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|  | **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SHARKS** | CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.9.1  16 January 2015  Original: English |

Second Meeting of the Signatories

San José, Costa Rica, 15-19 February 2016

Agenda Item 9

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK (2016-2018)**

**TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SHARKS**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

1. A draft Programme of Work (PoW) has been developed to provide guidance to the Signatories, the Advisory Committee (AC) and the Secretariat, for the next triennium 2016-2018. The activities of the Conservation Plan and the management mandates of the MOU have been converted into concrete, applicable tasks to conserve and manage migratory sharks and their habitats in the most effective manner.
2. The draft PoW contains priority actions for implementation identified by the AC, focusing on the top priorities of the Conservation Plan, and as described in document CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.8.3.1. In addition the PoW specifies the core functions assigned to the Secretariat and the AC in their respective Terms of Reference providing a list of concrete tasks and activities.
3. A study to identify the priority conservation measures for species listed in Annex 1 of the MOU was concluded to complement the draft PoW (refer to CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.9.2). The detailed priority actions that were identified in this study can be reviewed in CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Inf.11 and are tailored to the species-specific and regional needs.
4. The draft PoW proposes the establishment of two working groups under the AC. Based on the above mentioned study on species priorities (CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.9.2) and the activities incorporated in the draft PoW, the Species Working Group (SWG) would be composed of scientific experts who will assist the AC in developing species-specific and regional Action Plans and follow the Terms of Reference (see CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.13.2) established at the First Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC1). The Bycatch Working Group (BWG) would develop a strategy for engaging with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMO) with the main objective of supporting research and providing recommendations to modify existing fishing gear and tactics, establishment and effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas or develop new technologies to minimize bycatch of sharks. It will also identify priority actions for species and propose joint activities with relevant Regional Seas Convention and RFMOs, as proposed in document CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.11.2.
5. The draft PoW as well as the species-specific priority actions will be discussed and prioritized at the AC1. Recommended revisions to the draft of the PoW will become available, immediately after AC1, in document CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.13.2.
6. Coupled with these recommendations, this document should be discussed taking into account the limited financial and staffing resources of the Sharks MOU, including the allocation of funds and the proposed budget for the next triennium (refer to CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.10.1).
7. A significant amount of time is required, particularly from the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee Members, but also from Signatories and Cooperating Partners, to implement the activities successfully. It should also be taken into consideration that the Secretariat and the AC require support from consultants to undertake specific studies which require a certain expertise. The implementation of certain activities is subject to funding being available. Signatories may earmark voluntary contributions to the implementation of specific activities of the PoW.

***Action requested:***

The Meeting of the Signatories is invited to:

1. Review and approve the draft 2016-2018 Programme of Work, including the changes and recommendations of the AC1 (CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.13.2);
2. Consider the establishment of the Species Working Group (SWG) and the Bycatch Working Group (BWG), under the Advisory Committee;
3. Allocate funding sources to the activities of the PoW.

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK (2016-2018)**

**TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SHARKS**

| **Activity**  **No.** | **Activities** | **Mandate[[1]](#footnote-1)** | **Priority**  **ranking[[2]](#footnote-2)** | **Time frame [[3]](#footnote-3)** | **Responsible entity [[4]](#footnote-4)** | **Funding[[5]](#footnote-5)** |
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| **Species Conservation** | | | | | | |
|  | Establish a **Species Working Group** (**SWG)** under the Advisory Committee | CP 1.1 | high | 2016 | AC  SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 + Fundraising |
|  | Review and identify species-specific priority research and conservation needs, taking into account regional differences | CP 1.1 | high | 2016-2018 | AC  SWG  Cooperating Partners  Consultant | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 + Fundraising |
|  | Review new information on negative impacts on sharks, best practices and guidelines. Make recommendations to Signatories and other relevant authorities for further action. | CP 1.6 | medium | 2016-2018 | AC  SWG  Cooperating Partners  Consultant | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 + Fundraising |
|  | Convene a **SWG workshop** to develop **species-specific Action Plans**:   * Compile, review and incorporate already existing Conservation strategies into Action Plans (e.g IUCN SSG Sawfish Conservation Strategy and Devil and Manta Conservation Strategy) * Refer to CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.9.2 | CP 1.1  CP 1.7 | high | 2017 | AC  SWG  SEC  Consultant | Budget scenario 1 + Fundraising |
|  | Provide recommendations to the AC and produce reports on activities to AC meetings | SWG ToR | high | As required | SWG | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Facilitate communication and support Signatories in the identification of regional and local research projects   * Consult regularly with Focal Points * Based on the outcomes of the Species-specific Action Plans (*Activity 1*), communicate to focal points relevant activities to be implemented in their region * Seek funding opportunities (refer to activity 70) | CP 1.2  SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | When instructed by Signatories to do so, identify or develop suitable conservation projects, partners for implementation and manage Funding Agreements | CP 1.2  CP 1.3  SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Fundraising |
| **Bycatch** | | | | | | |
|  | Establish a  **Bycatch Working Group** (**BWG)** under the Advisory Committee | CP 1.6  CP 5.2  CP 6.3 | high | 2016 | AC  SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Convene a **BWG Workshop** to develop a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) Engagement Strategy, including the elaboration of joint activities (Refer to CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.11.2) | CP III  CP 15.1 | high | 2017 | AC  BWG  SEC  Consultant | Budget scenario 1 |
|  | Review new information on bycatch of sharks and post-release mortality studies to assess efficiency of management   * Make recommendations to Signatories and other relevant authorities for further action. * Seek opportunities to fund and support continued studies to determine the post-release mortality of commercially exploited sharks at a regional level and to improve the collection of data | CP 1.6  CP 4.5  CP 5.2  CP 6.3 | medium | 2016-2018 | AC  BWG  SEC | Budget scenario 1 |
|  | Coordinate with fisheries specialists, RFMOs and the relevant Stakeholders to develop and adopt a standard protocol for fisheries data collection and monitoring, with the overall aim to improve species-specific reporting of catch and landing and validation of data for short and long-term analysis. | CP 2.2  CP 3.2 | high | 2017-2018 | AC  BWG | Fundraising |
|  | Liaise with CMS Bycatch Working Group and participate in CMS bycatch workshops | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | AC  BWG  SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Provide recommendations to the AC and produce reports on activities to AC meetings |  | Core | As required | BWG | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Review and compile historical landings and markets data for key species (catch, effort, spatial distribution) to fill data gaps and integrate the data into conservation and management actions (desk study) | CP 3.2 | medium | 2016-2018 | AC  BWG  Consultant | Fundraising |
| **Fisheries Management and data collection** | | | | | | |
|  | Expand and encourage fisheries-independent research (e.g. historic data on commercially exploited species) to provide additional data for use in the fishery stock assessments and to inform relevant RFMOs | CP 2.6  CP 3.2 | medium | 2016-2018 | SIG  AC  BWG  SEC | Fundraising |
|  | Promote research focussing on the identification of species-selective fishing gear | CP 4.5 | medium | 2016-2018 | SIG  AC  SEC | Fundraising |
|  | Fund and support national and international training courses in :   * data collection * shark identification * handling and save release protocols | CP 1.2 | high | 2016-2018 | SIG  AC  SEC | Fundraising |
|  | Assist in drafting of legislative text for enforcing and implementing fisheries regulations | CP 6.1  CP 6.2 | medium | As required | AC  SEC  Cooperating Partners | Fundraising |
|  | Encourage all range states to join CMS and become signatories to the MOU, and to comply with the decisions and recommendations. | CP 16.2 | high | 2016-2018 | SIG  SEC  Cooperating Partners | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Present recommendations and position statements to government officials and fishing industry representatives at relevant international meetings and workshop | CP 4.5  CP 6.1  CP 6.2  CP 6.3 | medium | as required | AC  SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | When possible, participate with observer status in relevant international meetings (IOTC, ICCAT, etc.) or send experts to participate on behalf of the MOU | CP 4.5  CP 6.1  CP 14.3 | medium | 2016-2018 | AC  SEC  Cooperating Partners | Budget scenario 1 |
|  | Coordinate between CITES, IUCN,TRAFFIC to facilitate CMS and CITES Appendix I listings and raise awareness through regional capacity building workshops on **sustainable harvest and trade** | CP 7.2  CP 14.3 | medium | 2016-2018 | SEC | Fundraising |
|  | Improve monitoring and implementation in marine protected areas (MPAs), improve enforcement | CP 14.5 | medium | 2016-2018 | SIG |  |
| **Cooperation and Partnerships** | | | | | | |
|  | Cooperate with the CMS Family on matters related to shark conservation   * Contribute to the implementation of CMS Res. 11.20, Resolutions on bycatch (CMS wide bycatch workshop) * Contribute to the preparation of CMS COP12 and other relevant meetings of CMS (ScC, StC) | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Contribute to the implementation of the **CMS CITES Joint Work Programme 2015-2020** regarding sharks and rays   * Activity B17: Optimize the effectiveness of actions taken by Parties to both CMS and CITES concerning sharks and rays, strengthening synergies with FAO, RFMOs and other relevant bodies * Activity B18: Cooperate on capacity building regarding the implementation of regulations of both Conventions related to sharks and rays | CP 14.3  SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenario 1 + Fundraising |
|  | Strengthen synergies and collaborate in conjunction with CITES and FAO to support regional programmes as well as collaboration between Range States   * Organize regular meetings (and teleconference calls ) * Share best practice * Coordinate conservation activities * Share knowledge and expertise | CP 13.1  CP 14.3  SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | AC  SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Establish partnerships and strengthen collaboration with relevant international organizations and agreements dealing with shark conservation and management | CP 13.1  CP 14.3  SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenario 1 |
|  | Promote conservation efforts and cooperation between all stakeholders in range states | CP 13.1  SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | IUCN Red List Regional Assessments   * Liaise with the IUCN Shark SSG to coordinate actions implementing the objectives of the Conservation Plan and the species-specific action plans * Participate in regional assessment workshops to provide recommendations and organize side events (Next workshop planned for 2016) | CP 13.1 | high | 2016-2018 | AC  SWG  SEC | Budget Scenario 1 + Fundraising |
| **Management of the Secretariat** | | | | | | |
|  | Manage and implement the budget for the MOU | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Prepare annual budget implementation reports for the information of the Signatories and project reports to donors | SEC ToR | core | yearly | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Undertake Fundraising activities | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Maintain and update the Sharks MOU website as needed | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC  Consultant | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Publish articles and press releases relevant to shark conservation supported by the CMS Joint Communications Team | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Produce fact sheets about relevant shark conservation topics and species   * Bycatch * Overfishing * Species Action Plans | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Use Social Media to increase the visibility of the MOU globally supported by the CMS Joint Communications Team | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Prepare publications using studies (e.g. domestic legislation, species priorities) | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Where feasible, expand the Sharks MOU communication and awareness-raising activities in alignment with the Communication Strategy for Migratory Species (in preparation) | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Fundraising |
|  | Compile information, review data, liaise with stakeholders and provide information to Signatories on the implementation and functioning of the MOU | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Facilitate and encourage regular information exchange and cooperative activities between   * the shark research and conservation community * stakeholders in all Range States * Focal Points * Advisory Committee | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Represent the MOU at meetings of other intergovernmental agreements (e.g. CITES, IUCN, FAO), as appropriate to facilitate the achievement of the objectives of the MOU | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | AC  SEC  SWG  BWG | Budget scenario 1 or 2 + Fundraising |
|  | Update and maintain the contact database | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Prepare report of the Secretariat activities for AC and MOS meetings | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Recruit and manage the staff and interns of the Secretariat | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
| **Support for Meetings (MOS, AC and WG)** | | | | | | |
|  | Undertake meeting arrangements for the 3rd Meeting of the Signatories (MOS3), including the identification of a venue, liaison with host government and organization of contracts | SEC ToR | core | End 2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Undertake meeting arrangements for the 2nd Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC2), including the identification of a venue and organization of contracts | SEC ToR | core | Mid 2017 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Undertake meeting arrangements for the 3rd Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC3), including the identification of a venue and organization of contracts | SEC ToR | core | Mid 2018 | SEC | Budget scenario 1 |
|  | Undertake meeting arrangements for the Working Group Meetings, including the identification of a venue and organization of contracts | SEC ToR | core | 2016 and 2017 | SEC | Budget scenario 1 + Fundraising |
|  | Coordinate, draft and prepare meeting documents, including posting of documents | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | AC  SEC  Consultant | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Coordinate and prepare translations into 3 languages (English, French and Spanish) | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Support and arrange attendance and travel of sponsored delegates and experts | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenario 1 or 2 + Fundraising |
|  | Organize and prepare media and press work in collaboration with the Joint Communication Team of CMS | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Prepare meeting reports and distribute to Signatories | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | AC  SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
| **Support of the Advisory Committee** | | | | | | |
|  | Assist the Chair of the Advisory Committee as required to facilitate the work of the Committee | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Assist the Advisory Committee with the preparation of meeting documents | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Assist the convenors and chairs of the Species Working Group and the Bycatch Working Group, as required to facilitate the work | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC  Consultants | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Develop and maintain the list of experts relevant to the Sharks MOU | CP 2.5 | core | 2016-2018 | SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
| **Implementation of the MOU** | | | | | | |
|  | Promote and coordinate activities of the Programme of Work and Conservation Plan | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | AC  SEC  Cooperating Partners | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Conduct a survey on domestic legislation to address implementation gaps, inform Signatories and monitor the implementation of the Conservation Plan | CP 7.1  SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | AC  SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Liaise with non-Signatory Range States to provide them with the necessary information to join the MOU and facilitate the accession | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC  Cooperating partners | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Undertake outreach activities on the following priority regions:  **South-East Asia,**  South America and Caribbean and West Africa | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC  Cooperating partners | Fundraising |
|  | Use other CMS meetings and workshops to promote the accession to the MOU | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SEC  CMS | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
| **Capacity Building** | | | | | | |
|  | Identify and review gaps in capacity and training needs of Signatories | CP 1.1  SEC TOR | high | 2016-2018 | AC  SEC  Cooperating Partners | Fundraising |
|  | Assist Signatories with the implementation of the Conservation Plan:   * Support the United Arab Emirates (and other Signatories upon request) with the development of their National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA Sharks) | CP 6.2  SEC ToR | high | 2016 and as further requested by Signatories | AC  SEC  Cooperating Partners | Fundraising |
|  | Compile manuals and develop tailored training materials for trainers, primarily Management and Scientific Authorities | CP 3.2 | high | As required | AC  BWG  SEC  Cooperating Partners | Fundraising |
|  | Contribute to joint capacity-building workshops with CMS and cooperating partners in Africa, Asia, Oceania, South & Central America and the Caribbean, as requested by the regions | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SIG  AC  SEC  Cooperating Partners | Fundraising |
|  | Raise awareness of CMS- and CITES-listed species | CP 1.6  CP 5.2  CP 6.3 | high | 2016-2018 | SIG  AC  SEC  Cooperating Partners | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |
|  | Develop a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on the Conservation and Management of Sharks and their habitats  Cooperate with relevant scientific bodies (universities, scientists, international institutions) | CP 12 | medium | 2017 | AC  SEC  Cooperating Partners | Fundraising |
|  | Translation of “Sharks of the Arabian Seas”- Identification Guide to other languages of the Indian Ocean Region (e.g. Farsi, Hindi, Urdu) and other identification guides as required | CP 12  CP13 | medium | 2016-2017 | SEC | Fundraising |
| **Fundraising / Mobilization of resources** | | | | | | |
|  | Identify existing and new opportunities for financial resources to support the long-term implementation of the Conservation Plan and the PoW. Expand and enhance fundraising activities:   * Raise funds and voluntary annual contributions from Signatories * Raise funds for joint projects with partners and potential partners * Explore possibilities of alternative funds (e.g. private sector) * Support funding applications and opportunities for Signatories * with letters of endorsement / support | SEC ToR | core | 2016-2018 | SIG  SEC | Budget scenarios 1 and 2 |

1. Conservation Plan (CP) and the Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat (SEC ToR) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Core Secretariat activities and suggested priorities (High, Medium) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Year(s) during which activity should be implemented [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Signatories (SIG), Advisory Committee (AC), Secretariat (SEC), Species Working Group (SWG), Bycatch Working Group (BWG), Consultants, Cooperating Partners [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Fundraising Scenario 1 or 2 from the proposed budget 2016-2018 CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.10.1 and activities that require special fundraising [↑](#footnote-ref-5)