP 7.2 CP 14.3	medium	2016-2018	SEC	Fundraising
23.	Improve monitoring and implementation in marine protected areas (MPAs), improve enforcement	CP 14.5	medium	2016-2018	SIG	
Cooperation and Partnerships						
24.	Cooperate with the CMS Family on matters related to shark conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contribute to the implementation of CMS Res. 11.20, Resolutions on bycatch (CMS wide bycatch workshop) ➤ Contribute to the preparation of CMS COP12 and other relevant meetings of CMS (ScC, StC) 	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2

Activity No.	Activities	Mandate ¹	Priority ranking ²	Time frame ³	Responsible entity ⁴	Funding ⁵
25.	Contribute to the implementation of the CMS CITES Joint Work Programme 2015-2020 regarding sharks and rays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Activity B17: Optimize the effectiveness of actions taken by Parties to both CMS and CITES concerning sharks and rays, strengthening synergies with FAO, RFMOs and other relevant bodies ➤ Activity B18: Cooperate on capacity building regarding the implementation of regulations of both Conventions related to sharks and rays 	CP 14.3 SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenario 1 + Fundraising
26.	Strengthen synergies and collaborate in conjunction with CITES and FAO to support regional programmes as well as collaboration between Range States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize regular meetings (and teleconference calls) ➤ Share best practice ➤ Coordinate conservation activities ➤ Share knowledge and expertise 	CP 13.1 CP 14.3 SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	AC SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
27.	Establish partnerships and strengthen collaboration with relevant international organizations and agreements dealing with shark conservation and management	CP 13.1 CP 14.3 SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenario 1
28.	Promote conservation efforts and cooperation between all stakeholders in range states	CP 13.1 SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
29.	IUCN Red List Regional Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Liaise with the IUCN Shark SSG to coordinate actions implementing the objectives of the Conservation Plan and the species-specific action plans ➤ Participate in regional assessment workshops to provide recommendations and organize side events (Next workshop planned for 2016) 	CP 13.1	high	2016-2018	AC SWG SEC	Budget Scenario 1 + Fundraising
Management of the Secretariat						
30.	Manage and implement the budget for the MOU	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
31.	Prepare annual budget implementation reports for the information of the Signatories and project reports to donors	SEC ToR	core	yearly	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2

Activity No.	Activities	Mandate ¹	Priority ranking ²	Time frame ³	Responsible entity ⁴	Funding ⁵
32.	Undertake Fundraising activities	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
33.	Maintain and update the Sharks MOU website as needed	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC Consultant	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
34.	Publish articles and press releases relevant to shark conservation supported by the CMS Joint Communications Team	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
35.	Produce fact sheets about relevant shark conservation topics and species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bycatch ➤ Overfishing ➤ Species Action Plans 	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
36.	Use Social Media to increase the visibility of the MOU globally supported by the CMS Joint Communications Team	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
37.	Prepare publications using studies (e.g. domestic legislation, species priorities)	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
38.	Where feasible, expand the Sharks MOU communication and awareness-raising activities in alignment with the Communication Strategy for Migratory Species (in preparation)	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Fundraising
39.	Compile information, review data, liaise with stakeholders and provide information to Signatories on the implementation and functioning of the MOU	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
40.	Facilitate and encourage regular information exchange and cooperative activities between <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ the shark research and conservation community ➤ stakeholders in all Range States ➤ Focal Points ➤ Advisory Committee 	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
41.	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	2016-2018	AC SEC SWG BWG	Budget scenario 1 or 2 + Fundraising

Activity No.	Activities	Mandate ¹	Priority ranking ²	Time frame ³	Responsible entity ⁴	Funding ⁵
42.	Update and maintain the contact database	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
43.	Prepare report of the Secretariat activities for AC and MOS meetings	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
44.	Recruit and manage the staff and interns of the Secretariat	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
Support for Meetings (MOS, AC and WG)						
45.	Undertake meeting arrangements for the 3 rd Meeting of the Signatories (MOS3), including the identification of a venue, liaison with host government and organization of contracts	SEC ToR	core	End 2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
46.	Undertake meeting arrangements for the 2 nd Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC2), including the identification of a venue and organization of contracts	SEC ToR	core	Mid 2017	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
47.	Undertake meeting arrangements for the 3 rd Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC3), including the identification of a venue and organization of contracts	SEC ToR	core	Mid 2018	SEC	Budget scenario 1
48.	Undertake meeting arrangements for the Working Group Meetings, including the identification of a venue and organization of contracts	SEC ToR	core	2016 and 2017	SEC	Budget scenario 1 + Fundraising
49.	Coordinate, draft and prepare meeting documents, including posting of documents	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	AC SEC Consultant	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
50.	Coordinate and prepare translations into 3 languages (English, French and Spanish)	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
51.	Support and arrange attendance and travel of sponsored delegates and experts	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenario 1 or 2 + Fundraising

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52.	Organize and prepare media and press work in collaboration with the Joint Communication Team of CMS	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
53.	Prepare meeting reports and distribute to Signatories	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	AC SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
Support of the Advisory Committee						
54.	Assist the Chair of the Advisory Committee as required to facilitate the work of the Committee	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
55.	Assist the Advisory Committee with the preparation of meeting documents	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
56.	Assist the convenors and chairs of the Species Working Group and the Bycatch Working Group, as required to facilitate the work	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC Consultants	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
57.	Develop and maintain the list of experts relevant to the Sharks MOU	CP 2.5	core	2016-2018	SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
Implementation of the MOU						
58.	Promote and coordinate activities of the Programme of Work and Conservation Plan	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	AC SEC Cooperating Partners	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
59.	Conduct a survey on domestic legislation to address implementation gaps, inform Signatories and monitor the implementation of the Conservation Plan	CP 7.1 SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	AC SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
60.	Liaise with non-Signatory Range States to provide them with the necessary information to join the MOU and facilitate the accession	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC Cooperating partners	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
61.	Undertake outreach activities on the following priority regions: South-East Asia , South America and Caribbean and West Africa	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC Cooperating partners	Fundraising

Activity No.	Activities	Mandate ¹	Priority ranking ²	Time frame ³	Responsible entity ⁴	Funding ⁵
62.	Use other CMS meetings and workshops to promote the accession to the MOU	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SEC CMS	Budget scenarios 1 and 2
Capacity Building						
63.	Identify and review gaps in capacity and training needs of Signatories	CP 1.1 SEC TOR	high	2016-2018	AC SEC Cooperating Partners	Fundraising
64.	Assist Signatories with the implementation of the Conservation Plan: ➤ Support the United Arab Emirates (and other Signatories upon request) with the development of their National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA Sharks)	CP 6.2 SEC ToR	high	2016 and as further requested by Signatories	AC SEC Cooperating Partners	Fundraising
65.	Compile manuals and develop tailored training materials for trainers, primarily Management and Scientific Authorities	CP 3.2	high	As required	AC BWG SEC Cooperating Partners	Fundraising
66.	Contribute to joint capacity-building workshops with CMS and cooperating partners in Africa, Asia, Oceania, South & Central America and the Caribbean, as requested by the regions	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SIG AC SEC Cooperating Partners	Fundraising
67.	Raise awareness of CMS- and CITES-listed species	CP 1.6 CP 5.2 CP 6.3	high	2016-2018	SIG AC SEC Cooperating Partners	Budget scenarios 1 and 2

Activity No.	Activities	Mandate ¹	Priority ranking ²	Time frame ³	Responsible entity ⁴	Funding ⁵
68.	Develop a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on the Conservation and Management of Sharks and their habitats Cooperate with relevant scientific bodies (universities, scientists, international institutions)	CP 12	medium	2017	AC SEC Cooperating Partners	Fundraising
69.	Translation of "Sharks of the Arabian Seas"- Identification Guide to other languages of the Indian Ocean Region (e.g. Farsi, Hindi, Urdu) and other identification guides as required	CP 12 CP13	medium	2016-2017	SEC	Fundraising
Fundraising / Mobilization of resources						
70.	Identify existing and new opportunities for financial resources to support the <u>long-term</u> implementation of the Conservation Plan and the PoW. Expand and enhance fundraising activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Raise funds and voluntary annual contributions from Signatories ➤ Raise funds for joint projects with partners and potential partners ➤ Explore possibilities of alternative funds (e.g. private sector) ➤ Support funding applications and opportunities for Signatories ➤ with letters of endorsement / support 	SEC ToR	core	2016-2018	SIG SEC	Budget scenarios 1 and 2