



Indian Ocean – South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding



United Arab Emirates

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agency or institution primarily responsible for the preparation of this report:

Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Other agencies, institutions, or NGOs that have provided input:

Emirates Marine Environment Group (EMEG)
Supreme Petroleum Council Volunteers from Zirku and Arzanah Islands

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OBJECTIVE I. REDUCE DIRECT AND INDIRECT CAUSES OF MARINE TURTLE MORTALITY

1.1 Introduction to marine turtle populations and habitats, challenges and conservation efforts. [INF]

Two species, the Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and the Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), predominantly occur in the waters of UAE.

Both the species extensively use UAE waters for foraging and one species, the hawksbill, nests on the sandy beaches that have outcrops of vegetation on several offshore islands. Nesting is limited to fifteen of the offshore islands in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and Sir Bu nu'er Island belonging to the Emirate of Sharjah.

Surveys since 1999 confirm that there is only one nesting season for sea turtles (Hawksbill) in the UAE. Nesting in the UAE starts by mid-March and ends by mid-June. The total number of nests has largely remained constant varying between 152 and 242. The calculated length of nesting beach in the 15 islands is 15,643 meters. The foraging population of sea turtles was estimated to be 6874 for the summer 2010 and 5216 for the winter 2011 during the last aerial surveys undertaken. Almost 67% of the sea turtle populations were observed within the Marawah Marine Biosphere Reserve (MMBR) while 33 % were observed outside the biosphere reserve. In 57% of the cases, sea turtles were observed in deep water areas (> 10 meters depth) and 43% in and around shallow waters close to seagrass meadows and coral reefs.

Sea turtles in the UAE are fully protected under the law and the country has introduced several measures to protect these animals. These measures include establishment of marine protected areas, banning of drift nets and encircling gillnets, control of boating activities and boat speeds in areas of concentration of sea turtles within the marine protected areas and public awareness campaigns.

Despite the protective measures, sea turtles in the UAE and the region are under pressure from various natural and anthropogenic factors. The turtles of UAE face pressures on their nesting beaches as increasing coastal developmental projects are being implemented. These projects degrade and destroy vital habitat, cause disturbance to nesting turtles in terms of lighting during nesting and vehicular tracks on nesting beaches. Direct pressure on eggs and hatchlings, on the other hand, is low.

Boat strikes and drowning in abandoned fishing nets in and around the seagrass and reef habitats represent the major causes of turtle mortality in the UAE. The foraging habitats (seagrass meadows and coral reefs) are subjected to various pressures both natural and anthropogenic in the UAE. These include high temperature (up to 36 degrees C) and high salinity (up to 50 ppt) which adversely affect the growth and recruitment of seagrass and corals and sedimentation and other forms of pollution.

Conservation action for sea turtles in the UAE has followed the recommendations of IOSEA MOU and management action plan and include: (1) programs for long term research and monitoring of nesting and foraging habitats, (2) identification and mitigation of threats, and (3) establishing of institutional and legal frameworks and measures; and (4) public awareness programs involving various stakeholders, NGOs and governmental agencies.

1.2.1 Describe any protocol or approaches practiced in your country, which you consider exemplary, for minimising threats to marine turtle populations and their habitats, which may be suitable for adaptation and adoption elsewhere. [BPR]

1. Legal protection of sea turtles under Federal Law 23 and 24 (1999)
2. Banning on drift net fishing and introduction of fishing gear modifications aimed at limiting incidental catch of sea turtles
3. Beach cleaning initiatives - activity supported by stakeholders, NGOs and government agencies.
4. Public Awareness
5. EIA for all developmental projects along the coastal areas of UAE. Mitigation measures address protection of turtle nesting beaches.

1.3.1 Describe any socio-economic studies or activities that have been conducted among communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats. [BPR, INF]

Socio-economic studies have been undertaken involving populations and stakeholders within the marine protected areas. Although general, these studies have included issues and perceptions pertaining to protection of endangered species including sea turtles and conservation of their habitats and the role that these groups could play in this regard.

1.3.2 Which of these adverse economic incentives are underlying threats to marine turtles in your country? [TSH]

- High prices earned from turtle products relative to other commodities
- Lack of affordable alternatives to turtle products
- Ease of access to the turtle resource (eg. by virtue of proximity or ease of land/water access)
- Low cost of land near nesting beaches
- Low penalties against illegal harvesting
- Other1: Coastal development including dredging and reclamation
- Other2:
- Other3:
- None of the above or Not Applicable

1.3.3 Has your country has taken any measures to try to correct these adverse economic incentives? [BPR]

- YES NO NOT APPLICABLE (no adverse economic incentives exist)

Requirement for EIA for all development projects. The country is also in the process of studying the implementation integrated coastal management planning measures towards managing activities in coastal areas.

1.4.1 Indicate, and describe in more detail, the main fisheries occurring in the waters of your country, as well as any high seas fisheries in which flag vessels of your country participate, that could possibly interact with marine turtles. [INF]

a) *Shrimp trawls*: YES NO

b) *Set gill nets*: YES NO

c) *Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)*: YES NO

d) *Purse seine (with or without FADs)*: YES NO

e) *Longline (shallow or deepset)*: YES NO

f) *Driftnet*: YES NO

g) *Other1*:

h) *Other2*:

None of the above

1.4.2 Please indicate the relative level of **fishing effort** and **perceived impact** of each of the above fisheries on marine turtles (e.g. in terms of by-catch). [TSH]

a) *Shrimp trawls*

Fishing effort:

RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN

Perceived Impact:

RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN

Source: Shrimp fishing has been banned in UAE since 1999.

b) *Set gill nets*

Fishing effort:

RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN

Perceived Impact:

RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN

Source: Some form of gillnets are used. This, however is very limited and is not permitted in protected areas and areas of known endangered species concentration.

c) Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)**Fishing effort:**

RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN

Perceived Impact:

RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN

Source: The use of fish aggregating devices and artificial reefs is strictly controlled in the UAE and is normally undertaken government supervision after prior permission has been obtained from designated authorities.

d) Purse seine (with or without FADs)**Fishing effort:**

RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN

Perceived Impact:

RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN

Source: Purse seines are not used in the country.

e) Longline (shallow or deepset)**Fishing effort:**

RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN

Perceived Impact:

RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN

Source: Only surface long lines are used. The gears however are relatively small in size (in terms of length) and their use is strictly limited. Furthermore these gears are banned in protected areas and areas where large concentration of sea turtles and other endangered species occur.

f) Driftnet**Fishing effort:**

RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN

Perceived Impact:

RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN

Source: All types of drift nets are banned by law.

g) Other1 (from 1.4.1): Small scale fishery**Fishing effort:**

RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN

Perceived Impact:

RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN

Source: The commercial fishery in the UAE is artisanal and small-scale. While there are incidents of sea turtle mortality that is fishery-related it is overall very small and largely insignificant.

h) Other2 (from 1.4.1):**Fishing effort:**

RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN

Perceived Impact:

RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN

Source:

1.4.3 Describe any illegal fishing that is known to occur in or around the waters of your country that may impact marine turtles. Describe the measures being taken to deal with this problem and any difficulties encountered in this regard. [TSH]

Use of illegal fishing gears such as gill net.

Intensive policing by MCS (Monitoring, Compliance and Surveillance) Rangers, marine police and the Coast Guard.

1.4.4 Which of the following methods are used by your country to minimise incidental capture/mortality of marine turtles in fishing activities? [IND]

a) **Appropriate handling** of incidentally caught turtles (e.g. resuscitation or release by fishers using equipment such as de-hooking, line cutting tools and scoop nets)

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

b) **Devices that allow the escape of marine turtles** (e.g. turtle excluder devices (TEDs) or other measures that are comparable in effectiveness)

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Most of the gears employed in the fishery in UAE are active gears; and sea turtles or any other animals trapped are instantly released. Some of the few fixed gears used such as the traditional al Hadhra are being routinely monitored and any trapped turtles are released. Furthermore, the size of the trap doors of the al Hadhra have been designated to limit the possibility of turtles entering the al Hadhra.

c) **Measures to avoid encirclement** of marine turtles in purse seine fisheries

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

The use of encircling nets is banned in the UAE.

d) **Appropriate combinations** of hook design, type of bait, depth, gear specifications and fishing practices

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

e) **Monitoring and recovery of fish aggregating devices** (FADs)

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

f) **Net retention and recycling schemes**

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

g) **Spatial and temporal control of fishing** (e.g. seasonal closures of fishing activities)

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

This is done in the form of protected areas and biosphere reserves.

h) **Effort management control**

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Other (list and explain):

None of the above

1.4.5 Which of the following programmes has your country developed - in consultation with the fishing industry and fisheries management organisations - to promote implementation of measures to minimise incidental capture and mortality of turtles in national waters and in the high seas? [IND]

Onboard observer programmes

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Vessel monitoring systems

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Inspections (i.e. at sea, in port, at landing sites)

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Through MCS personnel, Coast Guard and Marine Police.

Training programmes / workshops to educate fishers

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Regular meetings with stakeholders including fishermen.

Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Brochures and posters

Data sheet for dead marine wildlife (including sea turtle) mortality

Other (list and explain):

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

None of the above

1.4.6 Are the mitigation measures described in 1.4.4 and 1.4.5, periodically reviewed and evaluated for their efficacy? [SAP]

YES NO UNSURE

1.4.7 In your country, what types of data collection, research and development have been undertaken to support the reduction of marine turtle incidental catch (while taking into consideration the impact of various mitigation measures on other species)? [\[SAP\]](#)

1.4.8 Has your country exchanged information and provided technical assistance (formally or informally) to other Signatory States to promote the activities described in 1.4.4, 1.4.5 and 1.4.7 above? [\[SAP\]](#)

YES NO UNSURE

1.4.9 What legislative and practical measures has your country taken in support of UN General Assembly Resolution 46/215 concerning the moratorium on the use of large-scale driftnets? [\[SAP\]](#)

1.5.1 Does your country have legislation to prohibit direct harvest and domestic trade in marine turtles, their eggs, parts and products; and to protect important turtle habitats? [\[IND\]](#)

YES NO UNSURE

1.5.2 Which, among the following list, are economic uses and cultural values of marine turtles in your country? Please rate the relative prevalence / importance of each consumptive or non-consumptive use. [\[INF\]](#)

**USES /
VALUES**

**RELATIVE PREVALENCE /
IMPORTANCE**

Meat consumption

YES NO

HIGH MODERATE LOW UNKNOWN

Egg consumption

YES NO

HIGH MODERATE LOW UNKNOWN

Shell products

YES NO

HIGH MODERATE LOW UNKNOWN

Fat consumption

YES NO

HIGH MODERATE LOW UNKNOWN

Traditional medicine

YES NO

HIGH MODERATE LOW UNKNOWN

Eco-tourism programmes YES NO HIGH MODERATE LOW UNKNOWN**Cultural / traditional significance** YES NO HIGH MODERATE LOW UNKNOWN**Other****1.5.3 Please indicate the relative level and impact of traditional harvest on marine turtles and their eggs. [IND, TSH]****Level of harvest:** RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN**Impact of harvest:** RELATIVELY HIGH MODERATE RELATIVELY LOW NONE UNKNOWN

Source of information:

1.5.4 Have any **domestic management programmes been established to limit the levels of intentional harvest? [SAP]** YES NO UNKNOWN**1.5.5 Describe any management agreements negotiated **between your country and other States** in relation to sustainable levels of traditional harvest, to ensure that such harvest does not undermine conservation efforts. [BPR]****1.6.1 First, select one of the options at left to indicate whether or not your country has any of the following measures in place to minimise the mortality of eggs, hatchlings and nesting females. If yes, then estimate the relative effectiveness of these measures. [IND, SAP]****MEASURES****RELATIVE EFFECTIVENESS****Monitoring/protection programmes** YES NO N/A EXCELLENT GOOD LOW UNKNOWN

Measures are excellent within the Protected Areas and privately owned islands only.

Education/awareness programmes YES NO N/A EXCELLENT GOOD LOW UNKNOWN

1. Awareness programs for all stakeholders. 2. Teachers training program. 3. Beach cleaning and marine field trips.

Egg relocation/hatcheries YES NO N/A EXCELLENT GOOD LOW UNKNOWN**Predator control** YES NO N/A EXCELLENT GOOD LOW UNKNOWN**Vehicle / access restrictions** YES NO N/A EXCELLENT GOOD LOW UNKNOWN

Mostly in islands within Protected Areas and privately owned islands.

Removal of debris / clean-up YES NO N/A EXCELLENT GOOD LOW UNKNOWN

Regular beach cleaning programs are in place.

Re-vegetation of frontal dunes YES NO N/A EXCELLENT GOOD LOW UNKNOWN**Building location/design regulations** YES NO N/A EXCELLENT GOOD LOW UNKNOWN**Light pollution reduction** YES NO N/A EXCELLENT GOOD LOW UNKNOWN

In privately owned islands.

Other (list and rate them) YES NO N/A**1.6.2 Has your country undertaken any evaluation of its nest and beach management programmes?**[\[SAP\]](#) YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Annual Technical Reports, Environment Status Report available with Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, UAE.

OBJECTIVE II. PROTECT, CONSERVE AND REHABILITATE MARINE TURTLE HABITATS

2.1.1 What is being done to protect critical habitats *outside* of established protected areas? (NB: It is assumed that legislation relating to established protected areas will have been described in Section 1.5.1) [\[BPR, SAP\]](#)

Federal Law 23 and 24 (1999) applies to whole UAE and its natural areas, including sea turtle nesting and foraging habitats.

Requirement of EIA for all developmental projects.

2.1.2 Are assessments routinely made of the environmental impact of marine and coastal development on marine turtles and their habitats? [IND, SAP]

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Regular monitoring and reporting of critical coastal and marine habitats are done through various research programs of the agency.

2.1.3 Is marine water quality (including marine debris) monitored near turtle habitats? If yes, describe the nature of this monitoring and any remedial measures that may have been taken. [SAP]

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

A long-term monitoring program of water quality and coast is in place.

2.1.4 Are measures in place to prohibit the use of poisonous chemicals and explosives? [SAP]

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

2.2.1 Are efforts being made to recover degraded coral reefs? If yes, give details (location, duration, effectiveness, lessons learned, future plans etc). [IND, SAP]

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE (no degraded coral reefs)

Research and monitoring of Coral Reefs Areas
Experimental Project on Artificial Reef within Marawwah Marine Biosphere Reserve.

2.2.2 Are efforts being made to recover degraded mangrove habitats that are important for turtles? If yes, give details (location, duration, effectiveness, lessons learned, future plans etc.) [IND, SAP]

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE (no mangrove habitats important for turtles)

There are programs to rehabilitate mangroves in general. In executing these programs coordination is done to ensure that nesting beaches are not compromised.

2.2.3 Are efforts being made to recover degraded sea grass habitats? If yes, give details (location, duration, effectiveness, lessons learned, future plans etc.). [IND, SAP]

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE (no degraded sea grass habitats)

OBJECTIVE III. IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF MARINE TURTLE ECOLOGY AND POPULATIONS THROUGH RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

3.1.1 Give a list of available literature that includes baseline information from studies carried out in your country on marine turtle populations and their habitats. [INF]

Refer: IOSEA Website - April 2008 (Profile of the month) EAD Environment Sector paper - Marine and Coastal - 2010

3.1.2 Have [long-term](#) monitoring programmes (i.e. of at least 10 years duration) been initiated or planned for priority marine turtle populations frequenting the territory of your country? [\[IND, BPR\]](#)

YES NO UNSURE

Monitoring ongoing since 2000 and has long term perspective. There is no break in data collection since the year 2000.

3.1.3 Has the genetic identity of marine turtle populations in your country been characterised? [\[INF, PRI\]](#)

YES **NO** UNSURE

3.1.4 Which of the following methods have been or are being used to try to identify migration routes of turtles? Use the text boxes to provide additional details. [\[INF, PRI\]](#)

Tagging **YES** NO

Conventional Tagging of post nesting female Hawksbills

Satellite tracking **YES** NO

Satellite Tracking of post nesting female Hawksbills

Other

None of the above

3.1.5 Have studies been carried out on marine turtle population dynamics and survival rates (e.g. including studies into the survival rates of incidentally caught and released turtles)? [\[INF, PRI\]](#)

YES NO UNSURE

Population dynamics - Yes
Survival rates etc. - No

3.1.6 Has research been conducted on the frequency and pathology of diseases in marine turtles? [\[INF, PRI\]](#)

YES **NO** UNSURE

3.1.7 Is the use of traditional ecological knowledge in research studies being promoted? [\[BPR, PRI\]](#)

YES **NO** UNSURE

3.2.1 List any regional or sub-regional action plans in which your country is already participating, which may serve the purpose of identifying priority research and monitoring needs. [INF]

3.2.2 On which of the following themes have collaborative studies and monitoring been conducted? Use the text boxes to describe the nature of this international collaboration or to clarify your response. Answer 'NO' if the studies/monitoring undertaken do not involve international collaboration. [INF, PRI]

a) Genetic Identity YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

b) Conservation status YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

c) Migrations YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Collaboration with Oman on Satellite Tagging Program for sea turtles (2003).

Collaboration with WWF-Pakistan on Satellite Tagging of Sea Turtles (2001, 2005). Partner to ongoing "Gulf Satellite Tagging Program" coordinated by EWS-WWF.

d) Other biological and ecological aspects YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Other

3.3.1 List, in order of priority, the marine turtle populations in your country in need of conservation actions, and indicate their population trends. [PRI]

The hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), predominantly occur in the waters of UAE. Both the species extensively use UAE waters for foraging and one species, the hawksbill, nests on the sandy beaches that have outcrops of vegetation on several offshore islands.

Priority of conservation action:

- Protection of nesting and foraging areas of Hawksbill Turtles (nesting as well as foraging species of UAE)
- Protection of foraging areas of Green Turtles (Foraging species in UAE waters)

3.3.2 Are research and monitoring activities, such as those described above in Section 3.1 periodically reviewed and evaluated for their efficacy? [SAP]

YES NO UNSURE

Research and monitoring activities are reviewed during the month of December on yearly basis

3.3.3 Describe how research results are being applied to improve management practices and mitigation of threats (in relation to the priority populations identified in 3.3.1, among others). [SAP]

Trends in annual nesting patterns provide input to review site specific conservation actions.

3.4.1 Has your country undertaken any initiatives (nationally or through collaboration with other Range States) to standardise methods and levels of data collection? [BPR, INF]

YES NO UNSURE

3.4.2 To what extent does your country exchange scientific and technical information and expertise with other Range States? [SAP, IND]

OFTEN (SYSTEMATICALLY) OCCASIONALLY RARELY NEVER

3.4.3 If your country shares scientific and technical information and expertise with other Range States, what mechanisms have commonly been used for this purpose? Comment on any positive benefits/outcomes achieved through these interactions. [INF]

- Training staff on satellite tracking of post nesting females
- Attending regional and international workshops and Symposiums

3.4.4 Does your country compile and make available to other countries data on marine turtle populations of a regional interest? [INF]

YES NO UNSURE

- Annual reports available on the website
- Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative - Marine and coastal sector papers - EAD, 2010.

OBJECTIVE IV. INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE THREATS TO MARINE TURTLES AND THEIR HABITATS, AND ENHANCE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

4.1.1 Describe the educational materials, including mass media information programmes that your country has collected, developed and/or disseminated. [INF, PRI]

- Brochures and posters specific to various stakeholders such as students, general public and fishermen.
- Marine school programs visit to sea turtle foraging habitats
- Regular media interactions and reports. - Teachers training program

4.1.2 Which of the following groups have been the targets of these focused education and awareness programmes described in above in Section 4.1.1? [PRI, INF]

- Policy makers**
- Fishing industry
- Local/Fishing communities**
- Indigenous groups
- Tourists
- Media**
- Teachers**
- Students**
- Military, Navy, Police**
- Scientists
- Other:Staffs of Oil companies, hotels, Managers of privately owned islands.**
- None of the above

4.1.3 Have any community learning / information centres been established in your country? [BPR, SAP]

YES NO

Currently no, but a visitor/ training centre is planned at Marawah Marine Biosphere Reserve.

4.2 Alternative livelihood opportunities [IND, BPR] Describe initiatives already undertaken or planned to identify and facilitate alternative livelihoods (including income-generating activities) for local communities.

N/A

4.3.1 Describe initiatives already undertaken or planned by your country to involve local communities, in particular, in the planning and implementation of marine turtle conservation programmes. Please include details of any incentives that have been used to encourage public participation, and indicate their efficacy. [BPR, IND]

Meetings with local people who have general agreement towards the conservation of sea turtles and their habitat. Discussed with teachers and students to understand their point of views.

4.3.2 Describe initiatives already undertaken or planned to involve and encourage the cooperation of Government institutions, NGOs and the private sector in marine turtle conservation programmes. [IND, BPR]

The following agencies are involved / cooperate / participate in sea turtle monitoring and conservation issues:

- WWF
- Emirates Marine Environment Group (EMEG)
- Emirates Wildlife Society (EWS)
- Volunteers and Health and Safety and Environment staff of offshore Oil Companies.

OBJECTIVE V. ENHANCE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

5.1.1 Has your country undertaken a national review of its compliance with Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) obligations in relation to marine turtles? [SAP]

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

This part of an ongoing and regular review

5.1.2 Does your country have, or participate/cooperate in, CITES training programmes for relevant authorities? [SAP]

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

5.1.3 Does your country have in place mechanisms to identify international illegal trade routes (for marine turtle products etc.)? Please use the text box to elaborate on how your country is cooperating with other States to prevent/deter/eliminate illegal trade. [SAP]

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

CITES handles this issue.

5.1.4 Which international compliance and trade issues related to marine turtles has your country raised for discussion (e.g. through the IOSEA MoU Secretariat, at meetings of Signatory States etc.)? [INF]

5.1.5 Describe measures in place to prevent, deter and eliminate domestic illegal trade in marine turtle products, particularly with a view to enforcing the legislation identified in Section 1.5.1. [INF]

5.2.1 Has your country already developed a national **action plan** or a set of **key management measures** that could eventually serve as a basis for a more specific action plan at a national level? **[IND]**

YES NO

5.2.2 From your country's perspective, which **conservation and management activities**, and/or which particular **sites or locations**, ought to be among the highest priorities for action? **[PRI]**

1. Monitoring of nesting habitats in 18 islands of Abu Dhabi and 1 island of Sharjah 2. Monitoring of foraging habitats using aerial survey technique 3. Monitoring of foraging and nesting species by field and aerial survey methods. 4. Investigation of causes of mortality to marine turtles. 5. Study of turtle biology including migration and genetics. 6. Rehabilitation of sea turtle habitats. 7. Coastal and marine research monitoring and rehabilitation programs for corals, mangroves and seagrass meadows. 8. Development and implementation of public awareness programs. 9. Regional cooperation for protection for marine turtles and their habitats.

5.2.3 Please indicate, from your country's standpoint, the extent to which the following **local management issues** require **international cooperation** in order to to achieve progress. **[PRI]**

Illegal fishing in territorial waters	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Incidental capture by foreign fleets	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Enforcement/patrolling of territorial waters	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Hunting/harvest by neighboring countries	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Poaching, illegal trade in turtle projects	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Development of gear technology	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Oil spills, pollution, marine debris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Training / capacity-building	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Alternative livelihood development	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Identification of turtle populations	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Identification of migration routes	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Tagging / satellite tracking	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Habitat studies	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL
Genetics studies	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMPORTANT <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT AT ALL

5.3.1 Identify existing frameworks/organisations that are, or could be, useful mechanisms for cooperating in marine turtle conservation at the sub-regional level. Please comment on the strengths of these instruments, their capacity to take on a broader coordinating role, and any efforts your country has made to enhance their role in turtle conservation. **[INF, BPR]**

5.3.2 Has your country developed, or is it participating in, any networks for cooperative management of shared turtle populations? **[BPR, INF]**

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

5.3.3 What steps has your country taken to encourage Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) to adopt marine turtle conservation measures within Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and on the high seas? [\[SAP\]](#)

5.4.1 Describe your country's needs, in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities, in order to build capacity to strengthen marine turtle conservation measures. [\[PRI\]](#)

5.4.2 Describe any training provided in marine turtle conservation and management techniques (e.g. workshops held, training manuals produced etc.), and indicate your plans for the coming year. [\[PRI, INF\]](#)

5.4.3 Specifically in relation to [capacity-building](#), describe any partnerships developed or planned with universities, research institutions, training bodies and other relevant organisations. [\[BPR\]](#)

5.5.1 National policies and laws concerning the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats will have been described in Section 1.5.1. Please indicate their effectiveness, in terms of their practical application and enforcement. [\[SAP, TSH\]](#)

Implemented by the Critical National Infrastructure Authority. Effectiveness is average.

5.5.2 Has your country conducted a review of policies and laws to address any gaps, inconsistencies or impediments in relation to marine turtle conservation? If not, indicate any obstacles encountered in this regard and when this review is expected to be done. [\[SAP\]](#)

YES NO UNSURE

No need for the time being. Federal law 23 (1999) provides detail protection measures to sea turtles within the territory of UAE.

5.5.3 From the standpoint of law enforcement, has your country experienced any difficulties achieving cooperation to ensure compatible application of laws across and between jurisdictions? [\[TSH\]](#)

YES NO UNSURE

OBJECTIVE VI. PROMOTE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MoU INCLUDING THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1.1 What has your country already done, or will it do, to encourage other States to sign the IOSEA MoU? [\[INF\]](#)

6.1.2 Is your country [currently](#) favourable, in principle, to amending the MoU to make it a legally binding instrument? [\[INF\]](#)

YES NO NO VIEW

6.1.3 Would your country be favourable, over a [longer time horizon](#), to amending the MoU to make it a legally-binding instrument? [\[INF\]](#)

YES NO NO VIEW

6.2 Secretariat and Advisory Committee

6.2.1 What efforts has your country made, or can it make, to secure funding to support the core operations of the IOSEA MoU (Secretariat and Advisory Committee, and related activities)? [\[IND\]](#)

Through Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi, UAE has offered to host a sub-regional coordination unit of the IOSEA MoU, including meeting the cost of hosting.

6.3.1 What funding has your country mobilised for domestic implementation of marine turtle conservation activities related to the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU? Where possible, indicate the specific monetary values attached to these activities/programmes, as well as future plans. [\[IND\]](#)

Annual budget from Government

6.3.2 Has your country tried to solicit funds from, or seek partnerships with, other Governments, major donor organisations, industry, private sector, foundations or NGOs for marine turtle conservation activities? [\[IND\]](#)

YES NO

6.3.3 Describe any initiatives made to explore the use of economic instruments for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats. [\[BPR\]](#)

6.4.1 Has your country designated a lead agency responsible for coordinating national marine turtle conservation and management policy? If not, when is this information expected to be communicated to the IOSEA MoU Secretariat? [\[IND\]](#)

YES NO

6.4.2 Are the roles and responsibilities of all government agencies related to the conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats clearly defined? [\[IND\]](#)

YES NO UNSURE

6.4.3 Has your country ever conducted a review of agency roles and responsibilities? If so, when, and what was the general outcome? If not, is such a review planned and when? [\[SAP\]](#),

YES NO UNSURE

Comments/suggestions to improve the present reporting format:

Additional information not covered above: