

ENRTP STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS
ANNEX 4 – PROGRESS PROJECT REPORT

Reporting Period	January – December 2012
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DESCRIPTION

ENRTP Priority	1. Ecosystem management , Biodiversity	EC Directorate General	ENV
Programme of Work	CMS Strategic Plan 2012-2014 and Text of the CMS Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Sharks		
Project's Title	Development of sharks conservation measures in the context of the CMS MoU on migratory sharks		
Location	Global		
Total duration	Initially 12 but extended to 24		
Responsible Entity	UNEP/CMS Secretariat		
UNEP/MEA Project Manager	Melanie Virtue, CMS Acting Agreements Officer; Laura Cerasi, CMS Associate Partnerships and Fundraising Officer		
EC Project Manager	Paulo Paixao		
Date of EC Approval:	13/02/2012		
EC Allocation (EUR):	224,000		
Date of Allocation/Transfer:	19/04/2012		
Amount (USD)	298,659.2	Exchange Rate:	0.75 (*)
Total Expenditures (USD)	151,520 (**)	Total Expenditures (EUR)	113,640 (116,941) (**)

All figures are inclusive of Programme Support Cost (7%).

(*) Note: the exchange rate used for the development of the proposal was 0.763 - UN exchange rate as of 1/02/2012. The USD budget was therefore amounting to 293,578.

(**) Note: USD 151,520 reported as 2012 expenditures which is equivalent to EUR 113,640 based on the given rate of 1 USD = 0.75 EUR for ENRTP projects. However, Annex 4 progress financial report shows higher and real euro expenditures (116,941 EUR) due to applying United Nation's exchange rate by the time expenditures incurred.

SUMMARY PROJECT STATUS

Summarize: i) the status of implementation of the project at the time of reporting (global overview on the project implementation since its start); ii) progress towards achieving the project's objectives; iii) performance remarks and highlights.

The implementation of the project was originally planned to be completed by December 2012. While most of the activities related to Outputs A and B have been finalized, those of Output C could not be accomplished in the set timeframe. For this reason, a no-cost extension of the project of one year (until end of 2013) has been agreed with the EC Project manager and UNEP to enable the completion of the project which is in compliance with the mandate received by Meeting of the Signatories of the Sharks MoU that took place in September 2012. The extension of the duration aims to ensure the implementation of all remaining activities without altering the achievement of any of the three outputs. The objective of the project is to promote of the conservation of sharks. **Significant progress has already been made to contribute to the project's objective by bringing together sharks Range States; providing them with the means to discuss and agree on the best measures to conserve these species; disseminate these findings and promote further consultations.**

CHALLENGES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS, RISK MITIGATION PLAN:

Summarize main implementing challenges, if any, and strategy/actions which have been adopted to address them. List potential risks (internal and external) that may jeopardize the implementation of activities and/or the achievement of outputs and outcomes; please explain which actions have been planned to mitigate the identified risks.

The "lack of commitment to hosting/organization of the meeting" was identified, during the design phase of the project, as one of the risks that we could incur.

At the time of the project submission (February 2012), the Secretariat was in discussions with the government of South Africa regarding hosting the meeting. After extensive consultations, the government of South Africa eventually informed that they were no longer in a position to do so. Considering the limited time available to seek an alternative host as well as organize the meeting, it was decided to hold the meeting in Bonn, Germany, where the Secretariat premises are located. There has been no delay and the meeting took place as originally planned in September 2012.

The change of location did not have any negative effect of the activity nor on its results. On the contrary, it brought about some savings that allow the implementation of further activities in the context of the project. In fact some of the resources which were specifically allocated to cover Secretariat staff, interpreters and report writer travel to South Africa were unused and reallocated, as agreed with the EC Project manager and UNEP, to:

1. cover some other costs that were supposed to be borne by the host country;
2. be used for conservation activities to complement the amount already allocated by the project;
3. cover some costs determined by the MoU budget for 2013-2015 adopted by Sharks MOS₁ aimed at providing adequate and predictable resources for a fully operational Secretariat to administer and assist with the implementation of the MoU. The Budget can be found here: http://www.cms.int/species/sharks/MOS_Mtgs/MoS1/mtg_report_&_outcomes_&_decisions/Outcome_1.3_Budget_E.pdf.

Output C (implementation of a project identified from the Conservation Plan) is yet to be achieved as the prioritization of conservation actions in the plan is a lengthy process that needs to involve experts and stakeholders. An extension of the project was therefore requested and granted. Furthermore, the Secretariat has developed, at minimum cost, a workspace for the Sharks MoU Advisory Committee and the Intersessional Working Group to facilitate their discussion and consultation also on the prioritization of the Plan and identification of projects.

OUTCOME SUMMARY

Provide for each outcome listed in the project document the description, the indicator, progress made/result achieved (focus on the current reporting period only).

OUTCOME 1 - *Species listed in the CMS Appendix II are regularly reviewed and opportunities for international collaborative arrangements (incl. agreements) at appropriate scale and resulting in greatest possible conservation gain actively pursued*

Outcome 1 was planned to be reached through the achievement of Outputs A and B. Further details are indicated in the section below.

OUTCOME 2 *Actions to mitigate the most serious threats to migratory species and obstacles to their migration initiated or carried out*

Outcome 2 was planned to be achieved through the fulfilment of Output C. Further details are indicated in the section below.

OUTPUT PERFORMANCE

Provide for each output listed in the project document the description, indicators and progress made/any result achieved (focus on the current reporting period only)

Provide brief information on main activities undertaken; reason for modifications of planned activities (if applicable) and list of activities which were planned but not implemented, explaining the reasons.

Kindly include as annexes, any supporting documents which can be provided to the donor as means of verification for each of the outputs achieved and other relevant activities' documentation (if files can be downloaded, please provide below the link).

Output A - Representatives of Signatories to the CMS MoU on the conservation of sharks, Range States and other relevant stakeholders met, discussed and agreed on institutional and financial arrangements of the MoU and actions and priorities for sharks' conservation

Output A was planned to be achieved through the organization of the First Meeting of the Signatories to the CMS Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the conservation of sharks (Sharks MOS₁) and the adoption of its Conservation Plan.

Both activities were successfully completed. The report as well as outcomes of the meeting can be found here: http://www.cms.int/species/sharks/MOS_Mtgs/mos1_docs_e.htm. Output achieved by 100%

As explained above, the meeting took place on 24-27 September, in Bonn, Germany, where the Secretariat premises are located, instead of in South Africa as originally planned.

Output B - Awareness of threats to sharks and their habitats increased, and public participation in conservation activities enhanced

Output B was planned to be achieved through the development of a CMS Webpage on the Sharks MoU as well as through the production of an update of the existing review on the conservation status of sharks.

A Sharks MoU website <http://sharksmou.org/> has been developed alongside a web-space to facilitate the work of the Advisory Committee of the MoU <http://workspace.cms.int/sharks/>.

The website has been created to be compatible with the software as well as the structure which have been considered for the new CMS Family website.

The new CMS Family website is currently under development and will be completed in the last quarter of 2013. The Sharks MoU website will serve for the time being as platform to inform the wider public about threats to shark, shark conservation activities and the CMS Sharks MoU but once the CMS Family website will be finalized, content of the Sharks MoU website will be migrated.

The review on the conservation status of sharks has been produced and tabled as a meeting document and can be found here:

http://www.cms.int/species/sharks/MOS_Mtgs/MoS1/mtg_docs/e/MoS1_Doc_7_4_Review_Status_of_Migratory_Sharks_Eonly_E.pdf

The translation of the review is underway and will be completed in early 2013. The need to provide printed copies of the review has been reconsidered. It is suggested to make the review available in the 3 languages only as an electronic version. **Output achieved by 80%**

Output C - Elements of the Conservation Plan implemented. Activity to be identified after the adoption of the Conservation Plan at the meeting.

Output C was planned to be achieved through the implementation of a project identified from the Conservation Plan upon its adoption at the Sharks MOS. The adopted Plan can be found here: http://www.cms.int/species/sharks/MOS_Mtgs/MoS1/mtg_report_&_outcomes_&_decisions/Outcome_1_2_Annex3_to_MoU_Conservation_Plan_E.pdf.

Since the adoption of the Plan, the CMS Secretariat has been working, in consultations with the MoU Signatories, to identify priority conservation projects. This consultation process is likely to take a few months and considering that the plan was adopted at the end of September, the Secretariat will not be in a position to achieve this output by the end of 2012, but would definitely be able to do so by the end of 2013. **Output achieved by 20%**

RESOURCES AND BUDGET

Provide: i) any remark on the overall budget based on the financial report for the current reporting period; ii) indicate if there is a delay in spending the funds, please clarify reasons; iii) mention resources to be mobilized yet, if any; ii) additional resources leveraged by UNEP and/or partners as a result of the project

USD 151,520 reported as 2012 expenditures which is equivalent to EUR 113,640 based on the given rate of 1 USD = 0.75 EUR for ENRTP projects. However, Annex 4 progress financial report shows higher and real euro expenditures (116,941 EUR) due to applying United Nation's exchange rate by the time expenditures incurred.

The financial report highlights the amounts which are available as a result of the modifications (see column "Reallocation for 2013") mentioned above or which are not spent to date and provides suggestions for their use (see column added "Explanation of reallocation (use of left over and unspent funds) for 2013". The modifications have been discussed with the EC in November 2012, together with the request of extension of the project until the end of 2013, and were adopted on 8/1/2013.

Suggestions for the use of the unspent funds have been made in line with the decision made by the Sharks MOS₁ in particular the budget for 2013-2015 which aimed at providing adequate and predictable resources for a fully operational Secretariat to administer and assist with the implementation of the MoU. **The Budget can be found here:**

http://www.cms.int/species/sharks/MOS_Mtgs/MoS1/mtg_report_&_outcomes_&_decisions/Outcome_1.3_Budget_E.pdf

Significant additional resources have been raised by the Secretariat from several donors being the Governments of USA, UK, Germany and Australia to match EC funding to support the Sharks MoU and its activities.

WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

Summarize: i) activities scheduled – including any key milestones*¹ and lead responsibilities; ii) main outputs to be achieved in the upcoming reporting period and iii) forecast of expected expenditures.

Project Outputs and Activities	Expected Delivery Date	Lead responsibilities
B) Project Output: Awareness of threats to sharks and their habitats increased, and public participation in conservation activities enhanced.		UNEP/CMS Agreements Unit
<i>Publish updated review on conservation status of sharks as e-version in 3 languages (E/F/S)</i>	June 2013	UNEP/CMS Agreements Unit
C) Project Output: Elements of the Conservation Plan implemented. Activity to be identified after the adoption of the Conservation Plan at the meeting.		UNEP/CMS Agreements Unit
<i>Identify one or more activities to be undertaken from the Conservation Plan</i>	June 2013	UNEP/CMS Agreements Unit
<i>Design one or more projects</i>	July 2013	UNEP/CMS Agreements Unit
<i>Implement the project(s) or commission the implementation to an external contractor</i>	September 2013	UNEP/CMS Agreements Unit/ Implementing agency

¹ A milestone is not equal to a summation of tasks or activities. Rather it represents the achievement of a feasible project management stage and be strictly answerable as yes or no answer.

Project Milestones	Expected Delivery Date
Output B – M1 Updated review on the conservation status of sharks e-published in 3 languages	June 2013
Output C - M1 Follow-up activity to implement the Conservation Plan identified	July 2013
Output C - M2 Follow-up activity to implement the Conservation Plan implemented or initiated	December 2013

Funds will be spent as indicated in the financial report.

VISIBILITY:

Describe communication, visibility and outreach activities undertaken at project level, if any.

INFORMATION MATERIAL

The official logo of the European Commission was used, upon the approval of the EC Project Manager, on the following print products:

- a) Sharks MOS 1 meeting poster: The label was shown on the bottom of the poster in a row with those of other donors (NOAA-USA, BMU-Germany);
- b) Sharks MOS 1 meeting bags for delegates: The label was shown on the bottom of the bag in a row with those of other donors (NOAA-USA, BMU-Germany);
- c) Review "Conservation status of migratory sharks" (in preparation): Reference will also be made in the acknowledgements to the review.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, STATEMENTS AND PPTS PRESENTATIONS AT CMS MEETINGS AND SHARKS MOS

In her opening speech at the 1st Meeting of the Signatories to the CMS Sharks MOU, Executive Secretary of CMS, Elisabeth Maruma Mrema, kindly thanked the European Commission for their generous contribution. This was also included in the meeting report, which can be accessed here: <http://www.sharksmou.org/?q=node/40>.

Acknowledgements were also included in:

Sharks MOS₁ - Report of the Sharks MoU Interim Secretariat (CMS Secretariat) to the:

http://www.cms.int/species/sharks/MOS_Mtgs/MoS1/mtg_docs/e/MoS1_Doc_7_1_Interim_Secretariat_Rpt_E.pdf

Sharks MOS₁ - Arrangements for the Sharks MoU Secretariat to the Sharks MOS₁:

http://www.cms.int/species/sharks/MOS_Mtgs/MoS1/mtg_docs/e/MoS1_Doc_10_1_Arrangements_for_the_Secretariat_Eng.pdf, and related PPT presentation.

CMS 40th Standing Committee meeting – Report on Resource mobilization:

http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/40th_stc_meeting/doc_10_4_resource_mobilization_e.pdf

STATEMENTS DELIVERED IN OTHER RELEVANT MEETINGS

At the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), delegates were invited to the 1st Meeting of the Signatories to the CMS Sharks MOU. In her intervention, the representative of CMS underscored the financial contribution of the European Commission to support the meeting.

MEDIA COVERAGE

The ENRTP SCA and the present project sponsored through it, were further mentioned on the [Sharks MOU website \(http://sharksmou.org\)](http://sharksmou.org), which was also funded through the project. The following acknowledgements are visible at the bottom section of each page:

"Acknowledgements

This website was kindly funded by the European Commission through the ENRTP* Strategic Cooperation Agreement with UNEP."

*Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy"

CMS Bulletin July-August: Shark Conservation Takes a Step forward at First Meeting of the Signatories of the Sharks MoU: http://www.cms.int/publications/Bulletin/2012/07_08_e.pdf

FINAL REMARKS:

Describe: i) lessons learned during project design and implementation; ii) stakeholder participation and level of engagement/satisfaction; iii) where applicable, outline any links and synergies developed with other projects; i) main issues and recommendations for the attention of the donor; iv) overall observations on project performance and whether the projects has had any unforeseen positive or negative results.

A lesson learnt on the project design relates to the estimate of time for its implementation. Unforeseeable delays should have been taken into account and the lifespan of the project therefore should have been longer.

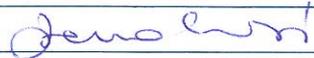
The level of engagement of stakeholder is satisfactory.

As indicated above, the development of both the Sharks MoU website, is strictly linked to the ongoing work while the creation workspace of its Advisory Committee has taken place in the context of a bigger effort of the CMS Secretariat and other Secretariats of the CMS Family which resulted in the creation of a unique tool customized for several CMS instruments. No recommendation needs to be brought to the donor's attention.

ANNEXES:

Please list supporting documents included as annexes, if any.

UNEP/MEA Project Manager: LAURA GERARD

Signature: 

Date of Submission: 15/03/2013