

Criteria for SAFE Shark and Ray Grant Application Eligibility

Criteria

- Applicants must be employed at a program partner organization of an approved SAFE species program.
- Proposed research must align with the goals and objectives of the SAFE Sharks and Rays [Conservation Program Plan](#) (CPP). Broadly, proposed projects should fall within one of the four 'Pillars of Work':
 - Research and Data Sharing
 - Direct Species Conservation Action
 - Influencing Conservation Policy
 - Communications and Messaging
- **Only one application per SAFE Program will be considered.** Program partners should collaborate on the submission.
- Application must be championed by a member of the SAFE Shark and Ray steering committee (see [here](#) for list of current members)
- Priority will be given to proposals that directly contribute to sub-projects currently supported by SAFE Sharks and Rays (full list), including:
 - The Condro Census
 - Best Practices in Elasmobranch Handling
 - Blood Project
 - Genetics Database
 - StAR (*Stegostoma tigrinum* Augmentation and Recovery)
 - Shark Ray 360
 - Policy Forum
 - Coordinated Messaging Initiative
- Consideration will be given to the IUCN Red List status of project focus species, and the perceived need for focused attention
- Applicants may request up to \$50,000.
- Applicants are required to provide at least 50% matching funds. Preference is given to proposals with higher match ratios.
- Preference is given to proposals that emphasize collaboration with multiple AZA members, including:
 - Members historically under-represented in that species' conservation; or

- Proposals that unite AZA members' existing programs into a collaborative effort expected to yield greater outcomes than what each had been accomplishing on its own.
- Funds may be spent over a two-year timeline. A progress report is required after the first year of funding.

Additional Eligibility Requirements

- The principal and co-investigators must have current individual AZA memberships at the time of submission.
- Only applications [directly affiliated with](#) approved SAFE programs will be reviewed. Proposals for new SAFE species programs must be submitted at least 30 days prior to application deadline, to allow for appropriate review and consideration. Explore the [Propose a SAFE Species](#) resources for information about eligibility and how to propose a new species program.