

## STATUS OF NATIONAL NETWORKS / COMMITTEES

**Signatory State:** Mauritius

**Focal Point / Person completing this form** Ms. Shyama Rathacharen, Principal Fisheries Officer, Albion Fisheries Research Centre

**Information last updated:** August 2008

### National networks or committees:

National Action Plan for Stranded Marine Mammals / Marine Turtles

### Status:

Approved through the National General Assembly of the Republic of Mauritius in April 2007.

### Lead agency / organization / institution:

Ministry of Agro-Industry and Fisheries

### Representation in the national network / committee:

- **Government agencies:**
  1. Ministry of Agro-Industry and Fisheries
  2. Ministry of Environment
  3. Ministry of Focal Government
  4. Beach authority
  5. Special Mobile Force
  6. National Coast Guard
  7. Veterinary services
  8. Ministry of Health and Quality of Life
- **Academic and research organizations:**
  1. Mauritius Institute
  2. University of Mauritius
  3. Mauritius Museum Council
- **Environmental NGOs:**
  - Mauritius Marine Conservation Society, Mauritius Wildlife Fund
- **Development and human rights NGOs:**
  -
- **Private sector:**
  -
- **Fisheries:**
  - Ministry of Agro-Industry and Fisheries
- **Tourism:**
  - Beach Authority and Tourism Authority

▪ **Others:**

–

**Specific resources for developing and maintaining the network / committee:**

1. Available scientific, technical and administrative staff of above-mentioned ministries, authorities/institutes. Appropriate action according to their mandate.
2. Fisher community

**Means of communication:**

Meetings

**Number of meetings held:**

- **2006:** 2
- **2007:** 5
- **2008:** 4

**Most important topics of discussion:**

- Standing protocol for each Ministry, NGOs, Authorities/Institutions
- The ten scenarios in relation to stranded mammals/marine turtles as in the National Action plan.

**Most important advances and contributions of the network / committee's work:**

- Facilitates how to deal with the return of live stranded mammals/turtles to the high sea and/or the recovery and disposal of dead marine mammals carcasses.
- With the Action Plan, there is proper coordination at the operational level among the relevant organizations.

**Most important challenges and difficulties in the network / committee's work:**

- Increase human resources
- Increase capacity building
- Reduce lengthy procedures for purchase of equipments
- Public awareness, mainly with coastal villages and the fishermen community

**Plans for the future development of the network / committee:**

- Through the implementation of the Action Plan, set backs / gaps if any would be identified followed by Remedial Action.
- A project on the study of Marine Turtles of St. Brandon is being initiated by the Ministry under the biodiversity component of the South West Indian Ocean Fishery Project (SWIOFP). It will include the following: monitoring biological and migratory behavior of marine turtles in St. Brandon, establishing a database in connection with existing populations on the island of St. Brandon and establishing a monitoring program for the protection of marine turtles in St. Brandon.

**Other comments:**