



**IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Northern Indian Ocean Marine Turtle Task Force**  
Baa Atoll, Maldives & *online*, 7-9 March 2023

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## COUNTRY UPDATE: IR PAKISTAN



**Country - Pakistan**  
**Marine Turtle Conservation in**  
**Pakistan: A Call for Collaborative**  
**Efforts**



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## COUNTRY UPDATE: IR PAKISTAN

### 1. New research or conservation projects related to marine turtles and/or their habitats

- ❖ *Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme/Green Pakistan Project (by MoCC and provincial wildlife departments): Wildlife Component of Balochistan and Sindh include the conservation of marine turtles*
- ❖ *Monitoring of nesting sites of Green Turtles at Hawksbay Jiwani beach, Karachi;*
- ❖ *Sustainable Fisheries Entrepreneurship Project (SFEP) Phase-III;*
- ❖ *Ocean Clean A scoping study conducted as part of the Ocean Cleanup Project for Tackling Plastic Pollution Initiative;*
- ❖ *Awareness-raising on the conservation of marine turtles.*





## COUNTRY UPDATE: IR PAKISTAN

### 2. Large infrastructure developments affecting marine turtles and/or their habitats (proposed or underway)

- I. There are two hotspots; Hawksbay-Sandspit beach, Karachi (Sindh), and Daran beach (Balochistan), which are the main Green Turtle nesting grounds in Pakistan.
  
- II. The Green turtle habitat on Hawksbay has already constructed Huts on the beach, and Daran is a remote beach.
  
- III. Infrastructure has been noticed on Daran beach -where the beach area is cleared for constructing fractures to promote ecotourism- is stopped.



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### 3. Changes in national policy, laws, or management frameworks affecting marine turtles and/or their habitats

*All the marine turtle species are covered under the National Laws and International Conventions that include:*

- *The Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act 2012 (CITES Law)*
- *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)*
- *CITES Management Authority bans the export of reptiles*
- *Clause 5(c) of Pakistan Fish Inspection and Quality Control Rules, 1998, notified vide S.R.O. No.739(I)/9*
- *Protected under all provincial/territorial wildlife laws*
- *In 2017, under the Balochistan Wildlife (Protection, Preservation, Conservation, and Management) Act, 2014, Astola Island in District Gwadar, Balochistan, was declared a Marine Protected Area (401.47 sq.Km)*
- *Sindh Wildlife (Protection, Preservation, Conservation, and Management) Act 2020 has provisions for Marine Protected Areas*
- *Declaration of Indus Delta Marine Protected Area is under consideration*
- *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) includes the conservation of marine ecosystems.*



## COUNTRY UPDATE: IR PAKISTAN



### 4. Emerging threats or challenges (incl. those caused/aggravated by the pandemic)

- i. Coastal Development (Infrastructure development at Hawksbay);
- ii. i.By-catch and entanglement in fishing gears;
- iii. Plastic pollution, discarded fishing gear, and other debris;
- iv. Direct take and killing of turtles for illegal trade at the local level (hatchlings);
- v. Eggs and juvenile depredation by feral dogs and other predators;
- vi. Climate Change impacts the natural sex ratios of hatchlings and increases the likelihood of disease outbreaks – has not been explored;
- vii. Limited information on genetics and diseases;
- viii. Lack of proper rehabilitation facilities;
- ix. Lack of resources for monitoring all the remotes' nesting grounds;
- x. limited coverage of monitoring and reporting accidental catches from coastal fisheries.







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### 5. Achievement/Success story:

#### *Sustainable Fisheries Entrepreneurship Project (SFEP) Phase-III*

#### *Promoting sustainable fishing practices – training/awareness sessions on overfishing, accidental catches of megafauna, safe handling, and releases;*

- *A total of 20 training sessions were delivered, and trained 432 young fishers;*
- *Overall, 479 trained fishers; total of 20 Master Trainers;*
- *A total of ten gillnet vessels were converted to longline fishing gears;*
- *A total of nine sea turtles were safe releases by local fishers;*
- *A total of 20 ice boxes and 20 toolkits were distributed among the fishers;*

#### *Plastic pollution*

- *A total of 20 fisherwomen trained in waste segregation and waste management;*
- *Collaboration with the Sindh solid waste management board and GANSU (a third-party company engaged by SSWMB for the collection of garbage from the project site (Ibrahim Hyderi and Rehri)*

#### *Alternative livelihoods – sessions for fisherwomen*

- *Two training on conflict management were conducted with fisherwomen of the project area and trained 40 fisherwomen.*
- *Two health and hygiene awareness sessions were conducted with fisherwomen of the project area and trained 160 fisherwomen*
- *Alternative livelihood training is planned for this year for 15 fisherwomen on 4 trades1) Beauty parlor 2) Cloth stitching, 3) Nursing, and 4) Teaching.*



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### 5. Achievement/Success story:

#### *Sustainable Fisheries Entrepreneurship Project (SFEP) Phase-III*

- *Celebration of World Sea Turtle Day with the fisher communities.*

#### ***Additional activities***

- *Supervised a student from A-levels in her plastic pollution project.*
- *Facilitated a master's student for the questionnaire for the survey of assessment of health and hygiene*
- *Interviews with the virtual university Pakistan on climate change and its impacts on our oceans and to FM91 on World Oceans Day- protecting priority species in Pakistan.*
- *Development of the 3D videos for safe handling and release of ETP species*



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### 5. Achievement/Success story:

#### *Additional activities*

#### *Student Engagement*

*Over 500 students participated in various activities such as green workshops, mangrove plantations, mangrove transit walks, the release of turtle hatchlings, and a beach clean-up exercise.*

#### *Corporate Engagement*

*WWF-Pakistan, in collaboration with PepsiCo, launched the Ocean Clean A scoping study was conducted as part of the Ocean Cleanup Project, aiming to collect 5,000 tonnes of waste. A beach clean-up activity was carried out at Sea View to kick-start the project, and 2,000kg of waste was collected and disposed off.*





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### 5. Achievement/Success story:

#### *Regional-level collaboration and contribution*

- I. Virtual call meeting on Gillnet multitaxon bycatch mitigation. Ultimately, reporting to the working party of IOTC*
- II. Supporting WWF-Mozambique for safely handling and releasing ETP species for gillnet fisheries and translation into African languages.*
- III. Virtual meeting on introducing future-sea with shellcatch team for bycatch projects- Low-cost tech on data collection on bycatch.*
- IV. Results Sharing and Low-cost Data Collection Workshop- Low-cost tech on data collection on a small scale and bycatch species in South Africa.*
- V. Collaboration with Satlink to use the tech for combating the ghost gears from small-scale fisheries*



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Assessment of health and hygiene survey



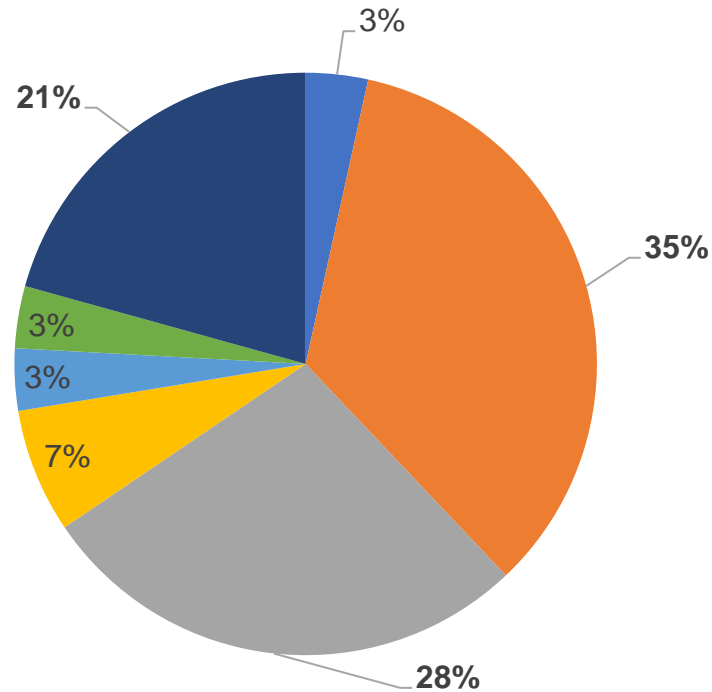
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## Recommended Awareness Sessions

- Health and hygiene
- Females Hygiene
- Mother and child
- Personal hygiene
- First aid awareness programmes
- Drinking water
- Cleanup drive in area



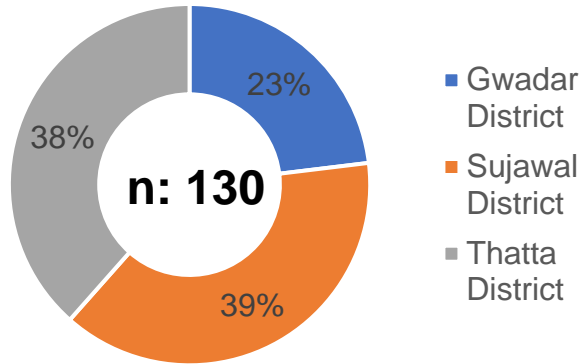


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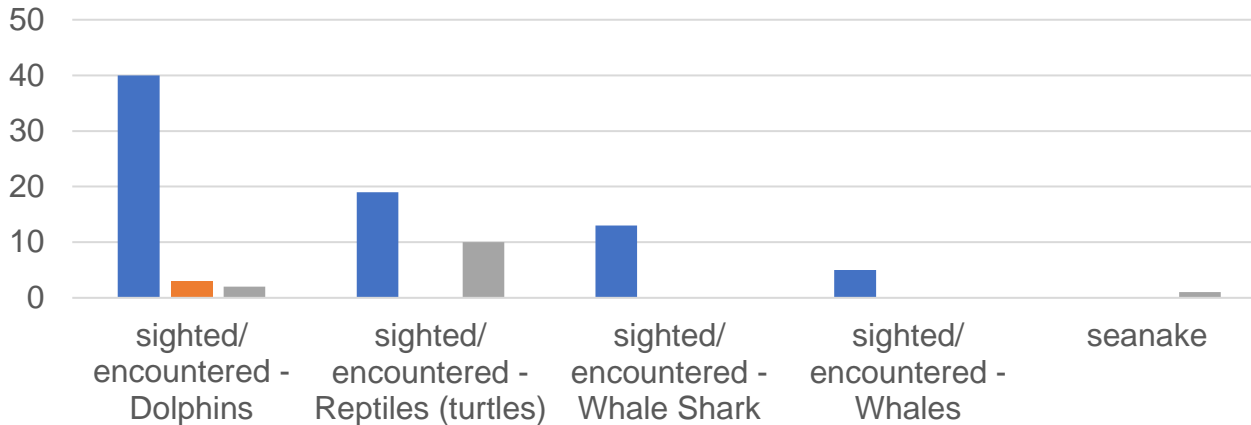
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### Respondants



### Encountered/ sighted megafauna during fishing/ travel in the last year



Rapid assessment on mega fauna species bycatch in coastal waters





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Two -days of training on Using the Fisheries Data Collection Mobile Application Karachi



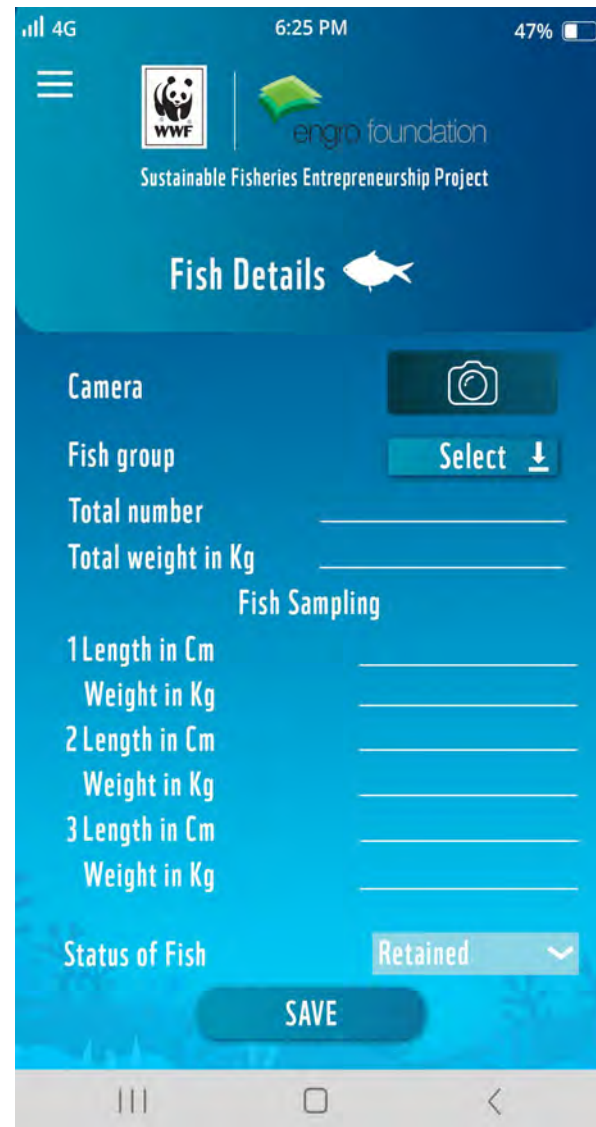
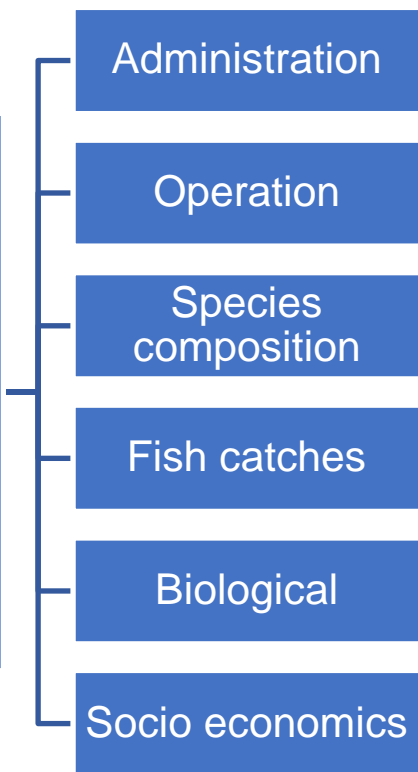


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**Data Types**

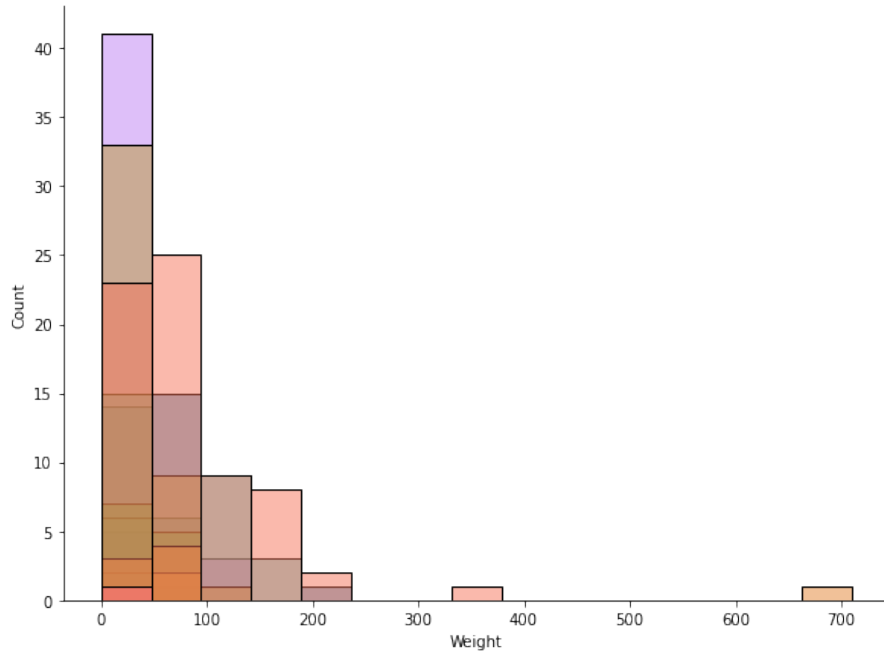




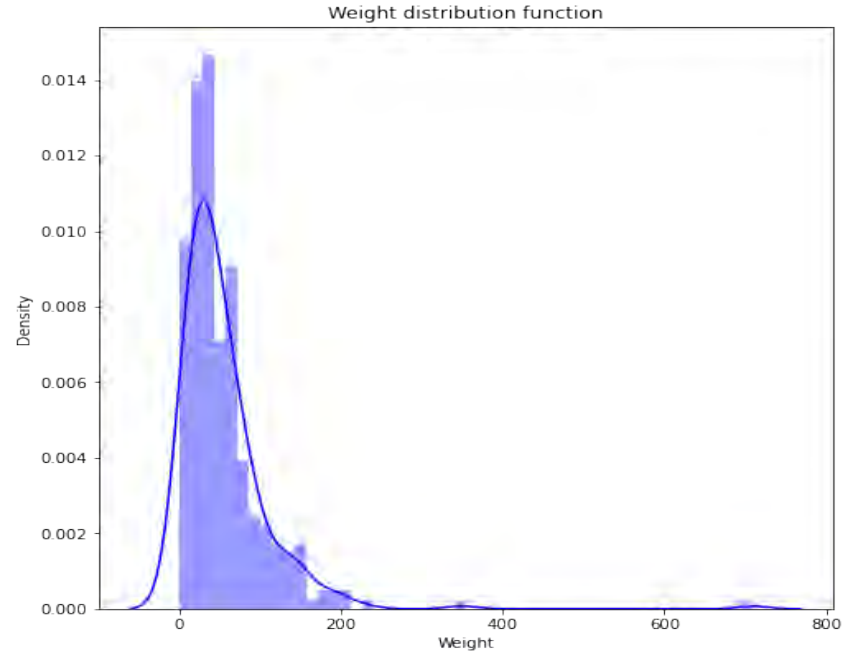
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## LL- Species Composition – Oct to Dec 2022



- Species
- Aal
- Baam
- Damba
- Duther
- Gisser
- Kango
- Kareli
- Khagga
- Sanger
- Sere
- boro
- chind
- damba
- duther
- garou
- gisser
- hira
- kareli
- khagga
- kund
- mathou
- molu
- mushka



Number of species

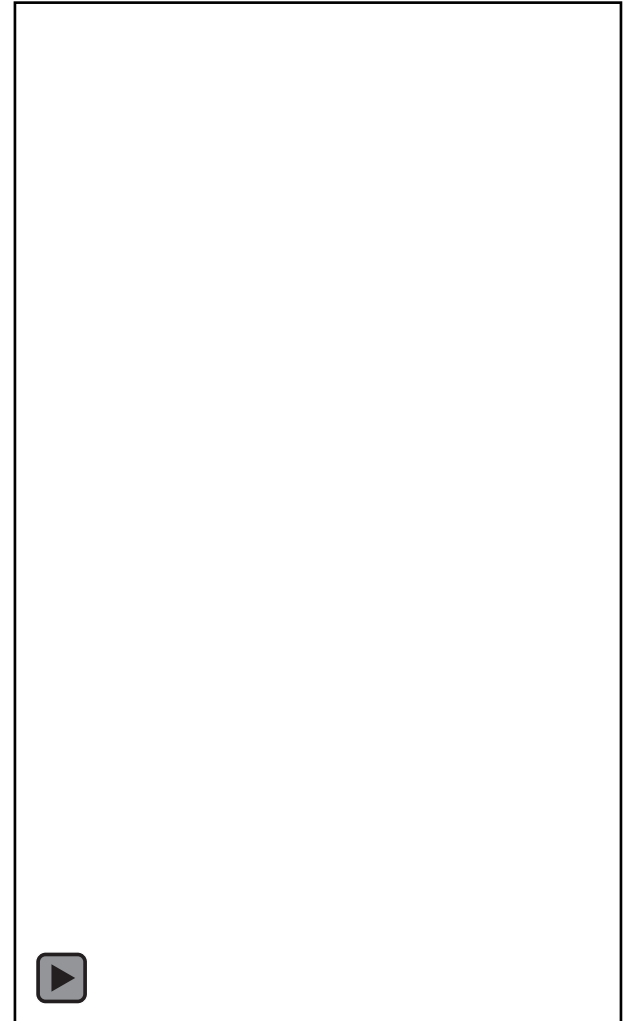
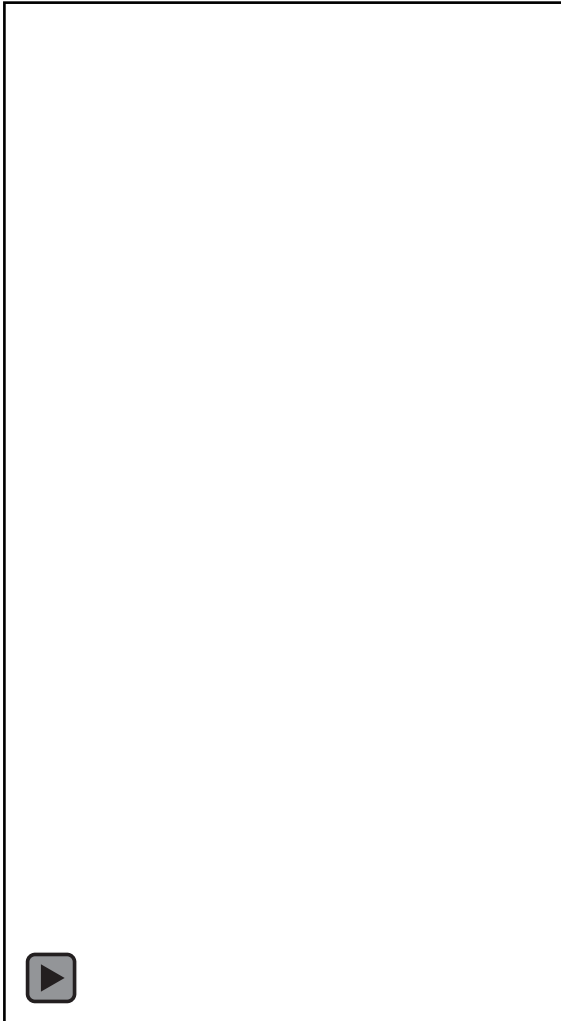


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## Is bycatch missing?





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Session conducted on the conservation of Mangroves and Marine turtles, challenges and opportunities to the student of MSc of the Federal University at Wetland center



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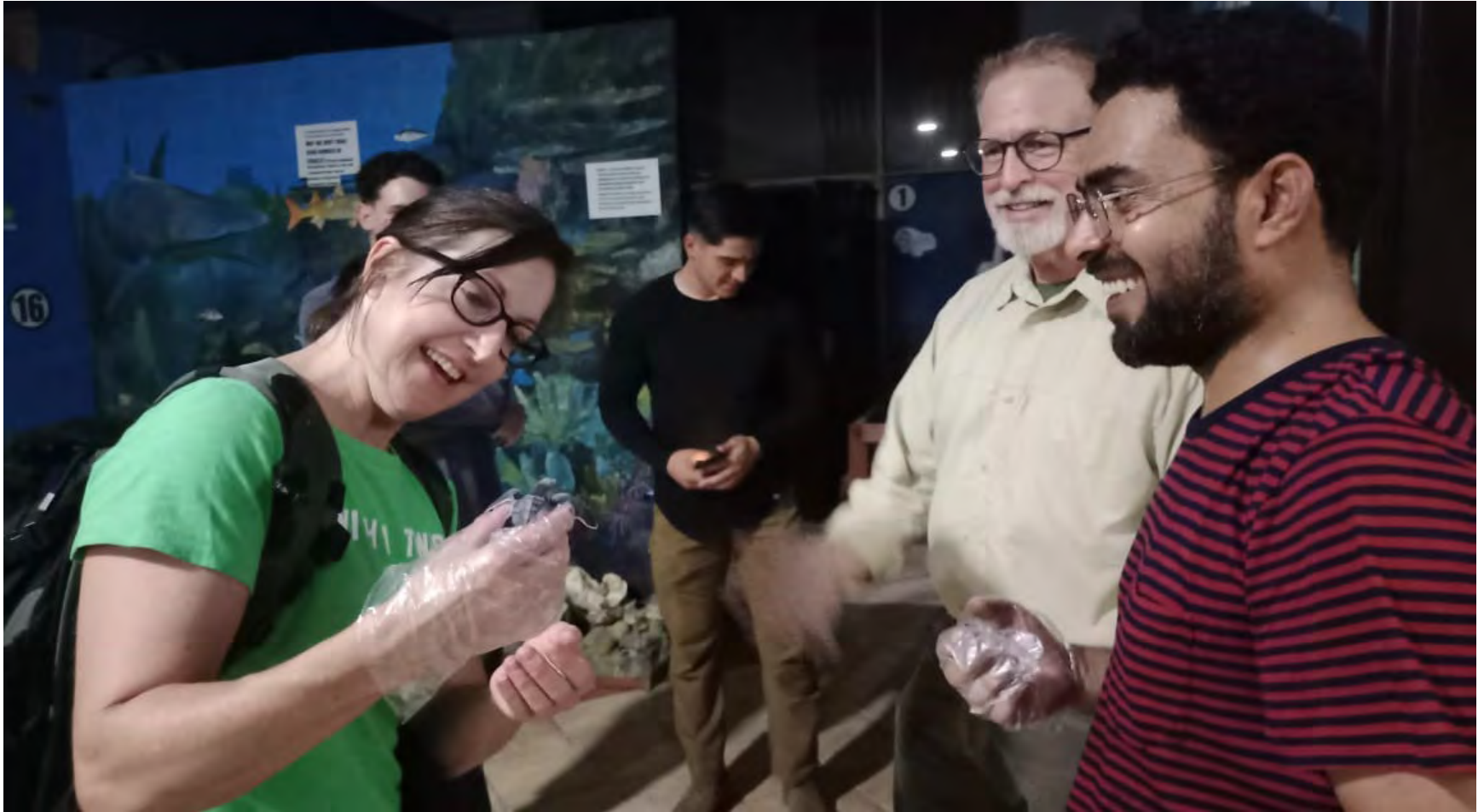
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4<sup>th</sup> World small-scale fisheries congress series

Parallel Session # 5.2 Improving data acquisition from small-scale/ artisanal fisheries via low-cost systems using citizen science-based approaches

Atlantic II, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022, Cape Town, South Africa



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Zoom call with Tech Better understanding of the solutions for

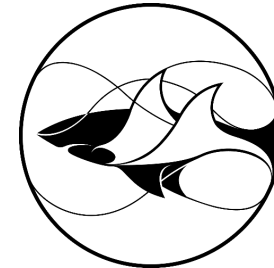




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# Acknowledgment







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## COUNTRY UPDATE: PAKISTAN

*Let's free the flippers!*

Together Possible

