



PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY NIO-MTTF-2

The following are excerpts from the Report of the 2nd Meeting of the NIO-MTTF to aid discussions on the sub-regional situation and priorities. The meeting may decide to update the tables as appropriate.

Table 1: Regional challenges to be addressed for 2018-19

Country	Priority Tasks
Bangladesh	Communication gaps between the regional partners
	Common platform to update information
	Engage neighbouring countries like Myanmar
	Sharing satellite tracking information in the region
Sri Lanka	What ground level staff can expect from large regional MOUs
	Lack of information on loggerheads in the region (Genetics)
	Lack of genetic information on regional genetic stocks
	Foraging population of hawksbills in the region to be monitored
	Gap in information on nesting/habitat surveys in northern. Sri Lanka
Pakistan	Decision on leaving wild nests in PA's even under threat of predation/inundation
	Communication gaps between the regional partners (Email groups/social media)
	Non-nesting of Olive Ridleys (Genetics, satellite telemetry)
	Impact of climate change on breeding of species
	Engagement of local fisher communities (Govt and NGO's for safe release and tagging)
	Replication of crew based observer schemes
	Hatchery management objectives
Maldives	Extent of poaching of eggs and other life stages
	Larger regional threats for turtles (Impacts due to fishing, ghost nets, poaching)
	Communication channels (Social media group instead of portals)
	Pollution prevention (Focus on ocean dumping)
India	Increased intervention on natural nesting processes for conservation purposes
	Hatchery management objectives
	Tagging information lacking in the region
	Best practices for incentives for protection/alternate livelihoods for local communities



Table 2: Detailed issues/tasks identified by the taskforce according to priority, status of completion and identified volunteer to oversee the completion (I - Initiated, NI - Not Initiated, RT - Requires training, RF - Require funding, TT - Transfer of technology, NA – Not Applicable)

Issues/ Tasks	BGD	IND	MDV	PAK	LKA	Overseen by	Comments
Current High Priority Tasks							
(Large scale, mechanised) Fisheries/bycatch							
Training of observers (separate for trawlers/ gill nets, smaller outboard fisheries in large quantities)		NI, RT, TT	I	I	I+RT	National volunteers	SL: Small scale fisheries not large fisheries
Soak time (needs preliminary data collection)	NI	NI	NA	I	NI	National volunteers	
Training for safe releases	I	I	I	I	I	National volunteers	Collate regional practices
Reduction technologies (TEDs)	I	I	NA	I	NI	National volunteers	Check compliance levels
Reduction technologies (LED lights)	NI, RT, TT	NI, RT, TT	NA	I	NI, RT, TT	National volunteers	
Delimiting net sizes (needs preliminary data collection)	NI	NI	NA	I	NI	National volunteers	
Enforcing compliance with fishing regulations						National volunteers	Workshops to be conducted with fisheries/environment ministry to clarify details on regulations
Taking a multi-species approach (Sea birds, marine mammals, sea snakes, protected elasmobranchs)	I	I	I	I	I	National volunteers	
Standardized monitoring protocol							
Hatchery and head-starting practices	I	I	I	I	I	Andrea	To be published soon
In-water studies (photo identification, etc.)	NI	I	I	I	NI	To be identified	
Strandings and mortality (data collection, database)	I	I	I	I	I	Murali	



Issues/ Tasks	BGD	IND	MDV	PAK	LKA	Overseen by	Comments
Tissue sampling	I	I	I	I	I	Andrea	Published, Philott, A. D., & Gamage, R. N. (2014). A summary of sea turtle genetic studies in the Indian Ocean and Southeast. <i>Indian Ocean Turtle Newsletter</i> , 20, 19-35. FitzSimmons, N. N., & Limpus, C. J. (2014). Marine turtle genetic stocks of the Indo-Pacific: identifying boundaries and knowledge gaps. <i>Indian Ocean Turtle Newsletter</i> , 20, 2-18.
Determining sex ratios						Andrea	In Process
Ghost nets							
Direct dialogue/surveys with fishermen	I	NI	I	I	NI	ORP / Martin Stelfox	In Process
Collaborative research							
Regional flipper tagging database/addressing gaps					I		Priority
Citizen science							
Educate on data collection and species identification, etc.	NI	I	NI	NI	I		



Issues/ Tasks	BGD	IND	MDV	PAK	LKA	Overseen by	Comments
Lower priority/to be addressed in the future							
(Large scale, mechanised) Fisheries/bycatch							
Gear modification (hook/net modification)							
Promotion of low impact fishing gear (needs preliminary data collection)							
Bycatch monitoring (need to collect secondary data from fisheries)							
Identifying gear/nets being used; (need to collect secondary data from fisheries)							
Collaborative research on and protection of all species							
Genetics							
Satellite telemetry							
Satellite telemetry – indicating if one is deploying transmitters							
Providing link to tracks, if possible (if donors are willing to share, can use seaturtle.org)							
Identifying high-use foraging grounds							
Identifying key nesting, foraging, developmental habitats and migratory corridors							
Maintaining long-term index monitoring sites							
Sustainable eco-tourism							
Establishing guidelines							
Determining areas where eco-tourism might need to be promoted							
Can be used as research centres							
Head-starting practices							
Review the extent of head-starting practices in each country and determine areas of improvement/alternatives							



Issues/ Tasks	BGD	IND	MDV	PAK	LKA	Overseen by	Comments
Coastal development and bio-illumination							
Each country to provide information to the IOSEA Secretariat, which will then be discussed with governments							
Best practices from other countries to be made available to the NIO (for example information on this from Florida)							
Focal points should be encouraged to use local consultants/experts rather than international consultants/experts for EIAs							
Socio-economic issues							
Alternative livelihoods							
Community participation/partnership							
Increased stakeholder involvement in sea turtle conservation/data collection							
Determine best practices (social sciences – literature review)							
Impact of climate change							
Sand/pivotal temperatures							
Review of climate change data in the literature							
Marine pollution							
Review of micro/macro-plastics							
Literature review							
Successful case studies of reducing beach pollution							
Education and awareness							
Beach clean-ups							
Engaging recycling companies							
Impact of oil/hydrocarbons on marine turtles (Pakistan has found contamination of turtles and eggs)							
Determining how plastics/marine debris can be used by local communities to create							



Issues/ Tasks	BGD	IND	MDV	PAK	LKA	Overseen by	Comments
handicrafts, useable items (e.g. solar lamps), etc.							
Campaigns to discourage use of plastics							
Citizen science							
Engaging recreational divers							
Others							
Review sustainable use and the need for it to persist	n/a						
Illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing: a regional approach in the engagement with RFMOs							Beyond the capacity of the MTTF