



**CMS**

## **IOSEA Marine Turtles Memorandum of Understanding - National Report 2024**

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE NATIONAL REPORTING QUESTIONNAIRE:**

The main purpose of completing the National Reporting Questionnaire (NRQ) is to provide information on your country's implementation of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU, including its Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) and the IOSEA Work Programme adopted by the 8th Meeting of Signatory States. Please include activities undertaken by the government, non-governmental organizations, private sector and other relevant stakeholders.

The IOSEA Secretariat will analyze national reports and use the provided information to facilitate marine turtle conservation work using the resources at its disposal, as well as in fundraising efforts. The information will also be used to raise any issues, as mandated by IOSEA Signatories, at relevant political fora, such as CMS, CITES, or Regional Fisheries Management Organizations.

Most importantly, collecting information of relevance to marine turtle conservation in the NRQ can help national decision makers to plan marine turtle conservation activities within countries and sub-regions, and guide national and international project planners and donors.

The NRQ is structured to reflect progress in implementation of the six objectives of the CMP: There are two modalities of the NRQ: it can be accessed via the online reporting system (ORS) or filled out using an MS Word file. However, the Word version should be used only if using the online questionnaire is not possible for technical reasons (e.g. the internet connection is too unreliable).

Please answer all questions as fully and as accurately as possible. Wherever possible, please indicate the source of information used to answer the question, particularly if a published reference or report is available. Comprehensive responses to the questions posed in Section 1.4 should also satisfy many of the reporting requirements of the 2009 FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations, thereby avoiding duplication of effort.

When working on the online version of the NRQ, save your information by clicking on the "Save all" button inside each section. An auto-save feature also saves any changed responses every 30 seconds, and whenever you move between sections. If additional information is available (e.g. published reports, maps) please attach it to this questionnaire. If working on an offline MS Word file, please submit the completed NRQ by email to the IOSEA Secretariat ([iosea@un.org](mailto:iosea@un.org)); with a copy to the Coordinator ([heidrun.frisch-nwakanma@un.org](mailto:heidrun.frisch-nwakanma@un.org)), as a Word attachment.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Signatory State:

>>> Jordan

List any other agencies, institutions, or NGOs that have provided input:

>>> Aqaba Marine Reserve

Dive Centers

The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan

Marine Expert

Memorandum in effect in Signatory State since (dd/mm/yyyy):

>>> 18/03/2004

This report was last modified: (dd/mm/yyyy):

>>> 28 Aug 2019

Designated Focal Point (and full contact details):

>>> Eng .Belal Qtishat

MOEnv -Director of Nature protection Directorate

Tel:- 00962-6-5560113 Ext. 169

Fax:- 00962-6-5516377

P.O Box:- 1408 Amman 11941 Jordan

Mobile:- 00962-77-61234568 or 00962-79-9591155.

Other relevant contacts:

>>> Eng. Buthianeh Batarseh

Email: beeba\_batarseh@yahoo.com

MOEnv -Nature protection Directorate

Fax:- 00962-6-5516377

P.O Box:- 1408 Amman 11941 Jordan

Mobile:- 00962-77-61234568 or 00962-79-9591155.

# MARINE TURTLE SPECIES AND HABITATS

Provide sources of information supporting the responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources, and attach digital files if necessary.

## 0.1 Overview of marine turtles and their habitats in the IOSEA MOU Signatory States within the IOSEA region.

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

### a) Please list marine turtle species and genetic stocks in your country, give a general population estimate and trend for your country and indicate where they occur.

	Population trend (increase, decrease, stable, unknown)	Number of egg clutches per year	Species, genetic stock	Type of habitat (nesting, feeding developmental)?	Geographic area
	stable for 2023	No Nesting in Aqaba	Eretmochelys imbricata	Coral Reef	
	stable for 2023	No Nesting in Aqaba	Chelonia mydas	Sea Grass	
	unknown	No Nesting in Aqaba	Caretta caretta	Coral reefs	
	unknown	No Nesting in Aqaba	Dermochelys coriacea	Their primary habitat is the upper reaches of the open ocean, but they often dive to depths up to 1650 feet in search of food	

### c) Does your country have index nesting beaches in the IOSEA region?

NO

# OBJECTIVE I: REDUCE DIRECT AND INDIRECT CAUSES OF MARINE TURTLE MORTALITY

## 1.1 BEST PRACTICE APPROACHES TO MINIMIZING THREATS

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departamental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

**1.1.1. Are there any best practice protocols relating to the protection of marine turtles and their habitats used in your country that you would like to share with other IOSEA Signatories? Please name the protocols and describe briefly, providing references or links to more detailed reports or online texts.**

If more rows are required, please contact the secretariat at [iosea@un.org](mailto:iosea@un.org)

	References and links	Has the effectiveness of this approach been evaluated? What was the result?	What does this approach/ protocol help to achieve	Title of best practice protocol or approach
	<a href="http://www.jreds.org/en-us/Sea-Turtle">http://www.jreds.org/en-us/Sea-Turtle</a>	still working	enhance the citizen sciences concept and data gathering	Join citizen scientists to monitor and protect Aqaba's sea turtles

## 1.2 REDUCTION OF INCIDENTAL CAPTURE AND MORTALITY

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departamental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

**1.2.1 Indicate, and describe in more detail, the main fisheries occurring in the waters of your country (including territorial waters and the EEZ), as well as any high seas fisheries in which flag vessels of your country participate and interact with marine turtles within the IOSEA region.**

For each of the different fisheries listed below, please indicate whether the fishery is present and use the text box below to provide more detailed information. Please include information on what marine turtle species are affected and number of reported interactions, if known.

### 1) Bottoms trawls (including shrimp trawls)

#### a) Fishing effort:

NONE

#### Please provide the information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> 156

Boat size (range or average):

>>> 3 - 5 meter

Number of trips per year:

>>> less than 3000

Mesh size used:

>>> varied

#### Geographic distribution:

>>> Fishing is only permitted within the boundaries of the proposed Aqaba Marine Reserve to collect live bait. This can only take place in the early morning hours until nine o'clock as a supporting mechanism from ASEZA to the fishermen in response to the limited areas they have to operate within. Fishing is however allowed within the pelagic waters outside the boundaries of the Aqaba Marine Reserve and within 100m depths and 300m distance before the limit of Jordanian territorial waters. Fishing in the northern parts of Aqaba is also allowed under conditions of keeping a distance from ship anchors, swimming and marine sports areas as well as security-sensitive sites. Fishing is not permitted near ports, docks, industrial and border areas. No specific fishing sites are located directly within the Aqaba Marine Reserve.

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> Unknown

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> last report was in 2022, and 2019 (one per year)

#### **b) Methods used by your country to minimise bycatch of marine turtles in this fishery**

- Safe handling (as per existing protocols e.g., FAO guidelines) of incidentally caught turtles (e.g. resuscitation or release by fishers using equipment such as de-hooking, line cutting tools and scoop nets)
- Spatial and temporal control of fishing (e.g. seasonal closures of fishing activities)
- Effort management control

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> 1. Aqaba Special Economic Zone Law No. 32 for the year 2000 and its amendments: this law is implemented by the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA), and contains two major bylaws, and an additional two regulations that are linked to corals and reef corals protection, as follows: • Aqaba Marine Reserve Bylaw No. 61 for the year 2022 • Environmental Protection Bylaw No. 21 for the year 2001 • Amended instructions for the regulation and licensing of diving centers in Aqaba for the year 2021. • Regulations for Recreational Diving in the Gulf of Aqaba, Number 6 of the year 2021. • Instructions for the Marine Conservation and Fisheries Fund in the Gulf of Aqaba, Number 1 of the year 2021. • Instruction No. 83 for the year 2005: Regulating Entrance into AMP (Under update). • Instruction No. 86 for the year 2005: Regulating the Underwater Cleanup Dive in AMP (Under update). • Instructions No 55 for the year 2004 "Regulations of Environmental Damage" • In addition, ASEZA is implementing a "Zero Discharge" policy, aiming to preserve the marine environment through the complete elimination of marine pollution. The Gulf of Aqaba is defined as a 'special area' according to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78) signifying that discharges of oil are prohibited from vessels. 2. The Agricultural law No. 13 for the year 2015: This law is governed by the Ministry of Agriculture, and contains two regulations that are linked to corals protection, which are: • Trade in Endangered Plants and Animals Regulations No. Z\ 2 for the year 2010 • Fishing at Aqaba Regulations No. g\1 for the year 2020.

#### **c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below.**

- Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods
- Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.

#### **Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods**

Details/future plans:

>>> <http://www.jreds.org/en-us/Sea-Turtle>

#### **Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.**

Details/future plans:

>>> <https://twitter.com/AqabaReserve/status/1572883099486408704/photo/1>

## **2) Pelagic trawling**

#### **a) Fishing effort:**

- UNKNOWN

#### **Please provide the information below:**

Number of vessels:

>>> 156

Boat size (range or average):

>>> 3 - 5 Meters

Number of trips per year:

>>> less than 3000

Mesh size used:

>>> varied

Geographic distribution:

>>> Fishing is only permitted within the boundaries of the proposed Aqaba Marine Reserve to collect live bait. This can only take place in the early morning hours until nine o'clock as a supporting mechanism from ASEZA to the fishermen in response to the limited areas they have to operate within. Fishing is however allowed within the pelagic waters outside the boundaries of the Aqaba Marine Reserve and within 100m depths and 300m distance before the limit of Jordanian territorial waters. Fishing in the northern parts of Aqaba is also allowed under conditions of keeping a distance from ship anchors, swimming and marine sports areas as well as security-sensitive sites. Fishing is not permitted near ports, docks, industrial and border areas. No specific fishing sites are located directly within the Aqaba Marine Reserve.

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> Unknown

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> last report was in 2022, and 2019 (one per year)

**b) Methods used by your country to minimise bycatch of marine turtles in this fishery**

- Safe handling (as per existing protocols e.g., FAO guidelines) of incidentally caught turtles (e.g. resuscitation or release by fishers using equipment such as de-hooking, line cutting tools and scoop nets)
- Spatial and temporal control of fishing (e.g. seasonal closures of fishing activities)
- Effort management control

Details:

>>> same of the above

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> same of the above

**c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below.**

- Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods
- Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.

**Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods**

Details/future plans:

>>> same of the above

**Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.**

Details/future plans:

>>> same of the above

**3) Set nets**

**a) Fishing effort:**

UNKNOWN

#### **4) Driftnet**

##### **a) Fishing effort**

NONE

##### **Please provide the information below:**

Number of vessels:

>>> less than 50

Boat size (range or average):

>>> 3 - 5 meter

Number of trips per year:

>>> less than 500

Mesh size used:

>>> varied

Geographic distribution:

>>> same of the above

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> same of the above

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> same of the above

##### **b) Methods used by your country to minimise bycatch of marine turtles in this fishery**

- Safe handling (as per existing protocols e.g., FAO guidelines) of incidentally caught turtles (e.g. resuscitation or release by fishers using equipment such as de-hooking, line cutting tools and scoop nets)
- Spatial and temporal control of fishing (e.g. seasonal closures of fishing activities)
- Effort management control

Details:

>>> same of the above

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> same of the above

##### **c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below**

- Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods
- Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.

##### **Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods**

Details/future plans:

>>> same of the above

##### **Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.**

Details:future plans:

>>> same of the above

## 6) longline

### a) Fishing effort

NONE

#### Please provide the information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> 50

Boat size (range or average):

>>> 3 - 5 Meter

Number of trips per year:

>>> less than 2000

Mesh size used:

>>> N.A we talk about lines

Geographic distribution:

>>> same of the above

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> same of the above

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> same of the above

### b) Methods used by your country to minimise bycatch of marine turtles in this fishery

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

Technical expertise to enhance conservation or management at the site

Effort management control

Details:

>>> same of the above

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> same of the above

### c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below.

Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods

Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.

#### Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods

Details/future plans:

>>> same of the above

#### Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.

Details/future plans:

>>> same of the above

## 7) Artisanal fishing gear



## a) Fishing effort

NONE

## 8) Other types of fisheries

### a) Fishing effort

UNKNOWN

**1.2.2 Provide sources of information supporting the responses in 1.2.1, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources, and/or attach digital files to this report.**

References and links:

>>> 1. Aqaba Special Economic Zone Law No. 32 for the year 2000 and its amendments: this law is implemented by the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA), and contains two major bylaws, and an additional two regulations that are linked to corals and reef corals protection, as follows:

- Aqaba Marine Reserve Bylaw No. 61 for the year 2022
- Environmental Protection Bylaw No. 21 for the year 2001
- Amended instructions for the regulation and licensing of diving centers in Aqaba for the year 2021.
- Regulations for Recreational Diving in the Gulf of Aqaba, Number 6 of the year 2021.
- Instructions for the Marine Conservation and Fisheries Fund in the Gulf of Aqaba, Number 1 of the year 2021.
- Instruction No. 83 for the year 2005: Regulating Entrance into AMP (Under update).
- Instruction No. 86 for the year 2005: Regulating the Underwater Cleanup Dive in AMP (Under update).
- Instructions No 55 for the year 2004 "Regulations of Environmental Damage"
- In addition, ASEZA is implementing a "Zero Discharge" policy, aiming to preserve the marine environment through the complete elimination of marine pollution. The Gulf of Aqaba is defined as a 'special area' according to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78) signifying that discharges of oil are prohibited from vessels.

2. The Agricultural law No. 13 for the year 2015: This law is governed by the Ministry of Agriculture, and contains two regulations that are linked to corals protection, which are:

- Trade in Endangered Plants and Animals Regulations No. Z\ 2 for the year 2010
- Fishing at Aqaba Regulations No. g\1 for the year 2020.

<http://www.jreds.org/en-us/Sea-Turtle>

**1.2.3 Are the bycatch mitigation measures described above (in 1.2.1) periodically reviewed and evaluated for their efficacy?**

UNSURE

**1.2.4 Has your country provided technical assistance (formally or informally) to other Signatory States of the IOSEA MOU to promote the activities to mitigate incidental catch of marine turtles in fisheries?**

UNSURE

**1.2.5 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?**

Details:

>>> 1. Aqaba Special Economic Zone Law No. 32 for the year 2000 and its amendments: this law is implemented by the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA), and contains two major bylaws, and an additional two regulations that are linked to corals and reef corals protection, as follows:

- Aqaba Marine Reserve Bylaw No. 61 for the year 2022
- Environmental Protection Bylaw No. 21 for the year 2001
- Amended instructions for the regulation and licensing of diving centers in Aqaba for the year 2021.
- Regulations for Recreational Diving in the Gulf of Aqaba, Number 6 of the year 2021.
- Instructions for the Marine Conservation and Fisheries Fund in the Gulf of Aqaba, Number 1 of the year 2021.
- Instruction No. 83 for the year 2005: Regulating Entrance into AMP (Under update).
- Instruction No. 86 for the year 2005: Regulating the Underwater Cleanup Dive in AMP (Under update).
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2. The Agricultural law No. 13 for the year 2015: This law is governed by the Ministry of Agriculture, and

contains two regulations that are linked to corals protection, which are:

- Trade in Endangered Plants and Animals Regulations No. Z\ 2 for the year 2010
- Fishing at Aqaba Regulations No. g\1 for the year 2020.

CBD

CITES

National Plan

**1.2.6 Describe illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing that is known to occur in the territorial waters of the exclusive economic zone of your country that may impact marine turtles. Does IUU fishing occur in your country?**

NO

a) Please indicate number of vessels per year (0, 1-10, 11-50, 51-100, 101-500, more than 500)  
>>> 101 - 500

b) Countries of origin of IUU fishing, if known?

Details:

>>> N.A

c) Is there enforcement in place to deter these practices? Please indicate area covered and challenges.

Details:

>>> N.A

**1.3 ADDRESSING HARVEST OF, AND TRADE IN, MARINE TURTLES**

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departamental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

**1.3.1 Are marine turtles and/or their eggs harvest in your country? Please indicate which species are harvested.**

NO

**1.3.2 Which types of consumptive use of turtles are practiced in your country?**

Use the text boxes below each rating to explain or clarify your responses.

**a) Meat consumption**

NO

**b) Egg consumption**

NO

**c) Fat and oil consumption**

NO

**d) Traditional medicine**

NO

**e) Shell**

NO

**f) Making of tortoise shell products (bekko)**

NO

**1.3.3 Does your country have active legislation to prohibit direct harvest and domestic trade in marine turtles, their eggs, parts and products?**

UNSURE

**1.3.4 Please describe the LEGAL traditional harvest of marine turtles, their parts and products in your country by answering the questions below.**

NOTE: If there is no legal harvest of marine turtles in your country, please skip question 1.3.4 and 1.3.5.

**a) Please provide the regulation, which allows traditional harvest of marine turtles in your**

**country.**

Details:

>>> N.A

**b) Does this or another regulation limit the level of traditional take?**

UNKNOWN

Details:

>>> N.A

Details:

>>> N.A

**e) Please list the specific locations where harvest is allowed.**

Note: please provide a reference to any reports or documents, which give the background for the management of turtle harvest in your country.

Details:

>>> N.A

**f) Where does traditional harvest occur, and which species are affected?**

Details:

>>> N.A

References and links:

>>> N.A

**g) How is the compliance with the existing regulations on traditional harvest monitored?**

Details:

>>> N.A

**1.3.5 List any management agreements between your country and other States in the IOSEA region to ensure that legal harvest of marine turtles has no negative effects on the population size. Please provide references and links to published documents.**

Details:

>>> The sea turtle trade not allowed, any way Jordan is part of CBD and Cites, and part of PERSGA region

**1.3.6 Please describe the ILLEGAL harvest of marine turtles and eggs in your country by answering the questions below.**

**a) Does illegal harvest of marine turtles occur in your country?**

NO

**b) Please list the specific locations where illegal harvest is known to occur, if possible.**

Details (examples of areas where illegal harvest is known to occur):

>>> N.A

**c) What is the impact of this illegal harvest on the populations of marine turtles? In case of illegal egg collection, what is the impact on marine turtle recruitment?**

Details:

>>> N.A

**1.3.7 Which of the following adverse economic incentives are encouraging illegal take of marine turtles in your country?**

Not Applicable

Please use the text box below to explain your response(s) including 'Not Applicable'.

Details:

>>> the illegal or any kind of trade not allowed in Jordan

**1.3.8 Has your country taken any measures to try to correct these adverse incentives?**

NOT APPLICABLE (no adverse economic incentives exist)

**1.3.9 Are there touristic activities linked in marine turtles in your country?**

YES

If yes, please indicate which type:

	No	Yes
Other (please describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Swimming/ snorkeling activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Hatching releases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) Nesting turtle observation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Details:

>>> diving and trips by glass bottom boats

**1.3.10 Are there any standard and government-certified protocols to ensure that touristic activities do not harm turtles and/or hatchlings?**

YES

Please briefly describe the type of protocols used, references or links, if available.

Details:

>>> 1. Aqaba Special Economic Zone Law No. 32 for the year 2000 and its amendments: this law is implemented by the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA), and contains two major bylaws, and an additional two regulations that are linked to corals and reef corals protection, as follows:

- Aqaba Marine Reserve Bylaw No. 61 for the year 2022
- Environmental Protection Bylaw No. 21 for the year 2001
- Amended instructions for the regulation and licensing of diving centers in Aqaba for the year 2021.
- Regulations for Recreational Diving in the Gulf of Aqaba, Number 6 of the year 2021.
- Instructions for the Marine Conservation and Fisheries Fund in the Gulf of Aqaba, Number 1 of the year 2021.
- Instruction No. 83 for the year 2005: Regulating Entrance into AMP (Under update).
- Instruction No. 86 for the year 2005: Regulating the Underwater Cleanup Dive in AMP (Under update).
- Instructions No 55 for the year 2004 "Regulations of Environmental Damage"
- In addition, ASEZA is implementing a "Zero Discharge" policy, aiming to preserve the marine environment through the complete elimination of marine pollution. The Gulf of Aqaba is defined as a 'special area' according to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78) signifying that discharges of oil are prohibited from vessels.

2. The Agricultural law No. 13 for the year 2015: This law is governed by the Ministry of Agriculture, and contains two regulations that are linked to corals protection, which are:

- Trade in Endangered Plants and Animals Regulations No. Z\ 2 for the year 2010
- Fishing at Aqaba Regulations No. g\1 for the year 2020.

**1.3.11 Does your country have mechanisms in place to identify domestic and international illegal trade routes (for illegally traded marine turtles, eggs and derivatives)?**

Please provide references to any published reports (e.g. already prepared for CITES purposes) that give a more ample explanation.

NOT APPLICABLE

Details:

>>> no any kind of trade in Jordan

## **OBJECTIVE II: PROTECT, CONSERVE AND RESTORE MARINE TURTLE HABITATS**

### **2.1 MEASURES TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE MARINE TURTLE HABITATS**

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

#### **2.1.1 Please list Protected Areas (PAs), sanctuaries or temporary exclusion zones that were created to protect marine turtle habitat. Please provide the official name and date of establishment.**

Details:

>>> The Jordanian coastline is considered very short, with coral reefs located in the central and southern regions of the Jordanian coast, known for the presence of sea turtles. There are no nesting areas for turtles on the beaches. The Jordanian government announced the establishment of the Aqaba Marine Park in 1997, which officially became the Aqaba Marine Protected Area in 2020. Its boundaries stretch for 7 km with an area of 2.8 square kilometers.

#### **2.1.2 Has your country developed any incentives to encourage protection of marine turtle habitat outside of protected areas?**

Details:

>>> through the the legal framework

#### **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.**

YES

Details:

>>> ASEZA has been implementing a national monitoring program since the year 2002 to monitor the quality of seawater, coral reefs, benthic communities, and fish. This ongoing program is implemented along the Jordanian Coastline through contracting with the Marine Science Station which belongs to the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University.

There are programs for monitoring water quality and biodiversity implemented in collaboration with several other sectors. These programs are carried out through the Marine Science Station or Ibn Hayyan Laboratories.

Including:

- Ayla Lagoons Monitoring Program.
- Aqaba Container Terminal Monitoring Program.
- Talabay Monitoring Program.
- Royal Yacht Club Monitoring Program.
- The Industrial Complex Monitoring Program.

Some institutions, associations, and initiatives contribute through some activities and in coordination with the concerned authorities to protect the marine environment resources. ASEZA, through the Aqaba Marine Reserve, supervises many initiatives for underwater cleanup which comes with the contribution of the local community and its role in protection. The supervision, guidance, and involvement of experienced divers in the field of underwater cleaning or snorkeling.

#### **2.1.4 Are measures in place to prohibit the use of poisonous chemicals and explosives in the marine environment?**

YES

Use the text box to elaborate on your response.

Details:

>>> These are totally prohibited by law

### **2.2 RESTORATION OF DEGRADED MARINE TURTLE HABITATS**

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

**2.2.1 What efforts are being made to recover degraded coral reef habitat? Give details (location, how long efforts have been carried out, effectiveness, lessons learned, future plans, etc).**

YES see below

Details/future plans:

>>> Patrolling by Aqaba Marine Reserve rangers, Navy in addition to law enforcement, and Volunteers.  
Construction of artificial reefs along the degraded habitats in general  
Restoration Programs

**2.2.2 Are efforts being made to recover degraded mangrove habitats that are important for turtles?**

YES see below

If yes, give details (location, duration, effectiveness, lessons learned, future plans etc.)

Details/future plans:

>>> No mangrove ecosystem in Aqaba

**2.2.3 What efforts are being made to recover degraded seagrass habitats? Give details (location, duration, effectiveness, lessons learned, future plans etc.).**

YES, see below

Details/future plans:

>>> At the ports area after the demolishing of the old port. Extensive care is undertaken including a fish ban as well as removal of debris.  
Soon, Aqaba authority is looking to restoration programs in addition to implementing monitoring programs.



UNSURE

**3.1.5 Is the use of traditional ecological knowledge in research being promoted?**

YES

Explanation/examples:

>>> through the elder people and the fishermen

**3.1.6 Give a list of relevant literature that includes information from studies carried out in your country on marine turtle populations and their habitats, sorting them by topic.**

**a) Bycatch mitigation measures**

Details (e.g. numbers and species of released turtles, type of fishery and gear used, method for monitoring survival, result):

>>> Ministry of Environment. (2018). Environment State Report.

Al-Zibdah, M., Jawasrah R, Badran M., (2018). Socioeconomic and cultural ethics of fishermen community in Aqaba, Red Sea (in Arabic), 2018, المجلد 11 ، العدد 1 ، المجلد 11

Mohammad Al-Zibdah (2013). The National Action Plan; An Approach to Prioritize Acts Related to the Conservation of Marine Turtles at Jordan’s Gulf of Aqaba. Journal of Environmental Science and Engineering A2: 364-372

Al-Zibdah, M. 2007. Population status and conservation of marine turtles at Jordan’s Gulf of Aqaba, Red Sea. Journal of British Chelonia group (Testudo), Vol. 6 No. 4, 58-66.

Al-Zibdah, M. 2005. Jordan’s national Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Turtles and their Habitats in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), 45 PP.

**3.2 COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND MONITORING**

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

**3.2.1 Does your country participate in any regional or sub-regional action plans that identify regional priorities in terms of research and monitoring needs?**

YES

Please specify:

If more rows are required, please contact the secretariat at [iosea@un.org](mailto:iosea@un.org)

	Links	Identified research and monitoring needs	Regional or sub-regional action plan
	PERSGA	citizen scientists, researches, and others	Jordan as member of Red Sea countries among others has prepared its SAP on marine turtles conservation in collaboration with PERGGA
	Join citizen scientists to monitor and protect Aqaba’s sea turtles	citizen scientists	coordination with Fulbright Commission in Jordan and Ministry of Environment.

**3.2.2 On which of the following themes have regional 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.**



**a) Reproductive biology (including any of the following: nesting data, hatchling survival, nest protection, recruitment, etc.)**

YES

**b) Genetic characterization**

NOT APPLICABLE

**c) Migratory and dispersal routes**

NOT APPLICABLE

**d) Other biological and ecological aspects**

YES

### **3.3 DATA ANALYSIS AND APPLIED RESEARCH**

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

**3.3.1 Describe how research results are being applied to improve management practices and mitigation of threats.**

Details:

>>> Identify the most significant areas and habitats of bot hawksbill and green turtle

**3.3.2 Is traditional knowledge on marine turtles and their habitats being used for conservation and management?**

YES

Details, future plans:

>>> through the elder peoples and fishermen

### **3.4 INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

**3.4.1 Has your country undertaken any initiatives (nationally or through collaboration with other IOSEA Signatory States) to standardise methods of data collection?**

YES

If yes, please give details of the agreed protocol(s).

Details:

>>> Monitoring of postulation including grass bed and coral reef

**3.4.2 Has your country taken part in producing IUCN regional status reports for red list assessments?**

YES

Details (year when more recent collaboration took place, project name, links):

>>> Aqaba's coastline is so short, that applying IUCN criteria is impossible, but they coordinate with other entities at the national and regional level.

**3.4.3 How often does your country share information on marine turtle populations of regional interest with other IOSEA Signatories?**

every 3 years

Details:

>>> as they request

**3.4.4 Since 2019, has your country taken part in any workshops or other events with**

**participation of other countries, scientific institutions, non-governmental or international organisations in order to develop and implement best practice approaches for marine turtle conservation?**

YES

Details (name of the event, year, main objective of the event):

>>> our partners and stakeholders participated and implemented many of training programs and workshops.

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

## **4.1 PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION PROGRAMMES**

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

### **4.1.1 Are education/awareness programmes in place at/near nesting beaches?**

YES

Please indicate at which sites, described in question 0.2 these programmes are being implemented.

Details:

>>> Aqaba Marine Reserve they have an educational rooms and meetings

### **4.1.2 Describe the educational materials, including mass media information programmes that your country has collected, developed and/or disseminated.**

Details/future plans:

>>> Brochures, booklets, TV programs, video clips, posters, radio interviews, social media, and beach signs

### **4.1.3 Which of the following groups have been the targets of focused education or awareness programmes?**

- Policy makers
- Fishing industry
- Communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats
- Local/Fishing communities
- Tourists
- Media
- Teachers
- Students
- Military, Navy, Police
- Scientists
- NGOs
- Enforcement personnel
- judicial personnel
- Other (describe)

>>> local communities

### **4.1.4 Have any community learning centres or information centres been established in your country?**

YES

Details/future plans:

>>> Aqaba Marine Reserve has a seminar hall meeting room and knowledge center.

## **4.2 STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION**

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

### **4.2.1 Are there public participation programmes in place at nesting beaches to involve local stakeholders in activities to conserve marine turtles?**

N/A

### **4.2.2. The role of local communities. Please answer the questions below, giving examples of activities that took place since 2019.**

a) Is traditional knowledge used in the development of education and awareness programmes in your country?

YES

Details, examples:

- >>> 1- Join citizen scientists to monitor and protect Aqaba's sea turtles
- 2- Eco - School Programs
- 3- Clean up the Words
- 4- Training Course in Monitoring and Conservation of Sea Turtles in Aqaba

b) Do local communities participate in the development and implementation of conservation measures?

Details, examples:

>>> yes, students, fishermen, tourist, and rangers

**4.2.3 Describe initiatives undertaken or planned since 2019 to involve and encourage the cooperation of Government institutions, NGOs and the private sector in marine turtle conservation programmes.**

Details/future plans:

>>> Keep blue of our waters

Earth day campaign

Clean our earth

Clean up the world campaign

All together with ASEZA and several NGO's from all over the country

# **OBJECTIVE V: ENHANCE NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

## **5.1 COOPERATION NEEDS**

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

### **5.1.1 Please indicate, the extent to which the following local management issues require regional and/or international cooperation in order to achieve progress.**

In other words, how important is **regional/international** cooperation for addressing the issues listed below?

#### **a) Illegal fishing in territorial waters**

IMPORTANT

#### **b) Incidental capture by foreign fleets in territorial waters**

IMPORTANT

#### **c) Enforcement/patrolling of territorial waters**

ESSENTIAL

#### **d) Illegal fishing in EEZ**

ESSENTIAL

#### **e) Incidental capture by foreign fleets in EEZ**

IMPORTANT

#### **f) Enforcement/patrolling of EEZ**

ESSENTIAL

#### **g) Harvest exploitation of turtles and eggs**

LIMITED

#### **h) Illegal trade in turtle parts and products**

ESSENTIAL

#### **i) Development of gear technology to reduce bycatch of marine turtles**

ESSENTIAL

#### **j) Marine pollution, including oil spills and marine debris**

ESSENTIAL

#### **k) Training / capacity-building**

ESSENTIAL

#### **l) Alternative livelihood development**

ESSENTIAL

#### **m) Characterisation of turtle populations/genetic stocks**

IMPORTANT

#### **n) Identification of migration routes**

IMPORTANT

#### **o) Tagging / satellite tracking**

IMPORTANT

**p) Habitat studies**

IMPORTANT

**q) Genetic studies**

LIMITED

**5.2 COOPERATION AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

**5.2.1 Regional cooperation to enhance marine turtle conservation and management**

a) Which regional/bilateral agreements for marine turtle conservation and management does your country participate in?

Details:

>>> CBD, CITES

b) Please list the organizations that your country cooperates with to enhance regional collaboration on marine turtle conservation in your subregion.

Details:

>>> PERSGA, IUCN, FAO,

**5.3 CAPACITY-BUILDING**

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

**5.3.1 Describe your country's needs in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities, in order to build capacity to strengthen marine turtle conservation measures in the IOSEA region.**

Details:

>>> Specialized training programs, tracking tools, whether through equipment or GIS, or satellite monitoring, and dedicated training courses. Field tours to specialized reserves in other areas and learning from their experiences.

**5.3.2 Describe any training your country provided in marine turtle conservation and management in the last 5 years (e.g., workshops held, training manuals produced etc.), and indicate your plans for the coming year.**

Details/future plans:

>>> Specialty Courses: Sea Turtle Courses on Aug 2021 by The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan in coordination with Ministry of Environment and Aqaba Marine Reserve

**5.3.3 Specifically in relation to capacity-building for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats, describe any partnerships with universities, research institutions, training bodies and other relevant organisations, national, regional, and/or international.**

Details/future plans:

>>> Official authorities such as Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority, marine science Regional and international, such as IUCN, PERSGA, and UNDP. several NGOs such as the Aqaba Diving Association, Aqaba Glass-bottom Association, Fishermen Association, and The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan Private Sectors, such as the Ayla Oasis project, Saraya touristic project, and Aqaba Container Terminal

**5.4 STRATEGY AND LEGISLATION**

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

**5.4.1 Development of a national action plan**

**a) Is there a national action plan for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats in your country?**

YES

Details:

title of the document, year, link:

>>> as a part of the national strategy

**b) If there is no action plan yet, has a set of key management measures been identified that could eventually serve as a basis for a more specific action plan at a national or local level?**

YES

Details:

Title of the documents, year, link:

>>> all described by the regulations and scientific reports

**5.4.2 Which are the main threats to marine turtles in your country per species and the most urgent management activities to address them?**

Please list up to 5 corresponding activities from the IOSEA Conservation and Management Plan (**CMP**).

>>> Incidental capture in coastal fisheries

Boat strikes

Marine debris (e.g. plastics at sea)

Habitat degradation (e.g. coastal erosion, debris that obstructs nesting, etc.)

**5.4.3 Has your country conducted a review of policies and laws to address any inconsistencies in relation to the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats?**

YES

Details, future plans:

>>> all regulations, regulations, and reports reviewed and updated

such as Aqaba Marine Reserve Management Plan

Aqaba Marine Reserve Bylaw

**5.4.5 Does your country have legislation that explicitly requires marine and coastal development projects and natural resource extraction projects to be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in relation to marine turtles and their habitats?**

YES

a) If yes, please provide references to legal texts, date of adoption and briefly describe such legislation.

Details:

>>> There are no specific legislations solely for sea turtles, but there are several laws that protect all marine ecosystems, including turtles.

## **OBJECTIVE VI: PROMOTE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU, INCLUDING THE CMP**

### **6.1 IOSEA MARINE TURTLE MOU MEMBERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES**

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

#### **6.1.1 What has your country already done in the past 5 years to encourage other States to sign the IOSEA MOU?**

Details/future plans:

>>> In all related events that were held on regional levels such as workshops, meetings and conferences in Jordan and other neighboring countries, the IOSEA Mou was a matter of discussion. This primarily was to show the main objectives and efforts devoted toward the protection of turtle populations in wider Asia.

In late 2020, the establishment of the Aqaba Marine Protected Area was announced, accompanied by the launch of the management plan for the reserve. Additionally, the reserve system and related legislation were introduced. Several agreements were also signed between Aqaba Marine Reserve with UNDP and IUCN to implement various projects aimed at protecting marine environments and biodiversity in Aqaba. The reserve has been nominated for inclusion in the Green List of Protected Areas, and a file has been prepared for its nomination within World Heritage Sites (UNESCO).

#### **6.1.2 Is your country currently favourable, in principle, to amending the MOU to make it a legally binding instrument?**

YES

### **6.2 RESOURCES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU**

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

#### **6.2.1 What programmes has your country funded for domestic implementation of marine turtle conservation activities related to the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU?**

Please refer to the IOSEA CMP and IOSEA Work Programme.

Name of the funded programme, corresponding CMP activity or IOSEA Work Programme measure:

>>> The staff and national cooperation

A small volume of funds is available almost every year, part of it is used for implementing some activities related to marine turtle conservation such as monitoring of foraging areas, and cleaning campaigns at major habitats underwater as well as along the coastal area. This certainly together with some data generation about the populations that are roaming in the area.

#### **6.2.2 In the last 5 years, what funding sources have been available for your country to support marine turtle conservation?**

YES

Details: (national, other governments, international organisations, donor organisations, industry, private sector, foundations)

>>> JREDS, UNDP, GEF, AYL

#### **6.2.3 In accordance with CITES decisions on marine turtles, has your country attempted to raise funds for the activities listed below through CITES?**

NO

### **6.3 COORDINATION AMONG GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

#### **6.3.1 List government agencies that play a role in the conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats in your country. Please indicate their responsibilities in relation to protecting marine turtles and their habitats.**

If more rows are required, please contact the secretariat at [iosea@un.org](mailto:iosea@un.org)



	Role in the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats	Name of the agency
		Ministry of Environment
		Ministry of Transportation
		Ministry of Agriculture
		ASEZA

**6.3.2 What are the main limitations of enforcing the laws in relation to marine turtles and their habitats across and between jurisdictions?**

Details:

>>> Financial issues

## **OTHER REMARKS**

**Please provide any comments/suggestions to improve the present reporting format.**

>>> we are looking for any regional cooperation and organizing workshops including our stakeholders

**Feel free to include additional information not covered above:**

>>> we encourage you to benefit from national experts and their participation.