



Workshop Report

Regional Technical Workshop on Sharks and Rays of the Southwest Indian Ocean: Status Review and Development of a Roadmap for Conservation and Management

Hosted by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) Biodiversity Program, in collaboration with the Nairobi Convention (NC), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and TRAFFIC

at the Palms Hotel in Mauritius, 5-7 April 2017



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1. Welcome and opening remarks

Gina Bonne – Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Goncalo Leitao – European Union, and Houshna Naujeer – Mauritius National Park and Conservation Service

The speakers emphasized the importance of taking forward to decision-makers the technical findings from this workshop. The support of the IOC Biodiversity Program was also highlighted.

2. Introduction of participants

The 28 participants (see Annex II for list) included national experts (governmental and non-governmental) from all Nairobi Convention member countries, representatives from the host institutions, and other international experts, including a representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

3. Purpose of workshop

Said Ahamada – IOC Biodiversity Program

The presentation gave an overview of background to the technical workshop, including a summary of the objectives of the IOC Biodiversity Program. The presented workshop objectives were a) to review and validate the regional status report of sharks and rays in the Nairobi Convention region of the Western Indian Ocean, b) to develop a Regional Roadmap for advancing shark and ray conservation and management in the region, and c) to initiate networking by shark experts in the region. The workshop agenda (see Annex I) was also summarised.

4. Update on status report

Annabelle Bladon – WCS, Markus Burgener – TRAFFIC, Amie Brautigam – WCS

Speakers described current knowledge on the biodiversity, catch, and trade of sharks and rays in the region, and described international mandates for their conservation and management – including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and CMS Memorandum of Understanding on Conservation of Migratory Sharks (Sharks MOU); the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region; Indian Ocean Tuna Commission; and the FAO Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks).

The report's findings were then summarized in brief, emphasizing that national-level findings and recommendations are yet to be finalized. South Africa was highlighted as a country that has made considerable progress in shark and ray conservation and management, including through the development of a Shark Biodiversity Management Plan.

5. National and regional presentations

Presentations were given by representatives from the Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Kenya, Seychelles, Mozambique and Somalia. Presentations covered

various aspects of shark and ray conservation and management in their countries, including major issues and gaps in knowledge, governance, capacities. The presentation for France focused on research conducted by the University of Montpellier's Marbec group. Discussions between all participants followed.

Presentations were also given by Andrea Pauly on the CMS Sharks MOU; Florence Wallemacq on the IOC SmartFish sharks and rays identification guide; David Ardill and Pierre Perries on the StaRFISH database; and Clay Obota on the use of Baited Remote Underwater Videos (BRUVs) in Tanga, Kenya, as part of the Global FinPrint Project.

6. Gap analysis

Amie Brautigam – WCS, and Markus Burgener - TRAFFIC

Following a summary presentation of the report's findings and recommendations, participants were divided into three working groups to discuss the findings and recommendations of the status report, and to identify gaps in conservation and management. One participant from each working group reported conclusions back to the whole workshop group and discussions followed.

Major findings and recommendations included:

- Conservation and management measures for shark and ray species and fisheries management are few – at the regional level and for most countries
- The Southwest Indian Ocean is a global hotspot for shark and ray biodiversity, including for threatened endemic species
- Shark and ray biodiversity and population status in the Nairobi Convention region are generally poorly known – over 200 species are known, and new species, particularly from deep waters, are being described; fewer than 30 species (< 16%) of the 187 species that have been assessed for the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* are classified as Least Concern
- Attention should be focused on the conservation and management of rays
- Consensus shark and ray species lists do not exist for most countries of the region. The draft national and regional species lists included in the draft Regional Status Report require further review through taxonomists expert in the region
- Increasing knowledge of the transboundary nature of shark and ray populations underscores the need for regional collaboration in conservation and management, including identification and protection of critical habitats for shared stocks
- Shark and ray fisheries at all scales are extensive throughout the region and, in some instances, expanding into deep waters, yet data on these fisheries are dispersed and in many instances insufficient for adaptive management
- There is a paucity of useful information on shark and ray trade by countries in the region and a need for a far better understanding of trade and trade dynamics at national and regional scales.
- Conservation and management measures for species and fisheries management are few – at regional level and for most countries
- Major advances made in several countries offer examples for others in the region, e.g.,

- Seychelles has adopted a second National Plan of Action (NPOA) under the FAO International Plan for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks)
- South Africa has, in addition to an NPOA, adopted a national Shark Biodiversity Management Plan
- Mauritius has adopted an NPOA
- There is a great deal of variability between countries of the Nairobi Convention region in their shark and ray fisheries, governance, and management capacities; but, there are also commonalities, particularly regarding insufficiencies of knowledge, financial and technical resources, and management gaps
- International mandates for shark and ray management are increasing in the region through CITES, CMS, and IOTC, thus necessitating that governments act to fulfill these commitments
- Implementation of the FAO IPOA-Sharks should be expanded throughout the region
- Increasing interest and investments in shark and ray conservation in the Nairobi Convention region and expanding regional collaboration offer potential for major advances in the conservation and management of these fishes
- Socioeconomic aspects of sharks and rays in the region have not been thoroughly explored

7. Developing a roadmap

Amie Brautigam – WCS, and Markus Burgener - TRAFFIC

An overview was provided of the concept of a roadmap, and why one is needed for the conservation and management of sharks and rays in the Nairobi Convention area. In order to identify the requirements and components of a roadmap, other examples of regional roadmaps for sharks and rays (e.g., European Union Plan of Action; Shark finning ban by the Central American Integration System; UNEP/IUCN Action Plan for the Conservation of chondrichthyans in the Mediterranean Sea; Pacific Islands Regional Plan of Action) and national roadmaps (e.g., South Africa and New Zealand) were discussed.

Building on outcomes from the gap analysis working groups, a draft Regional Roadmap for sharks and rays in the Nairobi Convention area was presented, composed of objectives and actions. Participants were divided into the same three working groups and asked to a) review the draft actions; b) prioritise these actions at both regional and national levels, and identify any ongoing projects/programs that could contribute to the actions; and c) identify five actions at the regional level and five priority actions at the national level that should take priority if resources were unlimited.

One member from each working group reported back to the whole group, and discussion followed. Decisions were made to edit the precise wording of the vision and objectives of the Roadmap.

8. Next steps and closing remarks

Amie Brautigam explained the next steps that will be taken to follow up on outcomes of the workshop:

- Revised Regional Technical Workshop Report and Revised Roadmap to be completed by end of April 2017
- Technical comments on Regional Status Report should be sent to WCS by April 15th
- Regional Status Report, Draft Regional Roadmap, and Recommendations for Shark and Ray Listings under the Nairobi Convention Protocol to be circulated to Nairobi Convention focal points by May 2017 for national review;
- Revised Final Draft Regional Status Report, Final Draft Regional Roadmap, and Recommendations for Shark and Ray Listings on the Nairobi Convention Protocol circulated to Nairobi Convention Focal Points for review at pre-CoP9 Focal Points meeting, September 2017
- IOC Biodiversity Program to provide seed funding to initiate regional data-mining on sharks and rays
- Launch Regional Status Report and adoption of Regional Roadmap at CoP9 February 2018
- Post-CoP9, implementation of process agreed by Nairobi Convention to review and finalize list of sharks and rays to be listed under the Nairobi Convention Protocol for eventual adoption at CoP10

Said Ahamada (IOC) and Theuri Mwangi (Nairobi Convention) thanked the facilitators (WCS&Traffic) and participants for their active participation, and Alison Clausen closed the workshop.

9. Annexes

Annex I. Agenda

Day 1: 5 April 2017 Status of Sharks and Rays in the west Indian Ocean		Speakers
Facilitator: Said Ahamada (IOC)		
08:00	Registration of Participants	
09:00	Welcome and opening remarks	1. Miss Housshna Naujeer (Mauritius National Parc and Conservation Service) 2. Gina Bonne (IOC) 3. Goncalo Leitao (European union)
09:40	Introduction of participants	
09:50	Presentation of workshop objectives and agenda	Said Ahamada (IOC)
10:00	Presentation on sharks and rays of the S west Indian Ocean – biodiversity, exploitation, conservation, management	WCS and TRAFFIC
10:45	Coffee Break	
11:15	National presentations on sharks and rays	National Representatives
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	National presentations on sharks and rays	National Representatives
15 :30	Coffee Break	
16:00 – 17:00	National presentations on sharks and rays Presentation on CMS Sharks	National Representatives Andrea Pauly (Convention on Migratory Species)
Day 2: 6 April 2017 Validation of Regional Status Report of Sharks and Rays		
Facilitator: Theuri Mwangi (Nairobi Convention)		
09:00	National presentation of Somalia	Mohamud Hassan Ali (Federal Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources)
09:20	Presentation of Regional Status Report – process, major findings, recommendations	WCS and TRAFFIC
10:00	Coffee Break	
10:20	Working groups on gap analysis, findings and recommendations	
12:00	Working groups report back	
13:00	Lunch	

14:00	Presentation of the SmartFish field guide identification of sharks and rays	Florence Wallemacq (SmartFish)
14:30	Working Groups report back for discussion	
15:-19:00	Field Visit in Port Louis Harbor area	
Day 3: 7 April 2017 Development of a Regional Roadmap for Sharks and Rays		
Facilitator: Alison Clausen (WCS)		
09:00	Presentation on StaRFISH database	David Ardill and Pierre Perries (IOC)
09:30	Presentation of draft roadmap	TRAFFIC and WCS
10:15	Coffee Break	
10:30	Working groups on priorities	
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	Presentation on the Global FinPrint Project in Kenya	Clay Obota (CORDIO)
14:30	Working groups report back	
15:00	General discussions	
15:45	Next steps for finalizing roadmap Closing remarks	WCS, Nairobi Convention, IOC and TRAFFIC
16:00	Workshop close	

Annex II. List of Participants

Name	Country	Position/Affiliation	Email	Sponsor
Mohamed Ali Rachad	Comoros	Comoros Fisheries department	rachadmohamedali@gmail.com	IOC Biodiversity
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Boaz Kaunda-Arara	Kenya	Professor, University of Eldoret	b_kaunda@yahoo.com	IOC Biodiversity
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S. Sauba	Mauritius	CITFES Focal point, National Parks and Conservation Service	varsaharai08@govmu.org	
David Ardill	Mauritius	Shark expert	ardilldn@gmail.com	
Trishna Sooklall	Mauritius	Fisheries Department	tsooklall@govmu.org	
Housshna Naujeer	Mauritius	Scientific Officer	conservenauritius@gmail.com	
John Nevill	Seychelles	Seychelles Artisanal Shark Fishers Association; shark expert	jean@outlook.com	IOC Biodiversity
Rodney Govinden	Seychelles	Seychelles Fishing Authority; shark expert	rgovinden@sfa.sc	IOC Biodiversity
Hakim Davis Matola	Tanzania	Sharks expert TAFIRI	matolakim@yahoo.com	IOC Biodiversity
Narriman Jiddawi	Tanzania	Institute for Marine Science, Zanzibar / IUCN Shark Specialist Group / BYCAM Project	njiddawi@yahoo.com	IOC Biodiversity

Marc Soria	France	Shark expert, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), Réunion/France	marc.soria@ird.fr	IRD
Isabel Chauca	Mozambique	Deputy Director National Fisheries Research Institute	ichauca20@gmail.com	TRAFFIC/WCS
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Mohamud Hassan Ali	Somalia	Head, Coastal and Marine Biodiversity, Federal Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources / CMS Sharks MOU Focal Point	mohamudhoyaa@gmail.com	TRAFFIC/WCS
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Mwangi Theuri	Regional	Nairobi Convention	Theuri.Mwangi@unep.org	Nairobi Convention
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