



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



## SECOND MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR MARINE TURTLES OF THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA

5-7 March 2008, Senegal, Dakar

UNEP/CMS/MT-AFR2/Report

### REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES

1. The second meeting of the Signatory States to the Memorandum of Understanding that was initially scheduled to be held in South Africa in September 2007 in conjunction with the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> conferences of the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions, was postponed for several reasons. It was finally held in Dakar at the Hotel Ngor Diarama from 5 to 7 March, 2008.

2. The second meeting was attended by approximately 80 participants representing 22 Signatory States, experts from France, Spain, Italy, the United States of America, and several other institutions and non-governmental organisations (the list of participants can be found in Annex 1), and dealt with the agenda annexed to the report (see Annex 2) during three days of intensive work.

#### **Item 1 of the agenda: Opening ceremony, adoption of the Agenda, provisional Schedule and Election of members of an Administrative Bureau for the meeting**

3. In his welcoming speech (Annex 3), the Interim Secretary in charge of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), Mr. David Njiki Njiki, welcomed the representative of UNEP, the Deputy Executive Secretary of CMS and other participants, and expressed satisfaction about the partnership between SINEPAD and CMS and his delight that the conference was being held.

4. He declared that his Secretariat had been established to enable the implementation of the first Action Plan on the Environment, a ten-year plan comprising themes which were subdivided into three main areas i.e. the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, combating all forms of adverse impact and climate change. Section 4 of this plan provided for “the conservation and use of marine and coastal resources” which fitted the theme of this workshop perfectly into the main priorities of SINEPAD.

5. He appealed to all countries to take proper account of marine turtle conservation in their Development Plans since, he said, the issue of these reptiles was an integral part of the issue of cross-border management of natural resources which was a shared task. Indeed, it is quite true that migratory species did not apply for travel visas to cross national frontiers; they were guided solely by the favourable or unfavourable conditions prevalent in the natural environment hosting them.

6. The Deputy Executive Secretary of the CMS, Mr. Lahcen El Kabiri, expressed gratitude on behalf of CMS, to the government of Senegal for agreeing to host URTOMA and also for agreeing to stage the second meeting of the Signatory States of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa that had initially been scheduled to be held in South Africa (see Annex 4).

7. He also expressed his gratitude to all Signatory States and the renowned national experts from African and non-African countries for their participation in the meeting, six years after the first meeting had been held. He looked back at the different stages in the run-up to the signing in 1999, of this Abidjan Memorandum of Understanding and the launch of work to elaborate the Conservation Plan (CP) at the first meeting of the Signatory States in Nairobi in 2002.

8. He reminded participants that the principal objectives of the meeting were to re-assess the implementation of the Memorandum by the Signatory States on one hand, and on the other, to develop the Memorandum by creating a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee as well as updating the Conservation Plan.

9. Moreover, he indicated that the adoption of a national reporting format would allow the new database to be provided with information and to move in a short time to a system of electronic continuous reporting following the example of the Indian Ocean – South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA).

10. He also noted that participants would be called upon to discuss the terms of reference and rules of procedure governing the Scientific Committee with the aim of achieving a lean and functional structure. The experts making up this committee would be elected on the basis of their professional competence, personal qualities and their reputation in this area, and should be in a position to meet and exchange expertise coordinated by the Secretariat, the Coordination Unit and the Signatory States.

11. Finally he emphasized that all these objectives and the improvements of the *modus operandi* in conjunction with this article 4, paragraph 4 agreement under the Convention would definitely necessitate the amendment of the text of the Memorandum by consensus (paragraph 2 of the Fundamental Principles).

12. Conveying the apologies as well as words of encouragement of Mr. Bakary Kanté, Director of the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions of UNEP, who could not be present because of last minute problems, Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, thanked the government of Senegal on behalf of UNEP, for agreeing to host this meeting. He expressed the satisfaction of his organization at the significant advances made in the partnership between SINEPAD, the government of Senegal and UNEP/CMS (see Annex 5).

13. As for the Action Plan which required the commitment of all parties he indicated that UNEP found it desirable that other countries and organisations not yet signatories to the MoU should become involved in the process.

14. UNEP would do everything possible to seek financial resources from partners to facilitate the success of the work on the conservation of marine turtles and other migratory species. This will be realized through scientific research and capacity building for the purpose of promoting sustainable development. In his opinion, this meeting was an opportunity for exchange of knowledge amongst experts and an important tool for conservation that should contribute to the advancement of the process in the interest of all parties concerned.

15. He reminded participants of the major objectives of the conference and reaffirmed his confidence that the meeting would proceed smoothly and produce interesting results.

16. In his speech, the *Directeur de Cabinet*, Sidy Gueye representing the Minister of State at the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Reservoirs and Artificial Lakes (MEPNBRLA), welcomed participants and stressed the importance of the state of natural

resources characterizing the Atlantic coast of Africa with particular reference to the presence of six different species globally threatened species of turtle which were subject to different dangers.

17. He added that the commitment of African States with the help of external partners would undoubtedly contribute in the future to the improvement of the state of conservation and promotion of the development of the remaining population of turtles.

18. Amongst the measures thus far undertaken, he mentioned the establishment of the URTOMA sub-branch in Dakar and the start of the major project for a “large green wall” and the reservoirs.

19. According to the *Directeur de Cabinet*, the presence of Signatory States and several observers in this meeting would facilitate the harmonization of divergent positions in respect of the conservation of marine turtles of the region and would be able to offer the opportunity of re-assessing the state of the work of the MoU. It would also enable gaps to be measured, constraints identified, obligations and projections for the future made to finalise the national and legal institutional frameworks necessary for an integrated and effective policy to implement the memorandum.

20. He recognized the importance of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by countries like the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Spain and Portugal, as well as those within the range and other countries and international institutions that would lead to a better and more efficient implementation of the memorandum and finally wished participants much success in their undertaking.

21. Following the opening ceremony, the Deputy Executive Secretary of CMS asked participants to elect an Administrative Bureau as set out in the agenda. The participants gladly accepted the proposal made by Ms. Séné Thiam, Coordinator of URTOMA, to appoint an Administrative Bureau for the meeting.

22. The meeting adopted by consensus a resolution on the composition of the Administrative Bureau as follows: (a) Chairman – Senegal, M. Pape Ndiaye, presently the Director of IFAN (Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar), (b) Vice Chairman – Gambia, Mr. Alpha Oumar Djallo, and (c) Reporters: Cameroon - M. Mahamat Habibou and Sierra Leone - M. Edward Aruna.

23. There were a few remarks and observations concerning the provisional order of items contained in the document UNEP/CMS/MT-AFR 2/2 in respect of the agenda, expressing concerns about the huge volume of items of discussions planned for three days. Priorities were therefore re-defined and the amended timetable was adopted.

24. The Deputy Executive Secretary of CMS urged delegates who had not submitted their letters of accreditation to submit them to the Coordinator of URTOMA, who would then verify the letters of accreditation assisted by two volunteers and pass them over to the Secretariat of CMS.

**Item 2 of the agenda: Presentation of the Report of the first Conference of the Signatory States held in Nairobi (Kenya)**

25. The report of the Nairobi meeting (document UNEP/CMS/MT-AFR2/Inf1) was presented by the Deputy Executive Secretary of the CMS. It contained the joint vision of the Signatory States of the Agreement in relation to the African process scientific research, the general hazards faced by the turtle species and the priorities of the conservation for each species.

26. He touched on programmes which had already been implemented as well as those that were still being carried out and the difficulties encountered in carrying on actions initiated once all outside financial support had been exhausted.

27. Then, the Deputy Executive Secretary mentioned some natural and anthropogenic factors (artisanal and industrial fishery) that had had a negative impact on the survival of marine turtles. Still, in order to deal with environmental problems the African agenda for development and environmental protection had included on its list the protection and the management of marine turtle. At the time of the first conference, countries had been urged to encourage signature of the MoU to facilitate the implementation of the programme, solidarity amongst African countries and their participation in the MoU by nominating focal points and the enlargement of the MoU by other countries.

28. In this context, this report further stressed the necessity for each country to nominate a national focal point, to produce the conservation plan, to adopt a format for national reporting, to set a framework of measures and future collaboration, definition of priorities in key areas, identification of possible draft project proposals and other sources of financing as well as drawing up and adopting a provisional calendar for future activities.

29. Taking advantage of the presence of experts from Spain and the Canary Islands, the USA, France, Portugal and the United Kingdom, the Deputy Executive Secretary in his conclusion, asked members to look for opportunities of opening the possibility of accession to the MOU to such non-African countries whose activities had a bearing on the survival of as well as to other organizations capable of rendering support to the protection of marine turtles.

30. In this respect, France reaffirmed its intention to join the MoU after it had completed the process in respect of the Indian Ocean – South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA). Growing awareness was evident among decision-makers in the United Kingdom and Spain of the importance of acceding to the MoU, following the example of the 23 Range States along the Atlantic coast of Africa, which had all signed the agreement.

31. The Nairobi Declaration was introduced during the presentation of this report.

32. In the open debate following the presentation, it was observed that the African process was making gradual progress, as was becoming visible in numerous, specific actions. It should however be noted all the same that these actions should be coordinated with other African programmes like the Abidjan Convention, climate change, etc.

**Item 3 of the agenda: Partnership between UNEP/CMS and SINEPAD**

33. It was noted that the Agreements Officer at the CMS Secretariat was responsible for monitoring most of the other memoranda. However, as a result of insufficient staff numbers,

the CMS Secretariat had not been able to give priority to coordinating this Memorandum, whose activities were being led locally by existing marine turtle networks.

34. This explained the interest in the establishment of a partnership that had allowed the MoU to create a Coordination Unit (“URTOMA”) with the support of the Senegalese government, which had made premises available as well as staff made up of civil servants.

35. This Coordination Unit was subordinate to SINEPAD, and headed by CMS and UNEP which would support its operation during the period from 2006 to 2009. The unit should now be able to implement an annual work plan, to analyze national reports as well as raise public awareness.

36. SINEPAD was invited by this meeting to prepare a programme for the conference of the Ministers of NEPAD scheduled for June 2008, draw up a list of projects for sustainable development of marine turtles as well as seek sources of finance.

37. However, as far as scientific research was concerned, it had become clear that it was necessary to involve research institutions in the entire process. Certain difficulties had been revealed, in particular obtaining CITES permits in relation to transferring marine turtle samples for laboratory analysis.

38. At the same time, to ensure continued activities for the conservation of marine turtles, the question of financing projects revealed the necessity of synergy between partners so that finance for each country was known.

39. Moreover, communication between the Secretariat and Focal Points should be improved, and the objectives redefined with greater precision as to what is to be achieved.

40. Participants confirmed that the interval between meetings (6 years between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup>) had not been conducive to better communication and making decisions aimed at the improvement of the conservation of marine turtles in Africa.

41. The Deputy Executive Secretary of CMS observed that holding meetings was an expensive venture and an acceptable frequency of such meetings should be looked into with a view to optimizing the use of funds.

42. He also mentioned that the creation of a committee within the Coordination Unit should look into additional sources of finance in cooperation with CMS, UNEP and SINEPAD/Env.

**Item 4 of the agenda: Examining the items from the Workshop of January 2007 and the work programme of URTOMA**

43. The focus was specifically on the working programme of URTOMA for the period 2007-2008 (document UNEP/CMS/MT-AFR2/Inf. 3, as presented to the participants) and the possibility of partnerships for conservation projects and research on marine turtles.

44. On this issue, Ms. Thiam, Coordinator of URTOMA reminded participants of the objectives of the unit, the progress made so far as well as difficulties encountered. She also called for the realistic and ambitious objectives to be defined.

45. In this context, she mentioned the problem of the dissipation of effort, which weakened the effectiveness of actions, as well as the problem of insufficient funds placed at the disposal of the unit.

46. Possible solutions included: the necessity of reinforcing the capacity of URTOMA to enable it to carry out its mandate and objectives to the greatest extent possible, the setting up of a meeting and exchange between actors in the field of the exploitation of marine resources (PRCM, European Union for the Agreement of Fishing Rights, Commission of the Sub-region on Fishing, African States, etc.) and the organisation of a common initiative with the help of FAO and the NGOs.

#### **Item 5 of the agenda: Updating the Conservation Plan**

47. The revised conservation plan (document UNEP/CMS/MT-AFR2/4) was presented with its different objectives and programmes by the consultant, Mr. Jacques Fretey.

48. Different points were expressed in respect of this document, particularly the relevance or not of its similarities with the conservation and structure plan of IOSEA, the difficulties in carrying out certain activities, the fact that certain programmes like management of beaches, monitoring of the hatching of turtles and the greater implication of local communities had not been taken into account.

49. It was agreed that the approval of the plan be deferred to the days ahead to enable participants to formulate their observations more precisely.

50. The document was debated on the second day and a small working group set up to subsequently elaborate the document further for onward transmission to the Secretariat of CMS and URTOMA, which would then circulate it to the States.

51. It was requested that the comments be passed over to Mr. Jacques Fretey within a reasonable period of time to enable him re-edit the document and produce a final draft (Annex 7).

#### **Item 6 of the agenda: Presentation of progress made so far (Country-by-Country presentation)**

52. The aim of this item on the agenda was to offer each country the opportunity to present the progress made by them in the field of marine turtle conservation. However, since there was a huge number of reports presented (23 reports of the Signatory States) and there was little time available, the presentations were then made in different groups. Moreover the time was still not enough to have all countries present their reports but the different reports were deposited at the secretariat for further processing and for publication on the website of URTOMA [www.urtoma.org.sn](http://www.urtoma.org.sn). Only South Africa, Republic of Benin, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Republic of Guinea and Guinea-Bissau were able to share the progress made by their various country with other participants.

53. All these reports had something in common: the efforts made by the countries in the conservation of marine turtles stressed the importance of effectively involving all the actors. The common problems related to the lack of technical, financial and material capacity came to light. In addition, it should be noted that many activities were still in progress.

54. The hazards to which turtles were exposed, the same across the entire range, are chiefly capture, pollution, coastal erosion, urbanisation and tourism. On the other hand,

management differs from country to country, with monitoring being better organised and more intensive in those countries benefiting from external and domestic financial resources like Gabon, South Africa and Cape Verde.

55. To be able to manage these species of migratory marine turtles in a sustainable manner, the meeting appealed for large-scale cooperation between people, countries, continents and organisations.

56. Sub-regional training sessions had already been held in Guinea-Bissau within the scope of the Regional Program for the Conservation of Coastal Zones and the marine region of West Africa (PRCM) and institutional arrangements would now have to be strengthened, the process of public awareness raising continued, alternative income-generating activities to be initiated for the population, with civil society and public authorities involved in the process.

**Item 7 of the agenda: Presentation of the summary of national reports and discussion on the format of national reporting.**

57. At the present moment, only three countries had submitted their national reports to URTOMA in time. No composite report could be presented in the absence of the other national reports. Countries that had yet completed their reports were kindly invited to do so as quickly as possible.

58. Participants had however recognized the relevance of a national report format (document UNEP/CMS/MT-AFR 2/5), but had also agreed that it should be closely intertwined with the pattern of the Conservation Plan, which was still under examination to take account of all activities.

59. The problems encountered by the countries were also discussed with respect to the filling in the form and it was agreed that the capacity of staff on the ground should be boosted to attain a higher level of efficiency in monitoring of marine turtles, which was a new activity.

60. The experts Mr. Jacques Fretey and Ms. Tiwari Manjula had been mandated by the CMS Secretariat to review the format of national reports and produce a final document in this respect. The final document would also be forwarded to the Secretariat of CMS and URTOMA to be sent round among the Signatory States (Format of national reports in Annex 8).

**Item 8 of the agenda: Scientific aspects of the Memorandum**

61. This item of the agenda included information in respect of the formation of a regional database on marine turtles and a Scientific Unit in Gorée (Senegal).

62. URTOMA had placed a public call for tender for the creation of a database on marine turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa. The associated Terms of Reference and the work of the selected consultant were presented to the meeting participants, highlighting the objectives, contents and the description of the main tasks to be performed. An Officer-in-Charge of the management of the database was also appointed.

63. Participants appreciated the progress that had thus far been accomplished and expressed the desire to develop the current project in such a simple manner so as to produce a flexible reporting system accessible to all actors (States, NGOs).

64. One of the delegates suggested making use of the database of IOSEA to benefit from the tried and tested too. CMS was invited to approach the Secretariat of IOSEA to look into the possibility of using the model of its database.

65. Secondly, the project of the creation of a scientific sub-agency by URTOMA the island of Gorée, within the structures of the Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire (IFAN), was also presented. The idea was to profit from the old biological marine station of IFAN, which was founded in the late 1950's by Professor Théodore Monod, but which was unfortunately no longer functional. The re-establishment of this station would require among other things the restoration of the buildings.

66. The Scientific sub-agency of Gorée would be placed under the direct authority of URTOMA. Its main functions would be to set major guidelines for the conservation of marine turtles, management of the three regional West African databases, implement awareness raising and public relations programmes carry out desk studies, distribution of available materials and tools.

67. This initiative was favorably accepted and the government of Senegal was requested to monitor this process with the help of interested parties.

**Item 9 of the agenda: Examining of non-Signatory States and Organizations and amendment of the MoU**

68. The document UNEP/CMS/MT-AFR2/6 prepared by the CMS Secretariat, was presented by Lahcen El Kabiri, who evaluated the state of accessions to the MoU, as well as the level of participation of States and organisations that were of significance to the memorandum.

69. He also noted that in addition of the signature of all African states, the position of the United Kingdom and the clarification of France's position to join the MoU, CMS had sent invitations to a number of organisations that were of importance to the cause of turtle conservation, but there had so far been no positive response. This meant that the procedure of signing the MoU during this meeting as foreseen in item 3 of the Agenda would not go ahead.

70. The overall picture of accession showed that all 23 African countries along the Atlantic coast had signed the MoU and contacts were underway with other political entities under the jurisdiction of Spain, United Kingdom, Portugal as well as France to join the MoU.

71. The representative of France demonstrated the interest of his country in signing the MoU and precised that this would be done after signing IOSEA. In its official reaction, the United Kingdom stated that it was currently in the process of consultation with the affected territories. Ms. Tiwari Manjula revealed that the USA had also declared interest in acceding to the memorandum. Partners such as IUCN had also declared their desire to support the MoU through their Consultative Committee, made up of a network of experts at their disposal.

72. Consequently, the Deputy Executive Secretary of CMS presented a draft decision seeking to amend the memorandum to allow the integration of the creation of a Consultative Scientific and Technical Committee in addition to enabling CMS to initiate the procedure for the creation of a regional Coordination Unit whenever deemed necessary. He explained that the proposed draft had been discussed with representatives of UNEP before presenting it to the meeting and for it to be adopted by consensus would have to be reached.



73. Delegates were invited to comment on the proposed amendment to the Memorandum in respect of the Scientific Committee as well as to give their opinion on the Secretariat's suggestion that necessary measures should be taken for the Coordination Unit of the MoU, whose activities had already been launched in January 2007.

74. On this point, a majority of those present at the meeting gave their opinion on broadening the amendment to allow the possibility to have the MoU signed by other non-African countries, Range States of marine turtles along the south Atlantic coast or simply countries interested in the conservation of turtles.

75. The meeting agreed that since some countries like the United States, United Kingdom and France were not mentioned in the wording of the MoU, it was necessary for the meeting to decide on the amendment.

76. To give this last point due consideration, the draft, the text which was initially prepared by the Secretariat of CMS was amended by a proposal tabled by Mr. John Frazier. The final text of the draft was presented once again to participants for adoption.

77. At this point, the Deputy Executive Secretary of CMS suggested to the meeting chairman to suspend debate on this issue until item 11 of the agenda (the creation of a Consultative Scientific and Technical Committee) had been resolved and this was accepted by the chairman.

**Item 11 of the agenda: Establishment of a Consultative [Scientific and Technical] Committee.**

78. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the creation of a Scientific and Technical Committee (STCtee) of URTOMA (document UNEP/CMS/MT-AFR2/7) had been presented in advance by the Consultant Mr. Jacques Fretey. The presentation had been followed by a discussion on the excessive powers of the future Committee chairman, the administrative location, the powers of the committee, its composition and the manner of appointing members, its functions and the liaison between this committee and URTOMA.

79. The question of handling probable disputes between the URTOMA Secretariat and the STCtee and the election of its first members was raised. For this reason, it was decided that no hierarchical reporting but rather functional reporting and a preliminary group (of 5 to 6 persons) should be chosen on the basis of their competence (based on their CVs).

80. To finalise the Terms of Reference, two working groups were set up, one anglophone and one francophone. The submission of their work led to further observations, differences of opinion on method electing future members. The francophone group suggested that members should be appointed on the basis of their competence following a core for candidates.

81. The Anglophone group in addition to this method of appointment added the possibility of countries propose members.

82. To harmonize the positions, another mixed working group was put in place to consolidate the final shape of the draft resolution on the establishment of the committee being able to consolidate a final draft of the proposal for establishing the Committee.

83. Further remarks and observations were made notably on the equitable distribution of membership amongst member states, discipline, effective relationship between the committee

and URTOMA, the transmission of reports to URTOMA and to Signatory States, and the need to take account of the existence of sub-regional networks as it is the case of IOSEA.

84. The meeting adopted the Terms of Reference (Annex 9) and invited the CMS Secretariat to constitute the committee, which should henceforth bear the name “Consultative Committee” and would be included in the decision on the amendment of the MoU which is the subject of item 9c. of the agenda here below.

**Item 9c. of the agenda: Amendment of the MoU (Continued)**

85. After consultations with the delegates, the text of the draft amendment decision (Annex 9) was the subject of remarks by delegates from South Africa, Sierra Leone and Cameroon. Even though this issue was on the agenda, these States observed that they would have welcomed some more time to study the contents before making their positions known on the draft amendment as presented in the meeting. As requested by the Deputy Executive Secretary of CMS these delegates did not place particular reservations on the adoption of the principle.

86. The meeting recognized that putting back the amendment for more than a reasonable period of time might entail the risk of delaying certain initiatives like the signing of the MoU as currently envisaged for other states, and consensus should therefore be sought during this meeting as long as a quorum was available.

87. At this stage, the Coordinator of URTOMA passed on to the Deputy Executive Secretary of CMS the approved letters of accreditation of the following 11 Signatory States: South Africa, Angola, Cape Verde, Congo (DRC), Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sao Tome & Principe, and Sierra Leone.

88. The meeting adopted the decision by consensus on the condition that none of the three Signatory States specified in paragraph 84 above or any other signatory state filed an official objection to the resolution at the Secretariat of CMS within a maximum period of fifteen days following the meeting. Once the period had passed the draft amendment would be considered accepted and final.

**Item 12 of the agenda: Adoption of the Closing Report**

89. The presentation of the draft report by the team of rapporteurs in the plenary and its adoption formed the last part of work of the meeting.

90. The meeting was brought to a close by the Technical Counsellor of the Minister of Environment, Nature Conservation, Reservoirs and Artificial Lakes of Senegal (Annex 10), after words of thanks expressed by the Chairman, the UNEP representative and the Deputy Executive Secretary of CMS Secretariat to the government of Senegal and to the participants for all their efforts and for the excellent outcomes which the meeting had achieved.

91. At the end of the afternoon, participants were invited for an excursion to the island of Gorée, as part of UNESCO’s World Cultural Heritage.



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5-7 March 2008, Senegal, Dakar

UNEP/CMS/MT-AFR2/Report  
Annex 1

### LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS LIST OF PARTICIPANTS Délégations officielles Official delegations

#### Etats de l'aire de répartition Range States

#### ANGOLA

Nascimento Antonio  
Chef du Département de Ressources Naturelles  
Ministère de l'Urbanisme et de  
l'Environnement  
Avenida 4 de Fev. Edifício Atlântico No 30  
Luanda  
Angola

Tel: +244 912 52 70 53  
E-mail: [kidimambeko@yahoo.com.br](mailto:kidimambeko@yahoo.com.br)

Kuedikuenda Soki  
Ministère de l'Urbanisme et de  
l'Environnement  
Avenida 4 de Fev. Edifício Atlântico No 30  
Luanda

Tel: +244 923 94 65  
E-mail: [kuedikuendasoki@yahoo.com.br](mailto:kuedikuendasoki@yahoo.com.br)

#### BENIN

Pascal Gbetoho  
Chef service suivi de la gestion de la faune  
Direction Générale des Forêts et des  
Ressources Naturelles  
BP 393 Cotonou  
Bénin

Tel: +229 21333053; +229 90010521

Fax: +229 21330428  
E-mail: [gbetopas@yahoo.fr](mailto:gbetopas@yahoo.fr)

#### CAMEROUN/CAMEROON

Mahamat Habibou  
Ingénieur des Eaux et Forêts  
Direction de la Faune et des Aires Protégées  
Yaoundé

Tel/Fax : +237 22 23 92 28/ 99 94 73 74  
E-mail: [mahamathabibou@yahoo.fr](mailto:mahamathabibou@yahoo.fr)

#### CAP VERT/CAPE VERDE

Sonia Indira Araujo  
Biologist Marine  
Direction Générale de l'Environnement  
Ministère de l'Environnement et de  
l'Agriculture  
CP: 115 Praia  
Cape Verde

Tel: +238-2618984  
Fax: +238 2617511  
E-mail: [soniaraujocv@gmail.com](mailto:soniaraujocv@gmail.com)

## CONGO

Lucien Maloueki  
Ingénieur Halieute  
Ministère de l'Economie Forestière  
B.P 1286 Pointe-Noire  
Brazzaville

Tel: +242 534 49 53  
Fax: +242 94 39 81  
E-mail: lumaloueki@yahoo.fr

## COTE D'IVOIRE

Tano Sombo  
Directeur de la Protection de la Nature  
Ministère de l'Environnement, des Eaux et  
Forêts  
06 BP 6648  
Abidjan 06

Tel: +225 20 22 53 66  
E-mail: sombotano@yahoo.fr;  
sombotano@africaonline.co.ci

## GABON

Emerie Noel Mikolo  
Ingénieur des Techniques des Eaux-Forêts  
Ministère de l'Economie Forestière et de la  
Pêche  
B.P. 1128  
Libreville

Tel: +241 76 14 44/cel: +241 07 708370  
E-mail: duchapelle2007@yahoo.fr

## GAMBIE

Alpha Omar Jallow  
Director  
Department of Parks and Wildlife  
Management (DPWM)  
c/o Department of state for forestry and the  
Environment  
State House  
Banjul

Tel: +220 43 76 972  
E-mail: [wildlife@gamtel.gm](mailto:wildlife@gamtel.gm);  
[alphaojy@yahoo.com](mailto:alphaojy@yahoo.com);  
[alphaojay@gmail.com](mailto:alphaojay@gmail.com)

## GHANA

Dickson Agyeman  
Snr. Wildlife officer/District Manager  
Songor Ramsar Site  
Box 73 Ada-Foah  
Ghana

Tel: +233 968 222 54, +233 448 434 64  
E-mail: [yaw652006@yahoo.com](mailto:yaw652006@yahoo.com)

## GUINEE

Bakary Magassouba  
Chef de service aménagement et gestion des  
aires protégées  
Centre National de Gestion des Aires  
Protégées  
Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage, de  
l'Environnement et des Eaux et Forêts  
BP 761  
Conakry

Tel: +224 60 58 20 15/+224 62 20 59 42  
E-mail: [magass56@yahoo.fr](mailto:magass56@yahoo.fr)

## GUINEE-BISSAU

Castro Barbosa  
Directeur du Parc National de Joao Vieira  
Poilao  
Institut de Biodiversité et des Aires protégées  
(IBAP)  
Ministère de l'Agriculture et du  
Développement rural (MADR)  
Rua Sao Tomé  
Casa N°6 Caixa Postal 70  
Bissau

Tel: +245 661 35 80/ 580 38 56/ 207106  
E-mail: [castrobarbosa@yahoo.com](mailto:castrobarbosa@yahoo.com);  
[ibap@mail.gtelecom.gw](mailto:ibap@mail.gtelecom.gw)

## GUINEE EQUATORIALE/ EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Estanislao Ntutum Ondo  
Ministerio de Pexca y Medio Ambiente  
Santa Cruz 2  
Bata

Tel: +240 24 14 17  
E-mail: ntutumuondo@yahoo.es

**LIBERIA**

James Coleman  
Focal Point CMS  
Environmental Protection Agency  
P.O. Box 4024  
1000 Monrovia 10  
Liberia

Tel: +231-077 217 415  
E-mail: [jecoleman2@yahoo.com](mailto:jecoleman2@yahoo.com)

**MAURITANIE/MAURITANIA**

Amadou Diam Ba  
Ministère Délégué auprès du Premier  
Ministre  
Chargé de l'Environnement  
BP 170 Nouakchott

Tel: +222 524 3142/ 630 10 53/ 657 73 27  
Fax: +222 524 31 38  
E-mail: [gaonadio@yahoo.fr](mailto:gaonadio@yahoo.fr)

**NIGERIA**

Dr Elizabeth Ehi Ebewele  
Chief Wildlife Officer  
Federal Ministry of Environment  
Housing and Urban Development  
Department of Forestry, Lagos Zonal office  
Games Village  
Surulere Lagos

Tel: +234 80 321 201 06  
E-mail: [elizaehi@yahoo.com](mailto:elizaehi@yahoo.com)

**REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU  
CONGO/ CONGO (DRC)**

Fidel Bandele Egalenzibo  
Chef de Bureau Programme hydrologique  
International (PHI/Congo)  
BP 12 348  
Kinshasa

Gombe Tel: +243 89 80 26 200  
Fax: + 33 82 669 2129/ 826 69 21 35  
[Bandele\\_eg@yahoo.com](mailto:Bandele_eg@yahoo.com)

**SAO TOME ET PRINCIPE/ SAO TOME  
AND PRINCIPE**

Manuel Jorge De Carvalho do Rio  
Président du Conseil d'administration  
MARAPA (Mer environnement et Pêche  
Artisanale)  
C.P. 292  
São Tomé e Príncipe

Tel: + 239 222792/222379  
E-mail: [marapa@cstome.net](mailto:marapa@cstome.net);  
[jorgecarvrio@hotmail.com](mailto:jorgecarvrio@hotmail.com)

**SENEGAL**

Youssouph Dhiédhiou  
Conservateur des Parcs Nationaux  
Chef de Division  
Direction des Parcs Nationaux  
Parc Forestier de Hann  
BP 5135  
Dakar-Fann

Tel: +221 77 656 51 65  
Fax: +221 832 23 11  
E-mail: [youssoudiedhiou@yahoo.fr](mailto:youssoudiedhiou@yahoo.fr)

**SIERRA LEONE**

Sheku Sei  
Fisheries Officer, Statistics and Research  
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources  
Jomo Kenyatta Road, New England,  
Freetown

Tel: +232 338 994 54  
Fax: +232 222 351 86  
E-mail: [seisheku@yahoo.com](mailto:seisheku@yahoo.com)

**AFRIQUE DU SUD/SOUTH AFRICA**

Dr Petronella Nel  
Policy Advisor  
Department of Environmental Affairs and  
Tourism  
Department of Zoology  
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University  
PO Box 77000  
Port Elisabeth  
7000 Pretoria

Tel: +27 4150 423 35

Fax: +27 415 042 317  
E-mail: Ronel.nel@nmmu.ac.za

## **TOGO**

Kossi Agbodji  
Spécialiste de la faune  
Direction de la Faune et de la Chasse  
Ministère de l'Environnement et des  
Ressources Forestières  
BP 355 Lomé

Tel: +228 22140 29/9470288/9929852  
Fax: +228 221 40 29  
E-mail: [direfaune@yahoo.fr](mailto:direfaune@yahoo.fr);  
[kossithomas@yahoo.fr](mailto:kossithomas@yahoo.fr)

**Organisations non gouvernementales/  
Non-governmental Organisations**

**MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

Peter Richardson  
Species Policy Officer  
Marine Conservation Society (MCS)  
Unit 3, Wolf Business Park  
Alton Rd  
Ross on Wye  
Herefords  
HR9 5NB  
UK

Tel: +44(0)1989 566017  
Fax: +44 (0) 1989 567815  
E-mail: [peter@mcsuk.org](mailto:peter@mcsuk.org)

**CAMEROON WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION PROJECT (CWCS)**

Isidore Ayissi  
Biologiste/Team Leader of Upper Nyong  
Wetlands Conservation Project  
CWCS  
BP 52 AYOS  
Cameroun

Tel: +237 75042703  
E-mail: [iayissi@yahoo.fr](mailto:iayissi@yahoo.fr)

**CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF SIERRA  
LEONE**

Edward Aruna  
Wetlands/Sea turtle Conservation Officer  
Conservation Society of Sierra Leone  
2 Pike Street, Off Campbell Street, P.O. Box  
1292, Freetown  
Sierra Leone

Tel: 232-33470043. 232-30221428,  
23277459339  
Fax: 232-22-224439  
E-mail: [edwardaruna@yahoo.com](mailto:edwardaruna@yahoo.com);  
[cssl\\_03@yahoo.com](mailto:cssl_03@yahoo.com)

**ONG CLEAN BEACH**

Mohamed Mahmoud Dahi  
President

ONG Clean Beach  
BP 2887 Nouakchott  
Mauritanie

Tel: 00 222 631 51 55  
E-mail: [clean\\_beachmr@yahoo.fr](mailto:clean_beachmr@yahoo.fr)

**PROGRAMME REGIONAL DE  
CONSERVATION DE LA ZONE  
COTIERE ET MARINE EN AFRIQUE DE  
L'OUEST**

Ahmed Senhoury  
Coordinateur régional  
BP 4167, Nouakchott  
République Islamique de Mauritanie

Tel: +(222) 529 09 77/524 18 68  
Fax: + (222) 524 18 69  
E-mail: [Ahmed.Senhoury@iucn.org](mailto:Ahmed.Senhoury@iucn.org)

**NOAA-NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES  
SERVICE**

Manjula Tiwari  
Research Scientist  
8604 La Jolla Shores Dr.  
La Jolla, California 92037, USA

Tel: +1 (858) 546-5658  
Fax: +1 (858) 546-7003  
E-mail: [Manjula.Tiwari@noaa.gov](mailto:Manjula.Tiwari@noaa.gov)

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY  
AND GABON SEA TURTLE  
PARTNERSHIP**

Angela Formia  
Gulf of Guinea Sea Turtle Program  
Coordinator  
Wildlife Conservation Society and Gabon Sea  
Turtle Partnership  
Via Angelo Emo 147, 00136 Rome,  
Italy

Tel: 39-06-39739751 or 241-07410005  
E-mail: [aformia@wcs.org](mailto:aformia@wcs.org);  
[aformia@seaturtle.org](mailto:aformia@seaturtle.org)

**IFAN Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar**

Youssouph Diatta  
Chercheur en Biologie Marine  
IFAN Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar  
BP 206 Dakar  
Senegal

Tel: (221) 338241652/(221) 338259890/(221) 338251990  
Fax: (221) 338244918  
E-mail: youssouphdiatta@hotmail.com

**IFAN-CH.A.DIOP/UCAD (Institut  
Fondamental d'Afrique Noire/Université  
Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar**

Abdoulaye Djiba  
Conservateur du musée de la mer de Gorée  
IFAN-CH.A.Diop/Ucad  
BP 206 IFAN-CH.A.Diop Dakar  
Senegal

Tel: 00221 555 70 95 (Mob); 00221 33 842 77 29  
Fax: 00221 33 824 49 18  
E-mail: djiabao\_6@yahoo.fr

Papa Ndiaye  
Maître de recherche – Directeur de l'IFAN – UCAD  
Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire – Université Cheikh Anta Diop (IFAN/CH.A.DIOP)  
BP. 206 Dakar  
Senegal  
Tel: (00221) 33 824 16 52  
Fax: (00221) 33 824 49 18  
E-mail: papandiaye50@yahoo.fr

**CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH  
CENTER, NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL  
PARK, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION**

John Frazier  
Conservation and Research Center, National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institution  
1500 Remount Road, Front Royal, VA 22630  
USA

Tel: +1540 635 6564  
Fax: + 1540 635 6551  
E-mail: [kurma@shentel.net](mailto:kurma@shentel.net); frazierja@si.edu

**SPANISH NATIONAL RESEARCH  
COUNCIL**

Adolfo Marco  
Researcher  
Spanish National Research Council  
Estación Biologica de Doñana, Avda. Maria Luisa s/n, Sevilla 41013  
Spain

Tel: 34 954232340  
Fax: 34 954621125  
E-mail: amarco@ebd.csic.es

Elena Abella  
Researcher  
Spanish National Research Council  
Estación Biologica de Doñana, Avda. Maria Luisa s/n, Sevilla 41013 Sevilla,  
Spain

Tel: 34 954232340  
Fax: 34 954621125  
E-mail: [elena\\_abella@ebd.csic.es](mailto:elena_abella@ebd.csic.es);  
decision00@hotmail.com

**UICN-France, IUCN/SSC MTSG**

Jacques Fretey  
Fondateur-coordonnateur scientifique du MoU, vice-chairman du IUCN/SSC MTSG chargé de l'Atlantique Sud Est  
UICN-France, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, 26 rue Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 75005 Paris  
France  
Tel: (+33) 1 47 0778 58; (+33) 3 25 75 33 43  
E-mail: jfretey@imatech.fr

**UICN-Senegal**

Racine Kane  
Country representative  
UICN Senegal

E-mail: [racine.kane@iucn.org](mailto:racine.kane@iucn.org)

**NATURE TROPICALE ONG**

S. Josea Dossou-Bodjrenou  
Directeur  
Nature Tropicale ONG, Membre de l'IUCN



Lot 4477 «R» Yagbe 06 BP 1015 Akpakpa PK  
3 Cotonou  
République du Bénin

Tel: +229 21 33 37 73; + 229 21 33 87 32;  
+229 95 40 94 14  
Fax: + 229 21 33 87 32  
E-mail: [ntongmu@yahoo.com](mailto:ntongmu@yahoo.com);  
[josea\\_bj@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:josea_bj@yahoo.co.uk)

Tomas Diagne  
Représentant  
Nature Tropicale Senegal, Membre de l'UICN  
BP 657  
25022 Rufisque Senegal

Tel: +221 77 21 642 67 10  
E-mail: [fondsdev@yahoo.fr](mailto:fondsdev@yahoo.fr)

Félix Sagna  
E-mail : [Babacarsagna08@hotmail.com](mailto:Babacarsagna08@hotmail.com)

#### **FACULTE DES SCIENCES DE TETOUAN**

Mustapha Aksissou  
Professeur  
Faculté des Sciences de Tetouan  
Département de Biologie, Faculté des Sciences  
BP 2121, Tetouan 93002  
Maroc

Tel: +212 61 953689  
Fax: +212 39 994500  
E-mail: [aksissou@yahoo.fr](mailto:aksissou@yahoo.fr)

#### **NIGERIAN INSTITUTE FOR OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE RESEARCH**

Boluwaji Solarin  
Assistant Director  
Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and  
Marine Research  
3, Wilmot Point Road, Off Ahmadou  
Bello Way  
P.O. Box 72017, Vitoria Island, Lagos,  
Nigeria

Tel: 234-8034669112  
E-mail: [bolusolarin@yahoo.com](mailto:bolusolarin@yahoo.com)

#### **NATURA 2000**

Catalina Monzón Argüello  
Veterinary  
Natura 2000  
Av. Mesa y López 3, 7V.  
35006 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Tel: 649117156  
E-mail: [catyma21@hotmail.com](mailto:catyma21@hotmail.com)

Ana Liria Loza  
Biologist  
Natura 2000  
c/ Lomo La Plana No 40, P3-1ºA.  
35019 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Tel: 653429941  
E-mail: [anapam@yahoo.com](mailto:anapam@yahoo.com)

#### **RESEAU POUR LA PROTECTION DES TORTUES MARINES D'AFRIQUE CENTRALE (PROTOMAC)**

Alain Gibudi  
Réseau pour la Protection des Tortues Marines  
d'Afrique Centrale (PROTOMAC)  
B.P. 2104, Libreville  
Gabon

Tel: +241 07 50 74 17/05 30 74 01  
Fax: +241 44 47 78

E-mail: [alaingis@yahoo.fr](mailto:alaingis@yahoo.fr);  
[ongprotomac@yahoo.fr](mailto:ongprotomac@yahoo.fr)

#### **UICN**

Mathieu Ducrocq  
Regional marine and coastal program officer  
for West Africa  
IUCN  
UICN, BP 4167, Nouakchott  
Mauritanie

Tel: +222 662 40 82  
Fax: +222 525 12 76  
E-mail: [mathieu.ducrocq@iucn.org](mailto:mathieu.ducrocq@iucn.org)

**FONDATION INTERNATIONALE DU  
BANC D'ARGUIN FIBA**

Charlotte Karibuhoye  
Coordinatrice du Programme Aires Marines  
Protégées  
Fondation Internationale du Banc d'Arguin  
FIBA  
c/o Bureau UICN – Avenue Bourguiba Castors  
BP 3215 Dakar

Tel: +221 33 869 02 88/+221 77 570 51 71  
Fax: +221 33 824 92 46  
E-mail: [Charlotte.Karibuhoye@iucn.org](mailto:Charlotte.Karibuhoye@iucn.org)

**Expert/Gambie**

Ibrahima Mat Dia (sur liste des participants de  
Dakar)  
Gambie  
E-mail: [matdia2000@yahoo.fr](mailto:matdia2000@yahoo.fr)

**Personnalités et Représentants des institutions et organisations basées à Dakar /  
Personalities and representatives of Institutions and Organisations located at Dakar**

**Représentant du PNUE**

Ramakrishna Kilaparti  
Senior Advisor  
Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC)  
United Nations Environment Programme

Tel : +254 20 762 5017/ +254 20 762 5150

Mobile : +254 724 259 843

Kilaparti.Ramakrishna@unep.org

Amy Mbacké Dieng

Secrétaire

3, Boulevard Djily Mbaye

Immeuble Fahd, 3<sup>ème</sup> étage

BP 83

Dakar

E-mail : [amymbacké@laposte.net](mailto:amymbacké@laposte.net)

**Représentant du Secrétariat PNUE/CMS**

Moulay Lahcen El Kabiri  
Deputy Executive Secretary  
UNEP/CMS Secretariat  
UN Campus  
Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10  
53113 Bonn

Tel : +49 228 815 2407

Fax : +49 228 815 2449

E-mail : [elkabiri@cms.int](mailto:elkabiri@cms.int)

Assata Ba Ndao

Assistante d'Administration

3, Boulevard Djily Mbaye

Immeuble Fahd, 3<sup>ème</sup> étage

BP 83

Dakar

E-mail : [momaraïcha@yahoo.fr](mailto:momaraïcha@yahoo.fr)

**Réseau des Parlementaires chargé de  
l'Environnement**

Honorable Député  
Lamina Thiam  
Vice-Président  
Assemblée Nationale  
Dakar  
Sénégal

El Hadji Balla Seye  
Assistant parlementaire  
Assemblée Nationale  
Dakar  
Sénégal

E-mail : [balle.seye@yahoo.iucn.org](mailto:balle.seye@yahoo.iucn.org)

**Représentant du Bureau de coordination  
régionale URTOMA**

Ndèye Sène Thiam

Coordinatrice

3, Boulevard Djily Mbaye

Immeuble Fahd, 3<sup>ème</sup> étage

BP 83

Dakar

Tel : +221 33 823 83 65

E-mail : [ndeyesenethiam2003@yahoo.fr](mailto:ndeyesenethiam2003@yahoo.fr)

Paul Coulibaly

Assistant Administratif

3, Boulevard Djily Mbaye

Immeuble Fahd, 3<sup>ème</sup> étage

BP 83

Dakar

E-mail : [paulbaly@yahoo.fr](mailto:paulbaly@yahoo.fr)

**Représentant du SINEPAD**

David Samuel Njiki Njiki  
Directeur Exécutif  
3, Boulevard Djily Mbaye  
Immeuble Fahd, 3<sup>ème</sup> étage  
BP 83  
Dakar

Tel : +221 33 842 73 11

E-mail : [njikinjiki@yahoo.com](mailto:njikinjiki@yahoo.com)

Bacary Diobaté

Gestionnaire de la Base de Données

3, Boulevard Djily Mbaye

Immeuble Fahd, 3<sup>ème</sup> étage

BP 83

Dakar

E-mail : [bdiobate@hotmail.com](mailto:bdiobate@hotmail.com)

**Représentant WWF Bureau du programme  
Marin pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest**

Birima Fall  
Chargé de communication  
Email : [bfall@wwfsenegal.org](mailto:bfall@wwfsenegal.org)

Ibrahima Niomadio  
Chargé de Programme Pêche

**Direction des Parcs Nationaux**

Colonel Mame Balla Guèye  
Directeur des Parcs Nationaux  
Parc Forestier de Hann  
BP 5135  
Dakar – Fann

Tel : +221 33 832 23 09  
E-mail : [dpn@orange.sn](mailto:dpn@orange.sn)

Boucar Ndiaye  
Conseiller Technique du Directeur des Parcs  
Nationaux  
BP 5135  
Dakar Fann  
Tel : +221 33 81 82  
Email : [bendiaye@yahoo.fr](mailto:bendiaye@yahoo.fr)

Cheikh Niang  
Conservateur de l'Aire Marine Protégée du  
Bamboung  
BP 5135  
Dakar Fann  
Tel : +221 33 81 82  
Email : [rosyniang1@yahoo.fr](mailto:rosyniang1@yahoo.fr)

**Directeur de l'Environnement et des  
Etablissements Classés**

Pathé Baldé  
Chef de Division Cadre de Vie  
Tel : +221 33 821 07 25  
Email : [ptbalde@yahoo.fr](mailto:ptbalde@yahoo.fr)

Elimane Ba  
Chef de Division Pollution, Nuisance et Etude  
d'Impacts  
104, Rue Carnot  
Dakar  
Email : [elimane2003@yahoo.fr](mailto:elimane2003@yahoo.fr)

**Directeur de la Protection et de la  
Surveillance des Pêches**

Dr Mamadou Abibou  
Cité Fenêtre Mermoz Corniche ouest

**Responsable du Village des Tortues de  
Noflaye**

Lamine Diagne  
Email : [laminedestortues@yahoo.fr](mailto:laminedestortues@yahoo.fr)

Abdel Kader Diagne  
Email : [seckalain08@yahoo.fr](mailto:seckalain08@yahoo.fr)

Alain Gérard Seck  
Tel : +221 33 820 65 59/ 76 667 87 05  
Email : [seckalain08@yahoo.fr](mailto:seckalain08@yahoo.fr)

**Directeur du Génie Rural des Bassins de  
Rétention et des Lacs Artificiels**

Sidy Gueye  
Directeur de Cabinet  
BP 4055  
Dakar

Colonel Soulye Ndiaye  
Inspecteur des Affaires Administrative et  
Financières  
BP 4055  
Dakar  
E-mail : [ndiayesouleye@yahoo.fr](mailto:ndiayesouleye@yahoo.fr)

**Directeur des Eaux, Forêts, Chasses et de la  
Conservation des Sols**

Mouhamdou Tall  
Adjoint au Chef de Division Gestion de la  
Faune  
Email : [mahmoudoutall@yahoo.fr](mailto:mahmoudoutall@yahoo.fr)

**Conservateur de l'Aire Marine Protégée de  
Joal Fadjouth**

Amar Fall  
Conservateur de l'Aire Marine  
Protégée de Joal Fadjouth  
BP 5135  
Dakar Fann  
Tel : +221 33 81 82  
Email : [amarfall@hotmail.com](mailto:amarfall@hotmail.com)

**Président de l'Association des Jeunes  
Pêcheurs de Ouakam**

Mamadou Sarr  
Dakar  
Tel : +221 77 641 89 47

**Conservateur du Parc National des îles de la Madeleine**

Abdou Salam Kane  
Conservateur du Parc National des Iles de la Madeleine  
BP 5135  
Dakar – Fann  
Tel : +221 33 81 82  
E-mail : [ak7salam@yahoo.fr](mailto:ak7salam@yahoo.fr)

Ibrahima Cissé  
Garde des Parcs Nationaux au Parc National des Iles de la Madeleine  
BP 5135  
Dakar Fann  
Tel : +221 33 823 83 65

**Centre de Recherche Oceanographique de Dakar Thiaroye**

Fambaye Ngom Sow  
41 Dakar  
BP 22  
  
Tel : +221 33 832 82 65  
Fax : +221 832 82 62  
E-mail : [famngom@yahoo.com](mailto:famngom@yahoo.com)

**Projet Requins FIBA/CSRP**

Mika Diop  
Coordonnateur

**Associations des pêcheurs de Yoff**

Ibrahima Diene  
Président  
Dakar  
Senegal

HYLEE International  
El Hadji Sene  
Président  
Dakar  
Sénégal

E-mail : [elhadjimba@orange.sn](mailto:elhadjimba@orange.sn)



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

*Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme*



## SECOND MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR MARINE TURTLES OF THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA

*5-7 March 2008, Senegal, Dakar*

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UNEP/CMS/MT-AFR2/Report  
Annex 2

### AGENDA

1. Remarks and adoption of the meeting's Agenda & Schedule; and election of the Meeting Bureau
2. Presentation of the 1st Meeting Report, Nairobi, 2002
3. Partnership between UNEP, CMS and NEPAD
  - a. Objectives and progress made
  - b. Perspectives to approach partners
4. Review of Dakar's workshop on Coordination
  - a. Work Programme 2008
  - b. Partnership possibilities for Conservation/Research Projects on Turtles
5. Action Plan updates  
Presentation of the Action Plan's re-update and its harmonization with the one of IOSEA
6. Progress made by States (Presentation by countries)
7. Presentation of a Synthesis of the National Reports and discussion on the format of the national report
8. Scientific aspects of the Memorandum
  - a. Information on establishment of a database on marine turtles
  - b. Information on possible establishment of a scientific unit in Gorée Island
9. Review of States and Organisations not yet signatories of the Memorandum
  - a. Situation of accessions to the MoU
  - b. Review of degree of participation of States and Organisations of interest to the MoU
  - c. Amendment to the MoU
10. Activities of turtle networks
11. Establishment of a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
  - a. Composition
  - b. Designation of members
  - c. Production/Adoption of Rules of Procedure

12. Presentation and adoption of the report
13. Possible signatory ceremony of the MoU by States and/or Organisations and Closure of the meeting



# Convention sur la conservation des espèces migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage

Secrétariat assuré par le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement



## DEUXIEME REUNION DES ETATS SIGNATAIRES DU MEMORANDUM D'ACCORD CONCERNANT LA CONSERVATION DES TORTUES MARINES DE LA COTE ATLANTIQUE DE L'AFRIQUE

*Dakar, Sénégal, 5-7 mars 2008*

PNUE/CMS/MT-AFR2/Rapport  
Annexe 3

### ALLOCUTION DE BIENVENUE DU SECRETAIRE EXECUTIF DU SINEPAD

Monsieur le Ministre d'Etat, Ministre de l'Environnement, des Bassins de Rétention et des Lacs Artificiels

Monsieur le Directeur des Conventions du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement,  
Monsieur le Secrétaire Exécutif de la Convention sur les Espèces Migratrices de la faune Sauvage,  
Mesdames et Messieurs les Représentants des Partenaires au Développement,  
Mesdames et Messieurs les Représentants des Organisations Internationales,  
Mesdames et Messieurs les Directeurs Généraux et Nationaux,  
Mesdames et, Messieurs les Experts,  
Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués,  
Mesdames et Messieurs, Chers invités.

C'est un grand plaisir pour moi, de vous accueillir ici à Dakar, au nom de l'initiative environnementale du NEPAD.

Comme vous le savez, SE Maître Abdoulaye WADE, Président de la République du Sénégal, a eu le mandat du Comité Directeur du NEPAD, de coordonner entre autres, le Volet Environnement du NEPAD.

Ainsi, le Secrétariat que nous avons l'honneur de coordonner a été mis en place à Dakar pour faciliter la réalisation du PAIEN, un plan d'action décennal qui couvre les thèmes suivants :

- la dégradation des sols, la Sécheresse et la lutte contre la désertification ;
- la conservation des zones humides en Afrique ;
- la prévention, lutte et gestion des espèces étrangères envahissantes ;
- la conservation et utilisation durables des ressources marines et côtières ;
- les changements climatiques en Afrique ;
- la gestion transfrontière des ressources naturelles ;
- Enfin, les préoccupations transversales (gestion des risques de catastrophes ; santé – environnement, pour ne citer que ceux là).

Ce plan d'action, disais-je, prévoit dans son axe prioritaire N° 4 : «la Conservation et l'utilisation durables des Ressources Marines et Côtières » A ce titre, la conservation des tortues marines qui fait l'objet de cette rencontre s'intègre dans cette priorité du NEPAD. Et comme vous le constatez, elle s'intègre également dans une autre thématique relative à la «gestion transfrontière des ressources naturelles.»

Mesdames et Messieurs,

On ne le soulignera jamais assez, la gestion de l'environnement et des ressources naturelles est une œuvre collective qui démontre, s'il en était encore besoin, l'étroitesse des frontières nationales de nos pays. En effet, une tortue marine qui est née à Libreville peut passer sa jeunesse Lagos et se reproduire



à Dakar, sans demander de visa aux autorités locales. Il suffit tout simplement que le milieu naturel réponde à ses besoins biologiques.

Le défi majeur qui nous interpelle ici est de veiller pour que nos modes de consommation et de productions ne détruisent pas de façon irréversible les paramètres de survie de ces espèces menacées par les pollutions diverses de nos économies.

Par conséquent, Il incombe à chacun des experts ici présent, de prendre conscience de la mission qui lui est confiée pour que cette réunion ne soit pas simplement une rencontre supplémentaire, mais une véritable étape qui assurera la prise des décisions importantes pour la mise en œuvre du Mémoire d'accord d'Abidjan et pour la conservation des tortues marines sur la Côte Atlantique de l'Afrique.

Je vous remercie



# Convention sur la conservation des espèces migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage

Secrétariat assuré par le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement



## DEUXIEME REUNION DES ETATS SIGNATAIRES DU MEMORANDUM D'ACCORD CONCERNANT LA CONSERVATION DES TORTUES MARINES DE LA COTE ATLANTIQUE DE L'AFRIQUE

*Dakar, Sénégal, 5-7 mars 2008*

PNUE/CMS/MT-AFR2/Rapport  
Annexe 4

### ALLOCUTION D'OUVERTURE DE LA REUNION DE MONSIEUR LAHCEN EL KABIRI, SECRETAIRE EXECUTIF ADJOINT DE LA CONVENTION SUR LA CONSERVATION DES ESPECES MIGRATRICES (CMS)

Je voudrais remercier vivement, au nom de la Convention sur la Conservation des Espèces Migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage (CMS), le Gouvernement du Sénégal pour avoir accepté d'héberger la deuxième réunion des Etats signataires du Mémoire d'Accord sur la Conservation des tortues marines de la côte atlantique de l'Afrique. Comme je me réjouis aussi de la participation de tous les Etats signataires et d'experts nationaux africains et non africains de renommée à cette réunion.

La deuxième réunion intervient 6 ans après la première session tenue à Nairobi, Kenya, en 2002. Ceci témoigne en fait d'une période marquée par la continuation de projets nombreux et variés au niveau des réseaux implantés dans la sous-région. Cet état de fait aurait été probablement à l'origine d'un manque d'intérêt relatif par les Etats qui auraient tendance à privilégier certaines activités qu'ils jugent prioritaires.

Il y a lieu de noter la précieuse contribution de Gouvernement français, auquel la CMS rend hommage, pour le soutien qu'il a apporté à plusieurs projets sur la conservation des tortues marines ainsi que pour le financement de la série technique n° 6 de la CMS qui constitue une référence dans le domaine de conservation des tortues marines en Afrique. C'est bien là une contribution majeure dont l'édition a été effectuée par l'expert français M. Jacques FRETEY ici présent.

Nous comptons toujours sur la continuation de la contribution de la France.

Dans ce contexte, la CMS a été amenée à envisager des mesures de redynamisation de cet outil de Conservation connu sous le nom de Mémoire d'Abidjan, du nom de la ville où il a été adopté en 1999.

Parmi ces mesures, figure celle de l'établissement d'une unité de coordination Régionale par l'engagement d'un partenariat avec le SINEPAD/Environnement et le PNUE depuis 2005, lequel partenariat a été mis en œuvre en mai 2006. Nous comptons bien développer encore cette initiative en harmonie avec les Etats signataires et les Organisations concernées par la Conservation des 6 espèces de tortues marines de la côte atlantique de l'Afrique.

Les principaux objectifs de cette réunion portent sur la revue de la mise en application du Mémoire par les Etats d'une part, sa mise à niveau par l'établissement d'un Comité Scientifique et Technique Consultatif, et l'actualisation du Plan de conservation, d'autre part. En outre, l'adoption du format des rapports nationaux permettra d'alimenter la nouvelle base de données et de tendre à court terme vers un système de rapport électronique continu, à l'instar de celui pratiqué au niveau du Mémoire sur la Conservation des tortues marines dans le Sud-Est Asiatique et l'Océan Indien (IOSEA).

Les participants seront amenés à débattre des termes de référence et des procédures relatifs au Comité Scientifique qui doit être de structure légère et fonctionnelle. Les effets qui y seront élus pour leur compétence professionnelle, leurs qualités personnelles et leur renommée dans le domaine, devraient être en mesure de se réunir et d'échanger leur expertise en coordination avec le Secrétariat, l'Unité de Coordination et les Etats signataires.

Tous ces objectifs et ces améliorations du mode de fonctionnement de cet accord au titre du paragraphe 4, Article IV de la Convention, nécessitent certainement d'amender par consensus le texte du Mémorandum (paragraphe 2 des principes fondamentaux).

Sans m'attarder davantage sur d'autres aspects importants tels que les projets en cours et l'attente au niveau des Etats signataires n'ayant pas encore établi des stratégies pour la protection des tortues marines, permettez-moi de souhaiter à tous bon courage pour le travail qui nous attend durant ces 3 jours.

Encore une fois, je réitère mes sincères remerciements aux autorités sénégalaises et vous souhaite une bonne continuation pour la suite de nos travaux.

Merci de votre attention !!!



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

*Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme*



## SECOND MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR MARINE TURTLES OF THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA

*5-7 March 2008, Senegal, Dakar*

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UNEP/CMS/MT-AFR2/Report  
Annex 5

### STATEMENT OF THE UNEP REPRESENTATIVE

**Statement on behalf of  
Mr. Bakary Kante  
Director  
Division of Environmental Law and Conventions  
United Nations Environment Programme**

**to the**

**2nd Meeting of the Signatory States to the Memorandum of  
Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine  
Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa, Dakar, Senegal,  
5-7 March 2008**

**Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna  
Senior Advisor, Environmental Law and Conventions  
United Nations Environment Programme  
5 March 2008**

Excellency,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentleman,  
Representative of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory  
Species

- 1. It is a great honour to address you today on behalf of Mr. Bakary Kante, Director of the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions.**
- 2. Mr. Kante very much wished to be here today, made his travel arrangements as well, but due to factors beyond his control he had to remain in Nairobi. He very much regrets that he is unable to join you here in Dakar. Mr. Kante sends his best wishes for a successful outcome of the Second Meeting of the Signatory States to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa, known under the name of the Memorandum of Abidjan. He has asked me to represent him at this important meeting and to stress that UNEP's commitment to assisting CMS is stronger than ever before.**

Excellency,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

- 3. First of all on behalf of UNEP, I would like to thank H. E. President Abdoulaye Wade and the Government of Senegal for having offered to host this important meeting.**
- 4. UNEP takes note with satisfaction the progress made in the framework of the partnership between the Environment Division of NEPAD (SINEAPD/Env.), Government of Senegal, and UNEP/CMS. As the participants of the workshop on coordination that was held in Dakar in January 2007 could attest, the Work Programme of the Coordination Unit was the result of productive and promising debate for the future of this Memorandum of Understanding.**
- 5. This agreement is joined by a total of 23 Range States of the African Atlantic Coast region, with South Africa being the last Range State to join through its signature, on the margins of the Joint Conferences to the Abidjan and Nairobi Convention held in Johannesburg in November 2007.**

- 6. South Africa joining this Act is highly significant and will certainly allow other States that have territories in the African habitat of the marine turtles (such as the United Kingdom, Spain and Portugal) and which have not yet joined to do so in the near future. Likewise we hope that international organization both public and private and other countries that share the goals of this conservation effort will join and support the activities of this regional agreement.**
- 7. UNEP, through CMS, as well as in the update of this instrument concerning the Atlantic Coast of Africa, supports the implementation of conservation measures and will continue its efforts in order to allow a better and rapid implementation with the support of member countries and civil society.**
- 8. Civil society plays a major role in carrying out different conservation programmes with local communities, including as part of the Action Plan of the Memorandum, and thus requires support that ensures appropriate functioning and equipment at the their level. UNEP and CMS stand ready to find appropriate solutions to encourage initiatives in this direction.**
- 9. With a view to responding to the commitments they entered, most Signatory States still have to establish their plans and strategies for action. UNEP in general, and CMS in particular, undertake initiatives with donor countries and sometimes with other partners to improve funding for increasing scientific knowledge and to reinforce capacities that include the conservation of marine turtles that are migratory species. Particular attention will be paid, resources permitting, to the strengthening of the sub-region's capacities, notably through the support in elaborating plans and strategies.**

#### **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

- 10. As you know, this is an ambitious undertaking and requires tireless efforts on the part of member states in identifying viable projects that respond to the imperatives of the Action Plan. These projects once developed will be examined with a**

**view to realizing the progress made by the Signatory States. UNEP will spare no efforts in realizing conservation objectives in attaining sustainable development.**

**11. During these three days, your task will be to discuss fundamental questions in panels with experts and government representatives in view of reviving this important conservation tool.**

**12. The principal objectives of this meeting are also to make sure that the agreement will be provided with a scientific and technical committee and an appropriate national reporting tool. Furthermore, the meeting seeks further review and update of the action plan that is comparable with its equivalent in the South East Asian region demonstrates clearly that the regional agreement of the African Atlantic Coast is well revived, and that it requires sustained efforts on the part of everyone, including UNEP.**

**13. You will also discuss this issue during your work and you will certainly find the means to bring forward the situation in the best interest of marine turtles for the countries and organisations concerned.**

**14. I remain confident in the outcome of your work in this splendid setting of the city of Dakar that has been known for its warm welcome for a long time.**

**15. UNEP looks forward to a successful outcome of this meeting and to the further progress of the MoU. I wish this meeting the very best in its deliberations on the regional issues concerning the effective conservation measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa.**

**THANK YOU**

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# Convention sur la conservation des espèces migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage

Secrétariat assuré par le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement



## DEUXIEME REUNION DES ETATS SIGNATAIRES DU MEMORANDUM D'ACCORD CONCERNANT LA CONSERVATION DES TORTUES MARINES DE LA COTE ATLANTIQUE DE L'AFRIQUE

*Dakar, Sénégal, 5-7 mars 2008*

PNUE/CMS/MT-AFR2/Rapport  
Annexe 6

### ALLOCUTION DU DIRECTEUR DE CABINET DU MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DE LA PROTECTION DE LA NATURE, DES BASSINS DE RETENTION ET LACS ARTIFICIELS A L'OCCASION DE LA CEREMONIE DE CLOTURE DE LA 2ème REUNION DES ETATS SIGNATAIRES

Monsieur le représentant du PNUE section  
Monsieur le Secrétaire Exécutif du SINEPAD,  
Monsieur le Secrétaire Exécutif Adjoint de la CMS,  
Mesdames, Messieurs les Représentants des Corps Diplomatiques,  
Mesdames, Messieurs les Directeurs et chefs de services nationaux  
Mesdames, Messieurs les Délégués,  
Chers Participants

C'est un grand plaisir pour moi, d'être parmi vous pour procéder au nom du Ministre d'Etat, Ministre de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la Nature des Bassins de Rétention et des lacs Artificiels à la clôture officielle de la deuxième réunion des Etats signataires du Mémorandum d'Accord concernant les mesures de conservation des tortues marines de la côte atlantique de l'Afrique.

Je voudrais d'abord saisir cette opportunité, pour renouveler les remerciements du Gouvernement, à l'endroit du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement, du Secrétariat de la Convention pour les mesures de Conservation des Espèces Migratrice appartenant à la faune sauvage (CMS) d'avoir bien voulu choisi notre pays pour d'abriter cette importante Unité je veux nommer l'URTOMA, nous donnant ainsi le privilège d'abriter cette importante réunion.

Mesdames et Messieurs, ma présence parmi vous, témoigne de l'intérêt et de l'importance que le Président de la République, Son Excellence Maître Abdoulaye Wade, et son ministre d'Etat, ministre de l'Environnement accorde à vos travaux, placés sous l'égide du Nouveau partenariat pour l'Afrique, le NEPAD. Comme vous le savez le président de la république du Sénégal, coordonnateur du Volet Environnement du NEPAD accorde une importance sans commune mesure à la protection de l'Environnement en général, marin et côtier en particulier. Ces zones sont d'une grande importance pour l'économie de nos pays et pour la survie de ses populations. De leur préservation et exploitation durable repose la survie de tout un peuple lié par les coutumes et croyances. En effet, notre pays ne peut rester indifférent à cette préoccupation, tant nos zones humides constituent d'importants pôles d'attraction touristique et figurent parmi les principales sources d'entrée de devises pour notre économie nationale dont le tourisme constitue un des secteurs prioritaires.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

La survie des tortues marines et de tous les mammifères marins en général dauphin, requins, baleines, lamantins pour ne citer que ceux là est un défi du millénaire qui nous interpelle tous. En effet devant la rareté des ressources de la pêche et de la diminution des tonnages de poissons débarqués nous assistons à certains endroits à une pêche ciblée de ces espèces. Ainsi voudrais je interpellé, le PNUE, le secrétariat de la CMS et tous les partenaires d'appuyer l'URTOMA pour en faire un cadre juridique et technique approprié pour la coordination des efforts de conservation et d'exploitation des tortues le long de la façade atlantique.

Mesdames, Messieurs les Participants,

Permettez-moi de vous féliciter, chers participants d'avoir en si peu de temps procéder à une analyse sans complaisance de cette problématique de conservation des tortues. Vous êtes parvenus à des résultats qui, j'en suis sûr constituent une contribution significative à l'amélioration de l'état de conservation des tortues marines et de leurs habitats. En effet l'atteinte des objectifs que vous avez fixés à travers ce mémorandum et sa mise en œuvre ne sera possible qu'avec une implication totale de chacun de vous, ici présent.

A cet égard, je me réjouis de constater que des recommandations précises ont été formulées et des décisions importantes prises en ce qui concerne :

- L'adoption de l'amendement au texte du mémorandum d'accord afin de permettre sa signature par les autres Etats non africains, l'aire de répartition des tortues marines, les institutions et organismes impliqués dans la conservation des tortues est un pas très important pour une mise en œuvre efficiente du mémorandum. La signature de ce texte est maintenant du ressort de la CMS qui j'en suis sûre ne ménagera aucun effort pour faire le lobbying nécessaire auprès de ces pays et institutions pour la signature du mémorandum.
- La mise en place du comité scientifique et technique du Mémorandum d'Abidjan devrait permettre à l'URTOMA d'être fortement éclairée pour la prise de décisions importantes visant l'amélioration de la conservation des tortues marines et de leurs habitats.
- La revue du format de rapport national et l'harmonisation du plan de conservation devrait permettre une meilleure capitalisation et partage de l'information entre les pays mais aussi avec les autres entités de conservation des tortues marines.
- L'alimentation et le fonctionnement correct de la future base régionale de données devrait permettre à l'avenir de disposer en un endroit toutes les importantes informations collectées et disponibles sur les tortues de la côte atlantique de l'Afrique.

Monsieur le Secrétaire Exécutif de la CMS comme vous le savez, l'URTOMA est caractérisée par l'étendue de son aire de répartition et l'existence de cultures et de langues différentes à cet effet, elle a besoin de réseaux fonctionnels et dynamiques pour lui servir de relais. Tout en remerciant les efforts du RAPAC, du PRCM pour la création de ces réseaux, je voudrais laisser un appel à tout un chacun pour permettre à ces réseaux d'avoir les moyens qui leur permettront de jouer le rôle attendu d'eux.

Monsieur le Secrétaire Exécutif Adjoint, Mesdames, Messieurs les délégués,

Faut-il le rappeler, la mise en œuvre de l'accord constitue un défi majeur pour nos pays respectifs. En effet, elle nécessite beaucoup de moyens et requiert des choix décisifs pour des mesures de protection des habitats et des espèces dont la plupart font l'objet de lourdes menaces. A ce propos, il me plaît de souligner que les importants efforts consentis par l'ensemble des pays signataires de cet accord avec en perspective amélioration sensible du niveau de mise en œuvre du plan de conservation du MdA. Ces efforts méritent reconnaissance et appui afin d'aider les pays à la mise en place de plans d'actions nationaux qui permettront j'en suis sûr de canaliser, de capitaliser et de mettre en synergie les efforts des uns et autres.

A ce stade de mon propos, vous me permettrez de dire merci à tous nos partenaires qui nous appuient dans tous les pays de la côte atlantique de l'Afrique. Merci à nos partenaires ici présent : le programme

des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement, Le PRCM, le WWF, le Réseau Natura 2000, Conservation International, le NOAA des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, la FAO, l'UICN, l'UNESCO, le royaume des Pays bas, la Banque mondiale, Wetlands International, Le GIRMAC, le Royaume de la Grande Bretagne, l'Espagne, la France, et les Iles Canaries.

Je profite de l'opportunité qui m'est offerte pour renouveler mes remerciements à vous tous qui, en dépit des contraintes liées à vos charges, avez accepté de prélever de votre temps les moments précis que vous consacrez à la présente réunion.

Tout en vous souhaitant un bon retour parmi les siens, je déclare close la deuxième réunion des Etats signataires du mémorandum d'accord concernant les mesures de conservation des tortues marines de la Côte Atlantique de l'Afrique.



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

*Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme*



## SECOND MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR MARINE TURTLES OF THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA

*5-7 March 2008, Dakar, Senegal*

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UNEP/CMS/MT-AFR2/Report  
Annex 7

### **ACTION PLAN UPDATES: CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MARINE TURTLES OF THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA**

*For reasons of economy, documents are printed in a limited number, and will not be distributed at the meeting.  
Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copy to the meeting and not to request additional copies.*

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN  
FOR MARINE TURTLES OF THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA**  
*(Revised)*

Experts: Jacques FRETEY and Manjula TIWARI  
(with the help of Jack FRAZIER, Peter RICHARDSON and Ronel NEL)

**OBJECTIVE 1. Reduce direct and indirect causes of marine turtle mortality**

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
1.1. Identify and document the anthropogenic threats to marine turtle populations and habitats	1.1.1 Synthesize existing data on anthropogenic threats to marine turtles populations and their habitats; 1.1.2 Establish data collection and monitoring programs to determine the nature and magnitude of the threats; 1.1.3 Evaluate the impact of traditional exploitation, accidental take in artisanal and commercial fisheries, and other sources of mortality.	High	
1.2. Determine and implement the best practices to minimize anthropogenic threats to marine turtle populations and their habitats	1.2.1 Identify and document the best practices for the conservation of marine turtle populations and their habitats; 1.2.2 Adapt and adopt the best practices for the conservation and management of marine turtle populations and their habitats.	High	
1.3. Implement programs to correct adverse economic incentives threatening marine turtle populations	1.3.1 Undertake socio-economic studies on communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats; 1.3.2 Identify and modify economic incentives to reduce threats and mortality; 1.3.3. Identify funding sources and resources for these programs.	High	
1.4 Minimize the effects of artisanal and commercial fisheries on marine turtles.	1.4.1 Develop/modify and use gear, devices, techniques and other measures to minimize incidental capture of marine turtles in fisheries, including turtle release and resuscitation techniques and spatio-temporal fishery closures; 1.4.2 Develop procedures and training programs to promote implementation of these measures, such as vessel monitoring systems and inspections at sea, in port and at landing sites, and national on-board observer programs with relevant fishery management organisations; 1.4.3 Exchange information and, upon request, provide technical assistance to other signatory States to promote these activities; 1.4.4 Liaise and coordinate with fisheries industries and fisheries management organisations to develop and implement incidental capture mitigation mechanisms in national waters and on the high seas; 1.4.5 Support the UN General Assembly resolution 46/215 concerning the moratorium on the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas; 1.4.6 Develop and implement net retention and recycling schemes to minimise the disposal of fishing gear at sea and on beaches;	High	

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
	1.4.7 Provide and ensure the use of port facilities for the disposal of ship-borne waste; 1.4.8 Assess potential impacts of Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated fishing (IUU) on marine turtle populations.		
1.5. Minimize the effects of marine extractive industries on marine turtles and their habitats.	1.5.1 Develop and implement best practice guidelines to mitigate against negative impacts of seismic exploration on marine turtles and their habitats, e.g. as employed by the oil and gas industry; 1.5.2 Develop and implement best practice guidelines to mitigate against negative impacts of offshore mining on marine turtles and their habitats.	High	
1.6. Develop nesting beach management programs to maximize hatchling recruitment	1.6.1 Develop protocols to monitor and protect nesting beaches 1.6.2 Train and put in place sufficient numbers of “eco-guards” to protect and monitor nesting beaches; 1.6.3. Reduce embryo and hatchling mortality and ensure their survival and recruitment using conservation techniques that emphasize natural processes whenever possible; 1.6.4 Minimize nest destruction and the mortality of embryos, hatchlings, and adult females during the nesting season, including by feral and domestic animals; 1.6.5 Evaluate the effectiveness of management programs on nesting beaches.	High	
1.7. Develop foraging and developmental habitat management programs to maximize marine turtle survival.	1.7.1 Develop protocols to monitor and protect marine turtles at foraging and developmental habitats; 1.7.2 Evaluate the effectiveness of management programs at marine turtle foraging and developmental habitats.	High	
1.8. Prohibit the direct harvest (capture or killing) of, and domestic trade in, marine turtles, their eggs, parts or products, whilst allowing exceptions for traditional harvest by communities within each	1.8.1 Enact, where not already in place, legislation to prohibit direct harvest and domestic trade ; 1.8.2 Assess the level and impact of traditional harvest on marine turtles and their eggs; 1.8.3 Establish management programmes that may include limits on levels of intentional harvest; 1.8.4 Determine the cultural and traditional values and economic uses of marine turtles (both consumptive and non-consumptive); 1.8.5 Negotiate, where appropriate, management agreements on the sustainable level of traditional harvest, in consultation with other concerned States, to ensure that such harvest does not undermine conservation efforts.	High	

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
<p>jurisdiction provided that: such harvest does not undermine efforts to protect, conserve and recover marine turtle populations and their habitats; and the marine turtle populations in question are able to sustain the harvest</p>			



**OBJECTIVE 2. Protect, conserve and restore terrestrial and marine habitats for marine turtles**

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
2.1. Establish necessary measures to protect and conserve marine turtle terrestrial and marine habitats	2.1.1 Identify the critical and non-critical habitats such as nesting beaches, feeding and developmental areas, interesting areas, and migration corridors; 2.1.2 Design and manage critical habitats as protected areas, sanctuaries, or impose seasonal bans on human activities; 2.1.3 Develop incentives for the adequate protection of terrestrial and marine habitats outside classified protected areas; 2.1.4 Conduct assessments of the environmental impact of marine and coastal development and other human activities on marine turtles and their habitats; 2.1.5 Manage and regulate the use of nesting beaches around urban areas (for example, placement and construction of buildings, artificial lights, and vehicles); 2.1.6 Initiate and cooperate in the creation of transboundary protected marine areas, including nesting beaches and feeding and developmental areas, using ecological borders rather than political borders; 2.1.7 Reduce pollution in marine turtle coastal habitats, through development of appropriate legislation and best practice in collaboration with source sectors; 2.1.8. Promote responsible disposal of persistent litter, such as plastics, amongst industry and the public.	High	
2.2. Restore degraded marine turtle habitats	2.2.1 Reduce anthropogenic threats, on the nesting beaches, to adults and hatchlings (e.g. by identifying the appropriate forestry companies to address the problem of logs on the nesting beaches); 2.2.2 Promote measures to ensure recovery of mangroves, seagrass beds and reef turtle foraging habitats; 2.2.3 Encourage local authorities and NGOs to organize regular beach cleaning activities.	High	

**OBJECTIVE 3. Improve our knowledge of marine turtle populations and ecology through research, monitoring, and information exchange**

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
<p>3.1. Conduct studies on marine turtles and their habitats</p>	<p>3.1.1 Collect and compile baseline data on the presence and distribution of species;</p> <p>3.1.2 Where possible and appropriate, implement extensive tagging programs at nesting beaches and in foraging and developmental habitats;</p> <p>3.1.3 Map key terrestrial (nesting beaches) and marine (developmental and foraging areas) habitats;</p> <p>3.1.4 Carry out studies, (e.g., using satellite telemetry, tagging, genetics), to determine and map inter-nesting habitats, migration routes and foraging and developmental grounds of marine turtle populations;</p> <p>3.1.5 Initiate and/or continue the long-term monitoring of marine turtle populations to evaluate their status and conservation;</p> <p>3.1.6 Establish standardized protocols for data collection;</p> <p>3.1.7 Create national, sub-regional and regional level databases, and analyze the data at these three levels;</p> <p>3.1.8 Characterize the genetic identity of marine turtle populations;</p> <p>3.1.8 Maintain updated national and regional bibliographies and distribute it to the signatory States;</p> <p>3.1.9 Initiate studies on population dynamics and determine the survival rates of marine turtles;</p> <p>3.1.10 Conduct research on diseases in marine turtles and their frequency in the region covered by the Memorandum of Abidjan;</p> <p>3.1.12 Collect ethnozoological information from local communities and promote the use of popular and traditional knowledge;</p> <p>3.1.14 Periodically evaluate the effectiveness of research and monitoring activities;</p> <p>3.1.15 Promote the development and implementation of national and regional strandings networks to record and store data on marine turtle stranding occurrence;</p> <p>3.1.16 Investigate current and future effects of climate change on marine turtles and their habitats.</p>	<p>High</p>	

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
3.2. Undertake collaborative research and monitoring	3.2.1 Identify and integrate research and monitoring priorities into sub-regional and regional Action Plans; 3.2.2 Encourage universities and local institutions to undertake research, conservation, and monitoring activities relevant to marine turtles in collaboration with NGOs and local communities.	Medium	
3.3. Analyze data to reduce threats and improve conservation practices	3.3.1 Have the necessary means to suitably manage a national, sub-regional, and regional database; 3.3.2 Prioritize populations for conservation at a regional and international level; 3.3.3 Identify population trends by species; 3.3.4 Use the research results to improve management, reduce threats, and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation activities.	High	
3.4. Information exchange	3.4.1 Standardize basic data collection methodologies, and adopt or develop an approved series of protocols for the monitoring of nesting beaches, studies at foraging and developmental habitats, genetic sampling, and data collection on mortality; 3.4.2 Determine the most suitable ways of disseminating information within the MoU region; 3.4.3 Initiate or develop internet discussion forums and newsletters and provide the means to connect more easily to the international network; 3.4.4 Exchange, at regular intervals, scientific and technical information and expertise among nations, scientific institutions, and national and international NGOs to develop and use approaches based on the best practices for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats; 3.4.5 Disseminate traditional knowledge that promotes conservation of marine turtles and their habitats to improve the conservation of turtles and the management of their habitats by the residential communities; 3.4.6 Develop and maintain a directory with the names and addresses of people working on marine turtles, of directors and other authorities in charge of wildlife, fisheries, and protected areas, of researchers, NGOs, etc.; 3.4.7 Organize training workshops regularly at a sub-regional level to evaluate and enhance works in progress.	High	

**OBJECTIVE 4. Increase public awareness to threats facing marine turtles and their habitats, and enhance public participation in conservation activities**

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
4.1. Establish public education programs for awareness and information exchange	4.1.1 Build local capacity in environmental education and collect, develop, and distribute educational material suitable for African culture (cartoons, coloring books, games, posters, T-shirts, etc.) in the 4 languages; 4.1.2 Set up information centers for villages, small museums for schools and tourists; 4.1.3 Develop and implement rigorous media programs; 4.1.4 Develop and undertake education and awareness programs for targeted groups (e.g. for the relevant authorities and politicians, students, teachers, fishing communities, beach owners, the media); 4.1.5 Encourage the integration of biodiversity themes, especially marine turtle biology and conservation, into school curriculum; 4.1.6 Organize special events on the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats (e.g., day of the turtle, festival or year of the turtle, publicized releases of accidentally captured turtles, etc.); 4.1.7 Consider the use of local taboos to better protect marine turtles by coastal communities; 4.1.8 Provide information at airports and through travel agencies, about national and international restrictions on the the sale, purchase, export and import of marine turtle products; 4.1.9 Train leaders from local communities.	High	
4.2. Develop alternative livelihood opportunities for local communities to encourage their participation in conservation efforts	4.2.1. Identify and facilitate alternative livelihoods (including income generating activities) that are not detrimental to marine turtles and their habitats, in consultation with local communities and other stakeholders; 4.2.2. Promote community development (e.g., clinics, scholarships, activities for the youth and women, fight against pandemics, through twinning of African and western villages) to encourage participation in conservation efforts.	High	
4.3. Promote public participation	4.3.1 Encourage local communities and other interested parties and stakeholders to participate in the planning and implementation of conservation measures for marine turtles and the management of their habitats;	Medium	

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
	4.3.2 Encourage participation by public administrators, NGOs, the private sector, and various groups (women, fishermen, youth, sports) in efforts to conserve coastal biodiversity and especially marine turtles; 4.3.3 Establish incentives to encourage participation by the public (e.g., T-shirt gifts, awarding diplomas/certificates for participation).		

**OBJECTIVE 5. Enhance national, regional and international cooperation**

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
<p>5.1. Collaborate with signatory and non-signatory States to the Memorandum of Abidjan to organize and share information on trade issues, prevent illegal trade, and enforce laws concerning marine turtle products</p>	<p>5.1.1 Encourage the Signatory States to the Memorandum of Abidjan, who are not yet parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to join;</p> <p>5.1.2 Examine compliance to CITES at the national level with regard to legislation that regulates international trade in marine turtles eggs and products;</p> <p>5.1.3 Improve compliance with CITES by training the relevant and competent authorities in cooperation with other Signatory States, the CITES Secretariat, and other relevant organizations;</p> <p>5.1.4 Identify and monitor illegal international trade routes (for marine turtle products etc.) and seek cooperation to take measures to prevent and where possible eliminate illegal trade;</p> <p>5.1.5 Exchange information about and regularly discuss marine turtle product trade issues (e.g., in the annual national reports to the Secretariat of the Memorandum of Abidjan, at meetings of the signatory states);</p> <p>5.1.6 Attempt to identify, prevent, deter, and where possible eliminate illegal domestic trade through monitoring, legislation implementation, identification of weaknesses in the law enforcement in each State;</p> <p>5.1.7 Train personnel (customs people, the police force, guards, authorities of protected areas, fisheries inspectors, etc.) authorized to monitor illegal trafficking and the enforcement of national legislation for the conservation of marine turtles.</p>	<p>High</p>	
<p>5.2. Assist signatory and non-signatory States with the development and implementation of national action plans for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats</p>	<p>5.2.1 Designate national focal points (one administrative and one scientific) to serve as correspondents in issues relating to marine turtles;</p> <p>5.2.2 Develop key management measures, that will serve as the basis for Action Plans, in consultation with relevant administrators, NGOs, research institution, local communities and other interested parties and stakeholders;</p> <p>5.2.3 Develop the national Action Plans on the model of the current regional Plan;</p> <p>5.2.4 Identify the specific management questions at the local level which require cooperation among the signatory States to ensure successful conservation and management;</p>	<p>High</p>	

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
	<p>5.2.5 Annually report (to be submitted by each signatory State in a format approved by the signatory States) on the national progress made in the implementation of the objectives in the regional Conservation Plan;</p> <p>5.2.6 Generate an annual analysis of the national reports for the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) to inform signatory States on measures to improve their compliance with the Convention with respect to the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats;</p> <p>5.2.7 Review action plans at regular intervals to take into account recent advances in skills and knowledge.</p>		
5.3. Enhance mechanisms for cooperation and promote information exchange	<p>5.3.1 Identify and enforce existing mechanisms that allow for successful cooperation in each sub-region;</p> <p>5.3.2 Develop a website on the conservation of marine turtles along the Atlantic coast of Africa to create a network, exchange information, and post newsletters with information on each project especially for the field staff (ecoguards, ecovolunteers, etc.). Cf also 3.4.3;</p> <p>5.3.3 Establish networks for the coordinated management of shared populations within a State or across political boundaries or a sub-region and where possible formalize the collaboration;</p> <p>5.3.4 Create a directory of experts and organisations interested in the conservation of marine turtles; Cf also 3.4.6;</p> <p>5.3.5 Encourage signatory States to the Memorandum of Abidjan, who are not parties to the CMS, to join;</p> <p>5.3.6 Encourage signatory States to ratify big environmental conventions and join global fishing agreements such as the 1995 United Nations Fish Sticks Agreement, 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement, and adopt the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;</p> <p>5.3.7 Establish relationships with regional fisheries bodies to obtain data on accidental captures and encourage them to adopt marine turtle conservation measures within Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and on the high seas.</p>	Medium	
5.4. Build capacity to strengthen conservation measures	<p>5.4.1 Identify the needs, in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities, for capacity building;</p> <p>5.4.2 Hold training workshops on conservation and management techniques for the relevant agencies and local communities;</p> <p>5.4.3 Create partnerships with universities, research institutions, training bodies, and other relevant organizations;</p> <p>5.4.4 Review or establish suitable institutional structures and in general</p>	High	

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
	reinforce the national capacity of each signatory State.		
5.5. Improve and enforce the implementation of national conservation legislation in each signatory State of the wildlife and their habitats	<p>5.5.1 Review and revise, if necessary, the existing national legislation and internal legal provisions to identify any gaps or impediments in their application to marine turtle conservation;</p> <p>5.5.2 Cooperate in the implementation of legislation, in order to ensure the compatible application of legal and lawful provisions across and among jurisdictions (including through bilateral/multilateral agreements and the sharing of information).</p>	High	

**OBJECTIVE 6. Promote implementation of the Memorandum of Abidjan and its Conservation and Management Plan**

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
6.1. Expand membership and ensure activities of the Memorandum of Abidjan	<p>6.1.1 Encourage States with jurisdiction on the western coast of the African continent or the coastal waters of Atlantic Africa, States whose flag vessels and other activities have direct effects on the marine turtles and their habitats of the region or anywhere in their geographic range during their life history, as well as any other States interested in collaborating with the objective of this MoU, to sign the Memorandum of Abidjan;</p> <p>6.1.2 Encourage big organizations (UNESCO, UICN, FAO...) to collaborate with the Memorandum of Abidjan;</p> <p>6.1.3 Consider making the MoU a legally binding document for a more effective conservation and management of marine turtles by the Signatory States.</p>	Medium	
6.2. Promote the role of the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee of the MoU to ensure that the objectives of the Conservation and Management Plan are achieved	<p>6.2.1 Obtain reliable funding to support the MoU Secretariat and the sub-regional networks;</p> <p>6.2.2 Define the Terms of reference for and designate the Scientific and Technical Committee of the MoU;</p> <p>6.2.3 Set up suitable ways of management amongst the CMS, the MoU Secretariat, NEPAD, and the Advisory Committee of the MoU so as to better help the signatory States and provide advice for improving the research and conservation of marine turtles in their territory.</p>	High	
6.3. Locate resources to support the implementation	<p>6.3.1 Prioritize conservation and management activities for funding;</p> <p>6.3.2 Explore funding possibilities with governments and other potential</p>		



Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
of the Memorandum of Abidjan	<p>donors such as the World Bank, UNDP, European Union, GEF, FFEM, etc.;</p> <p>6.3.3 Request funds, donations of materials/equipment and other contributions from international and local industries whose activities have an impact on marine turtles and their habitats (e.g., petroleum companies, breweries, hotels, fisheries, tourism, etc.);</p> <p>6.3.4 Study the use of economic instruments for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats;</p> <p>6.3.5 Approach the private sector, foundations, and international NGOs who might be interested in funding activities in particular countries to catalyze the creation of a small grants program;</p> <p>6.3.6 Fund conservation and management activities through directed ecotourism and other self-sufficient schemes with benefits to the local communities;</p> <p>6.3.7 Search for synergies among the Secretariats and other regional and international conventions;</p> <p>6.3.8 Encourage international financial support and other incentives so that the signatory States effectively implement the conservation Plan;</p> <p>6.3.9 Promote inclusion of costs associated with marine turtle conservation and research into the national budgets of signatory states.</p>	High	
6.4. Improve coordination among government and non-government agencies for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats	<p>6.4.1. Review the roles and responsibilities of all the competent administrative agencies in the conservation of marine turtles and the management of their habitat;</p> <p>6.4.2. Designate an organization responsible for the coordination and implementation of the national Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles and the management of their habitat;</p> <p>6.4.3. Encourage cooperation within and among governmental and non-governmental sectors including the development and reinforcement of national networks.</p>	Medium	

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# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

*Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme*



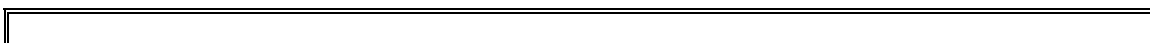
## SECOND MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR MARINE TURTLES OF THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA

*5-7 March 2008, Dakar, Senegal*

UNEP/CMS/MT-AFR2/Report  
Annex 8

### TEMPLATE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL REPORTS

1. The objective of a Signatory State providing a national report to the Secretariat of the MoU of Abidjan is to evaluate the progress towards the implementation of activities for the conservation of marine turtles in the State. This report is based on the 6 objectives of the Regional Conservation and Management Plan.
2. Please answer all questions as fully and as accurately as possible. It may appear time-consuming, but once you have completed the first report, it will be much easier the next time because some sections will remain unchanged and you can simply revise the necessary sections of the existing report on-line. Please note that the questions in section 1.4 meet the reporting requirements of the 2004 FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations and should be completed with the help of a Fisheries Officer in the Signatory State.
3. Comment boxes are provided next to most of the questions to explain what information needs to be provided. Do not hesitate to provide, in the Annex, additional detailed information on anything useful or interesting as well as graphs, maps, photographs, field reports and press releases. Please try to always indicate the source of the information used to answer a particular question. If it is a published reference, please provide all the details (author, date, title, journal/book/etc., volume, number, and page numbers). Each National Report should be a useful tool for the Signatory State, for the CMS Secretariat, for the Scientific Division and the Advisory Committee of the MoU of Abidjan, and the other States. The CMS Secretariat and the Advisory Committee of the MoU of Abidjan are available to help the States prepare their National Reports.
4. There is no deadline by when the States need to submit their report. The nesting season varies in the region and we request the Signatory States, where nesting occurs, to submit their report after analyzing the data for the nesting season.
5. This report can be completed on the website of the CMS Secretariat, or sent via email or by post.



**NATIONAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR: ..... / .....**

Signatory State:	
------------------	--

Memorandum in effect in Signatory State since (day/month/year)	
--	--

Full contact details of the agency or institution that has been primarily responsible for the preparation of this report	
--	--

Designated Focal Point: name and address	Administrative:
	Scientific:

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

Date of completion of the National Report (day/month/year)	
--	--

**OBJECTIVE 1: Reduce direct and indirect causes of marine turtle mortality**

**1.1 Identify and document the anthropogenic threats to marine turtle populations and habitats**

Please summarise in no more than a page, the status and conservation of marine turtles in your country. Comment on the main conservation challenges and achievements to date. It is not necessary to list here by name the individual nesting beaches, feeding areas and developmental habitats, as this information can be provided at the end of the report in the Annex.

**1.2. Best practices to minimize threats**

1.2.1 Describe any protocol or approaches practiced in your country, which you consider exemplary, for minimising threats to marine turtle populations and their habitats, which may be suitable for adaptation and adoption elsewhere.

**1.3. Programmes to correct adverse economic incentives**

1.3.1 Have any socio-economic studies or activities been conducted among coastal communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats?

Yes  No

**If yes, please describe in detail**

1.3.2 Which of these adverse economic incentives are underlying threats to marine turtles in your country?

Low prices for turtle meat relative to the meat of other animals

Lack of affordable alternatives to turtle products

Ease of access to the turtle resource (e.g., by virtue of proximity or easy access to nesting area or feeding grounds)

Low penalties against illegal harvesting

Other reasons

1.3.3. Does your country have the resources and funding for conservation programmes and to correct these adverse economic incentives?

Yes  No   NOT APPLICABLE (no adverse economic incentives exist)

**If yes, please describe in detail.**

**1.4 Reduction of incidental capture**

**1.4.1** Indicate, and describe in more detail, the main fisheries occurring in the waters of your country, in coastal waters as well as in the high seas, by domestic as well as foreign vessels

1.4.2 Which of the following methods are used by your country to minimize incidental capture/mortality of marine turtles in fishing activities

A. Appropriate handling of incidentally caught turtles, resuscitation, or release by fishers from hooks and nets  Yes  No

**Please provide details especially on any future plans**

B. Devices that allow the escape of marine turtles (e.g. turtle excluder devices (TEDs) or other measures that are comparable in effectiveness)  Yes  No

**Please provide details especially on any future plans**

If trawlers in your country use TEDs, please indicate how many

C. Measures to avoid encirclement of marine turtles in purse seine fisheries

Yes  No

**Please provide details especially on any future plans**

D. Appropriate combinations of hook design, type of bait, fishing depth, speed, and other gear specifications and fishing practices

Yes     No

**Please provide details especially on any future plans**

E. Monitoring and recovery of fish aggregating devices (FADs)

Yes     No

**Please provide details especially on any future plans**

F. Net retention and recycling schemes

Yes     No

**Please provide details especially on any future plans**

G. Spatial and temporal control of fishing (e.g. seasonal closures of fishing activities or targeting of specific sites)

Yes     No

**Please provide details especially on any future plans**

H. Effort management control

Yes     No

**Please provide details especially on any future plans**

I. Others (list and explain):

1.4.3. Which of the following programmes has your country developed – in consultation with the fishing industry – to promote implementation of measures to minimise incidental capture and mortality of turtles in national waters and in the high seas?

a) Onboard observer programmes

Yes     No     NOT APPLICABLE

If yes, how many  
observers

on how many  
vessels

**Have you trained observers?**

Yes     No

b) **Vessel monitoring systems**

YES     NO     NOT APPLICABLE

Details/future plans:

c) **Inspections** (i.e. at sea, in port, at landing sites)

YES     NO     NOT APPLICABLE

Details/future plans:

d) **Training programmes / workshops** to educate fishers

YES     NO     NOT APPLICABLE

Details/future plans:

e) **Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines** etc.

YES     NO     NOT APPLICABLE

Details/future plans:

f) **Disposable of ship-borne waste at ports.**

YES     NO     NOT APPLICABLE

Details/future plans:

g) **Other (list and explain):**

None of the above

1.4.4. Have you organized any meetings with artisanal fishermen to discuss the conservation of marine turtles?

Yes  No



**If no, please explain why not**

1.4.5. Have you initiated a system in your country to recover and release marine turtles accidentally captured by the artisinal fishermen (with or without sponsorship)?

Yes  No

**If yes, please describe in detail**

1.4.6. If feeding or developmental grounds exist in your country, have you encouraged fishing practices that are not detrimental to adult and subadult turtle populations and human activities that do not destroy the marine habitat?

Yes  No

**If yes, please describe in detail**

1.4.7. Do the commercial fisheries in your waters respect the fishing zones?

Yes  No

**If no, how do you plan to address this problem**

1.4.8. Describe any illegal and unregulated fishing that is known to occur in or around the waters of your country that may impact marine turtles. Describe the measures being taken to deal with this problem and any difficulties encountered in this regard.

1.4.9. Has your country liaised with fisheries industries and fisheries management organisations to develop and implement incidental capture mitigation mechanisms in national waters and on the high seas?

Yes  No

**If yes, please describe in detail**

1.4.10. Has your country exchanged information and provided technical assistance (formally or informally) to other Signatory States to promote the activities described in 1.4.4, 1.4.5 and 1.4.7 above?

YES     NO     UNSURE    If yes, please give details of the exchanges/technical assistance.

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

**Minimizing the effects of marine extractive industries**

1.5.1. Are there marine extractive industries in your country?

Yes  No

**If yes, please describe the type and extent of this industry**

1.5.2. Have any best practice guidelines been developed or being considered to mitigate against negative impacts of seismic exploration, mining, etc. on marine turtles and their habitats?

Yes  No

If yes, please provide details/future plans:

**1.6. Nesting beach management and measures to increase hatchling recruitment**

1.6.1. How many programmes do you have to survey the nesting beaches?

If applicable, please provide details

1.6.2. From the list below, first indicate whether your country has any of the following initiatives in place . If yes, indicate the relative effectiveness of these initiatives and elaborate your response in the text boxes provided.

**MEASURES**

**RELATIVE EFFECTIVENESS**

**Monitoring/protection programmes**

YES    NO    N/A    EXCELLENT    GOOD    LOW    UNKNOWN

**Education/awareness programmes**

YES    NO    N/A    EXCELLENT    GOOD    LOW    UNKNOWN

**Egg relocation/hatcheries**

YES    NO    N/A    EXCELLENT    GOOD    LOW    UNKNOWN

**Predator control**

YES    NO    N/A    EXCELLENT    GOOD    LOW    UNKNOWN

**Vehicle / access restrictions**

YES    NO    N/A    EXCELLENT    GOOD    LOW     
UNKNOWN

**Removal of debris / clean-up**

YES    NO    N/A    EXCELLENT    GOOD    LOW     
UNKNOWN

**Re-vegetation of frontal dunes**

YES    NO    N/A    EXCELLENT    GOOD    LOW     
UNKNOWN

**Building location/design regulations**

YES    NO    N/A    EXCELLENT    GOOD    LOW     
UNKNOWN

**Light pollution reduction**

YES    NO    N/A    EXCELLENT    GOOD    LOW     
UNKNOWN

**Other (list and rate them)**

1.6.3. Has your country evaluated the management programmes on the nesting beaches?  
Yes  No

**If yes, please describe in detail**

**1.7. Maximizing survival in foraging and developmental habitats**

1.7.1. Does your country have or plan to have any monitoring and/or protection programme in the foraging and development habitats?

YES     NO     NOT APPLICABLE

If yes, please provide details/future plans

1.7.2. Has your country evaluated the management programmes in the foraging and development habitats?

YES     NO     NOT APPLICABLE

**If yes, please describe in detail**



**Fat consumption**     YES     NO             HIGH     MODERATE     LOW      
UNKNOWN

**Traditional medicine**                             YES     NO                     HIGH      
MODERATE     LOW     UNKNOWN

**Eco-tourism**                             YES     NO             HIGH     MODERATE     LOW      
UNKNOWN  
**programmes**

**Cultural / traditional**                             YES     NO                     HIGH      
MODERATE     LOW     UNKNOWN  
**Significance/voodoo**

Other (list and rank):   

1.8.3 Please indicate the relative level and impact of traditional harvest on marine turtles and their eggs.

**Level of harvest:**  
 RELATIVELY HIGH     MODERATE     RELATIVELY LOW     NONE  
 UNKNOWN

**Impact of harvest:**  
 RELATIVELY HIGH     MODERATE     RELATIVELY LOW     NONE  
 UNKNOWN

Source of information / explanation:

1.8.4 Have any **domestic** management programmes been established to limit the levels of intentional harvest?

YES     NO     NOT APPLICABLE    Use the text box to give details.

1.8.5 Describe any management agreements negotiated **between your country and *other States*** in relation to sustainable levels of traditional harvest, to ensure that such harvest does not undermine conservation efforts.



**OBJECTIVE 2: Protect, conserve and restore terrestrial and marine habitats for marine turtles**

**2.1. Measures to protect and conserve marine turtle terrestrial and marine habitats**

2.1.1. Has your country identified critical and non-critical marine turtle habitats (e.g., nesting beaches, foraging and developmental habitats, inter-nesting habitat)?

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide details**

2.1.2. Are there marine and coastal zones that are classified as national parks, reserves, or sanctuaries?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

2.1.3. What is being done in your country to manage and protect critical habitats such as nesting beaches, feeding and developmental areas, interesting habitats?

**Please provide details**

2.1.4. Are there any incentives to adequately protect marine turtle habitats (terrestrial and marine) outside of protected areas?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

2.1.5. Have assessments of the environmental impact of marine and coastal development and other human activities on marine turtles and their habitats been conducted?

YES  NO

2.1.6 What measures and management have you implemented for the use of nesting beaches, especially in urban areas and villages (for example, placement and construction of buildings, artificial lights, vehicles)?

2.1.7. Is there any legislation in your country preventing construction in public maritime areas?

YES  NO

**Please provide details**

2.1.8. Have any projects/activities been initiated with neighboring countries for transboundary protected marine areas (including nesting beaches and feeding and developmental areas) by using ecological borders rather than political borders?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

2.1.9. Has your country developed any legislation or best practice measures to reduce pollution in coastal and marine habitats?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

2.1.10. Is marine water quality (including plastic debris) assessed in your country, especially in marine turtle habitats?

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide sufficient details of the monitoring and the measures taken**

**2.2 Restoration of degraded marine turtle habitats**

2.2.1 On the nesting beach, have there been efforts to reduce anthropogenic threats to adults and hatchlings (e.g., reduction in logs on the nesting beaches)?

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide sufficient details of the techniques applied, the negotiations with responsible parties, etc.**

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

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide details of the measures taken (location, duration, effectiveness, lessons learned, future plans etc.)**

2.2.3. Are efforts being made to recover sea grass habitats?

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide details of the measures taken (location, duration, effectiveness, lessons learned, future plans etc.)**

2.2.4. Are efforts being made to recover degraded coral reefs?

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE (no degraded coral reefs)

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

2.2.5. Do nature clubs and/or NGOs in your country organize regular beach cleaning activities?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

**OBJECTIVE 3: Improve our knowledge of marine turtle populations and ecology through research, monitoring, and information exchange**

**3.1. Studies on marine turtles and their habitats**

3.1.1 Provide a list of available reports and publications that include baseline information from studies carried out in your country on marine turtle populations and their habitats.

3.1.2. Are there programmes to monitor nesting beaches, feeding areas, and/or developmental habitats in your country?

**Nesting beaches:** Yes  No

**Feeding areas:** Yes  No

**Developmental habitats:** Yes  No

**Please provide details on the nature, duration, and the continuity of these programmes.**

3.1.3. How many turtles have been tagged during the time period covered by this report?

[

Number of turtles and species tagged (Cc = *C. caretta*; Cm = *C. mydas*; Lk = *L. kempii*; Lo = *L. olivacea*; Ei = *E. imbricata*; Dc = *D. coriacea*)

Number of PIT tags and species (Cc = *C. caretta*; Cm = *C. mydas*; Lk = *L. kempii*; Lo = *L. olivacea*; Ei = *E. imbricata*; Dc = *D. coriacea*)

Number of monel/inconel tags and species (Cc = *C. caretta*; Cm = *C. mydas*; Lk = *L. kempii*; Lo = *L. olivacea*; Ei = *E. imbricata*; Dc = *D. coriacea*)

3.1.4. Have key terrestrial (nesting beaches) and marine (developmental and foraging areas) habitats been mapped in your country?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

3.1.5. Have any tracking studies on adult or juvenile turtles been conducted in your country (e.g., satellite tracking)?

YES  NO

Species  Adults  Juveniles  Total number   
Cc = *C. caretta*; Cm = *C. mydas*; Lk = *L. kempii*; Lo = *L. olivacea*; Ei = *E. imbricata*; Dc = *D. coriacea*

In the Annex, please provide reports and/or publications of these data

3.1.6. Are there follow-up and long-term conservation activities being planned for marine turtles?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

3.1.7 Has the genetic identity of marine turtle populations in your country been characterized?

YES  NO

**Please give details (e.g. which species, the results, etc.).**

3.1.8. Does your country have a national database?

YES  NO

**If yes, who manages the database and what methodology is used?**

3.1.9. Please list, in the Annex, all the scientific publications on marine turtles in your country.

3.1.10. Have studies been carried out on marine turtle population dynamics and survival rates in your country?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

3.1.11. Has research been conducted on the frequency of diseases and pathology in marine turtles?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

3.1.11. Are there reference collections in your country (carapaces, skulls, bones, embryos, etc.) in a museum, research institute, or university?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

3.1.13. Have ethno-zoological studies in local communities and/or research on traditional practitioners been conducted in your country?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

3.1.14 Has there been a recent evaluation of the marine turtle research and conservation activities in your country?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

3.1.15. Is there a sea turtle stranding network in your country?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

3.1.16. Are there any studies being undertaken in your country to investigate the effects of climate change?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

### **3.2 Collaborative research and monitoring**

3.2.1 List any regional or sub-regional research and monitoring plans in which your country is already participating.

3.2.2 On which of the following themes have collaborative studies been conducted with local communities and NGOs (national and/or international) present?

a) Genetic identity    Yes     No

**If yes, please describe in detail**

b) Conservation    Yes     No

**If yes, please describe in detail**

c) Movements/Migrations    Yes     No

**If yes, please describe in detail**



d) Foraging **Yes**  **No**

**If yes, please describe in detail**

e) Other biological aspects **Yes**  **No**

**If yes, please describe in detail**

f) Community-based activities **Yes**  **No**

**If yes, please describe in detail**

g) Others **Yes**  **No**

**If yes, please describe in detail**

**3.3. Data analysis and applied research**

3.3.1. Are data in your country regularly submitted to a national, subregional and/or regional database?

YES  NO

**Please provide details for either response**

3.3.2. Does your country have marine turtle populations or habitats of regional or international importance?

YES  NO Ignorant

**If yes, please provide details**

3.3.3. Have any population trend analysis done for any of the marine turtle species in your country?

YES  NO Ignorant

**If yes, please provide details**

3.3.4. Are any research results being used to improve management, reduce threats, and to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation activities?

YES  NO Ignorant

**If yes, please provide details**

**3.4 Information exchange**

3.4.1 Do you use standardised methodologies (determined at the national and/or regional level) to collect data?

YES  NO

**Please elaborate on your response**

3.4.2 To what extent does your country exchange scientific and technical information and expertise with other Range States?

OFTEN     OCCASIONALLY     RARELY     NEVER

3.4.3 Do marine turtle researchers and conservationists in your country have easy access to discussions and information on the internet?

YES     NO

3.4.4. Do marine turtle researchers and conservationists in your country exchange data and make information available to their colleagues in the sub-region to improve the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats (e.g., newsletter)?

YES     NO

If yes, what mechanisms have commonly been used for this purpose?

**OBJECTIVE 4: Increase public awareness to threats facing marine turtles and their habitats, and enhance public participation in conservation activities**

**4.1 Public education, awareness and information programmes**

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

4.1.2. Are there information centres or museums for the public, schools, and tourists?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

4.1.3 Which of the following groups have been the targets of these focused education and awareness programmes described above in Section 4.1.1?

- Artisanal fishermen
- Commercial fisheries
- Village communities
- Tourists
- Hotel clientele
- Decision makers
- Business people
- Media
- Teachers
- Students
- Military, Navy, Police
- Scientists, NGOs
- Guards in protected areas
- Other (describe):

**Please give further details:**

4.1.4. Do you have trained people, paid and/or as volunteers to conduct awareness programmes in schools and villages?

Yes  No  Number

4.1.5. Has biodiversity and its conservation, especially concerning marine turtles, been incorporated into school programmes?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

4.1.6. Does your country organize a 'Day of the Turtle,' turtle festivals or publicized releases of accidentally captured turtles?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

4.1.7. Are there ethnic or religious taboos concerning marine turtles in your country and do you use it to better protect turtles?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

4.1.8. Are there posters/brochures/videos/etc. in your airports, travel agencies, information boards prohibiting the sale or purchase of carapaces and objects made from scutes?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

**4.2. Alternative livelihood opportunities for communities to encourage their participation in conservation efforts**

4.2.1. Describe initiatives already undertaken or planned to implement alternative livelihoods for local communities.]

4.2.2. Describe initiatives already undertaken or planned to improve the quality of life for local communities.

**4.3 Public participation**

4.3.1. Do the local communities, other interested parties, and stakeholders participate in the planning and implementation of conservation programmes for marine turtles and their habitats?

YES  NO

**If yes, please describe in detail**

Is this participation effective and has it improved the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats?

YES  NO

**If yes, please explain in detail**

4.3.2. Do the following groups participate in conservation programmes for marine turtles and their habitats?

Artisinal fishermen

Women's groups

Village communities

Youth

Public administration

NGOs

Hotels along the coast

Restaurants

Volunteers for international NGOs

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

4.3.3. Do you encourage villagers , schools, and the public to participate in the conservation of marine turtles through incentive programmes (e.g., T-shirt gifts, awarding diplomas/certificates for participation)?

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide details**

**OBJECTIVE 5: Enhance national, regional and international cooperation**

**5.1. Collaboration with signatory and Non-signatory States to the MoU of Abidjan to organize and share information and prevent illegal trade, and enforce laws concerning marine turtle products**

5.1.1. Has your country ratified the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)?

YES  NO

5.1.2. If your country is a Party to CITES, does it have the necessary infrastructure to prevent trade in and export of marine turtles and their products?

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide details.**

5.1.3. Has your country undertaken a national review of its compliance with Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) obligations in relation to marine turtles?

YES  NO  NOT APPLICABLE      If yes, please elaborate briefly.

5.1.4. Have the relevant authorities in your country participated in CITES training programmes?

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide details.**

5.1.5. Does your country have mechanisms in place to identify international illegal trade routes for marine turtle products (carapaces, scutes, meat, fat etc.) ?

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide details.**



5.1.6. Which compliance and trade issues related to marine turtles has your country raised for discussion (e.g. to the Secretariat of the MoU of Abidjan, at meetings of Signatory States etc.)?

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide details.**

5.1.7. Describe measures in place to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal trade in marine turtle products, particularly with a view to enforcing the legislation identified in Section 5.5.1.

5.1.8. Have the relevant authorities in your country who monitor illegal trafficking and the implementation of national legislation had adequate training?

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide details.**

## **5.2. Implementation of national action plans**

5.2.1 Has your country already developed a national action plan or a set of key management measures that could eventually serve as a basis for a more specific action plan at a national level?

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide details.**

5.2.2. List up to 10 conservation and/or management activities and/or particular sites and location that should be among the highest priorities for the conservation of marine turtles in your country.

5.2.3. Please indicate to what extent the following issues in your country require international cooperation in order to achieve progress.

In other words, how important is international cooperation for addressing these issues?

Illegal fishing in territorial waters	essential	<input type="checkbox"/>	important	<input type="checkbox"/>	limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incidental capture by foreign fleets	essential	<input type="checkbox"/>	important	<input type="checkbox"/>	limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enforcement/patrolling of territorial waters	essential	<input type="checkbox"/>	important	<input type="checkbox"/>	limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hunting/harvest by neighboring countries	essential	<input type="checkbox"/>	important	<input type="checkbox"/>	limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poaching, illegal trade in turtle products	essential	<input type="checkbox"/>	important	<input type="checkbox"/>	limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development of technology	essential	<input type="checkbox"/>	important	<input type="checkbox"/>	limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oil spills, pollution, marine debris	essential	<input type="checkbox"/>	important	<input type="checkbox"/>	limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Training / capacity-building	essential	<input type="checkbox"/>	important	<input type="checkbox"/>	limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alternative livelihood development	essential	<input type="checkbox"/>	important	<input type="checkbox"/>	limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identification of turtle populations	essential	<input type="checkbox"/>	important	<input type="checkbox"/>	limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identification of migration routes	essential	<input type="checkbox"/>	important	<input type="checkbox"/>	limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tagging / tracking of turtles	essential	<input type="checkbox"/>	important	<input type="checkbox"/>	limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genetic studies	essential	<input type="checkbox"/>	important	<input type="checkbox"/>	limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Habitat studies	essential	<input type="checkbox"/>	important	<input type="checkbox"/>	limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>

**5.3. Mechanisms for cooperation and information exchange**

5.3.1. Comment on the effectiveness and the pertinence of the cooperation for the conservation of marine turtles in your subregion and indicate areas that need improvement.

5.3.2. Is your country participating in any networks for cooperative management of shared turtle populations within the country or across the subregion?

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide details.**

5.3.3. What steps has your country taken to ratify big environmental conventions and join global fishing agreements such as the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement, and adopt the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries?

5.3.4. What steps has your country taken to encourage Regional Fishery Bodies to adopt marine turtle conservation measures within Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and on the high seas? Please describe the interventions made in this regard.

**5.4. Capacity-building to strengthen conservation measure**

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

5.4.2. Has there been any training in marine turtle conservation and management techniques in your country? Indicate your plans for the coming year(s).

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide details.**

5.4.3. Are there already any partnerships developed or planned with universities, research institutions, training bodies and other relevant organisations for the conservation of marine turtles and the management of their habitats?

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide details.**

**5.5. Implementation and enforcement of conservation legislation**

5.5.1 List the titles, numbers and dates of legislations (laws, policies, decrees, etc.) that directly or indirectly relate to the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats.

Does your national legislation effectively conserve marine turtles and their habitats?

YES  NO

**Please indicate the effectiveness of these legislations and identify their shortcomings when they are implemented.**

5.5.2. Has your country conducted a review of policies and environmental laws to address any gaps, inconsistencies, or impediments in their application to marine turtle conservation?

YES  NO

**Please give details.**

**OBJECTIVE 6: Promote implementation of the MoU of Abidjan**

**6.1. MoU of Abidjan membership and activities**

6.1.1. Has your country encouraged any non-Signatory nations and international organizations to sign the MoU of Abidjan?

YES  NO

If yes, please provide details

6.1.2. Is your country favourable to amending the MoU of Abidjan to make it a legally binding instrument?

Yes  No  No view

6.1.3. If you would like the MoU of Abidjan modified, do you have suggestions for these modifications that can be presented at meeting of the Signatory States?

**6.2. Secretariat and Advisory Committee**

6.2.1. What efforts has your country made to support the core operations of the Secretariat and the MoU of Abidjan?

**6.3. Resources to support implementation of the MoU of Abidjan**

6.3.1 Has your country prioritized conservation and management activities for funding?

YES  NO

If yes, please give details.

6.3.2. What internal funding has your country mobilised to implement marine turtle conservation activities related to the Memorandum? Where possible, indicate the specific monetary values attached to these activities/programmes in the past, present, as well as the future.

6.3.3. Has your country tried to solicit funds or donations of materials/equipment from other Governments, private sector, industry, international organizations, or NGOs for marine turtle conservation activities?

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide details.**

6.3.4. Describe any initiatives taken to use economic instruments for the improved conservation of marine turtles and their habitats in your country.

6.3.5. Have any ecotourism projects or other self-sufficient schemes been initiated with the local coastal communities in your country and have implications for the conservation of marine turtles?

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide details.**

**6.4. Coordination among government and non-government agencies**

6.4.1. Has your country designated a lead agency responsible for coordinating national marine turtle conservation and management of their habitats?]

YES  NO

**If yes, please provide details.**

6.4.2. Are the roles and responsibilities of all government agencies related to the conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats clearly defined?

YES  NO

**Please provide details.**

6.4.3. Has your country ever conducted a review of the roles and responsibilities of agencies in charge of wildlife protection?

YES  NO

**Please provide details.**

**Other remarks**

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

Feel free to include additional pertinent, important, and interesting information concerning marine turtles in your country:



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



## SECOND MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR MARINE TURTLES OF THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA

*5-7 March 2008, Senegal, Dakar*

UNEP/CMS/MT-AFR2/Report  
Annex 9

### DECISION TO AMEND THE NON-BINDING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR MARINE TURTLES OF THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of basic principles, the Signatory States, in their Second Meeting held in Dakar, Senegal, 5-7 March 2008, have adopted by consensus to: (1) establish an Advisory Committee, (2) encourage the Secretariat of the Convention to take necessary measures for effective regional coordination of the Memorandum, and (3) recall the decisions and accords reached during the First Meeting of Signatory States and make explicitly clear, in the text of this non-binding MoU, that this instrument is open to all States with impacts on Marine Turtles and relevant interests in the region. This requires three amendments to the text of the MoU as well as an amended Conservation Plan:

- I) Insert at the end of paragraph 4 the following text:  
“and establish an Advisory Committee, together with its Terms of Reference appended hereto.”
- II) Insert a new paragraph 7:  
“The Secretariat is requested to take necessary measures to enhance the functioning of the Memorandum by creating a Regional Coordinating Unit. The Secretariat shall inform the Signatory States of any such actions, providing them with relevant Terms of Reference, as well as Annual Reports and Work Plans of both the Secretariat and the Regional Coordinating Unit.”
- III) Insert a new paragraph 4 under Basic Principals:  
“This Memorandum of Understanding is open to signing by all States with jurisdiction on the western coast of the African continent, all States with jurisdiction in waters adjacent to the Atlantic Coast of Africa, any States whose flag vessels and other activities have direct effects on the marine turtles and their habitats of the region or anywhere in their geographic range during their life history, as well as any other States that are also interested in collaborating with the objective of this MoU. Additionally, international and national non-governmental organisations are invited to recognise the MoU and ensure that their activities complement and reinforce the measures contained in the Conservation Plan.”



**TERMS OF REFERENCE  
FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE MOU OF ABIDJAN**

**OBJECTIVE OF THE COMMITTEE**

1. The Committee's remit is to provide technical and scientific advice to the Signatory States, Secretariat, and its Regional Coordinating Unit of the MoU to promote the protection, conservation and recovery of marine turtle populations and of the habitats on which they depend, based on the best available scientific evidence, taking into account the environmental, socioeconomic and cultural characteristics of the Signatory States, along the Atlantic coast of Africa and related island territories and the high seas.

**FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

2. The Committee is first and foremost the advisory scientific and technical body of the Signatory States of the MoU of Abidjan, and its Secretariat. The members of the Committee will serve in their capacity as independent experts in topics central to the objective of the Abidjan MoU, and will not represent any State or organization.
3. In coordination with the Signatory States and Secretariat, the Committee will assist in the identification of priority issues and actions, interacting with the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group and other global organisations that provide guidelines relevant to the objective of the MoU.
4. The Chair of the Committee, in consultation with the Committee, may create task forces, with anyone of African or non-African origin, whose expertise and experience will improve the effectiveness of this group in addressing particular topics of importance (for example: issues involving a specific species, community development, education and awareness, fisheries interactions, etc).

*The Committee will:*

5. Prepare, update, and distribute a three-year Work Plan, pursuant to the objectives of the MoU and necessities of the Signatory States.
6. Support and facilitate Signatory States and diverse organizations and stakeholders in the region in the standardization of protocols for data gathering, storage, and analysis, as well as facilitate with syntheses of information relevant to the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats in the region.
7. Review the Annual Reports submitted by the Signatory States, and provide recommendations for future reporting.
8. Periodically evaluate the template of the Annual Report for the Signatory States, and, if considered necessary, recommend modifications.

9. Provide advice to Signatory States, the Secretariat, and relevant stakeholders on ethical considerations of scientific and management initiatives undertaken in the region.
10. The Chair will provide a detailed report of the Committee's activities, as well as the work of any task force that has been created, to the signatory States on an annual basis and during each meeting of the MoU of Abidjan.

#### **STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE**

11. The Advisory Committee will have up to 10 members. In appointing the Advisory Committee, Signatory States should strive to integrate diverse areas of expertise relevant to the objective of the Memorandum of Understanding (marine turtle biology, marine resource management and conservation, coastal development, socio-economics, community development, education, legislation and policy, fisheries technology, and other relevant disciplines), as well as an equitable representation of sub-regions and gender, to the extent possible, preferably with specialists from the region.

#### **NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

12. Each Signatory State may nominate individuals to serve as members of the Advisory Committee, so long as each nomination is either: a) seconded by at least two other Signatory States, or b) not a citizen from the nominating State. Nominations may also be received from the Secretariat, the current Committee, and relevant organisations that work in the region.
13. The Secretariat should inform the Signatory States, Committee, and relevant organizations of any vacancies arising from the end of a committee member's term or other reasons, such as voluntary resignation. Nominations for any vacancies should be provided in writing to the Secretariat at least 60 days in advance of the Meeting of Signatory States, and should include a detailed and complete curriculum vitae, as well as letters of support from at least two other Signatory States if applicable.
14. The Secretariat will circulate the nomination materials to all Signatory States. At their meetings, the Signatory States should appoint by consensus the members of the Advisory Committee from among the individuals nominated. If every effort to appoint members of the Advisory Committee by consensus fails, the Signatory States shall appoint members of the Advisory Committee by election (voting).

#### **TENURE AND RENEWAL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

15. Advisory Committee members will serve for three years and be eligible for re-nomination and reappointment at subsequent Meetings of Signatory States, or intersessionally if needed.

16. Should a need arise to appoint one or more committee members intersessionally, the Signatory States, the Advisory Committee and/or the Secretariat may propose one or more provisional members for consideration by the Signatory States. The proposal(s) accompanied by the same supporting documents as would be required for a regular nomination, shall be communicated to the Secretariat, who will communicate the nominations to the Signatory States. In the absence of an objection of any Signatory State, received within 30 days of the communication from the Secretariat, the interim appointment will be considered as having been accepted, and will become effective immediately. If an objection is raised by a Signatory State, the procedure may be repeated, as appropriate, until an acceptable nominee is identified. The term of appointment of the provisional nominee shall expire at the end of the next meeting of Signatory States, or at the end a three-year tenure, whichever ever comes sooner. The provisional nominee should be eligible for nomination and appointment to the Advisory Committee, as a full member, at the next meeting of the Signatory States.

#### **INTERNAL ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE**

17. The Advisory Committee will select a chair from among its members, who will be the principal point of contact between the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat. The Chair will be responsible for coordinating the work of the Committee, and will insure that the Committee is adequately represented in regional and other meetings. The Chair, in consultation with the Secretariat, will also be responsible for raising funds required for the functioning of the Committee.
18. Members of the Committee serve in a voluntary capacity, but may receive travel expenses to cover costs for attending meetings of the Committee and other relevant work to promote the objectives of the MoU.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS AND MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE**

19. To minimize costs, the Advisory Committee should conduct as much of its communications as possible through electronic means (e-mail). Regular meetings of the Advisory Committee should occur immediately prior to the regular meetings of the Signatory States, also to minimize travel and meeting costs. The Advisory Committee may also hold additional meetings in conjunction with other events, such as the Annual Sea Turtle Symposium and other relevant meetings.
20. The Advisory Committee may invite to its meetings any scientific institutions or individual experts in matters pertaining to the objective of the MoU. Observers may participate in the meetings of the Scientific Committee.
21. The Advisory Committee Chair should participate in the meetings of the Signatory States, and may also participate in the meetings of related and associated agreements and organisations that the Signatory States deem relevant to the work of the MoU. The other members of the Advisory Committee are encouraged to participate as observers in the meetings of the Signatory States.



# Convention sur la conservation des espèces migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage

Secrétariat assuré par le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement



## DEUXIEME REUNION DES ETATS SIGNATAIRES DU MEMORANDUM D'ACCORD CONCERNANT LA CONSERVATION DES TORTUES MARINES DE LA COTE ATLANTIQUE DE L'AFRIQUE

*Dakar, Sénégal, 5-7 mars 2008*

PNUE/CMS/MT-AFR2/Rapport  
Annexe 10

### ALLOCUTION DE CLOTURE CONSEILLER TECHNIQUE N°1 DU MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DE LA PROTECTION DE LA NATURE, DES BASSINS DE RETENTION ET LACS ARTIFICIELS A L'OCCASION DE LA CEREMONIE DE CLOTURE DE LA 2ème REUNION DES ETATS SIGNATAIRES

Monsieur le représentant du PNUE section  
Monsieur le Secrétaire Exécutif Adjoint de la CMS,  
Mesdames, Messieurs les Représentants des Corps Diplomatiques,  
Monsieur le Secrétaire Exécutif du SINEPAD,  
Mesdames, Messieurs les Directeurs et chefs de services nationaux  
Mesdames, Messieurs les Délégués,  
Chers Participants

C'est un grand plaisir pour moi, d'être parmi vous pour procéder au nom du Ministre d'Etat, Ministre de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la Nature des Bassins de Rétention et des lacs Artificiels à la clôture officielle de la deuxième réunion des Etats signataires du Mémorandum d'Accord concernant les mesures de conservation des tortues marines de la côte atlantique de l'Afrique.

Je voudrais d'abord saisir cette opportunité, pour renouveler les remerciements du Gouvernement, à l'endroit du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement, du Secrétariat de la Convention pour les mesures de Conservation des Espèces Migratrice appartenant à la faune sauvage (CMS) d'avoir bien voulu choisi notre pays pour d'abriter cette importante Unité je veux nommer l'URTOMA, nous donnant ainsi le privilège d'abriter cette importante réunion.

Mesdames et Messieurs, ma présence parmi vous, témoigne de l'intérêt et de l'importance que le Président de la République, Son Excellence Maître Abdoulaye Wade, et son ministre d'Etat, ministre de l'Environnement accorde à vos travaux, placés sous l'égide du Nouveau partenariat pour l'Afrique, le NEPAD. Comme vous le savez le président de la république du Sénégal, coordonnateur du Volet Environnement du NEPAD accorde une importance sans commune mesure à la protection de l'Environnement en général, marin et côtier en particulier. Ces zones sont d'une grande importance pour l'économie de nos pays et pour la survie de ses populations. De leur préservation et exploitation durable repose la survie de tout un peuple lié par les coutumes et croyances. En effet, notre pays ne peut rester indifférent à cette préoccupation, tant nos zones humides constituent d'importants pôles d'attraction touristique et figurent parmi les principales sources d'entrée de devises pour notre économie nationale dont le tourisme constitue un des secteurs prioritaires.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

La survie des tortues marines et de tous les mammifères marins en général dauphin, requins, baleines, lamantins pour ne citer que ceux là est un défi du millénaire qui nous interpelle tous. En effet devant la

rareté des ressources de la pêche et de la diminution des tonnages de poissons débarqués nous assistons à certains endroits à une pêche ciblée de ces espèces. Ainsi voudrais je interpellé, le PNUE, le secrétariat de la CMS et tous les partenaires d'appuyer l'URTOMA pour en faire un cadre juridique et technique approprié pour la coordination des efforts de conservation et d'exploitation des tortues le long de la façade atlantique.

Mesdames, Messieurs les Participants,

Permettez-moi de vous féliciter, chers participants d'avoir en si peu de temps procéder à une analyse sans complaisance de cette problématique de conservation des tortues. Vous êtes parvenus à des résultats qui, j'en suis sûr constituent une contribution significative à l'amélioration de l'état de conservation des tortues marines et de leurs habitats. En effet l'atteinte des objectifs que vous avez fixés à travers ce mémorandum et sa mise en œuvre ne sera possible qu'avec une implication totale de chacun de vous, ici présent.

A cet égard, je me réjouis de constater que des recommandations précises ont été formulées et des décisions importantes prises en ce qui concerne :

- L'adoption de l'amendement au texte du mémorandum d'accord afin de permettre sa signature par les autres Etats non africains, l'aire de répartition des tortues marines, les institutions et organismes impliqués dans la conservation des tortues est un pas très important pour une mise en œuvre efficiente du mémorandum. La signature de ce texte est maintenant du ressort de la CMS qui j'en suis sûre ne ménagera aucun effort pour faire le lobbying nécessaire auprès de ces pays et institutions pour la signature du mémorandum.
- La mise en place du comité scientifique et technique du Mémorandum d'Abidjan devrait permettre à l'URTOMA d'être fortement éclairée pour la prise de décisions importantes visant l'amélioration de la conservation des tortues marines et de leurs habitats.
- La revue du format de rapport national et l'harmonisation du plan de conservation devrait permettre une meilleure capitalisation et partage de l'information entre les pays mais aussi avec les autres entités de conservation des tortues marines.
- L'alimentation et le fonctionnement correct de la future base régionale de données devrait permettre à l'avenir de disposer en un endroit toutes les importantes informations collectées et disponibles sur les tortues de la côte atlantique de l'Afrique.

Monsieur le Secrétaire Exécutif de la CMS comme vous le savez, l'URTOMA est caractérisée par l'étendue de son aire de répartition et l'existence de cultures et de langues différentes à cet effet, elle a besoin de réseaux fonctionnels et dynamiques pour lui servir de relais. Tout en remerciant les efforts du RAPAC, du PRCM pour la création de ces réseaux, je voudrais laisser un appel à tout un chacun pour permettre à ces réseaux d'avoir les moyens qui leur permettront de jouer le rôle attendu d'eux.

Monsieur le Secrétaire Exécutif Adjoint, Mesdames, Messieurs les délégués,

Faut-il le rappeler, la mise en œuvre de l'accord constitue un défi majeur pour nos pays respectifs. En effet, elle nécessite beaucoup de moyens et requiert des choix décisifs pour des mesures de protection des habitats et des espèces dont la plupart font l'objet de lourdes menaces. A ce propos, il me plaît de souligner que les importants efforts consentis par l'ensemble des pays signataires de cet accord avec en perspective amélioration sensible du niveau de mise en œuvre du plan de conservation du MdA. Ces efforts méritent reconnaissance et appui afin d'aider les pays à la mise en place de plans d'actions nationaux qui permettront j'en suis sûr de canaliser, de capitaliser et de mettre en synergie les efforts des uns et autres.

A ce stade de mon propos, vous me permettrez de dire merci à tous nos partenaires qui nous appuient dans tous les pays de la côte atlantique de l'Afrique. Merci à nos partenaires ici présent : le programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement, Le PRCM, le WWF, le Réseau Natura 2000, Conservation

International, le NOAA des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, la FAO, l'UICN, l'UNESCO, le Royaume de la Grande Bretagne, l'Espagne, la France, et les Iles Canaries.

Je profite de l'opportunité qui m'est offerte pour renouveler mes remerciements à vous tous qui, en dépit des contraintes liées à vos charges, avez accepté de prélever de votre temps les moments précis que vous consacrez à la présente réunion.

Tout en vous souhaitant un bon retour parmi les siens, je déclare close la deuxième réunion des Etats signataires du mémorandum d'accord concernant les mesures de conservation des tortues marines de la Côte Atlantique de l'Afrique.