**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 AC, the number depending on the availability of resources. 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:

1. Reviewing the work of the FAO, RSCs, 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.
2. Clarifying by-catch for the work of the CWG, taking into account targeted fisheries, taking of species, by-products and incidental catch.
3. Reviewing mitigation mechanisms being employed by fisheries management bodies and best practice guidelines for sharks.
4. 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.
5. When possible, an appropriate representative participating with observer status in relevant FAO, RSCs, RFBs and other relevant organizations meetings on behalf of the MOU.

e-bis. Undertake a prioritisation 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.

1. Providing guidelines on the implementation of the MOU Annex 1 listings (and CMS listings for CMS Parties.
2. Presenting recommendations and position statements to stakeholders at relevant FAO, RSCs, and RFBs and other relevant organizations meetings and workshops
3. Convening CWG Workshops focused on topics defined by the MOS, AC or CWG (in consultation with the AC).