



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

CMS/Sharks/Outcome 2.8

20 February 2016

Original: English

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

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

Mandate and Tasks

1. The purpose of the Conservation Working Group (CWG) is to serve and assist the Advisory Committee (AC) and complement areas where expertise within the AC is needed.
2. The CWG will be composed of members recommended by the Signatories or the AC, the number depending on the availability of resources (which may include funding from the Secretariat, the Signatories and external sources). This membership may change in relation to the needs and the specific topic.
3. The key areas of expertise will include, but are not limited to, fisheries, population ecology, socio-economics, trade, traceability, governance, taxonomy, life history, habitat use, fisheries management, post-release survival, movements/migrations and geographic range of the species.
4. The AC may request the CWG to give priority to certain activities and tasks that may include, but are not limited to:
 - a) Reviewing the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs), Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) and other relevant organizations that are involved with Annex 1 listed species, identifying research, management and information gaps that may be addressed by the Sharks MOU. This will include identifying key regions and capacity-building needs in areas not covered by RFMOs that would benefit from support.
 - b) Clarifying bycatch for the work of the CWG, taking into account targeted fisheries, taking of species, byproducts and incidental catch.
 - c) Reviewing mitigation mechanisms being employed by fisheries management bodies and best practice guidelines for sharks.
 - d) Compiling relevant biological data of species listed in Annex 1 and reviewing and identifying species-specific priority research and conservation needs at the appropriate scale.

- e) Participating, when possible, as observers in relevant meetings of FAO, the United Nations Environment Programme, RSCAPs, RFBs and other relevant organizations on behalf of the MOU.
- f) Undertaking a prioritization of the activities of the Conservation Plan by species or group of species (as appropriate), with priority to those listed under Appendix I of the CMS, taking into consideration relevant existing initiatives.
- g) Providing guidelines on the implementation of the Sharks MOU Annex 1 listings and CMS listings for CMS Parties.
- h) Presenting recommendations and position statements to stakeholders at relevant meetings and workshops of FAO, RSCAPs and RFBs and other relevant organizations.
- i) Convening CWG Workshops focused on topics defined by the Meeting of the Signatories, AC or CWG (in consultation with the AC).