

**IUCN Shark Specialist Group hosts Red List Training Workshop  
Galway, Ireland  
November 2010**

The IUCN Shark Specialist Group (SSG) completed the evaluation of 1,044 chondrichthyans for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species at the end of 2007. However, our work is not complete. Species need to be assessed every 10 years so we must now begin the reassessment of these species.

The SSG has recently welcomed a number of new members from around the world. Therefore, to begin this reassessment we must train these new members to carry out Red List assessments. However, with the introduction of the Species Information System by the IUCN Species Survival Commission, we must also ensure that all members are able to use this Red List Assessment interface to facilitate the assessment process and to increase transparency.

With that in mind, we recently held a workshop, prior to the recent European Elasmobranch Association Conference in Galway, Ireland (November 2010), to carry out this training. The intensive and discussion filled workshop was attended by 12 members of both the SSG and the wider shark conservation community from 8 countries. Those present were given instruction on (1) how to carry out Red List Assessments, (2) how to classify Threats and Conservation Actions for each species and (3) how to use the Species Information System to store this information. Documents presented during the workshop are available for download here - <http://iucnssg.org/index.php/RL-workshops>. Participants also had the opportunity to practice the techniques that they had learnt with example species and case studies. Feedback from the workshop was extremely positive and we are looking forward to bringing these training workshops to other regions of the SSG network as soon as we get funding.

We were unable to begin any new Red List Assessments at the workshop. However, the members who attended this workshop will be prepared and poised to begin reassessments as soon as this process is launched!

If you are beginning to plan a Chondrichthyan Conference or Meeting for 2011 please contact us as soon possible so that we can look into running a Red List Workshop for interested parties.

The SSG wishes to thank all workshop participants and the organisers of the European Elasmobranch Association (particularly Ed Farrell) for assistance prior to the workshop and the opportunity to host the workshop. Thanks also to Caroline Pollock and Rebecca Miller from the IUCN for assistance in preparing the content of the workshop.

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SSG Red List Workshop (Galway, 2010) convenors