



Prioritization of climate refugia in the Western Indian Ocean – Recommendations

Technical:

1. Urge member states to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of MPAs across the WIO with a focus on the MPAs in the areas identified as climate refugia.
2. Urge Parties and relevant organizations to collaborate to identify, map, designate and develop management strategies to protect the climate refugia in the WIO.

Policy:

1. Urge member states to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of MPAs across the WIO with a focus on the MPAs in the areas identified as climate refugia.
2. Urge Parties and relevant organizations to collaborate to identify, map, designate and develop management strategies to protect the climate refugia in the WIO.
3. Encourage member states to implement their global and regional binding commitments in the protection and management of the coastal zone and ocean governance.



Sharks and rays in the Nairobi Convention:

Pursuant to Decision CP7/12: *Conservation of Sharks*, and Decision CP8/9: *Threatened and Endangered Marine Species*, a Regional Status Report Chondrichthyans of the Western Indian Ocean – Biodiversity, Fisheries and Trade, Management and Conservation has been produced, and submitted in draft, soft-copy form to the Secretariat;

Pursuant to Decision CP9/5: *Amendment of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region*, a Regional roadmap for the Conservation and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Western Indian Ocean was produced and submitted in draft, soft-copy form to the Secretariat;

Pursuant to Decision CP8/4: *Review of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region*, and Decision CP9/5: *Amendment of the Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region*, the document 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 was produced and submitted in draft, soft-copy form to the Secretariat;

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*, the Nairobi Convention Member States are urged to take the following steps, to reduce impacts on shark and ray populations in the WIO, for their improved conservation status:

1. **List appropriate shark and ray species on the respective Nairobi Convention Protocol Annexes**, as proposed in the document recommending species for listing in the Annexes.
2. **Implement all binding commitments** in terms of species protections and trade controls at national level, as imposed by the multilateral agreements to which they are party, including (among others):
 - a. protection of all shark and ray species listed in CMS Appendix I;
 - b. protection of all shark and ray species prohibited in IOTC Resolutions;
 - c. trade controls for all shark and ray species listed in CITES Appendices.
3. **Voluntarily implement species protections and catch restrictions for threatened species** and species subject to trade controls, which are not already required to be protected under other multilateral agreements, through:
 - a. Following the guiding text of the Nairobi Convention Protocol, in terms of strictly protecting endangered wild fauna species;
 - b. Protecting and managing species listed in Nairobi Convention Annexes;
 - c. Protecting species listed under CITES Appendix I, for which commercial trade bans should already be in place;
 - d. Protecting all IUCN Critically Endangered and Endangered species.
4. **Develop and implement appropriate national and regional management plans** and management measures for shark and ray species that require improved management, through:
 - a. Developing regional management plans for species listed in CMS Appendix II;
 - b. Developing management measures for IUCN Vulnerable and Near Threatened species.
5. **Validate the regional status report and regional roadmap**