



**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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9TH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
online, 15-19 March 2021
Agenda Item 6

PLANS FOR WORLD SEA TURTLE DAY

(Prepared by an AC Member)

Action Requested:

- Develop and agree the proposed activities for World Sea Turtle Day on 16 June 2021

PLANS FOR WORLD SEA TURTLE DAY

2021 is the year in which the MOU will celebrate its twentieth anniversary – a reason to celebrate, reflect and make a special effort to support marine turtle conservation in the IOSEA region. It provides an opportunity to put a spotlight on the MOU both internally and externally.

The celebration of World Sea Turtle Day on 16 June 2021 is part of the series of events that are meant to revive the idea behind the MOU, namely that it is for helping the people who work with turtles through sharing knowledge and experiences – good and bad. The celebration of the 20th anniversary is an excellent opportunity to bring people together, even if due to COVID we can only do so virtually. In line with Work Programme Activity #50¹, World Sea Turtle Day is an excellent opportunity to engage with the public.

Approach and concept

Oriented towards the public, the celebration of World Sea Turtle Day “@IOSEA” will line up multiple events in all countries where a local partner is taking the lead. It provides a platform for sharing (and dare we say bonding?) for ‘Sea Turtle People’ to celebrate their commitment to conservation and sustainability of marine turtles. The activities could include those with awards and prizes such as competitions. The event’s program in general will last for 24 hours, in relay mode (see Proposed Event #1). There will be two types of events:

- Main events: The events under this category are (co-)hosted by the Secretariat, and will be run at the most suitable time for all. Some can be hosted elsewhere, i.e. be locally hosted, and some could be “Local to Global” events (competitions).
- Local events: The events under this category are hosted by local partners and will be run for an hour by the local partner, but broadcasted under the WSTD@IOSEA banner. They will run in-between the main events.

In the table below, a few event suggestions are made for the main events for the consideration of the Advisory Committee.

¹ 50. Promote high profile events such as World Sea Turtle Day for the purpose, *inter alia*, of raising public and political awareness of turtle conservation and IOSEA’s role. Develop media materials to raise the profile of marine turtle conservation issues.

Suggested Events	Brief description	Host	Time	Action to take
Global Launch of WSTD2021@IOSEA	This will kick start the event, and provide an overview of what is to come during the celebration. Duration: 1 hour	Secretariat with 1 st time zone host	8 or 9 am (1 st time zone) 1 st Relay	1. Host 2. Time
Around the IOSEA Turtle World in 24 hours	The launch will set the ball rolling for the 24h WSTD@IOSEA celebration around the IOSEA region, as the baton is passed to the next “host country”. Ideally, as we move around the region the event will start at more or less the same local hour wherever they are. So every host will get ready at 9 or 10 am wherever they are Currently 35 signatories, so hope can have one for each hour. The host is free to decide on what they want to feature as content of the 1hr event that they are hosting. Ideally, it will be an event that allows people in the IOSEA world to get to know more about the host country’s turtle story. To rally people to a common goal/cause, we can set a pledge and each country will report on the number of pledges made so far. This event will take a break when the other main events are on, i.e. runs with 16 one hour time slots in total). Secretariat only needs technical people to work 3/4 shifts.	Time zone hosts (16 for 1 hr slots or we can have joined slots to enable all 35 members to participate).	2 nd relay: +1hr after the Global launch	1. Hosts 2. Sequence of hosting 3. Suggest pledge/ common activity
Sea Turtle Time travel: 20 years of IOSEA	This will be a webinar where a selection of panel members among IOSEA pioneers get to take us back 20 years down the memory lane (the good, the bad and the unbelievably true) Duration: 2 hrs (?) Great opportunity to share findings of IOSEA “report card” as topics of discussion Launch us towards the next 20 years?	Host: Malaysia where it all started?	Best compromise	1. Host 2. Panel members 3. Topics of discussion
Ask Me Anything	For Children and Sea Turtle Nerds Multilingual questions collected beforehand. Ideally get a celebrity (Sesame Street character for example!) to host Duration: 1-2 hours Note: This can be suggested as a locally organised event, where answers can be	A celebrity and a local partner/Secretariat	Late morning or early afternoon for most zones	1. Host 2. Local to Global? 3. Prizes?

	recorded beforehand by relevant local partners			
Sea Turtle TED Talk (competition for young researchers)	TED style pitch for a small research/project grant Duration: 2 hrs Themes: Those that Manjula has identified as priority research areas or “Voices of the Future” as per Jack’s suggestion This is a local to global event, where National champ face off for World Title (organised at home country first, then finalists compete during the event)	TBD	Afternoon in most zones	1. Host 2. Theme 3. Prizes
Sea Turtle in My Life Video Competition	Short amateur video competition, featuring people’s connection to sea turtles Jury ideally includes a celebrity Film/ Documentary Director (to create incentive), plus People’s award Different age categories would be best Duration: 2 hrs This can also be a local to global event, where National champ compete for World Title (organised at home country first, then finalists compete during the event)	Global Entertainment hubs (ex: India for Bollywood or Korea for K-Pop), with celebrity film people (e.g. actor Randeep Hooda, CMS Ambassador for Aquatic Species) or a director as co-host	Time: Evening in most zones	1. Host 2. Local to Global? 3. Theme 4. Prizes
Global Closing	Wrap up the events with a live sharing of whatever WSTD event that’s taking place at that moment in the IOSEA world. Will also allow for announcing other events related to the 20 th Anniversary celebration.	Secretariat, Suggested co-host: Australia as main funder for IOSEA 20th anniversary celebrations	Local Time in Bonn (it will be morning in Australia)	1. Co-host