

**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.b

**NATIONAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR: 2023**

**LIBERIA**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Signatory State:</b>  | <b>LIBERIA</b>  |
| <b>Memorandum in effect in Signatory State since (day/month/year):</b>   | 01/12/2004  |
| <b>Full contact details of the agency or institution that has been primarily responsible for the preparation of this report:</b> | Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia  |
| <b>Name and affiliation of the person completing this report</b>   | Hawa Kortu Walker, National Focal Point, Convention on Migratory Species                  |
| <b>List any other agencies, institutions, or NGOs that have provided input:</b>  | Environmental Protection Agency, Conservation International and Save my Future Foundation |
| <b>Date of completion of the National Report (day/month/year):</b>   | 09/08/2023  |



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

|   |
|---|
| The National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law of Liberia |
|   |
|   |
|   |

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

|   |
|---|
| The Sapo National Park, Gola National Park, Krahn-Grebo National, East Nimba Nature Reserve, Lake Piso Multi-use Reserve. |
|   |
|   |
|   |

**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>  |
|--|---|
| Forestry Development Authority               | Collaborate with relevant Institutions as it relates to the forest governance.                              |
| Environmental Protection Agency              | Work with relevant Institutions as it relates to the protection and sustainability of our natural resources |
| National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority | Work within the marine environment  |
| Liberia Marine Authority                     | Work directly with the marine environment.  |

**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>                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>Save my Future Foundation</b>                      | Thinker Village                 |
| <b>Conservation International</b>                     | 13 <sup>th</sup> Street, Sinkor |
| <b>Society for the Conservation of Nature Liberia</b> | Congo Town                      |
| <b>Flora and Fauna International</b>                  | Congo Town                      |

## 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)                 | Low / rare event         |       |
| Illegal intentional harvest of animals in coastal waters                              | Low / rare event         |       |
| Use: Meat consumption   | High / common occurrence |       |
| Use: Egg consumption  | Low / rare event         |       |
| Use: Fat and oil consumption  | Unknown                  |       |
| Use: Traditional medicine   | Medium                   |       |
| Use: Carapace   | Unknown                  |       |
| Use: Scutes for ornaments   | Unknown                  |       |
| Use: Traditional ceremony   | Low / rare event         |       |
| Use: Other — please specify   | Not Applicable           |       |
| International trade in sea turtle meat/eggs/parts                                     | Unknown                  |       |
| Incidental capture in artisanal fisheries   | Low / rare event         |       |
| Incidental capture in industrial fisheries  | Low / rare event         |       |
| IUU fishing   | Unknown                  |       |
| Boat strikes  | Unknown                  |       |
| Marine debris (e.g. plastics at sea, flotsam)   | High / common occurrence |       |
| Degradation of in-water habitats (seagrass beds, coral reefs, etc.)                   | Unknown                  |       |
| Industrial effluent   | Medium                   |       |
| Inshore oil pollution   | Low / rare event         |       |
| Coastal/beach degradation from Agricultural/urban/tourism development or construction | High / common occurrence |       |
| Artificial lighting (on land or near shore)   | Medium                   |       |
| Coastal erosion, debris that obstructs nesting, hatchlings, etc.                      | Medium                   |       |
| Vehicles driving on the beach   | Low / rare event         |       |
| Unregulated tourism   | Low / rare event         |       |
| Sand mining / removal   | High / common occurrence |       |
| Predation by domestic / feral animals   | Low / rare event         |       |
| Increasing sand temperature   | High / common occurrence |       |

|                 |                 |  |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Other (specify) | Choose an item. |  |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|

**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><br>(please select all that apply)  | <b>Ref.#</b> |
| Trawls                     | Medium                     | Loggerhead ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Green ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Leatherback ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Hawksbill ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Olive ridley ( <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Kemp's ridley ( <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unsure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |              |
| Set gill nets              | Unknown                    | Loggerhead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Leatherback <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Kemp's ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unsure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  |              |
| Driftnets                  | Unknown                    | Loggerhead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Leatherback <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Kemp's ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unsure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  |              |
| Purse seine                | Unknown                    | Loggerhead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Leatherback <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Kemp's ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unsure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  |              |
| Longline                   | Unknown                    | Loggerhead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Leatherback <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  |              |

|                 |         |   |  |
|-----------------|---------|---|--|
|                 |         | Kemp's ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>   |  |
| Beach seine     | Unknown | Loggerhead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Leatherback <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/><br>Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unsure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>            |  |
| Stownet         | Unknown | Loggerhead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Leatherback <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Kemp's ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unsure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| Other (specify) | None    | Loggerhead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Leatherback <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Kemp's ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unsure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |

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

|                 |         |   |  |
|-----------------|---------|---|--|
|                 |         | Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Leatherback <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Kemp's ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>  |  |
| Driftnets       | Unknown | Loggerhead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/><br>Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Kemp's ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>                       |  |
| Purse seine     | Unknown | Loggerhead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Leatherback <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Kemp's ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>            |  |
| Longline        | Unknown | Loggerhead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Leatherback <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Kemp's ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>            |  |
| Other (specify) | None    | Loggerhead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Leatherback <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Kemp's ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br>Unsure <input checked="" 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)
- Lack of patrolling and enforcement at nesting beaches and nearshore areas
- Low cost of land near nesting beaches
- Low penalties against illegal take
- Source of easy income
- Other (specify):
- 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)                 | None                  | None           |       |
| Monitoring nesting females (night patrols)                     | None                  | None           |       |
| Predator control   | None                  | None           |       |
| In-situ nest protection from predators/ high sand temperatures | None                  | Unknown        |       |
| Nest relocation (hatcheries, other sections of beach)          | None                  | Unknown        |       |
| Vehicle access restrictions                                    | Low                   | Low            |       |
| Regular removal of debris/ beach clean ups                     | Low                   | Low            |       |
| Beach restoration  | Low                   | Unknown        | ✓     |
| Coastal protection from development/sand mining/pollution      | Low                   | Low            | ✓     |
| Light pollution reduction                                      | Low                   | Unknown        | ✓     |
| Law enforcement  | Low                   | Low            | ✓     |
| Other (specify)  | None                  | Not applicable | ✓     |

#### 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<br>(please list)    | IMPLEMENTATION<br>(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) | Longlines and use of gillnets | x   | ✓        |           |       |
| Devices that allow the escape of marine turtles (e.g. turtle excluder devices (TEDs))  | Trawling                      | x   | ✓        |           |       |
| Devices that allow marine turtles to avoid the nets (e.g. lights)  | Touch light                   |   | ✓        |           |       |

|  |  |   |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| Measures to avoid encirclement of marine turtles in purse seine fisheries  | Keep nesting beaches dark and safe for sea turtles   | x | ✓ |  |  |
| 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)   | Monitoring is done by National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority and Liberian National Coast Guard | x | ✓ |  |  |
| Use of eco-friendly FADs   | Yes  | x | ✓ |  |  |
| Spatial and temporal control of fishing (e.g. seasonal closures of fishing activities)                           | Yes  | x | ✓ |  |  |
| Onboard observer programmes  | unsure   | x | ✓ |  |  |
| Vessel monitoring systems  | Yes  | x | ✓ |  |  |
| Inspections (i.e. at sea, in port, at landing sites)   | Yes  | x | ✓ |  |  |
| Law enforcement at sea   | Yes  | x | ✓ |  |  |
| Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods                         | Yes  | x | ✓ |  |  |
| Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.   | Yes  | x | ✓ |  |  |
| Proper disposal of discarded gear to prevent ghost fishing   | Yes  | x | ✓ |  |  |
| 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"/> |       |
| b. Hatchling releases              | yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> |       |
| c. Swimming/ snorkeling activities | yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input 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  | Medium                  |       |
| Fishing industry   | Low                     |       |
| Communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats | Medium                  |       |
| Local/Fishing communities  | Medium                  |       |
| Women's groups   | Medium                  |       |
| Indigenous groups  | Low                     |       |
| Tourists   | Low                     |       |
| Media  | Low                     |       |
| Teachers   | Low                     |       |
| Students   | Low                     |       |
| Military, Navy, Police   | Medium                  |       |
| Scientists   | Low                     |       |
| NGOs   | Medium                  |       |
| Enforcement personnel  | Low                     |       |
| Judicial personnel   | Low                     |       |
| Others (describe)  | Low                     |       |

**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.#**

**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.#**

**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#:**

| <b>Benefits</b>                           |   | <b>Ref.#</b> |
|---|---|--------------|
| a. financially (hired by the project)     | yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |              |
| b. ecotourism                             | yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> |              |

**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   | Low                 |       |
| Communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats | Medium              |       |
| Local/Fishing communities  | Medium              |       |
| Women's groups   | None                |       |
| Indigenous groups  | Low                 |       |
| Tourists   | Low                 |       |
| Media  | Low                 |       |
| Teachers   | Low                 |       |
| Students   | Low                 |       |
| Military, Navy, Police   | Low                 |       |
| Scientists   | Low                 |       |
| NGOs   | Low                 |       |
| Enforcement personnel  | Low                 |       |
| Judicial personnel   | Low                 |       |
| Others (describe)  | Low                 |       |

#### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                             |
| b. In-situ nest protection/predator control  | yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                             |
| c. Hatcheries                                | yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                             |
| d. Bycatch monitoring                        | yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                             |
| e. Bycatch reduction                         | yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                             |
| f. In-water habitat monitoring               | yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                             |
| g. In-water sea turtle population monitoring | yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                             |
| h. Community engagement/empowerment          | yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                             |
| i. Ecotourism                                | yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                             |
| j. Training of law enforcement personnel     | yes <input type="checkbox"/>            |                             |
| k. Habitat restoration                       | yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                             |
| l. Light pollution control                   | yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                             |
| m. Socio-economic studies                    | yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                             |
| r. Other                                     | yes <input type="checkbox"/>            |                             |

## 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)
- 2)
- 3)

Etc.