



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

CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Decisions.
Rev.2

10 March 2016

Original: English

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

DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

Keynote Address

The Meeting of the Signatories was addressed by His Excellency Luis Guillermo Solís, the President of Costa Rica.

Officers

The Meeting of the Signatories elected Vice-Minister, Fernando Mora Rodríguez (Costa Rica) to be the Chair and New Zealand to be the Vice-Chair.

Australia was elected Chair of the Credentials Committee, the other members being Ghana, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America and Costa Rica. The credentials of twenty-four Signatories had been submitted, twenty-one were accepted and three were provisionally accepted.

New Signatory

At a ceremony before the morning Plenary on 18 February, Portugal signed the Sharks MOU bringing the total number of Signatories to 40.

Observers

All observers present were admitted to the session (for a list of registered Observers, please see document CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Doc.6.1/Annex/Rev.2)

Reports

Reports were taken from the Secretariat, the Chair of the Advisory Committee and the Co-Chairs of the Intersessional Working Group, which had dealt with Rules of Procedure for sessions of the Meetings of the Signatories and terms for reference and a procedure for accepting cooperating partners.

Amendments to the MOU and its Annexes

The text of the MOU was amended (*CMS/Sharks/Outcome 2.1*) with respect to:

- the addition to Paragraph 15 of a sub-paragraph requesting Signatories to endeavour to provide annual voluntary contributions to facilitate the effective implementation of the MOU.

- Paragraph 18 of the MOU introducing provisions for voting on certain issues when consensus cannot be reached.
- Paragraph 24 stating that the tasks of the Advisory Committee should be defined by the Meeting of Signatories.
- Paragraph 30 granting authority to the MOS to invite cooperating partners to sign the Sharks MOU.

The Annexes of the MOU were amended with respect to:

- the addition of 22 species of sharks and rays to Annex 1 (*CMS/Sharks/Outcome 2.2*).
- revised priorities, timeframes and actors assigned to each of the activities in the Conservation Plan contained in Annex 3 (*CMS/Sharks/Outcome 2.3*).

Rules of Procedure

At the opening of the session, the Rules of Procedure used at MOS1 were provisionally adopted for the conduct of MOS2 until such time as permanent Rules of Procedure were agreed.

Draft Rules of Procedure elaborated by the Intersessional Working Group were discussed, further refined and adopted with the exception of Rule 12 (relating to Quorum) and Rule 15 (relating to decision-making). The text of these two rules remains in square brackets (*CMS/Sharks/Outcome 2.4*).

Secretariat

The Signatories:

- decided that the Secretariat should be the permanent Secretariat of the Sharks MOU
- invited the CMS Parties to request the CMS Secretariat to become the permanent Secretariat of the Sharks MOU, in line with the decision taken by the Signatories of the Sharks MOU to have the CMS Secretariat serve as the Sharks MOU as the permanent Secretariat of the Sharks MOU; and
- requested the interim Secretariat of the Sharks MOU to communicate with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species to bring this invitation to the attention of CMS, as appropriate.

Budget

The Signatories agreed a budget (*CMS/Sharks/Outcome 2.5*), which aims to provide adequate resources for the MOU for the triennium 2016-2018, in particular with regard to the implementation of the Programme of Work.

Given the non-binding nature of the MOU, contributions would be voluntary. Germany committed itself to providing funding for the P2 position for three years.

Trust Fund

Signatories requested the UNEP Executive Director to extend the United Nations Trust Fund for the management of resources of the MOU by three years, from 2016-2018, according to the amended Terms of Reference (*CMS/Sharks/Outcome 2.5*).

Programme of Work

A Programme of Work for the triennium (2016-2018) was adopted (*CMS/Sharks/Outcome 2.6*).

A study on “Conservation Priorities for Shark and Ray Species included and proposed for inclusion in Annex 1 to the Sharks MOU” by David Ebert (*CMS/Sharks/MOS2/Inf.12*) was noted.

An intersessional working group was established to develop the communication strategy called for in the Programme of Work. Australia and Colombia were elected co-chairs.

Advisory Committee

The Asia Region nominated its two members of the Advisory Committee: Rima Jabado and Moonyeen Alava, joining the eight existing members. The South & Central America & the Caribbean Region nominated Mario Espinoza to replace Jairo Sancho Rodríguez.

Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee were amended (*CMS/Sharks/Outcome 2.7*).

Conservation Working Group

A Conservation Working Group was established under the Advisory Committee and Terms of Reference for it were agreed (*CMS/Sharks/Outcome 2.8*).

It was agreed that a strategy for cooperation with Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and fisheries-related organizations would be developed by the Conservation Working Group.

List of Experts

A proposal to create a List of Experts concerned with shark conservation was adopted. The experts included to date are: Sarah Fowler, David Ebert, Colin Simpfendorfer, Sonya Fordham, Nick Dulvy, Julia Lawson, Glenn Sant and Michelle Heupel. Rima Jabado had been included on the list of experts but was then appointed to the Advisory Committee.

Cooperating Partners

A procedure for accepting Cooperating Partners and Terms of Reference defining their role were agreed (*CMS/Sharks/Outcome 2.9*).

Seven new Cooperating Partners were accepted (the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the Manta Trust, Mar Alliance, Project Aware, Shark Advocates International, the Shark Trust and the Wildlife Conservation Society), six of which signed the MOU at a ceremony in the afternoon of 18 February, the organization that did not sign being Mar Alliance whose representative had left the meeting earlier. There are now nine Cooperating Partners.

National Reporting

Signatories agreed to submit National Reports once a triennium, six months before the meeting of the Advisory Committee preceding a session of the Meeting of the Signatories. A format for National Reports was adopted (*CMS/Sharks/Outcome 2.10*).