

Range State Meeting on the Single Species Action Plan for the Hawksbill Turtle in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific

Online, 31 May to 2 June 2022

CMS/IOSEA/Hawksbill-SSAP/Inf.5

POLICY REVIEW AS BACKGROUND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN FOR HAWKSBILL TURTLES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE ADJACENT WESTERN PACIFIC

CMS Decision 13.70 c) requests the Scientific Council to develop a draft Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) for the conservation of Hawksbill Turtles to address their trade and use in South-East Asia, and the adjacent Western Pacific.

This SSAP is to be developed with support of the Secretariat and in collaboration with the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU, CITES, Ramsar Convention and relevant non-governmental organizations. It should take into account the 2019 CITES Report on Status, Scope and Trends of the Legal and Illegal International Trade in Marine Turtles, its Conservation Impacts, Management Options and Mitigation Priorities ([CITES CoP 18, Inf.18](#)), as well as the [Hawksbill Assessment](#) prepared by the Advisory Committee of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU (to be published on 25 March 2022).

As a first step towards the development of the SSAP, the CMS Secretariat with support from WWF developed this document, which seeks to give a non-comprehensive overview of relevant commitments countries in the range of the SSAP have already made.

Table 1 gives an overview of membership in selected international instruments and relevant bodies for each of the countries and territories in the proposed range of the SSAP. The key to the abbreviations used can be found below the table. It is followed by a non-comprehensive overview of other relevant international legal instruments, United Nations documents and international organizations and consortia. This section of the document illustrates the many commitments countries have already made that touch on turtle take and trade, and that accordingly, the Hawksbill Turtle SSAP will help to implement in a coherent way with respect to this species.

Table 2 seeks to present a consolidation of actions from existing relevant mandates addressing turtle take and trade from all these commitments. For this, they have been grouped into different categories, as follows:

- Improve Legislation, Policy and Enforcement
- Enhance Regional Cooperation
- Furthering Research, Monitoring, Implementation and On-Ground Management
 - Turtle Use and Trade
 - Threats, Population Status and Distribution
 - Implementation and Management
- Awareness, Education, Capacity Building and Resources Required
 - Provide Alternative Livelihoods and Incentives to Change Behaviour

While we have attempted to consolidate text as much as possible to reduce repetition, there remains some overlap in these actions to ensure key wording, meaning and context were not lost.

Priority actions, i.e. those that should be implemented in the short-term, are already underway and/or are already in part financially supported, have been highlighted.

Table 2 will serve as a starting point for the development of a first draft of the SSAP, which will then be consulted with experts and range states in writing and subsequently discussed at a series of meetings in May/June 2022, where we hope countries will adopt the Action Plan.

Table 1: Selection of International Legally and Non-legally Binding Instruments and Relevant Bodies

Asia-Pacific Signatories and Parties	CITES [1]	CBD [2]	CMS [3]	UNCLOS [4]	RFMOs [5]	PSMA [6]	Ramsar Convention [7]	IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU [8]	MOU ASEAN Sea Turtle Conservation and Protection [9]	CTI-CFF [10]	London Declaration (IWT) [11]	SSME Regional Action Plan [12]	SPREP [13]
American Samoa (USA*)	X			X	X	X	X				X		
Australia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X
Brunei Darussalam	X			X					X				
Cambodia	X	X				X	X	X			X		
China	X	X		X	X		X				X		
Cook Islands		X	X	X	X	X	X						X
Federated States of Micronesia		X		X	X								
Fiji	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X
French Polynesia (France)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		
Guam (USA)	X				X	X	X				X		
Hawaii (USA)	X				X	X	X				X		
Hong Kong and Macau (China)	X	X		X			X						
Indonesia	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Japan	X	X		X	X	X	X				X		
Kiribati		X		X	X		X						x
Lao People's Democratic Republic	X	X		X			X		X		X		
Malaysia	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Marshall Islands		X		X	X		X						X
Myanmar	X	X		X		X	X	X	X		X		
Nauru		X		X	X								
New Caledonia (France)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X
New Zealand	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X
Niue		X		X	X		X						X
Northern Marianas (USA)	X					X	X				X		
Palau	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X
Papua New Guinea	X	X		X	X		X	X		X			X
Philippines	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Pitcairn Islands (United Kingdom)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X
Republic of Korea	X	X			X	X	X						
Samoa	X	X	X	X	X		X						X
Singapore	X	X		X					X		X		
Solomon Islands	X	X		X	X					X			X
Taiwan (China)				X	X								
Thailand	X	X		X		X	X	X	X		X		
Timor-Leste		X		X						X			
Tokelau				X			X						
Tonga	X	X		X	X	X							X
Tuvalu		X		X	X								x
United States of America	X				X	X	X	X			X		X
Vanuatu	X	X		X	X	X	X						X
Viet Nam	X	X		X		X	X	X	X		X		
Wallis Futuna (France)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						

[1-13] Please refer to the next page for the full name of each treaty and corresponding links. *USA: United States of America

Key names and corresponding links

- [1] **CITES**: Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. <https://cites.org/eng>
- [2] **CBD**: Convention on Biological Diversity. <https://www.cbd.int/>
- [3] **CMS**: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. <https://www.cms.int/>
- [4] **UNCLOS**: United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_convention.htm
- [5] **RFMOs**: Regional Fisheries Management Organisations. <https://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/search/en> . RFMOs including:
- **CCSBT**: Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna. <https://www.ccsbt.org/>
 - **IOTC**: Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. <https://www.iotc.org/>
 - **NPFC**: The North Pacific Fisheries Commission. <https://www.npfc.int/>
 - **SIOFA**: Contracting Parties of Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). <https://www.apsoi.org/>
 - **SPRFMO**: South Pacific Fisheries Management Organisation. <https://www.sprfmo.int/>
 - **WCPFC**: Western and Central Pacific Ocean Commission. <https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/convention-conservation-and-management-highly-migratory-fish-stocks-western-and-central-pacific>

The Member States of each aforementioned RFMO were combined in the column RFMOs.

RFMOs are intergovernmental organisations usually tasked with collecting fisheries statistics, assessing resources, making management decisions and monitoring activities to fish in the high seas.

- [6] **PSMA**: Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. <https://www.fao.org/3/i5469t/i5469T.pdf>
- [7] **Ramsar Convention**: Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. <https://www.ramsar.org/>
- [8] **IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU**: Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia. <https://www.cms.int/iosea-turtles/en>
- [9] **MOU ASEAN Sea Turtle Conservation and Protection**: Memorandum of Understanding ASEAN Sea Turtle Conservation and Protection. <https://asean.org/>
- [10] **CTI-CFF**: Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security. <https://www.coraltriangleinitiative.org/>
- [11] **London Declaration (IWT)**: London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade (October 2018): Declaration. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/declaration-london-conference-on-the-illegal-wildlife-trade-2018/london-conference-on-the-illegal-wildlife-trade-october-2018-declaration>
- [12] **SSME Regional Action Plan**: Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion Regional Action Plan. <https://intl.denr.gov.ph/index.php/asia-pacific-menu-2/article/5-sulu-sulawesi-marine-eco-region-ssme#next-steps> and <https://coraltriangleinitiative.org/library/regional-strategic-action-program>
- [13] **SPREP**: South Pacific Regional Environment Programme. SPREP is an environmental programme within the Pacific Community – SPC. The Marine Species Programme of the SPREP Secretariat is a regional strategy for the conservation and management of sea turtles and other marine species, and is planned to be implemented through Action plans during 2022-2026. <https://www.sprep.org/>

Other Relevant International Legal Instruments:

International agreements:

- UN Fish Stocks Agreement:** Agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

This text highlights some obligations for the State Party such as surveillance, monitoring, enforcement and control that are provided in articles 18, 19 and 23 of the Agreement. Furthermore, it reinforces the cooperation between States, particularly in the high seas, in order to respond to UNCLOS gaps. Finally, as the growing network of RFMOs stems from the UN fish stocks Agreement, RFMOs play a role in conservation and management of marine turtles in adopting, implementing and enforcing measures to combat illegal trade. For instance, transshipment at sea may be an opportunity to facilitate criminality in the fishing sector.

Source: https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/fish_stocks_agreement/CONF164_37.htm
- United Nations Convention Against Corruption**

The United Nations Convention against Corruption is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. The Convention's far-reaching approach and the mandatory character of many of its provisions make it a unique tool for developing a comprehensive response to a global problem. The Convention covers five main areas: preventive measures, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation, asset recovery, and technical assistance and information exchange. The Convention covers many different forms of corruption, such as bribery, trading in influence, abuse of functions, and various acts of corruption in the private sector. In the world wildlife crime report published by UNODC in 2016, it has been recorded more than 7,000 endangered species of wild animals and plants illegally traded across 120 countries, where corruption is one of the major facilitators of poaching and trafficking.

Source: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/>
- United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)**

The UN General Assembly affirmed the relevance of the UNTOC to fight illicit trafficking in natural resources in its resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000. The Convention represents a major step forward in the fight against transnational organized crime and signifies the recognition by Member States of the seriousness of the problems posed by it, as well as the need to foster and enhance close international cooperation in order to tackle those problems. States that ratify this instrument commit themselves to taking a series of measures against transnational organized crime, including the creation of domestic criminal offences (participation in an organized criminal group, money laundering, corruption and obstruction of justice); the adoption of new and sweeping frameworks for extradition, mutual legal assistance and law enforcement cooperation; and the promotion of training and technical assistance for building or upgrading the necessary capacity of national authorities.

Source : <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html>
- Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)**

The Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the legal framework for countries in the American Continent to take actions in benefit of these species. The IAC currently has sixteen Contracting Parties: Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, The Netherlands, Panama, Peru, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Source: <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/defaulteng.htm>

Other Relevant United Nations documents:

- United Nations General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/75/311](#): Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife, 26 July 2021.
- United Nations Environment Assembly [Resolution 2/14](#): Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, 27 May 2016.
- United Nations, [Sustainable Development Goals](#), 2015-2030
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, [World Wildlife Crime Report](#), Trafficking in protected species, 2020

Other Relevant International Organizations and Consortia:

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members—48 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.
Source: <https://www.adb.org/>
- **ASEAN Chiefs of National Police (ASEANAPOL)**

ASEANAPOL is the Association of National Chiefs of Police from countries under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). ASEANAPOL is represented by Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The Association specifically deals with law enforcement and crime control issues in the ASEAN region, and aims to harmonize the efforts undertaken by police forces and law enforcement agencies.
Source: <http://www.aseanapol.org/>
- **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations**

FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. FAO's goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.
Source: <https://www.fao.org/home/en>
- **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

The Global Environment Facility was established 30 years ago on the eve of the Rio Earth Summit to tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. The GEF is the largest multilateral trust fund focused on enabling developing countries to invest in nature, and supports the implementation of major international environmental conventions including on biodiversity, climate change, chemicals, and desertification. The GEF takes a holistic approach to tackling the poaching crisis by seeking to reduce both the supply and demand that is driving the illegal wildlife trade, as well as developing targeted efforts to curb the actual trafficking.
- **International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)**

The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) consists of five organizations: the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization, working to bring coordinated support to national wildlife law enforcement agencies and the sub regional and regional enforcement networks that act in defense of natural resources.
Source: https://cites.org/eng/prog/iccwc_new.php
ICCWC has already developed a wildlife and forest crime toolkit. A number of tools are currently being developed under the auspices of ICCWC. These tools include anti-corruption guidelines that could be used to promote adequate integrity policies and assist member States to mitigate the risks of corruption in the trade chain as it relates to CITES-listed specimens. ICCWC is also delivering a number of activities to support the implementation of national anti-corruption measures and strategies.
Source: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2017/November/links-between-corruption-and-wildlife-crime-highlighted-at-un-anti-corruption-conference.html>
- **International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL)**

INTERPOL is an intergovernmental organisation composed of 194 member countries, facilitating cross-border police cooperation. The INTERPOL Wildlife Enforcement team helps to disrupt and dismantle transnational organized criminal networks involved in the illegal wildlife trade. They assist the member countries to enforce national and international laws and treaties effectively. INTERPOL's General Secretariat has a SubDirectorate devoted to environmental security.
Sources: <https://www.interpol.int/Who-we-are/What-is-INTERPOL>, <https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Environmental-crime/Wildlife-crime>

- **Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)**

The SEAFDEC is an autonomous inter-governmental body established in 1967. The mission of SEAFDEC is “*To promote and facilitate concerted actions among the Member Countries to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia.*” SEAFDEC operates through the Secretariat, located in Thailand, and comprises 11 Member Countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
Source: <http://www.seafdec.org/>
- **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the global authority that sets the environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the [United Nations system](#) and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment since 1972. UNEP works closely with 193 [Member States](#) and representatives from civil society, businesses, and other [major groups and stakeholders](#) to address environmental challenges through the [UN Environment Assembly](#), the world’s highest-level decision-making body on the environment. UNEP supports Member States to ensure that environmental sustainability is reflected in development and investment planning and provides countries with the necessary tools and technologies to protect and restore the environment.
Source: <https://www.unep.org/>
- **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**

The frequently transnational nature of wildlife and forest crime make these criminal activities highly relevant to the mandates of UNODC, particularly the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). In this connection, UNODC has an important role to play in terms of strengthening the capacity of Governments to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate crimes against protected species of wild flora and fauna, complementing other international legal frameworks that are relevant for the protection of the environment, as for instance the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). It has developed guidelines on wildlife crime legislation and, in a number of countries, has published guidance to prosecutors engaged in pursuit of wildlife crime.
Source: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/wildlife-and-forest-crime/mandates.html>

The UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime/Sustainable Livelihoods Unit (GP/SLU) is working for and with the wildlife law enforcement community to ensure that wildlife crime, illegal logging, and related crimes are treated as serious transnational organized crimes.
Source: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/wildlife-and-forest-crime/mandates.html>
- **World Bank**

The World Bank, composed of the International Bank for Reconstruction Development and the International Development Association, works with developing countries to reduce poverty and increase shared prosperity. The organisation provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments, and also focuses on strengthening the private sector in developing countries. The Bank plays a leading role in the international efforts to strengthen governance and law enforcement to combat wildlife and forest crimes.
Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/>
- **The World Customs Organization (WCO)**, established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) is an independent intergovernmental body whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations. Today, the WCO represents 183 Customs administrations across the globe that collectively process approximately 98% of world trade. As the global centre of Customs expertise, the WCO is the only international organization with competence in Customs matters and can rightly call itself the voice of the international Customs community. It provides leadership, guidance and support to Customs administrations to secure and facilitate legitimate trade, realize revenues, build capacity and protect society.
Source: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en.aspx>

Table 2: Existing Relevant Mandates Addressing Take and Trade in the Region of Interest to support a Draft Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) for the Conservation of the Hawksbill Turtle in South-East Asia, and the Adjacent Western Pacific

No.	Actions	Level1	Suggested Partners	Source
Improve Legislation, Policy and Enforcement				
1.	Conduct a thorough review of protective legislation and inconsistencies between countries.	I/R	CMS, IOSEA MOU, SPREP	IOSEA CMP 2009 CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions 2019 (18.212a) Sulu Sulawesi Marine Turtles Action Plan 2011 Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (6.1)
2.	Improve compliance and address weaknesses in the judicial process in countries where turtles are exploited, take is legal and where illegal activities continue	N	National Governments, NGOs	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (27, 29, 91) CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions 2019 (18.212a) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (6.1)
3.	Consider enacting new laws on marine turtle conservation, remove any inconsistencies within national legislation, and fully implement international commitments including CITES Turtle Decisions.	R/N	National Governments	IOSEA CMP 2009 CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions 2019 (18.211b) ASEAN MoU 2012 (IV) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (4.1, 6.1)
4.	Improve and facilitate training and capacity building of relevant authorities at the national and regional level, including on the implementation and enforcement of national and international regulations that apply to marine turtles, and on identification, monitoring, reporting and wildlife enforcement capability supported by financial or technical assistance	R/N	NGOs, IGOs, Financial Institutions, National Governments	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (27, 48, 91) CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions 2019 (18.213a) ICWC tools Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (1.1, 8.1, 8.2) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
5.	Complete and implement the CTI (and corresponding National Plans of Action) Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan with a particular focus on international trade in turtle meat and parts, including surveillance and enforcement	R/N	CTI-CFF, National Governments	CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action 2012 Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (4.5 and C.6)

1 Level: (R) Regional; (N) National; (I) International

6.	Complete and implement a region-wide Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan with a particular focus on incidental bycatch in other fisheries (e.g., longline tuna, purse seine, and small-scale fisheries), including legislative reform and practical modifications of fishing gear	R	CTI-CFF, SPREP, IOSEA MOU, National Governments	IOSEA CMP 2009 CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action 2012 Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (4.1)
7.	Improve monitoring, detection and law enforcement activities related to marine turtles in coastal areas and at transaction points	N/R	National Governments, CTI-CFF, INTERPOL, ASEANAPOL, local community groups	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (91) CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions 2019 (18.211f) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (6.1, 8.1) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
8.	Update, complete and implement conservation action and targeted management plans, which should cover traditional management and regulation addressing conflict over the use of critical habitats (e.g., nesting beaches, feeding grounds) including the findings/recommendations of CITES CoP18/Inf.18 and related Decisions 18.211-18.213	R/N	National Governments, local community groups	CMS Decision 13.70 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (63) CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions (18.211 a, b, c) CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action 2012 Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (5.1) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
Enhance Regional Cooperation				
9.	Consult other range states, and work through existing regional agreements, MoUs and action plans to protect habitats in networks that allow for greater safety for marine turtles during their life cycle and in their movements	R/N	National Governments, CMS, IOSEA MOU, IAC	IOSEA CMP 2009 Ramsar Convention Resolution XIII.24 (19) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (8.2)
10.	Strengthen internal, bilateral, and international cooperation in enforcement by collaborating with IGOs and NGOs to ensure the issue of marine turtle trade is on the agenda of CITES fora, including the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, the IOSEA MOU, RFMO meetings, and meetings of other relevant organizations	R	National Governments, IGOs, NGOs, INTERPOL, UNTOC, RFMOs	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (58, 59, 60) CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions (18.210 e, 18.211 d) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (4.5, 8.2) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
11.	Review RAMSAR and IOSEA Site Network site management plans, enhance synergies and ensure better coordination with regional initiatives and existing networks	R/N	National Governments, Ramsar, CMS, IOSEA MOU, IAC	IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (89) Ramsar Convention Resolution XIII.24 (22)

12.	Increase intra- and interregional collaboration and exchange of actionable intelligence between source, transit, and destination countries to address the illegal take and trade of wildlife	N/R	National Governments, CITES, ICCWC, INTERPOL, ASEANAPOL, UNODC, RFMOs, CTI-CFF	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (51, 52, 58, 91) CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions 2019 (18.211h) UNTOC (13) UN Convention Against Corruption (43) PSMA (12-19) London Declaration 2018 (18) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (4.5) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
13.	Cooperate in the conservation and management of living resources in the areas of the high seas and coordinate efforts to identify and address fishing interactions with marine turtles (particularly bycatch).	R	RFMOs and other Regional Fishery Bodies	CITES CoP18 (18.211, l) UNCLOS (197)
Furthering Research, Monitoring, Implementation and On-Ground Management				
<i>Take, Use and Trade</i>				
14.	In a standardised manner, collect illegal wildlife trade data that can be used for monitoring trade in marine turtles; and submit comprehensive and accurate information on illegal trade in marine turtles in their annual illegal trade reports to the CITES Secretariat	N/R	National Governments, CTI-CFF, NGOs, CITES, Universities and Research Institutes	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (21) CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions 2019 (18.211e) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (1.1) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
15.	Ascertain key trade routes, methods, volumes, and trade 'hot-spots' using available technologies	N	CITES, National Governments, NGOs, Universities and Research Institutes	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (59) CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions 2019 (18.211i)
16.	Enforce national and international legislation and regulations, as well as other mechanisms that apply to marine turtles take and trade	N	CITES, National Governments, NGOs	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (27) CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions 2019 (18.211i) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)

17.	Research the scale and impact that national and international artisanal, semi-industrial and industrial fisheries, including illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, have on marine turtle populations and their linkage to illegal trade including using on-board observer data, fishing community surveys supported by financial and technical assistance	N	NGOs, National Governments, World Bank, Universities and Research Institutes	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (1, 6, 7, 24, 85, 87, 88) CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions 2019 (18.213e) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026(4.4) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
18.	Evaluate social, cultural, and economic value and investigate human dimensions that underpin the use and trade of marine turtles and turtle products	N/R/I	NGOs, National Governments, Universities and Research Institutes	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (7,20,21,29) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (4.5) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
19.	Where domestic harvest of specimens of marine turtles, including eggs, is legal, ensure any domestic harvest quotas are established based on robust science-based methods and the principles of sustainability, including accounting for existing quota or no-take quotas in other States' that share marine turtle stock(s), taking into account national enforcement capacity	N/R	National Governments, local community groups	IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (29) CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions 2019 (18.212b)
20.	Continue and/or establish national and regional observer and bycatch mitigation programmes to assess and quantify fishery impact/overlap to turtle populations, stocks and distribution, and prioritise areas, stocks, fisheries for additional management, ensuring this is communicated to relevant authorities	N/R	National Governments	IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (7, 22-25) Sulu Sulawesi Marine Turtles Action Plan 2011 (4.1)
21.	Develop guidelines on incidental capture mitigation mechanisms	I	NGOs, National Governments, IOSEA MOU	Sulu Sulawesi Marine Turtles Action Plan 2011 (4.2) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (4.4)
22.	Increase action to tackle the illicit financial flows associated with wildlife trafficking and related corruption, including the increase of use of financial investigation techniques and public/private collaboration to identify criminals and their networks	N	UNODC	London Declaration 2018 (10)

<i>Threats, Population Status and Distribution</i>				
23.	Conduct a comprehensive, qualitative threats assessment for HB turtles	I/R/N	NGOs, National Governments, IOSEA MOU, Universities and Research Institutes	CMS Turtle Decisions (13.70) IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (12, 63) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (2.1) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
24.	Address incidental catch in fisheries (e.g., longline tuna, purse seine, and small-scale fisheries), including legislative reform and practical modifications of fishing gear	R	IGOs, National Governments	IOSEA CMP 2009 CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action 2012 Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (4.1) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
25.	Further study HB life history and ecology, population ecology, feeding ecology, long-term population trends, habitat needs, HB influence on foraging habitats, development stages, movement and migrations, and population genetics	I/R/N	National Governments, Universities and Research Institutes, IGOs, NGOs, local community groups	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (12, 43, 63) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (1.1, 1.3, 1.4) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
26.	Compile and analyse satellite tracking and tag recovery data at a regional level to understand regional habitat use patterns, identify hotspots and identify important gaps in protection	I/R/N	NGOs, National Governments, Universities and Research Institutes	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (12, 43, 63) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (1.4)
27.	Collect genetic samples of marine turtles using standardized methods and reliable analysis to determine the species involved and population of origin. Compile and map data to support, for example, research, investigations and prosecutions, and policy decisions nationally and internationally.	N	National Governments, Universities and Research Institutes	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (1, 44) CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions 2019 (18.211g) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (1.3) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
28.	Research and establish a baseline for the status and distribution of marine turtles in the different countries/region supported by financial and technical assistance	N	National Governments, Universities and Research Institutes	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (42, 47, 85, 115) CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions 2019 (18.213d) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (1) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)

29.	Identify and collect standardised data on index nesting and foraging sites and ensure the populations are monitored as precisely as possible, in order to improve our knowledge of the distribution, numbers and state of health of each of the species involved	R/N	National Governments, CMS, IOSEA MOU, IAC, Universities and Research Institutes, local community groups	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (9) Ramsar Convention Resolution XIII.24 (16) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (1.2, 1.4) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
30.	Review existing research methods and monitoring protocols and develop standard guidelines and monitoring systems on genetic identity, population status, migration routes, and other biological and ecological aspects of marine turtles (life history).	I	NGOs, National Governments, IOSEA MOU	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (1, 5) CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action 2012 Sulu Sulawesi Marine Turtles Action Plan 2011 (5.1) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (3.1) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
Implementation and Management				
31.	Support fisheries management authorities in implementing turtle mitigation and safe handling practices	N	NGOs, National Governments	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (22, 23) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (4.1)
32.	Improve accountability for the practices undertaken by all vessels and improve the monitoring and control related to CITES-listed marine turtles at landing sites	N	National Governments, FAO (via Port State Measures Agreement), RFMOs	CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions 2019 (18.211j) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (4.1)
33.	Strengthen the conservation and management of identified index nesting and foraging sites, if possible by designating them as IOSEA Site Network sites and Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites), and strengthen this designation through the promulgation of the appropriate protective measures, in particular through the creation of marine protected areas	R/N	National Governments, IOSEA MOU, IAC	IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (37, 89) Ramsar Convention Resolution XIII.24 (17, 18) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (4.2)
34.	Define and identify habitat critical for turtle stocks at different life history stages with a particular focus on the trans-boundary nature of life-cycle stage requirements, migratory patterns, and related protection strategies and adequately protect it including through marine protected areas	R/N	National Governments, IGOs, CTI-CFF, NGOs, Universities and Research Institutes	IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (30-33) CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action 2012 (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)

35.	Formulate economic incentives to reduce threats and mortality as well as implement measures and protocols for the protection and management of marine turtle populations and their habitats	N	National Governments	IOSEA CMP 2009 Sulu Sulawesi Marine Turtles Action Plan 2011 (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
36.	Develop and implement management programmes to enhance the protection of nesting habitats and maximize hatchling production and survival	N	National Governments, NGOs	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (9, 15, 87) Sulu Sulawesi Marine Turtles Action Plan 2011 (2) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (1.2) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
37.	Develop guidelines for marine protected area network design for marine turtles	I	National Governments, IGOs, IOSEA MOU, NGOs, Universities and Research Institutes	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (33) Sulu Sulawesi Marine Turtles Action Plan 2011 (6) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (3.1)
Awareness, Education, Capacity Building and Resources Required				
38.	Take further steps to understand and reduce use and domestic trade and to develop awareness campaigns to target online illegal trade.	N	NGOs, National Governments, local community groups	IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (61)
39.	Build community and political awareness on the conservation status of marine turtles and on the importance of promoting the conservation of the species through compliance with CITES at the national level, supported by financial or technical assistance.	N	NGOs, National Governments, local community groups	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (58, 59) CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions 2019 (18.213b) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (4.5, 8.2)
40.	Work with local communities to reduce poaching; raise awareness of turtle consumers, highlight existing regulations, conservation and possibly health issues involved; engage religious leaders, as appropriate, in awareness campaigns; educate youth and women; enhance transboundary cooperation in education and awareness campaigns	N	NGOs, National Governments, local community groups	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (51, 52) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (3.1, 9.1)
41.	Develop best practices to guide the interaction of humans and marine turtles by raising the awareness of inhabitants of and visitors to coastal zones	R/N	National Governments, CMS, IOSEA MOU, Ramsar	CMS Resolution 11.29 (Rev.COP12) , 12.16 Ramsar Convention Resolution XIII.24 (20)

42.	Develop, publish and provide training on information to promote best practices and successes for marine turtle conservation including data collection and monitoring	I/N	NGOs, National Governments, IOSEA MOU	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (15-19, 55, 56) Sulu Sulawesi Marine Turtles Action Plan 2011 (7)
43.	Identify and articulate actual resource needs and raise funds to increase human and material resources, build field-level capacity at national and regional levels, including for enforcement	N/R	SPREP, CTI-CFF, NGOs, National Governments, CITES	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (27)
<i>Provide Alternative Livelihoods and Incentives to Change Behaviour</i>				
44.	Develop alternative livelihoods, such as ecotourism, transferring skills to former fishermen and poachers, and/or livestock keeping using examples of good practice to ensure genuinely sustainable approaches, which will be beneficial in the long run for both humans and turtle populations	R/N	NGOs, National Governments,	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (53) London Declaration 2018 (13) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (7.1) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
45.	Examine motivations for the legal and illegal harvest and use of marine turtles and their eggs, assess the sustainability of alternative livelihood options for communities which depend on marine turtles, include subsistence users in decision making, and seek financial and technical support to address this item	N	National Governments, NGOs, local community groups	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (20, 28, 29, 87) CITES CoP18 Turtle Decisions 2019 (18.213c) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
46.	Work with local communities, relevant stakeholders and institutions to raise awareness of the importance of conserving marine turtles, their nests and their habitats, and halt poaching and the exploitation of marine turtle products, including through, <i>inter alia</i> , fostering alternative sustainable livelihoods, including sustainable eco-tourism	R/N	National Governments, CMS, IOSEA MOU, local community groups	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (50, 51, 52, 53, 54) Ramsar Convention Resolution XIII.24 (21) Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2022-2026 (9.1)
47.	Establish direct incentive schemes (employment/payment) to deter illegal poaching	N	NGOs, National Governments	IOSEA CMP 2009
48.	Establish indirect incentives (alternative livelihoods) for turtle users	N	NGOs, National Governments	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (53) (also supported by: IOSEA Hawksbill Assessment 2022)
49.	Use religious edicts to curb turtle consumption	N	NGOs, National Governments	IOSEA CMP 2009 IOSEA Work Programme 2020-2024 (51)