Work Programme of the Northern Indian Ocean Marine Turtle Task Force:

**Work Plan 2015-2017 – for reporting, revision and updating**

*Developed by the 1st Meeting of the Task Force (Malé, Maldives, 11-12 October 2015)*

| Recommendations  | Lead/Responsible  | Progress (%Implemented) | Renew  | New Actions |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fisheries/bycatch: * training of observers;
* soak time;
* training for safe releases;
* reduction technologies (TEDs, LED lights, etc.);
* delimiting net sizes;
* enforcing compliance with fishing regulations;
* gear modification;
* promotion of low impact fishing gear;
* estimation of magnitude of bycatch to prioritize conservation efforts;
* identifying gear nets being used;
* taking a multi-species approach
 | Umair Shahid, WWF-Pakistan |  |  |  |
| Ghost nets: * direct dialogue/surveys with fishermen;
* use of standardized data collection protocol
 | Martin Stelfox, Olive Ridley Project |  |  |  |
| Standardized monitoring protocol: * hatchery and head-starting practices;
* in-water studies (photo identification, etc.);
* strandings (data collection, database);
* tissue sampling;
* determining sex ratios
 | Andrea Phillott, Asian University for Women |  |  |  |
| Collaborative research on and protection of all species: * genetics;
* satellite telemetry;
* regional flipper tagging database/addressing gaps;
* satellite telemetry – indicating if one is deploying transmitters;
* providing link to tracks, if possible (if donors are willing to share, can use seaturtle.org);
* identifying high-use foraging grounds;
* identifying key nesting, foraging, developmental habitats and migratory corridors;
* maintaining long-term index monitoring sites
 | Not mentioned |  |  |  |
| Sustainable eco-tourism: * establishing guidelines;
* determining areas where eco-tourism might need to be promoted;
* can be used as research centers
 | Not mentioned |  |  |  |
| Head-starting practices: * review the extent of head-starting practices in each country and determine areas of improvement/alternatives
 | Andrea Phillott, Asian University for Women |  |  |  |
| Coastal development and bio-illumination: * each country to provide information to the IOSEA Secretariat, which will then be discussed with governments;
* best practices from other countries to be made available to the NIO (for example information on this from Florida);
* focal points should be encouraged to use local consultants/experts rather than international consultants/experts for EIAs
 | Not mentioned  |  |  |  |
| Socio-economic issues: * alternative livelihoods;
* community participation/partnership;
* increased stakeholder involvement in sea turtle conservation/data collection;
* determine best practices (social sciences – literature review)
 | Andrea Phillott, Asian University for Women |  |  |  |
| Impact of climate change: * sand/pivotal temperatures;
* review of climate change data in the literature
 | Andrea Phillott, Asian University for Women |  |  |  |
| Marine pollution: * review of micro/macro-plastics;
* literature review;
* successful case studies of reducing beach pollution;
* education and awareness;
* beach clean-ups;
* engaging recycling companies;
* impact of oil/hydrocarbons on marine turtles (Pakistan has found contamination of turtles and eggs);
* determining how plastics/marine debris can be used by local communities to create handicrafts, useable items (e.g. solar lamps), etc.;
* campaigns to discourage use of plastics
 | Martin Stelfox, Olive Ridley Project, Annie Kurian, Terra Marine Research Institute |  |  |  |
| Citizen science: * engaging recreational divers;
* educate on data collection and species identification, etc.
 | Martin Stelfox, Olive Ridley Project |  |  |  |
| Review sustainable use and the need for it to persist  | Andrea Phillott, Asian University for Women |  |  |  |
| Illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing: a regional approach in the engagement with RFMOs | Umair Shahid, WWF-Pakistan |  |  |  |