



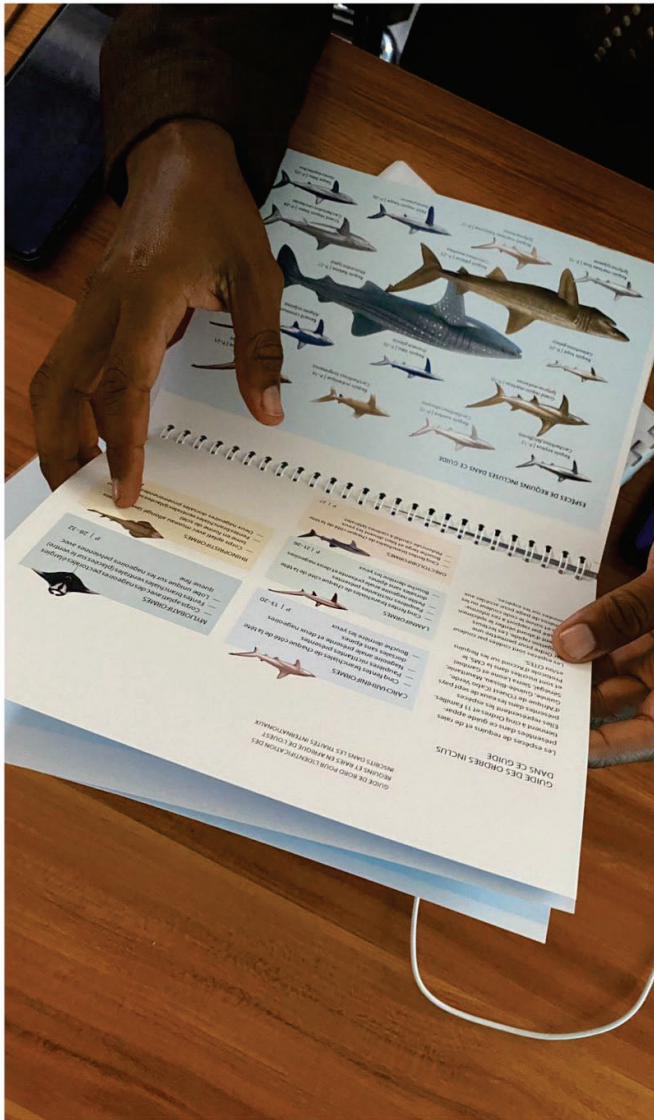
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



Report on the Implementation of Observer Training Workshops on Sharks and Rays

Dr. Rima Jabado and Andrea Pauly

March 2022



1. Dakar, Senegal, March 18th, 2022

Co-organizers: CMS and BirdLife International

For this training workshop, CMS was able to capitalize on its collaboration with BirdLife International (BLI) on a multi-partner project “Minimizing Bycatch of Seabirds and Sea Turtles in West African Industrial Fisheries”. In the context of the project, observer trainings are being provided by BLI in cooperation with local governments on sea turtle and seabird biology, identification, safe handling and release, and conservation. With financial support from the German government and the Principality of Monaco, CMS was able to add an additional one-day training session specifically on sharks and rays.

Venue: BirdLife International Office, Dakar, Senegal

Participation:

The workshop was well attended by the head of national Observer Programme and twenty-five (25) new fisheries observers, who are currently being trained to undertake their duties.

Agenda:

Please find the agenda annexed to this document

Training materials:

The identification guide “Sharks and Rays in West Africa” in French was distributed among participants and observers were trained on its usage.

In addition, presentations were provided on CMS and the CMS Sharks MOU (online by the Secretariat via Zoom), the global status of sharks and rays, current management measures in place (including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) to complement the CMS presentation), safe handling and release methods and species identification. Species identification was also the focus of various in class exercises.

Feedback and lessons learned:

The training was welcomed by participants. Specifically, the identification guides were well received. Participants expressed their interest in further sessions to be undertaken in future and suggested adding practical exercises to deepen knowledge and allow for additional time to process the new information.

To address this, CMS considers including field visits to landing sites to examine fresh sharks and rays and support with the identification. In addition, shark and ray fins or full specimens could be used in trainings, if available. Such practical exercises have proven to be very successful in past trainings provided by CMS, e.g. in Oman on sharks and rays interacting with fisheries within the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) area, but this would largely depend on the availability of cooling facilities to preserve specimens ahead of the training workshops.

2. Banjul, the Gambia, March 21st, 2022

Co-organizers: CMS with support from BirdLife International

In The Gambia, a one-day workshop focusing only on training for sharks and rays was held and organized by CMS. As for the workshop in Senegal, CMS benefited from its collaboration with BirdLife International (BLI). BLI colleagues provided significant support with its organization and communication with government officials as well as joined the meeting.

Venue: Senegambia Hotel, Banjul, The Gambia

Participation:

The workshop was well attended by the Director of the Fisheries Department at the Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources, who opened the workshop, and fifty-four (54) fisheries observers.

Agenda:

Please find the agenda annexed to this document

Training materials:

The training was provided in English and followed the same curriculum as the one held in Senegal on 18 March 2022.

Feedback and lessons learned:

As in Senegal, the training was welcomed by participants and the Director of Fisheries and the need for future trainings was expressed. Participants here were mostly longstanding observers and were also able to provide feedback on their experience at sea. They noted that handling sharks and rays for safe release was difficult based on the guidelines presented in the workshop. This is because they lack the key personal protective equipment needed to safely handle animals such as gloves.

Annex – Agendas of Observer Training Workshops on Sharks and Rays

AGENDA BYCATCH OBSERVER TRAINING WORKSHOP Senegal, 16-18 March 2022		
DATE/TIME	PROGRAMME	LEAD
16/03/2022		
09 :00 – 09 :30	Welcome & registration	BirdLife
09 :30 – 10 :00	Opening ceremony	BirdLife, MAVA, and Senegalese Fisheries Department - DPM
10 :00 – 10 :30	Overview of the Bycatch project	Ahmed Diame (BirdLife)
10 :30 – 11 :00	Coffee break	
11 :00 – 11 :15	Participants expectations / Questions & Answers	All
11 :15 – 11 :30	Bycatch knowledge Pre-Evaluation	BirdLife
11 :30 – 13 :30	Navigation	Oumar Ba (BirdLife)
13 :30 – 14 :45	Lunch	
SEA TURTLE INTRODUCTION		
14 :45 – 16 :00	Review of knowledge and identification	Oumar Ba (BirdLife)
16 :00 – 16 :45	Interactions with fishing activities	Oumar Ba (BirdLife)
16 :45 – 17 :00	Exercises	All
17/03/2022		
SEABIRD INTRODUCTION		
09 :00 – 10 :30	Review of knowledge and identification	Yann Tremblay (IRD)
10 :30 – 11 :00	Coffee break	
11 :00 – 12 :30	Interactions with fishing activities	Oumar Ba (BirdLife)
12 :30 – 13 :15	Exercises	All
13 :30 – 14 :45	Lunch	
BYCATCH DATA COLLECTION FORMS		
14 :45 – 15 :45	Bycatch forms for sea turtle interactions	Oumar Ba (BirdLife)
15 :45 – 16 :15	Bycatch forms for seabird interactions	Oumar Ba (BirdLife)
16 :15 – 16 :30	Homework (practical cases)	All

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18/03/2022

09:00 – 09:10	Opening speech	Ahmed Diame (BirdLife)
09:10 – 09:30	Conservation of sharks under CMS and CMS Sharks MOU	Andrea Pauly (CMS Secretariat)
09:30-13:30	Evaluation on shark identification Global status of sharks and rays Species identification	Rima Jabado CMS/IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 – 16:30	Safe handling and release Species identification exercises	Rima Jabado CMS/IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group
16.30 – 17 :00	Closing ceremony and certificate distribution	BirdLife, CMS, Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy

**AGENDA
OBSERVER TRAINING WORKSHOP
SHARKS AND RAYS
Banjul, The Gambia
21 March 2022**

DATE/TIME	PROGRAMME	LEAD
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome & registration	BirdLife, Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources
09:30 – 09:45	Opening speeches	Mrs Anna Mbenga Cham (Fisheries Department) Mr Musa Jawla (Monitoring and Surveillance)
09:45 – 10:00	Conservation of sharks under CMS and CMS Sharks MOU	Ms Andrea Pauly (CMS Secretariat)
10:00 – 11:30	Evaluation on shark identification Global status of sharks and rays	Dr Rima Jabado CMS/IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee break	
11:45 – 13:30	Species identification	Dr Rima Jabado CMS/IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 – 16:30	Safe handling and release Species identification exercises	Dr Rima Jabado CMS/IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group
16.30 – 17 :00	Closing ceremony	BirdLife, CMS, Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources