



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SHARKS

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FIRST MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE
CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SHARKS
Bonn, Germany, 24-27 September 2012
Agenda Item 6

AUTHORIZATION OF COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS TO SIGN THE MOU

(Prepared by the Interim Secretariat)

Background

1. Paragraph 30 of the MoU lists types of entities which may associate themselves as cooperating partners with this MoU through their signatures. These entities are as follows:

- (a) non-range states
- (b) inter-governmental organizations
- (c) international non-governmental organizations
- (d) national non-governmental organizations
- (e) or other relevant bodies and entities

2. The MoU is silent on whether a procedure for cooperating partners to sign the MoU is required. Therefore, the Signatories may wish to consider the following options:

Option 1

- The authorization of all such entities shall be automatic upon receipt of their request to sign. The Secretariat will notify the Signatories in writing no later than 30 days after the cooperating partner has signed.

Option 2

- i. The authorization of non-Range State countries shall be automatic upon receipt of their request. The Secretariat will notify the Signatories in writing no later than 30 days after the non-Range State has signed.
- ii. The authorization of organizations listed under paragraph 30, sub-paragraphs b-e of the MoU is subject to the prior approval of the Signatories.

Authorization Process

3. In the case of Options 2, a formal procedure would be required, and is proposed below:

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(a) **Authorization at ordinary sessions of the Meetings of the Signatories**

- i) An expression of interest to sign the MoU from the head of organization containing information about the organization's aim and work should be sent to the Secretariat no later than 30 days before the meeting, and made available to the Signatories at least 14 days before the meeting.
- ii) The Secretariat will add an agenda item on the authorization of cooperating partners to the agenda of the Meeting of the Signatories.
- iii) The Meeting of the Signatories shall decide by consensus whether to allow the organization sign the MoU as a cooperating partner.

(b) **Authorization between ordinary sessions of the Meetings of the Signatories**

- i) An expression of interest to sign the MoU as above should be sent to the Secretariat, which will circulate it among the Signatories within 30 days of receipt.
- ii) Objections should be submitted to the Secretariat, by the Signatories no later than 30 days after the communication was sent out.
- iii) If no objections are received within this time frame, the organization will be invited to sign the MoU.

Role of cooperating partners

4. The following roles are envisaged for cooperating partners of the MoU:

- i) A cooperating partner should support and promote the implementation of the MoU and its objectives and in particular, the Conservation Plan. This could be achieved through publications, outreach activities, conservation projects, research or promotion of the MoU in relevant fora.
- ii) A cooperating partner should report back to each MOS on activities in support of the MoU and the Conservation Plan.
- iii) A cooperating partner may conclude a joint work plan for the in 6 a) mentioned purpose with the MoU Secretariat.
- iv) A cooperating partner may participate at sessions of the Meetings of the Signatories as an observer.

Potential Cooperating Partners for Consideration at this Meeting

5. By 6 September 2012 two non-governmental organizations expressed an interest to become cooperating partners:

- i) Humane Society International - Australia
- ii) Humane Society International - USA

6. Their letters of interest are provided in the Annex to this document.

Action requested:

The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Choose one option for the authorization of cooperating partners.
- b) Agree on proposed role of cooperating partners.
- c) Authorize the organizations listed in the annex, to sign the MoU as cooperating partners.