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 |  |  |  |