

All forms/templates are available to download on the EAZA Member Area.



Appendix 3: Template for proposing a new EEP

TAGs can use this Template for proposing a new EEP to the EEP Committee. As per default these applications follow from the RCP publication process and the Species Assessment Sheet should be sent along with this template. In exceptional cases new EEPs may also be proposed in between RCP editions. A separate Species Assessment Sheet should be completed if an EEP is being applied for in between RCP editions. Note that not all sections below may be relevant to each programme. Also note that 'species' represents any taxonomic unit the TAG has chosen as the unit of management in an EEP.

EEP Proposal for

Common Species Name: Sandbar shark

Scientific Species Name: *Carcharhinus plumbeus*

Prepared by

Name(s): EAZA Elasmobranch TAG

Year: 2023

1. Contact information

Contact details of proposed EEP Coordinator

Name: Laura Castellano

Institution: Acquario di Genova

Email: lcastellano@costaedutainment.it

2. Taxonomy information

Taxonomy of the species (*indicate which taxa are included in this programme and why, and give an indication of the degree of confidence in the taxonomic identification of the individuals in the EEP population*)

Monotypic

All forms/templates are available to download on the EAZA Member Area.



3. Identified roles

Identified role(s) description *(copy from the Species Assessment Sheet in RCP)*

Conservation roles for *ex situ* management

Direct Role(s)	Programme characteristics required	Benefit	Feasibility	Risk	Recommended? ¹	Contribution? ²	Notes
Insurance	Results of genetic research and artificial insemination. Large species so more space is required and transport can be an issue (and costly).	High	Medium	Medium	Yes	Yes	Existing population in AZA. Feasibility: potential exchange with AZA; more complicated due to size; depends on <i>ex situ</i> research. Risk: long-lived species, conflicting observations on health issues and lower attractiveness with high age.
Indirect Role(s)	Programme characteristics required	Benefit	Feasibility	Risk	Recommended? ¹	Contribution? ²	Notes
Conservation education	Educational programme.	High	High/medium	Medium/low	Yes	Yes	Talking on finning and other conservation problems, endangered species. Well adapted to captivity (tank can be not suited for them, needs enough space also from visitor's perspective). More suited to reach visitors because it's a regional/Mediterranean species.
<i>Ex situ</i> research		-	-	-	-	-	Genetic research focus. Role discarded as such as this is a characteristic of the insurance role.

All forms/templates are available to download on the EAZA Member Area.



¹ Role recommended by TAG?

² Will EAZA contribute to deliver this role?

Role description for potential EEP

Direct conservation roles:

- Insurance: This role contemplates the possibility to maintain a long-term *ex situ* population to preserve options for the future. There are threats mostly related to intensive coastal fisheries, incidental catches, decrease in the water quality and habitat degradation.

To fulfill this role, it is necessary to do genetic research as well as research on artificial insemination. An important consideration is that this is a large species which implies a need for bigger tanks than other shark species. Furthermore, transporting sandbar sharks can be complex and costly. Nonetheless, there is the possibility to exchange animals with AZA. Risk and feasibility are considered medium for this long-lived species, because there may be conflicting observations on health issues and lower attractiveness with high age.

Indirect conservation roles:

- Conservation Education: This role will be used to convey messages on the general threats to sharks (especially finning) and other conservation problems, endangered species, etc. For sandbar sharks is important to consider that despite being a well-adapted species to *ex situ*, it is crucial to pay attention to their enclosure as not all tanks are suited for them and they can get restless. Furthermore, this can also impact the visitors' perspective. Nevertheless, this species is more likely to reach visitors than other sharks because it's found in the Mediterranean Sea.

Programme decision statement: EEP

To fulfil the identified roles a demographically robust and genetically healthy population is required. Additionally, this species will aim to engage the public with its education role, which is expected to have bigger impact than other shark species as Sandbar sharks can be found in the Mediterranean Sea. Therefore, active management is required. In conclusion, the TAG recommends to manage *Carcharhinus plumbeus* as an EEP.

All forms/templates are available to download on the EAZA Member Area.



Programme participants and governance

EAZA institutional scope *(As a default, participation in EEPs is obligatory for EAZA Members. If you wish for an exemption, identify which institution(s) holding this species is/are not part of the EEP and explain the underlying reasons.)*

Non-EAZA holding institutional scope *Select one or more of the options below.*

- EAZA population/community is the dominating driver of the EEP and any non-EAZA Members will occasionally join and are not integral to the structure of the EEP.*
- In addition to EAZA, there are other structural/equal drivers of the EEP (e.g., World Pheasant Association, ...). Please describe.*
- A larger initiative exists and the EAZA population is a small part of this (e.g., GSMP, ...). Please describe.*

Additional information: There is a core group of 101 individuals within 14 EAZA member facilities. In addition, there are another 50 sharks in 13 non EAZA facilities, most of them being involved in EUAC. Depending on the importance for the programme the TAG/EEP will be working on the formalization of these facilities with the Aquarium matters (March 2022) document in mind.

Essential non-EAZA partners not holding animals *(List the organisations, define their role, and how they will work with the EEP).*

Members of the EEP core group (Species Committee + non-voting members)

- By default, EEPs have a Species Committee (a democratically elected representation of the holders) as part of their EEP core group (information on the Species Committee and its associated default decision making process can be found in the Population Management Manual). If that will not be the case for this EEP, explain why and define the composition, structure and decision-making process for the EEP core group.*

Default.

All forms/templates are available to download on the EAZA Member Area.



- *List the EEP core group members (names and institutions) (if already known): Species Committee members, Advisors, others.*

Committee has to be defined and elected

Collaboration with EAZA Working Groups and Committees *(Explain any current and/or future proposed links to existing EAZA groups and committees, such as the Animal Training Working Group, Biobanking Working Group, EAZA Reproductive Management Group (RMG), EAZA Population Management Advisory Group (EPMAG), EAZA Education Committee, EAZA Nutrition Working Group, EAZA Research Committee, Reintroduction and Translocations Group, Transport Working Group, EAZA Veterinary Committee, EAZA Conservation Committee, Animal Welfare Working Group, Palm oil Working Group).*

Animal Training Working Group, Biobanking Working Group, EAZA Reproductive Management Group (RMG), EAZA Population Management Advisory Group (EPMAG), EAZA Nutrition Working Group, EAZA Research Committee, Reintroduction and Translocations Group, Transport Working Group, EAZA Veterinary Committee, EAZA Conservation Committee, Animal Welfare Working Group

Programme characteristics

The detailed programme characteristics, goals, objectives and management strategies to fulfil the roles and goals of the EEP will be developed at a later stage as part of a Long-Term Management Plan (LTMP). The questions below are intended to help paint a rough view of what is currently intended/expected for the general EEP programme characteristics.

- *If there is a recent/active Long-term Management Plan for this species, list the demographic, genetic and other goals determined (if they still apply post RCP workshop).*

The LTMP goals will be defined after genetic analysis, husbandry and guide line for the species

- *What is the anticipated duration of the programme?*

No anticipated duration at present

- *What is the anticipated likelihood and time scale of the use of the EEP population for restoration in the wild (reintroduction, reinforcement, etc.)?*

All forms/templates are available to download on the EAZA Member Area.



Potentially possible

- *Are some or all the individuals within this EEP intended to be held in specialist ex situ centres in the species' native range? Specify.*

The species is widespread in tropical and warm-temperate waters worldwide (including the Mediterranean Sea), but the origin of the animals could be different from the holding facilities range.

- *Is it expected to be necessary that the whole population, or a certain proportion thereof, will need to be held off exhibit in order to fulfil the roles of the programme? If yes, please explain. (this question does not refer to the temporary housing of individuals off exhibit for space reasons)*

Could happen to control reproduction

- *Does a part or the whole of the EEP population need to be held in bio-secure facilities? And/or are there known diseases that have an above average effect on fulfilling the roles of the EEP?*

No

- *What is the expected estimated number of individuals and institutions required to fulfil the selected roles? (this question will be answered in detail during the LTMP session for the taxon, but if some indication of scale is clear already, this should be stated here)*

To be defined

- *Is this EEP intended to include rearing of wild eggs/young (i.e. head-starting)?*

Not at present

- *Is this EEP intended to include ex situ breeding?*

Yes

- *Is there likely sufficient expertise for this, or a model, taxon to achieve the roles of the programme and provide conditions for good welfare? Please indicate if Best Practice Guidelines already exist and if yes, include publication date.*

Yes but Best practice and Husbandry guideline have to be done

- *Will (non-)breeding and transfer recommendations be issued? If yes, with what frequency? (naturally problems will need to be solved throughout the year, but with what frequency will recommendations be issued for the whole population at once)*

All forms/templates are available to download on the EAZA Member Area.



Yes, frequency depend on the fluctuations of the population, the needs of the population management and the needs of the holders.

- *Do you anticipate that the EEP population will be (largely) closed or will there be regular planned additions of individuals? In case of the latter, will this be for genetic and/or demographic reasons and what will be the source (other ex situ sources and/or from the wild)?*

To be defined

- *Do you expect genetic and demographic management in this EEP to be individual and/or group-based?*

Individual

- *Do you expect genetic management in this EEP to be based on pedigree analysis, group history analysis, and/or molecular genetics?*

At the beginning pedigree

- *Do you anticipate, or proactively plan for, biobanking and/or assisted reproduction to be key components of this programme?*

Yes

- *Do you anticipate certain national or international legislation to form a particular hindrance (more than average) to achieving the roles of your EEP (e.g., CITES, BALAI, governmental ownership, etc.). If so, explain how.*

The species is entering CITES all B in November, but this shouldn't be a problem for EU members

- *Are there any other issues/plans related to in situ conservation support that you feel should be mentioned and are not evident from the role description of the EEP?*

No

- *Is there a research component/aspect to the EEP that is expected to have important consequences for the design of the EEP programme (e.g. housing and husbandry of a significant proportion of the population, etc.)? If yes, explain.*

Genetic, reproduction control

- *Do you anticipate there to be any sizeable political, social, or public conflicts of interest related to the EEP programme and how do you plan to deal with them?*

No

All forms/templates are available to download on the EAZA Member Area.



- *Any important additional programme characteristics that you would like to mention?*

4. References (if any)

Janse, M., Baylina, N., Wille, M., Aparici Plaza, D., van der Meer, R., Hausen, N. (eds.) 2021. EAZA Elasmobranch Taxon Advisory Group Regional Collection Plan – First Edition. EAZA Executive Office: Amsterdam.