

**3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding  
Concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the  
Atlantic Coast of Africa**

*Saly, Senegal, 4-5 September 2023*

CMS/Atlantic-Turtle-MOU/MOS3/In.4.e

**NATIONAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR: 2023**

**GHANA**

<b>Signatory State:</b>	<b>GHANA</b>
<b>Memorandum in effect in Signatory State since (day/month/year):</b>	
<b>Full contact details of the agency or institution that has been primarily responsible for the preparation of this report:</b>	Wildlife Division. Forestry Commission Box M 239, Accra, Ghana infowd@fcghana.org
<b>Name and affiliation of the person completing this report</b>	Dickson Agyeman Wildlife Division / Forestry Commission
<b>List any other agencies, institutions, or NGOs that have provided input:</b>	Tema Port Project
<b>Date of completion of the National Report (day/month/year):</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> August 2023

**1. BACKGROUND:**

**1.1 Provide an update on sea turtle species present in your country:**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Select one for each species</b>	<b>Number of nests per year</b>	<b>Trend</b>	<b>Ref.#</b>
<b>Loggerhead (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)</b>	No sighting	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Ref 1
<b>Green (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)</b>	Nesting	11-100 nests	Unknown	Ref 1
<b>Leatherback (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)</b>	Nesting	101-500 nests	Increasing	Ref 1
<b>Hawksbill (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>)</b>	No sighting	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Ref 1
<b>Olive ridley (<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>)</b>	Nesting	101-500 nests	Increasing	Ref 1
<b>Kemp's ridley (<i>Lepidochelys kempi</i>)</b>	No sighting	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Ref 1

**1.2 What is the total length of your coastline?**

550 km

**1.3 What percentage of the coastline has nesting beaches?**

65%

**1.4 What percentage of the nesting beaches is currently monitored at regular intervals? (Ref.1)**

25%

**1.5 Are there currently in-water projects in your country that monitor/characterize:**

- a. habitats?                                    yes                                     no
- b. sea turtle populations?                    yes                                     no

**1.6 Are there currently:**

- a. bycatch monitoring projects in your country?    yes                                     no
- b. bycatch reduction projects in your country?    yes                                     no

**1.7 List the national laws and regional/international agreements in your country that protect sea turtles and/or their habitats**

<i>The Wildlife Reserves Regulations, 1971, L.I. 710</i>
<i>The Wildlife Conservation Regulations, 1971, L.I. 685</i>
WETLAND MANAGEMENT (RAMSAR SITES) REGULATIONS 1999 - L.I 1659

**1.8 List protected areas (PAs), sanctuaries or temporary exclusion zones that were created to protect marine turtle habitat.**

Keta Lagoon complex Ramsar site, Songor Ramsar site, Sakumo Ramsar site,
Densu Ramsar site, Muni Pomadze Ramsar Site, Ningo Prapram (Port Project)

**1.9 List government agencies that play a role in the conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats in your country. Very briefly list their responsibilities in relation to protecting marine turtles and their habitats.**

<b>Name of the agency</b>	<b>Role in the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats</b>
Wildlife Division	Monitoring, law enforcement, education, community training, ecotourism, necroscopy.
Universities	Research
Community Mobilisation	Education
Environmental Health and sanitation and zoomlion	Beach clean up

**1.10 List the names and locations of NGOs and other institutions working on sea turtles in your country**

<b>Name of the NGO/Institution</b>	<b>Location</b>
Tema Port Project	Tema

## 2. THREATS

### 2.1 Indicate the intensity of threats currently to marine turtles at the nesting beach and/or in the water in your country

Nature of Threat	Intensity of Threat	Ref.#
Illegal exploitation of nesting females (i.e. direct harvest on land)	Medium	Ref 1
Illegal intentional harvest of animals in coastal waters	Unknown	
Use: Meat consumption	High / common occurrence	
Use: Egg consumption	Medium	
Use: Fat and oil consumption	Low / rare event	
Use: Traditional medicine	Low / rare event	
Use: Carapace	Low / rare event	
Use: Scutes for ornaments	Low / rare event	
Use: Traditional ceremony	Low / rare event	
Use: Other — please specify	Unknown	
International trade in sea turtle meat/eggs/parts	None	
Incidental capture in artisanal fisheries	Medium	
Incidental capture in industrial fisheries	Unknown	
IUU fishing	Unknown	
Boat strikes	Low / rare event	
Marine debris (e.g. plastics at sea, flotsam)	High / common occurrence	
Degradation of in-water habitats (seagrass beds, coral reefs, etc.)	Unknown	
Industrial effluent	Low / rare event	
Inshore oil pollution	Low / rare event	
Coastal/beach degradation from Agricultural/urban/tourism development or construction	Medium	
Artificial lighting (on land or near shore)	Medium	
Coastal erosion, debris that obstructs nesting, hatchlings, etc.	High / common occurrence	
Vehicles driving on the beach	Low / rare event	
Unregulated tourism	Low / rare event	
Sand mining / removal	Medium	
Predation by domestic / feral animals	Medium	
Increasing sand temperature	Unknown	
Other (specify)	Unknown	

**2.2 Provide more details on the fisheries in your waters (including territorial waters and the EEZ)**

<b>ARTISANAL FISHERIES</b>			
	<b>Intensity of Threat</b>	<b>Species impacted</b> (please select all that apply)	<b>Ref.#</b>
Trawls	High / common occurrence	Loggerhead ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Green ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley ( <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley ( <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	Ref 1
Set gill nets	Medium	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Driftnets	Low / rare event	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Purse seine	Low / rare event	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Longline	Low / rare event	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/>	

		Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Beach seine	Low / rare event	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Stownet	Unknown	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (specify)	Unknown	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>INDUSTRIAL FISHERIES</b>			
	<b>Intensity of Threat</b>	<b>Species impacted</b> (please select all that apply)	<b>Ref.#</b>
Bottom trawls (including shrimp trawls)	Unknown	Loggerhead ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Green ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley ( <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley ( <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Pelagic trawls	Unknown	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/>	

		Hawksbill <input type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Driftnets	Unknown	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Purse seine	Unknown	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Longline	Unknown	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (specify)	Unknown	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	

**2.3 Which of the following are encouraging illegal take of marine turtles in your country? Provide Ref.#s**

- Relatively high prices, relatively high revenues earned from selling turtle parts and products (any of the following: meat, eggs, crafts)
- Lack of affordable alternatives to turtle parts and products
- Lack of culturally acceptable alternatives to turtle parts and products

- Ease of access to the turtle resource (e.g. proximity to nesting beaches, or ease of land/water access) Ref 1
- Lack of patrolling and enforcement at nesting beaches and nearshore areas
- Low cost of land near nesting beaches
- Low penalties against illegal take Ref 1
- Source of easy income
- Other (specify): Source of easy protein Ref 1
- None of the above
- Not Applicable



### 3. THREAT REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

#### 3.1 Indicate activities implemented currently at the nesting beach and the level of implementation based on the need for the activity

ACTIVITY	Need for the activity	IMPLEMENTATION	Ref.#
Monitoring eggs and nesting females (day time)	Low	Low	Ref 1
Monitoring nesting females (night patrols)	High	Extensive	
Predator control	High	Extensive	
In-situ nest protection from predators/ high sand temperatures	Low	Moderate	
Nest relocation (hatcheries, other sections of beach)	Low	Moderate	
Vehicle access restrictions	High	Extensive	
Regular removal of debris/ beach clean ups	Medium	Moderate	
Beach restoration	Medium	Moderate	
Coastal protection from development/sand mining/pollution	High	Extensive	
Light pollution reduction	Medium	Moderate	
Law enforcement	High	Extensive	
Other (specify)	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	

#### 3.2 List the fisheries where the below methods are being used currently to address bycatch of marine turtles in your country, and indicate level of implementation

METHOD	FISHERIES (please list)	IMPLEMENTATION (mark with X) for each listed fishery			Ref.#
		Low	Moderate	Extensive	
Safe handling of incidentally caught turtles (e.g. resuscitation or release using de-hooking tools, line cutting tools and scoop nets)					
Devices that allow the escape of marine turtles (e.g. turtle excluder devices (TEDs))					
Devices that allow marine turtles to avoid the nets (e.g. lights)					

Measures to avoid encirclement of marine turtles in purse seine fisheries					
Measures to release the turtles before the purse seine is hauled in					
Appropriate combinations of hook size and design, type of bait, depth, gear specifications and fishing practices					
Monitoring and recovery of fish aggregating devices (FADs)					
Use of eco-friendly FADs					
Spatial and temporal control of fishing (e.g. seasonal closures of fishing activities)	Closed season			X	
Onboard observer programmes					
Vessel monitoring systems					
Inspections (i.e. at sea, in port, at landing sites)					
Law enforcement at sea					
Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods					
Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.					
Proper disposal of discarded gear to prevent ghost fishing					
Other (specify)					
None of the above					

**3.3 Are there efforts currently to recover degraded marine turtle habitats?**

Provide Ref.#

- a. Coral reefs:    yes                     no                     unsure                     not applicable
- b. Seagrass:        yes                     no                     unsure                     not applicable
- c. Other (specify): yes                     no                     unsure                     not applicable

### 3.4 Touristic Activities

#### 3.4.1 Are there currently touristic activities linked to marine turtles in your country?

yes  no  unsure

If yes, indicate which type:		Ref.#
a. Nesting turtle observation	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	Ref 1
b. Hatchling releases	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
c. Swimming/ snorkeling activities	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other (please describe)		

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

yes  no  unsure

**If yes, have they been implemented?**

yes  no  unsure

**If they have been implemented, are they effective?**

yes  no  unsure

### 3.5 Are education/awareness programmes currently in place?

For each group indicate the extent of the programme nationally and provide Ref.#s

Target audience	Extent of the programme	Ref.#
Policy makers	Choose an item.	
Fishing industry	Choose an item.	
Communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats	High	Ref 1
Local/Fishing communities	High	
Women's groups	High	
Indigenous groups	High	
Tourists	Medium	
Media	High	
Teachers	High	
Students	High	
Military, Navy, Police	High	
Scientists	Choose an item.	
NGOs	Medium	
Enforcement personnel	Medium	
Judicial personnel	Medium	
Others (describe)	Choose an item.	

**3.6 Involvement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**

**3.6.1 Is traditional knowledge (including beliefs, taboos, etc.) being incorporated into conservation efforts?**

yes  no  unsure  not applicable

**If yes, please provide Ref.#**

Ref1

**3.6.2 Do indigenous peoples and local communities participate in conservation and management planning/decision making?**

yes  no  unsure  not applicable

**If yes, please provide Ref.#**

Ref 1

**3.7 Are indigenous peoples and local communities benefitting from the presence of sea turtles and sea turtle projects?**

yes  no  unsure  not applicable

**If yes, explain how by selecting from the following and provide Ref#:**

Benefits		Ref.#
a. financially (hired by the project)	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
b. ecotourism	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
c. community development (infrastructure)	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
d. community members' skill development	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
e. education (children/adults)	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
f. alternative livelihoods (specify)	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
g. other (specify)	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	

Fish processing, soap production for women

**3.8 Are there any studies currently in your country to investigate the effects of climate change?**

yes  no  unsure

**If yes, specify very briefly and provide Ref.#s:**

.

#### 4. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

##### 4.1 Are there programmes currently to involve local stakeholders in activities to conserve marine turtles?

Indicate the level of engagement, at the national level, for each stakeholder and provide Ref.#s

Stakeholder	Level of Engagement	Ref.#
Fishing industry	Choose an item.	
Communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats	High	Ref 1
Local/Fishing communities	High	
Women's groups	High	
Indigenous groups	High	
Tourists	Medium	
Media	Medium	
Teachers	High	
Students	High	
Military, Navy, Police	Medium	
Scientists	Choose an item.	
NGOs	Medium	
Enforcement personnel	Medium	
Judicial personnel	Medium	
Others (describe)	Choose an item.	

#### 5. CAPACITY-BUILDING

##### 5.1 For which of the following is capacity-building /training/technical expertise needed in your country:

Capacity-building needs		Further details (if needed)
a. Nesting beach monitoring	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
b. In-situ nest protection/predator control	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Hatcheries	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
d. Bycatch monitoring	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
e. Bycatch reduction	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
f. In-water habitat monitoring	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
g. In-water sea turtle population monitoring	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
h. Community engagement/empowerment	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
i. Ecotourism	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
j. Training of law enforcement personnel	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
k. Habitat restoration	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
l. Light pollution control	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
m. Socio-economic studies	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
n. National database	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
o. Data management	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
p. Grant writing	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
q. Research	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
r. Other	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Necrospy

**6. ABIDJAN MARINE TURTLE MOU**

**6.1 How would you describe the current sea turtle conservation and management efforts in your country?**

- a. Nothing is being done
- b. Ineffective
- c. Partially effective
- d. Very effective

**6.2 Do you believe that the « Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa » is a useful framework for conservation and management in your country?**

- yes       no       unsure

**7. REFERENCES**

Provide details for all the references used in your above responses:

- 1) Ghana's Ramsar sites Quarterly and Annual reports (Wildlife Division)