



Memorandum of Understanding on the  
Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and  
their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia

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FOURTH MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES  
Muscat, Oman, 11-14 March 2006

## STATUS REPORTS ON CMS/IOSEA-FUNDED PROJECTS

Status reports are available for the following projects financed by, or through, the Convention on Migratory Species, the IOSEA MoU Secretariat's parent organisation:

- *Advancing Sea Turtle Conservation in Kenya.* Implementing agency: Kenya Sea Turtle Conservation Committee (KESCOM). USD 16,450 co-funding from Government of United Kingdom, via CMS. An interim progress report provided in October 2005 is attached at Annex 1. A second instalment of funding is still pending. As some changes have been announced recently in the management of the implementing agency, the Secretariat plans to take advantage of the presence in Muscat of the Chair of KESCOM, Dr. Nyawira Muthiga, to discuss and resolve any outstanding issues before making the second instalment for this work soon after the end of the Fourth Meeting.
- *Monitoring and Networking for Sea Turtle Conservation in India.* Original implementing agencies: Centre for Herpetology/Madras Crocodile Trust; and Wildlife Institute of India. USD 34,500 co-funding from the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). This project is virtually concluded and a draft final report is being made available to the Meeting for review and comment (Annex 2). The report's authors have indicated that while no new data will be added to the draft report, a number of sections will be strengthened with additional text. Having received the draft only on 6 March 2006, the Secretariat has not had an opportunity to review the contents. For this reason, it is being circulated for the purpose of the Fourth Meeting only, and is not to be quoted. It is expected that the final report will be published within a few weeks of the conclusion of the Meeting.

## **Advancing Sea Turtle Conservation Work in Kenya**

*A project funded by the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat under the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA-MOU).*

Implementing Agency: Kenya Sea Turtle Conservation Committee (KESCOM)

Collaborating Agency: Kenya Wildlife Service

### **Summary progress report**

The first schedule of the CMS project focused on acquisition of GIS software from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI). We acquired ArcView 9.0 single use license for windows 2000/XP and ArcGIS Spatial Analyst single use. Although in the initial budget schedule we had proposed to buy ArcView 9.0 only and a digitizing tablet, it was realized, with advice from the ESRI distributor in Kenya (Oakar Services) that the project would potentially benefit more if we acquired the ArcGIS spatial analyst. A heads-up approach based on scanned and digital data will be used in place of the tablet in GIS data entry.

In preparation for a detailed mapping exercise under the research and monitoring component, preliminary sea turtle nesting habitat reconnaissance surveys have been accomplished in south coast Kenya areas including Funzi, Msambweni and Diani-chale. In north coast Kenya surveyed areas include Mombasa, Vipigo, Kilifi, Ngomeni and Lamu Archipelago. The surveys have been guided based on existing topographic maps and informal interviews with local community groups. Data from the reconnaissance surveys contains information on the location and spatial extent of nesting beach stretches, annual sea turtle nesting history and frequencies and anthropogenic pressure indices.

Under the education and awareness component KESCOM has as part of its contribution to the project produced an education and awareness manual to be used for different target audience who include school children, fishermen, local communities and tourist establishments. Art works and plates have also been developed for the production of T-shirts as well as posters and stickers. KESCOM currently holds monthly Turtle Conservation Groups (TCGs) meetings aimed at standardizing research and conservation action at the national and build sufficient grassroots capacity. Meetings are also conducted regularly with local fishermen and other community groups especially in areas which are not currently covered by TCGs. Awareness programs have also resulted in the establishment of 4 new local community groups to help in the collection of data on nestings, mortalities, tagging and sightings besides promoting conservation action among local people. For the entire project reporting period a total of 76 nests, 53 mortalities 10 flipper tagging and 189 sightings have been reported by the newly established TCGs.

The CMS funded project is been implemented just after the conclusion of a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise funded by the UNDP- GEF – Small Grants Program (SGP) and a WWF project focusing on trade and consumption of sea turtle products. Through the PRA process local people identified and prioritized threats and conservation and management options to marine resources including sea turtles and their habitats. The awareness and research programs are building on the results of the PRA exercise by addressing threats posed by incidental and intentional capture of marine turtles by the artisanal fishery and lobbying relevant government institutions and local conservation groups to take action to address poaching, trade and consumption of sea turtle products.

The check matrix below summarizes the progress in implementing the CMS project.

Activity no.	Activities	Implementation stage
1.	Nesting sites mapping, identification and designation of index beaches for continued monitoring/GIS database development	Acquisition of pertinent material and reconnaissance surveys
2.	Monitoring sea turtle nesting, mortality/poaching/trade and migrations patterns	Data on nestings, mortalities and sightings collected, Reporting stage for trade and consumption of sea turtle products
3.	Monitoring and advocating for the reduction of the impact of fishing activities on sea turtles and their habitats	Meetings organized for local community groups and fishermen
4.	Assessing and profiling the socio-economic/cultural decorum and factors impacting on sea turtle conservation and recovery programs	Preliminary information available from a bush meat survey
5.	Conducting awareness and education sessions targeting fishermen and seminars and workshops tailored for the civil society, educational establishments and the tourism industry.	Education manual produced
6.	Produce fact sheets, posters, t-shirts and caps in local languages and English	Artwork and plates produced for poster and T-Shirts
7.	Capacity building of Turtle Conservation Groups (TCGs) in Kenya	Monthly TCGs meetings initiated
8.	Establishing turtle conservation groups and increasing/accelerating community participation in remote areas where gaps in knowledge have been identified through research, monitoring activities and information from key persons	4 new TCGs established to increase coverage of nesting areas
9.	Compiling information on folklore and traditions about sea turtles through Rapid Rural Appraisals	PRA and Bushmeat survey results being compared
10.	Networking through data and information exchange, seminars and regional workshops	Contacts and networks established with regional range states and continued communication

### Summary financial report

A total of USD 8,325 (Kshs 613,996.25) was received into the KESCOM account.

Amount Received	Expenditure description	Cost (USD)
USD 8,325	Purchase of GIS software	5,804
	Office costs	1,000
	Facilitation and logistics	1,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,804</b>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>521</b>