



SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SHARK CONSERVATION FORUM

Amazwi South Africa Museum of Literature | Makhanda | 19 September 2025

Chair: Dr Chantel Elston – Oceanographic Research Institute

The South African *National Shark Conservation Forum* will be held on Friday 19th September, the final day of the 8th Southern African Shark and Ray Symposium (SASRS). The meeting is intended to bring together representatives of the chondrichthyan science, conservation and management community in South Africa, taking advantage of having so many people together in person, to discuss the status and shape the future of the South African Shark Forum, and to discuss key issues facing chondrichthyans in South Africa. All SASRS delegates are welcome to attend, although the meeting will focus on South Africa.

The **first objective** of this meeting is to discuss the South African Shark Forum and whether there is an interest to continue this forum, whether the forum should continue in the same manner as the previous forum meetings, or whether there are suggestions or recommendations to amend the structure of the forum. The meeting will therefore solicit responses from the delegates, on several questions, and the responses will be used to guide the way forward.

The **second objective** is to discuss opportunities to strengthen engagement with government, and identify the best mechanisms for engagement, to strengthen the science to policy links for chondrichthyans in South Africa.

The **third objective** is to identify and discuss the key issues relating to chondrichthyans in South Africa, and use this process to prioritise issues on which to engage government.

Brief agenda for forum

- Welcome
- Objectives of the forum
- Feedback on responses to Google form questions
- Further discussion on each question
- Discussion of proposed output(s)
- Identification of next steps
- Closure of forum