



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

THE SHARK FIN SOUP



INDIAN OCEAN
COMMISSION



The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO.

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

© FAO 2016

FAO encourages the use, reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product. Except where otherwise indicated, material may be copied, downloaded and printed for private study, research and teaching purposes, or for use in non-commercial products or services, provided that appropriate acknowledgement of FAO as the source and copyright holder is given and that FAO's endorsement of users' views, products or services is not implied in any way.

All requests for translation and adaptation rights, and for resale and other commercial use rights should be made via www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request or addressed to copyright@fao.org.

FAO information products are available on the FAO website (www.fao.org/publications) and can be purchased through publications-sales@fao.org.

For more information, please contact smartfish@fao.org.

Author and illustrations : Peter Lalande

Conception and scenario : FBOA (Peter Lalande, Virginie Lagarde)

Collaboration: Green Island Foundation, Seychelles Fishing Authority

Bertille Bonne

Graphic design/Layout : Shirley Chan

Papertoys: Tougui (<http://www.tougui.fr/>)

Technical contribution and supervision : FAO (Kim Friedman, Edoardo Mostarda, Merete Tandstad, Florence Wallemacq)

Contacts:

florence.wallemacq@fao.org

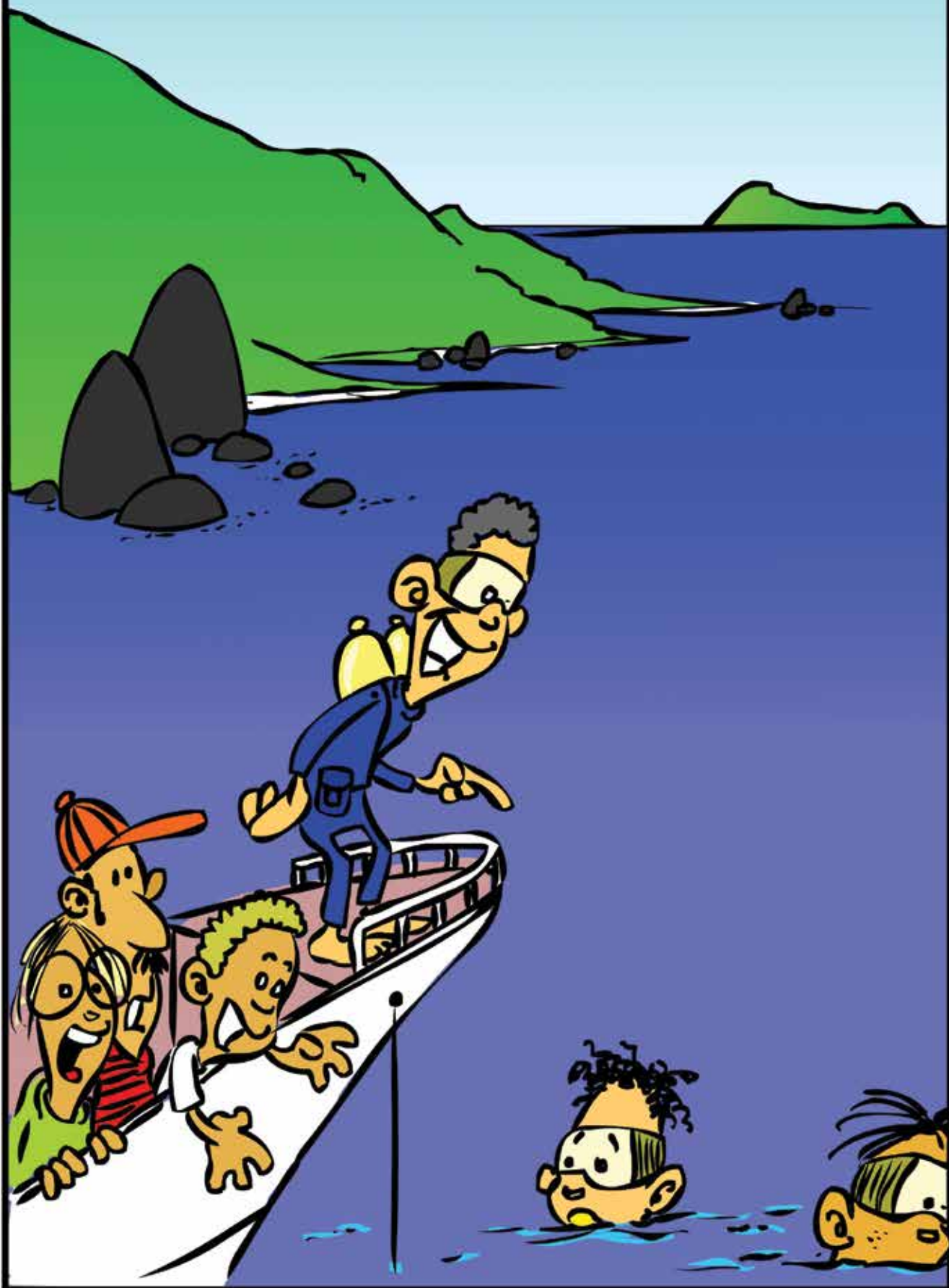
fboa.labelproject@sfa.sc

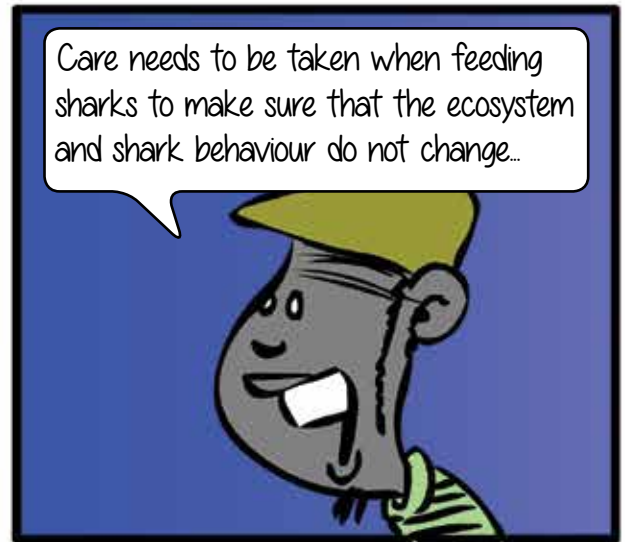
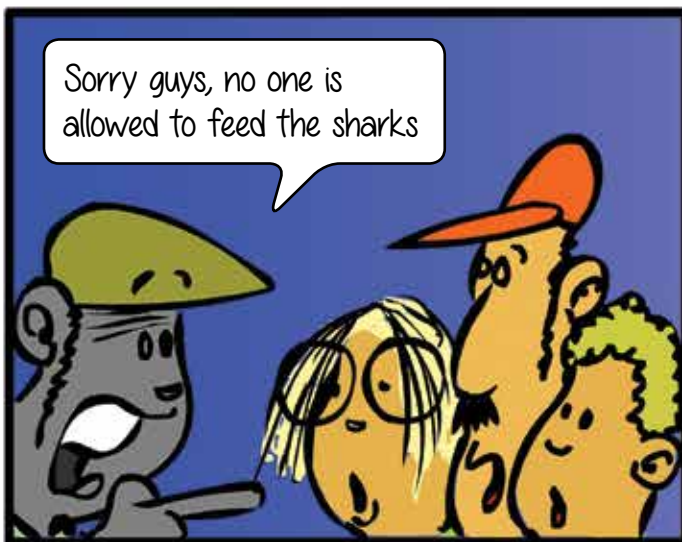
lagarde.vir@gmail.com

THE SHARK FIN SOUP

We would like to thank all those who have, in one way or another, contributed towards the project...

DIVERS OFF THE COAST OF LA DIGUE ISLAND*2

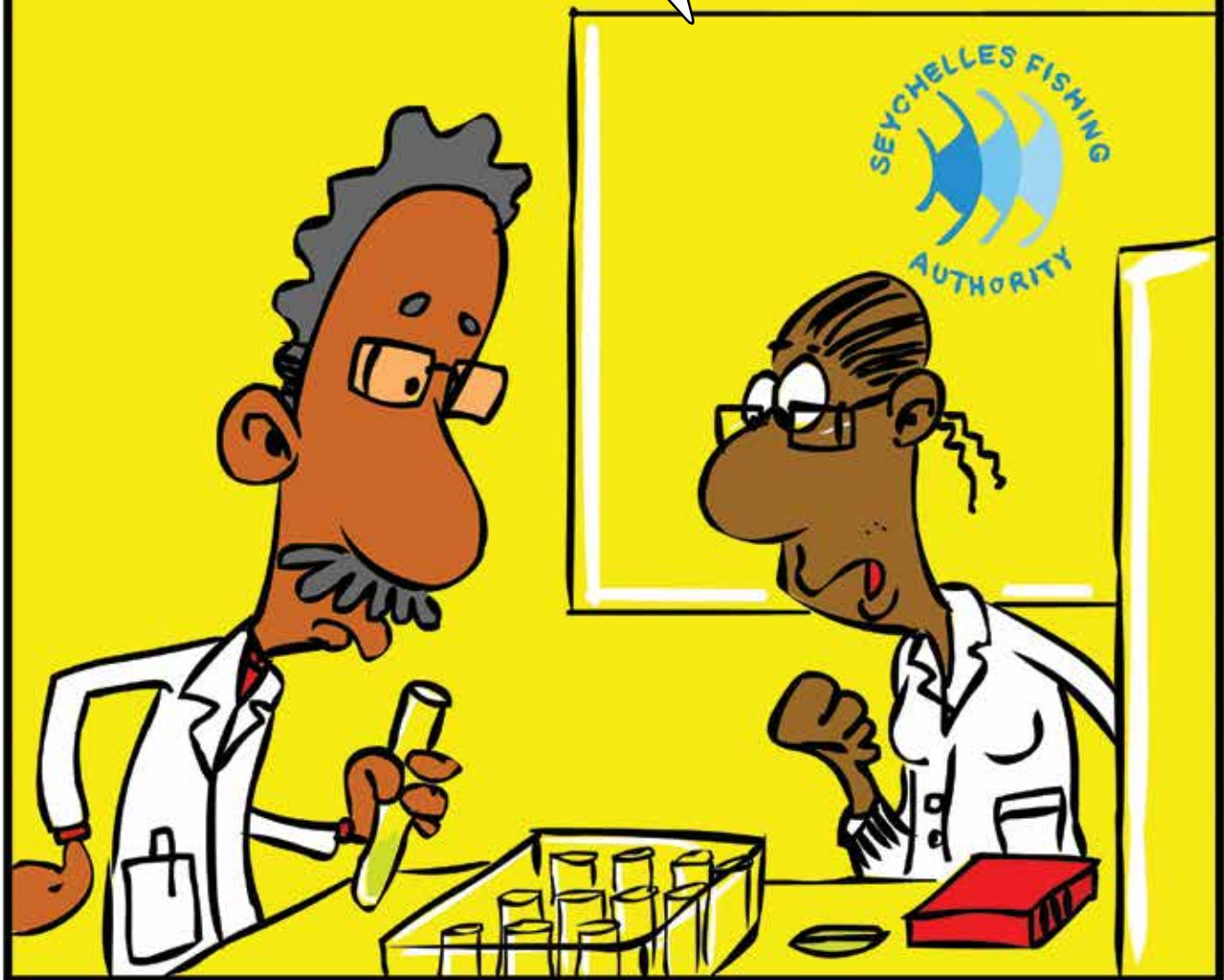




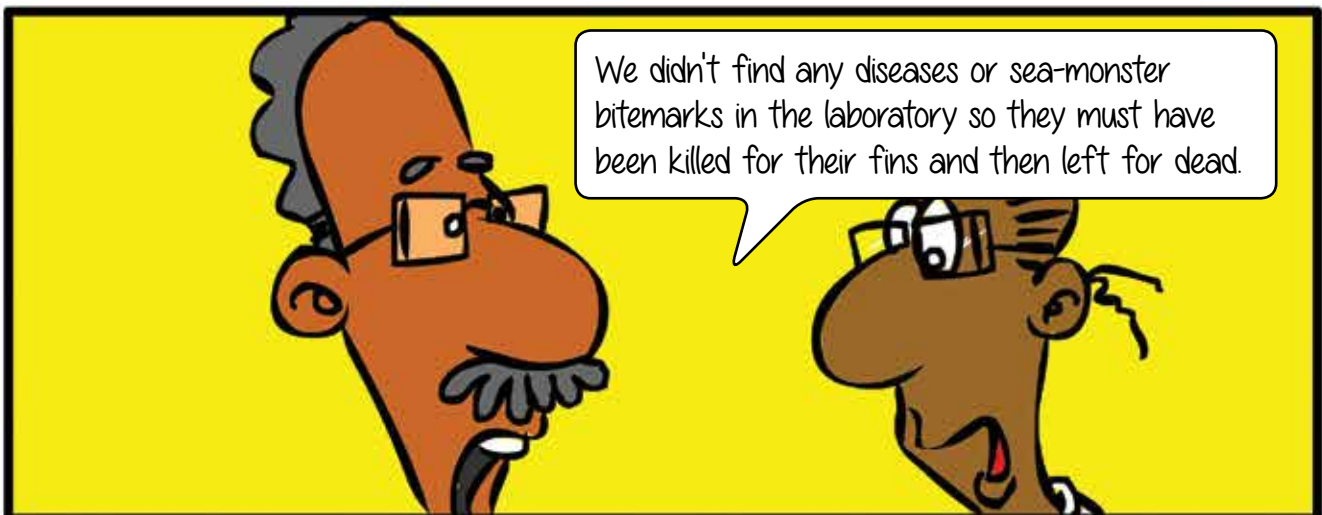


A FEW DAYS LATER AT THE SFA LABORATORY

This is tissue from the shark carcasses that we picked up off La Digue yesterday.



We didn't find any diseases or sea-monster bitemarks in the laboratory so they must have been killed for their fins and then left for dead.



Over the last two years, this practice of finning sharks*³ and throwing them back alive has increased. We've collected too many of these carcasses. One thing doesn't make sense is that we have also seen the fins floating next to the sharks.



Who could be so cruel? Our seas will be empty of sharks if this kind of barbaric practice continues and the entire eco-system will be in trouble.



What can we do?

Why don't we ask Zak to investigate? Maybe he can help to find out more.



You're right. He is very enthusiastic about taking good care of the environment... and I've heard that he has a special gift. He can talk and understand animal language.

A LITTLE LATER AT ZAK'S SECRET BASE ON SILHOUETTE ISLAND

Yes, Zak. Your mission would be to investigate why this is happening, who is behind it and how it can be stopped. Are you ready and willing to accept this task?

Yes, I accept!

Let's do a bit of research on this problem...
...where did they find most of the remains ?



It looks like they were found around the island of La Digue. Let's have a look at why people would want to hunt sharks anyway.



Wow, Magpie, it says here that these beautiful creatures are mostly hunted for their fins, which are considered as an elixir of life in some countries, especially in Asia.

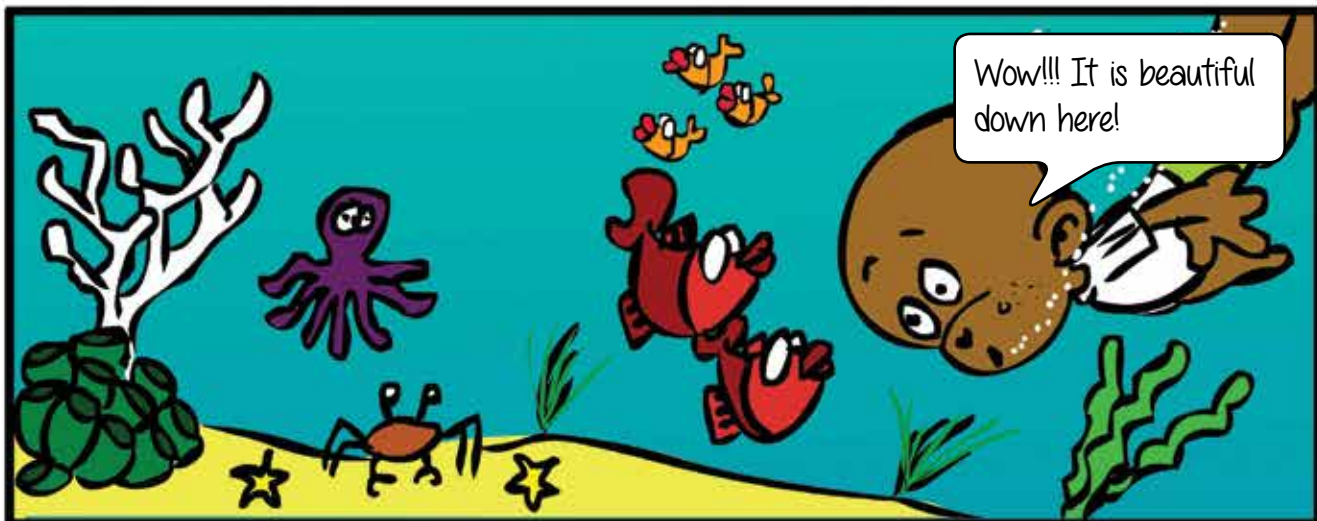


But it says here only **5%** of the shark is used when it is finned.



SHORTLY AFTER ...

I need to find out some more clues, Magpie. See you in a bit, I won't be long.



Hi, my friends! I'm trying to understand what is happening to the sharks. It seems they are being cut up and left to die and no one seems to know why and how this is happening, or who is responsible.



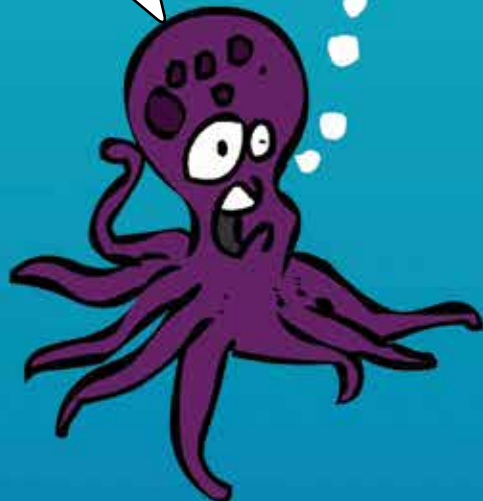
Oh the poor sharks... it's true, they are very scared nowadays and are a very rare sight around here.



They are being caught by some evil men, who strip them of their fins and then throw them back into the sea, leaving them to die.

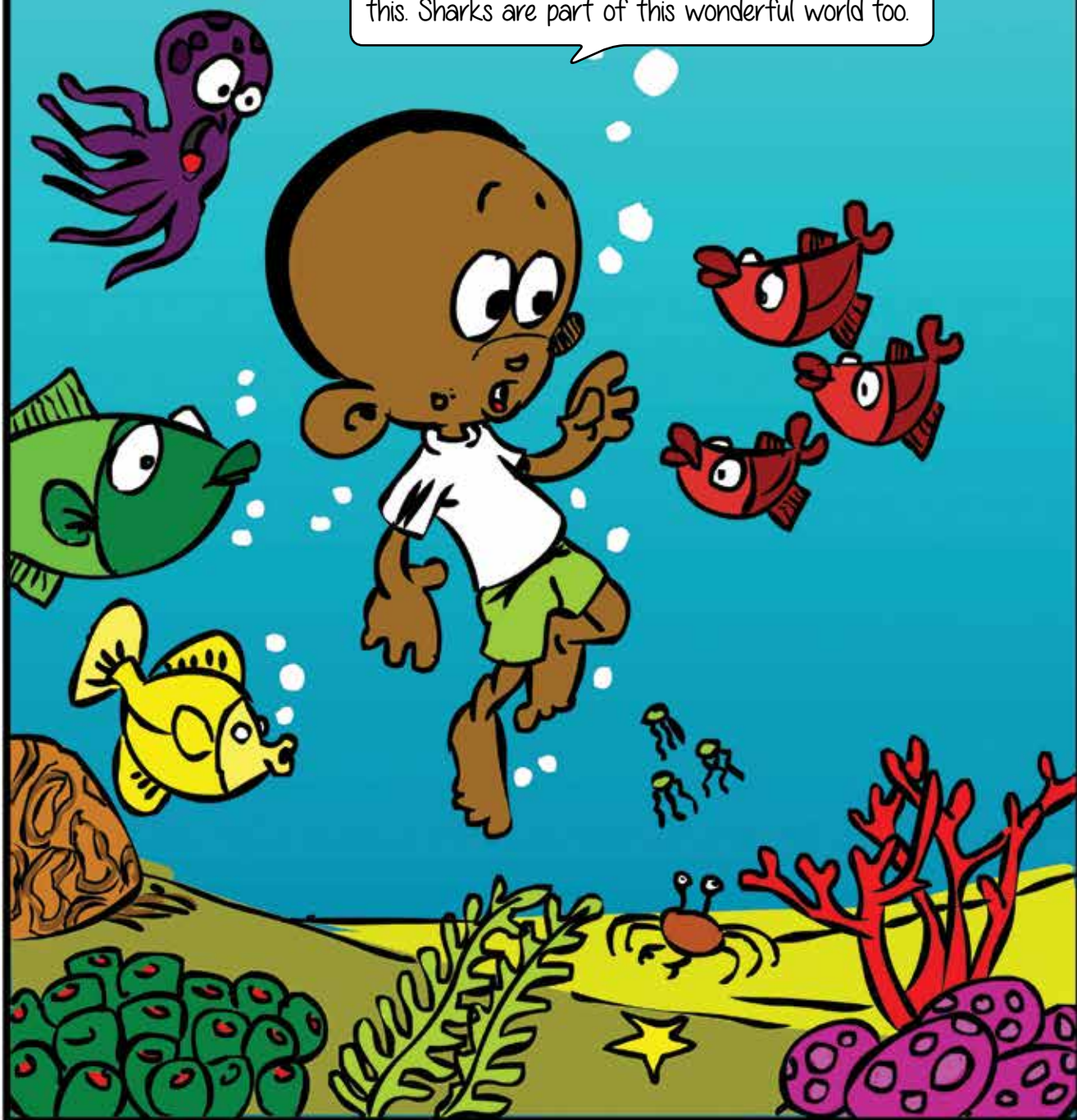


when they are thrown overboard they lose a lot of blood and can no longer swim, so they slowly sink to the bottom where they suffocate and die. It's such an awful thing to see!





Don't worry friends. I'll get to the bottom of this. Sharks are part of this wonderful world too.



A FEW DAYS LATER
ON THE WEST
SIDE OF LA DIGUE
ISLAND...

The boss isn't going to be
too happy with us again.

Yeah I know, two tonnes of
fins and he's still going to be
angry.

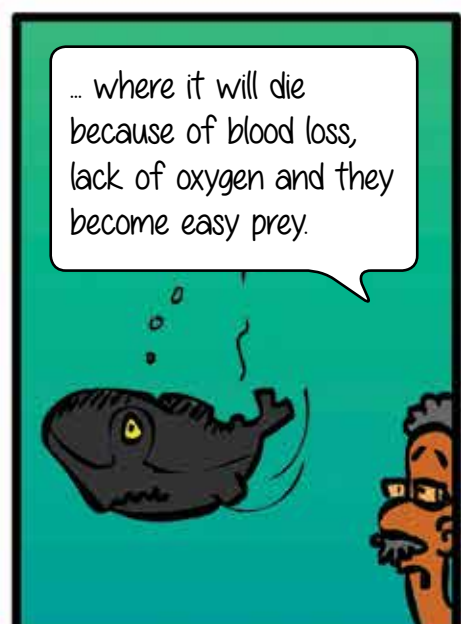
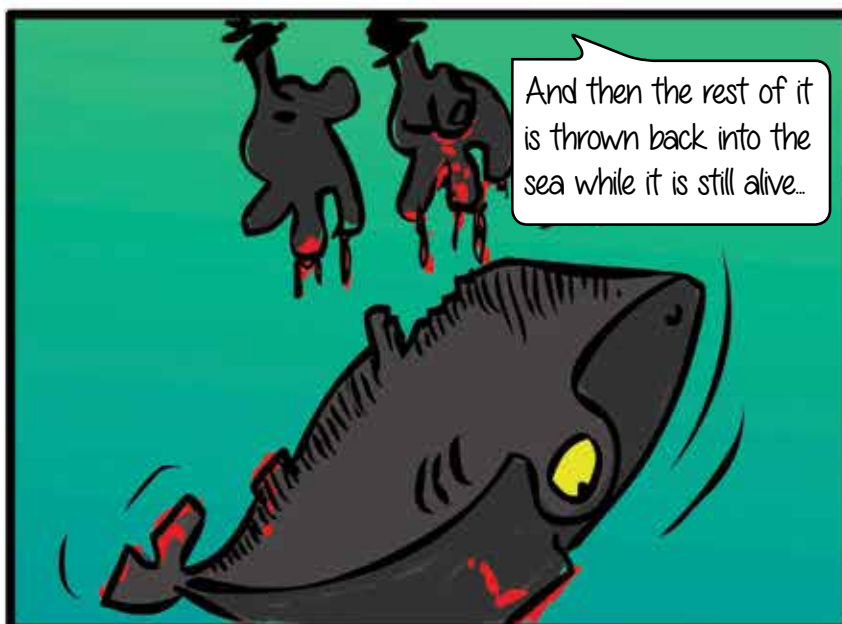
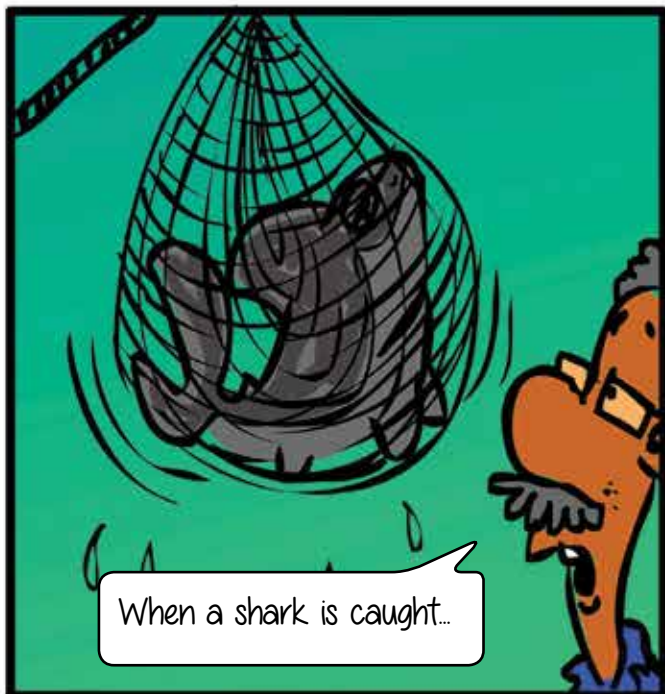
All this hard work and he still treats us
as like we don't know what we are doing.
One of these days I'm going to...

You know, the boss is always talking about
that once in a lifetime catch...

That one unique shark!!

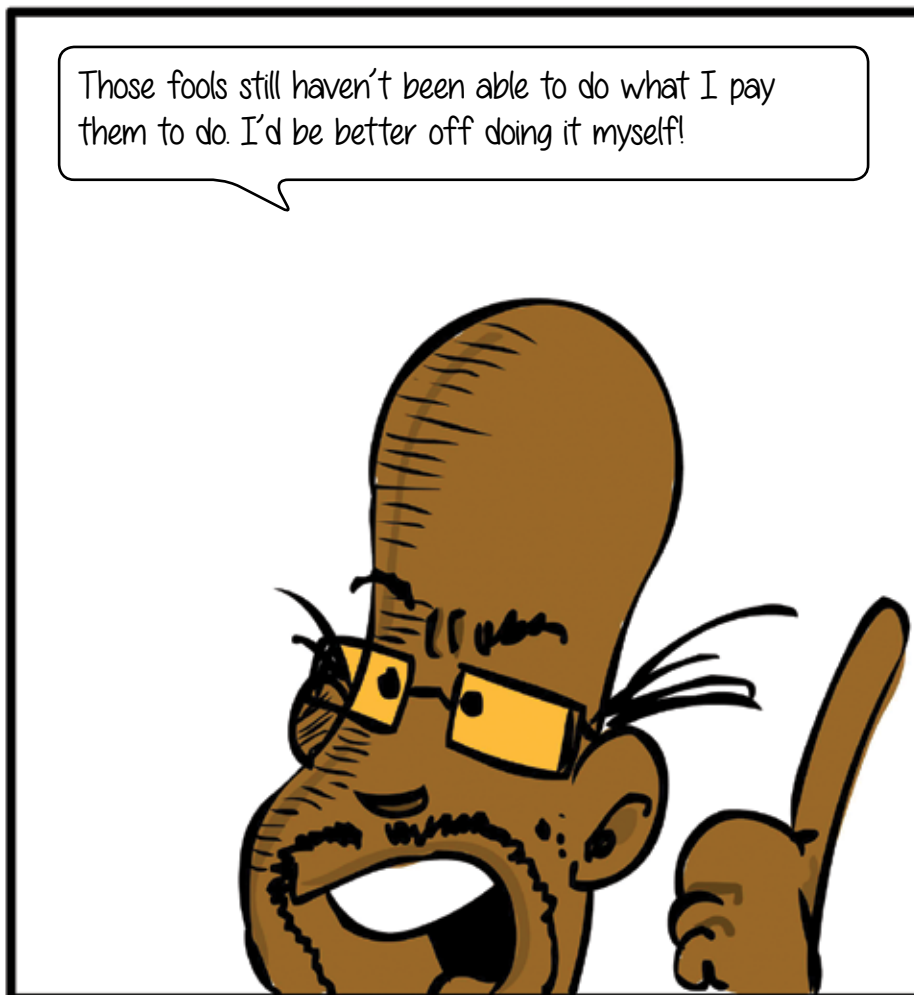
BACK AT THE SFA'S LAB ...

You can see from the remains of this shark that this poor fellow died from drowning.



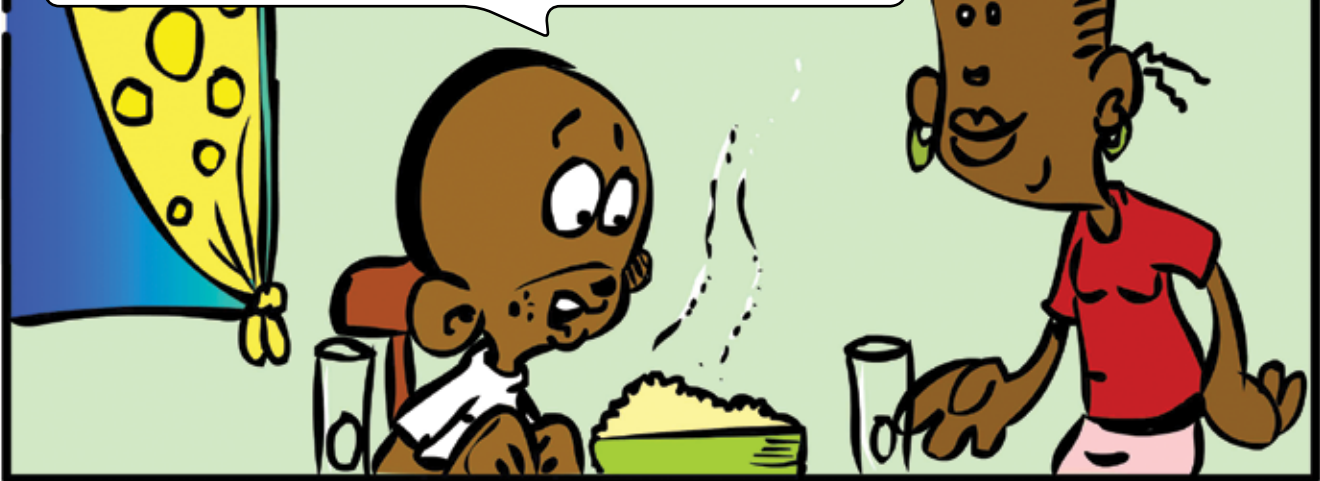
A WEEK LATER IN AN OFFICE DOWNTOWN





MEANWHILE IN ZAK'S HOME ON SILHOUETTE ISLAND ...

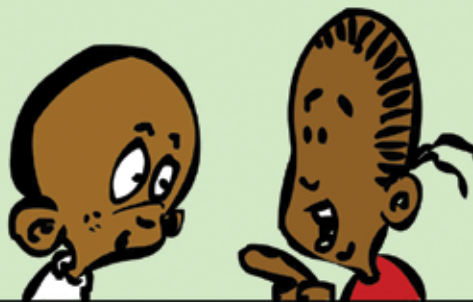
Wow, mum. This satini reken (Shark chutney) sure smells good. Speaking of sharks, I saw something really sad last week, some very barbaric practices of mass finning of sharks. They were left to drown.



Yes, son. It is a shame. However, traditionally our people have always eaten sharks.



The whole shark was always used then; its flesh was and still is part of the local menu*⁵. I think it was consumed in a sustainable way but nowadays, things have changed a lot.



You are right mum.



I don't understand why this is happening to the sharks nowadays. We need to put an end to this senseless killing.



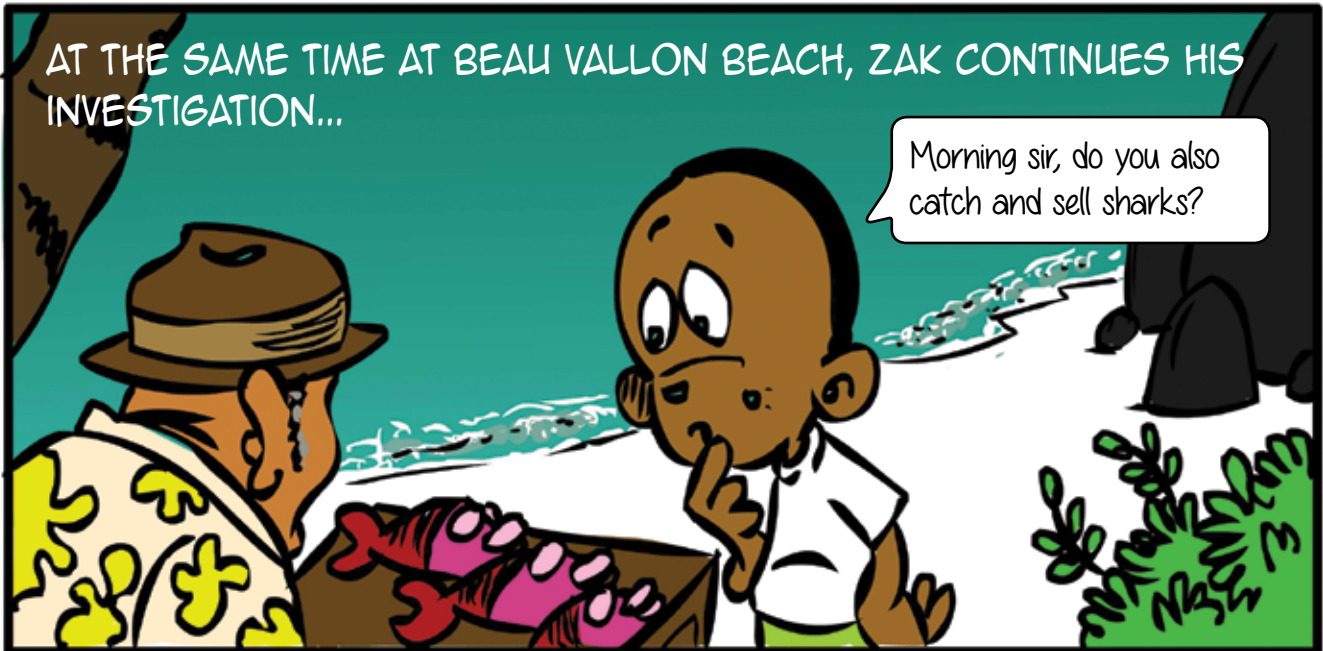
A FEW HOURS LATER, OUT AT SEA ...

You're not going to get away from me this time!!

You're mine, all mine!!!

I will find you..

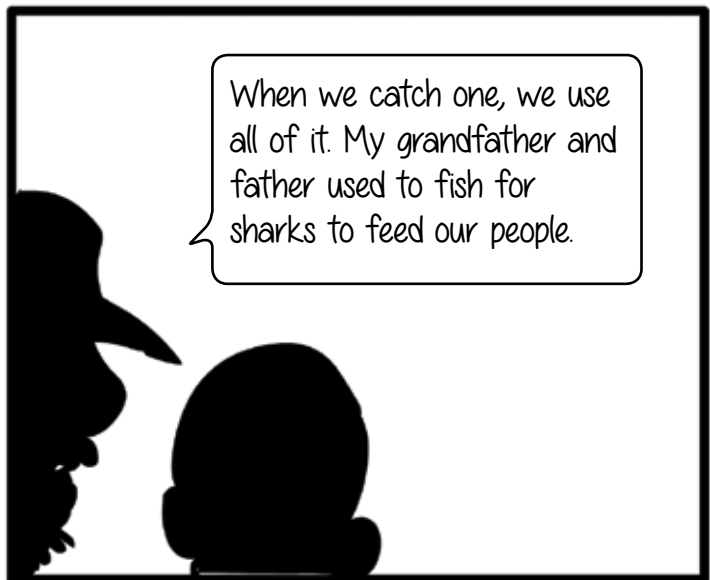
AT THE SAME TIME AT BEAU VALLON BEACH, ZAK CONTINUES HIS INVESTIGATION...



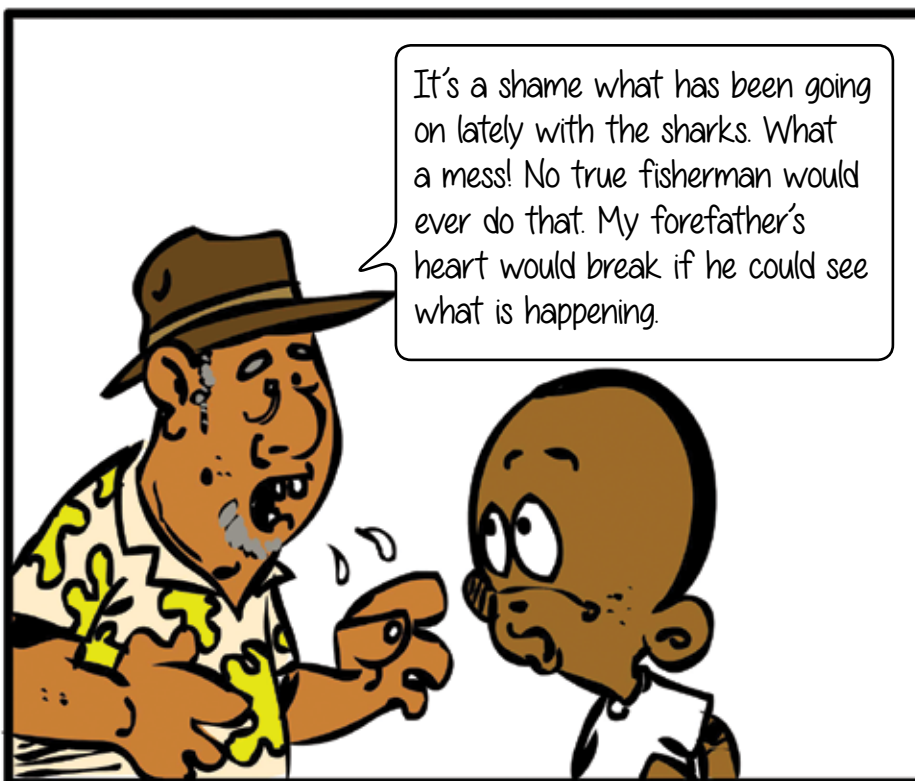
Morning sir, do you also catch and sell sharks?



Yes, I sometimes catch sharks. I've been catching them since I was young.



When we catch one, we use all of it. My grandfather and father used to fish for sharks to feed our people.



It's a shame what has been going on lately with the sharks. What a mess! No true fisherman would ever do that. My forefather's heart would break if he could see what is happening.



What a terrible, terrible waste!

What about shark attacks? I hear there has been an increase recently. Have you ever been attacked?



No one I know has ever been attacked by a shark. However, you cannot tease a creature like the shark without severe consequences. Try putting your head in the mouth of a lion and see what happens!



I've been working for 60 years at sea and can tell you that shark attacks are extremely rare.



You have an important mission. You must stop this barbaric slaughter of our sharks. If they continue like this, sharks will become extinct! Sharks are not our enemy, we need them! Without sharks we will lose our fish and coral reefs.



I'll try my best



ZAK CONTNUES HIS INVESTIGATION ON A BEACH ON PRASLIN ISLAND ...

Excuse me sir, I'd like to ask you about the reported sharks attacks in this area.



Yes, there have been several reported cases here lately. Man, my family has lived in this area for five generations and this is the first time that something like this has happened around here.

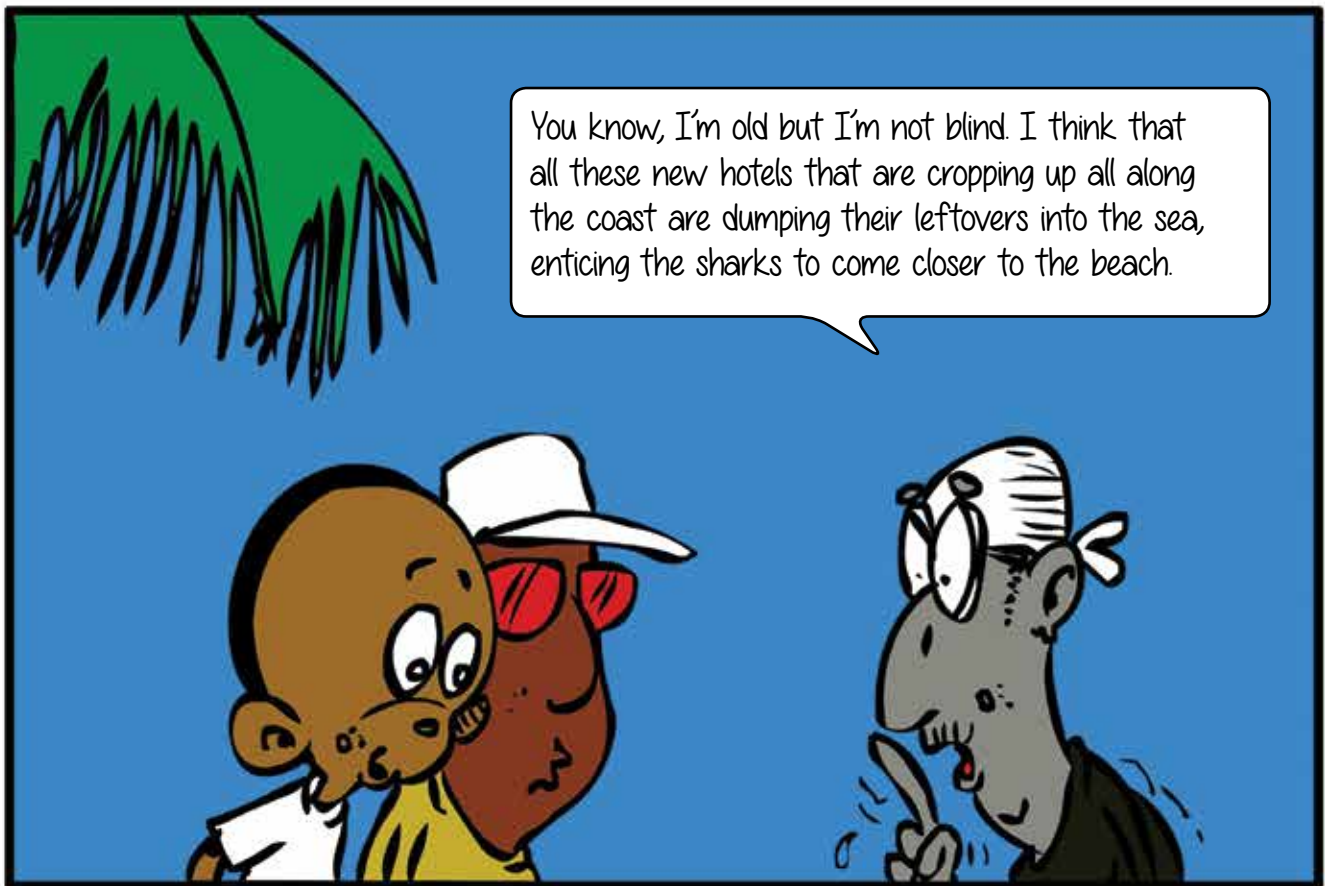


Everything seems to be all messed up - even the number of tourists has started to dwindle around here now.



Hi, young man, I might have some information for you.





LATER THAT DAY OUT AT SEA ...

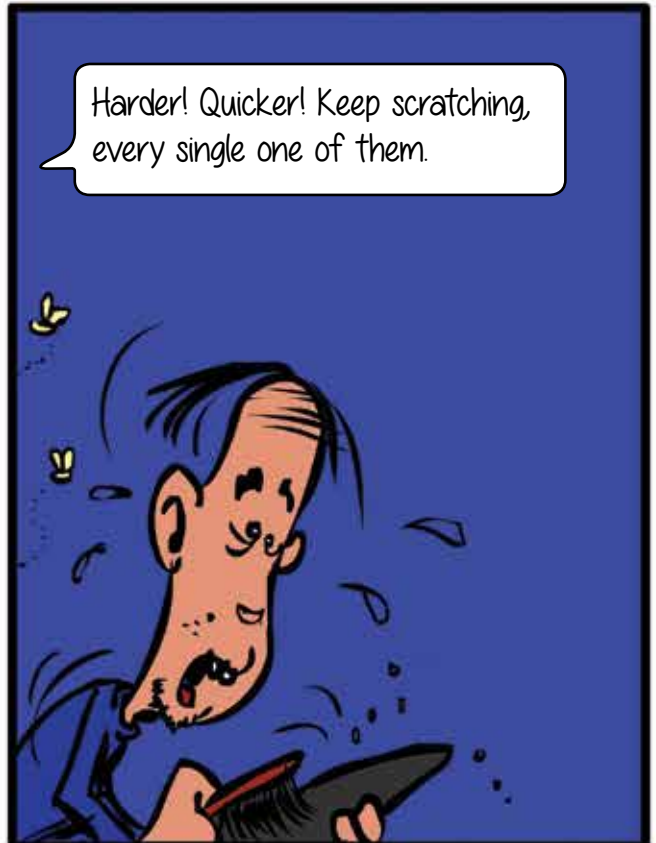
Come on, scratch harder, I need to know.



Even if I have to get rid of all the shark in the ocean to find it, I will. I need to get it whatever it costs.



Harder! Quicker! Keep scratching, every single one of them.



A DAY LATER AT THE CUSTOM'S OFFICE ...

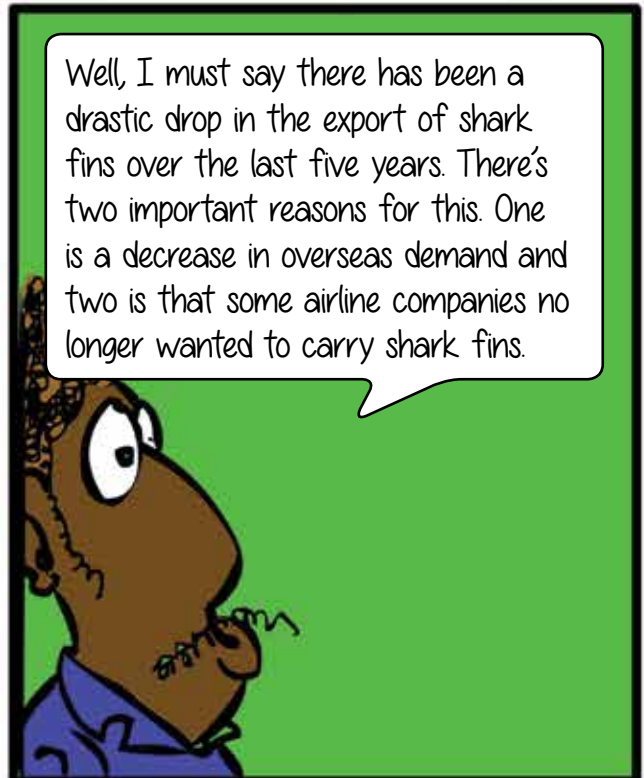


Good afternoon Mr. France. Could you tell me a bit about shark fin exports please?

Hi Zak!



Well, I must say there has been a drastic drop in the export of shark fins over the last five years. There's two important reasons for this. One is a decrease in overseas demand and two is that some airline companies no longer wanted to carry shark fins.



In fact, there is only one person I know who is still sending fins to Asia. I have his contact details if you want to talk to him.



FIX-IT INC.

ON THE SAME DAY AT ANSE BOILEAU ...

Yes, I need it as soon as possible

A goldfinder 2000. That's going to cost you a bit. It's going to be harder to make than the electrical spear gun and the ...

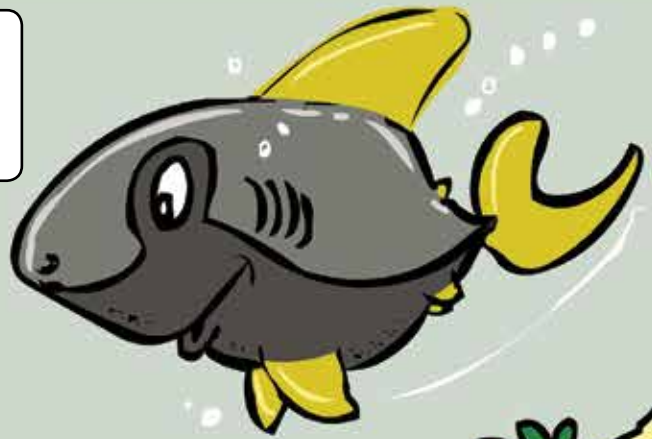
It's your money!

I know. Just do it, you will be properly rewarded.

It's worth every cent!!!

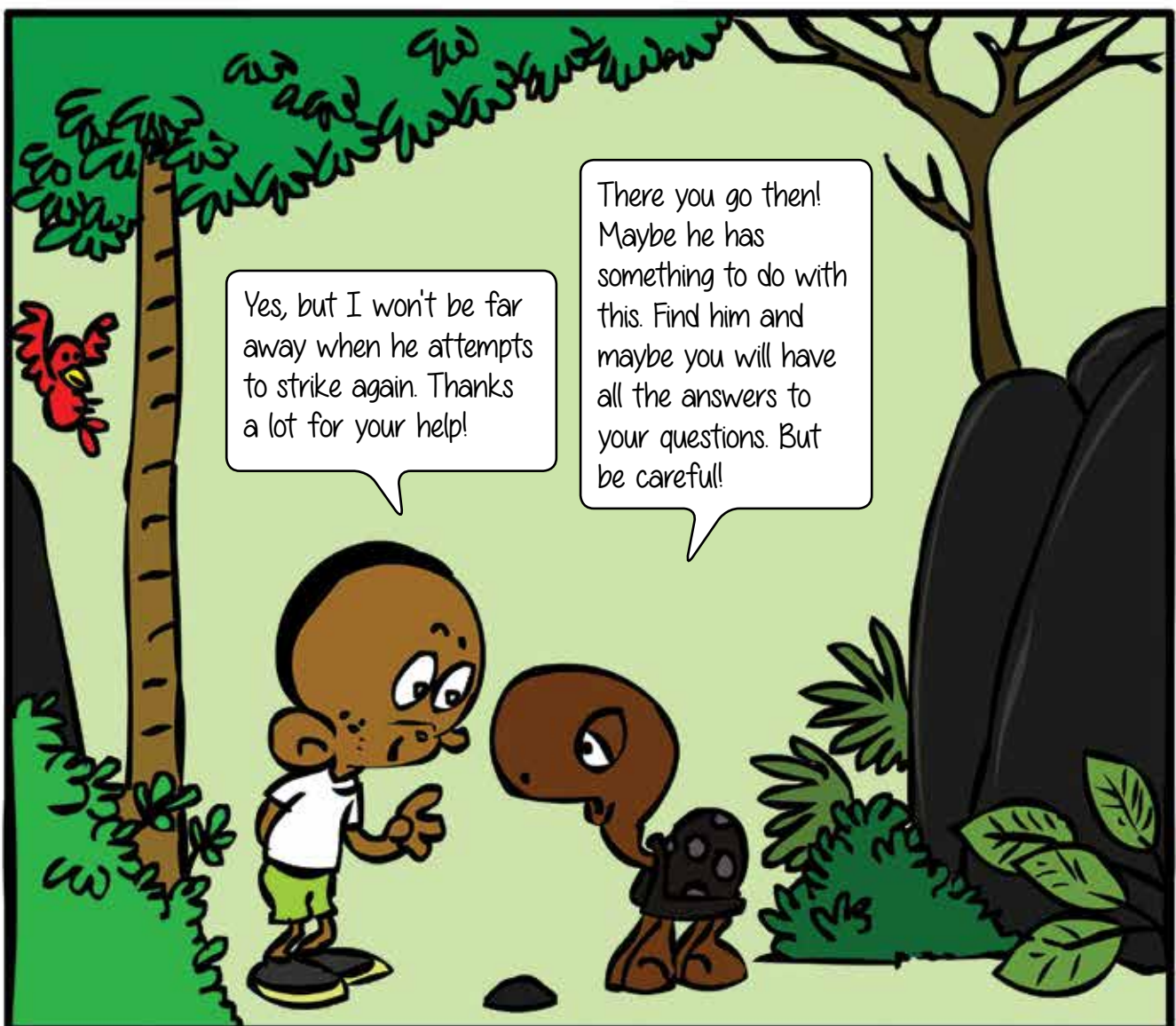
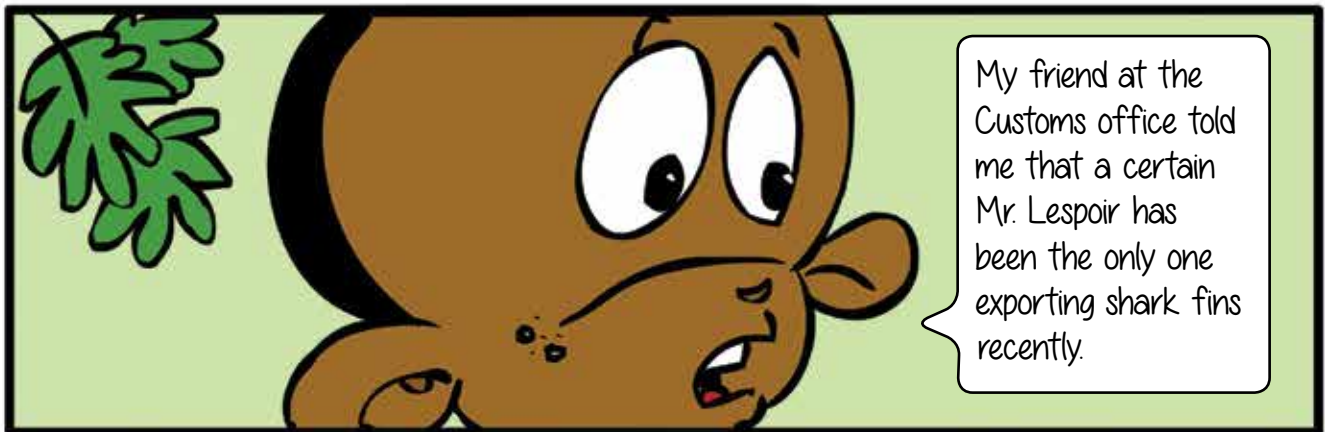
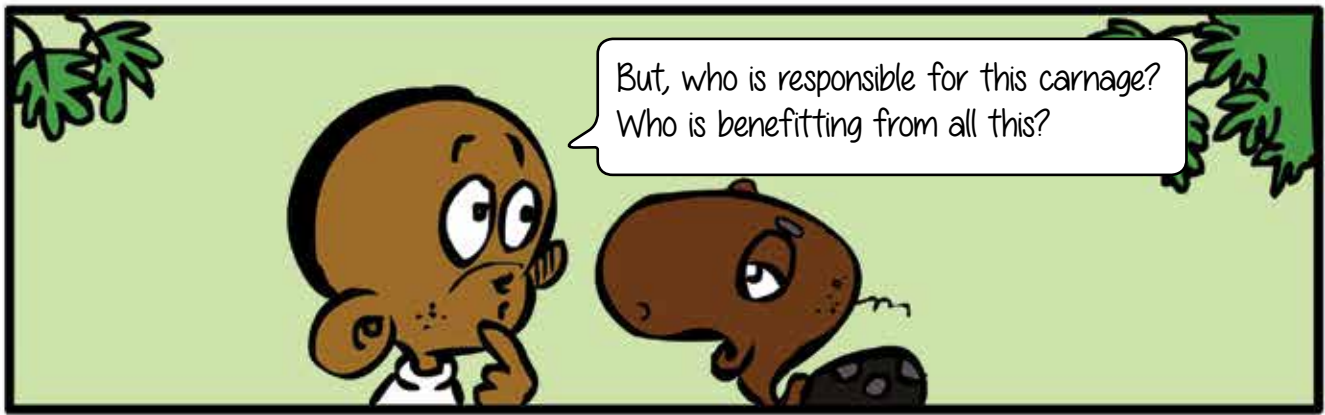


Legend has it that God made one special creature amongst all others. A shark with a golden fin ... a really special shark.



It was said that whoever touched a fin of that shark would be immortal. Before long, men became greedy and wanted to keep this special shark for themselves and started to fight instead of sharing. In order to protect the shark, God painted over the golden fins. However, since then, men have been sailing the seas looking for this very special shark. That's why the first settlers came to the Seychelles ...

Indeed, that would explain what has been going on around here lately. I heard that this golden finned shark was spotted again in Seychelles not long ago.



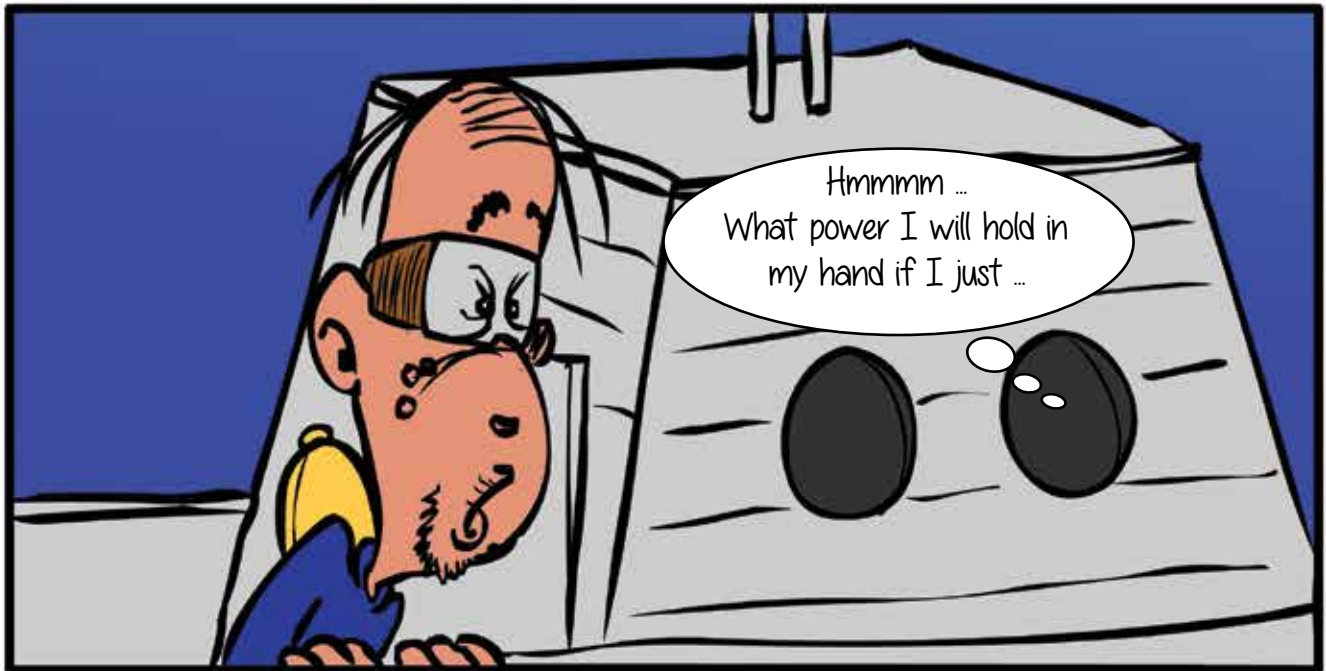
SOME DAYS LATER OFF THE EAST COAST OF LA DIGUE ...

I will not allow death
to take me over. I
want to live forever.



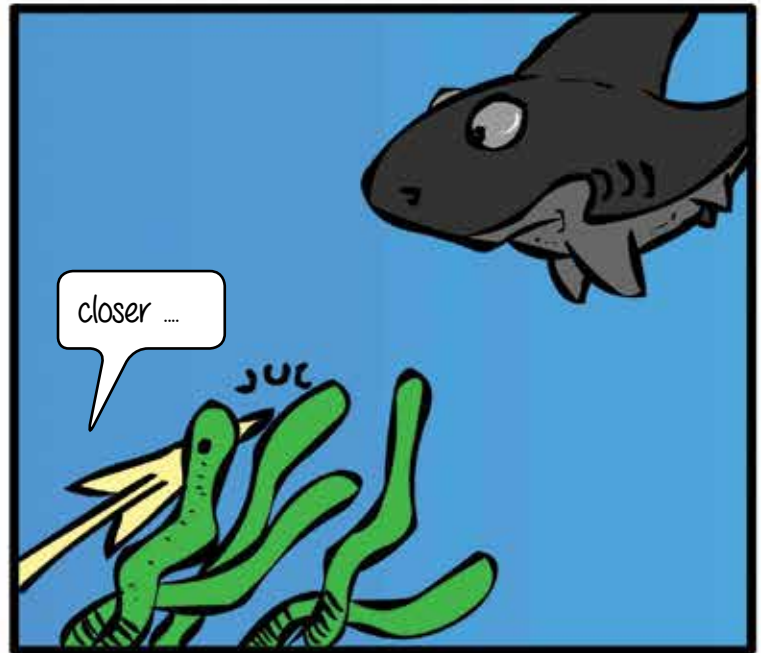
The normal shark fin
soup is not helping me....it
does not rejuvenate me...
I NEED and MUST get
that one magical shark.

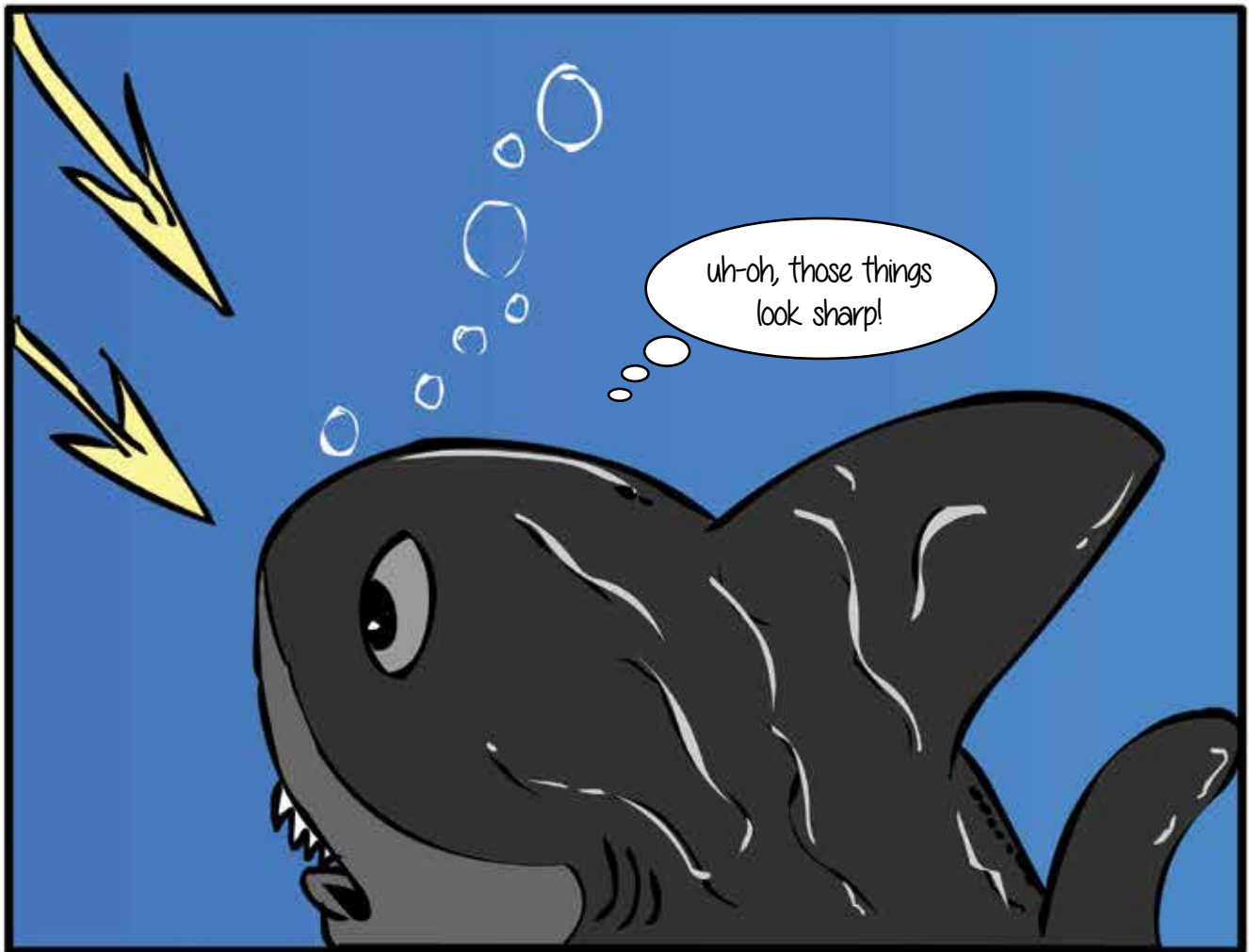


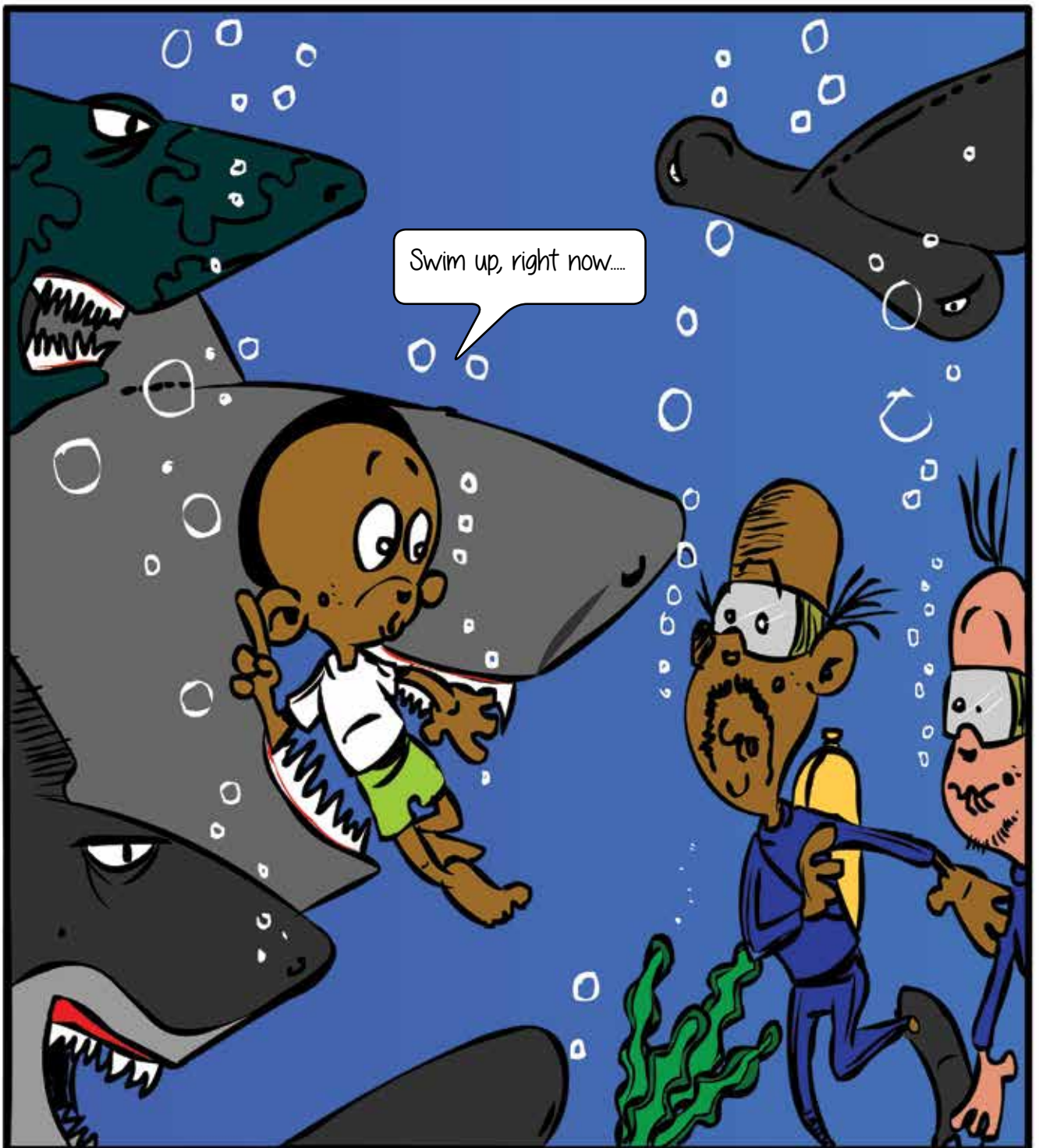
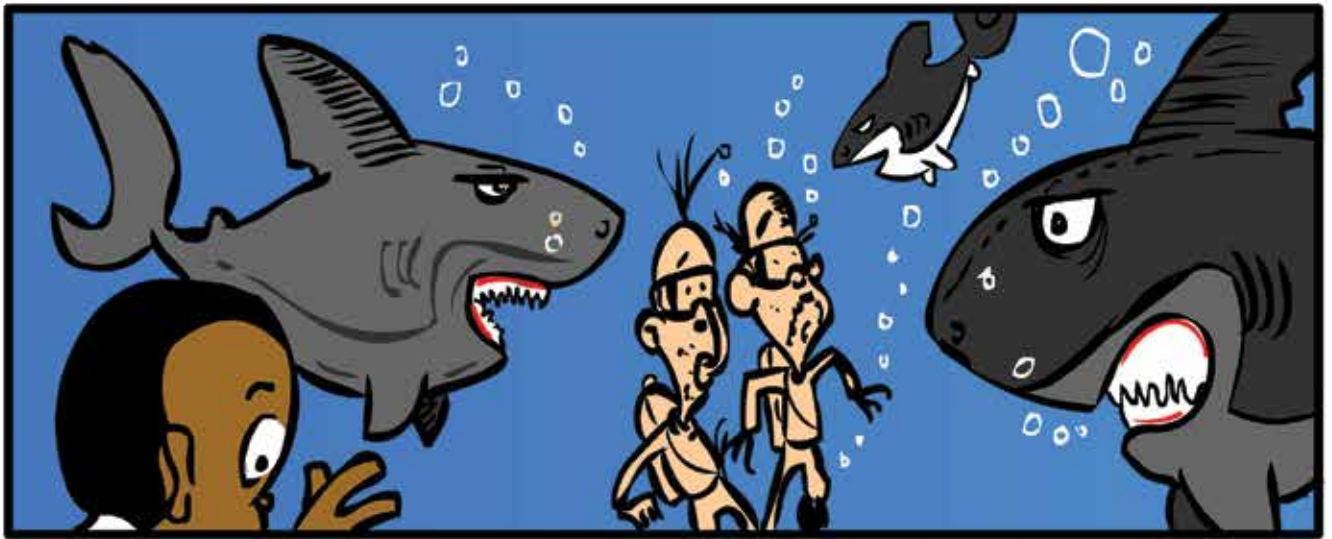






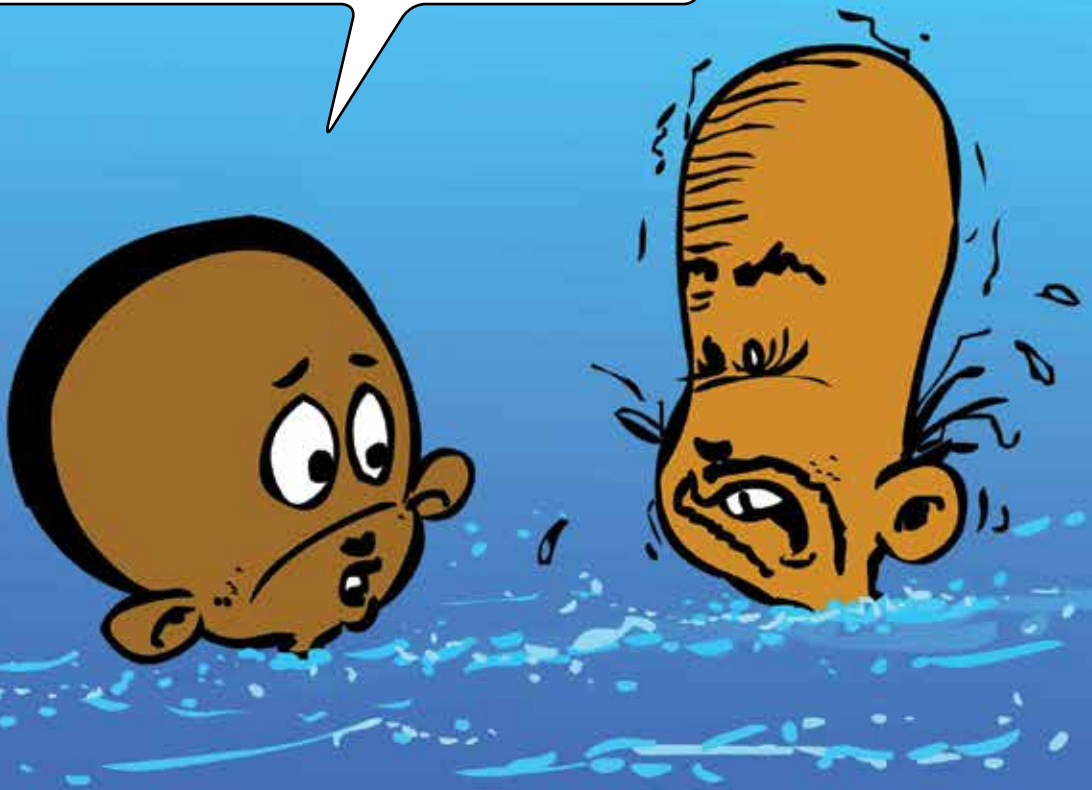


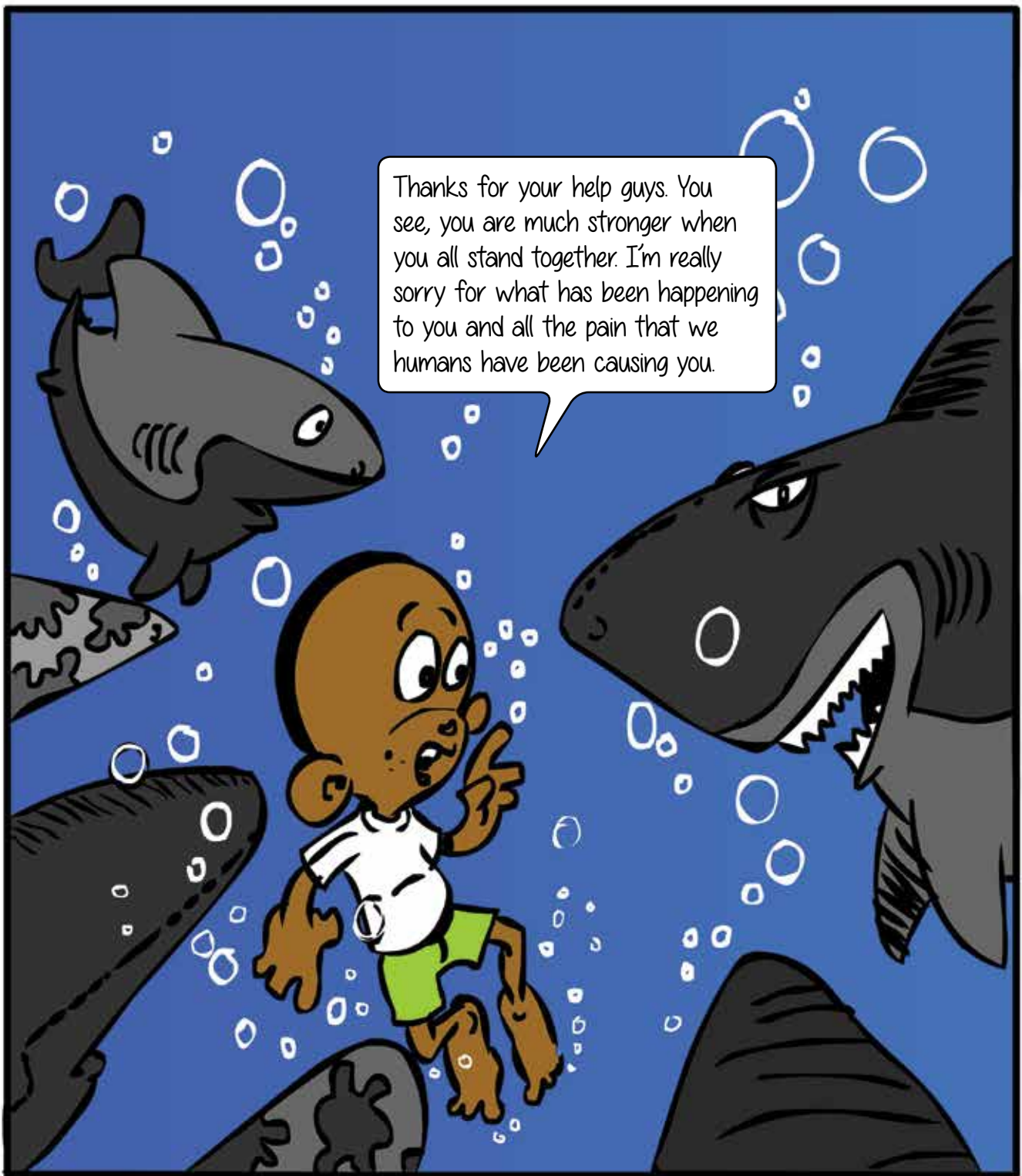






All of my shark friends have come to stop you. You are about to go to jail. You are greedy, cruel and are ready to put the balance of nature in jeopardy for your personal interest. Moreover, you do not respect any law, carrying a spear gun. A little word of advice: Don't you ever try to do something like that again. After you get out of jail, don't put your fingers in the ocean ever again. All the sharks in the world know about you and your fingers will not be safe.





GLOSSARY TO BETTER UNDERSTAND ZACK ADVENTURE AND WHY THE SHARKS ROCK ...

* 1 MORE INFO ABOUT SHARKS

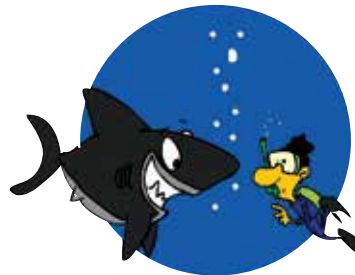
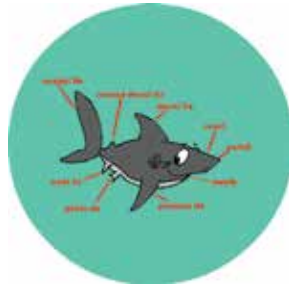
ANATOMY

IMPORTANCE

Every year thousands of tourists explore the Seychelles seas. Shark sightings is an exciting part of this adventure for them.

Tourism is Seychelles first economic pillar. Sharks also provide incomes to fishers family and are a source of protein for Seychellois.

SHARKS ARE WORTH MORE ALIVE THAN DEAD



THREATS



SHARK FINNING



OVERFISHING

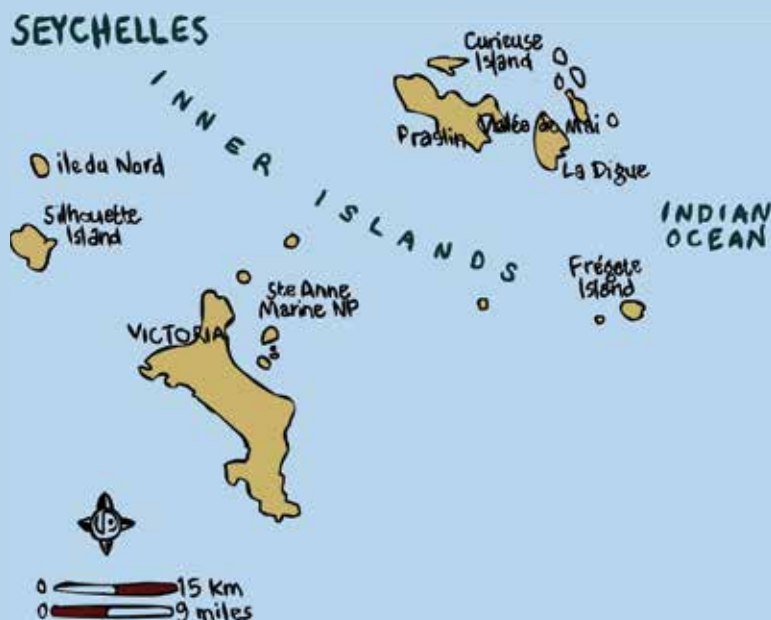


CLIMATE CHANGE



DESTRUCTION OF HABITAT

* 2 FIND LA DIGUE ON THIS MAP AND FOLLOW THE ADVENTURE OF ZACK IN THE ISLANDS OF SEYCHELLES



* 3 TO UNDERSTAND THE BARBARISM OF FINNING



WHAT IS SHARK FINNING?

- Cutting of shark fins and discarding the rest of the shark at sea
- The shark is often alive when tossed back into the ocean
- Unable to swim. The shark slowly suffocates while sinking to the bottom. Defenseless prey for other predators



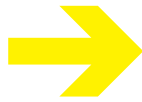
5% is used



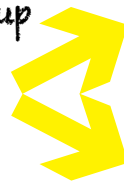
95% is thrown back at sea

FACTS

An estimated **750 000** tonnes of sharks are killed every year around the world



38 million on average are used for shark fin soup



A bowl of shark fin soup can be sold for as much as **\$100**

One pound of dried shark fin can be retailed for **\$300** or more

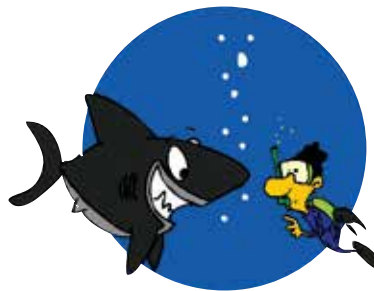


* 4 WHY SHARKS ARE SO IMPORTANT ??

IMPORTANCE

Every year thousands of tourists explore the Seychelles seas. Shark sightings is an exciting part of this adventure for them. Tourism is Seychelles first economic pillar. Sharks also provide incomes to fishers family and are a source of protein for Seychellois.

SHARKS ARE WORTH MORE ALIVE THAN DEAD



SHARKS PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN THE ECOSYSTEM

The depletion of sharks threaten the stability of marine eco-systems as sharks are on top of the food chain.

Sharks are both predators and scavengers which contribute to eliminating diseased and genetically-defective animals as well as help stabilize fish population.



* 5 CREOLE CULTURE: RESPONSIBLE AND ANCESTRAL USE FOR A BETTER CONSUMPTION

Traditionally, when sharks are caught, the whole shark is used. The meat is part of the Seychellois dish and is mostly eaten as chutney. This is a responsible use of this creature. Sharks also provide incomes to fishers family and are a source of protein for Seychellois. Shark meat is high in protein.

We want Seychelles to show the world how to responsibly consume sharks as the tradition always shown by us. It shall remain that way, stop shark finning forever! Seychelles can be an example for other countries !

SHARK'S MEAT IS HIGH IN PROTEIN



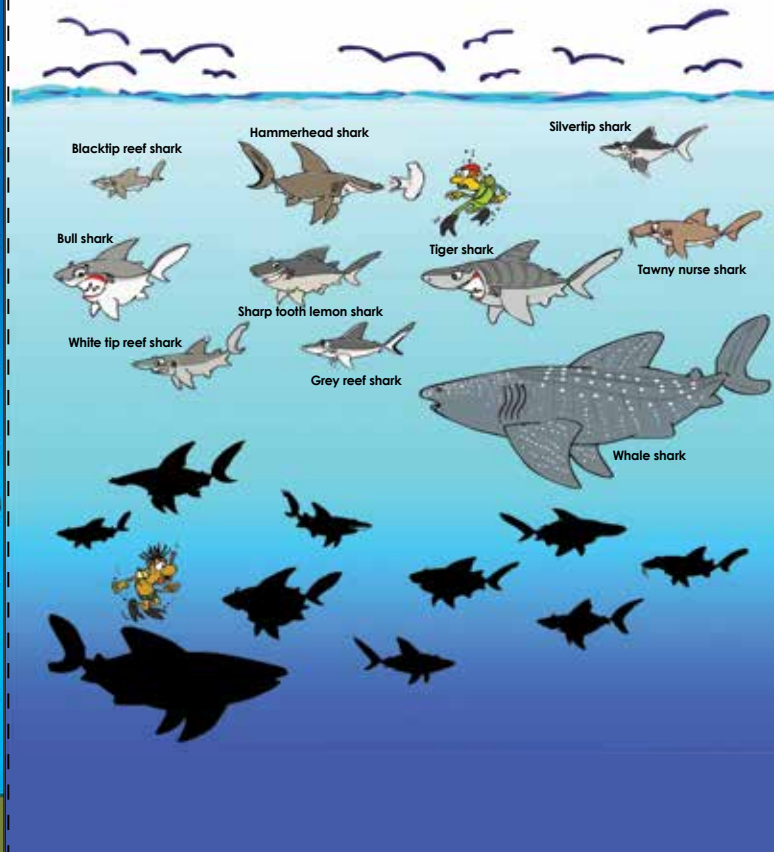
Find the Fish!!!

- Find the clown fish
- Find the fish that is turning left
- Find the fish that looks surprised
- How many puffer fish can you find?
- Find the needle fish
- Find the fish that appears more than 5 times
- Find the fish with the smaller tail
- How many "lady bird" fish are there?
- Find the rectangular-shaped fish
- Find the fish with hair
- Find the fish with a green tie



Shark species

Match these sharks to their shadows below.



Give back to the
Shark his precious fins!



FOUR GREEN







Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



INDIAN OCEAN
COMMISSION



Funded by
the European Union





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



INDIAN OCEAN
COMMISSION



Funded by
the European Union





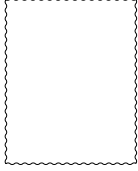
Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



INDIAN OCEAN
COMMISSION



Funded by
the European Union





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



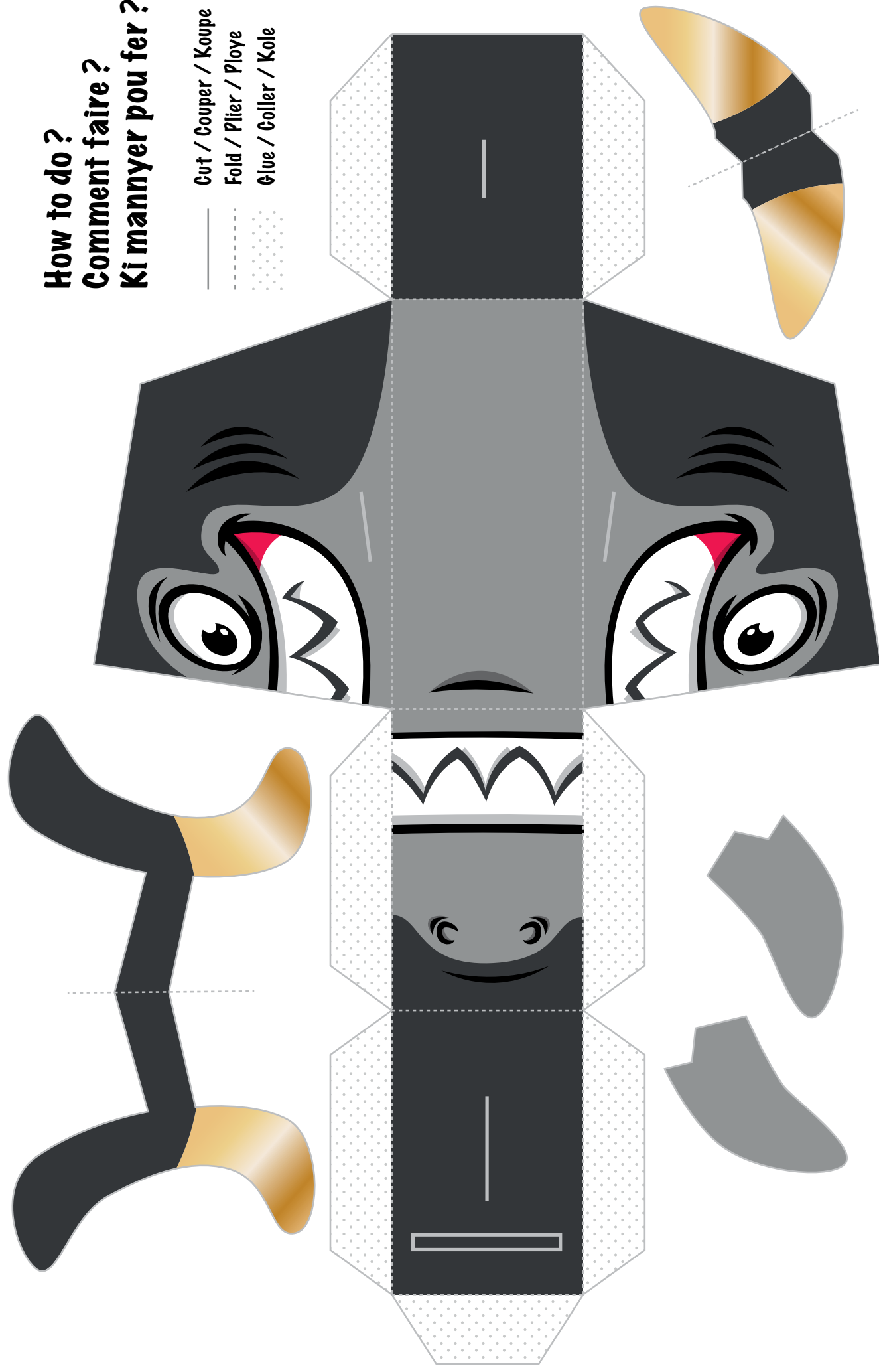
INDIAN OCEAN
COMMISSION



Funded by
the European Union

How to do ? Comment faire ? Ki manner pou fer ?

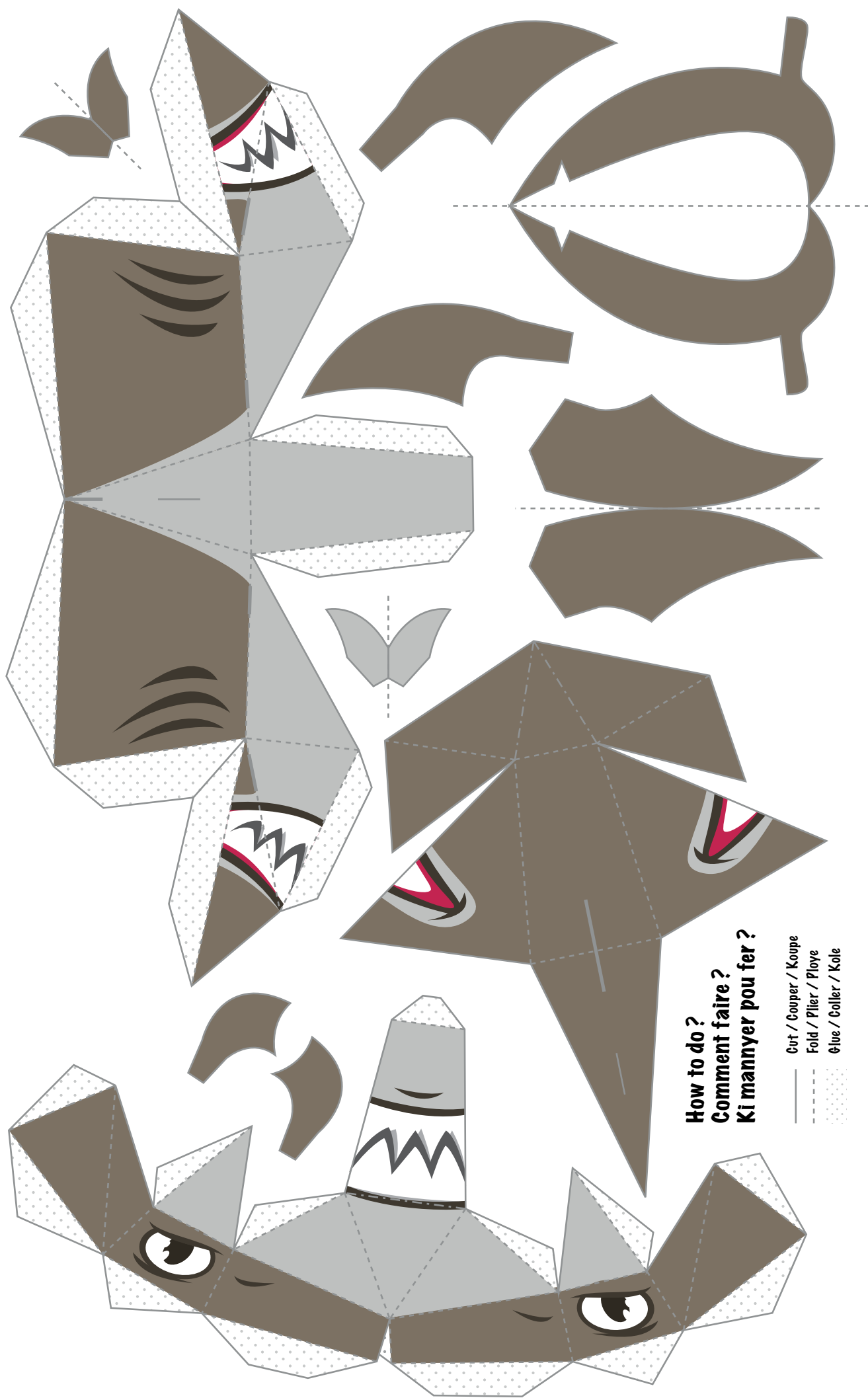
Cut / Couper / Koupe
Fold / Plier / Ploye
Glue / Coller / Kole

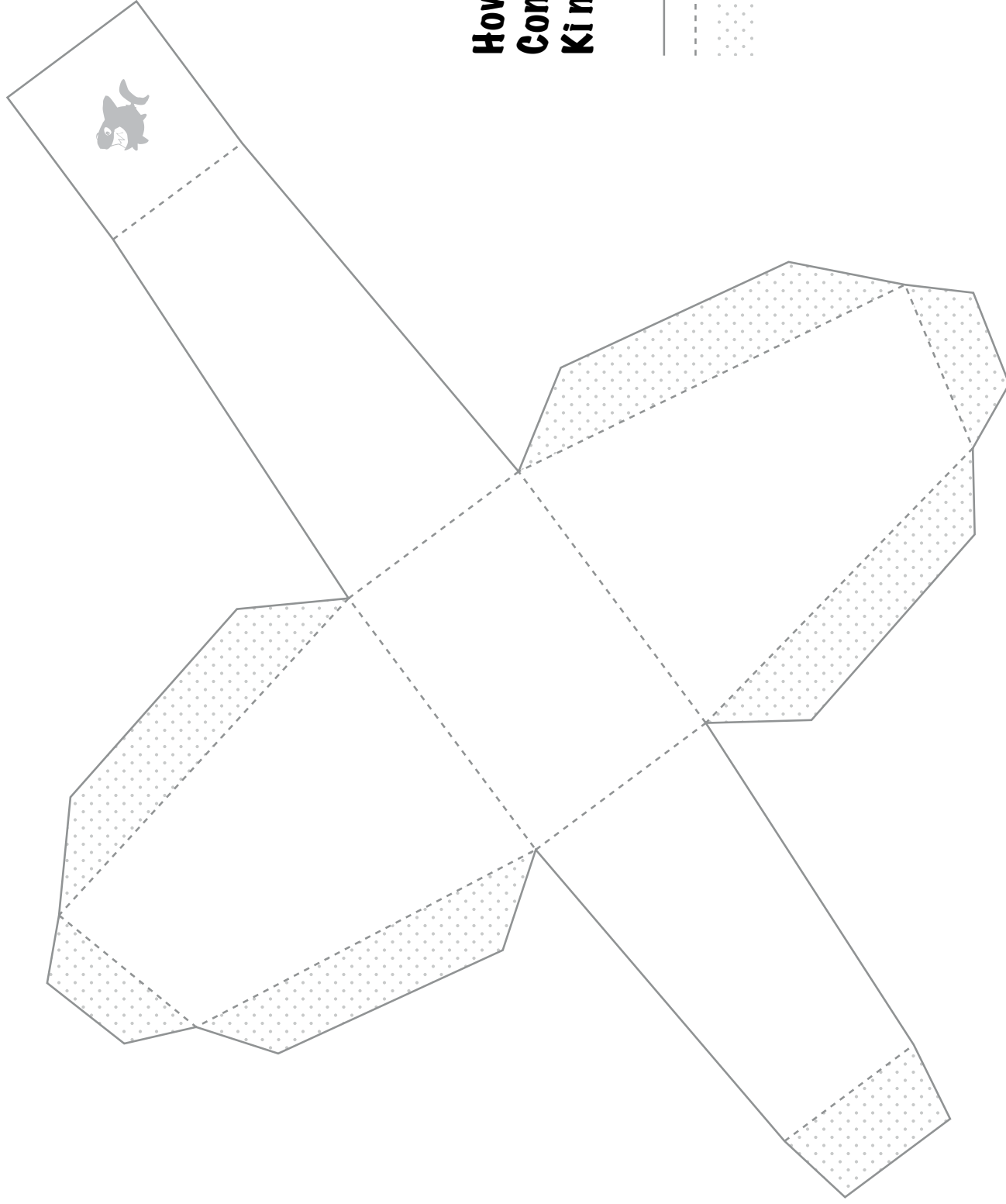




**How to do ?
Comment faire ?
Ki mannyer pou fer ?**

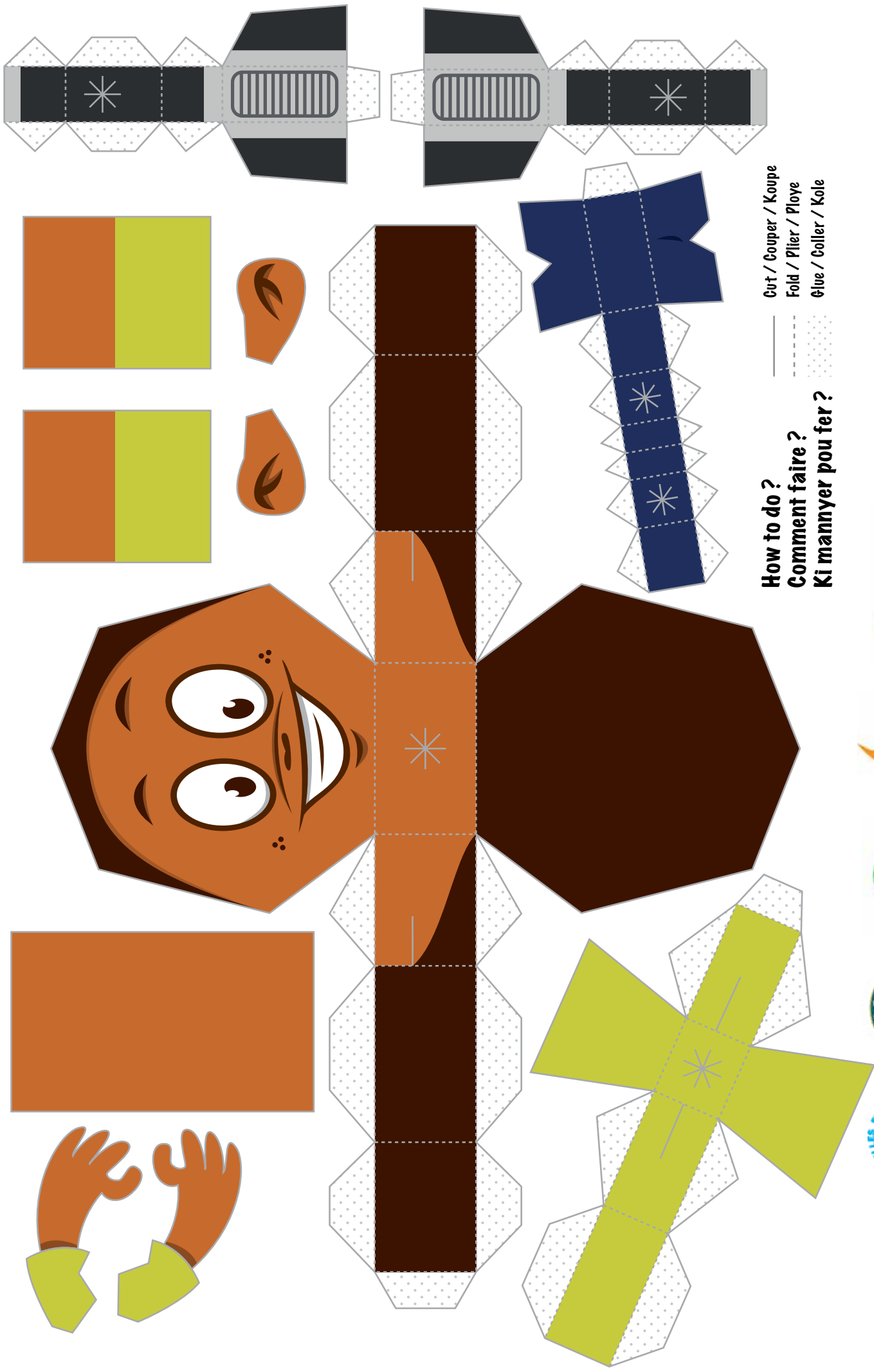
— Cut / Couper / Koupe
- - - Fold / Plier / Ploye
... Glue / Coller / Kole





How to do ? **Comment faire ?** **Ki mannner pou fer ?**

- Cut / Couper / Koupe
- - - Fold / Plier / Ploye
- Glue / Coller / Kole



How to do ?
Comment faire ?
Ki mannyer pou fer ?

— Cut / Couper / Koupe
 - - - Fold / Plier / Ploye
 . . . Glue / Coller / Kole

The “Shark fin soup” is a project that the Seychellois artist, Peter Lalande, had in mind for a long time. He wanted to tell a story about a cruel practice which deeply shocked him. The project became a reality following a meeting with a group of fishermen from FBOA who were conscious that such practice is not only devastating but also detrimental to the environment they depend upon. Henceforth with the help of the fishermen (FBOA), the IOC-SmartFish programme and FAO, Seychelles Fishing Authority and Green Island Foundation; Peter has worked hard to tell this extraordinary adventure through a didactic comic book. This Comic is about sharks and points out the various threats they are facing. It aims at raising awareness about the dangers the sharks are facing nowadays.

Peter Lalande is a trained historian, who turned into a comic artist. He was born in Victoria, Seychelles in 1974. He is a comic enthusiast, and he lives his dreams and passion isolated in the heavenly archipelago of 91,000 souls. He is the author of several comic books, illustrations and painting distributed in the Seychelles, namely ZAK, ZAK 1 and 2, Little B. He has become over the years a local star. Besides, most of his works are based on what life was like before (“la lavi lontan”). His paintings and “jazz” figures highlight the culture and heritage of Seychelles and are, mostly, “lavi lontan”. Peter is very sensitive to the beats of the heart of Seychelles islands and it carries strong messages which allow men and environment to co-exist in perfect harmony.

The FBOA (Fishing Boat Owners Association) is an association created in 2003 to defend and promote the small scale fishermen of Seychelles. Its members are fishermen and boat owners operating in Seychelles waters, providing fresh fish to the inhabitants of the archipelago. The association is one of the oldest organizations representing and protecting the interests of artisanal fishermen. Its philosophy is to defend and promote the small scale and domestic fishing sector and promote the role of fishers in sustainable resources use and conservation. (<http://www.seychelles-hookandline-fishermen.org/accueil.html>).

I5464E/1/03.16



Funded by
the European Union