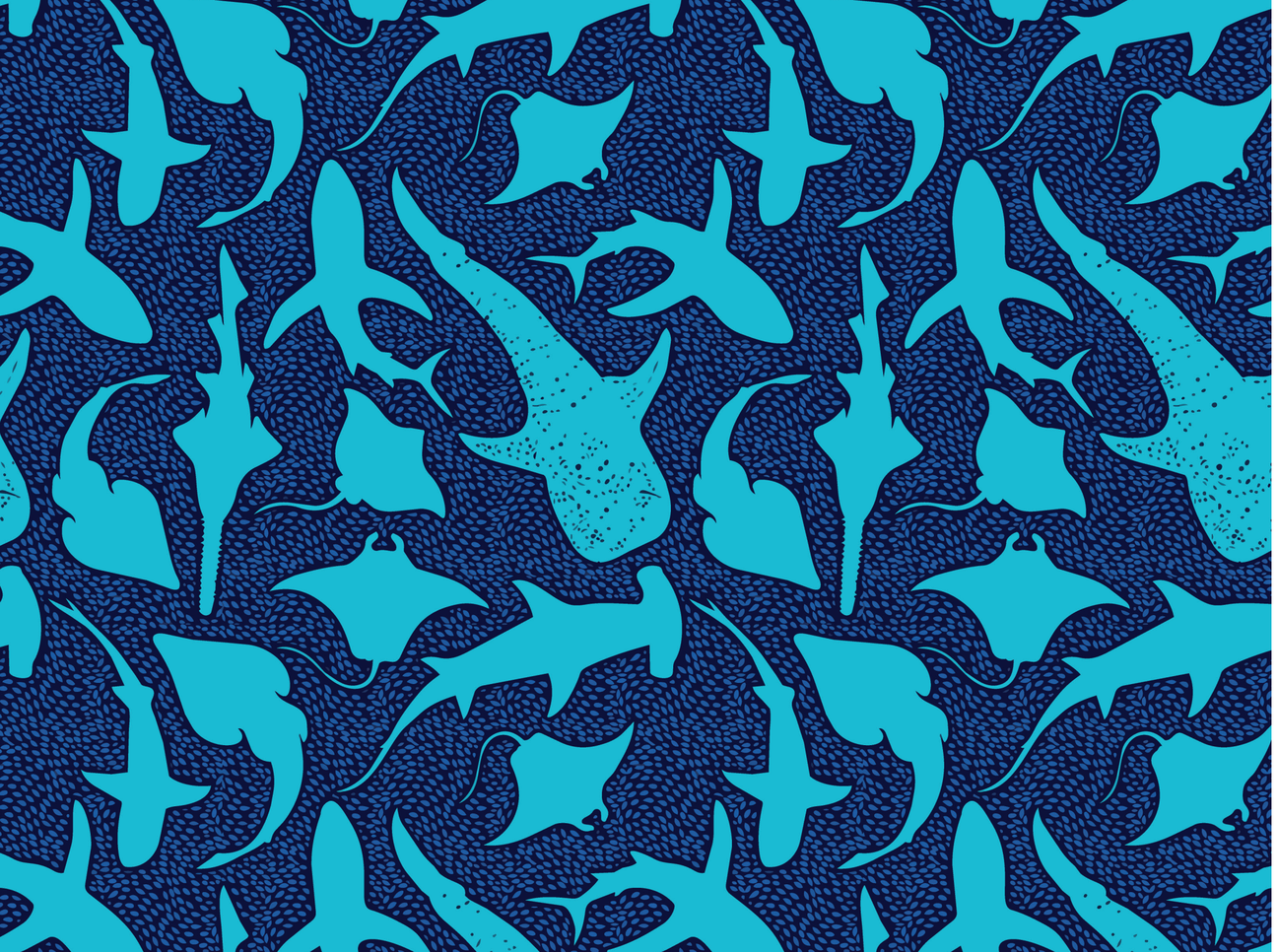
SAVE OUR SEAS FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



save our seas
foundation



SAVE OUR SEAS FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

save our seas
foundation



“AS LONG AS THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CARE AND TAKE ACTION, WE CAN AND WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.”

THE FOUNDER | SAVE OUR SEAS FOUNDATION



CONTENTS

5	FOUNDER'S STATEMENT
9	CEO'S SUMMARY
20	OUR 2025 PROJECTS
22	GRANT SUMMARY
24	PROJECT LEADERS
40	FUNDING SUMMARY
42	OUR TEAM
44	CREDITS



CEO'S SUMMARY

Sharks and rays remain under constant threat from overfishing, as expanding issues such as climate change compromise their ability to recover. And yet we remain optimistic that the tide is turning in their favour, a circumstance due, in no small part, to the dedicated efforts of our project leaders.

Last year we received a record number of applications for our grants. The achievement set the stage for 2025 to be a notable year for the Save Our Seas Foundation (SOSF). As we entered our 22nd year we welcomed 47 new projects, bringing the total number of projects supported in 2025 to 70. The bumper crop of new grants means that the SOSF has provided to date funding for 563 projects across 99 countries. This represents a fantastic diversity of projects, all working towards improving the trajectory for sharks and rays.



This year, to streamline our application process and make it more accessible, we launched our own new portal for grant applications. Alongside other factors, like the increased communication of our grant opportunities and the changing landscape of funding globally, we saw a 50% increase in requests for Small Grants, making 2025 another record year for applications.

We also selected our next cohort of Conservation Fellows: Rihab Louhichi in Tunisia, Ilse Martínez in Mexico and Buddhi Maheshika Pathirana in Sri Lanka. This programme seeks to support the livelihoods of talented conservation professionals to allow them the space to focus on their projects and conservation impact.

Our centres in Seychelles, South Africa and the USA continue to shine as centres of excellence in research and education. In Seychelles, the SOSF D'Arros Research Centre (SOSF-DRC) and SOSF Island School Seychelles (SOSF-ISS) once again led our flagship D'Arros Experience programme, which brings 16 passionate young learners to our remote field station. Here, while the youngsters get to connect with the ocean and experience the life of a researcher at first hand, the SOSF-DRC and SOSF-ISS are helping to nurture the next generation of ocean stewards. In addition, the SOSF-DRC hosted the UniSey field course again this year, which brings university students out to the centre to get hands-on training in field research skills as part of their degree.

The SOSF-DRC has also led the charge in cataloguing more than 500 unique manta rays within Seychelles, with D'Arros Island itself proving to be a vital hotspot. The team presented this and other work on sharks and rays at the regional Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) conference in Kenya, which hosted the largest representation from Seychelles to date.





A new strategic focus and a project aimed at mindful education experiences tailored for children from Cape Town's coastal communities heralded a new era of sensitivity and sustainability for the SOSF-SEC.







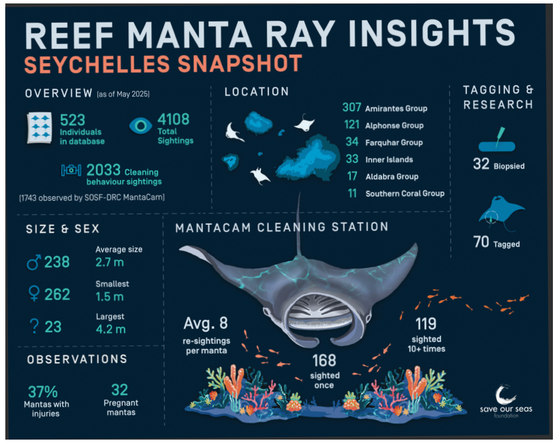
Young learners, university students and researchers all brought new ideas to D'Arros Island and St Joseph Atoll. They left with experiences, connection and critical information to share with the world.

Four research papers were published from work conducted with the centre this year, including manta ray genetics and feeding behaviour, and reproductive failures in turtles and tortoises.

The SOSF-ISS team also launched a new costume competition and parade for Shark Awareness Day, for which schools from across Mahé made a variety of impressive shark and ray costumes before parading through town to celebrate these animals and promote awareness about them. More than 1,000 students and members of the public were reached by the SOSF-ISS across all their events, activities and school visits.

In South Africa, our SOSF Shark Education Centre (SOSF-SEC) continues to build upon its strong legacy of fostering greater ocean connection in young learners. Daily experiences with children from local schools remain the core of the centre's activities, with 4,183 learners engaged in this way over the course of the year. The centre also offers guided tours to members of the public, with 1,792 people taking part in these in 2025. As well as enjoying all the usual exhibits, visitors this year now get to experience our new egg case display. This showcases live shark egg development, newly hatched pups and more established juveniles. This year, the SOSF-SEC also developed a new strategic focus and the Voices of the Sea project. Together, these developments will promote a tailored, longer-term experience for learners that is sensitive to their local circumstances and encourages meaningful ocean connections. The education team also attended various conferences and meetings over the year, with Wade Naude being awarded Best













A Seychellois costume parade, a Swiss shark treasure hunt and a storytelling grant for young filmmakers were innovative ways to connect growing audiences with sharks and rays.

Presentation at the South African Shark and Ray Symposium for his talk 'Decolonising the language and terminology used in marine science'.

In the USA, our SOSF Shark Research Center (SOSF-SRC) remains at the forefront of global conservation genetics research. This year it published four research papers, including work that revealed shockingly low genomic diversity in the great hammerhead. The team's findings point to severe population bottlenecks and underscore this species as a critical conservation priority. The shortfin mako shark, however, presented greater diversity than expected – cause for cautious optimism for its recovery potential. The researchers also collaborated on work that revealed the ongoing illegal trade in the oceanic whitetip shark – despite its listing on CITES, which should restrict international trade in the species. This work helps to identify gaps in implementation that need to be addressed if global trade regulations are to be effective. The SOSF-SRC is also leading the tracking of silky sharks in the Eastern Tropical Pacific, which is revealing large-scale movements well beyond the boundaries of established protected areas. This tracking is critical to highlighting how the management of this vulnerable species needs to be conducted across the high seas if it is to be successful.

Effective communication across the SOSF and beyond its projects and centres is vital to ensure that what we learn from research is translated into an accessible and engaging form. Only then can it be understood and adopted by decision-makers – and help to strengthen ocean connection in a general audience that motivates them to be part of the solution. A big part of how we achieve this is through our Ocean Storytelling Grants, which have focused primarily on photography and writing and have included assignments to Papua New Guinea, Angola, Cameroon, Ghana, French Polynesia, South Africa and Seychelles. The last of these resulted in an image that won the Animal Behaviour category at the 2025 Wildlife Photographer of the Year awards for its depiction of foraging eels from D'Arros Island in Seychelles. This year, we also launched our inaugural Ocean Storytelling Grant for filmmakers, which will see a winning short film funded and its producers mentored by Oscar-winning director Pippa Ehrlich, BBC Natural History Unit director of programmes Sreya Biswas and award-winning cinematographer Daniel Beecham.

We partnered with the BBC to launch the underwater programme for its Songbird project, which aims to train early-career professionals in film and enhance their storytelling skills. We also continued our partnership with the Museum of Discovery and Science in Florida, where our project leaders are featured in an online speaker series, with individual talks generating upwards of 100,000 views on YouTube.

In Seychelles, we collaborated with the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust to deliver a series of public engagement events celebrating its 10th anniversary. We were also honoured when a film about the D'Arros Experience, co-directed by our own SOSF-DRC Research Officer Dillys Pouponeau, won the Women/ Girls in Sustainability: Global Perspectives Award category at the Global Sustainability Film Awards. This is one of the world's most prestigious awards for sustainability films and is presented by tve (founded by the United Nations Environment Programme, WWF-UK and Central Television).



Ocean Storytelling Photography Grant winner Shane Gross won the Animal Behaviour category at the Wildlife Photographer of the Year awards for his depiction of foraging eels from D'Arros Island in Seychelles.



Left: Science communication and impact-driven conservation storytelling are critical to ensure that what we learn from research is accessible and engaging – and can be used to catalyse change.

Below: Science communication materials were central to a coordinated strategy at CoP20. Ultimately, all international trade in Critically Endangered whale sharks, oceanic whitetip sharks and manta and devil rays was banned.

In Switzerland, our 'Sharks in the City' festival celebrated the sea with city-dwellers by sending the public on an urban shark and ray treasure hunt, searching for clues on SOSF billboards scattered around Geneva. Participants who found all the clues and answered educational quiz questions on a specially designed portal were rewarded with sea-themed prizes, including scuba-diving lessons. Free public events, including film screenings, public talks and evening classes, complemented the treasure hunt.

Our communications team worked with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to translate decades of research into infographics that would inform delegates' decisions at CITES CoP20.Many of our project leaders contributed valuable data to these proposals. The result was that more than 70 shark and ray species received new protection from international trade. All international commercial trade was banned for Critically Endangered whale sharks, oceanic whitetip sharks and manta and devil rays. New listings that tackle the fin and meat trade and aim to protect deep-sea sharks and the highly threatened 'rhino rays' were adopted, mostly unanimously, marking a significant conservation milestone and maintaining the momentum for sharks and rays at CITES.



With our ongoing commitment to facilitate connection and collaboration within the shark and ray conservation community, we also continued our support of various conferences, such as the Oceania Chondrichthyan Society, European Elasmobranch Association and American Elasmobranch Association, as well as Jackson Wild on the filmmaking front. But this year we also supported the development of the Asian Shark and Ray Society (ASRA). The ASRA will serve the growing community of shark and ray conservationists in Asia and be a catalyst for collaboration, development of skills and shared opportunity – we look forward to watching it grow.

All told, we have found ourselves at the end of another busy year for the foundation. 2025 was filled with impactful projects and positive momentum, which launches us into 2026 energised and optimistic for the future for sharks and rays. Together, we believe we really will be able to make a difference.

James Lea
Chief Excecutive Officer





Above: Directors, managers and advisors came together for reflection and renewed focus at the annual directors' meeting in Switzerland (above) and the scientific advisors' grant review meeting (below) in Cornwall. (Dean Grubbs joined remotely.)

Right: Spotted eagle rays soar along the submarine landscape around D'Arros Island and St Joseph Atoll. Where they aggregate around Conception Island, an Important Shark and Ray Area (ISRA) has been designated, acknowledging their threatened – and unique – place in tropical seas.

22 YEARS OF THE SOSF

Since its inception in **2003**, the Save Our Seas Foundation has funded **563** projects in more than **90** countries worldwide and has remained on the pulse of current research, conservation and education projects that focus on sharks and rays.

563 PROJECTS SINCE 2003

6 LONG-TERM PARTNERS

Shark Spotters | The Acoustic Tracking Array Platform
Manta Trust | Bimini Biological Field Station Foundation
Cape Eleuthera Institute | North Coast Cetacean Society

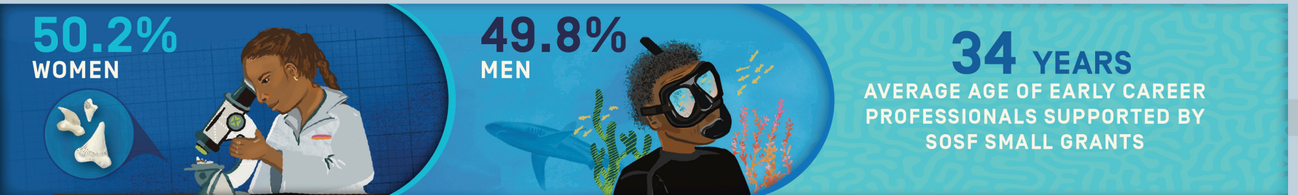
SPECIES STUDIED



58%

of species targeted by funded projects are threatened with extinction

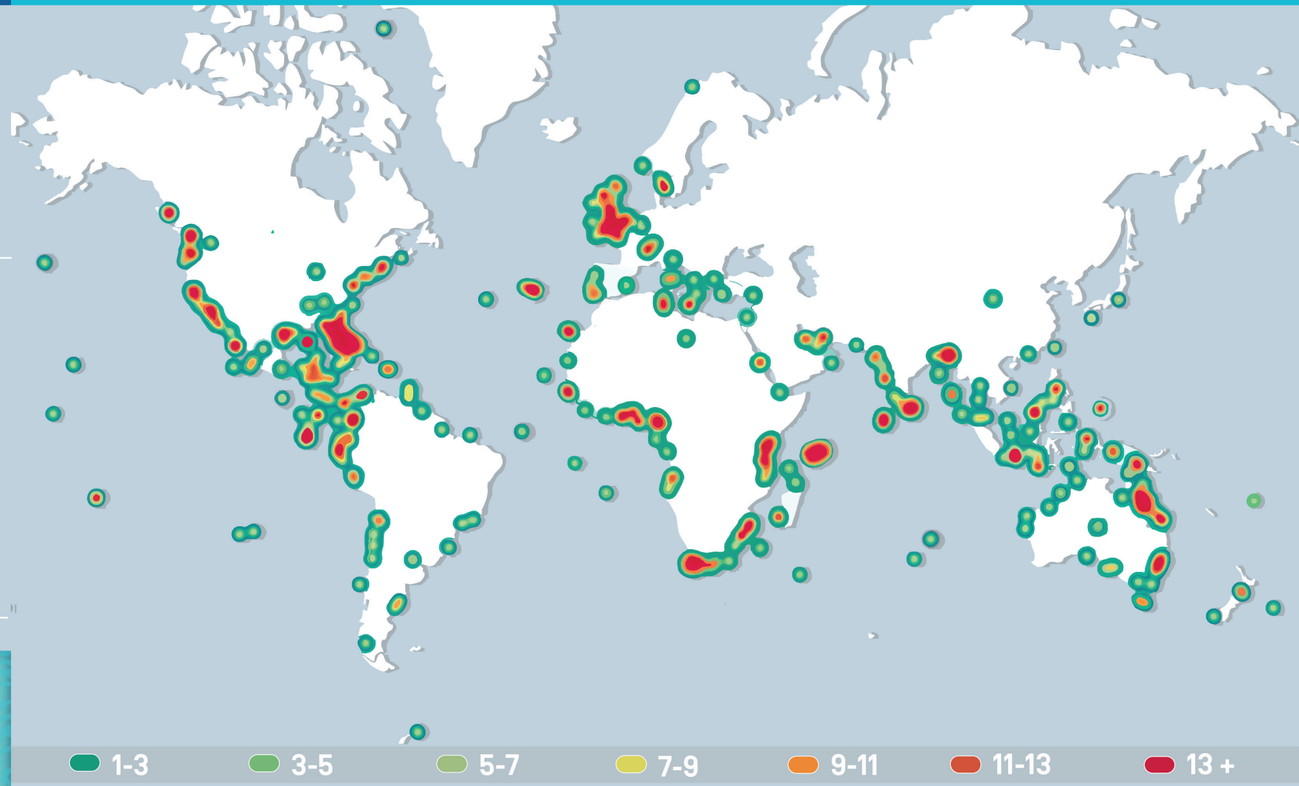
PROJECT LEADERS



34 YEARS

AVERAGE AGE OF EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS SUPPORTED BY SOSF SMALL GRANTS

ALL PROJECTS FUNDED 2003-2025



OUR 2025 PROJECT LEADERS

New Small Grants

1. **Almealla |** eDNA BRUVs shark baseline
2. **Andres |** Climate change thermal refuge
3. **bin Mohd Pishal |** Rhino rays diversity assessment
4. **Bouzidi |** Tunisia Mediterranean mako bycatch
5. **Cahyani |** Bottlenose wedgefish paternity genetics
6. **Chuangcharoendee |** Telemetry tagging trust training
7. **González Gordon |** Malpelo MPA rays genetics
8. **Gonzalez Pestana |** Baseline chondrichthyan biodiversity communities
9. **Hevia-Hormazabal |** Eggs survival stranding storms
10. **Khan |** Guitarfish age growth trajectories
11. **Lee |** Chromosomes karyotype white sharks
12. **Louhichi |** BRUVs sharks aggregations nurseries
13. **Lundberg |** Spiny dogfish ecological baseline
14. **Azevedo |** Predation prey climate change
15. **Montgomery |** Tope reproduction essential habitats
16. **Ngnah |** Cameroon culture education cartoons
17. **Pelebe |** Benin scalloped hammerheads fisheries
18. **Peña Cutimbo |** Chilean eagle ray fisheries management
19. **Ramdlan |** Fisheries trade-offs conservation well-being
20. **Ramey |** Efficacy MPAs coastal sharks
21. **Wickramasingha |** eDNA fisheries monitoring management
22. **Dieudonne |** Scalloped hammerheads Cameroon fisheries
23. **Bergacker |** Genetics diversity eagle ray

New Keystone Grants

24. **Dahlmo |** Tracking chimaeras baseline protection
25. **Domingues |** Guitarfish stress genetics pressures
26. **Fontes |** Bio-logging meso-pelagic predators prey
27. **Furtado Soares |** Shark diversity fisheries Angola
28. **Haque |** MPAs communities sustainability guitarfish
29. **Hatayama |** Depredation fishers climate change
30. **Hellström |** Indicators deep-sea hotspots protection
31. **Herrera |** Scalloped bonnethead MPA protection
32. **Horton |** Porbeagle reproductive life-history protection
33. **Ingelbrecht |** Sawfish kinship co-ancestry genetics
34. **Kaunda-Arara |** Rhino rays manta rays hammerheads
35. **Lucia Lopez |** Community conservation education innovation
36. **Lubitz |** Hammerheads critical habitats protection
37. **Kuboja |** Wedgefish guitarfish baseline conservation
38. **Nevill |** Legal protection optimal implementation
39. **Polo |** Bycatch batoids community education
40. **Rezaie-Atagholipour |** Life histories climate change
41. **Romo Curiel |** Freckled guitarfish life history
42. **Sousa |** Whale sharks shipping collisions
43. **Weber |** Human wildlife conflict co-existence
44. **Yopak |** Smalltooth sawfish bio-imaging neuro-compromise
45. **Paulet |** BRUV video analysis in South African national parks
46. **Higuera Rivas |** Decoding Mexico's killer whales ecotype
47. **Floros |** Restoring sharks and reef resilience in Mnemba Island

Continuation Projects

48. **Bonfil |** Sharks and rays Mexico
49. **Charvet & Faria |** Largetooth sawfish Brazil
50. **Ebert |** Sharks and rays worldwide
51. **Finucci |** Gulper sharks New Zealand
52. **Foster & Landschoff |** Great African Seaforest South Africa
53. **Guttridge |** Smalltooth sawfish Bahamas
54. **Hegg |** Largetooth sawfish USA
55. **Morris |** Juvenile lemon sharks Turks and Caicos
56. **Mortimer |** Turtles Seychelles
57. **Prendergast |** Sicklefin devil rays Portugal
58. **Rogers |** Broadnose sevengill sharks New Zealand
59. **Salinas |** Sharks Galápagos
60. **Saygu |** Rays and skates Turkey
61. **Seidu |** Sharks and rays Ghana
62. **Soekoe |** Eagle rays South Africa
63. **Vel |** Terrestrial and marine conservation Seychelles
64. **Weng & Chiang |** Rays and skates Taiwan

SOSF Partners

- A **Cape Eleuthera Island School**
- B **Manta Trust**
- C **Shark Spotters**
- D **Acoustic Tracking Array Platform**
- E **North Coast Cetacean Society**
- F **Bimini Biological Field Station**

SOSF Centres

- G **SOSF D'Arros Research Centre**
- H **SOSF Shark Education Centre**
- I **SOSF Shark Research Center**
- J **SOSF Island School Seychelles**



save our seas foundation

PROJECT LEADERS SMALL GRANTS



ADRIANA GONZALEZ-PESTANA



CATALOGUING SHARK LIFE IN TIMOR-LESTE'S RICH WATERS

Charles Darwin University

TIMOR-LESTE

Timor-Leste sits in the biodiverse Coral Triangle, a hotspot that spans 5.7 million square kilometres (2.2 million square miles) across Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, Fiji and northern Australia. The region hosts 75% of the world's coral species, more than 3,000 fish species and six of the seven marine turtles. But although we know whale sharks migrate through these waters, Adriana is one of the first to be documenting the diversity and occurrence of sharks, rays and chimaeras in Timor-Leste's almost totally undocumented waters. She is working with local communities to identify critical habitats for breeding, feeding and aggregating and to promote shark conservation.



ALYSSA ANDRES



FRESHWATER NURSERIES FOR SHARKS IN A CHANGING WORLD

The Crystal River Bull Shark Project, CRBSP

UNITED STATES

Climate change may be pushing sea surface temperatures closer to the physiological limits of many sharks. But Alyssa is investigating whether bull sharks, with their capacity to move between marine and freshwater ecosystems, might find a thermal refuge in Florida's natural springs systems. Based on increased sightings of young bull sharks by Crystal River residents, Alyssa is investigating whether bull sharks might have a stable nursery option in King's Bay and Crystal River – and is working to characterise and protect their potential climate haven.



CYNDI KAREL NGNAH



SHARKS COME TO LIFE IN CARTOONS IN CAMEROON

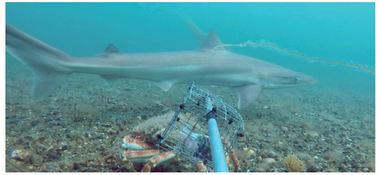
African Marine Conservation Organisation, AMCO

CAMEROON

Inspiration and entertainment underscore Cyndi's fresh take on conservation education for children in Cameroon. The coastal country hosts 28 ray species and 17 shark species, and while there is often cultural significance associated with these species, there is no legal protection and in general there is little awareness of their conservation status. Cyndi is creating and distributing culturally relevant cartoon animations to inspire young Cameroonians to act to save sharks and rays.



DANIEL MONTGOMERY



WHERE DO TOPE SHARKS MATE AND PUP?

Zoological Society of London, Institute of Zoology

UNITED KINGDOM

Tope sharks are Critically Endangered in the north-eastern Atlantic Ocean, but we know little about where they mate and pup. Daniel wants to understand how tope sharks are using the Pen Llŷna'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation in Wales. He's gathering knowledge from local fishers about the movements of pregnant female topes and juveniles within PenLlŷna'r Sarnau, and measuring hormone levels in mature females caught in the Special Area to confirm pregnancies. He'll compare results with other areas around the UK and Ireland and highlight areas critical for protection if we're to curb decades of overexploitation of tope sharks.



WONGIBE POUPEZO DIEUDONNE



MAKING FISHERIES SUSTAINABLE FOR SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD SHARKS IN CAMEROON

African Marine Conservation Organisation, AMCO

CAMEROON

Wongibe is on a mission to reduce the bycatch of scalloped hammerhead sharks in targeted fishing areas by 20%. He has set out to identify and map bycatch hotspots, decipher the age structure of scalloped hammerhead populations by analysing vertebrae and dorsal fin samples, and investigate the levels of metals and pollutants in the sharks' tissues. This is critical work because fishing is a primary livelihood for many coastal Cameroonian communities: fisheries bring economic stability and food security. But the endangered status of many species threatens the sustainability and security of coastal livelihoods. Training workshops to promote sustainable fishing practices and raising awareness of conservation issues are a key part of the project.



EDÉYA OROBIYI RODRIGUE PELEBE



IMPROVING MANAGEMENT OF SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD SHARK FISHERIES IN BENIN

Nature Ecologique, Eco-Nature Ong

BENIN

There is high demand for sharks in Benin and they form a key part of local fisheries, comprising as much as 90% of the marine fish that are consumed. But weak law enforcement does little to slow population declines and ensure sustainability in shark fisheries. Edéya is focusing on scalloped hammerhead sharks, but any interventions are also likely to benefit other shark species. By documenting catch data at the Cotonou Artisanal Fishing Harbour, mapping the market chain for this endangered species and training fishermen in safe shark release protocols, Edéya will pioneer improvement in shark fisheries practices in Benin.



EVA RAMEY



ARE FIORDLAND'S MPAS PROTECTING SHARKS?

Victoria University of Wellington Coastal Ecology Lab

NEW ZEALAND

In one of the world's most remote wildernesses, Eva is trying to understand how sharks use marine reserves (no-take areas). She wants to become better informed about how to protect them from human impacts such as coastal development and fishing. She will identify key areas for threatened coastal sharks like the school shark, spiny dogfish and broadnose sevengill shark, and provide insights into their movements and habitat use. This information is crucial for ensuring their long-term conservation in this remote World Heritage Site.



ICHRAK BOUZIDI



MONITORING AND MANAGING BYCATCH OF TUNISIA'S SHORTFIN MAKO SHARKS

National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology

TUNISIA

The shortfin mako shark is one of the most sought-after species in the Mediterranean and is Critically Endangered in the region because of the demand for its valuable fins and meat. Ichrak is mapping where and when shortfin makos move around Tunisia's Gulf of Hammamet. By combining this information with her studies of local fishing practices, she hopes to form a baseline picture of where these sharks are interacting most with fisheries and being accidentally caught in gear designed for target species like swordfish. Curbing bycatch is key to stemming the retention of these sharks for the lucrative trade in their products.



LAURA GONZALEZ GORDON



CONNECTING THE DOTS: POPULATION GENETICS OF PACIFIC SPOTTED EAGLE RAYS

Universidad de Caldas

COLOMBIA

The Pacific spotted eagle ray is genetically unique to the Eastern Tropical Pacific. Laura is working to characterise the genetic diversity and population structure of populations of this eagle ray around Colombia's Malpelo Island. Her project marks a first for the country, and she wants to understand the rays protected in the Malpelo Marine Protected Area as well as their genetic ties to other populations around the Eastern Tropical Pacific. This project is laying the groundwork for vital ray research and conservation management in Colombia.



M SAID RAMDLAN



LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO DELIVER POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR LUNYUK'S FISHERIES

Kebersamaan Untuk Lautan, KUL

INDONESIA

Trade-offs are top of M Said's mind as he navigates the need for shark conservation to be balanced with improving the well-being of Sumbawa's coastal communities. He is focusing on communities in Lunyuk, an understudied region in Indonesia and a nursery ground for Critically Endangered hammerheads and wedgefish. Through participatory research, he wants to understand how various interventions will influence whether fishers catch and retain these sharks and rays in Lunyuk. Based on the results, he will pilot fishery management intervention and evaluate its impacts on fishing mortality and human well-being.



METAVEE CHUANGCHAROENDEE



TRAINING SHARK TAGGERS TO BUILD PUBLIC TRUST IN THAI CONSERVATION RESEARCH

WildAid Thailand WA, Thai Sharks and Rays, TSAR

THAILAND

Sharks have declined by 91% over the course of 20 years in Thai waters. There are laws in place but enforcement is weak, and mistrust in government research efforts is high. Combating the paucity of information is also challenging; there are few experts in shark telemetry and this lack of expertise, combined with public opposition to tagging, makes it difficult to conduct important shark conservation research. Metavee wants to rebuild public trust by introducing expert telemetry training for government agencies, marine veterinarians and university lecturers. The goal is to regain public trust so that effective research can inform shark protection.



MUHAMMAD IRSYAD PISHAL



FINDING ENDANGERED RHINO RAYS IN THE MALACCA STRAIT

Universiti Malaya

MALAYSIA

New rhino ray species have recently been discovered in the Malacca Strait, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, which suggests greater diversity of these endangered shark-like rays than previously thought. Muhammad is supporting accurate assessments of the status of endangered rhino rays, clarifying their distribution, gathering information about their biology and reproduction and deciphering their genetics. He hopes this will shed light on the true global or regional risk status of the species and inform evidence-based management for species protection and fisheries catch regulations.



NAHLA KHAN



BRINGING GUITARFISH BACK FROM THE BRINK IN BANGLADESH

University of Dhaka

BANGLADESH

Bangladeshi fishers in the Bay of Bengal, a biodiversity hotspot in the Indian Ocean, have reported declines in guitarfish over the past decades. But without sufficient information about their life history, instituting adequate management is just guesswork. No biological information is available for three Critically Endangered guitarfish species, which are a regular part of the bycatch in coastal Bangladesh: the sharpnose guitarfish, the Bangladeshi guitarfish and the widenose guitarfish. Nahla wants to change this by determining guitarfish ages using their vertebrae, filling in knowledge gaps and preparing recommendations to inform policies.



NELLY GIANNINA PEÑA CUTIMBO



CONSERVING THE CHILEAN EAGLE RAY

ProDelphinus

PERU

In the Humboldt Current System off Peru's coast, the abundance of the Chilean eagle ray is high. It is endemic to this system, but is under huge fishing pressure as the most landed ray species in Peru. Nelly is gathering preliminary information about the age and growth of the Chilean eagle ray to guide the management of its fishery. She wants to establish a baseline for determining the minimum catch size, which is needed to help manage its mortality in fisheries. She will also train artisanal fishers of Pucusana to promote the sustainable fishing of sharks and rays, emphasising the Chilean eagle ray.



NI KADEK DITA CAHYANI



PREVENTING GENETIC BOTTLENECKS FOR BOTTLENOSE WEDGEFISH

Diponegoro University

INDONESIA

For Critically Endangered species like *pari kekeh* (as the bottlenose wedgefish is known in Indonesia), maintaining genetic diversity is key to their future ability to adapt to change. But when nothing is known about the reproductive strategies of a species, little can be done to tailor fisheries management to suit its particular biology and ensure a healthy gene pool. Ni is changing this; she's studying paternity patterns within the Karimunjawa National Park. Knowing whether these wedgefish are monogamous or polygamous is essential for effective population management, where maintaining genetic diversity is key to avoiding genetic bottlenecks.



NIMNA WICKRAMASINGHA



THE VALUE OF eDNA IN AVOIDING SHARK AND RAY EXTINCTIONS IN SRI LANKA

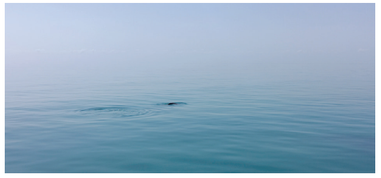
Blue Resources Trust and University of Leeds

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka is one of the world's largest shark-fishing nations and most of the shark and ray species landed in Batticaloa are at risk of extinction. Nimna is hoping to test the efficacy of eDNA sampling to make more comprehensive inventories of biodiversity to monitor sharks and rays and complement the existing visual surveys of these large and busy landing sites. She will compare her eDNA molecular results to visual records and refine an eDNA tool to monitor Sri Lanka's artisanal fisheries. Ultimately, she hopes to improve the accuracy of species records and support sustainable fisheries management.



OLGA M AZEVEDO



TIGER SHARKS, DUGONGS AND SEA TURTLES: A TRIANGLE OF FEAR IN SHARK BAY

Australian National University

AUSTRALIA

Shark Bay (Gathaagudu) is an Australian UNESCO World Heritage Site that supports endangered marine megafauna, including dugongs and loggerhead and green turtles. The bay also sustains 28 shark species, with the tiger shark as the apex predator. But declines in dugongs and sea turtles after marine heat waves have Olga worried. For Shark Bay the risk of impact from climate change is 'catastrophic' and she wants to understand how changes in prey availability will affect predator behaviour and overall ecosystem health. Olga is exploring trophic connections between tiger sharks and turtles, dugongs and other potential prey to aid the conservation of this special place.



PETTER LUNDBERG



FUTURE-PROOFING A SWEDISH SHARK CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORY

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

SWEDEN

The north-western Atlantic spiny dogfish has returned to Swedish waters after reaching near collapse. With fishing quotas reopened in 2023, some gaps in ecological knowledge became obvious. Petter is intent on closing these and improving understanding of spiny dogfish movements and temporal aggregations and where the dogfish are most vulnerable to commercial and recreational fishing. He is using ongoing recreational fishing to sample spiny dogfish along the Swedish west coast to find out where and how they move. He's also hoping to identify potential pupping grounds and nurseries, assess bio-accumulation of contaminants and assist authorities in conserving a coastal predator.



REEM ALMEALLA



SHARK AND RAY BASELINES USING eDNA IN BAHRAIN

Nuwat for Environmental Research and Education

BAHRAIN

With almost nothing known about shark populations in Bahrain, Reem is on a mission to work out elasmobranch communities: their distribution, species composition, seasonality and potential nursery areas. She's doing so using eDNA to fill in any gaps left by planned baited remote underwater video system (BRUVs) and fish market surveys. She also hopes to use the project to unite a range of stakeholders, as it is part of a wider project that involves local communities through citizen science. The aim is to create a platform that provides infrastructure and capacity for shark conservation, a first for Bahrain.



RIHAB LOUHICHI



WHERE ARE SHARKS AND RAYS GATHERING IN THE GULF OF GABÈS?

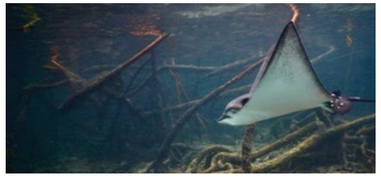
The National Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology of Sfax and the Faculty of Sciences of Sfax

TUNISIA

The Gulf of Gabès is a biodiversity hotspot in Tunisia where fisheries targeting sharks and rays operate during spring and summer. And it seems that fisheries are operating in nursery grounds – a concern that Rihab wants to clarify. She is using baited remote underwater video system (BRUVs) surveys to gather data on critical habitats and confirm aggregation areas for sharks and rays. Using the information she gathers, Rihab will help bolster conservation efforts in the region, raise awareness of conservation issues with fishers and promote sustainable practices to ensure that if fisheries are viable, so is the long-term health of shark and ray populations.



STEPHEN BERGACKER



DISTINGUISHING THE GENETIC DIVERSITY OF SPOTTED EAGLE RAY SPECIES

Université Libre Bruxelles. Ecological & Evolutionary Genomics

BELGIUM

It turns out that the spotted eagle ray, once thought to be a single species found around the world, has hidden diversity. Three species are now recognised and Stephen has a hunch that there may even be a fourth in the East Atlantic Ocean. To work out exactly how many species of spotted eagle ray there are, Stephen is collecting DNA from across their distribution to identify different species and understand how populations are connected or fragmented. This information will help create better conservation strategies, protect critical habitats and establish marine protected areas.



SZU-HSUAN LEE



THE X, Y AND WHITE SHARKS; CAPTURING CHROMOSOME INFORMATION

University of Florida

UNITED STATES

Szu is diving deep into the DNA of white sharks, hoping to capture the first clear images of their chromosomes and sex chromosomes. Part of his aim is to develop the research methodology in a way that is minimally invasive for these animals, and that the process is repeatable and consistent. The results will also help inform the growing field of genomic bio-informatics, supporting the ability to draw conservation conclusions from genomic research with higher confidence.



VALENTINA HEVIA-HORMAZÁBAL



SAVING SHARKS FROM STRANDED EGGS

Programa de Conservacion de Tiburones, Universidad de Antofagasta

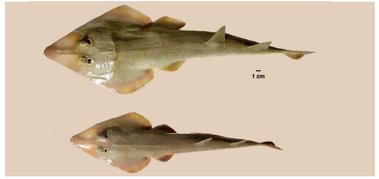
CHILE

Valentina is hoping to help improve the survival chances of unborn shark and ray embryos that wash ashore in mass strandings of their egg cases. There are times of the year at Chile's Changa Beach when shark and ray eggs tend to be washed ashore – often after storms and strong surges. She will be caring for stranded eggs as a conservation measure and establishing methodologies to replicate this practice in other breeding areas.

PROJECT LEADERS NEW KEYSTONE GRANTS




ALFONSINA ROMO | JUAN JIMENEZ



THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE FRECKLED GUITARFISH

Marine Science Institute, The University of Texas at Austin

UNITED STATES

We don't know much about the freckled guitarfish. In 2020, the IUCN assessed it as Vulnerable to extinction risk. But the information used for that estimate was based on other rhino rays. Alfonsina is filling in the gaps in what we know about the life history of the freckled guitarfish throughout the Gulf of Mexico. Spanning sampling sites in both the USA and Mexico, she is estimating age, growth and reproductive parameters. She's also measuring the microchemical composition of vertebral cartilage to investigate possible nursery areas; all baseline life-history information that is needed to manage these rays effectively.



ALIFA HAQUE



MPAS FOR SHARKS AND RAYS

Department of Zoology, University of Dhaka

BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, little is known about interactions between fisheries and the sharks and rays that are impacted by them. As a result, spatial planning is challenging and many marine protected areas (MPAs) fail when they exclude local communities or hinge on poor design. Alifa wants to integrate science with human rights principles, creating MPAs that are built on social fairness and community involvement and promote sustainable use. She will pilot marine-managed areas that focus on conserving sharks and rays and create a model for such areas that promote biodiversity conservation, socio-economic development and equitable benefit-sharing in coastal Bangladesh.



ANA LÚCIA FURTADO



DOCUMENTING SHARK DIVERSITY AND FISHERIES IN ANGOLA

Angola Elasmo Project

ANGOLA

In a place where any information about sharks and rays is critically absent, Ana Lúcia is documenting baseline biodiversity information at landing sites like Namibe, Benguela and Luanda. Her aim is to uncover critical insights into the distribution and abundance of elasmobranchs in this largely undocumented coastal country. She will be characterising small-scale fisheries, assessing the status of shark fisheries, collecting biological data and investigating trade networks. Engagement is also key; through education and through information she can provide to conservation management.



ANA LUCÍA LÓPEZ



STEWARDSHIP FOR SHARKS AND RAYS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

MarAlliance MAR

HONDURAS

Central America is shaped by the sea. Since most of the countries share Pacific and Atlantic coastlines, it would seem safe to assume that awareness of ocean conservation and its significance is high. But this is not so, and Ana is tackling the issue of distance; a wedge driven between communities in Panama, Belize and Honduras, thanks to underfunded public education, and the ocean and its diversity that they rely on. Resource challenges have forced Ana to embrace innovative education initiatives, aiming to increase public understanding of the importance of sharks and rays, measure changes in fishing and consumer behaviour, and engage communities to become ocean stewards.



BIGEYO KUBOJA



RACING TO RESEARCH TANZANIA'S RHINO RAYS

Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute

TANZANIA

Despite the critical conservation status of wedgefish and guitarfish, little is known about these species in Tanzania – and even less in terms of conservation action tailored for their survival. Bigeyo is exploring the biology, threats and conservation needs of wedgefish and guitarfish species in the African country to promote sustainable fishing practices and conserve these endangered species and their habitat. Armed with baseline data, she will be able to inform Non-Detriment Findings to control trade, support the development of the Kilwa Seascape and Rufiji Delta into marine protected areas, and update Dar es Salaam Seascape to a full candidate Important Shark and Ray Area.



BOAZ KAUNDA-ARARA



COORDINATING CITIZEN SCIENCE AND LOCAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE IN KENYA

University of Eldoret

KENYA

Rhino rays, manta and devil rays and hammerhead sharks all show signs of localised extinction along Kenya's coast. Without monitoring programmes in place, it is hard to gauge the true conservation status of sharks and rays. Boaz is collecting the data on these species groups that will be needed to aid Kenya Fisheries Services' National Plan of Action for Sharks. To do so, he is harnessing the power of local ecological knowledge and calling on communities to join the effort through citizen science programmes.



CARLOS POLO



CUTTING THE BYCATCH IN COLOMBIA'S CARIBBEAN ARTISANAL FISHERIES

Sharky Management and Consulting

COLOMBIA

Targeted fishing for sharks is banned in Colombia, but that doesn't mean that their kin (rays, skates and chimaeras) are doing well – yet. Bycatch is on the rise, and Carlos has noted that the increased restrictions on shark catches and declining shark populations have increased the contribution of batoids (rays and skates) to artisanal catches. To combat this trend, he is identifying fishing gear and locations with high skate and ray bycatch, testing tools to modify gear and exploring the options of shifting fishing grounds or reducing gear usage in high bycatch areas. He is determined to implement sustainable fishing practices and educate local communities.



CAMILLA FLOROS



RESTORING SHARKS AND REEF RESILIENCE IN MNEMBA ISLAND MARINE CONSERVATION AREA

Wild Impact

ZANZIBAR

Mnemba is one of Zanzibar's most heavily used marine areas. The Mnemba Island Marine Conservation Area was declared in 1988, but for much of its history the area has lacked effective implementation, enforcement and science-based management. As a result, sustained fishing pressure and unregulated tourism led to widespread coral reef degradation and the near-complete loss of sharks and other large reef predators that once maintained ecosystem balance. Camilla is expanding the use of baited remote underwater video systems (BRUVs) to guide the establishment of fishery replenishment zones where ecological recovery will be encouraged by reducing fishing and tourism pressure in areas to increase fish abundance and improve reef condition.



GUSTAV HELLSTRÖM



CHAMPIONING INDICATOR SPECIES FOR DEEP-SEA CONSERVATION

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

SWEDEN

We know little about deep-sea sharks and rays, but threats to their conservation are on the rise and we risk losing them before we know them. The Greenland shark can live for centuries. The sailray is one of the least known species, found in the deep North Atlantic and Arctic oceans. Gustav is using these as indicator species for biodiversity hotspots in Skagerrak, where interest in deep-sea exploitation is rising and no marine protected areas safeguard deep-sea habitats and species. He uses deep-sea fish tracking to map their behaviour, home ranges, migrations and survival, gathering knowledge that will support management and conservation.



GUY PAULET



CAMERAS FOR CONSERVATION IN SOUTH AFRICA'S MPAS

South African Shark Conservancy

SOUTH AFRICA

Managing marine protected areas (MPAs) means gathering long-term data to understand how species are responding to protection. Along South Africa's coastline, its national conservation agency SANParks has been using baited remote underwater video systems (BRUVs) to gather hundreds of hours of underwater footage over several years in the country's MPAs. But limited in-house technical capacity means much of this footage has not yet been processed. Guy's project will analyse these archived videos to generate standardised, high-quality biodiversity information that will support evidence-based management of MPAs, strengthen national biodiversity assessments and contribute to regional and national databases, enhancing collaboration among conservation agencies and research institutions.



JESUS ERIK HIGUERA RIVAS



DECODING MEXICO'S ORCA ECOTYPES

Conexiones Terramar

MEXICO

There is much still to be learnt about orcas in the Gulf of California. And since 2018, the Orcas Mexico project has been observing flexible and specialised feeding strategies, movement across the Eastern Tropical Pacific and patterns that suggest connectivity between the Gulf and populations in the Pacific. Jesus wants to determine if there is a previously undescribed orca ecotype in the Gulf of California. He'll be analysing skin and blubber biopsies to understand their diet and reviewing acoustic and photo-identification data to decode their communication, gaining glimpses into their kinship and social structure. Results from his project will help to inform effective conservation and management strategies.



JACK INGELBRECHT



THE GENETICS OF DWARF AND GREEN SAWFISH

Murdoch University

AUSTRALIA

Sawfish are among the most threatened vertebrates on the planet, and some regions of Australia are where the last viable populations of dwarf and green sawfish remain. But Jack wants to know if these populations are genetically healthy; what is the risk of inbreeding when numbers have dwindled drastically, globally and locally? He is inferring kinship within and among dwarf sawfish in the Kimberley region, Western Australia, and investigating their philopatry and reproductive behaviour. He is also exploring genetic variation and inbreeding for the green sawfish in the Pilbara region to assess the health and recovery potential of populations.



JOHN NEVILL



MONITORING SEYCHELLES' ARTISANAL SHARK CATCH

Marine Conservation Society, Seychelles

SEYCHELLES

Over the past 12 years, John has compiled an elasmobranch catch database with more than 32,000 sharks and wedgefish (from 25 species) and over 3,000 rays (from 11 species) in Seychelles. The government now seeks to protect 10 threatened elasmobranch species caught in the artisanal fishery. These are Seychelles' first species-based elasmobranch fishery measures, and it's vital their implementation is optimal. John is gathering catch data and comparing it with the catch database from before the law change, assessing the legislation's impact on catch, recommending ways to optimise it and building national capacity for its monitoring and enforcement.



JORGE FONTES



DEEP-DIVING SHARKS IN A WARMING WORLD

Instituto do Mar da Universidade dos Açores

PORTUGAL

Jorge is interested in the life below 200 metres (656 feet), where the largest fish biomass on earth inhabits meso-pelagic waters down to 1,000 metres (3,280 feet). From its inky darkness, communities of fish migrate each night into shallower waters in a process called diel vertical migration. This is essential for the cycling of nutrients and carbon, and many sharks and rays rely on meso-pelagic prey. Jorge wants to understand the extent of this reliance, and what impact fishing and climate change will have on these predators and their prey. He is developing new animal-borne tags with video cameras and sensors to study the ocean's twilight zone affordably and effectively.



KARA YOPAK



BIO-IMAGING THE BRAIN TO SAVE SAWFISH

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

UNITED STATES

In early 2024, a terrifying phenomenon struck populations of smalltooth sawfish in Florida, USA. Just when the Smalltooth Sawfish Recovery Implementation Team was optimistic that recovery had begun, there were at least 54 confirmed sawfish mortalities, coupled with hundreds of accounts of a fish 'spinning disease', with no further explanation. Kara is characterising brain morphology from an existing collection of smalltooth sawfish, using advanced 3D bio-imaging to predict behavioural and sensory shifts throughout life. These invaluable data from healthy smalltooth sawfish form the baseline from which to identify neuro-compromise in individuals afflicted with 'spinning disease'.



LARA SOUSA



COLLISION COURSE: PREDICTING WHALE SHARK AGGREGATIONS AND MIGRATIONS OFF WEST AFRICA

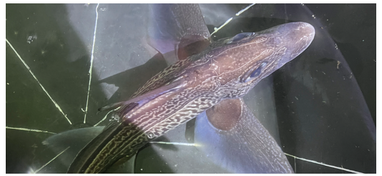
Cibio-Biopolis

CAPE VERDE

In the Gulf of Guinea, West Africa, megafauna are highly vulnerable to shipping collisions. Approximately 25% of African maritime traffic passes through the gulf, which also struggles with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Whale sharks are highly susceptible to collisions, experiencing significant 'cryptic' mortality, primarily due to ship strikes. Lara is focusing on Cabo Verde and São Tomé e Príncipe to develop habitat suitability models and identify whale shark aggregation hotspots and migratory routes to assess collision risks. By pinpointing priority conservation zones, she hopes to inform policy changes and establish marine protected areas, or safe corridors.



LOTTE DAHLMO



THE GHOST SHARKS OF WESTERN NORWAY

Norwegian Research Centre

NORWAY

Of all sharks and their kin, chimaeras (also called ghost sharks) are the least studied and understood. Traditional surveys have recorded chimaeras at great depths, below 300 metres (985 feet), and they are considered deep-sea locals. However, Norwegian divers have seen chimaeras in fjords at a depth of just 30 metres (98 feet). Lotte will use acoustic telemetry to complete the first advanced tracking study of chimaeras. She wants to identify whether they exhibit resident or migratory behaviour, understand their social interactions and assess their population structure in order to improve understanding of chimaeras and help protect them and their key habitats.



MARIA HERRERA



BETTER PROTECTION FOR SCALLOPED BONNETHEADS

Fundación Colombia Azul

COLOMBIA

Scientists have discovered a population of the Critically Endangered scalloped bonnethead in Colombia. With a small home range and being highly resident and vulnerable to bycatch, this shark is at risk of local extinction. Maria has collaborated with local communities to secure a 10-square-kilometre (3.86-square-mile) no-take zone around a unique high-occurrence area. She will delineate the new no-take zone and track the fine-scale movements of the sharks to evaluate their level of protection. Maria will also gather mark-recapture data to estimate the number of sharks using the proposed no-take zone and she will develop educational activities in village primary schools to promote shark conservation.



MINA HATAYAMA



ATTITUDES AND COSTS FROM A NEW CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

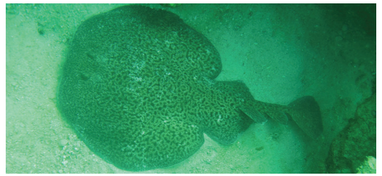
James Cook University

MALDIVES

The Maldives is one of only 17 shark sanctuaries worldwide, and its hard-won conservation successes have kept it one of the most diverse regions for sharks and rays. But with success comes a new cost: shark population recoveries have brought conflict with fishers, who lose some of their catch to sharks in what is termed depredation. Maria wants to understand the economic cost of and attitudes to depredation, and how depredation impacts local opinion about sharks and the shark sanctuary. She will co-develop mitigation strategies with fishers, taking into account our warming world, and assess how engaging and empowering fishers affects their perceptions.



MOHSEN REZAIE



OUR CHANGING OCEANS, AND THE CHANGING LIVES OF COASTAL SHARKS

Qeshm Environmental Conservation Institute

IRAN

Mohsen is looking to the future, comparing the life-history traits of coastal tropical elasmobranch populations between the Gulf of Oman, which represents present-day tropical seas, and the Persian Gulf, which mirrors the climate conditions expected by the end of the century. By doing so, he aims to investigate how ocean warming could potentially alter the elasmobranchs' life-history traits and subsequently impact their vulnerability to overfishing. His comparative study aims to provide insight into the adaptive capabilities of these species and inform effective conservation strategies in the face of ongoing climate change and other pressures.



NICOLAS LUBITZ



LIFEBOATS FOR HAMMERHEADS: ESSENTIAL HABITATS FOR CONSERVATION

Biopixel Oceans Foundation

AUSTRALIA

With seven of the nine hammerhead species threatened with extinction and populations in some regions having declined by 98%, finding focus points for conservation is urgent. Nicolas is on a mission to determine the characteristics of essential habitats needed for feeding, reproduction and shelter in three threatened hammerhead species (great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, winghead) across northern Australia and identify similar habitats across their global distribution. He's combining acoustic and satellite telemetry with diet studies, remote sensing, environmental loggers and catch and drone surveys to achieve a host of aims and will be conducting risk assessments across identified important hammerhead habitats.



RODRIGO DOMINGUES



ARE SHARKS OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS ADAPTED TO HIGHER STRESS?

Institute Oceanographic at University of São Paulo

BRAZIL

Brazilian guitarfish are an endemic and endangered species in the south-western Atlantic Ocean. Studying their DNA gives scientists insight into how to ensure the long-term viability of their populations, even in impacted environments. Rodrigo is testing whether guitarfish exposed to anthropogenic pressures such as pollution and fishing express a greater number of stress-adaptation-related genes compared to individuals from protected areas. He will also explore whether guitarfish from protected areas are mixing and moving with those from unprotected areas, using genetic analyses to assess the connectivity between individuals.



SAM WEBER



LIVING ALONGSIDE THE SHARKS OF ASCENSION ISLAND

University of Exeter (Centre for Ecology and Conservation)

ASCENSION ISLAND

Ascension Island is home to one of the world's largest marine protected areas and all species of sharks have been legally protected in the island's waters since 2015. Recently, more frequent encounters with sharks (primarily Galápagos and silky sharks) in shallow coastal waters have created conflict with human ocean users such as fishers and divers. Sam wants to help understand what is driving these inshore shark movements so as to improve the ability to predict, explain and respond to future human–shark interactions. He's drawing on the IUCN's best-practice guidelines on human–wildlife conflict to work with local stakeholders and promote co-existence.



TOM HORTON



PROTECTING PREGNANT AND PUPPING PORBEAGLE SHARKS

University of Exeter

UNITED KINGDOM

Porbeagle sharks have declined in the north-eastern Atlantic, their populations pressured by commercial fishing, and conservation intervention is needed where and when they are most vulnerable. Pregnant porbeagles need to move into shallower waters, which places them at high risk of contact with humans. Tom wants to understand how and where porbeagles are reproducing in this region. He is using ultrasonography and steroid hormone concentrations to assess whether females are pregnant, and then bio-logging to track their movement patterns. The information he obtains can help to advise how porbeagles in vulnerable life stages and areas could be best protected.

ALL 2025 SOSF-FUNDED PROJECTS

SOSF CENTRES

SOSF D'Arros Research Centre

SOSF Island School Seychelles

SOSF Shark Education Centre

SOSF Shark Research Center

SOSF PARTNERS

BC Whales (the North Coast Cetacean Society)

Bimini Biological Field Station Foundation

Cape Eleuthera Island School

Manta Trust

SAIAB (The Acoustic Tracking Array Platform)

Shark Spotters

SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorship | Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS) for the SOSF Distinguished Speaker Series & Shark Chart, Florida, USA

Sponsorship | ASRA (Asian Shark and Ray Alliance)

Sponsorship | UPY Partnership with Marine Conservation Photographer of the Year 2025 | Daniel S Bolt

Sponsorship | Two Oceans Aquarium, South Africa

Conservation Fellowship | Africa, Rihab Louhichi

Conservation Fellowship | Asia, Buddhi Pathirana

Conservation Fellowship | South America, Ilse Martinez

Conference | American Elasmobranch Society (AES), Student travel bursaries and student event, St. Paul, USA

Conference | Oceania Chondrichthyan Society (OCS). Student travel bursaries and student event, Mooloolaba, Australia

Conference | Blue Resource Trust for Sharks International 2026, Sri Lanka

Conference | European Elasmobranch Association (EEA). Student travel bursaries, keynote speakers and student event, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Conference | IUCN World Conservation Congress, Abu Dhabi

Conference | Southern African Shark and Ray Symposium (SASRS). Student travel bursaries and conference support, Makhanda, South Africa

Event | Sharks in the City, Geneva, Switzerland

Event | Jackson Film Festival, USA

Event | 10th SeyCCat anniversary, Seychelles

Event | SeaWalls, Seychelles

Education | Raja Ampat Sharks and Rays Education Initiative, Maya Pupsa Dewi

Film | BBC Songbird Project

Film | Living with Great Whites, Passion Planet Ltd, USA

Film | Mission Megamouth Shark, Henley Spiers, Indonesia

Film | Our Sawfish Ancestors, Sound Off, LLC, Australia

SOSF OCEAN STORYTELLING GRANTS

Storytelling Grant | Writing | Fanni Daniella Szakal

Storytelling Grant | Writing | A.M.D.C.Attanayake

Storytelling Grant | Photography | Yolarnie Amepou

Storytelling Grant | Photography | Nicolas Hahn

Storytelling Grant | Photography | Praekarn Nirandara

SMALL GRANT PROJECTS

Almealla | Investigating the distribution, composition and seasonality of shark species in the Kingdom of Bahrain

Andres | Evaluation of Floridan geothermal springs system as effective bull shark nursery and thermal refuge habitat

Azevedo | How much are tiger sharks feeding on threatened dugongs and turtles in Shark Bay, Australia?

Bergacker | Speciation and genetic fragmentation across global stocks of spotted eagle rays

bin Mohd Pishal | Uncovering hidden rhino rays in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes

Bouzidi | Mako shark bycatch along the Tunisian coast: status and management options

Cahyani | Understanding the reproduction strategy of critically endangered bottlenose wedgefish in Indonesia

Chuangcharoendee | Government collaboration in a tagging and research techniques workshop for sharks and rays in Thailand

Dieudonne | Sharks entangled in the depths: age structure, bycatch, and potential pollutants in Cameroon's waters

González Gordon | Population genetics of the Pacific white-spotted eagle ray using mitochondrial DNA from Malpelo Island, Colombia

Gonzalez Pestana | Defining critical shark and ray habitat in Timor-Leste

Hevia-Hormazabal | A tale of a stranded mermaid (purse): re-wilding endemic elasmobranchs impacted by kelp harvesting

Khan | Demystifying vertebral secrets: life-history traits of three Critically Endangered guitarfish species from Bangladesh

Lee | Karyotyping the great white shark

Louhichi | Saving sandbar sharks and guitarfish in the Gulf of Gabès

Lundberg | Population dynamics of the spiny dogfish, the 'last' coastal predator in Swedish waters

Montgomery | Defining key reproductive habitat for a Critically Endangered migratory shark

Ngnah | Animated cartoon for environmental education: a strategy to inspire action among young people in Limbe, Cameroon

Pelebe | Documenting catches and the trade network and building stakeholder conservation capacity to save the scalloped hammerhead in Benin

Peña Cutimbo | Discovering the age and growth of an eagle ray endemic to the Humboldt Current, Peru

Ramdlan | Developing and testing incentive-based approaches for shark and ray conservation in small-scale fisheries in Indonesia

Ramey | The effectiveness of Fiordland marine reserves in protecting New Zealand's threatened sharks

Wickramasingha | Using eDNA for rapid monitoring of elasmobranch landing sites in Sri Lanka

KEYSTONE PROJECTS | CONTINUATION

Foster & Landschoff | 1001 seaforest species

Salinas | Protecting the sharkiest place on earth, Galápagos

Mortimer | Community monitoring of nesting sea turtles at D'Arros Island and St Joseph Atoll, Seychelles

Vel | Environmental education in Seychelles

Bonfil | Future ISRAs: evaluation of shark and ray nurseries in the Mexican Caribbean

Charvet & Faria | Turning the tide for sawfish on the Amazonian coast

Ebert | Searching for lost sharks: extinct or alive?

Finucci | A glimpse into the world of gulper sharks and their vulnerability to New Zealand fisheries

Guttridge | Inspiring communities to protect sawfish

Hegg | Understanding largetooth sawfish movement, migration and ontogeny using chemical records stored in rostral teeth

Morris | Empowering young people: creating access to science and education through hands-on field work to support conservation

Prendergast | Forecasting the regional distribution of endangered sicklefin devil rays in a changing climate to promote conservation

Rogers | How will climate change impact broadnose sevengill sharks in Fiordland, New Zealand?

Saygu | A future for guitarfish: defining industrial fisheries threats and conservation actions in the eastern Mediterranean

Seidu | Saving Ghana's remnant shark-like rays

Soekoe | Movement behaviour, population connectivity and taxonomic clarification of the Critically Endangered eagle ray *Myliobatis aquila*

Weng & Chiang | Spatial ecology of Pacific guitarfish taken in commercial fisheries

Scientific journals fees for Open Access Publications | R.Louhichi, B.Mahan, E.Cormier

KEYSTONE PROJECTS | NEW

Dahlmo | Unravelling the behaviour of the ghost shark in Norwegian fjords using acoustic tracking

Domingues | Local song: adaptative potential of endemic south-western Atlantic guitarfish to anthropogenic stressors

Floros | Restoring sharks and reef resilience through fishery replenishment zones in Mnemba Island Marine Conservation Area

Fontes | INNOVATE: the importance of the twilight zone for oceanic sharks and rays in a changing ocean

Furtado Soares | ANGOLA ELASMO PROJECT

Haque | Science and right-based marine managed area for Critically Endangered guitarfish in heavily fished coastal Bangladesh

Hatayama | Are hot sharks hungry sharks? Understanding drivers and solutions for depredation in a changing climate

Hellström | Skagerrak's hidden gems: exploring deep-sea elasmobranchs in one of the world's most exploited seas

Herrera | Found and protected: implementation and monitoring of the first conservation site for Critically Endangered hammerheads

Higuera Rivas | Decoding Mexico's killer whales ecotype

Horton | A new reproductive hotspot for the Critically Endangered porbeagle shark

Ingelbrecht | Insights into population genetics and reproductive behaviour of Critically Endangered sawfish in northern Australia

Kaunda-Arara | Harnessing local ecological knowledge and citizen science for conservation of threatened sharks and rays, Kenya

Lopez | Sparking wonder and catalysing behavioural change for Central America's sharks with immersive education

Lubitz | A lifeboat for hammerheads: identifying essential habitats in three threatened hammerhead species

Neke Kuboja | Exploring biology, threats and conservation needs of selected rhino rays species in Tanzania

Nevill | Assessing and optimising the impact of new protected species legislation on Seychelles' artisanal elasmobranch catch.

Paulet | BRUVs : video analysis in South African national parks

Polo | Conserving biodiversity: strategies for batoid bycatch reduction in the Colombian Caribbean

Rezaie-Atagholipour | Multi-omic analysis to explore elasmobranch life-history drivers in response to climate change

Romo Curiel & Jimenez | Freckled guitarfish life history and nurseries in the Gulf of Mexico: filling key data gaps

Sousa | Connectivity of whale sharks in an insular region threatened by anthropogenic activities and climate change

Weber | Human-shark conflict and coexistence at Ascension Island

Yopak | Normal vs compromised: can brain organisation in healthy smalltooth sawfish inform an unusual mortality event?

SCHOLARSHIP

PhD Scholarship | Dillys Pouponeau



OUR TEAM

OUR CORE OPERATIONS ARE HANDLED BY A SMALL NUMBER OF PASSIONATE PEOPLE, DEDICATED TO MARINE CONSERVATION AND LOCATED IN VARIOUS OFFICES AROUND THE WORLD

MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
GENEVA | SWITZERLAND

James Lea | Chief Excecutive Officer

Julia Dufour | Administration Coordinator

Sandrine Griffiths | Grant Programme Manager

Stephan Kubicki | IT and Web Officer

SOSF COMMUNICATIONS
CAPE TOWN | SOUTH AFRICA

Caitlin Allison | Digital Creator and Science Communicator

Faaizah Southgate | Digital Engagement Coordinator

Isla Hodgson | Scientific Communicator

Jade Schultz | Global Communications Manager

Kelsey Manners Dickson | Visual Content Designer

Lauren De Vos | Scientific Writer

Thomas Peschak | Director of Storytelling

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
WORLDWIDE

Andrew Chin | Scientific Advisor

Dean Grubbs | Scientific Advisor

Sarah Fowler | Scientific Advisor

SOSF D'ARROS RESEARCH CENTRE
D'ARROS | SEYCHELLES

Dillys Pouponeau | Research Officer

Ellie Moulinie | Research Officer

Emily Souffe | Research Intern

Henriette Grimmel | Programme Director

Maria Monthy | Research Intern

Robert Bullock | Research Director

Sarah Purvis | Research Assistant

ISLAND SCHOOL SEYCHELLES
MAHÉ | SEYCHELLES

Sheena Talma | ISS Coordinator

Sheril De Comarond | Education and Communications Coordinator

Terence Vel | UniSey & Island School Seychelles

SOSF SHARK RESEARCH CENTER
FORT LAUDERDALE | USA

Andrea Bernard | Research Scientist

Geoffrey Walker | Research Associate

Jeremy Vaudo | Research Scientist

John Swenson | Postdoctoral Fellow

Justin Chandler-Holtz | MSc Student

Mahmood Shivji | Professor and Director

Matthew Johnston | Associate Professor

Shelby Pawlikowski | MSc Student

SOSF SHARK EDUCATION CENTRE
WESTERN CAPE | SOUTH AFRICA

Antonique Dick | Digital Engagement and Science Communication Officer

Belinda Schlebach | Nutrition Programme Supervisor

Christinah Manzini | Junior Educator

Claire Metcalf | Facilities Administrator

Clova Mabin | Director

Dineo Hellen Makena | Junior Educator

Jubalo Mavivi | Maintenance Officer

Justine Swartz | Senior Educator

Karen Merrett | Education Coordinator

Keshia Cable | Administration Assistant

Kirsten Hoffman | Nutrition Programme Officer

Liat Dayan | Social Media Coordinator

Lihleli Dyani | Senior Educator

Lilita Limba | Education Intern

Lillian Ngotshane | Facilities Officer

Logan Benjamin | Junior Educator

Wade Naude | Educator

CREDITS

Published by the Save Our Seas Foundation

Registered address:
Rue François Bellot 6, 1206 Geneva, Switzerland
Mailing and office address:
Quai du Mont-Blanc 21, 1201 Genève, Switzerland
SaveOurSeas.com

Editorial team: Jade Schultz, James Lea,
Julia Dufour, Lauren De Vos, Sandrine Griffiths
Book design: Kelsey Manners Dickson

Copy editing & proofreading: Leni Martin
Portraits: Sam Kerr

Photographs: Jake Wilton: Front cover, Christopher Leon: pg 4, Justin Gilligan, Sebastian Staines, Dillys Pouponeau, Luke Saddler, Ryan Daly, Christopher Leon, Nicolas Hahn: pg 6, Chris Leon: pg 8, Antonique Dick: pg 10, Antonique Dick: pg 11, Keenan Ferguson: pg 11, Dillys Pouponeau: pg 12, Dillys Pouponeau: pg 12, Dillys Pouponeau: pg 14, Mathilda Leibzig: pg 14, Mathilda Leibzig: pg 15, Mathilda Leibzig: pg 15, Shane Gross: pg 16, Chris Louden: pg 17, Stan Shea: pg 17, Charlotte Lea: pg 18, Robert Bullock: pg 18, Christopher Vaughn-Jones: pg 19, Kelsey Manners Dickson: 20, 21, Adriana Gonzalez Pestana: pg 24, Alyssa Andres: pg 24, Cyndi Ngnah: pg 24, Jake Davies: pg 25, Edeya Rodrigue Pelebe: pg 26, Eva Ramey: pg 26, Ichrak Bouzidi: pg 26, Sandra Bessudo: pg 26, M Said Ramdlan: pg 27, Metavee Chuangcharoendee: pg 27, Muhammad Irsyad Pishal: pg 27, Nahla Khan: pg 28, Nelly Giannina Cutimbo: pg 28, Ni Kadek Dita Cahyani: pg 28, Ni Kadek Dita Cahyani: pg 28, Nimna Wickramasingha: pg 29, Olga Azevedo: pg 29, Reem Almealla: pg 30, Rihab Louhich: pg 30, Stephan Bergacker: pg 30, Gregory Skomal: pg 31, Valentina Hevia: pg 31, Alfonzia Romo: pg 32, Alifa Haque: pg 32, Ana Lúcia Furtado Soares: pg 32, Bigeyo Kuboja: pg 32, Boaz Kaunda-Arara: pg 32, Gabriela Ochoa: pg 33, Camilla Flores: pg 34, Carlos Polo: pg 34, Guy Paulet: pg 35, Jack Ingelbrecht: pg 35, Monika Wieland Shields: pg 35, Gregg Poulakis: pg 36, Matthew During: pg 36, John Nevill: pg 36, Emilio Posada: pg 37, James Lea: pg 37, Lotte Dahlmo: pg 37, Nico Fassbender: pg 37, Mina Hatayama: pg 38, Mohsen Rezaie: pg 38, Nicolas Lubitz: pg 38, Rodrigo Domingues: pg 38, Petter Lundberg: pg 39, Sam Weber: pg 39, Tom Horton: pg 39, Justin Gilligan: pg 42, Shane Gross: back cover.

Printed by: Polygravia, 1618 Châtel-St-Denis, Switzerland




save our seas
foundation