

STATUS OF NATIONAL NETWORKS / COMMITTEES

Signatory State: United Arab Emirates

Focal Point: Thabit Zahran Al Abdessalaam, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi

Information last updated: August 2008

National networks or committees:

United Arab Emirates has no national committee on sea turtles, per se; however see below.

Status:

The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi is the lead agency undertaking research and conservation of sea turtles and coordinates with the Federal Ministry of Environment and Water on legal and administrative matters.

Lead agency / organization / institution:

Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi

Representation in the national network / committee:

- **Government agencies:**
 - Federal Ministry of Environment and Water
 - Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi
- **Academic and research organizations:**
 -
- **Environmental NGOs:**
 - Emirate Wildlife Society
 - WWF - UAE
- **Development and human rights NGOs:**
 -
- **Private sector:**
 - Many oil companies volunteer in monitoring aspects
- **Fisheries:**
 - Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Environment and Water
- **Tourism:**
 - Tourism Development Authority
- **Others:**
 - Private Department of HH the President

Specific resources for developing and maintaining the network / committee:

There is already a precedent in the formulation of a National Steering Committee on Fisheries.

Means of communication:

Meetings, e-mail discussion groups

Number of meetings held:

- 2006:
- 2007:
- 2008:

None. There are no formal meetings. However, the Emirate Wildlife Society organized a regional meeting on sea turtles involving neighboring countries in 2007.

Most important topics of discussion:

Turtle conservation and management
Mitigation of mortality from anthropogenic activities
Integration of sea turtle conservation within IUCN processes

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

N/A

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

The main challenge is to galvanise support to spearhead efforts to establish a national committee.

Plans for the future development of the network / committee:

Intend to seriously consider the establishment of a national committee to improve collaboration on a national basis.

Other comments: