



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

CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.13.1
9 November 2022
Original: English

4th Meeting of the Signatories (Sharks MOS4)
Bonn, 28 February – 2 March 2023
Agenda Item 13

COMPOSITION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. This document outlines the situation regarding the current composition of the Advisory Committee (AC) and provides guidance on required replacement of members to the AC and outlines the process for nomination of new members.

Background

2. The Advisory Committee (AC) to the Sharks MOU was established at the first Meeting of the Signatories (MOS1). Its Terms of Reference (TOR) were last updated at MOS3 in 2018 ([CMS/Sharks/Outcome 3.7](#)):
 6. *The Advisory Committee should comprise 10 persons qualified as experts in migratory shark conservation, science and management. In appointing the Advisory Committee, Signatories should strive to achieve a balance among the areas of expertise.*
 7. *The members of the Committee should be appointed as representatives of the regions by the Signatories from each region as set out in Annex 2 to the MOU and reiterated below.*

| Region | Number of representatives |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Africa | 2 |
| Asia | 2 |
| Europe | 2 |
| North America | 1 |
| Oceania | 1 |
| South, Central America and the Caribbean | 2 |

Procedure for the renewal of Advisory Committee Membership

3. The TOR in ([CMS/Sharks/Outcome 3.7](#)) continue:
 14. *Advisory Committee members should serve for a minimum period of two consecutive regular Meetings of the Signatories and where possible not longer than for three terms.*
 15. *Renewal of members of the Advisory Committee should take into account consideration of the continuity of the Committee. As such, where possible, no more than three members should be replaced simultaneously, nor should two members of a region be replaced at the same time.*

16. *Replacement of Advisory Committee members will be tracked and managed by the Secretariat to balance stability, continuity and renewal. Regions with members who are eligible or identified for potential replacement will be notified at the time of distribution of meeting documents for the coming MOS. Regions will need to consult with their members and come to the MOS ready to advise the Secretariat whether the current member is retained, or a new member will be appointed.*
4. In summary:
- a) No more than three members should be replaced simultaneously, nor should two members of a region be replaced at the same time.
 - b) Members should serve for a maximum of three terms (of three years each).
 - c) Exceptions may apply.
5. Given that most of the current membership started at the same time, having been nominated at MOS1, the situation has arisen that five members have served the maximum number of terms. Therefore, some regions will require a new member to be appointed.

Update on Member Positions

6. The table below details the current members in each region, the number of terms they have served, action required by Signatories. These proposed actions have been determined according to the guidelines contained in the TOR.

| Region | Member | Terms Served | Action to be Taken |
|--|-------------------------|--------------|--|
| Africa | Mika Samba Diop | 3 | Could be replaced as has served three terms, but as there is no second African member, could continue to serve, so as to retain continuity |
| | Position not filled | | Vacant position to be filled. |
| Asia | Moonyeen Alava | 2 | The member can serve another term |
| | Rima Jabado | 2 | The member can serve another term |
| Europe | Marino Vacchi | 3 | In order to retain continuity one member should remain and one should be replaced. |
| | James Ellis | 3 | |
| North America | John Carlson | 3 | The member should be replaced (unless agreed with Oceania that they replace theirs). There is only one Signatory in this region. |
| Oceania | Lesley Gidding-Reeve | 3 | The member should be replaced (unless agreed with North America that they replace theirs). |
| South, Central America and the Caribbean | Carlos Julio Polo Silva | 1 | The member can serve another term |
| | Mario Espinoza | 2 | The member can serve another term |

7. As outlined in the above table, there are four positions to be filled, one for each of the following regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, and either North America or Oceania. Specifically:
- Africa should elect one or two new members;
 - Europe should replace one of the two existing members;
 - North America and Oceania must coordinate over which region will replace its single member.
 - Asia and South, Central America and the Caribbean can retain their existing members.

Nominations for New Advisory Committee Members

8. The Secretariat requests Signatories in the affected regions to nominate one or more individuals, regardless of their nationality and in accordance with paragraph 2 of the [Terms of Reference](#) , to serve as a member of the AC.
9. Nominations for the vacancies should be provided in writing to the Secretariat at least 60 days in advance of the 4th Meeting of the Signatories, i.e. 29 December, 2022 and should include a curriculum vitae containing information on the professional background of the nominee). The Secretariat will circulate such nominations to all Signatories of the respective region prior to MOS4.
10. An annex will be added to this document, containing the nominations received from the relevant regions.
11. As outlined in paragraph 13 of the TOR, during MOS4, the Signatories of each region will appoint their regional representative by consensus, from among the individuals nominated, considering their technical expertise relating to sharks.

Action requested:

12. The Meeting is requested to:

Appoint new members to the AC in accordance with the parameters outlined in paragraph 5 above. In doing so, Signatories should be mindful of the required expertise, as outlined in paragraph 6 of the TOR, i.e. members should be “qualified as experts in migratory shark conservation, science and management. In appointing the Advisory Committee, Signatories should strive to achieve a balance among the areas of expertise.