



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



- x Countries need support to better understand ecosystem structures within their jurisdiction and prioritize species/ecological community conservation and management. Most countries don't have a system in place where qualitative, risk-based assessments are undertaken to identify species most at risk and then design appropriate management approaches. These decisions are mostly based on NGOs/groups providing funding for a certain project/species group (e.g. BirdLife International). This leads to short-term projects that often overlap with each other, lots of funding spent on similar projects that have no long-term conservation benefits.
- x Countries need support to better understand the impact of fisheries management measures on coastal communities that depend on fishing for their subsistence. These communities are often marginalized, are not consulted for any management decisions, and are often the ones that suffer the most from fisheries management measures that include catch limits, spatial closures, and species protections. The impact of actions on these communities need to be better understood and taken into consideration and alternative livelihood options rolled out for fisheries management to be successful. Without this, considering the weak governance structure in these developing countries as well as the limited enforcement, behaviours will not change and management measures will not be successful.
- x The ocean's top predators, many of them protected species, play an important role in the ecosystem. With an abundance of food available to them, they thrive and as a result the entire ocean ecosystem becomes more fertile, increasing fish stocks. It is crucial that countries take into account not just the immediate economic needs of fisheries, but also the needs of protected species using these fish for food. Even though counter-intuitive, the more top predators there are, the more productive the oceans become, benefitting both nature and fisheries in the medium-term.