

Protecting threatened sharks and rays in the Western Indian Ocean



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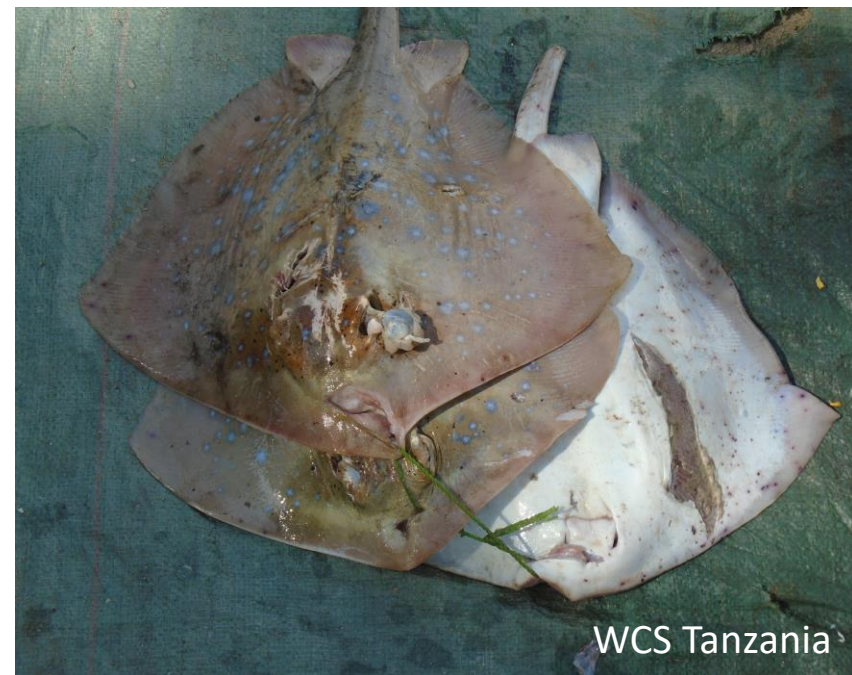
Rhett Bennett



WCS Mozambique



Mike Markovina



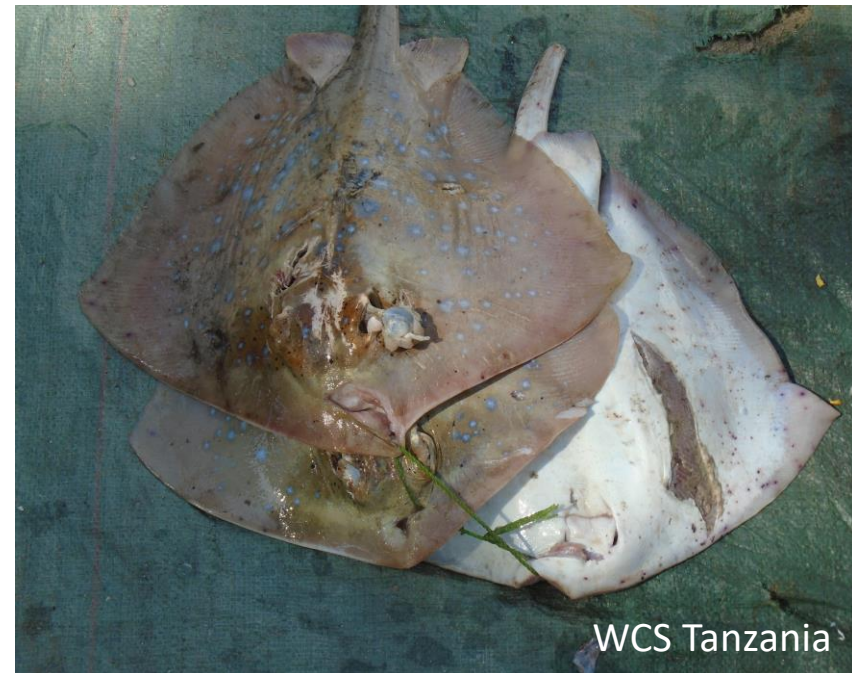
WCS Tanzania



PROBLEM

Sharks and rays

- Slow growth
- Few offspring
- Late maturity
- More vulnerable to exploitation





Conservation Status: IUCN Red List

WIO shark and ray
IUCN Red List categories

THREATENED

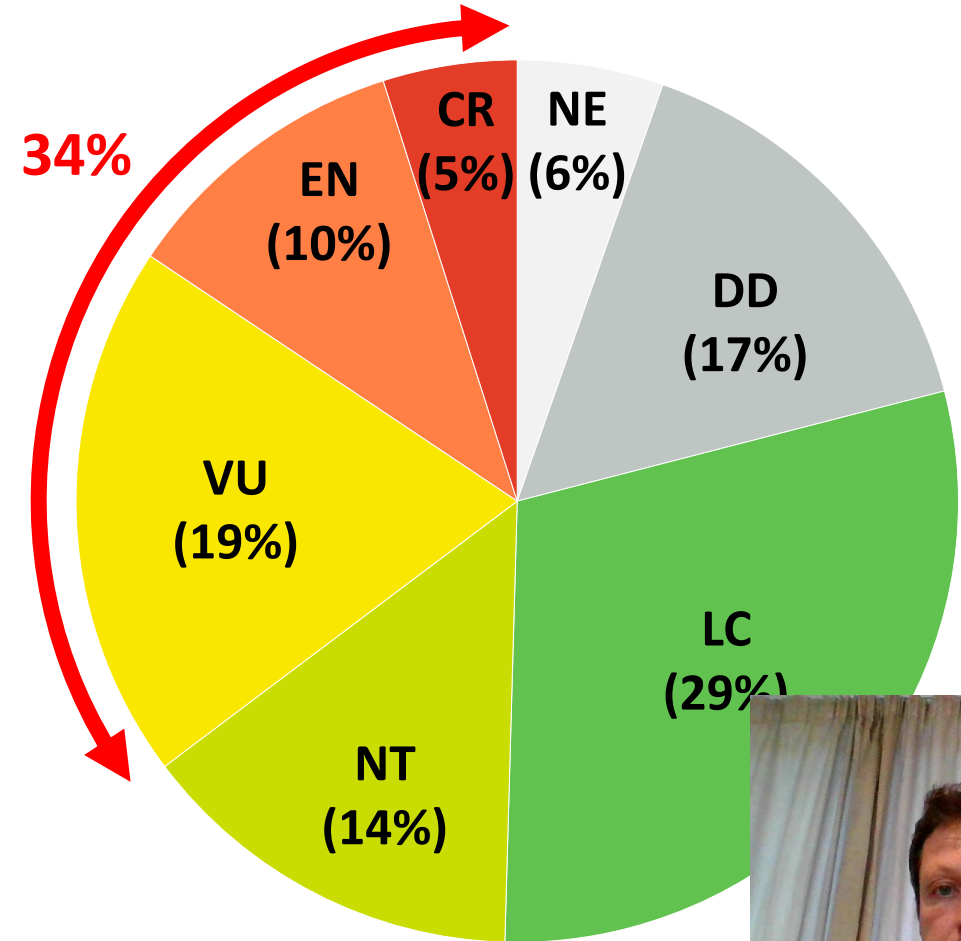
- CR** Critically endangered
- EN** Endangered
- VU** Vulnerable

NT Near threatened

LC Least concern

DD Data deficient

NE Not evaluated



Nairobi Convention

Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region



Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region

- Annex I: Protected species of wild flora
- Annex II: Species of wild fauna requiring special protection
- Annex III: Harvestable species of wild fauna
- Annex IV: Migratory species



Recommendations for Listing of Sharks and Rays in ANNEX II of the NC Protocol

Article 4: *Species of Wild Fauna Requiring Special Protection* stipulates: “The Contracting Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the strictest protection of the endangered wild fauna species listed in annex II.”



CMS – Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals: Appendix I

- Appendix I “*comprises migratory species that have been assessed as being in danger of extinction.*”
- CMS Parties *in which these species occur “shall endeavour to strictly protect them”.*



IOTC – Indian Ocean Tuna Commission: Resolutions:

- Resolutions 12/09, 13/05, 13/06 and 19/03 include specific protections for certain shark and ray species



CITES – Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora: Appendix I:

- Species that are “*threatened with extinction and CITES prohibits international trade in specimens of these species*”.



IUCN Red List of Threatened Species:

- Critically Endangered (CR): “facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild”;
- Endangered (EN): “facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild”.

21 shark species and 18 ray species recommended for strict protection under Annex II



Recommendations for Listing of Sharks and Batoids in ANNEX III of the NC Protocol

Article 5: Harvestable Species of Wild Fauna stipulates:

“1. The Contracting Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the protection of the depleted or threatened wild fauna species listed in annex III. “

2. “Each Contracting Party shall develop, adopt and implement management plans for the exploitation of such species.”



CMS Appendix II:

- “migratory species that have an unfavourable conservation status”;
- Range states are encouraged to conclude global or regional agreements for the conservation and management of these species.

CITES Appendix II:

- species that are “not necessarily now threatened with extinction but that may become so unless trade is closely controlled”
- export of such species is permitted, but under strict regulation.



IUCN Red List of Threatened Species:

- Vulnerable (VU) species are “facing a high risk of extinction in the wild”;
- Near Threatened (NT) – “close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future”.

53 shark and 20 ray species recommended for protection / regulated harvesting under Annex III



Species	Common name	IOTC	CMS I	CITES I	IUCN	Kenya	Mozambique	Seychelles	South Africa	Tanzania
<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>	pelagic thresher shark	YES			EN					
<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	bigeye thresher shark	YES								
<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	common thresher shark	YES								
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	oceanic whitetip	YES	YES		CR					
<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	whale shark	YES	YES		EN					
<i>Mobula alfredi</i>	reef manta ray	YES	YES							
<i>Mobula birostris</i>	giant manta ray	YES	YES		EN					
<i>Mobula eregoodoo</i>	longhorned pygmy devil ray	YES	YES		EN					
<i>Mobula kuhlii</i>	shortfin devil ray	YES	YES		EN					
<i>Mobula mobular</i>	spinetail devil ray	YES	YES		EN					
<i>Mobula tarapacana</i>	sicklefin devil ray	YES	YES		EN					
<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>	bentfin devil ray	YES	YES		EN					
<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	basking shark		YES		EN					
<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	great white shark		YES							
<i>Pristis pristis</i>	largetooth sawfish		YES	YES	CR					
<i>Pristis zijsron</i>	green sawfish		YES	YES	CR					
<i>Pseudoginglymostoma brevicaudatum</i>	shorttail nurse shark				CR					
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	scalloped hammerhead				CR					
<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	great hammerhead				CR					
<i>Glaucostegus halavi</i>	Halavi guitarfish				CR					
<i>Rhina ancylostomus</i>	bowmouth guitarfish				CR					
<i>Rhynchobatus australiae</i>	bottlenose wedgefish				CR					
<i>Rhynchobatus djiddensis</i>	whitespotted wedgefish				CR					
<i>Rhynchobatus laevis</i>	smoothnose wedgefish				CR					
<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>	dusky shark				EN					
<i>Centrophorus granulosus</i>	gulper shark				EN					
<i>Centrophorus squamosus</i>	leafscale gulper shark				EN					
<i>Echinorhinus brucus</i>	bramble shark				EN					
<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	shortfin mako shark				EN					
<i>Isurus paucus</i>	longfin mako shark				EN					
<i>Holohalaelurus favus</i>	honeycomb izak				EN					
<i>Holohalaelurus punctatus</i>	whitespotted izak				EN					
<i>Stegostoma tigrinum</i>	zebra shark				EN					
<i>Mustelus manazo</i>	starspotted smoothhound				EN					
<i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>	grey reef shark				EN					
<i>Aetomylaeus vespertilio</i>	ornate eagle ray				EN					
<i>Raja ocellifera</i>	twineyed skate				EN					
<i>Rostroraja alba</i>	spearnose skate				EN					
<i>Acroteriobatus leucospilus</i>	greyspot guitarfish				EN					



Shark and ray species proposed for Nairobi Convention ANNEX II



Species	Common name	IOTC	CMS I	CITES I	IUCN	Kenya	Mozambique	Seychelles	South Africa	Tanzania
<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>	pelagic thresher shark	YES			EN		X			
<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	bigeye thresher shark	YES					X			
<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	common thresher shark	YES					X			
<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	oceanic whitetip	YES	YES		CR	X	X			
<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	whale shark	YES	YES		EN	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Mobula alfredi</i>	reef manta ray	YES	YES				X		X	
<i>Mobula birostris</i>	giant manta ray	YES	YES		EN		X		X	
<i>Mobula eregoodoo</i>	longhorned pygmy devil ray	YES	YES		EN					
<i>Mobula kuhlii</i>	shortfin devil ray	YES	YES		EN		X			
<i>Mobula mobular</i>	spinetail devil ray	YES	YES		EN		X			
<i>Mobula tarapacana</i>	sicklefin devil ray	YES	YES		EN		X			
<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>	bentfin devil ray	YES	YES		EN		X			
<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	basking shark		YES		EN					
<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	great white shark		YES			X	X		X	
<i>Pristis pristis</i>	largetooth sawfish		YES	YES	CR		X		X	X
<i>Pristis zijsron</i>	green sawfish		YES	YES	CR		X		X	X
<i>Pseudoginglymostoma brevicaudatum</i>	shorttail nurse shark				CR	X				
<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	scalloped hammerhead				CR				X	
<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	great hammerhead				CR				X	X
<i>Glaucostegus halavi</i>	Halavi guitarfish				CR					
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Shark and ray species proposed for Nairobi Convention ANNEX II



Recommended actions for Nairobi Convention Conference of Parties

Recalling Decision CP7/12: Conservation of Sharks, Article 4 of the Nairobi Convention Protocol: *Species of Wild Fauna Requiring Special Protection* and Article 5 of the Nairobi Convention Protocol: *Harvestable Species of Wild Fauna*, we urge the Conference of Parties to take the following steps, to reduce impacts on shark and ray populations in the WIO, to improve their conservation status:

- 1. List appropriate shark and ray species on Nairobi Convention Annexes**, as proposed in Annex to this discussion paper: *Recommendations for Shark and Ray Listings in the Annexes of the Nairobi Convention Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region*.
- 2. Urge member states to implement their binding commitments**, as a minimum, in terms of species protections and trade controls at national level, as imposed by the multilateral agreements to which they are party, including inter alia:
 - protection of all shark and ray species listed in CMS Appendix I;
 - protection of all shark and ray species prohibited in IOTC Resolutions;
 - trade controls for all shark and ray species listed in CITES Appendices.
- 3. Encourage member states to voluntarily implement species protections and/or catch restrictions** for threatened species and species subject to trade controls, i.e. not already protected under other agreements, through:
 - Following the guiding text of the Nairobi Convention, in terms of strictly protecting endangered wild fauna species;
 - Protecting and managing species listed in Nairobi Convention Annexes;
 - Protecting species listed under CITES Appendix I, for which commercial trade bans should already be in place;
 - Protecting all IUCN Critically Endangered and Endangered species;
 - Developing management measures for IUCN Vulnerable and Near Threatened species.





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