



OCEAN
OBSERVATORY
BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO



frontiers
in Fish Science

Innovative Conservation Strategies for
Elasmobranchs in Data-Poor Regions



Call for Submissions: Innovative Conservation Strategies for Elasmobranchs in Data-Poor Regions

Researchers working on sharks, rays, skates and chimaeras are invited to contribute to a [Frontiers in Fish Science](#) Topic exploring new approaches to elasmobranch research and conservation in regions where long-term ecological and fisheries data remain limited.

The Research Topic, ***Innovative Conservation Strategies for Elasmobranchs in Data-Poor Regions***, brings together research and practical approaches addressing an important challenge in contemporary elasmobranch science: **how can effective research, management and conservation strategies be developed when the data traditionally used to inform them are limited?**

The collection is now open for submissions from researchers working in data-poor regions around the world.

[Explore the Research Topic](#)



Why Research from Data-Poor Regions Matters

Sharks, rays and other elasmobranchs occur across marine ecosystems worldwide, but the scientific information available to understand their populations, distributions and responses to environmental change varies considerably between regions.

This is particularly relevant across parts of the Western Indian Ocean, where important shark and ray habitats coexist with significant gaps in long-term ecological datasets.

Strengthening the evidence available from these regions can improve our understanding of how elasmobranch populations use different habitats, respond to environmental variability and change over time.

Research from Mozambique is already helping address some of these gaps.

Recent work led by [Dercio Maoze](#) and collaborators, involving BCSS and partner organisations, used two decades of citizen-science observations to examine spatial biases and conservation gaps for elasmobranchs along the Mozambican coast.

[Read Dercio's Paper here:](#) *Two decades of citizen science reveal spatial biases and conservation gaps for elasmobranchs along the Mozambican coast*



Image: Orlando Miranda & Salvador Colveé

BCSS and the Research Topic

BCSS's ongoing research in the Bazaruto Archipelago similarly contributes to improving BCSS is proud to announce that [Dr Mario Lebrato](#), [Ocean Observatory](#) & Station Manager at the **Bazaruto Center for Scientific Studies**, has joined [Dr Simon Oliver](#) of the University of Chester as **Topic Editor for a new [Frontiers Research](#) Topic** dedicated to **advancing innovative approaches to shark and ray conservation in data-poor regions**.

Published in [Frontiers in Fish Science](#), within the **Elasmobranch Science** section, the Research Topic '*Innovative Conservation Strategies for Elasmobranchs in Data-Poor Regions*' brings together researchers working to address one of the major challenges in contemporary elasmobranch science: how can effective research, management and conservation strategies be developed where long-term ecological and fisheries data are limited?

The topic is now [open for submissions](#), inviting researchers working with sharks, rays, skates and chimaeras to contribute research and practical approaches from data-poor regions around the world.



Image: Daniel Escayola

A Call for Research

The Frontiers Research Topic is seeking contributions exploring innovative conservation strategies for elasmobranchs in data-poor regions.

Researchers working in this field are encouraged to explore the full Research Topic and consider contributing their work.

Key deadlines:

Summary deadline: 8 October 2026

Manuscript deadline: 26 January 2027

The Research Topic is also supported by High Impact Award funding, with a limited number of Article Processing Charge waivers available to support relevant contributions.

Researchers interested in participating can explore the full scope, submission information and editorial team through the Frontiers Research Topic page:

[Innovative Conservation Strategies for Elasmobranchs in Data-Poor Regions](#)

BCSS congratulates **Dr Simon Oliver and Dr Mario Lebrato** on this collaboration and looks forward to seeing the research, perspectives and practical approaches that emerge from the collection.

Learn More and Contribute

[Research Topic Page](#)

[Invitation to Contribute](#)

[Frontiers Guide to Research Topics](#)

BCSS looks forward to supporting the Research Topic and seeing the research, perspectives and practical approaches that emerge from scientists working across data-poor regions.

More information:

For questions about this article, please contact:

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To collaborate with our research center:

<https://bcssmz.org/logistical-support-consultancy/>

To learn more about our Scientific Training Program:

<https://bcssmz.org/scientific-training-program/>

About BCSS:

The **Bazaruto Center for Scientific Studies (BCSS)** was established in 2017 as an independent, non-profit organisation with a mission to protect and support the fragile ecosystems of the Bazaruto Archipelago, Mozambique. Located on **Benguerra Island**, BCSS hosts the first permanent **Ocean Observatory** in Africa focused on multi-ecosystem time series research.

SOCIAL SCHEDULING

Link Title	Meta Description
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Call for Elasmobranch Conservation Research BCSS	Frontiers invites research on innovative shark and ray conservation strategies in data-poor regions. Explore the Research Topic and contribute.
Social Caption	We're excited to launch a new Research Topic in Frontiers in Fish Science: <i>"Innovative Conservation Strategies for Elasmobranchs in Data-Poor Regions."</i>  Over a third of the world's sharks, rays, skates and chimaeras are threatened with extinction - and the gap is widest in the tropical and island nations where conventional monitoring is hardest to sustain. We want to showcase the creative science and community-led approaches stepping into that gap: eDNA, drone and baited video surveys, citizen science, participatory governance and local ecological knowledge delivering real conservation outcomes. We're inviting original research, methods, reviews, policy briefs and brief reports across five themes - from socio-ecological systems and sustainable small-scale fisheries to novel monitoring tools, adaptive governance, and trade and historical ecology. If your work fits, we'd love to have you contribute - or please share this with colleagues working on elasmobranch conservation in data-limited settings.  Submission deadline: 26 January 2027 👉 Details and how to participate: https://research-topic-landing-pages.frontiersin.org/participate-in-research-topic/83180/sm 👉 Research Topic page: https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/83180/innovative-conservation-strategies-for-elasmobranchs-in-data-poor-regions #Elasmobranchs, #SharkConservation, #MarineScience, #OpenAccess, #SDG14

URL Slug

elasmobranch-conservation-research-call

Shopify Tags

Mario Lebrato, Frontiers in Marine Science, Elasmobranch Research, Shark Research, Ray Research, Marine Science, Western Indian Ocean, Bazaruto Archipelago, BCSS, Ocean Observatory, Mozambique, Marine Research

Shopify Excerpt

Frontiers in Fish Science has opened a call for submissions for the Research Topic Innovative Conservation Strategies for Elasmobranchs in Data-Poor Regions. The collection invites research exploring practical and innovative approaches to shark, ray, skate and chimaera conservation where long-term data are limited, with BCSS's Dr Mario Lebrato joining Dr Simon Oliver of the University of Chester as Topic Editor.