



**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](mailto:iosea@un.org)); with a copy to the Coordinator ([heidrun.frisch-nwakanma@un.org](mailto:heidrun.frisch-nwakanma@un.org)), as a Word attachment.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

Signatory State:

>>> PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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

>>> NATIONAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY,  
CENTRAL PROVINCIAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY  
WESTERN PROVINCIAL FISHERIES AUTHORITY

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

>>> 10th June 2010

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

>>> 16th July 2024

Designated Focal Point (and full contact details):

>>> Mr. Vagi Leke Rei  
Manager  
Conservation Environment Protection Authority  
Sustainable Environment Program  
Marine Division  
Marine Ecosystem Branch  
P.O. Box 6601 Boroko  
Papua New Guinea

Other relevant contacts:

>>> Mr. Jude Tino Tukuliya  
Managing Director  
Conservation Environment Protection Authority  
P.O. Box 6601 Boroko  
Papua New Guinea

# 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
	Decrease		Caretta caretta (swPac)	Feeding	
	Increase	Unknown	Dermochelys coriacea (wPac)	Nesting	Kamiali, Huon Coast, Morobe Province
	Decrease		Eretmochelys imbricata (Sol)	Feeding	
	Unknown		Chelonia mydas (wNC, CS,sGBR, nGBR, SS))	Feeding	
	Unknown	Unknown	Chelonia mydas (nNG)	Nesting	
	Unknown		Natator depressus (AS)	Feeding	

### 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:

>>> CEPA DATABASE IN THE MARINE DIVISION and SPREP TRENDS DATABASE

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

YES

### d) Does your country have an IOSEA Network site?

NO

## 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:

>>> Kamiali Wildlife Management Area

State/province:

>>> Morobe Province. Papua New Guinea

Length:

>>> 16 kilometers

**b) Is this an index beach (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)?**

YES

**c) Is this an IOSEA Network Site?**

YES

**d) Does this site have any other international or national status (e.g. protected area, Ramsar, UNESCO)?**

YES

Details:

>>> It is a New Ramsar site that has been nominated by the government of Papua New Guinea. This is the 2nd Ramsar site for the country

**e) When did marine turtle monitoring start at this location (year) and how often is monitoring carried out?**

>>> The monitoring of the Index nesting beach started in 2010. The monitoring has been focus on tagging and monitoring with attention on mainly egg protection. The monitoring is conducted during the nesting season which starts in October and ends in April the next year

**f) Indicate the species present at this site, estimated number of nests per year for each species by inserting, in the appropriate boxes, one of the letters ' a ' through ' h ', corresponding to the following scale: a: 1 - 10 nests ; b: 11 - 100 nests ; c: 101 - 500 nests ; d: 501 - 1,000 nests ; e: 1,001 - 5,000 nests ; f: 5,001 - 10,000 nests ; g: 10,001 - 100,000 nests; h: more than 100,000 nests. If trend information is available, add "increasing", "decreasing" or "stable". If information on population and trend is not available, simply indicate which species are present at each location by inserting "yes" or "no" in the appropriate boxes.**

	How often is this species monitored?	Monitored since (year)	Trend (decreasing, increasing, stable)	Number of clutches per year	Species present at this location?
Flatback (Natator depressus)					
Olive ridley (Lepidochelys olivacea)					
Hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata)					
Leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea)	every season 6 monthly	2010	increasing	a	
Green (Chelonia mydas)					
Loggerhead (Caretta caretta)					

**g) Please estimate the approximate area of adjacent in-water habitat for this site.**

1-2 km<sup>2</sup>

Please describe the approximate area of the in-water habitat near the site and provide any references and links:

>>> The width of the nesting beach is 30 meters on the low tide and on the high tide is 10 meters.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Kinch-report\\_final.pdf](#)

**h) Please fill out the following table for the in-water habitat of the site. Please include information on population number and trend, if available.**

	How often is this species monitored?	Monitored since (year)	Trend (decreasing, increasing, stable)	Population number	Are marine turtles monitored in water?	Species present at this location
Flatback ( <i>Natator depressus</i> )						
Olive ridley ( <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> )						
Hawksbill ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> )						
Leatherback ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> )	6 months	2010	increasing	30 nesting females		
Green ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> )						
Loggerhead ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> )						

Please provide any references and links:

>>> Technical Report for Nesting season 2023-2024 by Vagi Rei

**i) Please describe the main threats to marine turtles at this site (both at the nesting beach and in the water).**

	High (common occurrence)	Medium	Low (rare event)	None	Unknown
Other (type in)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Predation by domestic / feral animals (cats, dogs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural threats, disease, predation of nests/nesting females or natural predation at sea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sand mining / removal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Habitat degradation (e.g. coastal erosion, debris that obstructs nesting etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Artificial lighting (on land or near shore)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural/urban/tourism development (e.g. construction that disrupts nesting activities)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Inshore oil pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial effluent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marine debris (e.g. plastics at sea, flotsam)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boat strikes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incidental capture in coastal fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Egg collection (i.e. direct harvest by humans)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Direct harvest of animals in coastal waters at or near the site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exploitation of nesting females (i.e. direct harvest on land)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other threat:

>>> sailing of local communities that sleep on the nesting beach because of a bad weather or strong wind warning

**j) What assistance for conservation and management at this site would be useful, including through the IOSEA Capacity-building programme? Please choose from the list below:**

- Training/ capacity building for people from coastal communities
- Training/capacity building for onboard observer programmes

Please provide details:

>>> Local communities need to understand the key importance of migratory pathways of these leatherback turtle. Local communities must be engaged in the research that will promote greater awareness of the importance of the turtle

**Sites**

**Site 2**

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

Name of the site:

>>> Conflict Island Conservation Initiative- Turtle Program

State/province:

>>> Conflicts Islands, Milne Bay Province

**b) Is this an index beach (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)?**

- YES

**c) Is this an IOSEA Network Site?**

- YES

**d) Does this site have any other international or national status (e.g. protected area, Ramsar, UNESCO)?**

- YES

Details:

>>> The Conflicts Island is listed under the Milne Bay Seascapes (Pacific jewels of Marine Biodiversity) under the UNESCO Tentative list. The Conflict group is an atoll of small coral cays with diversified ecosystems that is interconnected by the continental shelf that runs from Irai to Auriora Island. A 2000 rapid assessment program

by Conservation International and Commonwealth of Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation revealed that the island of Irai was significantly diverse in the number of fish and coral species. The richness in biological diversity and the colonial history that the island has makes it both biologically and historically significant site that deserves recognition under the world heritage list.

**e) When did marine turtle monitoring start at this location (year) and how often is monitoring carried out?**

>>> CICI's ongoing Turtle Conservation Program is designed to monitor and protect nesting turtles and their eggs on the Conflict Island Atoll & encompasses the atoll's 21 islands, 22 km away from the base and hatchery at Panasesa Island. Data collected through this long term turtle monitoring program contributes to a better understanding of turtle populations and habitat dynamics, & to inform future conservation strategies nationally and internationally. The program began in 2017

**f) Indicate the species present at this site, estimated number of nests per year for each species by inserting, in the appropriate boxes, one of the letters ' a ' through ' h ', corresponding to the following scale: a: 1 - 10 nests ; b: 11 - 100 nests ; c: 101 - 500 nests ; d: 501 - 1,000 nests ; e: 1,001 - 5,000 nests ; f: 5,001 - 10,000 nests ; g: 10,001 - 100,000 nests; h: more than 100,000 nests. If trend information is available, add "increasing", "decreasing" or "stable". If information on population and trend is not available, simply indicate which species are present at each location by inserting "yes" or "no" in the appropriate boxes.**

	How often is this species monitored?	Monitored since (year)	Trend (decreasing, increasing, stable)	Number of clutches per year	Species present at this location?
Flatback (Natator depressus)					
Olive ridley (Lepidochelys olivacea)					
Hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata)	Yearly	2017	Stable		
Leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea)					
Green (Chelonia mydas)	Yearly	2017	Stable		
Loggerhead (Caretta caretta)					

Please describe the approximate area of the in-water habitat near the site and provide any references and links:

>>> <https://georgehbalazs.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CICI-EOS-TURTLE-REPORT-2018-19-.pdf>

Please provide any references and links:

>>> <https://georgehbalazs.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CICI-EOS-TURTLE-REPORT-2018-19-.pdf>

**i) Please describe the main threats to marine turtles at this site (both at the nesting beach and in the water).**

	High (common occurrence)	Medium	Low (rare event)	None	Unknown
Other (type in)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Predation by domestic / feral animals (cats, dogs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural threats, disease, predation of nests/nesting females or natural predation at sea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sand mining / removal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Habitat degradation (e.g. coastal erosion, debris that obstructs nesting etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Artificial lighting (on land or near shore)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural/urban/tourism development (e.g. construction that disrupts nesting activities)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inshore oil pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial effluent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marine debris (e.g. plastics at sea, flotsam)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boat strikes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incidental capture in coastal fisheries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Egg collection (i.e. direct harvest by humans)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Direct harvest of animals in coastal waters at or near the site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exploitation of nesting females (i.e. direct harvest on land)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**j) What assistance for conservation and management at this site would be useful, including through the IOSEA Capacity-building programme? Please choose from the list below:**

- Training/ capacity building for people from coastal communities
- Training/capacity building for community-based activities
- Training/capacity building for onboard observer programmes
- Training/capacity building for project development, fundraising, execution, evaluation
- Scientific equipment and/or technical support
- Technical expertise to enhance conservation or management at the site

**Sites**

**Site 3**

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

Name of the site:

>>> Karkum Conservation Area

State/province:

>>> Madang Province

**b) Is this an index beach (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)?**

YES

**d) Does this site have any other international or national status (e.g. protected area, Ramsar, UNESCO)?**

YES

Details:



>>> The Karkum Conservation Area is nationally recognized as a Community managed marine area in protecting the leatherback turtles and other marine turtle species.

**e) When did marine turtle monitoring start at this location (year) and how often is monitoring carried out?**

>>> In 2008 the locals started monitoring the nesting Leatherbacks. In 2013, the locals started releasing the leatherback hatchlings back into the sea. Read more on

<https://library.sprep.org/sites/default/files/SeaTurtleRestorationProjectofKarkumPNG.pdf>

Please provide any references and links:

>>> <https://library.sprep.org/sites/default/files/SeaTurtleRestorationProjectofKarkumPNG.pdf>

<https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/3435p/43938718>

[https://www.pnglsp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/TNC\\_Leatherback-MAKATA\\_Success-Story\\_FINAL\\_VAsighted\\_041120.pdf](https://www.pnglsp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/TNC_Leatherback-MAKATA_Success-Story_FINAL_VAsighted_041120.pdf)

**i) Please describe the main threats to marine turtles at this site (both at the nesting beach and in the water).**

	High (common occurrence)	Medium	Low (rare event)	None	Unknown
Other (type in)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Predation by domestic / feral animals (cats, dogs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural threats, disease, predation of nests/nesting females or natural predation at sea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sand mining / removal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Habitat degradation (e.g. coastal erosion, debris that obstructs nesting etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Artificial lighting (on land or near shore)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural/urban/tourism development (e.g. construction that disrupts nesting activities)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Inshore oil pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Industrial effluent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marine debris (e.g. plastics at sea, flotsam)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boat strikes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Incidental capture in coastal fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Egg collection (i.e. direct harvest by humans)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Direct harvest of animals in coastal waters at or near the site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Exploitation of nesting females (i.e. direct harvest on land)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**j) What assistance for conservation and management at this site would be useful, including through the IOSEA Capacity-building programme? Please choose from the list below:**

- Training/ capacity building for researchers and field workers
- Training/ capacity building for authorities and/or managers
- Training/ capacity building for people from coastal communities
- Training/capacity building for community-based activities
- Training/capacity building for onboard observer programmes
- Training/capacity building for project development, fundraising, execution, evaluation
- Scientific equipment and/or technical support
- Technical expertise to enhance conservation or management at the site

**Sites**

**Site 4**

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

Name of the site:

>>> Lissenung Island Resort Turtle Hatchery

State/province:

>>> New Ireland Province

**e) When did marine turtle monitoring start at this location (year) and how often is monitoring carried out?**

>>> The owners of the resort started rescuing turtles in 2013, and have release at least 15,000 turtles into the sea. They do continuous awareness on the critically endangered Hawksbill turtle.

**i) Please describe the main threats to marine turtles at this site (both at the nesting beach and in the water).**

	High (common occurrence)	Medium	Low (rare event)	None	Unknown
Other (type in)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Predation by domestic / feral animals (cats, dogs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural threats, disease, predation of nests/nesting females or natural predation at sea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sand mining / removal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Habitat degradation (e.g. coastal erosion, debris that obstructs nesting etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Artificial lighting (on land or near shore)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural/urban/tourism development (e.g. construction that disrupts nesting activities)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inshore oil pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Industrial effluent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marine debris (e.g. plastics at sea, flotsam)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boat strikes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Incidental capture in coastal fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Egg collection (i.e. direct harvest by humans)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Direct harvest of animals in coastal waters at or near the site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exploitation of nesting females (i.e. direct harvest on land)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**j) What assistance for conservation and management at this site would be useful, including through the IOSEA Capacity-building programme? Please choose from the list below:**

- Training/ capacity building for researchers and field workers
- Training/ capacity building for people from coastal communities
- Training/capacity building for community-based activities
- Training/capacity building for project development, fundraising, execution, evaluation
- Scientific equipment and/or technical support
- Technical expertise to enhance conservation or management at the site

# 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](mailto: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

## 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:

PRESENT

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

Safe handling (as per existing protocols e.g., FAO guidelines) of incidentally caught turtles (e.g. resuscitation or release by fishers using equipment such as de-hooking, line cutting tools and scoop nets)

#### c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below.

Onboard observer programmes

Vessel monitoring systems

### Onboard observer programmes

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> The Fisheries Management Act 1998

Details/future plans:

>>> An observer programme was established by the National Fisheries Authority for the purpose of collecting and reporting reliable and accurate information for scientific, management, and compliance purposes.

## **Vessel monitoring systems**

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Fisheries Management Act, 1998

Details/future plans:

>>> The National Fisheries Authority is dedicated to the sustainable management and development of the fisheries sector as per the Fisheries Management Act, 1998. It has established a robust monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) system to regulate all licensed fishing vessels within PNG waters.

## **2) Pelagic trawling**

### **a) Fishing effort:**

PRESENT

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

None of the above

Details:

>>> For most cases, most turtles incidentally caught are not reported to relevant authorities to take immediate actions or responses

### **c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below.**

Onboard observer programmes

Vessel monitoring systems

## **Onboard observer programmes**

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Fisheries Management Act 1998

Details/future plans:

>>> An observer programme was established by the National Fisheries Authority for the purpose of collecting and reporting reliable and accurate information for scientific, management, and compliance purposes.

## **Vessel monitoring systems**

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Fisheries Management Act 1998

Details/future plans:

>>> The National Fisheries Authority is dedicated to the sustainable management and development of the fisheries sector as per the Fisheries Management Act, 1998. It has established a robust monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) system to regulate all licensed fishing vessels within PNG waters.

## **3) Set nets**

### **a) Fishing effort:**

UNKNOWN

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

None of the above

**c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below.**

None of the above

**None of the above**

Explanation/future plans:

>>> We have not implemented measures to minimize bycatch of turtles in country or have programs and trainings in place to use bycatch reduction methods.

We hope with the National Plan of Actions for Turtles, it would cover these components to address the issue of bycatch of turtles.

**4) Driftnet**

**a) Fishing effort**

PRESENT

**Please provide the information below:**

Geographic distribution:

>>> Gulf of Papua

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

Safe handling (as per existing protocols e.g., FAO guidelines) of incidentally caught turtles (e.g. resuscitation or release by fishers using equipment such as de-hooking, line cutting tools and scoop nets)

Details:

>>> For most cases, most turtles incidentally caught are not reported to relevant authorities to take immediate actions or responses

**c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below**

Onboard observer programmes

Vessel monitoring systems

**Onboard observer programmes**

The measures is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Fisheries Management Act 1998

Details/future plans:

>>> An observer programme was established by the National Fisheries Authority for the purpose of collecting and reporting reliable and accurate information for scientific, management, and compliance purposes.

**Vessel monitoring systems**

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Fisheries Management Act 1998

Details/future plans:

>>> The National Fisheries Authority is dedicated to the sustainable management and development of the fisheries sector as per the Fisheries Management Act, 1998. It has established a robust monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) system to regulate all licensed fishing vessels within PNG waters.

## 5) Purse seine (with or without FADs)

### a) Fishing effort

PRESENT

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

None of the above

Details:

>>> For most cases, most turtles incidentally caught are not reported to relevant authorities to take immediate actions or responses. We have not implemented measures to minimize bycatch of turtles in country or have programs and trainings in place to use bycatch reduction methods. We hope with the National Plan of Actions for Turtles, it would cover these components to address the issue of bycatch of turtles.

### c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below.

Onboard observer programmes

Vessel monitoring systems

### Onboard observer programmes

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Fisheries Management Act 1998

Details/future plans:

>>> We have a Observe Program by the National Fisheries Authority but most times we do not get reports of incidental catches of turtles onboard

### Vessel monitoring systems

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Fisheries Management Act 1998

Details/future plans:

>>> The National Fisheries Authority is dedicated to the sustainable management and development of the fisheries sector as per the Fisheries Management Act, 1998. It has established a robust monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) system to regulate all licensed fishing vessels within PNG waters.

## 6) longline

### a) Fishing effort

PRESENT

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

Safe handling (as per existing protocols e.g., FAO guidelines) of incidentally caught turtles (e.g. resuscitation or release by fishers using equipment such as de-hooking, line cutting tools and scoop nets)

### c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below.

Onboard observer programmes

Vessel monitoring systems

### Onboard observer programmes

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Fisheries Management Act 1998

Detail/future plans:

>>> We have a Observe Program by the National Fisheries Authority but most times we do not get reports of incidental catches of turtles onboard

## **Vessel monitoring systems**

Details/future plans:

>>> The National Fisheries Authority is dedicated to the sustainable management and development of the fisheries sector as per the Fisheries Management Act, 1998. It has established a robust monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) system to regulate all licensed fishing vessels within PNG waters.

## **7) Artisanal fishing gear**

Type and description:

>>> Gill nets, nets, spear guns

### **a) Fishing effort**

PRESENT

### **Please provide any available information below:**

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

>>> Handlines, gill nets, traps, spear guns, fishing line

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

None of the above

Details:

>>> For most cases, most turtles incidentally caught are not reported to relevant authorities to take immediate actions or responses

### **c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below.**

None of the above

### **None of the above**

Explanation/future plans:

>>> We have not implemented measures to minimize bycatch of turtles in country or have programs and trainings in place to use bycatch reduction methods. We hope with the National Plan of Actions for Turtles, it would cover these components to address the issue of bycatch of turtles.

## **8) Other types of fisheries**

### **a) Fishing effort**

UNKNOWN

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

None of the above

### **c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below**

None of the above

### **None of the above**



Explanation/future plans

>>> We have not implemented measures to minimize bycatch of turtles in country or have programs and trainings in place to use bycatch reduction methods.

We hope with the National Plan of Actions for Turtles, it would cover these components to address the issue of bycatch of turtles.

**1.2.3 Are the bycatch mitigation measures described above (in 1.2.1) periodically reviewed and evaluated for their efficacy?**

UNSURE

**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?**

UNSURE

**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

**1.3 ADDRESSING HARVEST OF, AND TRADE IN, MARINE TURTLES**

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

>>> The leatherback turtle harvest of turtle eggs are when families are sailing from one village to another they often stop on the beach. When the turtles come to lay eggs this is when they are collected for food and sale at the local markets. For green and hawksbill the take of eggs are mainly for food but meat is highly demand

References and links:

>>> <https://www.sprep.org/news/findings-reveal-marine-turtles-are-an-important-resource-for-png-communities>  
<https://georgehbalazs.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Kinch-2017-SeaTurtles-PNG-Review.pdf>

**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):

>>> The turtle meat harvest are only restricted to area that have being traditional linked to eating the meat. The main focus is to develop a management plan to regulate the traditional use and market sale for local consumption. ATSEA NAP 2025 - 2034

**b) Egg consumption**

YES

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

>>> The harvest of eggs are mainly on the index beach and these are mainly for leatherback turtle, green turtle and hawksbill. This is mainly on the index beach. This activity has slowed down because the research work is been conducted on the index beaches which makes it hard to egg taking

**c) Fat and oil consumption**

YES

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

>>> The 2 common species target are mainly green and hawksbill and on occasional with flat back turtle. The

fat and oil is used mainly for traditional and spiritual ceremonies by the coastal communities which the index beach exist. The number of turtles taken is an estimated of more than 3000 individuals per year in hotspots which is Daru in the Western province, Central province, Milne Bay province, Manus province and including the other province around the country

**d) Traditional medicine**

YES

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

>>> For traditional medicine is mainly the head, flippers and the shell. The most target species is the hawksbill turtle. The blood is also used for traditional medicine as well. The total harvest for both green and hawksbill is roughly estimates at 2000 individuals per year

**e) Shell**

YES

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

>>> Hawksbill is the mostly targeted species and harvest rate is almost 200 individuals

**f) Making of tortoise shell products (bekko)**

YES

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

>>> The target species is hawksbill while the green turtle is limited with other small products which is spoons knives and small items

**g) Other**

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

>>> The other uses include the stuffing of the juveniles which includes both green and hawksbill turtle

**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:

>>> The most common is the eating of the meat, fat and the oil of the turtle meat

**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

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 secretarat at [iosea@un.org](mailto:iosea@un.org)

	What are the challenges?	Is the legislation enforced?	Is traditional use allowed under this legislation?	Legislati on date	Legislation title
	Protected Area Act 2024	just passed by parliament in 2024	yes	February 2024	Protected Area Act 2024
	Organic Act on Local level Government	Has been used at local and provincial level	yES	1992 JULY	Organic Act on the Provincial and Local Government

**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

References and links:

>>> <https://png-data.sprep.org/system/files/hawkspill.pdf>

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

- Relatively high prices, relatively high revenues earned from selling turtle parts and products (any of the following: meat, eggs, crafts)
- 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
- Low penalties against illegal take

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

NOT APPLICABLE (no adverse economic incentives exist)

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

YES

If yes, please indicate which type:

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

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

YES

**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.

YES

**1.3.13 Has you 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.

YES

**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?**

NO

**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

**b) Nesting beach protection (patrolling)**

YES

**c) Predator control**

NO

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

NO

**e) Vehicle access restrictions**

YES

**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

**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.

**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

## **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:

- >>> 1. Murat and Lovongai Marine Protected Area in the New Ireland Province of PNG
- 2. Karkum Conservation Area in the Madang Province of PNG
- 3. Maza Wildlife Management Area in the Western Province of PNG
- 4. Kamiali Wildlife Management Area in the Morobe Province of PNG

References and links:

- >>> 1. <https://png.wcs.org/About-Us/News/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/21437/Papua-New-Guinea-triples-ocean-protection-announcing-two-new-Marine-Protected-Areas.aspx>
- 2. <https://seaturtles.org/pacific-leatherback-project-in-png-awarded-conservation-grant/>
- 3. <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/papua-new-guinea-s-top-national-parks-and-protected-areas.html#:~:text=Maza%20wildlife%20management%20area%20is,the%20dugong%20and%20marine%20turtles.>
- 4. <https://mdfpng.com/the-kamiali-wildlife-management-area/>

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

Details:

>>> NONE

#### **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

#### **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:

>>> Yes, the Conservation and Environment Protection Authority has the Environment Act 2000 which prohibits the use of destructive and chemical into the marine environment. Thus the National Fisheries Authority prohibits Dynamite fishing under the Fisheries Management Act 1998.

References and links:

- >>> [https://www.paclii.org/pg/legis/consol\\_act/fma1998193/](https://www.paclii.org/pg/legis/consol_act/fma1998193/)
- [https://www.paclii.org/pg/legis/consol\\_act/ea2000159/](https://www.paclii.org/pg/legis/consol_act/ea2000159/)

### **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

References and links:

>>> [https://www.facebook.com/story.php/?story\\_fbid=634060765567418&id=100068905007362](https://www.facebook.com/story.php/?story_fbid=634060765567418&id=100068905007362)

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

YES see below

References and links:

>>> [https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/Tuna\\_Bay\\_Mangrove\\_Management\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.pacific-r2r.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/Tuna_Bay_Mangrove_Management_Plan.pdf)

**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

Details/future plans:

>>> The need of capacity building and training to rehabilitate degraded seagrass cover areas.

## 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](mailto: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)
	Yes - Kamiali Wildlife Management Area	Increase	Nesting Leatherbacks	April - September and October - March	2009	western Pacific Ocean (wPac)	Kamiali, Huon Coast, Morobe Province

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

YES

Please indicate when the evaluation took place and describe lessons learned.

Details:

- >>> 1. To extend the nesting beaches to ensure all nests are covered.
- 2. The need to increase the beach tagging equipment for monitoring

#### 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

##### b) Satellite tracking

Yes

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

>>> Dermochelys coriacea , western Pacific Ocean (wPac)

##### c) Genetic studies

YES

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

- >>> 1. *Caretta caretta*: southwest Pacific Ocean (swPac) for feeding
- 2. *Chelonia mydas*: western New Caledonia (wNC) for feeding
- 3. *Chelonia mydas*: Coral Sea Platform (CS) for feeding
- 4. *Chelonia mydas*: Southern Great Barrier Reef (sGBR) for feeding
- 5. *Chelonia mydas*: Northern Great Barrier Reef (nGBR) for feeding
- 6. *Chelonia mydas*: northern New Guinea (nNG) for nesting
- 7. *Chelonia mydas*: Sulu Sea (SS) for feeding
- 8. *Dermochelys coriacea*: western Pacific Ocean (wPac) for nesting
- 9. *Eretmochelys imbricate*: Solomon Islands (Sol) for feeding
- 10. *Eretmochelys imbricate*: north Queensland (nQID) for feeding
- 11. *Natator depressus*: Arafura Sea (AS) for feeding

References and links:

- >>> 1. Limpus et al, 1992; FitzSimmons et al, 1996; Kelez et al, 2003, Alfaro Shigueto et al, 2004; Boyle et al, 2009, Limpus 2008a; Limpus et al database
- 2. Dethmers et al, 2006; Limpus 2008b; Read et al, 2014; Limpus et al, database
- 3. Dethmers et al, 2006; Limpus 2008b; Limpus et al, database
- 4. Limpus et al, 1992; Norman et al, 1994; FitzSimmons et al, 1997a,b; Dethmers et al, 2006; Limpus, 2008b; Read et al, 2014; Limpus et al, database
- 5. Limpus et al, 1992; Norman et al, 1994; FitzSimmons et al, 1997a,b; Dethmers et al, 2006; Limpus, 2008b; Read et al, 2014; Limpus et al, database
- 6. Norman et al, 1994; Dethmers et al, 2006; Limpus, 2008b; Nishizawa et al, 2013; Limpus et al, database
- 7. De Silva, 1982; Dethmers et al, 2006; de Veyra, 1994; Sagus, 2004; Arshad et al, 2008; Isnain, 2009; Limpus et al, database
- 8. Dutton et al, 1997, 2007; Adnyana, 2009; Limpus, 2009b; Minami et al, 2009; Benson et al, 2011; Limpus et al, database
- 9. Limpus, 2009a; Limpus et al, database
- 10. Limpus, 2009a; FitzSimmons, 2010; Limpus et al, database
- 11. Limpus, 2007; Pittard, 2010; Limpus et al, database

**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:

>>> In the Kamiali Wildlife Management Area, the local monitors always use their traditional knowledge to monitor the beaches. The local monitors always gets a signal from a nesting bird in the village, when the villagers hear the bird calls out they believe that's the number of how many turtles will be coming up to nest on the beaches.

**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.)**

YES



## **b) Genetic characterization**

YES

## **c) Migratory and dispersal routes**

YES

## **d) Other biological and ecological aspects**

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?**

YES

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

never

#### **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

# **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:

- >>> 1. Kamiali Wildlife Management Area - Leatherback nesting beach patrolling and monitoring
- 2. Karkum Turtle Conservation Area- Awareness programs, beach protection on nesting sites and monitoring
- 3. Lissenung Island Resort Turtle Conservation Program
- 4. Conflict Islands Conservation Initiative

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

Details/future plans:

>>> Our communication materials are developed for educational purposes targeting local communities and schools for dissemination. We have developed educational posters, brochures and recently launched our PNG pidgin version of the turtle comic for dissemination in schools and communities.

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

- Communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats
- Local/Fishing communities
- Indigenous groups
- Media
- Teachers
- Students

### **4.1.4 Have any community learning centres or information centres been established in your country?**

NO

## **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?

- Communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats
- Local/Fishing communities
- Indigenous groups
- Tourists
- Media
- Students
- Scientists
- NGOs

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

Details/future plans:

>>> Kamiali Wildlife Management Area, Conflict Islands Conservation Initiative, Karkum Conservation Area and Lissenung Island Resort

**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

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

Details, examples:

>>> NO, Most of the conservation measures are done at the National Level.

# **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**

ESSENTIAL

#### **d) Illegal fishing in EEZ**

ESSENTIAL

#### **e) Incidental capture by foreign fleets in EEZ**

ESSENTIAL

#### **f) Enforcement/patrolling of EEZ**

ESSENTIAL

#### **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**

ESSENTIAL

#### **l) Alternative livelihood development**

ESSENTIAL

#### **m) Characterisation of turtle populations/genetic stocks**

ESSENTIAL

#### **n) Identification of migration routes**

ESSENTIAL

#### **o) Tagging / satellite tracking**

ESSENTIAL

## **p) Habitat studies**

ESSENTIAL

## **q) Genetic studies**

ESSENTIAL

## **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:

- >>> 1. Regional Marine Turtle Action Plan under SPREP
- 2. The IOSEA arrangement
- 3. The Regional Plan of Action under the CTI-CFF
- 4. ATSEA National Plan of Action

References and links:

>>> [https://www.sprep.org/attachments/Circulars/SPREP\\_Regional\\_Marine\\_Turtle\\_Action\\_Plan\\_2018-2022\\_draft.docx](https://www.sprep.org/attachments/Circulars/SPREP_Regional_Marine_Turtle_Action_Plan_2018-2022_draft.docx)  
<https://www.cms.int/iosea-turtles/en/page/mou-text-cmp>  
[https://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org/sites/default/files/resources/CTI-CFF%20Regional%20Plan%20Of%20Action%20\(RPOA\)%20.pdfConserva](https://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org/sites/default/files/resources/CTI-CFF%20Regional%20Plan%20Of%20Action%20(RPOA)%20.pdfConserva)

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

Details:

- >>> 1. Conservation and Environment Protection Authority
- 2. National Fisheries Authority
- 3. Makata - Karkum Turtle Conservation
- 4. Kamiali Wildlife Management Area
- 5. Conflicts Islands Conservation Initiative
- 6. Sea Keepers of East New Britain
- 7. Lissenung Island Resort Turtle Conservation

References and links:

>>> <https://www.facebook.com/PNGCoralTriangleInitiative/>  
<https://library.sprep.org/sites/default/files/SeaTurtleRestorationProjectofKarkumPNG.pdf>  
<https://www.sprep.org/attachments/Publications/Newsletters/PNG-newsletter1Oct2006.pdf>  
<https://www.mrf-asia.org/project/papua-new-guinea-leatherbacks-2004-2014/>  
[https://www.wpcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Kinch-report\\_final.pdf](https://www.wpcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Kinch-report_final.pdf)  
<https://www.cici.org.au/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/777845422625993/posts/1095187064225159/>  
<https://www.lissenung.com/turtles/>

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

Details/future plans:

- >>> 1. Currently in Progress of developing a National Plan of Action for Turtles for PNG
- 2. The Marine Turtles Roll out Awareness Campaign in six target sites in PNG
- 3. Development of local translated communication materials

References and links:

>>>  
<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=724853219834042&id=100069281106776&set=a.248569304129105>  
<https://library.sprep.org/content/turtle-protection-awareness-pacific-bioscapes-programme-papua-new-guinea#:~:text=The%20PNG%20Conservation%20and%20Environment,excessive%20turtle%20take%20is%2>

Ocurring.

<https://library.sprep.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/tukunatrausel.pdf>

### **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:

>>> In country, there are few local experts of marine turtle including myself, in terms of knowledge transfer we have been engaged in continuous turtle awareness in schools and communities making everybody know how to identify the turtles. We do not have facilities in the country for turtle research and sample collections. There is also a need to train more young conservationists.

#### **5.3.2 Describe any training your country provided in marine turtle conservation and management in the last 5 years (e.g., workshops held, training manuals produced etc.), and indicate your plans for the coming year.**

Details/future plans:

>>> 1. Turtle Workshop with turtle monitors in Kamiali and Busama, Morobe Province in 2022  
2. Publication of the Local Translated Turtle Comic for awareness roll out

In 2024, we are in progress of developing the National Plan of Action for Turtles and hopefully have it launched by this year

#### **5.3.3 Specifically in relation to capacity-building for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats, describe any partnerships with universities, research institutions, training bodies and other relevant organisations, national, regional, and/or international.**

Details/future plans:

>>> 1. Regional Exchange on Sea Turtle Conservation Training by Turtle Conservation and Education Center (TCEC) under the ATSEA Phase 2 Project

<https://atsea-program.com/event/atsea-2-hosts-regional-exchange-on-sea-turtle-conservation-in-bali/>

### **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

Details:

title of the document, year, link:

>>> The PNG National Plan of Action for Turtles is currently in development stage

##### **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

#### **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?**

YES

Details, future plans:

>>> Under the PNG Flora and Fauna Act 2000, it only recognizes and protects the leatherback turtle, the Act was under review last year 2023, where the other five other marine turtles were added to the list for protection and currently awaiting endorsement

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

Details:

>>> Traditional access for locals to harvest turtles for consumption

**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?**

NO

# 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:

>>> Yes, I believe PNG done alot of conservation work in country with support from Researchers and NGOs in terms of protecting and managing the turtle stock in country.

Our biggest task now is to complete our National Plan of Action for Turtles

### 6.1.2 Is you 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.

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

NO

### 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 secretarat at [iosea@un.org](mailto:iosea@un.org)

	Role in the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats	Name of the agency
	The Conservation & Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) is the Government's Lead Agency involved in Protection and Conservation of both plant and animal species.	Conservation and Environment Protection Authority
	The NFA works to ensure that the country's fish stocks are sustainably managed, and that the fishing industry is developed in a way that is environmentally and economically sustainable.	National Fisheries Authority
	To protect the remaining turtles as well as to educate the local population about turtle and environmental protection	Lissenung Island Resort- Turtle Conservation Program
	CICI have successfully developed an internship that aims to protect and promote the populations of turtles that visit the islands during nesting season.	Conflict Islands Conservation Initiative



