

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

CMS/Sharks/MOS3/Doc.13.1
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3rd Meeting of the Signatories (Sharks MOS3)
Monaco, 10 – 14 December 2018
Agenda Item 13

DRAFT CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR THE SHARKS MOU

(Prepared by the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat)

1. The present document contains the results of a survey on capacity-building needs of Signatories in Annex 1 and a draft Capacity Building Programme for the Sharks MOU in Annex 2. The latter contains elements which the Advisory Committee (AC) recommended to be included. The AC recommendations were previously published in [CMS/Sharks/AC2/Rec.2.4](#).

Background

2. The implementation of the Conservation Plan requires significant technical and institutional capacity, which is why the Secretariat has been given the task by MOS2 of supporting Signatories with increasing their capacity.
3. In accordance with the Programme of Work 2016-2018, the Secretariat is required to:
 - a. fund and support national and international training courses in data collection, shark identification, and handling and safe release protocols (activity no. 9);
 - b. identify and review gaps in capacity and training needs of Signatories and compile or develop tailored training materials (activity no. 52);
 - c. assist Signatories with the implementation of the Conservation Plan (activity no. 53);
 - d. contribute to joint capacity-building workshops with CMS and cooperating partners in Africa, Asia, Oceania and South & Central America & the Caribbean, as requested by the regions (activity no. 54);

Survey

4. To facilitate this, in 2017 the Secretariat undertook a survey amongst Signatories to evaluate capacity gaps that Signatories to the Sharks MOU may encounter regarding the implementation of tasks and activities agreed in the Conservation Plan and as further specified in the Programme of Work 2016-2018.
5. The intention was to gather background information on the current level of capacity in different Signatory countries and regions, to identify key needs of Signatories and to support the development of a Capacity-Building Programme for the MOU.

6. The questionnaire was developed in consultation with the members of the Advisory Committee (AC). All questions relate to capacities particularly required to implement the agreed activities in the Conservation Plan and Programme of Work 2016-2018, which are in the fields of:
 - a. Technical capacity;
 - b. Policy development;
 - c. Compliance and enforcement;
 - d. Habitat conservation and rehabilitation;
 - e. Development and management of conservation projects;
 - f. Awareness raising and communication;
 - g. Community participation;
 - h. Cooperation with other Range States;
 - i. Funding requirements;
 - j. Existing expertise for the implementation of the MOU.

7. The questionnaire was sent on 4 and 5 August 2017 to all Focal Points for completion. By the extended deadline of 15 September 2017, 16 out of 41 Signatories had submitted replies to the Secretariat.

8. At least one response was received from each of the six regions of the MOU. As shown in figure 1 below, the majority of responses were from the African region, followed by Europe.

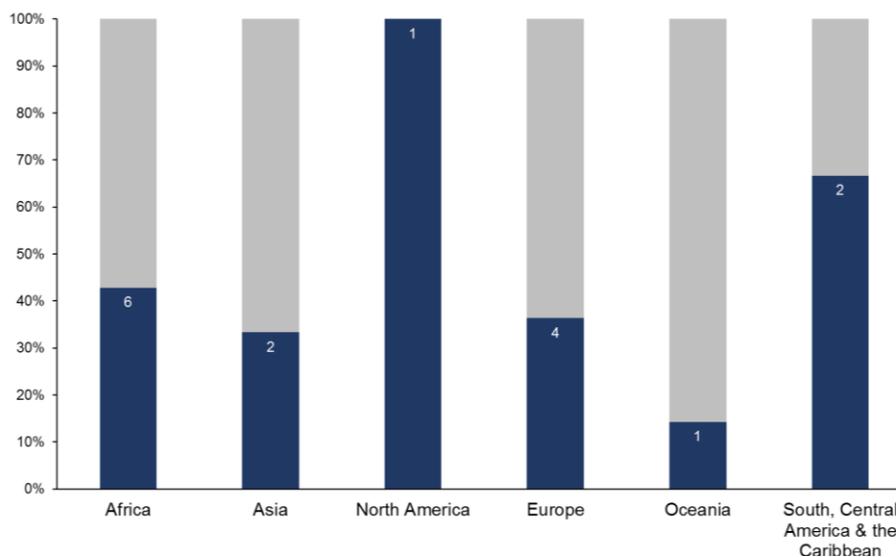


Figure 1: Number of responses to the survey in comparison to the overall number of Signatories by region

9. A more detailed analysis of the survey is presented as [Annex 1](#) to this document. The questionnaire and the individual replies from Signatories are provided in [CMS/Sharks/MOS3/Inf.13](#).

Capacity-Building Programme for Sharks MOU Signatories

10. Using the results from the survey, a draft Capacity-building Programme has been developed, which is included in Annex 2 to this document. The Programme consists of an introductory section with general principles as well as a table containing suggested capacity building activities, their suggested level of priority and entities which would be involved with the implementation. In addition, the table contains comments from the AC, which are intended to guide discussions at MOS3. These comments will be deleted after adoption of the Programme.

Action requested:

The Meeting is requested to:

- a) Take note of the results of the survey as presented in this document and further information provided in [CMS/Sharks/MOS3/Inf.13](#);
- b) Review, amend as required and adopt the draft Capacity Building Programme.

**RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ON
SPECIFIC CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS OF SIGNATORIES TO THE CMS SHARKS MOU
RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSERVATION PLAN AND
PROGRAMME OF WORK**

1. Capacity-building needs were raised under all topics, with at least five positive responses for each topic. The largest needs are seen in the areas of “technical capacities”, such as “biological research and scientific monitoring” and “collection and reporting of data from high seas fisheries”. Equally high were capacity needs in the fields of “compliance and enforcement”, “habitat conservation and rehabilitation”, and “development and management of conservation projects”. Furthermore, “cooperation with other Range States” and “funding” were mentioned as areas of major capacity gaps by the Signatories.

Technical Capacity

2. Signatories were asked to report their technical capacity needs in the areas of (a) biological research and monitoring of populations, (b) collection and reporting of data from artisanal fisheries and (c) from high seas fisheries, (d) stock assessment, (e) species identification, (f) safe handling and release procedures and (g) bycatch mitigation.
3. Responses show a general need for training of relevant staff in data collection, species identification. A large need for many countries is technical support and equipment for data collection, which ties into the large need for funding by most countries to implement the conservation plan and all the activities mentioned
4. Signatories indicated that, in areas where data is available, capacity needs to build up for the analysis of the information as well as for the dissemination of the results and reporting. In a number of cases it was suggested to develop databases and analytical tools to facilitate this.
5. The proper identification of species, which is a prerequisite for all aspects of research, monitoring management and conservation of sharks and rays, was seen as a key area for improvement. Signatories called for training and capacity-building programmes for relevant stakeholders. The development of updating of existing identification guides as well as their wide distribution was requested. Additionally, to support enforcement activities, rapid tools such as genetic kits, are required at landing sites and in customs systems.
6. In order to ensure for the safe handling and release of shark and ray species caught in fisheries, training of fishermen in techniques and the establishment of clear procedures were mentioned as a requirement by many Signatories. In addition, the ability of fishers to identify species that are protected species needs to be improved.
7. Regarding the mitigation of unwanted bycatch, Signatories indicated their need for resources to investigate and apply different technologies or fisheries devices, (e.g. avoidance devices), to reduce bycatch of sharks and rays. Creating awareness amongst fishers on the conservation status of sharks was seen as an important requirement to reduce bycatch.

Policy development

8. Signatories were asked to report their capacity needs in three policy areas: sustainable fisheries, conservation and tourism.
9. Regarding sustainable fisheries, support was required in particular to develop national strategies and actions plans for the sustainable management of stocks, to develop or update NPOAs and/or to ensure that those Action Plans were properly streamlined with national legislation. On an institutional level, it was noted that a stronger linkage between the environmental and the fisheries sector should be established to ensure for proper implementation of existing policies for the conservation of sharks and rays. In one case, in which the development of a regulatory framework for shark fisheries is currently underway, the reinforcement of capacities for stakeholders was mentioned as a requirement. The need to establish clear processes e.g. for the handling of incidental bycatch of sharks was mentioned.
10. In terms of conservation policies, Signatories reported that there was the need for the development of national action plans and to review national legislation with view to incorporate requirements under CMS and CITES.
11. In the area of tourism policies, fewer Signatories indicated capacity needs than in other fields. However, support was requested for the development for eco-tourism and its integration of the latter in the overall national tourism strategy. It was seen as important to add economic value to sharks through non-invasive eco-tourism activities to encourage local communities to cooperate in conservation activities.

Compliance and enforcement

12. Regarding compliance and enforcement, Signatories requested support with the development of national strategies and improvement of legislation and criminal proceedings, training of staff involved in enforcement activities, the financing of control and surveillance activities.

Habitat conservation and rehabilitation

13. Specific needs regarding habitat conservation and rehabilitation were expressed in the areas of marine spatial planning, including mapping and zoning of marine areas. Furthermore, support for the development of management plans, including indicators for conservation success for protected areas, the designation of MPAs and the management and monitoring of those sites was requested. Signatories suggested holding training workshops to increase human capacities and to provide support in terms of expertise and equipment.
14. It was specifically highlighted that the Network of MPAs in West Africa, which works to protect sensitive areas, including critical sites for sharks and rays, should be supported.

Development and management of conservation projects

15. Signatories identified capacity needs for the development of projects on research, monitoring, habitat conservation, policy development, awareness raising and training. In a few cases, Signatories asked for support for ongoing projects or projects in planning.

Awareness raising and communication

16. Some Signatories are already undertaking awareness raising initiatives, in particular to explain to local communities the importance of shark and ray conservation and the role of these species in ecosystems. Generally, support would be required for meetings or campaigns as well as for awareness-raising materials such as banners, posters etc.

Community participation

17. Signatories acknowledge the importance of local communities as the key stakeholders in conservation and management of marine resources. Support in this regard was requested for organizing meetings or workshops to empower communities and fisheries cooperatives, to let them participate in planning and decision-making and to provide fair and equitable access to benefits to them.

Cooperation with other Range States

18. There was the general understanding, that the conservation of sharks and rays required cooperation of all Range States, not only Signatories, to ensure sustainability of management measures. The Focal Point from Guinea suggested to support sub-regional cooperation and cooperation with other countries at the international level. The sharing of information and exchange of ideas as well as lessons learned by Range States were highlighted as an important field of cooperation amongst Range States.

Funding

19. Signatories indicated that financial resources were generally needed to support the implementation of the Conservation Plan and Programme of Work. Funding was specifically required for research activities, data collection, equipment, and training.

Analysis of regional trends

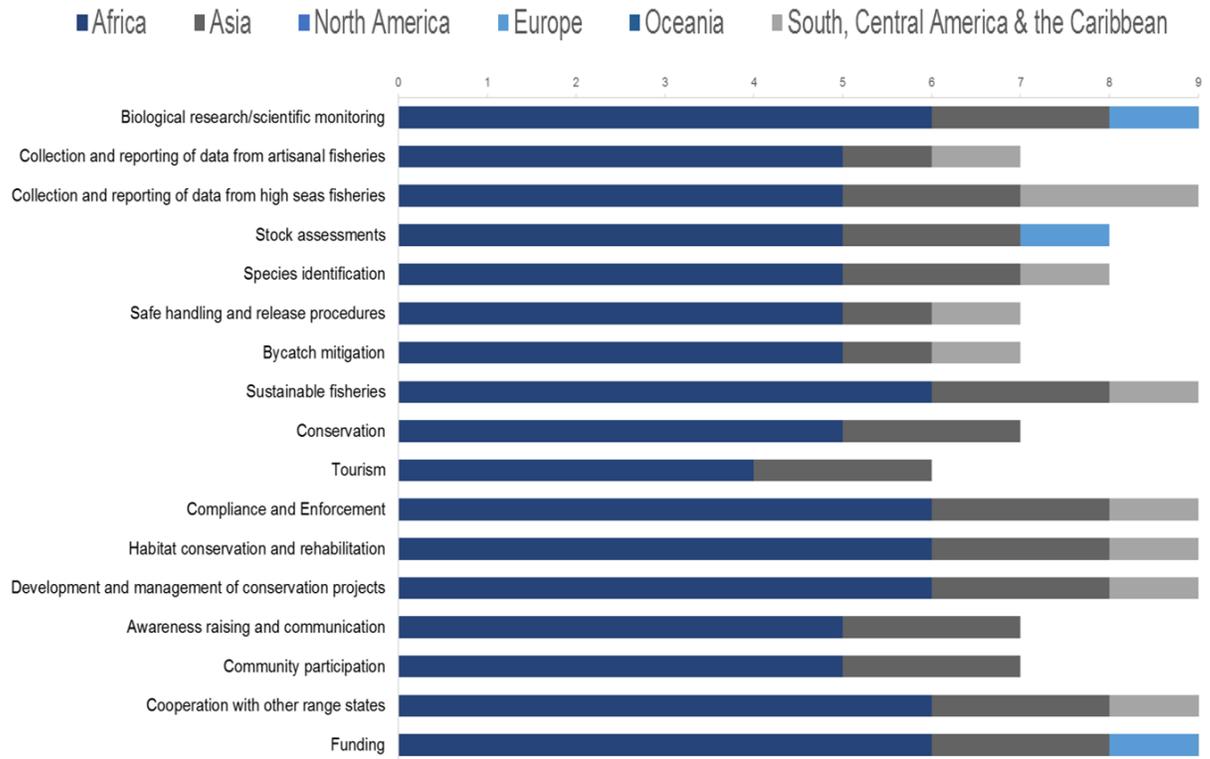


Figure 2: Capacity-building needs by region

20. The African region displayed the highest needs for capacity-building. The South, Central American & Caribbean region showed regional needs in the areas of data reporting from high seas fisheries and cooperation with other Range States. However, even though Signatories in some regions have not responded to the survey, the focus must not be shifted away from regions with lower response rates (figure 2).

ANNEX 2

DRAFT CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR THE SHARKS MOU

1. The Capacity Building Programme aims at guiding the Sharks MOU Signatories, the Advisory Committee, Secretariat and Cooperating Partners to improve overall capacity that is required to implement the Sharks MOU Conservation Plan.
2. The Programme includes key activities of highest priority, which are intended to address the main capacity building needs of Signatories. The Programme shall be updated regularly at each MOS and shall be based on capacity-building needs expressed by Signatories. To evaluate such needs, the following procedures are foreseen:
 - a. Survey by the Secretariat (each triennium)
 - b. Direct expression of needs by Signatories to the Secretariat (national report and any time intersessionally)
3. The implementation of the Programme shall be funded through voluntary contributions and in-kind contributions of Signatories and other donor countries or organizations.
4. Wherever possible, CMS is requested to support such activities in the context of CMS related outreach and capacity building activities.
5. As appropriate and feasible, capacity building shall be undertaken in cooperation with other relevant organizations, in particular, but not limited to CITES, FAO, RFMOs and RSC and Aps as well as the non-profit and private sector.

Activities	Implementing Entity	Priority ¹	Comments by the AC to MOS3
1. Technical Capacity:			
a) Develop or update/translate and disseminate identification guides;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signatories - AC 	1	ID guides should be developed based on the needs of the region. Surveys might have to be undertaken to develop a checklist of species that occur in certain areas and regions; Cooperation with CITES and FAO is recommended.
b) Develop CMS/CITES ID guide in multiple languages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signatories - AC 	1	
c) Identify existing or develop training materials, including for Training of Trainers (TOT), on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - species identification; - documentation of (standardized) protocols; - data collection (incl. preliminary analysis, data storage) and reporting; - safe handling and release techniques. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signatories in cooperation with RFMOs 	1	FAO provides already training materials on data collection, data analysis and reporting; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the USA (NOAA) and others provide guides on safe handling and release techniques.
d) Provide training or inform Signatories about appropriate training workshops occurring in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signatories - AC - Cooperating Partners - Secretariat - 	2	Signatories with capacity-building needs may be invited to regional workshops held by other Signatories, relevant organizations or Cooperating Partners.
e) Facilitates the exchange of knowledge and expertise between Signatories within and across regions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signatories - AC - Cooperating Partners - Secretariat 	3	This may be in form of training workshops or provision of training materials; repository of training materials Provision of databases, and providing assistance with analysis and reporting

¹ The activities were ranked by priority on a scale of 1 (highest priority) - 3 (lowest priority).

Activities	Implementing Entity	Priority ¹	Comments by the AC to MOS3
2. Policy Development:			
a) Review and provide guidance on national strategies and legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Signatories – Secretariat – Cooperating Partners 	1 upon request	Upon request by Signatories; Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) may be able to review strategies.
3. Compliance and Enforcement of CMS-listed species:			
a) Provide training and develop training materials for national staff concerned with surveillance and enforcement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Signatories – Cooperating Partners 	1	RFBs might be able to provide assistance
4. Habitat conservation and rehabilitation:			
a) Assist Signatories with marine spatial planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Signatories – AC 	3	Please refer to recommendations on spatial management
b) Support for the development of management plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Signatories – AC 	3	Please refer to recommendations on spatial management
5. Development and management of conservation projects:			
a) Stimulate and incentivize the development of projects e.g. through start-up grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Signatories – Secretariat – Cooperating Partners 	2	
6. Awareness-raising and Communication/Community Participation:			
a). Develop awareness-raising materials or identify existing ones, that can be tailored to the needs of the different regions and countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cooperating Partners – Secretariat – AC 	2	Information may be already available through Signatories or NGOs.

Activities	Implementing Entity	Priority ¹	Comments by the AC to MOS3
b) Assist with developing community events to educate on shark conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signatories - Cooperating Partners - Secretariat 	2	
7. Cooperation with other Range States:			
a) Inform Signatories of opportunities for regional or international cooperation, such as multi-national initiatives, projects or meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signatories - Secretariat - Cooperating Partners 	1	This activity could be achieved at low cost.
b) Signatories to engage in existing international agreements (RSCs and APs and other regional bodies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signatories - Cooperating Partners 	2	
8. Funding:			
a) Identify suitable funds and make Signatories and Range States aware of funding opportunities for the implementation of the MOU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signatories - Secretariat - Cooperating Partners - AC 	1	Signatories, Cooperating Partners and AC might be able to provide feedback on proposals.
b) Encourage funding bodies to consider the CMS listings as criterion for assessing proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signatories - Secretariat 	2	