

**Work Programme of the Northern Indian Ocean Marine Turtle Task Force:  
Work Plan 2015-2017 – for reporting, revision and updating**

*Developed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Task Force (Malé, Maldives, 11-12 October 2015)*

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Lead/Responsible</b>	<b>Progress (%Implemented)</b>	<b>Renew</b>	<b>New Actions</b>
Fisheries/bycatch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• training of observers;</li> <li>• soak time;</li> <li>• training for safe releases;</li> <li>• reduction technologies (TEDs, LED lights, etc.);</li> <li>• delimiting net sizes;</li> <li>• enforcing compliance with fishing regulations;</li> <li>• gear modification;</li> <li>• promotion of low impact fishing gear;</li> <li>• estimation of magnitude of bycatch to prioritize conservation efforts;</li> <li>• identifying gear nets being used;</li> <li>• taking a multi-species approach</li> </ul>	Umair Shahid, WWF-Pakistan			
Ghost nets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• direct dialogue/surveys with fishermen;</li> <li>• use of standardized data collection protocol</li> </ul>	Martin Stelfox, Olive Ridley Project			

Recommendations	Lead/Responsible	Progress (%Implemented)	Renew	New Actions
Standardized monitoring protocol: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hatchery and head-starting practices;</li> <li>• in-water studies (photo identification, etc.);</li> <li>• strandings (data collection, database);</li> <li>• tissue sampling;</li> <li>• determining sex ratios</li> </ul>	Andrea Phillott, Asian University for Women			
Collaborative research on and protection of all species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• genetics;</li> <li>• satellite telemetry;</li> <li>• regional flipper tagging database/addressing gaps;</li> <li>• satellite telemetry – indicating if one is deploying transmitters;</li> <li>• providing link to tracks, if possible (if donors are willing to share, can use seaturtle.org);</li> <li>• identifying high-use foraging grounds;</li> <li>• identifying key nesting, foraging, developmental habitats and migratory corridors;</li> <li>• maintaining long-term index monitoring sites</li> </ul>	Not mentioned			
Sustainable eco-tourism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establishing guidelines;</li> <li>• determining areas where eco-tourism might need to be promoted;</li> <li>• can be used as research centers</li> </ul>	Not mentioned			

Recommendations	Lead/Responsible	Progress (%Implemented)	Renew	New Actions
Head-starting practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review the extent of head-starting practices in each country and determine areas of improvement/alternatives</li> </ul>	Andrea Phillott, Asian University for Women			
Coastal development and bio-illumination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• each country to provide information to the IOSEA Secretariat, which will then be discussed with governments;</li> <li>• best practices from other countries to be made available to the NIO (for example information on this from Florida);</li> <li>• focal points should be encouraged to use local consultants/experts rather than international consultants/experts for EIAs</li> </ul>	Not mentioned			
Socio-economic issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• alternative livelihoods;</li> <li>• community participation/partnership;</li> <li>• increased stakeholder involvement in sea turtle conservation/data collection;</li> <li>• determine best practices (social sciences – literature review)</li> </ul>	Andrea Phillott, Asian University for Women			
Impact of climate change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sand/pivotal temperatures;</li> <li>• review of climate change data in the literature</li> </ul>	Andrea Phillott, Asian University for Women			

Recommendations	Lead/Responsible	Progress (%Implemented)	Renew	New Actions
<p>Marine pollution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review of micro/macro-plastics;</li> <li>• literature review;</li> <li>• successful case studies of reducing beach pollution;</li> <li>• education and awareness;</li> <li>• beach clean-ups;</li> <li>• engaging recycling companies;</li> <li>• impact of oil/hydrocarbons on marine turtles (Pakistan has found contamination of turtles and eggs);</li> <li>• determining how plastics/marine debris can be used by local communities to create handicrafts, useable items (e.g. solar lamps), etc.;</li> <li>• campaigns to discourage use of plastics</li> </ul>	<p>Martin Stelfox, Olive Ridley Project,</p> <p>Annie Kurian, Terra Marine Research Institute</p>			
<p>Citizen science:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engaging recreational divers;</li> <li>• educate on data collection and species identification, etc.</li> </ul>	<p>Martin Stelfox, Olive Ridley Project</p>			
<p>Review sustainable use and the need for it to persist</p>	<p>Andrea Phillott, Asian University for Women</p>			
<p>Illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing: a regional approach in the engagement with RFMOs</p>	<p>Umair Shahid, WWF-Pakistan</p>			