



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

CMS/Sharks/AC3/Inf.2/Rev.1
22 November 2019

Original: English

3rd Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC3)
Bonn, Germany, 10 - 12 December 2019
Information Document 2

**MANDATES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SHARKS**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

MANDATES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SHARKS

	Task/Mandate:	Source:
1.	Providing expert advice, information and making recommendations including suggestions on new initiatives and on the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding, to the Secretariat and the Signatories, as necessary and when appropriate.	MOU text para 24
2.	Analyzing, as necessary, scientific assessments and making recommendations on the conservation status of shark populations listed in Annex 1 and others which may be contemplated for inclusion.	MOU text para 24
3.	Preparing a report on its activities for each advisory session of the Meeting of the Signatories to be submitted to the Secretariat in ample time before the session of the Meeting of the Signatories.	MOU text para 24
4.	Recommending to the Secretariat the convening of an urgent session of the Meeting of the Signatories in view of emergencies which may arise.	MOU text para 24
5.	Carrying out any other task referred to it by the Meeting of the Signatories.	MOU text para 24

	Task/Mandate:	Source:
6.	<p>(5) Any shark or ray species listed on the CMS Appendices will automatically be considered by the Advisory Committee as a proposed listing on Annex 1 of the MOU. This is without prejudice to the final listing decision of the MOU.</p> <p>(6) If the CMS COP agrees on the inclusion of a new shark or ray species in Appendix I or II of CMS, the following procedure should be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Secretariat transmits the relevant documents for this species to the Advisory Committee of the Sharks MOU; b) The said Advisory Committee should analyze the proposal based on these documents (and if needed any additional available relevant data and literature) and prepare for the Meeting of Signatories a recommendation concerning the inclusion of the species in Annex 1 of the Sharks MOU; c) The Meeting of Signatories of the Sharks MOU should decide by consensus on the inclusion of the new species in Annex 1 of the Sharks MOU. 	Outcome 3.2 para 5 and 6
7.	<p>Provide support to the implementation of CMS Concerted Action Plans as adopted in CMS/Sharks/Outcome 3.8 <i>Cooperation with CMS on the Implementation of Concerted Action for Sharks and Rays</i>. The Secretariat, with support from the AC as required, is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Assist the government of the Philippines with the organization of a regional workshop on the conservation of whale sharks in Southeast Asia. – Assist the Principality of Monaco with the organization of regional workshops on the conservation of the Angelshark, in particular in the Mediterranean region. 	Outcome 3.9 POW¹ 19-21 para 1
8.	Finalize existing species factsheets and draft species factsheets for species newly listed in Annex 1 of the MOU.	Outcome 3.9 POW 19-21 para 2

¹ Programme of Work (POW)

	Task/Mandate:	Source:
9.	<p>Further develop and prioritize suggested areas of action as contained in Outcome 3.12 with options by taxa, region, and other relevant factors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – As stated in CMS/Sharks/Outcome 3.12 Terms of Reference of the Intersessional Working Group on Conservation Measures, “the AC will finalize the species factsheets based on comments received by Signatories; – The Chair of the AC with support from South Africa will compile the comments; – The AC will finalize the factsheets based on comments received and provide final versions for information to Signatories by the deadline of 30 April 2019. 	Outcome 3.9 POW 19-21 para 3
10.	Facilitate communication and support Signatories with the identification of regional and local projects.	Outcome 3.9 POW 19-21 para 4
11.	When instructed by Signatories to do so, identify suitable partners for implementation and manage Funding Agreements for conservation projects.	Outcome 3.9 POW 19-21 para 5
12.	Set up a repository for relevant information to assist managers, including species identification, bycatch mitigation and safe handling, discard survival, and other relevant fisheries management information. Encourage Signatories to provide such information to the Secretariat.	Outcome 3.9 POW 19-21 para 8
13.	Implement the Capacity-building Programme for the MOU as adopted in CMS/Sharks/Outcome 3.6 to assist Signatories with the implementation of the Conservation Plan.	Outcome 3.9 POW 19-21 para 10

	Task/Mandate:	Source:
14.	<p>Cooperate with the CMS Family on matters related to shark conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Contribute to the implementation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CMS Res. 12.20 on “Management of Marine Debris”; – CMS Res. 12.22 on “Bycatch”; – CMS Res. 12.23 on “Sustainable Tourism and Migratory Species”; – CMS Res. 12.24 on “Promoting Marine Protected Area Networks in the ASEAN Region”; – Contribute to the preparation of CMS COP13² and other relevant meetings of CMS (ScC6, StC7); – Provide comments on proposals for the inclusion of shark and ray species in the Appendices of CMS to the CMS Scientific Council and Conference of the Parties. 	Outcome 3.9 POW 19-21 para 11
15.	<p>Strengthen synergies and collaborate with CITES³ and FAO⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Contribute to the implementation of the CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme 2015-2020 regarding sharks and rays; – Include activities on sharks and rays in a new CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme with the CITES Secretariat in consultation with Signatories; – Organize regular meetings (and teleconferences); – Share best practice; – Coordinate conservation activities; – Share knowledge and expertise. 	Outcome 3.9 POW 19-21 para 12
16.	<p>Liaise with the IUCN Shark SSG and participate in assessment and conservation planning workshops, where relevant.</p>	Outcome 3.9 POW 19-21 para 16

² 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory species of Wild Animals.

³ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

	Task/Mandate:	Source:
17.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The POW needed focussed targets, which the AC working with a small number of Signatories might develop. The EU agreed and endorsed the idea of developing targets before MOS4. New Zealand preferred the option of working with the AC rather than establishing a dedicated working group. – The Vice-Chair sought a volunteer to steer the process. Mauritania indicated its willingness to take the lead. Australia suggested reaching out to cooperating partners. – The IUCN indicated its support and mentioned its assessment and conservation planning workshops which would be relevant to activity 16 of the POW. 	MOS3 Meeting Report Regarding the POW
18.	<p>The AC may request the CWG to give priority to certain activities and tasks that may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reviewing the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs), Regional Fisheries Bodies (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. b) Reviewing mitigation mechanisms being employed by fisheries management bodies and best practice guidelines for sharks. c) 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 d) Participating, when possible, as observers in relevant meetings of FAO, the United Nations Environment Programme, RSCAPs, RFBs and other relevant organizations on behalf of the MOU. e) Undertaking a prioritization 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. f) Providing guidelines on the implementation of the Sharks MOU Annex 1 listings and CMS listings for CMS Parties. g) Presenting recommendations and position statements to stakeholders at relevant meetings and workshops of FAO, RSCAPs and RFBs and other relevant organizations. 	Outcome 2.8 TOR⁵ CWG

⁵ Terms of Reference (TOR)

	Task/Mandate:	Source:
19.	<p>A. Directed to the Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Liaise and communicate with RFMOs to identify opportunities for joint activities, including capacity-building activities that are relevant for the conservation and management of species listed in Annex 1; iii. Enhance visibility of MOU activities in RFMOs and vice versa. 	Outcome 3.4 RFMO Engagement
20.	<p>(1.1) Investigate (through research, including satellite tagging and genetic studies) the connectivity of local populations and migrations.</p> <p>(1.2) Collect information on the scale of bycatch and fisheries interaction to assess the level of impact this has on Whale Sharks and any potential mitigation strategies.</p> <p>(1.3) Investigate locations and conditions in which pollution (such as discarded fishing gear, noise, plastics etc.) may be affecting Whale Shark populations.</p> <p>(1.5) Identify (through research, including satellite tagging studies) and protect critical Whale Shark habitats (e.g. feeding or mating habitats) and migratory routes.</p> <p>(2.1) Identify potential threats to Whale Sharks from tourism activities.</p> <p>(2.2) Collate and share good practice from countries with established Whale Shark tourism.</p> <p>(2.7) Capacity-building of Government agencies and local communities to deliver educational campaigns.</p> <p>(5.3) Encourage all Range States to develop action plans (AP) for the conservation of Whale Sharks.</p> <p>(5.6) Encourage the development of regional action plans to foster cooperation between Range States with connected populations.</p> <p>(5.7) Develop management plans for marine sanctuaries, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and other ecosystem-based protection measures that include Whale Sharks.</p>	Outcome 3.8 CMS Concerted Action Whale Shark (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>)

	Task/Mandate:	Source:
21.	<p>(1.1) Review the Global Conservation Strategy (Lawson et al. 2017) and implement priority actions.</p> <p>(3.2) Develop, disseminate, and support implementation of best-practice approaches to reduce incidental catches of mobulid rays and for safe-handling and release to minimize post-capture mortality.</p> <p>(3.3) Collaborate and coordinate research and management implementation with both local stakeholders and neighboring Range States, recognizing the need to address shared stocks conservation through coordinated approaches - e.g. via RFMOs and RFBs.</p> <p>(4.2) Develop an ecological monitoring plan for mobulid rays to determine effectiveness of conservation and management measures.</p> <p>(4.3) Collate and share findings and best practices at national and regional workshops.</p>	<p>Outcome 3.8 CMS Concerted Action.</p> <p><i>Mobulids (Mobulidae)</i></p>
22.	<p>(1) Acknowledge the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Angel Shark Conservation Strategy (CMS/Sharks/MOS3/Inf.12) and implement its objectives where appropriate.</p> <p>(2) Regional Action Plan Workshops: Prepare and hold Northeast Atlantic workshop; Prepare and hold Mediterranean workshop; Prepare and hold West Africa workshop.</p> <p>(4) Global Strategy: Engage with IUCN SSG and contribute to Global Red List reassessments for all angel shark species.</p>	<p>Outcome 3.8 CMS Concerted Action.</p> <p>Angelshark (<i>Squatina squatina</i>)</p>
23.	AC was requested by the IWG Reporting to review draft reporting format and to develop indicators (doc in preparation),	<p>Outcome 3.11 TOR IWG⁶ National Reporting</p>

⁶ Intercessional Working Group (IWG)

	Task/Mandate:	Source:
24.	<p>The AC will finalize the species factsheets based on comments received by Signatories; The AC will finalize the factsheets based on comments received and provide final versions for information to Signatories by the deadline of 30 April 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Chair of the AC with support from South Africa will compile the comments. – Factsheets would have to be updated regularly based on new information by the AC. – The alternative title “Suggestions for Action” instead of “Recommendations for species specific Conservation Measures” should be used in the factsheets; – There should be an additional factsheet produced summarizing actions across species; – The factsheets with information on the Shark MOU should be updated. 	TOR IWG Conservation Measures
25.	Develop or update/translate and disseminate identification guides.	Outcome 3.6⁷ para 1a
26.	Develop CMS/CITES ID guide in multiple languages.	Outcome 3.6 para 1b
27.	Provide training or inform Signatories about appropriate training workshops occurring in the region.	Outcome 3.6 para 1d
28.	Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise between Signatories within and across regions.	Outcome 3.6 para 1e
29.	Assist Signatories with marine spatial planning.	Outcome 3.6 para 4a
30.	Support the development of management plans.	Outcome 3.6 para 4b
31.	Develop awareness raising materials or identify existing ones, that can be tailored to the needs of the different regions and countries.	Outcome 3.6 para 6a

⁷ Capacity-building Programme (CBP)

	Task/Mandate:	Source:
32.	Identify suitable funds and make Signatories and Range States aware of funding opportunities for the implementation of the MOU.	Outcome 3.6 para 8a
33.	Serve and assist the Signatories with the implementation of the MOU and its Conservation Plan.	Outcome 3.7 AC TOR, para 1
34.	Undertake further tasks as identified in the Conservation Plan (Annex 3 of the MOU).	Outcome 3.7 AC TOR, para 5
35.	Review priorities and timeframes and responsible entities for implementation of the Conservation Plan.	Outcome 3.7 AC TOR, para 5
36.	Identify priority research, monitoring and training needs, taking into account regional differences.	Conservation Plan Activity 1.1
37.	Establish conservation targets and indicators to assess progress towards reaching these targets at the species population level and develop species-specific reference points for enhanced conservation measures.	Conservation Plan Activity 1.7
38.	Facilitate the timely access to and exchange of information necessary to coordinate conservation and management measures.	Conservation Plan Activity 2.1
39.	Recommend standard methods and set minimum levels of data collection and adopt or develop a recommended set of protocols for research, monitoring, and information exchange.	Conservation Plan Activity 2.2
40.	Determine and, where appropriate, develop the most suitable methods for information dissemination.	Conservation Plan Activity 2.3

	Task/Mandate:	Source:
41.	<p>Regularly exchange scientific and technical information and expertise among:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – national governments; – scientific institutions; – non-governmental organizations and civil society; – international organizations; and – the private sector. <p>in order to develop and implement best practice approaches to the conservation of sharks and their habitats.</p>	<p>Conservation Plan Activity 2.4</p>
42.	Create a directory of experts and organizations concerned with shark conservation on a regional and global level.	<p>Conservation Plan Activity 2.5</p>