



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON THE CONSERVATION AND
MANAGEMENT OF MARINE TURTLES
AND THEIR HABITATS OF THE INDIAN
OCEAN AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA**

CMS/IOSEA/MOS8/Doc.8.1/Annex 3

2 September 2019

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8TH MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES

Da Nang, Viet Nam, 21-25 October 2019

Agenda Item 8.1

**SYNTHESIS OF EXISTING RECOMMENDATIONS:
WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN (WIO) SUBREGION**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Action Requested:

- Take note of the document in preparation for the discussion of the Draft IOSEA Work Programme
- Consider relevance of recommendations for the development of the IOSEA Work Programme

Synthesis of existing recommendations specific to WIO MTTF or arising from the sub-regional discussions

Recommendation	Lead/ responsible	Source	CMP ¹	Subject	Notes/priority level if known
1. Draft a summary of alternative livelihoods projects in each country and submit to WIO MTTF vice chair	WIO MTTF members and chair	Discussion of Advisory Committee recommendations, WIO sub-regional group discussion at IOSEA MOS7, MOS7 report	4, 4.2	Alternative Livelihoods	
2. Identify technical support / capacity-building needs in IOSEA Signatory States	MTTF Members, IOSEA Secretariat	Advisory Committee Meeting 7, recommendations	5, 5.4	Capacity Building	Technical Support /Capacity-building Programme (Document MT-IOSEA/SS.7/ Doc. 8)
3. Respond to specific requests for capacity building support from Tanzania (regarding preparation of a national sea turtle conservation strategy) and from Madagascar (for scientific personnel involved in marine turtle conservation).	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	MOS7 Action Points, also found in Discussion of Advisory Committee recommendations, WIO sub-regional group at IOSEA MOS7, MOS7 report	5, 5.4	Capacity Building	The request of Tanzania was put on ice in 2015 until new government was elected

¹ Corresponding Objective and/or Programme of the Conservation and Management Plan of the MOU

Recommendation	Lead/responsible	Source	CMP¹	Subject	Notes/priority level if known
4. Provide up-to-date lists of flipper tag series used in the countries for inclusion in the existing IOSEA online database of tag series.	TF Members; IOSEA Secretariat	Work Programme of the Western Indian Ocean – Marine Turtle Task Force: Work Plan 2017-2019, WIO MTTF 7 draft meeting report	3, 3.1, 3.4	Collaborative Research	
5. Submit information on satellite tracking studies in WIO countries to the IOSEA Secretariat for inclusion in the Satellite Tracking Meta-database.	TF Members; TF Chair; IOSEA Secretariat	Work Programme of the Western Indian Ocean – Marine Turtle Task Force: Work Plan 2017-2019, WIO MTTF 7 draft meeting report	3, 3.1, 3.4	Collaborative Research	Will the satellite tracking meta database be continued?
6. Request the support of WIOMSA and other regional funding bodies to conduct a regional workshop to assess the social-economic values of marine turtles and compatibility of conservation approaches, including both exploitation (consumptive use) and sustainable ecotourism (live turtles, non-consumptive use).	TF Chair; IOSEA Secretariat; Nairobi Convention; Jack Frazier	Work Programme of the Western Indian Ocean – Marine Turtle Task Force: Work Plan 2017-2019, WIO MTTF 7 draft meeting report	1, 1.3 a), 1.5 d)	Economic Considerations	
7. From the workshop, produce an annotated bibliography, economic study guidelines and analysis of conservation approaches from the region.	(To be decided at the workshop)	Work Programme of the Western Indian Ocean – Marine Turtle Task Force: Work Plan 2017-2019, WIO MTTF 7 draft meeting report	1, 1.3 a), 1.5 d)	Economic Considerations	

Recommendation	Lead/ responsible	Source	CMP ¹	Subject	Notes/priority level if known
8. Liaise with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and SWIOFC for data on marine turtle bycatch in purse seining and long lining, including the impact of the use of FADs, and other non-tuna fisheries.	IOSEA Secretariat; Nairobi Convention	Work Programme of the Western Indian Ocean – Marine Turtle Task Force: Work Plan 2017-2019, WIO MTTF 7 draft meeting report	1, 1.4	Fisheries Interactions	
9. Compile information on the status of on-board observer programmes and the status of marine turtle bycatch recording within those observer programmes in Western Indian Ocean region.	TF Members	Work Programme of the Western Indian Ocean – Marine Turtle Task Force: Work Plan 2017-2019, WIO MTTF 7 draft meeting report	1, 1.4	Fisheries Interactions	
10. Explore opportunities for applying market incentives (eco-labelling, certification etc) and role of international bodies and instruments (EU, FAO, CMS, SWIOFC) to enhance compliance in use of bycatch reduction measures.	TF Chair; TF Members; IOSEA T Secretariat	Work Programme of the Western Indian Ocean – Marine Turtle Task Force: Work Plan 2017-2019, WIO MTTF 7 draft meeting report		Fisheries Interactions	MTTF members decided not to renew this recommendation
11. Compile information on turtle bycatch and inshore fisheries	TF Members	Work Programme of the Western Indian Ocean – Marine Turtle Task Force: Work Plan 2017-2019, WIO MTTF 7 draft meeting report	1, 1.1	Fisheries Interactions	

Recommendation	Lead/responsible	Source	CMP¹	Subject	Notes/priority level if known
12. Seychelles to work with Secretariat to augment IOSEA website with FAD information	Seychelles, IOSEA Secretariat	Outcomes, WIO sub-regional group discussion at IOSEA MOS7, MOS7 report	None, 1, 2 indirectly	Fisheries interactions	
13. Provide technical support to Signatory States to address bycatch, including observer training	Not specified	Discussion of Advisory Committee recommendations, WIO sub-regional group at IOSEA MOS7, MOS7 report,	1, 1.4	Fisheries Interactions	Bycatch a high priority issue for the region as determined by the discussion group, refer to "Insights into Indian Ocean Fisheries-Turtle Interactions" (Document MT-IOSEA/SS.7/ Doc. 10.4)
14. Maintain a record of genetic studies conducted in the region and submit the information to IOSEA Secretariat for posting on the IOSEA website.	TF Vice-Chair;	Work Programme of the Western Indian Ocean – Marine Turtle Task Force: Work Plan 2017-2019, WIO MTTTF 7 draft meeting report	3, 3.4	Genetics	
15. Address challenges to enable widespread genetic analyses of turtle tissue samples in the region, in particular: a) Obtaining CITES permits to export samples for analysis b) Capacity building to enable in-country analysis	Not specified	Discussion of Advisory Committee recommendations, WIO sub-regional group discussion at IOSEA MOS7, MOS7 report	3, 3.2	Genetics	

Recommendation	Lead/ responsible	Source	CMP ¹	Subject	Notes/priority level if known
16. Extend genetics work on green, loggerhead and hawksbill turtles, which has been initiated but not yet completed	Signatory States (WIO)	MOS7 Action Points, Loggerhead assessment	3	Genetics	
17. Assess the extent of use and impacts of exotic vegetation to stabilize beach/dune systems; provide recommendations/ guidelines on sensible removal of exotic vegetation from these ecosystems (cf. Leatherback Assessment project concept). Fund a scientifically-robust post graduate study in Mozambique. NB. a post-doc on dune stabilization is already underway in South Africa.	Signatory States (Mozambique, South Africa)	MOS7 Action Points, Outcomes, WIO sub-regional group discussion at IOSEA MOS7, MOS7 report	1, 1.1, 1.2	Habitat Protection	Casuarina project update pending
18. Strategies to address domestic trade: a) Engagement of religious leaders for awareness campaigns b) Alternative livelihoods programmes (e.g. livestock keeping) c) Strong enforcement efforts d) Trans-boundary collaboration on education and enforcement e) Legalised take through the application of quotas (needs revised legislation) f) Education of the youth	Not specified	Outcomes, WIO sub-regional group discussion at IOSEA MOS7, MOS7 report	1.5	Illegal Take and Trade	
19. Strategies to address international trade: a) Closer collaboration with CITES and other agencies tackling international wildlife crime to ensure issue of marine wildlife trade is on the agenda of future meetings b) Secretariat-commissioned media materials to raise profile of international trade in turtles, with in-built flexibility to facilitate adaptation to national media by signatory states.	Not specified	Outcomes, WIO sub-regional group discussion at IOSEA MOS7, MOS7 report	5.1 d	Illegal Take and Trade	

Recommendation	Lead/ responsible	Source	CMP ¹	Subject	Notes/priority level if known
c) Establish IOSEA working group to provide active support to Secretariat in progressing IOSEA work and networking on this issue.					
20. Task Force members should establish working relationships with their respective IOSEA Focal Points.	TF Members	Work Programme of the Western Indian Ocean – Marine Turtle Task Force: Work Plan 2017-2019, WIO MTTF 7 draft meeting report	5	Implementation support	
21. Develop a set of standard procedures for data collection on artisanal gill net fisheries and share on IOSEA website	WIO MTTF members	Outcomes, WIO sub-regional group discussion at IOSEA MOS7, MOS7 Report	3, 3.4	Method Standardization	
22. Harmonize the methods and protocols to enable rigorous evaluation of population trends in the sub-region	MTTF members, Chair	Discussion of Advisory Committee recommendations, WIO sub-regional group at IOSEA MOS7, MOS7 report	3.4	Method Standardization	IUCN Research and management techniques for the conservation of sea turtles

Recommendation	Lead/ responsible	Source	CMP ¹	Subject	Notes/priority level if known
23. Provide suggestions to and assist their respective national Focal Points on strengthening national committees, networks, working groups or other national arrangements, as appropriate.	TF Members	Work Programme of the Western Indian Ocean – Work Programme of the Western Indian Ocean – Marine Turtle Task Force: Work Plan 2017-2019, WIO MTTF 7 draft meeting report	5	National networks	
24. The sub-regional WIO work plan needs to be re-worked completely, as it no longer provides up-to-date advice to the region (e.g. spatial analysis, habitat modelling)	TF Members; TF Chair; IOSEA Secretariat	Work Programme of the Western Indian Ocean – Marine Turtle Task Force: Work Plan 2017-2019, WIO MTTF 7 draft meeting report	5	Procedural	
25. Assist respective Focal Points with the updating of IOSEA national reports, including identification of specific resource needs.	TF Members	Work Programme of the Western Indian Ocean – Marine Turtle Task Force: Work Plan 2017-2019, WIO MTTF 7 draft meeting report	5	Reporting	

Recommendation	Lead/ responsible	Source	CMP ¹	Subject	Notes/priority level if known
26. Task Force members are encouraged to work directly with IOSEA Focal Points and relevant stakeholders to complete and improve the quality of data in national reports in relation to fisheries and fisheries interactions, in particular.	TF Members	Work Programme of the Western Indian Ocean – Marine Turtle Task Force: Work Plan 2017-2019, WIO MTTF 7 draft meeting report	1, 1.1	Reporting	
27. Develop a proposal for a compilation of available, relevant information on social aspects of marine turtle conservation in the region, including a literature review as a form of policy brief (guidelines), perhaps to be funded and made available by WWF or WIOMSA, in preparation for a symposium/ workshop (i.e. studies to understand relevance of turtles to people, and their impacts or value).	TF Chair	Work Programme of the Western Indian Ocean – Marine Turtle Task Force: Work Plan 2017-2019, WIO MTTF 7 draft meeting report	1, 1.3 a)	Social Aspects	
28. Provide partial support or help to leverage funding for a post-graduate study to investigate the hatching success and incubation temperature of leatherback rookeries in Mozambique. This research should be done in conjunction with sub-regional experts (Dr Ronel Nel/South Africa).	WIO sub-region, not specified, sub-regional experts (Dr Ronel Nel/South Africa).	Provisional list of project concepts resulting from the updated (2012) Leatherback Assessment	3	Species: Leatherback	
29. Engage RFMOs and other bodies not yet participating to participate in the Task Force, including IOTC, ASCLME, IOC, SWIOFP, etc.	IOSEA Secretariat; Nairobi Convention	Work Programme of the Western Indian Ocean – Marine Turtle Task Force: Work Plan 2017-2019, WIO MTTF 7 draft meeting report	1, 1.4	Sub-regional Coordination	