

SAVING SAWFISH

A Strategy to Recover World's Most Endangered Marine Fish



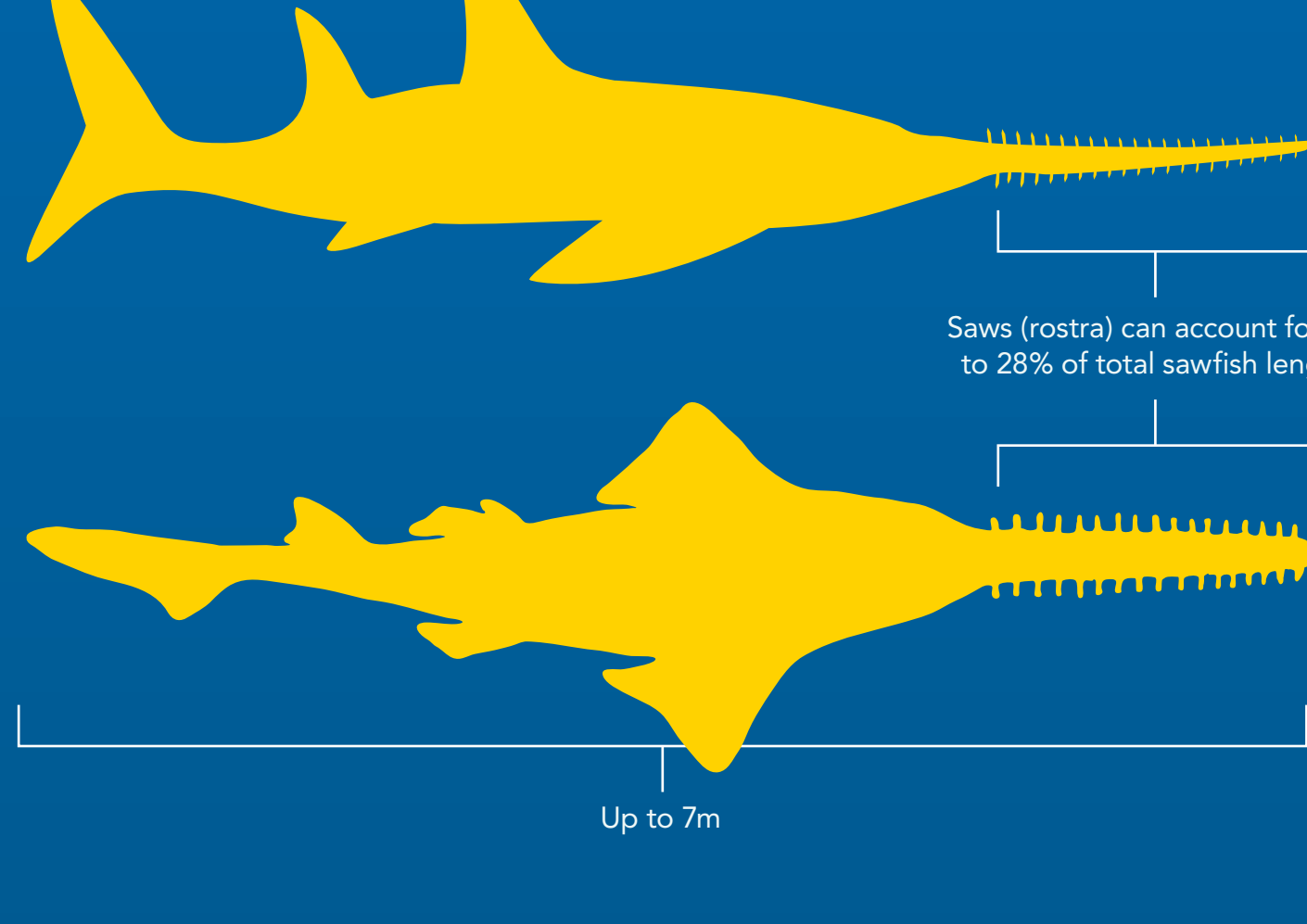
WHAT IS A SAWFISH AND WHY ARE THEY IMPERILED?

Sawfish are large, shark-like rays of warm, shallow, coastal waters, estuaries, and rivers. Their tooth-studded snouts (rostra), which are easily entangled in fishing gear, and their low reproductive rates make them exceptionally susceptible to overfishing. Sawfish are also threatened by degradation of their habitats.

Sawfishes are possibly **extinct in one-half** of their former range countries (42 out of 92)

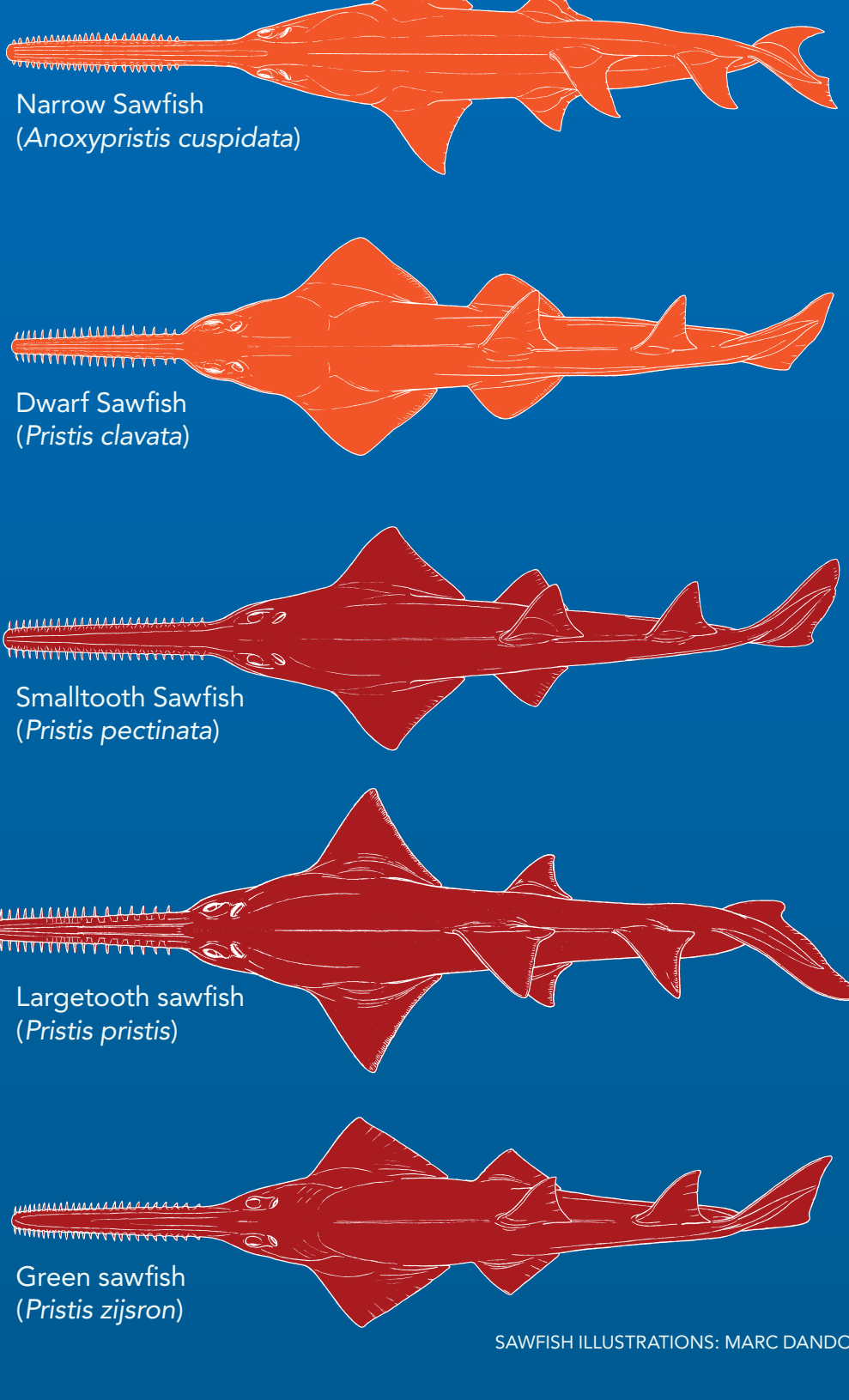
Sawfish are entirely gone from **21 countries**

In too many regions across the globe where sawfish were **once common**, they haven't been seen for **decades**.



CURRENTLY RECOGNIZED SAWFISH SPECIES

● Critically endangered ● Endangered



The IUCN Shark Specialist Group has developed a network of experts and a Global Sawfish Conservation Strategy to address these pressing threats.

PRIORITY COUNTRIES

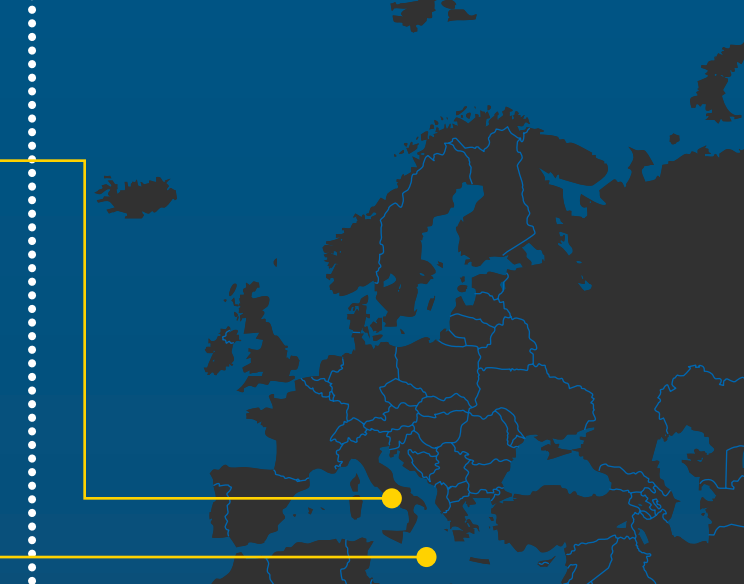
Countries urgently needing basic legal protection for sawfish protection.



EUROPE

The Sanctuary of Carmine Maggione in Naples holds a relic rostrum reportedly from a 1573 "miracle" in which a sawfish stuck in a cargo vessel's gashed keel prevented its sinking during a storm.

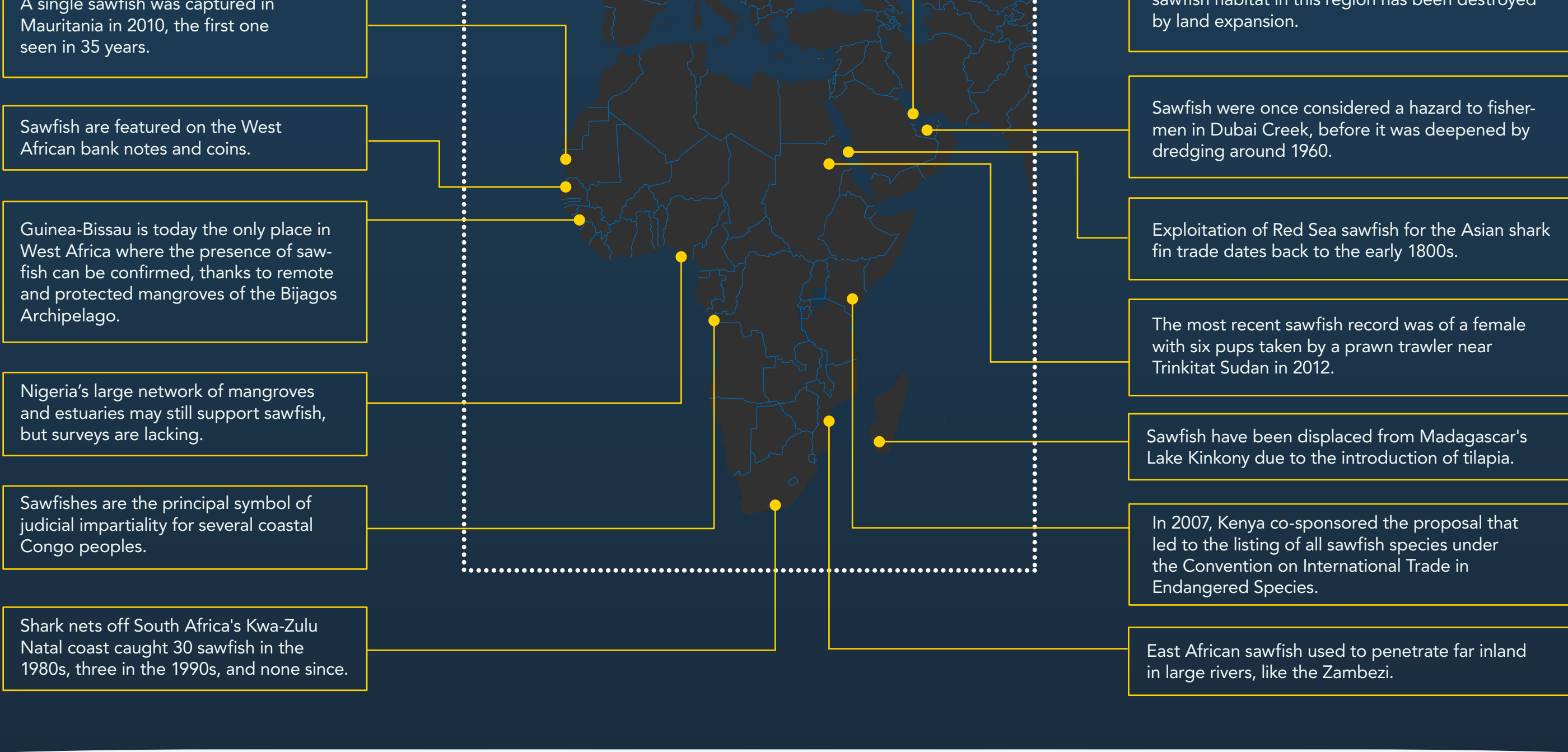
The sawfish recorded for centuries from the Mediterranean are thought to have been vagrants, but none have been reported for more than 50 years.



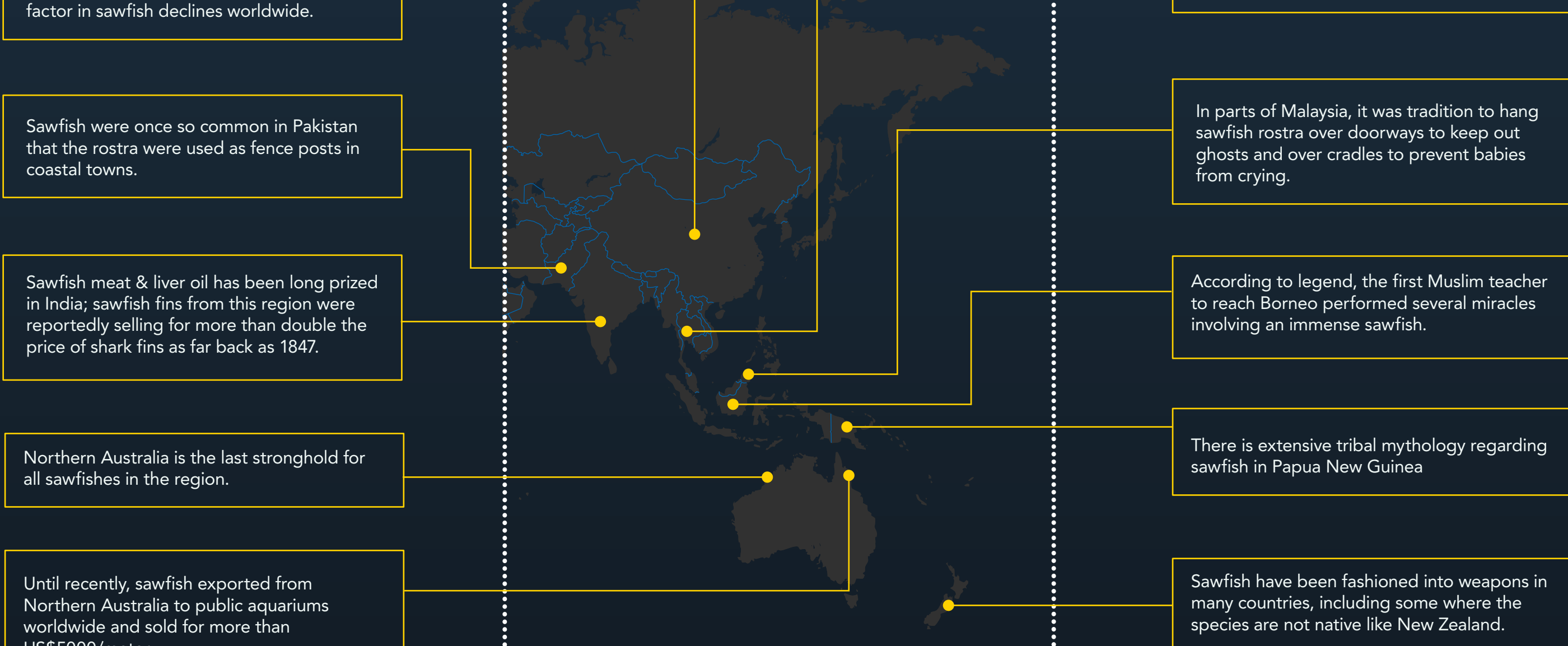
THE AMERICAS



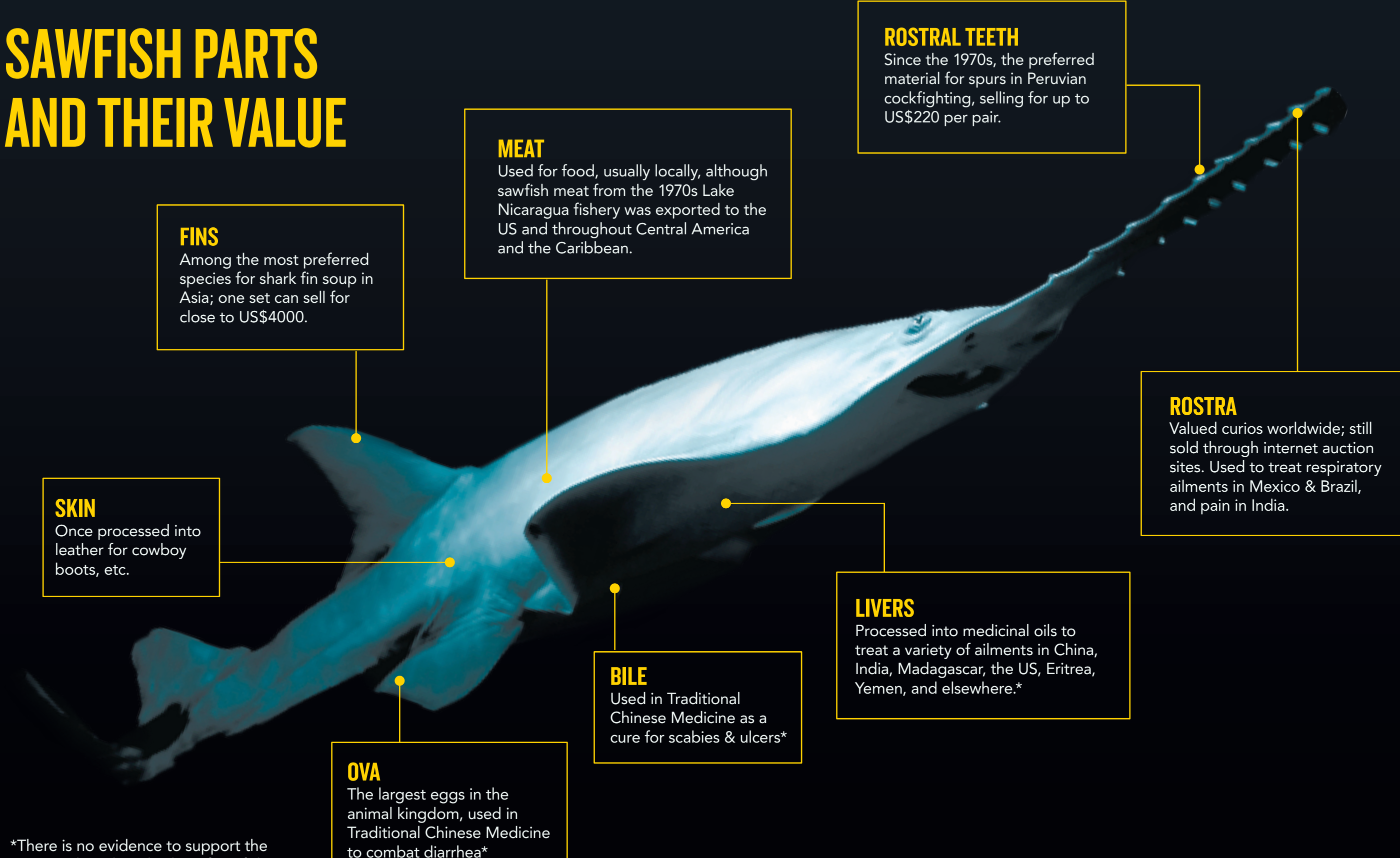
AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST



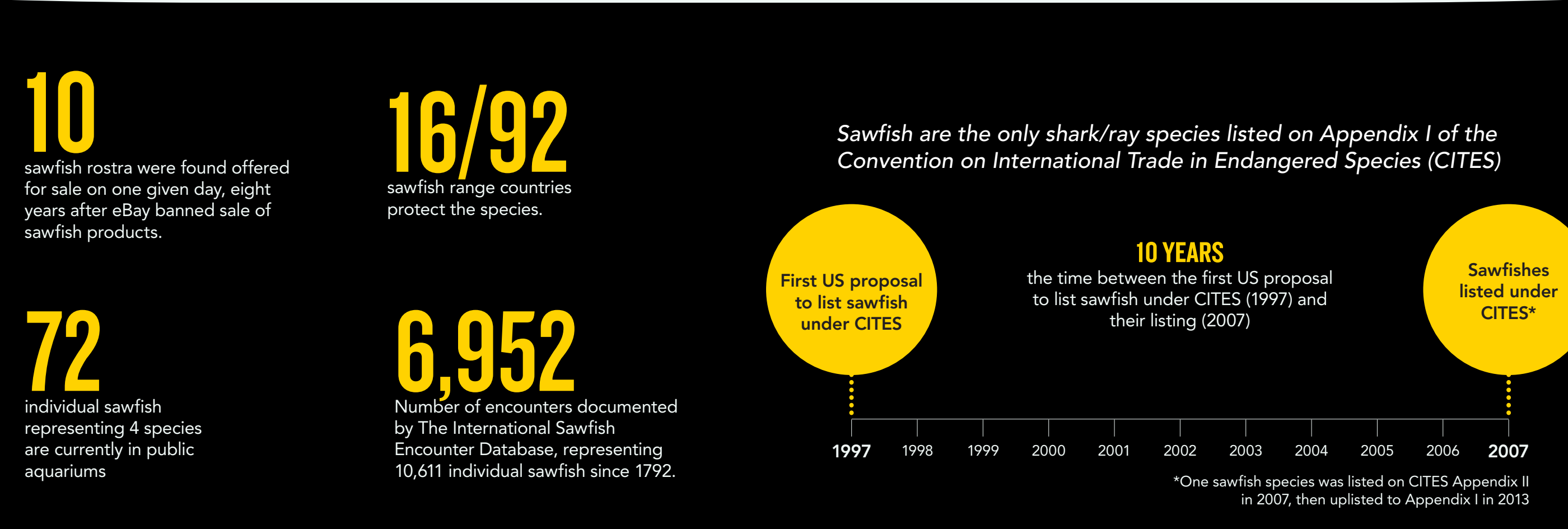
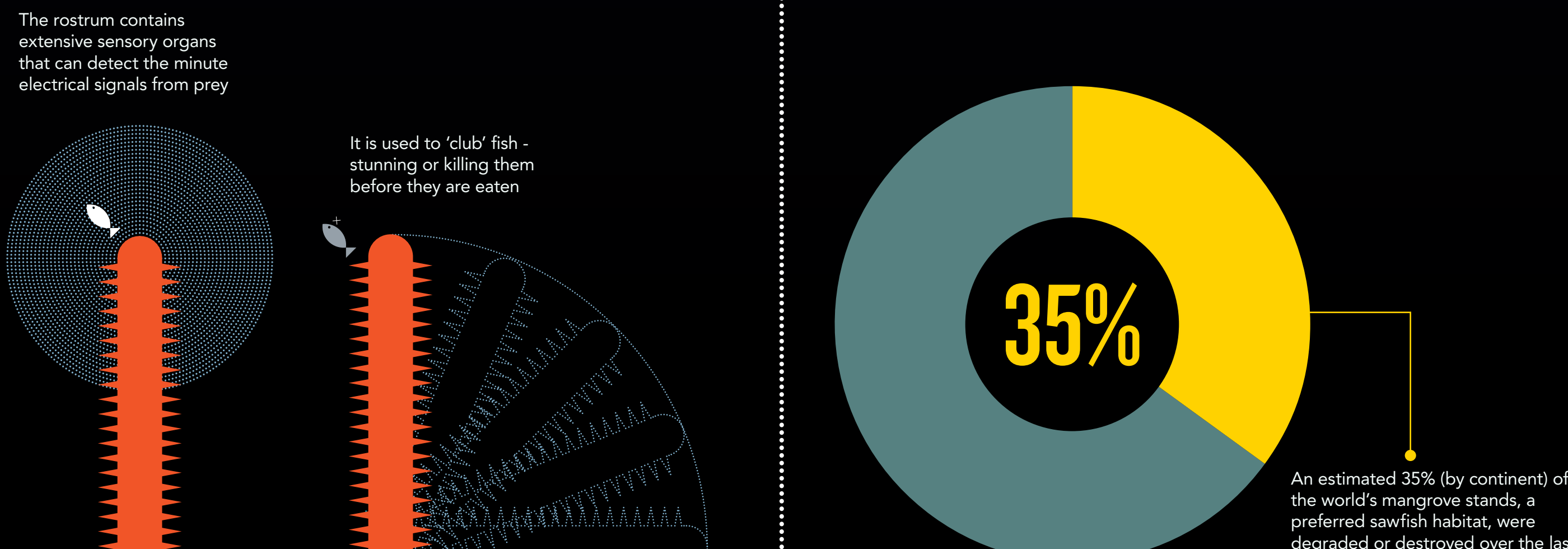
ASIA & AUSTRALASIA



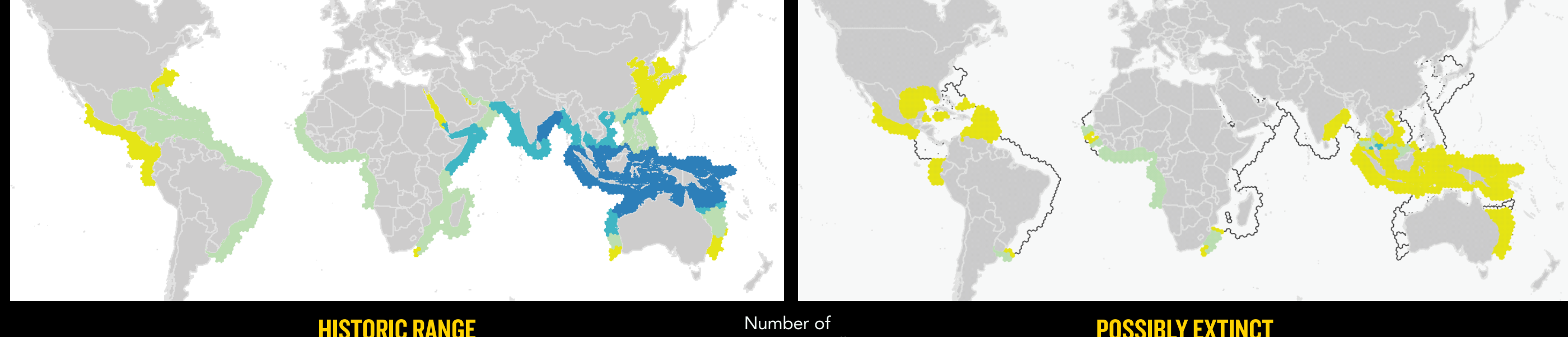
SAWFISH PARTS AND THEIR VALUE



HOW THEY HUNT



DECLINE / POSSIBLE EXTINCTION



URGENTLY NEEDED ACTIONS INCLUDE

- Strict, species-specific, national protections in all range states
- Enforcement of the CITES ban on international, commercial trade
- Minimization of bycatch mortality through fishing modifications & fisher education
- Conservation of mangroves and other coastal, tropical & sub-tropical habitats
- Cooperation among neighboring countries through regional recovery plans

IUCN Shark Specialist Group Vision: A world where all sawfishes are restored through understanding, respect, and conservation to robust populations within thriving aquatic ecosystems.

See the full IUCN Shark Specialist Group Sawfish Conservation Strategy at www.iucnssg.org

