

ST Forum

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**A chance to right a wrong**

IT IS indeed wrong to say that all sharks are endangered ('No sense in shark's fin ban: Experts'; Feb 17).

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - a leading authority on the environment and sustainable development with more than 200 governmental and more than 900 non-governmental organisations as members - lists only 17 per cent of shark species as threatened.

It is, however, important to note that the 14 species of sharks that are most prevalent in the shark's fin trade are all listed by the IUCN as threatened or near threatened. An increasing number of countries, states and companies are banning the sale and consumption of shark's fin.

In Singapore, we now have an opportunity to right a wrong.

Sharks have been here long before us; they have survived for millions of years. They have survived major mass extinctions but they will not survive the human onslaught without human help.

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