



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

CMS/IOSEA/MOS8/Inf.9.1.a

28 August 2019

Original: English

8TH MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES

Da Nang, Viet Nam, 21-25 October 2019

Agenda Item 9.1

UPDATES ON THE STATUS OF IOSEA NETWORK SITES

SHEEDVAR ISLAND

(Prepared by the Islamic Republic of Iran)

Update on the Status of the IOSEA Network Site

Sheedvar Island, I. R. Iran

A. Date of submission (DD/MM/YYYY):

The date on which the questionnaire was completed.

25 August 2019

B. Name and address of compiler(s), if not the IOSEA Focal Point

Name and contact information (including affiliation) for the individual(s) who prepared this information.

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C. Country: *The name of the country in which the site is located.*

I.R.Iran

D. Name of site: *The name of the site (alternative names should be given in brackets).*

Sheedvar Island

1. Have there been changes in the management authority?

Name, address and contact details of the body responsible for the direct local conservation and management of the site, if different than in original proposal.

2. What are the current population numbers and trends for the marine turtle species present at the site?

Please insert population numbers for each species present and the year when the population was estimated, as well as the population trend (e.g. stable, increasing, decreasing, unknown)

The site is one of the main nesting sites for the Hawksbills. The number of nesting females for the current year is estimated to be less than 50.

Foraging green turtles are observed as usual too, but in low numbers, 10/day

3. Have there been any changes in land/sea ownership, protected status, legislation and/or governance framework, which affect the site?

Describe any changes to legislation / regulations relevant to the protection / conservation of marine turtles and their habitats at this site, and comment on their effectiveness.

Mention any changes in nationally relevant protected area status, international conservation designations and, in the case of transboundary sites, bilateral or multilateral conservation measures which pertain to all or part of the site since 2014. If a protected area or reserve has been established (at a national/regional level), give the date of its establishment and size. If only a part of the site is included within a protected area, the area of marine turtle habitat that is protected should be noted.

New International designations since 2014 may include sites listed under the UNESCO/World Heritage Convention, Man and Biosphere Reserve Network, Ramsar Convention, other site conservation networks, etc. Where appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas management category(ies) that apply to the site.

No changes

4. What are currently the most important threats to marine turtles and their habitat at the site?

Describe the human and natural factors negatively affecting the ecological character of the site, both within and in the vicinity of the site. These may include new or changing activities/uses, major development projects etc., which have had, are having, or may have a detrimental effect on the natural ecological character of the site. For example, describe in terms of the percentage of coastline (or other area) modified/affected by a particular threat; for egg collection, describe in terms of number of nests, per species, per year. Mention also data-deficient threats, where a threat is known to be present but is not quantified. Collectively, this information should provide a basis for monitoring of ecological character of the site.

Sea turtle poaching:

it is decreasing and in very low numbers

Pollution:

the main problem in sea debris, plastic and bottles

Natural Hazards:

Illegal fishing in the area:

coral damage and bycatch: the site is as a fishing site too, damage to the marine habitats is observed, but we had no record for dead turtles

Habitat destruction/modification:

in small scale by the tourists and visitors

Socio economic factors

5. New conservation and management interventions taken since 2014 and measures planned for near future

Describe conservation and management interventions taken at the site to address threats since 2014. Any application of coastal and marine spatial planning, or integrated coastal/marine zone management planning, involving or affecting the site should be noted.

Describe any other new conservation measures taken at the site, such as restrictions on development, management practices beneficial to wildlife, closures of fishing, etc. (Note that information on any monitoring schemes and survey methods should be given under point 19, below.)

Where applicable, describe public outreach and communication activities. In addition, if applicable, describe any new developments in the involvement of local communities and indigenous people in the participatory management of the site, including co-management activities, surveillance and enforcement, and performance evaluation since 2014.

More cooperation with local authorities as well as local stakeholders like Iranian offshore oil company, Lavan refinery, continuing the tagging and study works

6. Current / proposed scientific research and monitoring since 2014

Name current and/or proposed scientific research projects and their start and end dates, relating to marine turtles and their habitats. Please describe monitoring activities (e.g., tagging, satellite tracking, genetic sampling, nesting and foraging ground surveys, ongoing beach monitoring, etc.). Cite relevant published papers in support of the submission.

Annual tagging, genetic study of green turtles, protecting the site

7. Briefly describe current financial as well as capacity-building needs

Identify fundraising and capacity building needs for the site (e.g. in relation to monitoring, management interventions, surveillance and enforcement, and performance evaluation).

Monitoring of the site, especially during the nesting season needs for financial supports. Public education, aiming local fishermen and local people of adjacent Island, Lavan, also needs for plan and financing. There is capacity to us the potentials of local private sector and people to manage and monitor the site and control the touristic uses and activities.

8. References since 2014

List any new references relevant to marine turtle records and to the site, including management plans, major scientific reports, scientific articles and bibliographies. When a large body of published material on the site is available, only the most important references need be cited, with priority being given to recent literature containing extensive bibliographies. Reprints or copies of the most important literature should be appended whenever possible. Provide website addresses of references where available.

- 1) Mobaraki.Asghar, Meysam, Gasemi, Haj Goli Kami and Faraham Ahmad zadeh.,2018 Green turtle, Iran, Hormozgan Province, Herpetological Review, Geographic distribution, 49(2)
- 2) Mobaraki.Asghar, Meysam, Gasemi, Haj Goli Kami and Faraham Ahmad zadeh., 2019, First record on Green sea turtle nesting in Sheedvar Island, Persian Gulf, Iran, Indian Ocean Turtle Newsletter, No 30, 5-6
- 3) Mobaraki, Asghar., Rastegar Piyani, E., Kami, H.G., Khorasani, N., 2019, Population study of foraging marine Green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in the Northern Persian Gulf and Oman Sea, Iran (unpublished)