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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ON THE CONSERVATION AND  
MANAGEMENT OF MARINE TURTLES  
AND THEIR HABITATS OF THE INDIAN  
OCEAN AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA**

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8<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES

Da Nang, Viet Nam, 21-25 October 2019

Agenda Item 9.1

**SUDAN – NATIONAL REPORT 2019**

*(Prepared by Sudan)*

**Republic of Sudan**  
**Ministry of interior- Police headquarter.**  
**General directorate wildlife conservation**

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**Sea Turtles in Sudan**

**Introduction:-**

The north east of Sudan is bordering Red Sea, It has a coastline of 750 km and an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 91.600 km<sup>2</sup>, The Red Sea coast is marked by numerous narrow bays (mesas) that are occasionally used as moorage places by small fishing boats. Adjacent to the coastline are the lagoon zones of the coral reefs and then the fringing reef zone. These zones are separated by deep water from barrier reefs which are 1 to 14 km offshore. The shelf then drops off steeply to a depth of 1000-3000 m. There are a few atolls the largest of which is Sanganeb. A number of sandy islands are found offshore, this sandy islands are the main habitat for sea turtels in Sudanese red sea.

**Habitat:-**

Sea turtles are one of the eldest chordates living in earth planet, it considered environmental resource, although it plays major role on neighboring environment safety, the wrong human practices lead to

sea turtles stock depletion, so all sea turtles species were considered threatened and cites listed.

Sea turtles in Sudanese red sea seen by fishermen communities in islands, inlets and mersas, and sea turtles more dominant in south coast than the north coast.

No updated surveys and information on sea turtles statistics, breeding (spawning) areas, the last survey was on may 2003 by PERSGA, the survey covered the south and north coast of Sudanese red sea, and the study concluded to:- little scattered nesting's of sea turtles in coast area compared to intensive nesting's in islands. Four species of sea turtles in Sudanese red sea coast:-

- 1- chelonia mydae
- 2- caretta caretta
- 3- Eretmochlys imbricate
- 4- Aecairoc sylehcomre

#### **Legal frame work:-**

Sea turtles fishing restriction is mentioned on paragraph (29) chapter (5) on Act. Red sea state Marine fisheries 2008.

#### **Threats and mortality causes to sea turtles:-**

- 1- sea turtles fishing by salt plant worker at far coastal zones.
- 2- sea turtles captured as by catch by artisan fishermen and trawlers.

3- sea turtles fishing for ornamental purposes.

4- Destroying of sea turtles nests and eat their eggs by fishermen camping in islands.

**Progress in action plan attached to MOU, for management and conservation of sea turtles in Sudan:-**

- An indirect efforts were undertaken in sudan, on conservation of threatened marine organisms such as:- survey studies on sea weeds, mangrove and coral reefs.

- Islands in dungunab marine park considered as biggest sea turtles habitat

-many awareness raising workshops were conducted to communities and relevant institutions.

Nothing implemented in action plan for the following reasons:-

- Need of capacity building in monitoring and followup.

- weakness in funding resources.

- Lack of equipments and tools for monitoring and followup.

- No data base.

**Recommendations:-**

- 1- Train national team on conservation of sea turtles.
- 2- Improve financial access to sea turtles conservation activities.
- 3- Conduct survey study on sea turtles, and establish fully equipped monitoring center.
- 4- Donation for Sudan to implement action plan attached to MOU.