



CMS

IOSEA Marine Turtles Memorandum of Understanding - National Report 2024

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE NATIONAL REPORTING QUESTIONNAIRE:

The main purpose of completing the National Reporting Questionnaire (NRQ) is to provide information on your country's implementation of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU, including its Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) and the IOSEA Work Programme adopted by the 8th Meeting of Signatory States. Please include activities undertaken by the government, non-governmental organizations, private sector and other relevant stakeholders.

The IOSEA Secretariat will analyze national reports and use the provided information to facilitate marine turtle conservation work using the resources at its disposal, as well as in fundraising efforts. The information will also be used to raise any issues, as mandated by IOSEA Signatories, at relevant political fora, such as CMS, CITES, or Regional Fisheries Management Organizations.

Most importantly, collecting information of relevance to marine turtle conservation in the NRQ can help national decision makers to plan marine turtle conservation activities within countries and sub-regions, and guide national and international project planners and donors.

The NRQ is structured to reflect progress in implementation of the six objectives of the CMP: There are two modalities of the NRQ: it can be accessed via the online reporting system (ORS) or filled out using an MS Word file. However, the Word version should be used only if using the online questionnaire is not possible for technical reasons (e.g. the internet connection is too unreliable).

Please answer all questions as fully and as accurately as possible. Wherever possible, please indicate the source of information used to answer the question, particularly if a published reference or report is available. Comprehensive responses to the questions posed in Section 1.4 should also satisfy many of the reporting requirements of the 2009 FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations, thereby avoiding duplication of effort.

When working on the online version of the NRQ, save your information by clicking on the "Save all" button inside each section. An auto-save feature also saves any changed responses every 30 seconds, and whenever you move between sections. If additional information is available (e.g. published reports, maps) please attach it to this questionnaire. If working on an offline MS Word file, please submit the completed NRQ by email to the IOSEA Secretariat (iosea@un.org); with a copy to the Coordinator (heidrun.frisch-nwakanma@un.org), as a Word attachment.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Signatory State:

>>> Maldives

List any other agencies, institutions, or NGOs that have provided input:

>>> Environmental Protection Agency - Maldives

Memorandum in effect in Signatory State since (dd/mm/yyyy):

>>> 1 July 2010

This report was last modified: (dd/mm/yyyy):

>>> 30 April 2024

Designated Focal Point (and full contact details):

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MARINE TURTLE SPECIES AND HABITATS

Provide sources of information supporting the responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources, and attach digital files if necessary.

0.1 Overview of marine turtles and their habitats in the IOSEA MOU Signatory States within the IOSEA region.

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

a) Please list marine turtle species and genetic stocks in your country, give a general population estimate and trend for your country and indicate where they occur.

	Population trend (increase, decrease, stable, unknown)	Number of egg clutches per year	Species, genetic stock	Type of habitat (nesting, feeding developmental)?	Geographic area
	Decreasing	Historical records focus on nesting beaches, the number of observed nests, and a subsequent estimate of 515 nesting females per year (Frazier et al. 1984) in the 1980s, with more recent records from 2015 estimating 103 nesting females per year (Ali & Shimal 2016).	Green Sea Turtle	Green Turtles spend most of their lives in the ocean, mainly in neritic areas for feeding and resting. Occasional journeys through pelagic areas occur during nesting migrations. Terrestrial areas, specifically beach areas are used for nesting activity. Decline in foraging habitat: loss of seagrass area (MUI 2019) Decline in resting habitat: decrease in coral reef quality through coral bleaching (Ibrahim et al. 2016) Decline in nesting habitat: continuing coastal development	Green Turtles can be found in all atolls throughout the Maldives according to anecdotal reports and systematic surveys (Frazier et al. 1984). Recent sea turtle monitoring based on the photo identification method identified significant numbers of Green Turtles (>100) in Baa, Laamu and Lhaviyani atoll. Green Turtle nesting has been recorded in nine atolls, with significant nesting beaches (>20 nest per year) in Baa, Kaafu, Laamu and Thaa (Ahmed et al. 2020).
	Decreasing	Historical records focus on nesting beaches, the number of observed nests, and a subsequent estimate of 460-767 nesting females per year (Frazier et al. 1984) in the 1980s. More recent nesting reports are sporadic and rarely exceed single nest per location, recording less than 20 nests in total (Ahmed et al. 2020).	Hawksbill Sea Turtle	Hawksbill Turtles spend most of their lives in the ocean, mainly in neritic areas for feeding and resting. Occasional journeys through pelagic areas occur during nesting migrations. Terrestrial areas, specifically beach areas are used for nesting activity. Decline in foraging habitat: loss of seagrass area (MUI 2019) Decline in resting habitat: decrease in coral reef quality through coral bleaching (Ibrahim et al. 2016) Decline in nesting habitat: continuing coastal development	Hawksbill Turtles can be found in all atolls throughout the Maldives according to anecdotal reports and systematic surveys (Frazier et al. 1984). Recent sea turtle monitoring based on the photo identification method identified significant numbers of Green Turtles (>500) in Ari, Baa, Haa Alif, and North Male (Kaafu) atoll. Hawksbill Turtle nesting has been recorded in five atolls: Baa, Haa Dhaalu, Kaafu, Laamu and Lhaviyani (Ahmed et al. 2020).
	Unknown	Unknown	Loggerhead Sea Turtle	Unknown	Unknown
	Unknown	Unknown	Leatherback Sea Turtle	Unknown	Unknown

	Unknown	Olive Ridley nesting occurs very sporadically in the country. Single nesting events have been recorded in Haa Dhaalu, Kaafu and Raa atoll (Ahmed et al. 2020). The origin of the respective nesting females and their relation to other populations in the NWIO is currently unknown.	Olive-Ridley Sea Turtle; Genetic analysis of samples from entangled turtles show that they mostly belong to Sri Lankan and Eastern Indian breeding stocks (Stelfox et al. 2020).	Largely found in deeper waters in the Maldives and occasionally in shallow coral reefs. Nesting has been confirmed on very rare occasions on sandy beaches.	Unknown - most encounters with this species are found entangled in abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear nationwide.

b) Do government agencies and/or scientific institutions submit data on the occurrence and population numbers of marine turtles to an international database?

YES

Name of database:

>>> Internet of Turtles (IoT)

c) Does your country have index nesting beaches in the IOSEA region?

YES

d) Does your country have an IOSEA Network site?

N/A

0.2 Site-specific information

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

Please fill out the following section for index beaches and/or IOSEA Site Network Sites in your country. If there are no such beaches or sites in your country, please leave this section blank. **An index beach is defined as a marine turtle nesting beach, which has been monitored for at least five years using a standardized set of methods and which will continue to be monitored in the long term.**

An index beach may be located in a remote area or close to human settlements with influence of anthropogenic activities.

Please complete a separate section for each site.

Sites

Site 1

a) Provide the name, location and length of the site

Name of the site:

>>> B. Dhunikolhu (Cocopalm Dhunikolhu Resort)

State/province:

>>> Baa Atoll

l) Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources, and attach digital files if necessary.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Nesting_Permit_Research_Report_and_Proposal_2023.pdf](#) - Research findings shared by ORP for permit renewal

OBJECTIVE I: REDUCE DIRECT AND INDIRECT CAUSES OF MARINE TURTLE MORTALITY

1.1 BEST PRACTICE APPROACHES TO MINIMIZING THREATS

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

1.1.1. Are there any best practice protocols relating to the protection of marine turtles and their habitats used in your country that you would like to share with other IOSEA Signatories? Please name the protocols and describe briefly, providing references or links to more detailed reports or online texts.

If more rows are required, please contact the secretariat at iosea@un.org

	References and links	Has the effectiveness of this approach been evaluated? What was the result?	What does this approach/ protocol help to achieve	Title of best practice protocol or approach
	https://en.epa.gov.mv/regulations	No. Effectiveness has not been evaluated yet, but councils and resorts have increasingly been applying for permits to establish sea turtle nest monitoring programs on the islands, suggesting more involvement as per the instructions on the guidelines.	Best practices in interactions of sea turtles in the wild, Intervention Code of Conduct, guidelines on research approvals, guidelines on enforcement and reporting. Behavioral change through education and awareness by providing instructions for engaging the public in conservation efforts.	Sea Turtle and Habitat Protection Guidelines
	https://en.epa.gov.mv/regulations	No	Transparent and effective penalties for non-compliance	Fine Guidelines under Protected Species Regulation
	Hard copy book	No	Educational tool for students, island councils and the general public providing scientific information on sea turtle biology, research and conservation projects, along with local context on history, and the conservation legal framework.	Handbook of sea turtles
	https://oliveridleyproject.org/e-learning/resources	No	Code of conducts	Several code of conducts and nest monitoring protocols

1.2 REDUCTION OF INCIDENTAL CAPTURE AND MORTALITY

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

1.2.1 Indicate, and describe in more detail, the main fisheries occurring in the waters of your country (including territorial waters and the EEZ), as well as any high seas fisheries in which flag vessels of your country participate and interact with marine turtles within the IOSEA region.

For each of the different fisheries listed below, please indicate whether the fishery is present and use the text box below to provide more detailed information. Please include information on what marine turtle species are affected and number of reported interactions, if known.

1) Bottoms trawls (including shrimp trawls)

a) Fishing effort:

NONE

Please provide the information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> N/A

Boat size (range or average):

>>> N/A

Number of trips per year:

>>> N/A

Mesh size used:

>>> N/A

Geographic distribution:

>>> N/A

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> N/A

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> N/A

Details:

>>> N/A

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> N/A

2) Pelagic trawling

a) Fishing effort:

NONE

Please provide the information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> N/A

Boat size (range or average):

>>> N/A

Number of trips per year:

>>> N/A

Mesh size used:

>>> N/A

Geographic distribution:

>>> N/A

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> N/A

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> N/A

b) Methods used by your country to minimise bycatch of marine turtles in this fishery

None of the above

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> N/A

3) Set nets

a) Fishing effort:

NONE

Please provide the information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> N/A

Boat size (range or average):

>>> N/A

Number of trips per year:

>>> N/A

Mesh size used:

>>> N/A

Geographic distribution:

>>> N/A

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> N/A

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> N/A

Details:

>>> N/A

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulations:

>>> N/A

4) Driftnet

a) Fishing effort

NONE

Please provide the information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> N/A

Boat size (range or average):

>>> N/A

Number of trips per year:

>>> N/A

Mesh size used:

>>> N/A

Geographic distribution:

>>> N/A

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> N/A

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> N/A

Details:

>>> N/A

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> N/A

5) Purse seine (with or without FADs)

a) Fishing effort

NONE

Please provide the information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> N/A

Boat size (range or average):

>>> N/A

Number of trips per year:

>>> N/A

Mesh size used:

>>> N/A

Geographic distribution:

>>> N/A

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> N/A

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> N/A

Details:

>>> N/A

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulations:

>>> N/A

6) longline

a) Fishing effort

NONE

Please provide the information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> N/A

Boat size (range or average):

>>> N/A

Number of trips per year:

>>> N/A

Mesh size used:

>>> N/A

Geographic distribution:

>>> N/A

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> N/A

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> N/A

Details:

>>> N/A

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> N/A

7) Artisanal fishing gear

Type and description:

>>> N/A

a) Fishing effort

NONE

Please provide any available information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> N/A

Boat size (range or average):

>>> N/A

Number of trips per year:

>>> N/A

Main gear used (beach seine, traps, nets, handline, other?):

>>> N/A

Geographic distribution:

>>> N/A

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> N/A

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> N/A

Details:

>>> N/A

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> N/A

8) Other types of fisheries

Type of description:

>>> Pole and Line Tuna Fishery and Handline Fishery

a) Fishing effort

PRESENT

Please provide any available information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> 736 vessels

Boat size (range or average):

>>> 12.5 - 32.5 m

Number of trips per year:

>>> Unknown

Mesh size used:

>>> N/A

Geographic distribution:

>>> Maldives EEZ

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> Not affected

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> N/A

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> No bycatch of sea turtles

b) Methods used by your country to minimise bycatch of marine turtles in this fishery

Other

Details:

>>> Mandatory reporting of sea turtle bycatch if captured, although this is rare.

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> N/A

1.2.2 Provide sources of information supporting the responses in 1.2.1, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources, and/or attach digital files to this report.

References and links:

>>> Maldives National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2023

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[IOTC-2023-SC26-NR16E_Maldives.pdf](#) - Maldives National Report to the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 2023

1.2.4 Has your country provided technical assistance (formally or informally) to other Signatory States of the IOSEA MOU to promote the activities to mitigate incidental catch of marine turtles in fisheries?

NO

1.2.5 What legislative and practical measures has your country taken in support of UN General Assembly Resolution 46/215 concerning the moratorium on the use of large-scale driftnets?

Details:

>>> Driftnets are not allowed in the Maldives

1.2.6 Describe illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing that is known to occur in the territorial waters of the exclusive economic zone of your country that may impact marine turtles. Does IUU fishing occur in your country?

YES

a) Please indicate number of vessels per year (0, 1-10, 11-50, 51-100, 101-500, more than 500)

>>> Unknown. IUU fishing is observed by Maldives Coast Guard and through Global Fishing Watch inside the EEZ of Maldives by foreign fleet

b) Countries of origin of IUU fishing, if known?

Details:

>>> Unknown

c) Is there enforcement in place to deter these practices? Please indicate area covered and challenges.

Details:

>>> Maldives Coast Guard operates in the EEZ of the Maldives but there is limited capacity and a large area to monitor

1.3 ADDRESSING HARVEST OF, AND TRADE IN, MARINE TURTLES

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental,

departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

1.3.1 Are marine turtles and/or their eggs harvest in your country? Please indicate which species are harvested.

YES

Details:

>>> Green Sea Turtle and Hawksbill Sea Turtle including their eggs are harvested illegally.

1.3.2 Which types of consumptive use of turtles are practiced in your country?

Use the text boxes below each rating to explain or clarify your responses.

a) Meat consumption

YES

Details (e.g. species, estimated number taken per year, location, if known):

>>> There are no historical accounts of sea consumption in the Maldives prior to the pre-Islamic era. It is believed that the killing of sea turtles for meat only took off within the last century, with some accounts of as many as 30 turtles caught in one night by one group of hunters/fishers using nets and hooks only a few decades ago. The practice of illegal hunting of sea turtles for food is widely practiced, others hunt sea turtles as a recreational activity or to be sold in small scale 'black markets'.

There is no known estimate of the number of illegally harvested turtles and eggs. The primary species targeted is green sea turtle, and some hotspots for illegal take is also known along with few islands which are involved in poaching activities. The illegal take of sea turtle eggs and capture of turtles is expected to be quite high and is widely practiced.

b) Egg consumption

YES

Details (e.g. species, estimated number taken per year, location, if known):

>>> Green Sea Turtle and Hawksbill Sea Turtle (number unknown)

c) Fat and oil consumption

UNKNOWN

Details (e.g. species, estimated number taken per year, location, if known):

>>> It is estimated that the exploitation for local trade and consumption of eggs must date back hundreds of years. Historically, sea turtles were known to be widely traded and gifted to friends and families visiting from islands. The practice of illegal take of eggs continue to this day with sea turtle eggs still considered a local delicacy.

There is no known estimate of the number of illegally harvested turtle eggs. The illegal take of sea turtle eggs is expected to be quite high and is widely practiced.

d) Traditional medicine

UNKNOWN

Details (e.g. species, estimated number taken per year, location, if known):

>>> There's anecdotal evidence to suggest that turtles and eggs may be used in traditional medicine, though this is not widely understood or practiced based on the information received through social surveys.

e) Shell

YES

Details (e.g. species, estimated number taken per year, location, if known):

>>> Hawksbill turtles were heavily targeted for their beautiful carapace in the 19th and 20th century. Maldives contributed to this market through the fisheries and tourism sectors until the trade of sea turtles was banned in the Maldives in 1995. Hawksbills are now considered critically endangered in the Maldives, which is partly due to the fact that they were hunted for their shells for decades.

Shells were also used to make items such as jewelry and combs. The exact amount is unknown, and there is no records to suggest that this is still being practiced.

f) Making of tortoise shell products (bekko)

NO

h) Which type(s) of consumptive use of marine turtles are the most common in your country?

Please list the most common types of consumption:

>>> Poaching for meat and egg

1.3.3 Does your country have active legislation to prohibit direct harvest and domestic trade in marine turtles, their eggs, parts and products?

YES

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Protected species translation extract.docx](#) - Protected Species Regulation

[Unofficial Translation consolidated Protected Area Regulation.pdf](#) - Protected Areas Regulation

If yes, please provide details (title/date) of the relevant legislation, as well as any exemptions (e.g. for traditional use) under that legislation and comment on effectiveness of the legislation in terms of enforcement.

If more rows are required, please contact the secretariat at iosea@un.org

	What are the challenges?	Is the legislation enforced?	Is traditional use allowed under this legislation?	Legislation date	Legislation title
	Monitoring and surveillance, reporting and enforcement, general awareness	Yes	No	17 February 2021	Maldives Protected Species Regulation
	Monitoring and surveillance, reporting and enforcement, general awareness	Yes	No	2018	Maldives Protected Areas Regulation

1.3.4 Please describe the LEGAL traditional harvest of marine turtles, their parts and products in your country by answering the questions below.

NOTE: If there is no legal harvest of marine turtles in your country, please skip question 1.3.4 and 1.3.5.

a) Please provide the regulation, which allows traditional harvest of marine turtles in your country.

Details:

>>> N/A

References and links:

>>> N/A

Details:

>>> N/A

References and links:

>>> N/A

c) Does your country have a harvest quote for traditional use of marine turtles?

NO

Details:

>>> N/A

References and links:

>>> N/A

e) Please list the specific locations where harvest is allowed.

Note: please provide a reference to any reports or documents, which give the background for the management of turtle harvest in your country.

Details:

>>> N/A

References and links:

>>> N/A

f) Where does traditional harvest occur, and which species are affected?

Details:

>>> N/A

References and links:

>>> N/A

g) How is the compliance with the existing regulations on traditional harvest monitored?

Details:

>>> N/A

References and links:

>>> N/A

1.3.5 List any management agreements between your country and other States in the IOSEA region to ensure that legal harvest of marine turtles has no negative effects on the population size. Please provide references and links to published documents.

Details:

>>> N/A

References and links:

>>> N/A

1.3.6 Please describe the ILLEGAL harvest of marine turtles and eggs in your country by answering the questions below.

a) Does illegal harvest of marine turtles occur in your country?

YES

Details:

>>> Illegal harvesting of turtles occur in the Maldives even though sea turtles have been protected under Law and there are stringent penalties being enforced.

b) Please list the specific locations where illegal harvest is known to occur, if possible.

Details (examples of areas where illegal harvest is known to occur):

>>> Illegal harvests have been observed in several places throughout the Maldives including in protected areas.

c) What is the impact of this illegal harvest on the populations of marine turtles? In case of illegal egg collection, what is the impact on marine turtle recruitment?

Details:

>>> The level of illegal harvest and the impacts of it on populations are unknown and has not been studied..

1.3.7 Which of the following adverse economic incentives are encouraging illegal take of marine turtles in your country?

- Ease of access to the turtle resource (e.g. proximity to nesting beaches, or ease of land/water access)
- Lack of patrolling and enforcement at nesting beaches and nearshore areas

1.3.8 Has your country taken any measures to try to correct these adverse incentives?

YES

If yes, please describe these measures in detail.

Details:

>>> There have been some efforts made towards better enforcement as well as encouraging voluntary compliance. Due to the small size of Maldives islands avoiding human interactions with sea turtles is challenging.

1.3.9 Are there touristic activities linked in marine turtles in your country?

YES

If yes, please indicate which type:

	N o	Ye s
Other (please describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Swimming/ snorkeling activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Hatching releases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) Nesting turtle observation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Details:

>>> Sea Turtle Rescue Centres are established in several resort islands of the Maldives. There are tourist activities related to sea turtle rehabilitation, adoption of sea turtles, and excursions to observe sea turtles.

1.3.10 Are there any standard and government-certified protocols to ensure that touristic activities do not harm turtles and/or hatchlings?

YES

Please briefly describe the type of protocols used, references or links, if available.

Details:

>>> A Guideline for Sea Turtles and Habitat Protection has been published under the Protected Species Regulation of the Maldives. There is no English Translation yet, but it sets out protocols that should be followed by everyone in the Maldives when they encounter sea turtles.

References and links:

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Guidelines on Sea Turtles](#)

1.3.11 Does your country have mechanisms in place to identify domestic and international illegal trade routes (for illegally traded marine turtles, eggs and derivatives)?

Please provide references to any published reports (e.g. already prepared for CITES purposes) that give a more ample explanation.

NO

Details:

>>> N/A

1.3.12 Please describe any activities/projects that aim(ed) to reduce illegal take of and/or

trade in marine turtles in your country.

If more rows are required, please contact the secretariat at iosea@un.org

	Project website or other links with project description	Lessons learned	How does the project involve local communities?	End year (if completed)	Start year	Implemented by	Title of the project/activity
	No specific project on marine turtles focusing on reducing illegal trade						

1.3.13 Has your country submitted the annual illegal trade report to CITES, including information relevant for marine turtles?

Please provide a copy of this report or a link to the published report online, if possible.

NO

Details:

>>> While the Maldives has not submitted the annual illegal trade report to CITES, we have submitted the annual reports. There are no records of import or export of sea turtles, their parts or derivatives illegally.

1.3.14 Are there any compliance and/or trade issues (either domestic or international) that your country would like to raise at the upcoming IOSEA MOS or otherwise through the IOSEA Secretariat?

YES

If yes, please provide details:

>>> Flying Turtles - the effectiveness of exporting live turtles to other countries to be used in aquariums

1.4. MINIMIZING MORTALITY THROUGH NESTING BEACH PROGRAMMES

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

1.4.1 Tick the boxes that apply to indicate whether your country has any of the following measures in place to minimise the mortality of eggs, hatchlings and/or nesting females.

Please indicate if these measures are being implemented at the IOSEA Network sites and index beaches that you described in question 0.2.

Measures

a) Nesting beach monitoring (eggs and nesting females)

YES

Details:

>>> Sea turtle nest monitoring is carried out by several NGOs under approval from the Environment Protection Agency. Some of the efforts are collaborative efforts between the Government and civil society.

Implemented at the sites described in question 0.2 (name the sites, where this applies):

>>> Monitoring of sea turtle nesting activity (Joali Muravndhoo Resort, Noonu Atoll, dhigurah, Taj Exotica Resort and Spa,)

Study of Sea Turtle Nesting Activity in Landaa giraavaru, B. atoll
Study of Sea Turtle Nesting Activity in Vandhoo, R. atoll
Sea turtle nest monitoring and excavation after nesting (Patina Maldives, Fari Island Kaafu Atoll, Como Maalifushi Thaa Atoll, Anantara Dhigu, Veli & Naladhu Private Island)
Study of Maldivian Sea turtle populations via nesting surveys and nest excavation (renewal 2023-2024) - throughout Maldives
Sea turtle nest monitoring and excavation after nesting (Niyama Private Islands, Dhaalu Atoll, Coco Palm Dhunikolhu resort)

b) Nesting beach protection (patrolling)

YES

Details:

>>> Nesting beach patrolling is carried out by NGOs in the Maldives and in some instances Rangers operating in protected area management.

Implemented at the sites described in question 0.2 (name the sites, where this applies):

>>> Relocation sea turtle nests at risk of flooding (B. Dhunikolhu, Lh. Kuredhu, L. Olhuveli, & N. Medhufaru, Bodufushi, Farimont Sirru Fenfushi, B. Amilla Maldives, R. One and Only Reethi Rah, B. Landaagiraavaru, AA Kuramathi, Madivaru Finolhu)

c) Predator control

NO

d) Nest screening (placing wire screens over the buried nests)

NO

e) Vehicle access restrictions

YES

Details:

>>> Vehicles are not allowed in protected areas and sensitive sites managed by resorts

f) Regular removal of debris / clean-up programmes

NO

g) Has re-vegetation of dunes at nesting beaches been carried out, using native vegetation?

NO

h) Building location design regulations (coastal protection)

NO

i) Light pollution reduction (direct lights visible from the beach)

YES

Details:

>>> Under Environment Impact Assessment measures using of lights near turtle nesting sites are not allowed when development projects are implemented. In protected areas use of lights are not allowed.

k) Are these measures in place in protected areas only, or also outside of established protected areas?

In protected areas only (list the measures above e.g. a, b, c, etc.):

>>> - light pollution reduction
- nesting beach monitoring and patrolling

Outside of protected areas (list the measures above e.g. a, b, c etc.):

>>> - light pollution reduction
- nesting beach monitoring and patrolling

1.4.2 To what extent is egg relocation practiced in your country (including relocation to hatcheries)?

Egg relocation is practiced on less than 5% of nesting beaches.

Please provide the reasons:

>>> Egg relocation is practiced only for protection of nests from flooding and the nests are relocated to another area of the beach.

1.4.3 Has your country undertaken an evaluation of the effectiveness of its nesting beach management programmes in terms of maximizing the recruitment of marine turtle hatchlings?

NO

Please indicate when the evaluation took place, and provide a reference or a copy of any published or unpublished reports describing any lessons learned.

Details:

>>> N/A

References and links:

>>> N/A

OBJECTIVE II: PROTECT, CONSERVE AND RESTORE MARINE TURTLE HABITATS

2.1 MEASURES TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE MARINE TURTLE HABITATS

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

2.1.1 Please list Protected Areas (PAs), sanctuaries or temporary exclusion zones that were created to protect marine turtle habitat. Please provide the official name and date of establishment.

Details:

>>> The protected areas in the Maldives include sea turtle habitats (nesting and foraging). The list is attached to this answer. Some 30 sites important for sea turtles have been designated as MPAs.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Maldives Protected Areas](#)

2.1.2 Has your country developed any incentives to encourage protection of marine turtle habitat outside of protected areas?

Details:

>>> Yes, Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures have been opened for registration for tourism islands with a detailed guideline published in 2022. For industrial islands MOUs are promoted to be signed with the Government for them to monitor and manage sea turtle nesting sites (one MOU currently in place). Under EIA Regulation, several mitigation measures are implemented to protect sea turtles and their habitats. Sea turtle nesting sites are also monitored as a mandatory tool for securing the beach and collecting data.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Guideline for Recognising Areas as Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures \(OECMs\) in Areas Leased for Tourism Operations](#)

2.1.3 Is marine water quality (including marine debris) monitored near turtle habitats? If yes, describe the nature of this monitoring and any remedial measures that may have been taken.

NO

Details:

>>> In general marine water quality is assessed for all developmental projects including from coral reef areas, sea grass areas and from the vicinity of nesting beaches. But these assessments are specific to the projects and not explicitly on protection of sea turtles.

2.1.4 Are measures in place to prohibit the use of poisonous chemicals and explosives in the marine environment?

YES

Use the text box to elaborate on your response.

Details:

>>> Use of poisonous chemicals in the fisheries sector is prohibited. Import and use of chemicals and explosives in the Maldives are controlled and managed by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy

2.2 RESTORATION OF DEGRADED MARINE TURTLE HABITATS

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

2.2.1 What efforts are being made to recover degraded coral reef habitat? Give details (location, how long efforts have been carried out, effectiveness, lessons learned, future plans, etc).

YES see below

Details/future plans:

>>> Several restoration efforts are ongoing throughout the Maldives by NGOs and private sector regulated by the Government.

2.2.2 Are efforts being made to recover degraded mangrove habitats that are important for turtles?

YES see below

If yes, give details (location, duration, effectiveness, lessons learned, future plans etc.)

Details/future plans:

>>> There are a few projects focused on mangrove restoration (Huraa mangrove, Kulhudhuffushi Mangrove) and L. Maavah wetland.

2.2.3 What efforts are being made to recover degraded seagrass habitats? Give details (location, duration, effectiveness, lessons learned, future plans etc.).

NO efforts to recover degraded seagrass habitats

OBJECTIVE III: IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF MARINE TURTLE ECOLOGY AND POPULATIONS THROUGH RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

3.1 STUDIES ON MARINE TURTLES AND THEIR HABITATS

provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

3.1.1 Please list monitoring programmes that are currently in place or are being planned in your country.

Please enter details in the following table. If more rows are required, please contact the secretariat at iosea@un.org

	Is this a protected area?	Population trend	Nature of monitoring	Duration of the monitoring programme	Start year	Species genetic stock	Site geographical name (refer to questions 0.1 and 0.2)
	No	Unknown	Sea turtle nest monitoring at Taj exotica	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2024 (annual renewal of permit)	Hawksbill and Green turtle	Taj Exotica Resort and Spa, Maldives
	No	Unknown	Sea turtle nest monitoring	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2024 (annual renewal of permit)	Hawksbill and Green turtle	Noonu Atoll, Dhigurah
	No	Unknown	Monitoring of sea turtle nesting activity in Joali Muravndhoo Resort	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2024 (annual renewal of permit)	Hawksbill and Green turtle	Raa Atoll
	No	Unknown	Monitoring and Reporting of Sea Turtle Nesting Activity in Coco Palm Dhunikolhu Resort, Baa Atoll	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2023 (annual renewal of permit)	Hawksbill and Green turtle	Dhunikolhu, Baa Atoll
	No	Unknown	Monitoring of sea turtle nesting activity in Niyama Private Islands, Dhaalu atoll.	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2023	Hawksbill and Green turtle	Niyama Private Island, Dhaalu Atoll
	No	Unknown	Social study to investigate the sea turtle meat consumption and trade within the Maldives	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2023	all species found in the Maldives	Maldives
	Including protected areas	Unknown	Study of Maldivian Sea turtle populations via nesting surveys and nest excavation	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2023		Maldives
	Including protected areas	Unknown	Assessing sea turtle populations in the Maldives with the use of Photo-ID method	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2023		Maldives
	Including protected areas	Unknown	Study of the movement of rehabilitated Green, Hawksbill and Olive Ridley Sea Turtles	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2023		Maldives

	Including protected areas	Unknown	Identification of Epibionts and Parasites of Sea Turtles in the Maldives	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2023		Maldives
	Including protected areas	Unknown	Sea turtle nest monitoring and excavation after nesting	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2023		Anantara Dhigu, Veli & Naladhu Private Island, Como Maalifushi, Thaa Atoll, Patina Maldivs, Fari Island, Kaafu Atoll, L.Gaadhoo turtle nesting area, mangrove & seagrass area, L.Gaadhoo-L.Hithadhoo kan'du area, L.Hithadhoo wetland and surrounding marine area, Olhuvveli, Dhaalu Atoll
	No	Unknown	Microchip the turtle "Biscuit"	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2023		Lh.Naifaru
	Including protected areas	Unknown	Study of Sea Turtle Nesting Activity in Vandhoo, R. atoll	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2023		R. Vandhoo
	Yes	Unknown	Sea Turtle Behavioural Study at Hithadhoo Corner	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2023		Hithadhoo Corner and Surrounding Reefs
	Including protected areas	Unknown	Assessing the socio-economic value of sea turtles in the Maldives 2022(post-pandemic)	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2023		Maldives
	No	Unknown	Sea turtle nest relocation for nests at risk of flooding and nest monitoring	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2023		AA. Kuramathi, Madivaru, Madivaru Finolhu
	No	Unknown	Study of Sea Turtle Nesting Activity in Landaa giraavaru, B. atoll	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2023		B. Landaa Giraavaru
	No	Unknown	Study of the influence of antibiotic therapy on the gastrointestinal microbiota and health of hospitalized sea turtles	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2023		Coco Palm Dhunikolhu (B. Dhunikolhu)
	Including protected areas	Unknown	Study of Foraging Ecology of rehabilitated Olive Ridley Sea Turtles	1 year (subject to annual renewal))	2023		Maldives

3.1.2 Has your country undertaken an evaluation of its marine turtle monitoring programmes?

NO

3.1.3 Which of the following methods have been or are being used to identify migration routes of turtles?

Use the text boxes to provide details

a) Tagging (flipper)

NO

Details (e.g., list species, duration of programme, start and end year):

>>> Flipper tagging is not allowed in the Maldives

b) Satellite tracking

Yes

c) Genetic studies

YES

Details (e.g. species, genetic stock):

>>> Studying the population genetics of hawksbill turtles in Maldives, using tissue samples taken from the turtles' flippers. The genetics study will help assess the genetic diversity, population structure and connectivity of hawksbill turtles in the Maldives. It would be the first study of its kind in the country and provide invaluable insight into the genetic stock of hawksbills, the most abundant sea turtle species recorded in Maldivian waters. The data from this national level study can be integrated and compared to larger regional studies to assess the distribution and the connectivity of hawksbill turtle populations and their habitats in the Western Indian Ocean, which will support both local and regional policy and management plans. The study will also address one of the major research gaps in understanding the general stock of hawksbill turtles, which were widely harvested for the tourism souvenir industry and for the international tortoise shell trade in the 1970s up until 1990s. The study will provide information on the long-term effects of sea turtle harvest in the country, and inform conservation management of highly migratory, protected species. The sampling will be conducted via established in-water capture methods.

References and links:

>>> <https://www.plus.mv/english/epa-and-olive-ridley-project-collaborate-for-sea-turtle-research-expedition-in-maldives/>

3.1.4 Have the studies mentioned in 3.1.3 helped to identify foraging and migration areas of marine turtles in your country?

YES

3.1.5 Is the use of traditional ecological knowledge in research being promoted?

YES

Explanation/examples:

>>> Researchers are encouraged to work with communities and consult with stakeholders prior to research activities which facilitates knowledge exchange.

Local ecological knowledge has also been used to map out sea turtle hotspots and poaching hotspots in Laamu Atoll.

3.1.6 Give a list of relevant literature that includes information from studies carried out in your country on marine turtle populations and their habitats, sorting them by topic.

a) Bycatch mitigation measures

Details (e.g. numbers and species of released turtles, type of fishery and gear used, method for monitoring survival, result):

>>> N/A

b) Effect of bycatch mitigation measures on non-target species

Details (e.g. type of fishery and gear used, mitigation method assessed, result):

>>> N/A

c) Frequency and pathology of disease in marine turtles

Details (disease, incidence, species and genetic stock):

>>> The study on sea turtle microbiota will provide the first comprehensive view evaluating sea turtle health in the Maldives and serve as a baseline for future investigations into the health of these species in Maldivian waters and the greater Indian Ocean region. Similarly, the study on turtle epibionts will help establish a baseline on epibiont composition of turtles that can be used as a proxy to reconstruct their movement. Additionally, through the close monitoring of sea turtles from ghost nets, which originate from other populations in the Indian Ocean we hope to clearly evaluate the risk of artificial influx of sea turtle parasites and associated pathogens into the Maldives through ghost nets.

e) Socio-economic studies within communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats

Details (aim of study, methods, results):

- >>> 1. Social study - describing the knowledge, perception and attitude towards sea turtle consumption and conservation in Maldives in Baa Atoll and Laamu Atoll conducted via interviews and administered survey forms.
2. Historical study for L.Gaadhoo sea turtle nesting beach management by the community conducted via interviews.

3.2 COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

3.2.1 Does your country participate in any regional or sub-regional action plans that identify regional priorities in terms of research and monitoring needs?

NO

3.2.2 On which of the following themes have regional collaborative studies and monitoring been conducted? Use the text boxes to describe the nature of this international collaboration or to clarify your response. Answer 'NO' if the studies/monitoring undertaken do not involve international collaboration.

a) Reproductive biology (including any of the following: nesting data, hatchling survival, nest protection, recruitment, etc.)

NO

b) Genetic characterization

YES

Details (year when collaboration took place, project name, future plans):

>>> TImOI project

References and links:

>>> https://museesreunion.fr/wp-content/uploads/TIMOI_Short-news-1.pdf

c) Migratory and dispersal routes

NO

d) Other biological and ecological aspects

NO

3.3 DATA ANALYSIS AND APPLIED RESEARCH

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

3.3.1 Describe how research results are being applied to improve management practices and mitigation of threats.

Details:

>>> For L.Gaadhoo turtle nesting beach monitoring project, traditional methods for managing the beach vegetation are being incorporated. Additionally insight from the community has been useful to understand the erosion and sand accretion patterns in the nesting beach.

3.3.2 Is traditional knowledge on marine turtles and their habitats being used for conservation and management?

YES

3.4 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental,

departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

3.4.1 Has your country undertaken any initiatives (nationally or through collaboration with other IOSEA Signatory States) to standardise methods of data collection?

NO

3.4.2 Has your country taken part in producing IUCN regional status reports for red list assessments?

NO

3.4.3 How often does your country share information on marine turtle populations of regional interest with other IOSEA Signatories?

every 2 years

3.4.4 Since 2019, has your country taken part in any workshops or other events with participation of other countries, scientific institutions, non-governmental or international organisations in order to develop and implement best practice approaches for marine turtle conservation?

YES

Details (name of the event, year, main objective of the event):

>>> ISTS 2024 Sea Turtle Symposium Thailand
MOS8
IOSEA NIO-MTTF regional meeting
Advisory Committee meetings for IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU

OBJECTIVE IV: INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE THREATS TO MARINE TURTLES AND THEIR HABITATS, AND ENHANCE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

4.1 PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION PROGRAMMES

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

4.1.1 Are education/awareness programmes in place at/near nesting beaches?

YES

Please indicate at which sites, described in question 0.2 these programmes are being implemented.

Details:

>>> Laamu Atoll ranger and community officer program
ORP Vaavoshi turtle festival
AMC Lhaviyani turtle festival

References and links:

>>> N/A

4.1.2 Describe the educational materials, including mass media information programmes that your country has collected, developed and/or disseminated.

Details/future plans:

>>> 1. Handbook of sea turtles - being distributed to all schools
2. Turtle festivals aimed at schools
3. Resort and tour guide awareness and turtle rescue trainings
4. Sea turtle conservation guidelines
5. Internships for sea turtle conservation projects

References and links:

>>> N/A

4.1.3 Which of the following groups have been the targets of focused education or awareness programmes?

- Policy makers
- Fishing industry
- Communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats
- Local/Fishing communities
- Tourists
- Teachers
- Students
- Military, Navy, Police

4.14 Have any community learning centres or information centres been established in your country?

YES

Details/future plans:

>>> Addu Nature Park and Fuvahmulah Nature Park operate ecotourism facilities with a visitor's centre displaying educational and awareness materials.

References and links:

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Fuvahmulah Nature Park](#)

[Addu Nature Park](#)

4.2 STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

4.2.1 Are there public participation programmes in place at nesting beaches to involve local stakeholders in activities to conserve marine turtles?

YES

If yes, which stakeholders are being involved?

- Fishing industry
- Communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats
- Local/Fishing communities
- Tourists
- Teachers
- Students
- Military, Navy, Police
- NGOs

Please indicate at which sites, described in question 0.2 these programmes are being implemented.

Details/future plans:

>>> There are several areas throughout the Maldives. A specific list has not been maintained to indicate which areas.

References and links:

>>> N/A

4.2.2. The role of local communities. Please answer the questions below, giving examples of activities that took place since 2019.

a) Is traditional knowledge used in the development of education and awareness programmes in your country?

YES

Details, examples:

>>> Traditional knowledge especially in the historical use of sea turtles and population trends have been used in awareness programs.

b) Do local communities participate in the development and implementation of conservation measures?

Details, examples:

>>> Yes, the development of conservation measures are carried out by the full engagement of local communities. Citizen science plays a huge role in informing policies and management measures for sea turtles. The sea turtle conservation guidelines have also been developed by undergoing a public commenting stage.

4.2.3 Describe initiatives undertaken or planned since 2019 to involve and encourage the cooperation of Government institutions, NGOs and the private sector in marine turtle conservation programmes.

Details/future plans:

>>> A sea turtle webinar was organised by the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy in 2021 on the occasion of World Sea Turtle Day to bring together all the stakeholders that work on sea turtle conservation to a single platform and to exchange knowledge and experience on different topics related to sea turtles.

Similar workshops and seminars have been organised by the Environment Protection Agency as well as NGOs working in the Maldives.

OBJECTIVE V: ENHANCE NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

5.1 COOPERATION NEEDS

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

5.1.1 Please indicate, the extent to which the following local management issues require regional and/or international cooperation in order to achieve progress.

In other words, how important is **regional/international** cooperation for addressing the issues listed below?

a) Illegal fishing in territorial waters

ESSENTIAL

b) Incidental capture by foreign fleets in territorial waters

ESSENTIAL

c) Enforcement/patrolling of territorial waters

IMPORTANT

d) Illegal fishing in EEZ

ESSENTIAL

e) Incidental capture by foreign fleets in EEZ

ESSENTIAL

f) Enforcement/patrolling of EEZ

IMPORTANT

g) Harvest exploitation of turtles and eggs

IMPORTANT

h) Illegal trade in turtle parts and products

ESSENTIAL

i) Development of gear technology to reduce bycatch of marine turtles

ESSENTIAL

j) Marine pollution, including oil spills and marine debris

ESSENTIAL

k) Training / capacity-building

IMPORTANT

l) Alternative livelihood development

IMPORTANT

m) Characterisation of turtle populations/genetic stocks

IMPORTANT

n) Identification of migration routes

ESSENTIAL

o) Tagging / satellite tracking

ESSENTIAL

p) Habitat studies

IMPORTANT

q) Genetic studies

IMPORTANT

5.2 COOPERATION AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

5.2.1 Regional cooperation to enhance marine turtle conservation and management

a) Which regional/bilateral agreements for marine turtle conservation and management does your country participate in?

Details:

>>> No agreements yet.

b) Please list the organizations that your country cooperates with to enhance regional collaboration on marine turtle conservation in your subregion.

Details:

>>> Olive Ridley Project

5.2.2 Has your country encouraged Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) in the Indian Ocean to adopt marine turtle conservation measures within Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and on the high seas? Please describe the interventions made by your country in this regard in the last 5 years, referring to specific RFMOs.

Details/future plans:

>>> N/A

5.2.3 Please describe any additional efforts of your country to enhance sub-regional turtle conservation.

Details/future plans:

>>> Maldives hosted the fourth meeting of the Northern Indian Ocean Marine Turtle Task Force and Maldives is also Chair of the meeting.

5.3 CAPACITY-BUILDING

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

5.3.1 Describe your country's needs in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities, in order to build capacity to strengthen marine turtle conservation measures in the IOSEA region.

Details:

>>> Restoration of sea turtle habitats especially seagrass beds

Development of a sea turtle management plan and a national plan of action for sea turtles

Knowledge exchange and technology transfer related to enforcement and surveillance measures

5.4 STRATEGY AND LEGISLATION

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

5.4.1 Development of a national action plan

a) Is there a national action plan for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats in your country?

NO

b) If there is no action plan yet, has a set of key management measures been identified that could eventually serve as a basis for a more specific action plan at a national or local level?

YES

Details:

Title of the documents, year, link:

>>> A draft management plan has been developed and there are plans to develop an action plan in the future, hopefully in 2025.

c) List the genetic stocks (marine turtle populations) identified as priorities in the national action plan or in other action plans for conservation of biodiversity in your country.

Details/future plans:

>>> N/A

5.4.2 Which are the main threats to marine turtles in your country per species and the most urgent management activities to address them?

Please list up to 5 corresponding activities from the IOSEA Conservation and Management Plan (CMP).

>>> Hawksbill sea turtle and green sea turtle - poaching, plastic pollution, ghost gear, loss of nesting beaches, climate change

Olive ridley sea turtle - plastic pollution, ghost gear, loss of nesting beaches, climate change

5.4.3 Has your country conducted a review of policies and laws to address any inconsistencies in relation to the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats?

NO

5.4.4 Which of the threats to marine turtles are not currently addressed by any policy or law in your country?

Details:

>>> land and sea use change

5.4.5 Does your country have legislation that explicitly requires marine and coastal development projects and natural resource extraction projects to be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in relation to marine turtles and their habitats?

YES

a) If yes, please provide references to legal texts, date of adoption and briefly describe such legislation.

Details:

>>> Environmental Impact Assessment regulation was issued by Environment Ministry on 8 May 2012. The first step in environmental assessment process involves screening of the project to be classified as one that requires an EIA or not. Based on this decision, the Ministry then decides the scope of the EIA, which is discussed with the proponent and the EIA consultants in a "scoping meeting". The consultants then undertake the EIA starting with baseline studies, impact prediction and finally reporting the findings with impact mitigation and monitoring programme. This report follows the principles and procedures for EIA outlined in the EIA regulations.

References and links:

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Maldives EIA Regulation](#)

b) Which measures are in place to ensure compliance with this regulation?

References and links:

>>> As a condition of approval, appropriate environmental monitoring may be required, and the proponent shall have to report monitoring data at required intervals to the EPA. The project proponent is committed to implement all impact mitigation measures that are specified in this EIA report. Furthermore, the proponent is committed to environmental monitoring and shall fulfil environmental monitoring requirements that may be specified in the EIA decision note as a condition for project approval.

OBJECTIVE VI: PROMOTE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU, INCLUDING THE CMP

6.1 IOSEA MARINE TURTLE MOU MEMBERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

6.1.1 What has your country already done in the past 5 years to encourage other States to sign the IOSEA MOU?

Details/future plans:

>>> We have presented at various bilateral and multilateral meetings regarding the work of IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU and the efforts by Maldives to implement it.

6.1.2 Is your country currently favourable, in principle, to amending the MOU to make it a legally binding instrument?

YES

6.2 RESOURCES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

6.2.1 What programmes has your country funded for domestic implementation of marine turtle conservation activities related to the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU?

Please refer to the IOSEA CMP and IOSEA Work Programme.

Name of the funded programme, corresponding CMP activity or IOSEA Work Programme measure:

>>> We have hosted the Fourth Meeting of the Northern Indian Ocean Marine Turtle Task Force in the Maldives. We have undertaken national red list assessments for all species of marine turtles found in the Maldives. We have published guidelines specific to marine turtle conservation and management.

References and links:

>>> <https://www.environment.gov.mv/v2/en/maldives-red-list>

6.2.2 In the last 5 years, what funding sources have been available for your country to support marine turtle conservation?

YES

Details: (national, other governments, international organisations, donor organisations, industry, private sector, foundations)

>>> National - Government budgetary allocation, Maldives Green Fund, Maldives Restoration Fund

International - Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, World Bank, Asian Development Bank

Private Sector: Resorts in the Maldives

6.2.3 In accordance with CITES decisions on marine turtles, has your country attempted to raise funds for the activities listed below through CITES?

NO

6.3 COORDINATION AMONG GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

6.3.1 List government agencies that play a role in the conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats in your country. Please indicate their responsibilities in relation to protecting marine turtles and their habitats.

If more rows are required, please contact the secretariat at iosea@un.org

	Role in the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats	Name of the agency
--	---	--------------------

	Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy	To legally protect turtles, to formulate policies, rules and regulations on conservation and management of marine turtle and their habitats
	Environment Protection Agency	To enforce all laws and regulations related to marine turtles under Environment Act of the Maldives, to formulate management plans for marine turtles, to manage and oversee all marine turtle research in the Maldives
	Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources	Ensuring that there are no by catch of sea turtles in the fishing gear used by the Maldives, to address illegal fishing, and to ensure that destrutive fishing practices are not allowed in the Maldives
	Maldives Marine Research Institute	To coordinate and manage all coral restoration efforts in the Maldives
	Maldives Police Service	Assisting Environment Protection Agency in the enforcement and surveillance measures related to marine turtles
	Maldives National Defence Force-Coast Guard	Patrolling of Maldives EEZ

6.3.2 What are the main limitations of enforcing the laws in relation to marine turtles and their habitats across and between jurisdictions?

Details:

>>> Overlapping mandates of government organisations

Limited opportunity for synergising efforts of the different organisations

OTHER REMARKS

Please provide any comments/suggestions to improve the present reporting format.

>>> Answering in tables is difficult due to having to scroll from side to side and also not being able to see the full text when typing.