



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

CMS/Sharks/AC4/Inf.14
15 November 2024
Original: English

4th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC4)
Puerto Princesa, Philippines, 25 – 29 November 2024
Agenda Item 3

PROGRAMME OF WORK (2023-2025)

Tasks of the Advisory Committee

Version agreed at the 1st call of the AC on 6 May 2024

Section 1: Core tasks of the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee

No.	Activity	Priority ranking ¹	Time frame ² Implementation by AC ³ Status	Responsible entity ⁴ Responsibilities within the AC	Funding needs	Modus Operandi
Cooperation and Partnerships						
1	Contribute to preparing and holding CMS COP14 ⁵ , CMS SCScC6 ⁶ , Sc-ScC7 ⁷	core	2023-2025	SEC, AC	core budget	
	SCScC6: • Preparation of written comments	Core	July 2023 SC6 completed	• Lead: AC Chair; all AC members;	Core budget	Online and in person

¹ Core activities as mandated in the Terms of Reference for the Secretariat and AC.

² Year(s) during which activity should be implemented.

⁴ Signatories (SIG), Advisory Committee (AC), Secretariat (SEC), Conservation Working Group (CWG), Consultants, Cooperating Partners (CooP)

⁵ 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory species of Wild Animals

⁶ 6th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council

⁷ 7th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council

No.	Activity	Priority ranking ¹	Time frame ² Implementation by AC ³ Status	Responsible entity ⁴ Responsibilities within the AC	Funding needs	Modus Operandi
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representation of the AC at the meeting 			Assisted by the Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC Chair 		
	COP14: Representation of the AC at COP14, participation in in-session Aquatic WG;	core	12-17 Feb 2024, Samarkand, Uzbekistan completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carlos (on Panama delegation) Rima (as COP Appointed Councillor) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government funding Project funding 	In person
	Sc-ScC7: Representation of the AC at the meeting		Tbd 2024/2025 SC7	AC Chair	Core budget	In person
2	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.	core	2023 July 2023 Completed (first submission) Review of revision once submitted by Brazil Deadline: 15 Jan 24	AC Lead: Jim All AC members	Core budget	All AC members
3	Strengthen synergies and establish partnerships with relevant organizations (including MEAs, FAO, RFBs, IUCN SSC SSG, and NGOs). Develop proposal to MOS5 on engagement with RFMOs; Inform the Secretariat about key processes and discussions in RFB fora	core	2023-2025 (See RFMO Meeting calendar)	SEC, AC, CWG ICCAT: Jim/John IOTC: Mohamed WCPFC: Moon IATTC: Mario/Carlos IUCN: Rima Jabado FAO: John CPPS: Carlos (SSPRF MOU) SPAW RAC: Sec? CARICOM: Sec	Core budget	Participation at meetings and /or following discussions. Informing Secretariat; providing support with development of notifications Develop MOS5 doc

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				GFCM: ICES: Jim		
Support for Meetings (MOS, AC and WG)						
7	Prepare and hold the 5 th Meeting of the Signatories	core	2025	SEC, AC, CWG	core budget	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the Chair • Reports on implementation of mandates (see section 2) • Scientific guidance documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recommendations to Signatories on the preparation and assessment of listing proposals for migratory sharks and rays ○ “Vision for the Sharks MOU” 		2024-2025	All AC members		In person (Chair) and online AC5
8	Prepare and hold the 4 th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC4)	core	November 2024	SEC, AC, CWG All AC members	core budget	Physical meeting Back-to-back with rhino ray conservation Planning Workshop (Philippines)
9	Prepare and hold the 5 th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC5)	core	April/May 2025	SEC, AC, CWG All AC members	core budget	Physical meeting Possibly in Florida; back-to-back with sawfish research center?
Budget Management						
15	When instructed by Signatories to do so, identify suitable partners for implementation and manage Funding Agreements for conservation projects.	core	Ongoing Upon request by the Secretariat as required	SEC, AC	Included in Section 2	Sec will function as interface

Section 2: Extra-budgetary Conservation Activities

No.	Activity	Priority ranking ⁸	Time frame ⁹ Implementation by AC ¹⁰ Status	Responsible entity ¹¹ Responsibilities within the AC	Funding needs	Modus Operandi
Species Conservation/Habitat Conservation						
1. Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea (see CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.1)						
1.1	Join the International Working Group for the Mediterranean, ideally with one government Focal Point and one technical Focal Point for each Range State. In doing so, Signatory Focal Points are encouraged to liaise with CMS Focal Points.	high	2023	SIG, AC, CWG, SEC Jim Ellis (, Oumar), Matthias		To be decided after adoption of SSAP at COP14
1.4	Support Signatories with expert advice and implementation of conservation activities.	high	2023-2025	AC, CWG, CooP Jim Ellis (, Oumar), Matthias	Subject to funding	tbd
2. Development of a Conservation Strategy and Regional Action Plans for Pelagic Sharks and Rays (see CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.2/Rev.1)						
2.1	Provide technical support to the IUCN SSC SSG, including sharing relevant information and expertise.	high	2023-2025	AC, CWG John Carlson (Rima)		

⁸ Core activities as mandated in the Terms of Reference for the Secretariat and AC.

⁹ Year(s) during which activity should be implemented.

¹¹ Signatories (SIG), Advisory Committee (AC), Secretariat (SEC), Conservation Working Group (CWG), Consultants, Cooperating Partners (CooP)

No.	Activity	Priority ranking ⁸	Time frame ⁹ Implementation by AC ¹⁰ Status	Responsible entity ¹¹ Responsibilities within the AC	Funding needs	Modus Operandi
2.2	Participating in expert workshops and/or conservation planning meetings and processes.	low	2023-2025	SIG, AC, CWG (SEC: if funds were provided through the Secretariat) John Carlson (Rima)	€10,000 (AC travel per meeting)	
3. Development of a Conservation Strategy and Regional Action Plans for Rhino Rays (see CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.3)						
3.1	Provide technical support to the IUCN SSC SSG, including sharing relevant information and expertise.	high	2023-2025	SIG, AC, CWG All members		
3.2	Provide technical support to the IUCN SSC SSG, including sharing relevant information and expertise and participating in regional conservation planning meetings and processes.	medium	2023-2025	SIG, AC, CWG Selected members as required for the region For Indo Pacific region: Lesley, Rima, Moon	€3,000-6,000 (AC travel per meeting)	Physical Workshop in the Philippines
4. Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) (see CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.4/Rev.1)						
4.3	Provide support to the IUCN SSC SSG as appropriate and as feasible with the identification of ISRAs including sharing relevant information and expertise.	medium	2023-2025	AC, CWG Rima Jabado Selected members as required for the region Arctic: Jim and Matthias Pacific: Lesley	€21,000 (AC and CWG travel to workshops and meetings; ca. 7 missions)	Workshops May 2024 and August 2024
5. Regional prioritization of shark and ray species listed in Sharks MOU Annex 1 and CMS Appendices (see CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.5/Rev.1)						
5.1	AC to continue to better identify CMS- and Sharks MOU-listed species and conservation measures of highest priority at regional scales (per FAO Major Fishing Area).	high	2023-2025	AC, CWG Lead: Jim (John) All AC members	€25,000 (consultancy to support the AC)	Physical meeting 2024

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5.2	AC to continue developing the methodology presented in CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.5/Rev.1.	high	2023-2025	AC, CWG Lead: Jim (John) All AC members		Physical meeting 2024
6. Recommendations to Signatories to improve reporting of landings data for species listed in Annex 1 of the Sharks MOU (see CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.6)						
6.1	Update the analyses presented here to include the most up to date data and publish the findings in a peer reviewed scientific journal in collaboration with specialists at the FAO (and other relevant specialists).	high	2023-2025 2024	AC, CWG, Coop James Ellis and John Carlson: guiding consultant, reviewing results	€16,000 (Monaco - champions proposal) (consultancy and open access publication fees)	Intersessional work and finalization at physical meeting
6.2	Undertake analyses of those landings data of Annex 1-listed sharks, as reported to relevant RFMOs (e.g., ICCAT), including comparison with comparable data held by FAO in collaboration with specialists.	medium	2023-2025 2024 and 2025	SIG, AC, CWG, Coop ICCAT, IOTC, WCPFC	€10,000 (travel support to present working documents at relevant RFMO working group meetings; 3 missions)	Missions to relevant meetings of RFMOs
6.3	Identify the types of error, or potential error, that have been observed in analyses of landings data, and develop guidelines for how nations could usefully appraise their national landings data to improve quality control of data being submitted.	high	2023-2025 2025	AC, CWG, Coop All members plus specialists		Physical meeting (mid 2025) + hybrid call for data specialists
7. Reviewing fisheries-induced mortality of shark and ray species listed in Sharks MOU Annex 1 and CMS Appendices (see CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Doc.10.7)						
7.1	Provide technical support to the review.	high	2023-2025	AC, CWG All members		Written input; by correspondence

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Capacity Building, Awareness raising and Communication						
9. Capacity Building						
9.1	Implement the Capacity-building Programme of the MOU (Outcome 3.6) liaising with the appropriate intergovernmental regional organization.	high	2023-2025	SIG, AC, CWG, Coop, Sec Secretariat in external advisory function of REDUCE project Input from AC requested as required project training for observers	€50,000 - €500,000	
11. Other activities, in line with the MOU mandates						
11.1	Finalize existing species factsheets and draft species factsheets for species newly listed in Annex 1 of the MOU. (Finalize drafted FS and pause development of new and update of existing FS) Suggest to MOS5 to use information provide on "Shark Compendium" website (under development - see MOS 4 Outcome 4.3)	High paused	2023-2025 2023 (-ongoing)	AC, CWG All AC members See Jim's excel table	No budget	Online based on drafts provided by the Secretariat as support from interns becomes available.