



1st Meeting of the Working Group on the Implementation of the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea (Angelshark WG1)
Bonn, Germany, 29-30 April 2025

DRAFT GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. This document presents suggestions for implementing CMS Decision 14.101(c), which calls on Range States to establish a draft governance structure to facilitate implementation of the Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean. It includes the following annexes:
 - *Annex 1: Draft Governance structure to support the implementation of the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea*
 - *Annex 2: Draft Budget and Financing Mechanism*

Background and Mandate

2. CMS Decision 14.101(c), adopted at COP14, formally requests Range States to establish a draft governance structure to support and monitor the implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med, and to promote communication and cooperation among Range States. In Decision 14.105(b) the Secretariat was requested to assist Range States in establishing such a structure and a monitoring system, and to provide a communication platform, subject to resource availability.
3. Discussions on the governance structure began in 2022 during the development of the SSAP and prior to its formal adoption at COP14 in 2023. The draft structure in **Annex 1** builds on the version discussed in 2022, incorporating feedback received at that time. It has been significantly streamlined to reduce workload for governments and increase cost efficiency.
4. **Annex 2** outlines a draft budget, structured in two parts:
 - a. Core costs related to coordinating SSAP implementation.
 - b. Estimated costs of projects submitted by members of the Angel Shark Conservation Network (ASCN), as referenced in the draft Programme of Work ([UNEP/CMS/Angelshark Med WG1/Doc.7.1](#)).
5. The draft budget aims to ensure minimum funding is available to maintain essential coordination services and support the functioning of the governance structure.
6. A list of working group members is provided as [UNEP/CMS/Angelshark WG1/Inf.1](#).

Action Requested:

The Working Group is requested to:

- a) Review and agree on the Governance Structure;
- b) Select a Chair, Vice Chair and a Coordinator;
- c) Review the draft Budget and discuss options for financing;
- d) Consider making pledges to support the Budget; and
- e) Explore opportunities to provide financial or other necessary support directly to the ASCN for the implementation of selected projects.

Annex 1

DRAFT GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINGLES SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR THE ANGELSHARK (*Squatina squatina*) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Amended version based on comments received after the online
Range State
Meeting on 5 & 6 July 2022

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Introduction

1. The draft governance structure outlined here is designed to support the effective implementation of the Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea. Its primary goal is to establish a framework that helps Range States identify key priorities and opportunities for Angelshark conservation within their respective territories. This structure aims to foster collaboration through an international Working Group (WG), strengthening coordination and monitoring the progress of SSAP implementation across all Range States.
2. This governance structure will ensure that efforts are aligned and that challenges faced by different Range States are addressed in a cohesive and coordinated manner. The framework provides clear roles, responsibilities, and mechanisms for ongoing review and monitoring of progress.

Coordination

Working Group

3. As part of achieving Action 4.2 of the SSAP, which calls for the establishment of an International Working Group (WG) for the Mediterranean, the WG has been established following a call by the Secretariat (CMS Notification 2024/008: Implementation of the Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea Region (SSAP Angelshark Med), dated 15 May 2024). The WG is composed of one representative from each Range State, who will serve as the national government Focal Point, along with one national expert per Range State. In addition to national representation, the WG comprises experts from the Angel Shark Conservation Network (ASCN). Furthermore, the WG may consider inviting international stakeholders, either as full members or as observers, to contribute to the discussion and implementation efforts. A list of the WG members is provided as [UNEP/CMS/Angelshark WG1/Inf.1](#).
4. To coordinate the work of the WG, a Chair and a Co-Chair will be elected on a voluntary basis. These individuals will be responsible for overseeing the coordination and progress of the WG's activities, ensuring that the WG functions efficiently and that its efforts align with the objectives of the SSAP.
5. The CMS Secretariat will provide administrative and logistical support for the WG but will not assume a leadership role in coordinating the implementation of the SSAP.
6. The Chair of the WG will be supported by a designated Coordinator, who will be responsible for the day-to-day coordination and management of the activities of the WG. The Chair's role will

primarily be to oversee the work of the Coordinator. The Chair will provide strategic guidance and ensure that communication between WG members is coordinated effectively, while the Coordinator will handle the operational aspects, including organizing meetings and reviewing the annual reports submitted by Range States.

7. On a triennial basis, the Chair and Co-Chair will also oversee the review of the SSAP, synthesize feedback on the challenges faced by Range States, and compile recommendations to the Conference of the Parties (COP) to address these challenges effectively.

Implementation

8. Following the establishment of the WG, it should agree upon a Programme of Work (POW) covering a COP triennium, focused on prioritizing key actions for Angelshark conservation. The Draft Programme of Work for 2025 and 2026, as presented in document UNEP/CMS/Angelshark WG1/Doc.7.1, should serve as the starting point for this process. The POW should be a living document, publicly accessible and annually updated by the WG members as progress is made. The POW will outline specific actions, timelines, and responsibilities, ensuring clear accountability and measurable outcomes.
9. To facilitate ongoing collaboration, the WG will have access to an online platform containing the SSAP, relevant supporting documents, and regular updates such as progress reports and meeting minutes. The Secretariat will support the WG by providing the technical tools necessary to enable efficient collaboration and document sharing.

Meetings of the Working Group

10. The WG should hold an annual meeting to assess the implementation progress of SSAP actions across the Range States. These meetings will serve as an opportunity to share updates, discuss challenges, and plan next steps.
11. In the lead-up to a Conference of the Parties (COP), the WG should hold a dedicated meeting to review both the progress of the WG itself and to conduct an in-depth review of the SSAP. This review should inform the decisions and priorities for the upcoming COP.
12. The CMS Secretariat will assist in organizing these meetings upon the request of the WG Chair. Typically, these meetings will be held virtually and conducted in English.

Funding

13. The responsibility for securing funding for the implementation of the SSAP at the national level will lie with the individual Range States. Each state is encouraged to identify and secure financial resources to support conservation efforts within their jurisdiction.
14. Additionally, Range States may consider providing funds directly to partner organizations, particularly those within the Angel Shark Conservation Network, to support the implementation of specific activities outlined in the SSAP. This approach could facilitate more targeted and efficient conservation actions, leveraging the expertise and local knowledge of these partner organizations.
15. In particular, the Draft Programme of Work for 2025 and 2026 presents several key actions that could be supported by such direct funding, including research, capacity-building, public awareness campaigns, and on-the-ground conservation activities. By channeling financial

resources to trusted, experienced partners, Range States can enhance the overall effectiveness of conservation efforts, ensuring that funds are used where they are most needed and can make the greatest impact.

16. Furthermore, Range States may explore the possibility of establishing a dedicated fund to support SSAP activities, particularly to assist developing countries and non-governmental organizations in implementing key actions. This fund could be used to provide financial support for capacity-building, research, and other essential activities outlined in the SSAP.

Monitoring

17. To ensure effective tracking of progress and accountability, a light monitoring framework will be employed. This will involve Range States submitting annual reports outlining their progress in implementing each action outlined in the SSAP. A standardized reporting template¹ will be provided to facilitate consistency and comparability in these reports. The reports will be uploaded to a shared, accessible online platform, ensuring transparency and facilitating information-sharing among Range States and stakeholders. The Secretariat will ensure that the reporting platform remains functional and user-friendly, regularly updating it with relevant templates and guidance to support Range States in their reporting obligations.
18. In addition to the annual reports, every three years, the Chair of the WG will conduct a thorough analysis of the national reports. This analysis will include a detailed assessment of the progress towards the SSAP's objectives, identifying trends, challenges, and areas where additional efforts may be required. This will provide an evidence-based understanding of the status of conservation actions across the Mediterranean. The analyses will be instrumental in determining where resources should be prioritized, and which Range States might require additional support.
19. The Coordinator, under the oversight of the Chair, will be responsible for compiling the results of these analyses into a consolidated progress report. The Coordinator will highlight key successes, common challenges, and gaps in implementation. This report will include recommendations for addressing issues identified across the Range States, with a focus on providing practical solutions and actions that can accelerate progress. The report will also serve as a foundation for discussions during WG meetings and provide valuable input into the overall strategy for the SSAP's continued implementation.

Documentation

20. The outcomes of each WG meeting, including decisions, action points, will be documented in meeting reports. These reports will be prepared by the Coordinator, who will work closely with the Chair and the Secretariat to ensure accuracy and completeness. The Secretariat will ensure that these reports are prepared in a timely manner

¹ For the current reporting cycle, the Secretariat has already developed a [reporting template](#) that aligns with the structure of the SSAP, ensuring that information is captured for each specific activity. This reporting format was shared with Range States in February 2025 and has already been used by Range States to submit their reports in preparation for this meeting. The template was designed to gather detailed, activity-specific information, making it easier to track progress across the various actions outlined in the SSAP and identify areas that may need additional focus or support.

21. All documents related to the implementation of the SSAP, including meeting documents, national reports on implementation, and meeting reports, will be made publicly available via the CMS website, ensuring that key information is shared openly.

ANNEX 2

DRAFT BUDGET (2025 – 2026) TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR THE ANGELSHARK (*Squatina squatina*) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

1. The draft budget aims to ensure that funding is available to maintain essential coordination services and support the functioning of the governance structure from July 2025 to December 2026. It is organized in two sections:
 - a. The “Core Budget” includes costs for the overall coordination of the SSAP. It relates to Section A in the Programme of Work.
 - b. The “Implementation Budget” includes estimated costs of implementation projects that were proposed by the Angel Shark Conservation Network (ASCN), as referenced in the draft Programme of Work (POW).
2. As outlined in Annex 1, SSAP implementation depends on available resources. In addition to the budget below, each Range State will be responsible for securing financial resources to support national conservation efforts.
3. Range States are encouraged to fund partner organizations, particularly within the Angel Shark Conservation Network, to deliver specific SSAP activities, making use of their local expertise for more efficient conservation outcomes. The Draft Programme of Work for 2025–2026 identifies key areas for support, including research, capacity-building, public awareness, and field activities.
4. Range States may also consider establishing a dedicated fund to assist developing countries and NGOs in implementing SSAP actions.
5. The Secretariat can provide limited secretarial support, including organizing meetings, maintaining the SSAP webpage, supporting communication, and recruiting a Coordinator. However, it does not have the capacity to manage fundraising or implementation projects. Parties are therefore encouraged to channel financial support directly to implementing partners.

A. Core Budget: Coordination, Monitoring, Cooperation

6. The Core Budget is designed to ensure the seamless coordination and monitoring of the Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) for the Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea. This budget primarily covers the costs associated with personnel, online meetings, and travel, which are essential for maintaining the governance structure and facilitating effective communication among Range States. The appointment of a Coordinator is a crucial element of this budget. The Coordinator will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Working Group's activities, including organizing meetings, reviewing annual reports, and ensuring that the implementation of the SSAP is on track. This role is vital for providing operational support.
7. Online meetings of the Working Group are another significant component of the Core Budget. These meetings, held annually, provide a platform for Range States to assess progress, share updates, and discuss challenges related to the implementation of the SSAP. The budget allocates €2,500 for each meeting, covering the costs of report writing and other logistical expenses.
8. Additionally, the budget includes travel expenses for the Coordinator to attend relevant meetings, such as the CMS COP15, which are estimated at €5,000 annually. This ensures that the Coordinator can represent the Working Group at important international fora,

facilitating broader engagement and support for the SSAP.

9. The Programme Support Costs (PSC), calculated at 13% of the total budget, are included to cover administrative expenses payable to UNEP, when paying for the listed items.
10. The total Core Budget for 2025 and 2026 amounts to **€38,420**.

A. Core Budget: Coordination, Monitoring, Cooperation (duration 18 months)			
Activity	2025	2026	Total (EUR)
Personnel			
1 Coordinator ²	8,000	16,000	24,000
Online Meetings of the Working Group			
2 2 nd Meeting of the Working Group on the Implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med (report writer, no interpretation)	2,500		2,500
3 3 rd Meeting of the Working Group on the Implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med (report writer, no interpretation)		2,500	2,500
Travel			
4 Travel of the Coordinator to relevant meetings (e.g. CMS COP15)		5,000	5,000
Total	10,500	23,500	34,000
5 Programme Support Costs (13%)	1365	3055	4420
Grant total	11,865	26,555	38,420

² In this proposal, the Secretariat will be in charge of recruiting a coordinator.

B. Implementation Budget: Projects (duration 18 months)

11. The Implementation Budget focuses on funding specific projects proposed by members of the ASCN to support the SSAP's objectives. Projects are divided into several work packages, each targeting key areas such as data management, awareness and outreach, coordination and policy, and direct conservation actions. Further information about the proposed activities is provide in the Draft Programme of Work 2025 – 2026 ([UNEP/CMS/Angelshark WG1/Doc.7.1](#)).
12. The first project, "Support the coordination and implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med," involves collaboration with various partners, including the Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change (LIB), The Shark Trust, IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group, Zoological Society of London (ZSL), and Submon. This project aims to enhance data management, increase public awareness, and strengthen policy coordination, with a total estimated cost of €60,000.
13. The second project, "Angel Shark Project," involves a broader range of partners, including iSea, WWF Mediterranean, Environment Agency Corsica, Syrian Society for the Protection of the Aquatic Environment (SSAEP), and Marine Biology Libya.

This project focuses on increasing knowledge through tagging and genetic studies, as well as closing knowledge gaps outside the EU. The total estimated cost for this work package is €82,740. A second work package aims to raise awareness through fisher toolkits, workshops, and carcass identification guides, with an estimated budget of €31,000. Additionally, the project seeks to increase protection by advocating for CITES and CMS listings for Angelshark species and ensuring their protection throughout their range, with an estimated cost of €35,000.

14. All work packages in the above-mentioned budget can be implemented separately from each other.

B. Implementation Budget: Projects (duration 18 months)		
No	Activity	Total (EUR)
1	Angel Shark Conservation Network - “Support the coordination and implementation of the SSAP Angelshark Med”	
	Project Partners: Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change (LIB), Germany; The Shark Trust; IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group; Zoological Society of London (ZSL); Submon, Universidad Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC)	
1.1	Data Management (Work Package 1)	20,000
1.2	Awareness and Outreach (Work package 2)	15,000
1.3	Coordination and Policy (Work Package 3)	25,000
	Subtotal	60,000
2	Angel Shark Project	
	— Project Partners: Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change (LIB), Germany; iSea, Greece; WWF Mediterranean, Regional Office; Environment Agency Corsica, Corsica, France; Affiliated partner: Syrian Society for the Protection of the Aquatic Environment SSAEP, Syria; Affiliated partner: Marine Biology Libya, Libya.	
2.1	Increase Knowledge (Work Package 1)	

2.1.1	Tagging	64,500
2.1.2	Genetics	11,240
2.1.3	Close knowledge gaps outside EU	7,000
	Subtotal	82,740
2.2	Increase Awareness (Work Package 2)	
2.2.1	Fisher Toolkits	14,000
2.2.2	Fisher workshops	11,000
2.2.3	Carcass ID guide	6,000
	Subtotal	31,000
2.3	Increase Protection (Work Package 3)	
2.3.1	CITES listing	15,000
2.3.2	CMS listing proposals (<i>S. aculeata</i> and <i>S. oculata</i>)	15,000
2.3.3	Ensure protection throughout the range of the species	5,000
	Subtotal	35,000
	Total	208,740
	Programme Support Costs (PSC)³	27136.2
	Grant Total	235,876

³ PSC only occurs if funds are provided to the Secretariat for the implementation of conservation activities, hence the suggestion to fund Partners directly.