



Information for *In-Country Partners*

Shark Search Indo-Pacific (SSIP)

is a long-term 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 will also engages citizen scientists – SCUBA divers, fishers and snorkelers – who have photos of sharks. In many cases, the only records of sharks and rays in some locations will be from scuba diver records. Our students will also use online resources such as iNaturalist and the SPC Fisheries Newsletter for information. We also contact dive shops in each country to see if they would like to be involved by contributing photos of sharks and rays from each

country of interest. We want to be open and collaborative and invite anyone who is interested to submit these photos to help populate the checklist and validate our records, and if interested, to join as In-Country Partners.

The SSIP team is fully aware that these data sources are likely incomplete. We also **recognize the value and importance of local knowledge and the primacy of local people**. 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 that the people who live and work in each country and territory and know its best are represented.

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 invited to collaborate by:

- Helping the SSIP team to locate data or reports that might not be easily available, and connect us with other in-country experts.
- Helping 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
- Reviewing the checklist and *Status Overview* to make sure these documents are accurate.
- Helping 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. We also strongly encourage and welcome our In-Country Partners to be involved as co-authors on any papers published.

The SSIP Programme assigns authorship according to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICJME) which states that contributors need to meet four criteria to become authors.

<http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>

In general, if an In-Country Partner contributes or facilitates the inclusion of useful data or information; provides meaningful input into the checklist and resulting paper, AND agrees to be accountable for the published work (i.e. to answer questions about it, be able to discuss it), we would encourage you to consider being a co-author on any scientific papers coming from your country.

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 help address the reporting obligations of the large ocean states of the Indo-Pacific, and help provide a baseline collection of knowledge 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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