THE SHARK & RAY RECOVERY INITIATIVE (SARRI)

Saving Species from Extinction

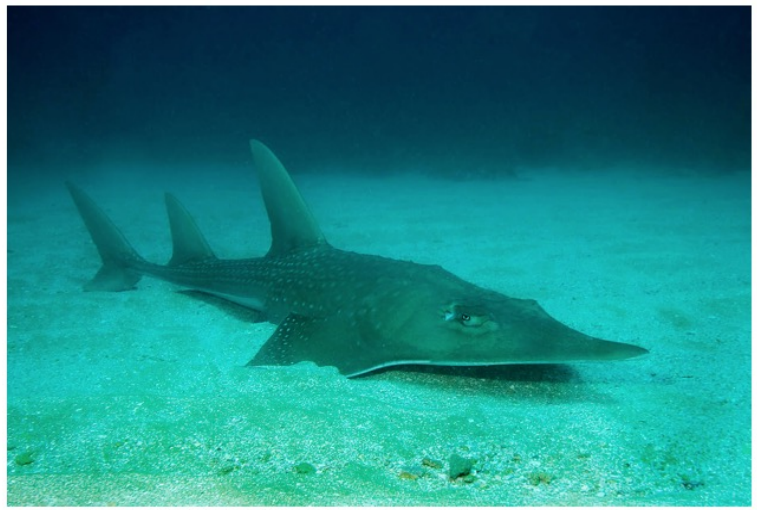
Presentation to CTI Threatened Species Working Group 9 Sept 2022

A Special Group of Rays Are Now World's Most Threatened Marine Fish

18/7/2019

IUCN Shark Specialist Group Flags Need to Protect Critically Endangered "Rhino Rays"

PRESS RELEASE | London, 18 July, 2019



Whitespotted Wedgefish (Rhynchobatus djiddensis) © Matthew D. Potenski

Giant guitarfishes and wedgefishes, collectively called Rhino Rays, are now the world's most threatened marine fish, based on new Red List assessments released today by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Shark Specialist Group (SSG). All but one of the 16 warm-water, shark-like ray species are assessed as Critically Endangered due primarily to overfishing for meat and fins.

SHARKS & RAYS - 2nd MOST THREATENED VERTEBRATE GROUP ON THE PLANET

IUCN RED LIST

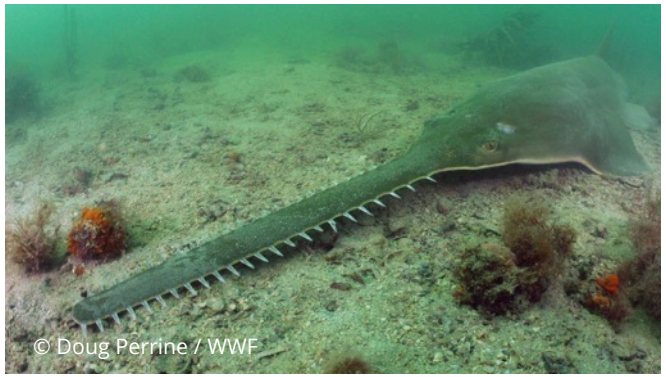
2014: **25% of all sharks & rays threatened with extinction**

2021: **37% of all sharks & rays threatened with extinction**

WWF

A DANGEROUS SHIFT TOWARDS EXTINCTION

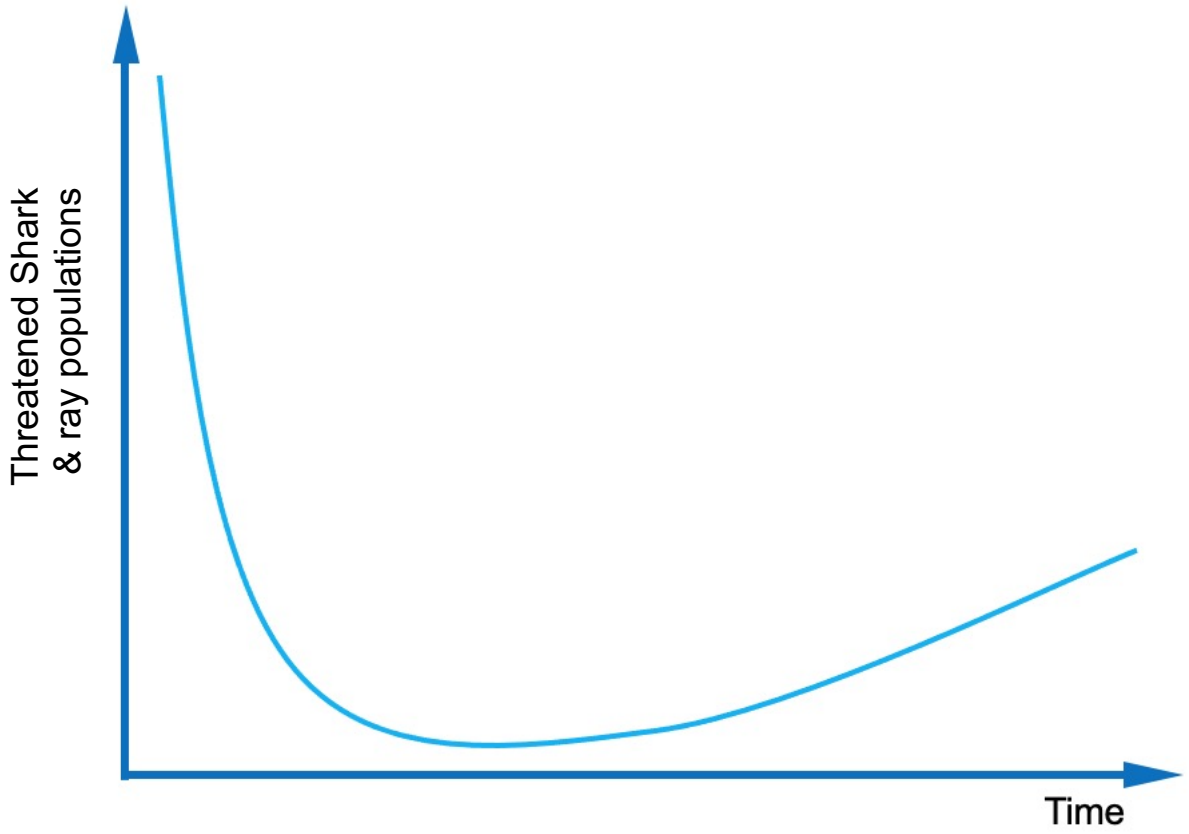
	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR)	ENDANGERED (EN)
2014:	25	43
⬇	⬇	⬇
2021:	**92**	**119**
	Almost quadruple!	Almost triple!



Rhino rays (giant guitarfishes, guitarfishes & wedgefishes), **sawfishes**, **hammerheads**, **angel sharks**, **oceanic sharks**, and **reef sharks** = some of the **most endangered families & groups of fishes** on our blue planet.

WWF

BENDING THE CURVE AWAY FROM DISASTER



CBD Aichi Target 6

By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, **recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species**, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

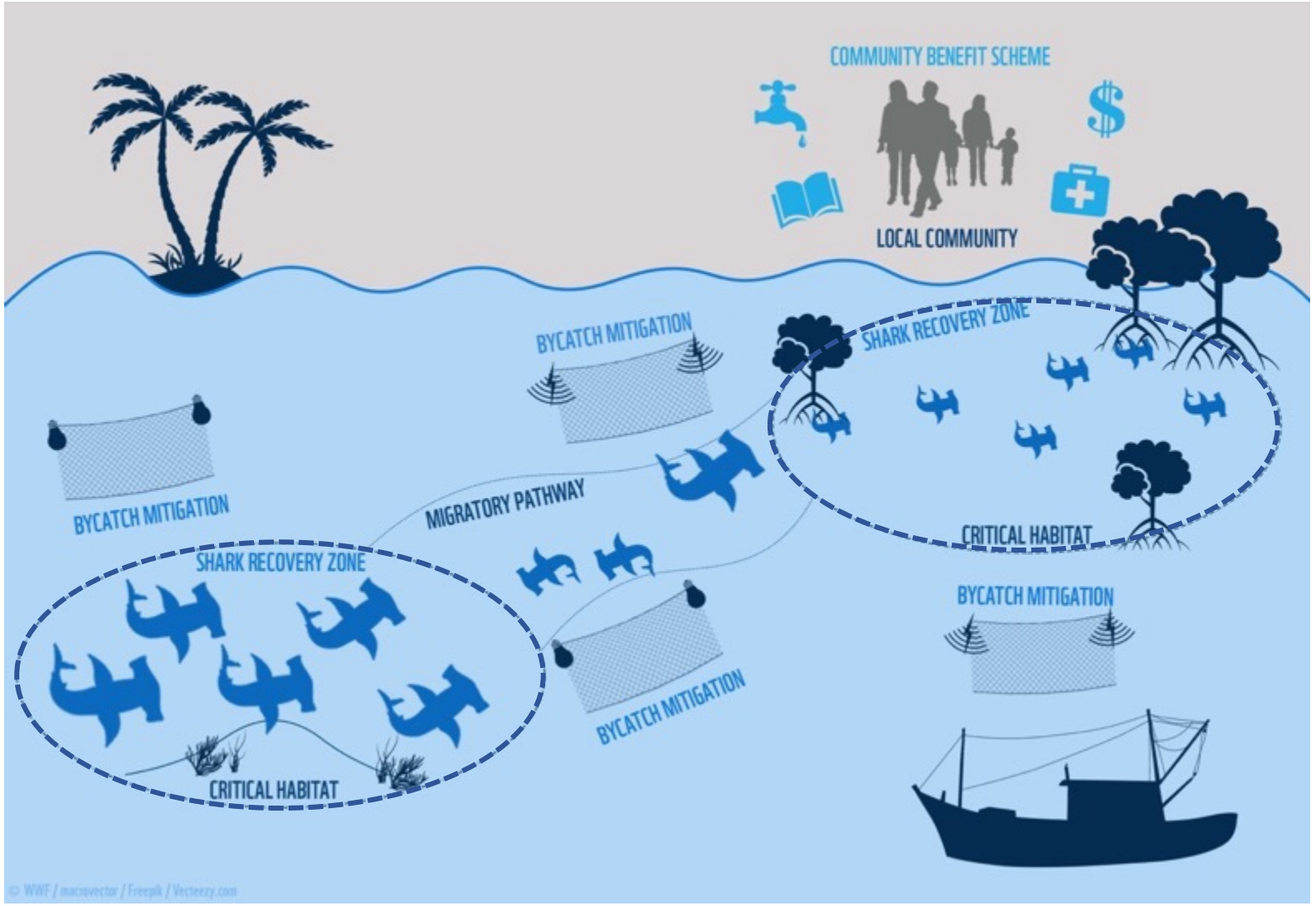
To **bend the curve** for sharks and rays on a global scale, SARRI has been designed to **facilitate** a much broader **wave of recovery efforts** beyond the initiative itself.

A SITE FOCUSED APPROACH INCORPORATING SHARK RECOVERY ZONES

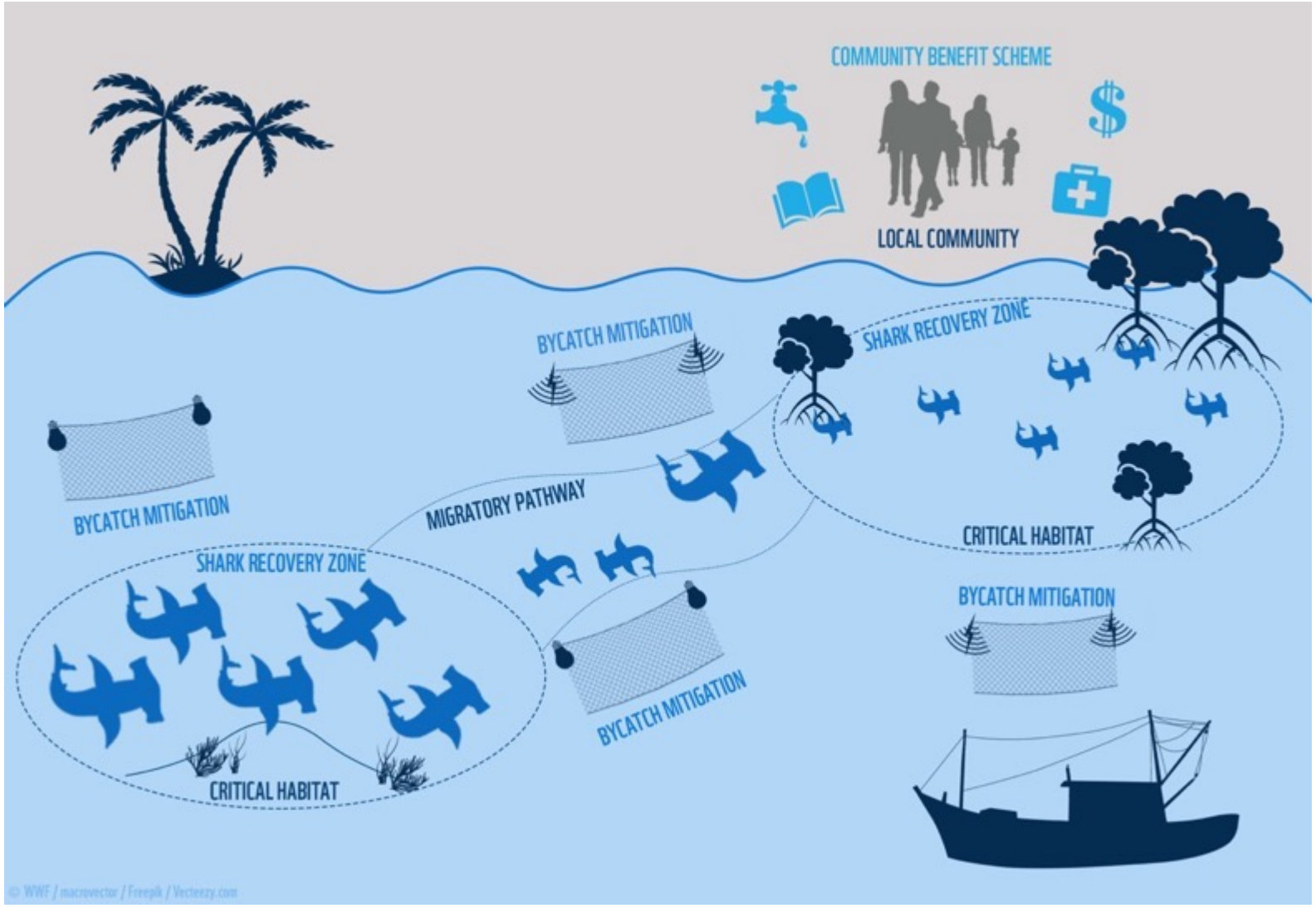
SARRI focuses on recovering a subset of globally **Endangered and Critically Endangered species**, in the countries where it is most needed, and at sites where there are still viable populations

The approach focuses on securing **“shark recovery zones”** for critical habitats within these sites, to reduce fishing mortality

These zones will be incorporated into **recovery plans** formulated with communities and authorities, and incorporating other management measures designed to allow recoveries to occur



COMMUNITY BENEFIT SCHEMES



Communities need to benefit from recoveries to ensure lasting success.

Indirect benefits could include:

- **Direct financial payments**, typically compensation for opportunity cost of otherwise using the resource
- **Financial support** for community development and infrastructure,
- **In-kind payments**, including goods, knowledge transfer, capacity-building in exchange for conservation

A MULTI-PRONGED RECOVERY APPROACH

SARRI TOOLKIT

BASELINE RESEARCH

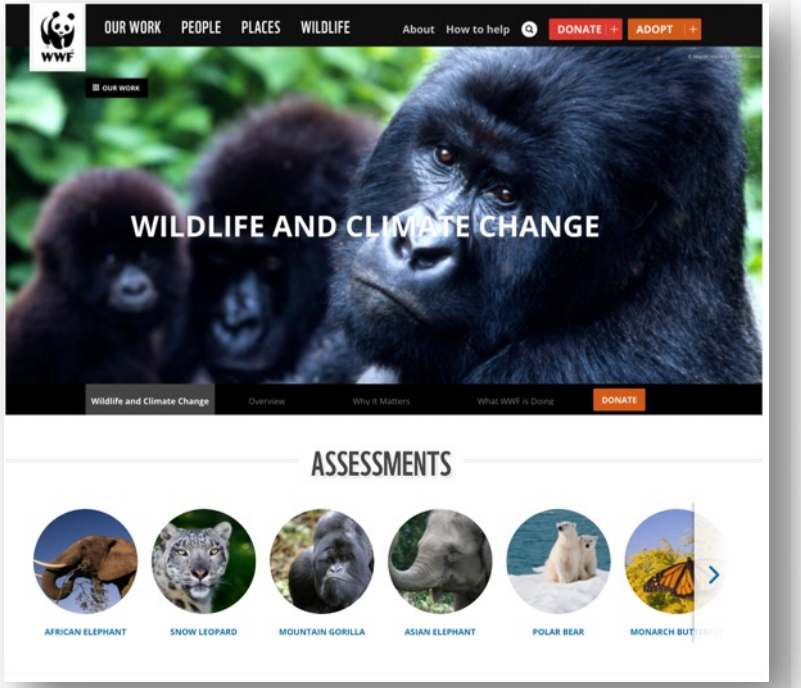
- ✓ Community needs assessed
- ✓ Species population size / trend research + monitoring
- ✓ Tagging to reveal movement patterns
- ✓ Critical habitat identification
- ✓ Fishing mortality quantified
- ✓ Population recovery modelling
- ✓ Climate risk assessment

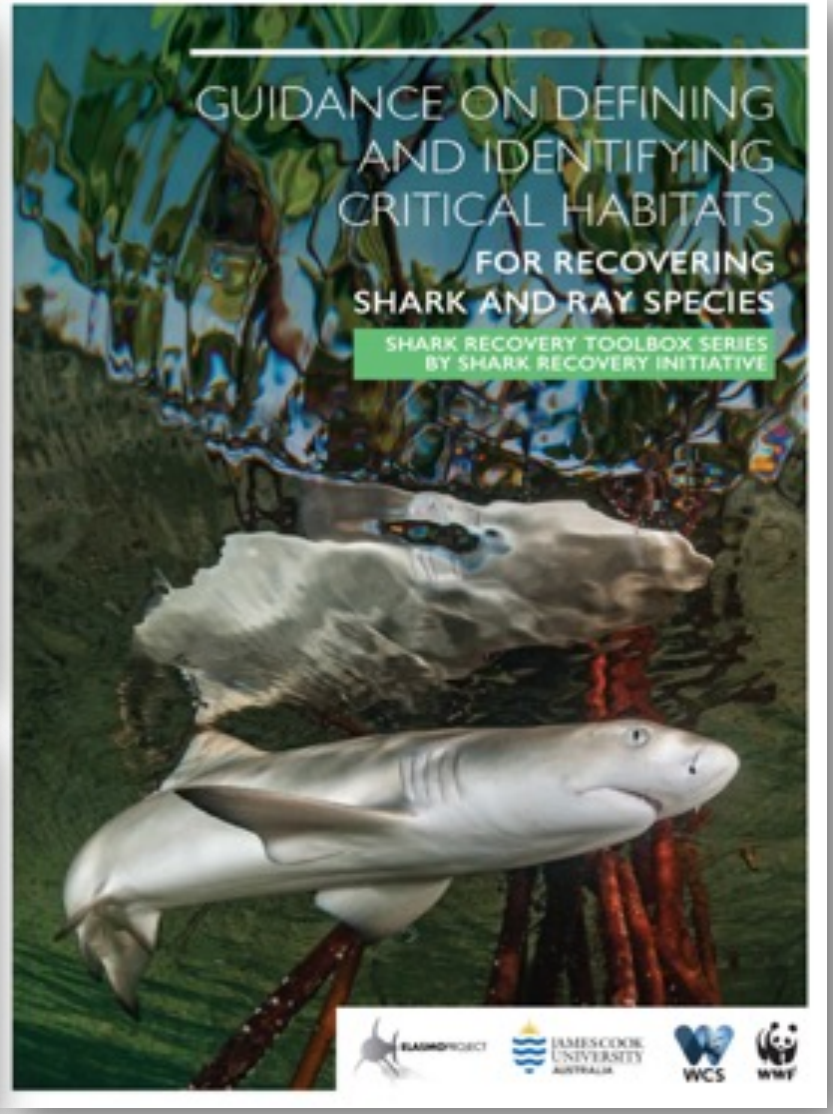
RECOVERY PLAN

formulated with local stakeholders and experts

- ✓ Critical habitats protected
- ✓ Fishing mortality effectively reduced
- ✓ Community benefit scheme
- ✓ Climate risk mitigation plan
- ✓ Monitoring and Evaluation program
- ✓ Adaptive management

SARRI – SUPPORTING A BROADER WAVE OF RECOVERY EFFORTS

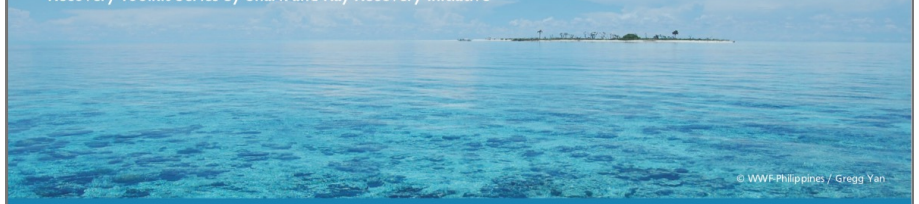




SARRI – RECOVERY CASE STUDIES

SHARK AND RAY RECOVERY FACTSHEET 3

Recovery Toolkit Series by Shark and Ray Recovery Initiative



Recovery of reef and tiger sharks in Tubbataha, Philippines

SUMMARY

Three decades of conservation efforts at a remote Philippine coral reef complex – which have included plenty of trial and error as well as successes – have paid off, and today underpin one of the most important areas for sharks in the Coral Triangle.

SPECIES PROFILES

These sharks inhabit different parts of Tubbataha – they're all present at the North Atoll, while tiger sharks can be found at the South Atoll too.[2]

LOCATION

At the heart of the Sulu Sea in the Coral Triangle, the Tubbataha Reefs (North and South Atolls) are the largest coral atoll formations in the Philippines. Isolated and remote, with two monsoon seasons each year bringing rains and rough seas, the area is challenging to reach.

WHITETIP REEF SHARK

The whitetip reef shark is found around coral reefs in clear tropical waters.

VU IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Vulnerable

Aa SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Triaenodon obesus*

Kg WEIGHT: up to 18kg

LENGTH: up to 2m

BLACKTIP REEF SHARK

These medium-sized sharks live in shallow waters and often stay close to the same small areas around coral reefs.[1]

VU IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Vulnerable

Aa SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Carcharhinus melanopterus*

Kg WEIGHT: up to 24kg

LENGTH: up to 1.8m

GREY REEF SHARK

This medium-sized shark is a coastal shallow-water species found around tropical coral reefs.

EN IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Endangered

Aa SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*

Kg WEIGHT: up to 35kg

TIGER SHARK

This large shark is highly mobile with a global range through the world's warm and temperate oceans. It sometimes associates with coral reefs.

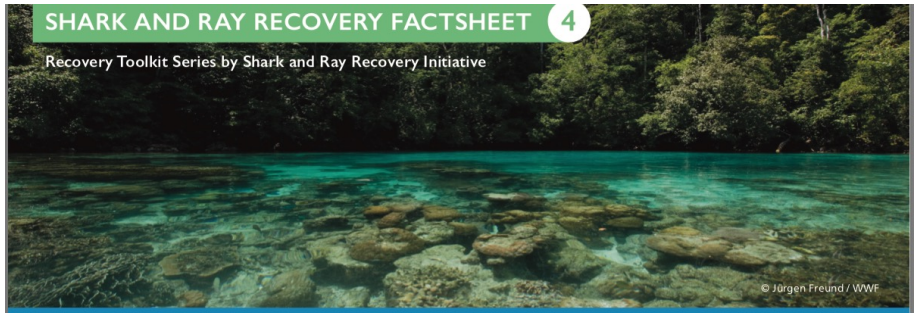
NT IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Near Threatened

Aa SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Galeocerdo cuvier*

Kg WEIGHT: up to 800kg

SHARK AND RAY RECOVERY FACTSHEET 4

Recovery Toolkit Series by Shark and Ray Recovery Initiative



Recovery of reef sharks and manta ray in Misool, Indonesia

SUMMARY

An innovative conservation model incorporating tourism, community development and biodiversity protection has transformed a marine ecosystem impacted by destructive shark and ray fishing, winning international recognition in the process.

LOCATION

Misool Island, Raja Ampat Archipelago, Indonesia.

SPECIES PROFILES

Countless species in coral reefs around Misool Island have benefited from the ongoing conservation work. Sharks and rays include:

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REEF MANTA RAY

One of the world's largest ray species, reef mantas are found in coastal and pelagic tropical and subtropical waters[2].

EN IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Endangered

Aa SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Mobula alfredi*

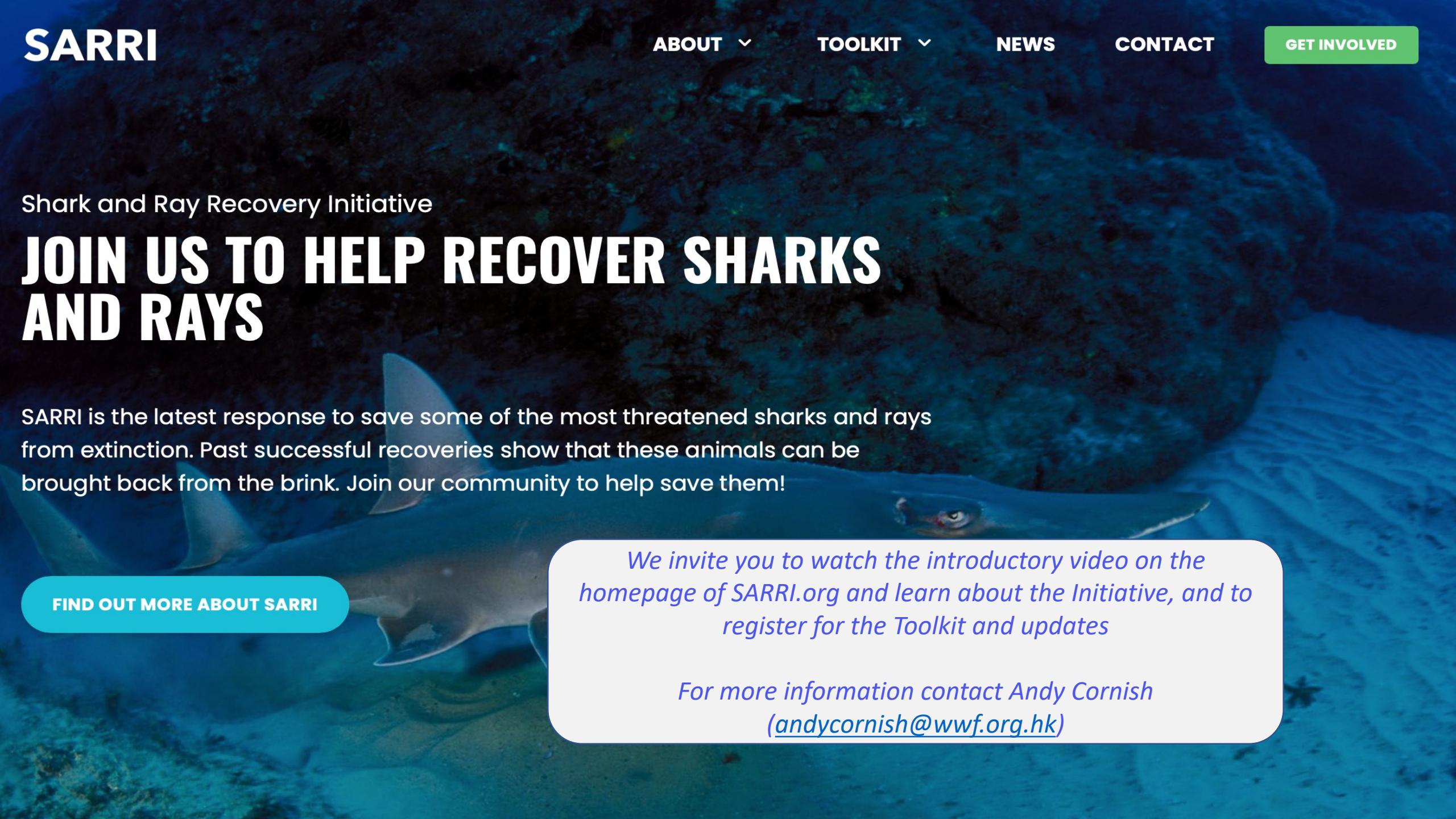
Kg WEIGHT: up to 700kg

SITE SELECTION

The SARRI founding partners will look to **pilot and refine the methodology in a small number of sites,** and look to generate some early success stories

The toolkit and other aspects of the methodology will be made freely available through the website as they become online, and training offered

You are free to adapt the approach in your own sites / countries. We encourage everyone who does so to stay engaged with the recovery community so that we can share and learn together



We invite you to watch the introductory video on the homepage of SARRI.org and learn about the Initiative, and to register for the Toolkit and updates

For more information contact Andy Cornish (andycornish@wwf.org.hk)