



Information for *In-Country Partners*

Shark Search Indo-Pacific (SSIP)

is a new initiative that aims to develop a scientifically robust and validated checklist of shark and ray diversity in every country and territory in the Indo-Pacific. Each checklist is accompanied by a *Status Overview* which presents a snapshot account of the status, values, uses and significance of sharks and rays in each country/territory, as well as threats and management.

Each SSIP checklist and *Status Overview* is created through a desktop study that includes a thorough search of scientific papers, databases, as well as 'grey literature' such as reports and online data sources. SSIP's taxonomic expert – Dr Will White – will also conduct searches of museum databases and other taxonomic data to locate additional species records for each country and territory. Dr White will also ensure the taxonomic rigor of the checklist. Lastly, SSIP also engages citizen scientists – SCUBA divers, fishers and snorkelers – who have photos of sharks

and rays from the country of interest, and invites them to submit these photos to help populate the checklist and validate our records.

Nevertheless, the SSIP team is fully aware that these data sources are probably incomplete, and we also **recognize the value and importance of local knowledge**. As such, the SSIP team actively seeks collaborations with in-country partners for every SSIP checklist to help make sure that the checklist and *Status Overview* include the best available information, and are validated by the people who live and work in each country and territory and know its resources best.

The SSIP team is also ensuring that all of this information is freely available from the website, and all scientific papers published from the work will be open access so that people across the Indo-Pacific can freely access and use these resources.

In-country partner roles and benefits

SSIP in-country partners are asked to fulfil the following roles

- Help the SSIP team to locate data or reports that might not be easily available, and connect us with other in-country experts
- Help connect the SSIP team to local dive and tourism operators who may be able to help advertise the [citizen science component](#) aimed at collecting shark and ray photos from that country
- Review the checklist and *Status Overview* to make sure these documents are accurate
- Help SSIP data get to people who might need it such as government agencies, fisheries officers, fishing communities, tourist operators, and NGOs

In return, all in-country partners are listed on the SSIP website and if an in-country partner contributes a significant amount of data and provides significant input into the status overview, they may be included as a co-author on the scientific paper. SSIP will also try to help in-country partners access the scientific resources and networks they need in the course of their own work. While these acknowledgements are rewarding, SSIP is focused on delivering on-ground research impacts beyond websites and publications. **The vision is that together, the SSIP team and in-country partners will form a community of practice that uses the *Status overview* and checklist to develop an *Applied Shark and Ray Research and Action Plan* to support the sustainable use, management and conservation of sharks and rays in every country and territory in the Indo-Pacific that has interests in managing these resources for future generations.**

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