



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SHARKS CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.7.3

4 February 2016

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Second Meeting of the Signatories
San José, Costa Rica, 15-19 February 2016
Agenda Item 7

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(Prepared by the Chair of the Advisory Committee)

1. The Advisory Committee (AC) was established by the First Meeting of the Signatories (MOS1) for the purpose of serving and assisting the Signatories in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding including the Conservation Plan.
2. Eight AC members were nominated by the regions of Africa, Europe, Oceania, North America and South & Central America & the Caribbean at MOS1. A further two members are expected to be nominated at this meeting by the Asia region.
3. The AC started its work after MOS1 in 2013. John Carlson (USA) was elected as Chair and James Ellis (UK) as Vice Chair. Both communicated closely with the Secretariat to coordinate the work of the AC.
4. The committee's work was entirely done by electronic communication, largely by email, which proved to be more convenient for members of the AC than using a dedicated online workspace.
5. The tasks, as mentioned below, were completed by the AC during the triennium as set out in the Terms of Reference (CMS/Sharks/Outcome 1.1).

Review of proposals for the inclusion of species in Annex 1 of the MoU

6. As requested by the Signatories, the AC has prepared an assessment of proposals and accompanying information for the inclusion of 22 species of sharks and rays in Annex 1 of the MOU. All species have been listed in CMS Appendices I and/or II at the last two Conferences of the Parties to CMS (COP10 and COP11). The findings of the AC and its recommendations to the Signatories are presented in CMS/Sharks MOS2/Doc.8.2.10/Rev.1.
7. The assessments were based on the agreed criteria for inclusion of species in Annex 1 after deciding not to apply additional criteria.

Draft Format for National Reports

8. The AC has prepared a draft format for national reporting, presented as document CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.12.1. The format was developed based on a structure and content of the Conservation Plan and the objectives of the MOU.

Draft revision of the Conservation Plan

9. The Committee has prepared a draft revision of the Conservation Plan, identifying priorities, timeframes and responsible entities for its implementation presented as CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.8.3.1/Annex1.

Expert advice on the implementation of the MOU

10. At the request of the Secretariat, the AC has provided scientific expertise and advice on questions related to the implementation of the MOU, including commenting on a draft MOU on cooperation with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

11. In order to provide guidance on priority conservation measures for species listed in Annex 1 and those species proposed for inclusion at this meeting, an expert in the field of shark and ray conservation was given the task of undertaking a comprehensive desk study.

12. The study is presented as CMS/Sharks/Mos2/Inf.9 and contains a set of recommendations to be considered by the Committee at its First Meeting (AC1).

Action requested:

The Meeting of the Signatories is invited to note the report.