



**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/Doc.7.2

10 October 2019

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8TH MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES

Da Nang, Viet Nam, 21-25 October 2019

Agenda Item 7.2

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION POINTS

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Action Requested:

- Review the report.
- Take the report into consideration when developing the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU Work Programme 2020-2024.

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION POINTS

Introduction

1. Starting at the 6th Meeting of the Signatory States in 2012, lists of activities agreed during discussions were annexed to the meeting reports (see Meeting Report of [MOS6](#) and [MOS7](#)). The Secretariat developed the present document in order to provide the 8th Meeting of Signatories with an overview of the implementation of the most recent Action Points agreed at the 7th Meeting of Signatories (MOS7) in 2014.
2. Of the 35 Action Points agreed by MOS7 (Table 1), the Secretariat received information on the status of 29 Action Points; the implementation status of the remaining 6 Action Points is currently unknown. Out of 29, implementation was either initiated or was already completed for 17 Action Points, namely:
 - Implementation of 5 Action Points was completed
 - Implementation of 8 Action Points was partially completed
 - Implementation of 4 Action Points was initiated.
3. The activities that were completed as agreed were mostly accomplished by the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee and did not require additional funding. Partially completed activities were undertaken by the Secretariat, Signatories and the Advisory Committee. These mostly required staff time and in-kind contributions, rather than additional funding. Twelve Action Points were not implemented. For all but two of these activities, in addition to in-kind contributions, additional funding was required.
4. Therefore, MOS8 may find it useful to discuss further fundraising options to enable implementation of agreed activities. Furthermore, organization of sub-regional meetings for two sub-regions was not possible as foreseen due to challenges faced by the potential host countries. MOS8 may consider ways to support potential hosts to enable them to overcome such challenges, for example by offering funding support or considering co-hosting by two countries.
5. Action Points that are not yet implemented or only partially implemented have been included in the Draft Work Programme for the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU (Doc 8.2). In order to improve the exchange of information on implementation of the MOU, MOS8 may find it useful to discuss a procedure for reporting on the implementation of those agreed activities, which will be included in the IOSEA Work Programme. One option may be to include specific questions in the National Report Questionnaire to address implementation of the Work Programme. The related discussions will take place under Agenda Item 7.1.

Table 1. Status of implementation of MOS7 Action Points

Nr.	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Implementation Status
1	Advisory Committee	Site Network	Conduct training and offer management advice at Network sites, through Advisory Committee mentorship.	Not implemented.
2	Advisory Committee, Signatory States (Comoros, Myanmar, Islamic Republic of Iran, Philippines, United Arab Emirates)	Site Network	Identified States to make amendments to site network submissions within six months of the conclusion of IOSEA SS7, through Advisory Committee mentorship.	Partially implemented. Comoros -completed.
3	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Capacity Building	Respond to specific requests for capacity-building support from the United Republic of Tanzania (regarding preparation of a national sea turtle conservation strategy) and from Madagascar (for scientific personnel involved in marine turtle conservation).	Several emails were exchanged with Madagascar discussing concept notes (in 2015).
4	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Genetics	Identify needs and opportunities for regional analyses to inform stock assessment. On request, Advisory Committee to provide guidance on collection protocols and facilitate contacts with labs; Secretariat to facilitate contacts with CITES authorities.	Not implemented. No requests were received from Signatory States
5	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Species: Hawksbill	Initiate the next species assessment, for hawksbill turtles, with a view to tabling a draft at IOSEA MOS8	Ongoing
6	Advisory Committee, Signatory States	Capacity-building	Assess and advise on hatchery management practice (e.g. Maldives and Sri Lanka) and assess Hawksbill hatchery production success in Indonesia and Philippines, as appropriate	Partially implemented. Assessment covering some of the named countries completed (see Doc. Doc.11.3)

Nr.	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Implementation Status
7	Secretariat	Illegal take and trade	Use the existing paper MT-IOSEA/SS.7/Doc. 10.1 to increase the visibility of illegal take/trade issues (e.g. on the IOSEA website) and update it in due course, as part of a joint submission (with the IAC Secretariat) to CITES COP17 (South Africa, 2016)	Completed. Work on visibility continues through the Illegal Trade working group
8	Secretariat	IOSEA Website and Tools	Consider updating the existing online reporting tool (potentially to be integrated with other CMS reporting tools).	Completed. IOSEA National Reports can now be submitted through the CMS-based ORS
9	Secretariat, Advisory Committee	Environmental Impact Assessment	Provide support and recommendations to Signatory States on the importance of integrating sea turtle conservation into EIA processes; consider incorporating progress updates on EIA implementation in national reporting; and possibly analyze how EIA processes are implemented in each country.	Ongoing. Being prepared by an Advisory Committee Member (Agenda item 7.5)
10	Secretariat, Advisory Committee	Fisheries Interactions	Secretariat to assess current RFMO resolutions and active conservation management measures, including data collection requirements. Advisory Committee to advise on any other data needed to fulfill minimum data requirements. Findings from the above work to be presented to the IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and By-catch (WPEB).	Partially completed. The Secretariat with assistance of AC member Jerome Bourjea and others updated the IOTC Marine Turtle Summary in July 2015; Secretariat prepared Doc.10.3 "Developments in Relevant RFMOs "
11	Secretariat, Advisory Committee	Fisheries Interactions	Present concerns to IOTC/WPEB regarding sources of turtle mortality including FADs and gill nets, based on new information that comes to light. Continue to contribute to the IOTC Executive Summary on marine turtles.	Not implemented due to the submission deadlines being during the IOSEA MOS8 preparations and the limited capacity of the Secretariat at the time period
12	Secretariat, Advisory Committee	Site Network	Revise the site network application template (and/or instructions) to be more specific so that all relevant data are captured in the initial application to reduce the need for lengthy revisions	Ongoing (See Agenda Item 9.1, Doc 9.1)

Nr.	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Implementation Status
13	Secretariat, SEA+ Signatory States, Advisory Committee	Sub-regional coordination	Facilitate an intersessional discussion among SEA+ countries to determine the scope of a regional workshop to synthesize existing regional information and identify gaps. Secretariat, Advisory Committee to assist SEA+ members to synthesize information from existing projects, reports, literature (e.g. of IOSEA, CMS, ASEAN/SEAFDEC, etc) as inputs to the workshop.	Not implemented. Hosting the workshop in Thailand (as suggested by Thailand at MOS7) was not possible.
14	Secretariat, Signatory States (NWIO)	Fisheries Interactions	Keep Signatory States up to date about developments in relation to proposed sub-regional by-catch assessment project (led by CMS Abu Dhabi office) and encourage their involvement	Not implemented. Despite partial funding available from CMS, missing co-funding from partners impeded the implementation of the project
15	Secretariat, Signatory States (SEA+)	Membership	Engage SEA+ non-Signatory States (e.g., China, Korea, Timor Leste, and Japan) to sign the IOSEA MoU. Signatory States to engage them at relevant forums to encourage them to attend the IOSEA MOU meetings and related events, as appropriate.	Partially implemented. Efforts undertaken by some Signatory States, as indicated in the National Reports (See Doc.7.1 Synthesis of National Reports)
16	Secretariat, Signatory States, Advisory Committee	IOSEA Website and Tools	Consider conducting training about IOSEA online tools and national report completion via webinars	Partially implemented ¹ . Assistance provided to individual IOSEA Signatories who requested support. No training on other tools which have become dysfunctional due to hacking events of the old website
17	Signatory State (Comoros)	Capacity Building	Comoros to draft a 1-2 page description of Moheli-based activities as an example of an exemplary approach called for in document MT-IOSEA/SS.7/Doc. 6, para. 1.	Completed
18	Signatory State (Oman)	Fisheries Interactions	Share methods and lessons learnt from current studies on fisheries interactions.	Partially implemented.
19	Signatory State (Sri Lanka)	Species: Loggerhead	Assess and monitor loggerhead nesting activity along the eastern and western coasts of Sri Lanka	Unknown

¹ See proposed activities in the draft IOSEA Work Programme (Doc. 8.2)

Nr.	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Implementation Status
20	Signatory State (Thailand), Secretariat	Sub-regional coordination	Consider hosting and organizing a SEA+ sub-regional meeting, upon written request from the Secretariat. Thailand to consider providing support for ASEAN countries.	Not implemented. It was not possible for Thailand to host the meeting.
21	Signatory State (United Arab Emirates)	Socio-economic work	Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) to share with NWIO members methods and lessons learnt from its socio-economic survey of fishers	Not implemented. EAD have carried out the study its socio-economic survey of fishers. Giving that the NWIO member state have not met since MOS7 in 2014, the information is yet to be shared.
22	Signatory State (United Arab Emirates), Secretariat	Sub-regional coordination	Consider hosting and organizing a NWIO sub-regional meeting, upon written request from the Secretariat.	Not implemented
23	Signatory State (USA)	Fisheries Interactions	United States (NOAA) to investigate the possibility of collaborating with IOTC/IOSEA in delivery of technical support, such as marine turtle-related observer training.	Unknown
24	Signatory States	Capacity Building	Investigate potential opportunities for sub-regional capacity building / technical workshops, particularly in NWIO and NIO, including involvement of Advisory Committee.	Not implemented
25	Signatory States	Fisheries Interactions	Initiate/continue dialogue about IOSEA issues among Signatory States that are also IOTC members in advance of each meeting of IOTC (including subsidiary bodies) and intervene as appropriate.	Unknown
26	Signatory States (Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, United States)	Species: Hawksbill	Work together to develop proposal to address to the threats to hawksbills on key foraging grounds in range states.	Not implemented

Nr.	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Implementation Status
27	Signatory States (France, Oman, South Africa)	Species: Loggerhead	Publicize the outcomes of a study of hatchling dispersal and the impacts of climate change on loggerhead sex ratios (so-called COCA LOCA project)	Partly implemented. Project completed, ongoing process to publish the outcomes. Related information on the impacts of climate change on loggerhead turtles can be found in a new publication by Monsinjon et al. (2019), titled "The climatic debt of loggerhead sea turtle populations in a warming world ² "
28	Signatory States (Mozambique, South Africa)	Habitat Rehabilitation	Assess the extent of use and impacts of exotic vegetation to stabilize beach/dune systems; provide recommendations/guidelines on sensible removal of exotic vegetation from these ecosystems (cf. Leatherback Assessment project concept). Fund a scientifically-robust post graduate study in Mozambique. NB. a post-doc on dune stabilization is already underway in South Africa.	Implementation started (See Doc. 7.4 The vulnerability of Casuarina-backed sea turtle nesting beaches to erosion). Develop guidelines on sensible removal of exotic vegetation.
29	Signatory States (NWIO)	Genetics	Countries to incorporate genetic sampling into their ongoing monitoring activities (subject to budget and resources available)	Unknown
30	Signatory States (NWIO), Advisory Committee	Capacity Building	Identify current challenges/gaps (e.g. regarding standardization of data collection and protocols) and explore opportunities for potential regional training and further coordination	Not implemented
31	Signatory States (SEA+)	Genetics	Each SEA+ country should identify the gaps in genetic information, beginning with nesting beach-related genetics; and endeavour to submit haplotype information to genetic banks and to share sequenced data, particularly for hawksbill genetics.	Unknown

²Monsinjon et al. (2019). The climatic debt of loggerhead sea turtle populations in a warming world. Ecological Indicators. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2019.105657> Full article in pdf format is available from ResearchGate or from the Secretariat upon request

Nr.	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Implementation Status
32	Signatory States (WIO)	Genetics	Extend genetics work on green, loggerhead and hawksbill turtles, which has been initiated but not yet completed	Unknown
33	Signatory States (WIO)	Socio-economic work	Implement the WIO-MTTF Action Plan for three socio-economic workshops.	Not implemented. No success in raising the necessary funds despite several attempts (last one in 2018/2019)
34	Signatory States, Secretariat, Advisory Committee	Illegal take and trade	Establish a working group to address issues related to turtle trade.	Implemented, but working group not active
35	Signatory States, Secretariat, Advisory Committee	Site Network	Establish a steering committee to seek financial support for the IOSEA Site Network in the months following the meeting [Membership to include: Australia, Mauritius, Oman, Seychelles, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States, Advisory Committee (Nel), Secretariat].	Partly implemented. A discussion group was established, but with members differing from the list provided here (Please see information on the Site Network on the IOSEA website . Fundraising activities have not yet been undertaken.