



Working Group on Illegal Take and Trade

Work programme and working arrangements

Background

The Signatory States to the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU, proposed at their 7th Meeting in September 2014 in Bonn, Germany ('SS7), to establish a Working Group in order to increase the visibility of illegal take and trade in marine turtles in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia region.

The draft synthesis paper "[Illegal Take and Trade of Marine Turtles in the IOSEA Region](#)" prepared by the IOSEA Secretariat and submitted to the Seventh Meeting of Signatories indicated substantial illegal take and trade in marine turtles taking place within the IOSEA region. It concerns whole turtles but also derivatives and users can be found nationally as well as internationally, with most of the trade occurring in two hotspots: 1. between South East Asian countries and China, South Korea and Japan; and 2. from Madagascar and Mozambique.

Although there are various intergovernmental organizations and networks specifically dedicated to international trade in wildlife and wildlife crime, including CITES, Interpol, the ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network, and a relatively new International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), Signatories to the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU can provide information from their respective areas of expertise, work towards addressing the root of illegal trade and liaise with specialized institutions to mitigate trade.

Objective of Working Group

To raise awareness of illegal take and trade in marine turtles in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia region among policy-makers and the public; to identify areas for action; to identify and liaise with collaborative partners addressing and mitigating illegal take and trade; to collect best-practices for curbing illegal take and trade.

Activities

- Round off the draft synthesis paper "[Illegal Take and Trade of Marine Turtles in the IOSEA Region](#)" presented by the Secretariat to the SS7: members of the Working Group to (1) contribute themselves new data and (2) actively solicit new data contribution from Signatory States, NGOs, Advisory Committee members, intergovernmental organizations and other networks.
- Liaise with the Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles ('IAC') on the joint submission of a paper to the CITES Standing Committee/COP in November 2015.
- Prepare for the participation of members of the Working Group in other upcoming meetings organized by CITES, TRAFFIC, ASEAN-WEN, Interpol, etc. and arrange for the submission and presentation of the IOSEA paper at these meetings.

- Liaise with the IOSEA Sub-Committee tasked with revising the Site Network Information Sheet template, with a view to give more consideration to the issue of marine turtle poaching and trade in the Site Network proposal evaluation process.
- Consider further ways of increasing the visibility of illegal take/trade issues, such as through: incorporation in UNEP's wildlife crime awareness campaign? Local campaigns? Use of the IOSEA/WWF Factsheet? Use of the IOSEA Website? Cooperation with NGO partners such as WWF, TRAFFIC, IUCN, etc.?
- Prepare information materials / any content to post on the Illegal Take and Trade section of the IOSEA website (<http://ioseaturtles.org/Illegaltaketrade.php>) and as Profile of the Month and Features, presenting exemplary legislative/enforcement actions carried out in various Signatory States.
- Join mailing lists of TRAFFIC and other relevant partners to ensure receipt of illegal trade news and associated information such reports of court cases.
- Raise funds for implementing whatever action will be decided by the Working Group.

Working arrangements

- The Working Group will primarily conduct its consultations via email.
- Conference calls between Working Group members will be conducted as and when required.