



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



Report of the First Meeting of Signatory States to the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa

Nairobi, Kenya, 6-9 May 2002

Agenda Item 1. Opening Remarks

1. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Dr. Klaus Töpfer, welcomed the participants to UNEP headquarters in Nairobi and emphasized UNEP's commitment to the integration of environment and development objectives on the African continent. He described UNEP's involvement with the NEPAD (New Partnerships for Africa's Development) environmental initiative. He encouraged the present meeting to form links not only with NEPAD, but also "The African Process" for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Abidjan Convention, through its forthcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He also recommended collaboration with other global, multilateral environmental agreements, in particular CITES. Dr. Töpfer acknowledged the challenges of marine turtle conservation, and recognized the progress made in West Africa and the unifying role played by the Convention on Migratory Species. He stressed the importance of Africa in the worldwide conservation of these species, and emphasized the need for coordinated national and regional efforts. He concluded by inviting and urging countries that had not yet signed the Memorandum of Understanding to do so.

2. Dr. Imeh Okopido, Minister of State for Environment of Nigeria, officiated as the Chairman of the meeting. He apologized for not having been in a position to host the meeting in Nigeria and conveyed his appreciation to the United Nations and UNEP for having provided an alternative venue. He reminded everyone that Nigeria had signed the Memorandum of Understanding in November 1999 and pointed out that Nigeria had been certified for shrimp export to the United States because his country had met the requirements for implementing Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs).

3. He reiterated the relevance of "The African Process" for the Development and Protection of the Marine Environment in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions as other mechanisms to be considered for marine turtle conservation. Dr. Okopido concluded his remarks by showing appreciation for those countries, which had already signed the MoU, while encouraging others to sign.

4. Mr. Douglas Hykle, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species, expressed his gratitude to Minister Okopido for having agreed to chair the meeting, and to the Executive Director, Dr. Töpfer, for his presence at the opening session. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Hykle acknowledged the impressive progress made in West Africa in the last three years. The

growing importance of African marine turtle populations, the research being conducted in the region, and the high attendance of African delegates at a recent sea turtle symposium in Miami all bore witness to Africa's growing international presence in this field. The Conservation Plan developed at a previous meeting in Abidjan, in May 1999, had served as a model for a similar plan for the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia. He emphasized that the prospects for West Africa were very encouraging and that NGOs and Governments need to work together to deal with the challenges facing Africa's biodiversity.

5. Mr. Hykle recommended that marine turtle conservation be included as a component of other ongoing projects in Africa and encouraged Government representatives to make full use of what the Convention on Migratory Species had to offer. Before concluding his remarks, Mr. Hykle paid tribute to the Government of France for its commitment to marine turtle conservation in West Africa and elsewhere, and expressed his appreciation to UNEP and its Division of Environmental Conventions for having facilitated the arrangements for the meeting.

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and work programme

6. Mr. Hykle introduced the provisional agenda (Annex 1 to this report) and the work programme, which was agreed with only one amendment, namely the addition of a presentation on the "Protocol for database and programmatic sharing." The list of meeting participants appears at Annex 2.

Agenda Item 3. Reports from the region and introductory statements

7. The Secretariat had solicited a number of oral presentations to provide an overview of activities and progress made in some key areas of marine turtle research and conservation in the region.

8. Mr. Jacques Fretey presented a general overview of marine turtles in the West Africa region, which extends from the Straits of Gibraltar to the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa, and includes Macaronesia. He described the distribution of juveniles and adults of each of the 6 species (Green turtles, Loggerheads, Kemp's ridleys, Olive ridleys, Hawksbills, and Leatherbacks) occurring in the region, and highlighted their nesting, feeding and developmental areas, as appropriate. He enumerated the general threats to marine turtles in this region, including exploitation for meat, eggs, and commercial use; erosion caused by the building of ports; sand mining; pollution; accidental captures in artisanal and commercial fisheries; and the presence of domestic animals and washed up tree trunks on beaches.

9. Threats and action priorities for each species were reviewed. Priorities focused on specific areas for each species and included enforcement of laws, education, finding alternatives for turtleshell craftsmen, creation of transboundary marine parks, inclusion of important feeding areas into marine reserves, as well as the monitoring and protection of nesting and foraging areas, coastal habitats (mangroves and coral reefs) and developmental areas.

10. Mr. Josea Dossou-Bodjrenou, from the nongovernmental organisation "*Nature Tropicale*" in Benin, discussed the important role NGOs, government agencies, and universities have in the conservation of marine turtles in West Africa. He noted that issues of poverty and food scarcity take priority and negative pressures on the environment and biodiversity are increasing. Governmental institutions have a defined political role to play in the sustainable use of natural resources, while academic institutions have research facilities, and NGOs have the expertise to undertake projects on the ground. He provided a concrete example of *Nature Tropicale* in Benin

which, since 1999, had been working on the protection of marine turtles through partnerships with political and administrative authorities at different levels, universities and NGOs. This multilevel partnership aimed at more effective means of educating the public and encouraging positive change. Currently, a national action plan for the conservation of marine turtles and other marine resources was being developed in Benin in collaboration with multiple groups. Emphasis had been placed on making the local people more responsible in the management of resources.

11. Mr. Tomas Diagne, from the NGO, “*Village des Tortues*” in Senegal, described the process that had prompted the Government of Senegal to sign the Memorandum of Understanding, and highlighted the importance of cooperation between Government and non-governmental institutions for the conservation of marine turtles. To encourage his government to sign the MoU, Mr. Diagne had contacted the national offices of WWF and IUCN; and together they had written to the Minister of Environment. Subsequent meetings with senior officials had led to the approval of the Senegalese Government to sign the MoU at the present meeting, and had encouraged a relationship between the Government and NGOs. He listed other such partnerships in Senegal and encouraged other countries to seek similar collaborations for the conservation of marine turtles.

12. Mr. Castro Barbosa, from the Coastal Planning Office in Guinea-Bissau, described satellite telemetry work done in Poilão, Guinea Bissau, which probably had the largest nesting population of Green turtles in West Africa. Of the ten turtles that had been fitted with satellite transmitters, four had migrated to foraging areas in Banc d’Arguin, Mauritania, whereas the others had remained in the area. This work confirmed previous findings from tag recoveries and showed that turtles followed a remarkably constant route. It suggested foraging site fidelity and the possibility of Banc d’Arguin being an important foraging habitat for this population. The work also emphasized the need for cooperation among the four countries through whose waters these turtles migrated and where they could be exposed to diverse fisheries.

13. Ms. Manjula Tiwari, from the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research at the University of Florida, presented the results of experiments conducted by Alan Bolten and his colleagues at the Center and at the University of the Azores. The objective of the project was to evaluate the effects of hook type on marine turtle bycatch in the swordfish longline fishery in the Azores. The important conclusions of this study were: (1) hook modification can significantly decrease detrimental effects on turtles caught in the longlines – in particular, circle hooks significantly decreased the rate of throat hooking in loggerhead turtles; (2) gear modification had excellent potential to reduce marine turtle bycatch; (3) marine turtle bycatch could be reduced by retrieving lines earlier in the day; and (4) the results of this study could be exported to other regions and ocean basins.

14. Ms. Angela Formia, from Cardiff University, presented the results of her work on the genetics analyses of green turtle samples collected along the Atlantic Coast of Africa. Sequencing of the mitochondrial DNA had yielded 25 different haplotypes, 16 of them previously undescribed, thereby suggesting a high level of uniqueness and diversity. A deep divergence between the Atlantic and Indian oceans was confirmed; however her data also suggested limited inter-oceanic movement. Analyses of the Corisco Bay feeding ground (Equatorial Guinea and Gabon), the juvenile population in the Gulf of Guinea, the fishery catch in the Gulf of Guinea (except Corisco and juveniles), the Sao Tome fishery harvest and the West African fishery harvest (Liberia, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin) showed that all of the mixed populations examined contain individuals originating from several different nesting populations. The contribution of the Ascension Island rookery (the second largest nesting population in the Atlantic) was significant. This was surprising given that prior tracking research had shown Ascension nesting females moving west to Brazilian feeding grounds instead of east toward Africa. The next largest contributions to the mixed stocks were from Sao Tome, Bioko (Equatorial Guinea), Principe, and Poilão (Guinea

Bissau). Individual animals from Brazil, Suriname, Venezuela, Comoros, and Mexico also occurred among the turtles captured at sea. Local fishery harvests in the region appeared to be depleting other, often very distant, populations.

15. Analyses of genetic samples from Olive ridleys, Hawksbills, and Leatherbacks had yielded highly unique and divergent haplotypes, indicating that these species also exhibited genetic diversity on a regional basis that should be further studied and protected.

16. Application of these data to the design of conservation and management strategies, as well as international collaboration in protection efforts was encouraged. Also recommended were: (1) more thorough coastal monitoring and genetic sampling of nesting populations throughout the Atlantic, (2) definition of range and distribution of nesting populations through further genetic work and tagging/tracking studies; and (3) assessment of impacts of fishery harvests and other threats on individual populations.

Agenda Item 4. Report on participation in the Memorandum of Understanding

17. Mr. Hykle reported on the status of membership in the Memorandum of Understanding: twelve countries had signed the MoU to date, and Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Morocco, and Senegal were expected to sign in Nairobi. There had been a positive indication from Spain to sign the Memorandum on behalf of the Canary Islands.

18. The discussion that followed touched on two additional points: (1) signatures from countries that were not Range States; and (2) designation of focal points for the MoU. The former concerned an extension of the coverage of the MoU to other interested countries that could provide support and/or that were fishing in African waters. It was agreed that more progress would be made if all the EU countries were to sign the MoU, especially those with fishing agreements. The representative of France indicated that her Government was agreeable to signing the MoU and would be working toward this end.

19. The designation of focal points for the MoU was considered essential, as these individuals would act as links among the countries concerned and the Secretariat. Some Range States had already provided names of focal points who would act as contacts in those countries. Two additional country representatives informed the Secretariat that they had the necessary letters to designate the focal points in their countries. Letters from remaining countries were encouraged.

20. In response to the suggestion that the MoU should be broadened to include nongovernmental organisations with an interest in marine turtle conservation, Mr. Hykle noted that there was a precedent for this in another CMS memorandum of understanding, where NGOs in a position to make a broad commitment to the MoU's implementation had been invited to sign that instrument.

Agenda Item 5. Review and finalisation of the draft Conservation Plan

21. The Conservation Plan for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa that emerged from the initial discussions held in Abidjan (May 1999) was thoroughly reviewed, updated, and revised with detailed annotations to reflect progress in implementation. To facilitate this process, two working groups were established based on linguistic lines (one for francophone countries and the other for anglophone countries), and they met frequently throughout the meeting. As there was insufficient time to translate and incorporate changes from both groups into a single working document, it was agreed that the Secretariat would compile the changes and prepare the final text of the conservation

plan for wider circulation following the meeting. The resulting annotated Conservation Plan appears in Annex 3 to this report.

Agenda Item 6. Format for National Reports

22. The Memorandum of Understanding, in its paragraph 6, calls on Signatory States to provide to the Secretariat an annual report on implementation. The meeting had before it a proposal for the national report format (document CMS/MT-AFR.1/Doc.6) and a working group was established to review and revise the proposed contents.

23. The working group produced a revised document that was circulated and discussed in plenary. The following points were among those raised:

- Concern was expressed that the document demanded too much detail and would be too time-consuming to complete;
- The report covered activities that had not yet been implemented in many countries;
- Technical areas should be simplified and the document should be made available electronically;
- The national report could serve also as baseline information for other conventions, as well as a reference work for countries; and
- Concern was expressed about whom to make responsible for filling out these reports to ensure the quality.

24. Mr. Hykle explained that the national report was an attempt to gather as much information as possible, corresponding to the Conservation Plan. Not all points were meant to apply to every country, and even a partial filling out of the document would facilitate the updating of the Conservation Plan. This document would further allow CMS to communicate with other conventions with an interest in marine turtle conservation activities. It was important that each country designate a qualified person to fill out the report. In due course, an easy to use format of the national report would be provided.

25. It was decided that since the nesting season in the region saddled two calendar years, the period covered by the report would extend from 1 April of one year to 31 March of the following year, and the annual report would be submitted to the Secretariat no later than 1 September of each year.

Agenda Item 7. Framework for future action and collaboration

26. Several presentations were invited to illustrate the broader context within which the African marine turtle conservation initiative was being developed.

27. Dr. Imeh Okopido described “The African Process”, a \$750,000 GEF medium-size, transboundary project to promote the sustainable development of Africa’s marine and coastal resources. The participating countries included Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, and the United Republic of Tanzania. The principal objectives of the African Process were to identify currently and potentially threatened sites and resources, and the leading causes of degradation, as well as the scale of the impacts (national, regional, and global). The goal was to determine effective environmental, institutional, and financial projects to address the problems, and to develop a self-sustaining model that could be replicated in other regions. The process aimed to promote coordination among regional and international partners and local stakeholders on projects that would have primarily national

ownership. Following an assessment by eleven multidisciplinary teams of the causes of degradation of the coastal and marine environment in their countries, project proposals were being developed on five defined themes: coastal erosion, management of key ecosystems and habitats, pollution, sustainable use of living resources, and tourism. Marine turtles and marine turtle bycatch issues would be included in some of these project proposals.

28. In the discussion that followed the presentation, non-participating countries questioned how the African Process would be beneficial to them and beneficial to participating countries if, for example, a neighbouring, non-participating country were polluting the environment. Dr. Okopido responded that the African Process had financial constraints and that the initial projects necessarily had to be limited to a few representative countries in the region.

29. The representative of UNEP/GEF, Ms. Prchalova, presented details of a GEF project to reduce environmental impact from tropical shrimp trawling through introduction of by-catch technologies and change of management practices. Funding for this project was \$4,780,000 over a period of five years. The participating countries were Cameroon, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. The project addressed two main policy issues: food security and the biological impact of trawling on the environment. The overall objective was to reduce the discard of fish, through adoption of environment-friendly technologies. Four important components of the project included: global and regional co-ordination and networking; national level actions to introduce more sustainable practices; regional activities to expand participation and wider adoption of more sustainable practices; and project operations and management.

30. In the ensuing discussion, concerns about the inclusion of only two West African nations and the lack of focus on the complex socio-economic ramifications of gear modification were expressed. Ms Prchalova responded that since this was a global project only regionally representative countries that were eligible for GEF funding had been selected. However, output from implementation of the project would be disseminated to other countries. She also added that a component for economic evaluation was included in the project.

31. Ms. Prchalova also mentioned briefly the Strategic Action Program for the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem which was under development. This project's goal was to build capacity of Guinea Current countries to work together and with other nations, regions, and GEF projects in West Africa in order to address transboundary environmental issues within their existing responsibilities under the Abidjan Convention and its Regional Seas Programme.

32. Ms. Esther van Adrichem, from the WWF WARPO Marine Programme in Senegal, discussed initiatives being taken in the West African eco-region – an upwelling zone rich in resources, comprising Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, and Senegal – which is linked both ecologically and politically (through the CSRP – Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission Agreement). In 2001, a Memorandum of Understanding was concluded between WWF, FIBA, and IUCN that focused on three modules: marine protected areas, endangered species, and fisheries. Projects and initiatives in progress included research in Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde, awareness programmes in local communities in Senegal and Mauritania, and the beginning of inventories and awareness programmes in Gambia and Guinea. The sub-regional action plan included the following key elements: exchange and standardization of methodology, communication and networking, and elaboration and implementation of priorities. Other steps being taken included a sub-regional workshop in June 2002, the elaboration of a regional action plan, and a training workshop in October 2002. Following this presentation, it was suggested that standardisation of methods should include data storage, which needed to be regional and not only sub-regional in scope.

33. Mr. Alexis Billes described the evolution of the Kudu Program from its birth in 1995 with a IUCN-WWF regional meeting on marine turtles in Sodwana, South Africa. There, the need for a West African network along the lines of WIDECAS (Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network) was discussed, leading eventually to the opening of the regional Kudu office placed within and financed by ECOFAC, in October 2001. This office was under the responsibility of a scientific officer, based permanently in Libreville, Gabon and a steering committee.

34. The main functions of the regional office were to undertake a bibliographical inventory on the knowledge of marine turtles in the region; to identify people and organisations in the region concerned with marine turtle conservation; to train scientific and technical personnel and to participate in the establishment of different field projects; to identify the different species present, their distribution range, nesting sites, feeding areas, and threats; to promote communication within the network through a website and direct liaison; to centralise common materials (eg. identification and educational materials); and to organise data collection and to put together a regional database on marine turtles.

35. Comments from the floor on various other projects/initiatives in the region included mention of: an intergovernmental MEA review meeting in Montreal, Canada; the signing by Nigeria of the Global Programme of Action on terrestrial pollution which also had implications for marine turtles; a project between Angola, Namibia, and South Africa – Benguela Current Marine Ecosystem; a project by the Gambian Department of Parks and Wildlife, funded by the World Bank, to integrate marine and coastal biodiversity; two projects in Guinea (yet to be funded) for the conservation of marine turtles and crustaceans; and a project between Benin and the Netherlands for transboundary conservation of marine turtles, which would include training of fishermen and trawler owners with help from Costa Rican biologists.

36. Finally, the meeting also had before it a document (CMS/MT-AFR.1/Inf.8), which gave an overview of several projects, mostly funded by the Global Environment Facility, that had the potential to yield long-term benefits for marine turtle conservation.

Agenda Item 8. Prioritization of key areas of work, and further development of initiatives at the sub-regional level

37. There was insufficient time during the meeting to establish working groups to identify the highest priorities for action at the sub-regional level using the revised Conservation Plan as a guide. However, while revising the Plan, delegations indicated what they envisioned as the most pertinent future activities to be undertaken.

Agenda Item 9. Identification of potential project proposals and further sources of funding for implementation

38. A table listing short- and long-term funding sources for marine turtle conservation, which had been developed during the May 1999 Abidjan meeting was circulated as document CMS/MT.AFR.1/Doc.8. A working group consisting of government representatives, IGOs, and NGOs was formed to review the document, to substantiate it with more ideas about potential funding sources, and to provide concrete examples of success in raising funds for marine turtle conservation.

39. The document was substantially revised. Potential donors were listed for each of the objectives of the Conservation Plan and were divided locally, regionally, and nationally. Only donors that had

contributed to a similar programmes/plans were included. It was recommended that the resource be further elaborated and made available over the web through the CMS website, and include links to the websites of potential sponsors.

40. Mr. Mark Zimsky, representative of UNEP/GEF, gave an overview of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which covered over 150 countries worldwide. It was a mechanism for providing new and additional funds to achieve agreed global environmental benefits in four focal areas of which biological diversity was one, along with international waters, climate change, and protection of the ozone layer. Among the focal areas for funding, the greatest percentage of funds was allotted to biodiversity and international waters. Countries could secure GEF funds through their GEF focal points and the implementing agencies: UNDP, World Bank, and UNEP. Projects were not restricted to single countries, although the greatest number of activities were being carried out at the single country level. Regional, trans-regional, multi-country, and global level activities were also undertaken. He pointed out that the GEF did not fund species-specific projects; rather it took a broader habitat, ecosystem approach. The GEF small-grants programme had been particularly successful.

Agenda Item 10. Organization and provisional schedule of future activities

41. Mr. Hykle introduced document CMS/MT-AFR.1/Doc.7, which listed key activities and events relevant to marine turtle conservation between 2002 and 2004. Delegates were requested to provide information regularly to keep the CMS publication -- *Biogeography and Conservation of Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa* – authored by Jacques Fretey up to date. Countries that were Parties to CMS and that had members on the Scientific Council were recommended to take advantage of the opportunity to convey their ideas and project proposals through these forums. There was a consensus that it might be timely to organise the Second Meeting of MoU Signatory States after the International Congress on Chelonian Conservation to be held in 2003.

42. In response to a query regarding the connection between CMS and the Abidjan Convention for the marine and coastal environment of the West African region, Mr. Hykle responded that although there were at present no programmatic links, it was hoped that these would be developed in future as more resources were allocated to make the Abidjan Convention more operational. Mr. Dixon Waruinge, responsible within UNEP for both the Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions, mentioned the forthcoming Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Abidjan Convention. The main topic of discussion at that meeting would be the future activities of this convention, which had had limited effectiveness to date.

Agenda Item 11. Any other business

43. Mr. Alexis Billes briefly presented a “code of ethics” for the Kudu Programme’s marine turtle database for the Atlantic coast of West Africa.

44. Feedback on national reports was requested from the Secretariat, which assured participants that a synthesis was foreseen of the information contained in the reports that eventually were to be provided.

45. Problems anticipated in implementing the provisions of the Conservation Plan owing to logistical and financial constraints were also expressed; assistance from neighbouring countries was also requested in this regard.

Turtle Excluder Device (TED) demonstration

46. Dr. Jack Frazier, from the Conservation and Research Center of the Smithsonian Institution, gave a demonstration on the workings of a Turtle Excluder Device (TED), known as a “Super-shooter.” He pointed out that arguments in favour of the use of these devices so as to exclude turtles from trawlers also included less drag, less crushing of prawns or fish by the weight of the turtle, and elimination of other unwanted animals such as stingrays.

Discussion of the Nairobi Declaration

47. A preliminary draft of the declaration was distributed, and a working group was established to refine the contents. Further changes were incorporated and certain points emphasised before arriving at a final text, agreed by consensus (Annex 4).

Agenda Item 12. Official opening for signature of the Memorandum of Understanding

48. As a prelude to the formal signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Understanding, the Chairman, Dr. Okopido, read out the Nairobi Declaration that had been agreed by the meeting.

49. The Kenyan Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, H.E. Mr. J.J. Kamotho was then invited to address the meeting. The Minister emphasized Kenya’s commitment to environmental agreements and remarked that the sister *Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia* was crucial to the sustainable management of these endangered animals in that part of the world. He congratulated the CMS Secretariat for its leadership and its impact on the conservation of migratory species. He stressed the importance of working together to seek solutions to address challenges and constraints faced by developing countries, namely inadequate financial resources, lack of harmonized national policies and strategies among States, and inadequate technical skills.

50. The *Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa* was then formally opened for signature, and the representatives of Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Morocco, Sierra Leone, and Senegal signed the instrument on behalf of their Governments. The Kenyan Minister for Environment and Natural Resources availed himself of the opportunity, on the same occasion, to sign the complementary Memorandum of Understanding for the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia on behalf of his Government.

51. Following a presentation of the TED by Mr. David Olendo, of the Kenyan Sea Turtle Conservation Committee, H.E. Dr. Okopido, Minister of State for Environment of Nigeria, in a symbolic gesture to acknowledge the linkages between the two regions that were the object of similar memoranda of understanding, presented the Turtle Excluder Device to H.E. Mr. J.J. Kamotho, the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources of Kenya.

Agenda Item 13. Closure of the meeting

52. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed and participants were invited to an engaging press conference to end the proceedings on a successful note.



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6 - 9 May 2002, Nairobi, Kenya

Provisional Agenda

1. Opening remarks
2. Adoption of the agenda and work programme
3. Reports from the region and introductory statements
4. Report on participation in the Memorandum of Understanding
5. Review and finalization of the draft Conservation Plan
6. Format for national reports
7. Frameworks for future action and collaboration
8. Prioritization of key areas of work and further development of initiatives at the sub-regional level
9. Identification of potential project proposals and further sources of funding for implementation
10. Organization and provisional schedule of future activities
11. Any other business
12. Official opening for signature of the Memorandum of Understanding
13. Closure of the meeting



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6 - 9 May 2002, Nairobi, Kenya

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First Meeting of Signatory States to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa

6 - 9 May 2002, Nairobi, Kenya

African MoU Conservation Plan:

Objective: Improve basic knowledge of species in West Africa threats uses and migration routes.

Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
1.1. Collect and compile basic data on species occurrence and distribution, with which to evaluate conservation status	1.1.1. Review, update and centralise existing bibliographical information, and distribute to all Range States <i>Priority: high</i>	CMS: Publication in 2001 of CMS Technical Series Publication No. 6, "Biogeography and Conservation of Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa" by Jacques Fretey which is a compilation of all bibliographical and field knowledge	CMS: Update of J. Fretey's document in progress 1–2 times per year and made available on the CMS Website
	1.1.2. Initiate, continue and/or complete baseline inventory and mapping of nesting beaches and feeding grounds, as well as migratory routes (as appropriate). Identify those which are critical habitats for marine turtles. <i>Priority: high</i>	<p>CMS: Publication of preliminary nesting beach maps for each country, and maps of the overall distribution of species in the CMS document No. 6 in 2001 (Fretey)</p> <p>CPV: Cartography completed and management of nesting sites of <i>Caretta caretta</i> on Boavista and Sal Islands (University of Las Palmas, Canary islands); very important nesting beaches identified</p> <p>MAR: Preliminary inventory of nesting sites (Archie Carr Centre, Florida)</p> <p>MRT: Preliminary inventory of nesting sites, especially for <i>C. caretta</i></p> <p>SEN: Preliminary inventory of nesting sites in the north (IUCN, Direction des Parcs Nationaux, SOPTOM) and in the Saloum delta</p> <p>GMB: Three coastal protected areas identified as being potentially important for marine turtles. (Four species identified at present: <i>Chelonia mydas</i>, <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>, <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>, <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>). Preliminary national survey completed Sept 1999 to December 2000. Community wildlife area Bolongo Fenyo is another potential site for turtle nesting, currently protected by the community</p>	<p>All: Mapping of nesting beaches and feeding grounds in areas where it has not already been initiated or completed</p> <p>ESP-C: Nesting sites to be confirmed</p> <p>CPV: Inventory of seagrass beds</p> <p>MAR: Inventory of nesting sites in Western Sahara</p> <p>SEN: Basic inventory work needed to assess the status of conservation, especially in all of the Delta of Saloum and at Casamance</p> <p>GMB: Study and mapping of feeding areas</p> <p>GIN: Inventory of nesting sites</p> <p>SLE: 6 month survey proposed for five administrative districts: Kambia, Port Loko, Moyamba, Bonthe and Pujehun; need to map the entire territory</p> <p>LIB: Need to map the sites more precisely</p> <p>CIV: Extended coastal inventory required to gather information</p>

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
		<p>GNB: Important nesting beaches identified in studies from 1992–95 at the Bijagos Archipelago; new IUCN project under preparation</p> <p>GIN : Start of inventory (CNSHB)</p> <p>SLE : Preliminary inventory of nesting sites on Sherbro Island; study begun on 12km south of Freetown (University and Conservation Society of Sierra Leone)</p> <p>LIB: Preliminary of nesting sites (SAMFU)</p> <p>CIV : Preliminary inventory of nesting sites between Abidjan and Liberia</p> <p>GHA : Eastern part of country identified as being most important for nesting. Mapping completed in two Ramsar areas – Keta and Songor</p> <p>BEN : Preliminary inventory of nesting sites (Nature Tropicale – Musée des Sciences Naturelles)</p> <p>NGA : Preliminary inventory of nesting sites (Akassa Community and Cardiff School of Biosciences)</p> <p>CMR : Preliminary inventory of nesting sites in the northwest; currently sites between Kribi and Douala are being inventoried; specific study on <i>L. olivacea</i> in the Campo Ma'an Reserve</p> <p>GNQ : Inventory and mapping of nesting sites (ECOFAC, CUREF, Bioko Biodiversity Protection Programme (“BBPP”)); inventory of sensitive areas (e.g seagrass beds, nesting beaches) requiring protection (CUREF); six new protected areas have been designated relevant to turtle conservation</p> <p>STP : Inventory on Sao Tomé and Principe well under way</p> <p>GAB : Aerial and ground surveys carried out from 1997–2000, with very important nesting of <i>D. coriacea</i> and <i>L. olivacea</i> noted</p> <p>COG : Inventory of nesting sites in Conkouati national park</p> <p>AGO: Preliminary survey in several beaches, from 60 km north of Luanda to 60 km south of Luanda, and on the coast of the Cabinda enclave.</p> <p>NAM : Inventory of reptiles, including marine turtles (no nesting sites discovered)</p> <p>GBR-S : Confirmed that there are no nesting sites</p> <p>GBR-A: Baseline inventory completed, critical habitats identified</p> <p>ZAF: No nesting sites discovered on the Atlantic coast</p>	<p>BEN: Project evaluation, training, securing of future financing for the Biotopic project</p> <p>CMR: Inventory of nesting sites in the north</p> <p>GNQ: Study and mapping of feeding area (Bay of Corisco) considered a priority ; inventory of sites at Annobon</p> <p>STP: Complete inventory in the south of Principe; research into a potential developmental area for <i>D. coriacea</i></p> <p>GAB: Aerial survey of still unexplored areas; inventory of seagrass beds; study and mapping of feeding area in the Bay of Corisco considered a priority</p> <p>COG: Preliminary site inventory between Pointe-Noire and Cabinda</p> <p>AGO: Proposed comprehensive study depends on funding and accessibility of beaches</p>
	<p>1.1.3. Develop a protocol for collection, storage and analysis of pertinent data, harmonized at least on a sub-regional level</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>PRT-A, ESP-C, PRT-M, CPV, GNB, GNQ, STP, AGO: Workshop for Portuguese/Spanish speaking countries held in 2001 at the University of Las Palmas –Canary Islands</p> <p>CMR, GNQ, STP, GAB, COG: Meeting of experts organized by ECOFAC (Libreville, 12/1997) developed a project protocol: development of a project protocol and creation of a computerised database (PROTOMAC).</p> <p>BEN : Organisation in December 2000 of a technical workshop for SEN, SLE, LIB, GHA,TGO, BEN, CMR (with help from Biotopic and IUCN –France)</p>	<p>ALL: Protocol(s) to be agreed upon by technical experts at regional/ sub-regional meetings</p>

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
		<p>ALL: Creation of a position for a regional coordinator/biologist (A. Billes) since 2001 by the French Foreign Ministry (Cooperative) based in Libreville at the ECOFAC coordination office; opening of a provisional regional office to create a regional database based on a drafted "code of ethics". Announcement of this database was made at the 22ND Annual Sea Turtle Symposium in Miami and was mailed to all the projects.</p> <p>GMB: An agreement was signed concerning the protocol for data collection in two protected areas - Nuimi National Park in Gambia and Delta Saloum in Senegal</p> <p>GBR-A: Local protocol in existence</p>	
	<p>1.1.4. Initiate and/or continue systematic data collection and tagging programmes in order to determine occurrence, distribution and conservation status. Where feasible and appropriate, conduct this work through national networks</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>PRT-A: Species occurrence is known; long-term tagging programme by the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries (DOP/Uac) is continuing (tagged ca. 2000 <i>C. caretta</i>)</p> <p>PRT-M: Ongoing tagging programme by the University of Madeira</p> <p>ESP-C: Tagging of accidentally caught turtles</p> <p>CPV: Studies undertaken 1992-93, 1998-2002; further systematic data collection and tagging programme (Monel and PIT) undertaken, especially on female <i>C. caretta</i>; satellite tracking</p> <p>MAR: Little recent information on nesting (of <i>C. mydas</i>); no tagging programme</p> <p>MRT: 1995 study found an important feeding ground of <i>C. mydas</i>, at Banc d'Arguin national park; confirmed nesting of <i>C. caretta</i>; nesting by other species has been reported, but is less well known</p> <p>GMB: Preliminary baseline study has been completed and basic information on species' occurrence is known, but there is no current research or monitoring programme. There is cooperation between the Fisheries Department and the Parks and Wildlife Department for baseline data collection on cetaceans and marine turtles. Plan is to extend cooperation to NGOs</p> <p>GNB: Studies have begun; satellite tracking of females</p> <p>GIN: Establishment of a programme</p> <p>LIB: Preliminary investigation (06/1999) revealed the occurrence of several species; currently there is no tagging programme</p> <p>CIV: Basic information on species occurrence is known; studies could be pursued in the west (by SOS Forêts) despite an insufficient budget</p> <p>GHA: Ghana Wildlife Society project ; regular monitoring of Old Ningo beach (ZMT). In addition, data are being collected at both Ramsar sites by the Wildlife Division in conjunction with the Ghana Wildlife Society. Community data collection task force (consisting of 2 community members from each of 30 communities along the Ramsar sites) has been trained to collect data in Ramsar sites</p>	<p>PRT-A, MRT: Continue or initiate ecological studies of the oceanic population of <i>C. caretta</i>, including migration routes</p> <p>GMB: Initiate ecological studies, systematic data collection and tagging programmes; GEF-Funded coastal and marine project will gather information on turtles nation wide</p> <p>GHA: Committed to the development of a national network for better future functioning</p> <p>CMR, GAB, COG, STP: Intensive tagging with PIT necessary</p> <p>AGO: Proposed study depends on funding and accessibility</p>

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
		<p>BEN : Basic information on species occurrence is known through field surveys; tagging has been carried out in 1999–2000, 2000–2001, and 2001–2002 seasons</p> <p>NGA: No directed research at present</p> <p>CMR: Tagging (monel) of <i>L. olivacea</i>, <i>D. coriacea</i>, <i>C. mydas</i> and <i>E. imbricata</i> at UTO (Campo Ma'an); data collection in the Campo–Ma'an and Douala–Edea protected areas</p> <p>GNQ: Species occurrence is known (south Bioko and mainland ; except on Annobon); studies, monitoring and tagging (Monel) are underway in Bioko (Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program (BBPP)); BBPP and CUREF began, in March 2002, to coordinate national efforts</p> <p>STP: Species occurrence well known; tagging programme in place for many years (ca. 1300 tagged, majority being <i>L. olivacea</i>); Project Tato stopped, but will be pursued by the NGO Marapa</p> <p>GAB: Systematic data collection and tagging programme (monel and PIT) undertaken since 1998, especially on female <i>D. coriacea</i> and <i>L. olivacea</i> in the south (Mayumba, border with Congo)</p> <p>COG: species occurrence known through studies carried out since 1995 (interrupted sometimes due to lack of funds); then restarted with WCS and ASF</p> <p>COD: Information on nesting is not recent</p> <p>AGO: Basic information available from recent efforts of the Ministry of Fisheries and Environment, Agostinho Neto University and UNDP on several beaches, from 60 km north of Luanda, to 60 km south of Luanda, and along the coast of the Cabinda enclave</p>	
		<p>NAM: Species occurrence is known, but no confirmed nesting</p> <p>GBR–A: Systematic data collection on nesting is in progress. There has been tagging by the Marine Turtle Research Group, but it is not continuous</p> <p>GBR–S: No programme yet in place</p>	
	<p>1.1.5. Establish systematic genetic profiles of species frequenting nesting areas and coastal water</p> <p><i>Priority: resources permitting</i></p>	<p>PRT–A, PRT–M: mtDNA studies (University of Madeira, University of Florida – Archie Carr Center, University of the Azores) confirm southeast USA and Mexico origins of <i>C. caretta</i></p> <p>CPV, MAR (including Western Sahara), LIB, CIV, GHA, TGO, BEN, NGA, CMR, GNQ, GAB, STP, NAM, GBR–A: Genetic research has been carried out and is in progress (Cardiff School of Biosciences, University of Las Palmas – Canary Islands, University of Florida – Archie Carr Center, University of Wales Swansea)</p>	<p>ALL: Provide genetic samples to external programmes</p> <p>MRT, GMB, SLE, COG, COD, and AGO: Genetic sampling is needed in feeding and nesting areas in these countries</p>

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
	<p>1.1.6. Where systematic programmes are not already in place, carry out opportunistic tagging and specimen collection for genetic analyses</p> <p><i>Priority: medium</i></p>	<p>COG: Regular tagging of <i>D. coriacea</i> and <i>L. olivacea</i></p> <p>NAM: 25 turtles tagged over 12 years, no returns</p>	
	<p>1.1.7. Undertake migration studies using satellite transmitters</p> <p><i>Priority: resources permitting</i></p>	<p>PRT-A, PRT-M, ESP-C, CPV: Recent and ongoing satellite tracking studies of <i>C. caretta</i> immatures and adult females (University of Las Palmas, University of Florida –Archie Carr Center, University of Azores, University of Madeira)</p> <p>GNB, GBR-A (Marine Turtle Research Group): Satellite tracking of female <i>C. mydas</i> from nesting sites</p> <p>GAB: Monitoring of <i>D. coriacea</i> during the 2002–2003 season from the south of Mayumba</p>	<p>ALL: Consider a common monitoring strategy for potential “migration corridors”</p>
	<p>1.1.8. Set up reference collections in museums for use in basic life-history research and education</p> <p><i>Priority: resources permitting</i></p>	<p>SEN: Old collection (but still valuable) of IFAN at Dakar and on the island of Gorée</p> <p>TGO: Start of a collection of carapaces collected in the villages at the Faculty of Sciences; need and possibility of creating a small museum on the campus of the University of Lomé</p> <p>BEN: Establishment of a small natural history museum by the NGO Nature Tropicale at Cotonou containing dozens of carapaces mostly of <i>L. olivacea</i></p> <p>CMR: Establishment of a collection by the Project UTO Campo–Ma’an and of a small marine turtle museum in the village of Ebodje (“Maison de Ndiva”)</p>	<p>ALL: Support the creation of proper natural history museum</p>
<p>1.2 Gather data on threats</p>	<p>1.2.1 Assess the nature and extent of direct exploitation and its impacts (especially on nesting beaches and feeding areas)</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>CPV, MRT, SEN, GMB, SLE, GHA, TGO, BEN, CMR, GNQ, NAM, STP: Basic information on utilisation and impacts/threats (if any) is known</p> <p>GAB: Study has been started at Cape Estarias and Libreville by the NGO ASF</p> <p>AGO: Basic information collected through interviews of resident fishermen communities, in several regions in Cabinda and around Luanda</p> <p>GBR-A: Assessment has been done and a management plan has been prepared</p>	<p>AGO: Further interviews with resident fishermen planned in more regions</p> <p>GMB: More data needed on extent of threats caused by direct exploitation</p> <p>SLE: More data needed on extent of threats caused by direct exploitation</p>

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
	<p>1.2.2. Assess the nature and extent of the impact of fishing activities, pollution, coastal development, climate change, and other threats caused by activities other than direct exploitation and utilisation</p> <p><i>Priority: High</i></p>	<p>PRT-A: Bycatch in floating long-line fisheries (swordfish) has been assessed. Experiments to reduce turtle bycatch by gear modification in the swordfish long-line fishery is on going.</p> <p>PRT-M: Assessment of bycatch and mortality in the black scabbard deep-sea fishery</p> <p>GMB: Preliminary studies have been conducted and some data has been collected</p> <p>GHA: Preliminary assessment of indirect threats for a small stretch of the coast (Ningo and Songor), including collection of data on strandings</p> <p>CMR: Small study on beach pollution by Okoume logs, plastics, and tar within UTO Campo-Ma'an</p> <p>GNQ: Some threat assessment carried out for continental part of the country; less known about Bioko</p> <p>GBR-A: Some threats addressed under the management plan</p>	<p>SEN, GMB, GHA, GNQ, SLE, AGO, : More data are needed</p> <p>ALL: Additional information is needed on range of each population, and whether there are threats to other stages of the lifecycle</p>
<p>1.3 Gather data on social aspects of human-turtle interactions, including traditional beliefs relating to harvesting, utilisation, and habitat modification</p>	<p>1.3.1. Gather ethno-zoological information from fishermen and local communities</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>GMB: Some preliminary work has been undertaken with fishermen and communities who are managing and protecting sites in Bolong Fenyo. This work will be extended to other communities</p> <p>SLE, GHA, GNQ: Preliminary interviews have begun with fishermen and some communities</p> <p>TGO, BEN: Interviews with fishermen and voodoo priests</p> <p>CMR : Interviews with fishermen within the framework of UTO Campo-Ma'an</p> <p>GAB : Interviews with the Benga population (Cap Esterias)</p> <p>AGO: Interviews with fishermen in some regions</p>	<p>ALL: Study and put into practice potential conservation measures for turtles making use of taboos and traditional beliefs; identify and promote medical substitutes in local pharmacies; solicit professional assistance from social scientists and other professionals, and integrate their disciplines in the work under this Conservation Plan</p> <p>GNQ : Interview the Benga population (Corisco)</p>
<p>1.4. Enhance participation of relevant institutions in research activities, and pool resources needed for data collection</p>	<p>1.4.1. Identify relevant government departments, universities and research institutions and encourage them to become involved in turtle research, if it is not already the case, and co-operate with NGOs and community-based organizations</p> <p><i>Priority: medium</i></p>	<p>CPV: University of Las Palmas is very active</p> <p>SEN: NGOs SOPTOM and FRD are active</p> <p>GMB: Department of Fisheries is collaborating with Parks and Nature Reserves on baseline data collection. Also encouraging communities, and other institutions to work on this</p> <p>GNB: A project is underway in the Bijagos Archipelago with IUCN and a local NGO</p> <p>GIN: Start-up of a programme with support from the regional office</p> <p>SLE: Conservation Society of Sierra Leone has started a project with the Njala Univ. college. Wildlife Conservation Branch, Environmental Div. and Marine Resources Division are beginning to co-operate in information gathering</p> <p>LIB: SAMFU was active, but the situation is uncertain at present</p> <p>CIV: Field work with two students from the University</p> <p>GHA: National NGOs, local universities, and government departments and foreign students are active in marine turtle research</p>	<p>GMB: Hoping to encourage the University of the Gambia, and NGOs and other community-based organisations to join in research activities</p> <p>GAB: Identify students at the University of Franceville who could undertake field studies in the framework of a diploma</p>

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
		<p>TGO: National University of Lomé is active; creation of the NGO Agbo-Zegue Nature Tropicale, Musée des Sciences Naturelles is active</p> <p>BEN : Akassa Community Development Project is active</p> <p>NGA: MINEF, MINREST, Tropenbos are active in the south in the UTO Campo-Ma'an; involvement of the University of Yaounde I and the Limbé Station for fisheries and oceanographic research; involvement of a student from the University of Buea in the anglophone zone is foreseen, creation of a research and conser-vation centre, MINREST-IUCN at Ebodje; establishment of a NGO Kulu-Man</p> <p>GNQ: ECOFAC, CUREF/INAP (Instituto Nacional de Areas Protegidas) are designing future plans for research activities on the mainland; a joint GNQ/American project on Bioko (Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program) is now operational</p> <p>STP: ECOFAC was active for 5 years; a new programme is beginning with the NGO Marapa, with support from the regional office</p> <p>GAB: ECOFAC, Aventures sans Frontières, and a new NGO called Nyamu are active</p> <p>COG: IRD (ex-ORSTOM) and IUCN initiated a project in 1995; a new one is in progress in the National Park of Conkouati with WCS-and ASF; field work by a Congolese NGO, ACEN</p> <p>AGO: Participation of Ministry of Fisheries and Environment, Augustinho Neto University, National Museum of Natural History and national NGOs</p> <p>GBR-A: Project is underway</p>	
	<p>1.4.2. Acquire materials and basic equipment needed for data collection (where feasible, make joint purchases of equipment and supplies in order to benefit from economies of scale)</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>PRT-A: Basic equipment for data collection has been acquired (including GIS)</p> <p>GHA: Have acquired some materials through the Coastal Wetlands Management Project under GEF</p> <p>GMB: Purchase of equipment is possible through the proposed GEF-ICAM project.</p> <p>CIV, BEN, CMR, STP, GAB: Plans to distribute distribution of monel tags (ECOFAC, Natural History Museum of Paris) by the regional office within the framework of GEF-ICAM</p> <p>GNQ: Basic field equipment has been acquired</p>	<p>SLE: Rebuild field capacity for data collection</p> <p>BEN: Obtain GIS technology and use it for integrating turtle data</p> <p>AGO: Funding dependent</p> <p>ALL: Another possibility is for the regional office to distribute monel tags (ECOFAC, Natural History Museum of Paris) of different sizes; in general develop a regional capacity for making basic field equipment available</p>

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
1.5. Establish longer-term data gathering programmes (monitoring)	1.5.1. Set up unobtrusive field camps close to nesting beaches, for longer-term observation, monitoring and conservation <i>Priority: resources permitting</i>	<p>CPV, CIV, GAB, COG: Seasonal encampments on principal nesting beaches</p> <p>GMB: Community involvement programme (in one local area) is designed as a long-term programme</p> <p>SLE: Long-term monitoring programme in place for many existing nesting sites</p> <p>GHA: Community-based task force for long-term monitoring is in place for the two Ramsar sites</p> <p>CMR: Construction of a field station (base camp for monitoring several nesting beaches) at Ebodje, in the south of Cameroon</p> <p>GBR-A: Field camps have been set-up near nesting beaches</p>	<p>STP: Plan to construction of a field station</p> <p>GMB: Extend community involvement programme</p> <p>GAB: Plan for base camp at Mayumba</p> <p>AGO: In planning stages, funding dependent</p>
	1.5.2. Other long-term data-gathering activities (foraging areas, habitat management, fishing effort, threats, social factors, etc.)		

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Objective 2: Reduce direct and indirect causes of marine turtle mortality

Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
2.1. Monitor and protect nesting sites and feeding areas, as well as migratory routes, identified as having priority status	2.1.1. Give protection status to sites identified as being critical for marine turtle nesting, feeding and migration <i>Priority: high</i>	<p>CPV: Creation of coastal protected areas with scientific help from the University of Las Palmas</p> <p>MRT: Banc d'Arguin National Park, Diawling National Park, Baie de Lévrier, Cap Blanc</p> <p>SEN : Langue de Barbarie, Iles de la Madeleine National Park, Delta du Saloum National Park, Popenguine reserve</p> <p>GMB: Bijol Islands, Community Wildlife Area of Bolong Fenyo, Nuimi National Park (transboundary protected area with Senegal), Tanbi Wetland Complex all legally protected; Bolong Fenyo protected by the local community (its formal designation and protection to be supported by World Bank)</p> <p>GNB: Ilhas de Orango National Park, Joao Vieira-Poilao marine reserve, Boloma Bijagos Biosphere Reserve</p> <p>GIN: Iles Tristao, Iles de Loos, Pointe de Gonzalez, Baie de Sangareya</p> <p>SLE: Marine sites have been proposed for protection (listed under the Ramsar Convention), the Sierra Leone river system – Bunce River; Yawari Bay – Shenge Kagboro Creek Area. Other proposed protected marine areas on the coast: Lakes Mape and Mabesi; Sherbro River System; Turtle Islands</p> <p>CIV: Iles Ehotilés National Park, Azagny National Park, touristic zone of Assinie</p> <p>GHA: Ramsar sites of Ada-Songor Lagoon complex, Densu Delta, Sakumo Lagoon, Muni-Pomadze, Anlonga-Keta Lagoon Complex; Ningo (community-protected area)</p> <p>TGO: No protected areas as yet along the coast</p> <p>BEN: Only partial protection of coastline</p> <p>CMR: Douala Edea faunal reserve, UTO Campo-Ma'an Reserve</p> <p>GNQ: Relevant government agency (INAP) has designated certain protected areas on the mainland and Bioko</p> <p>GAB: Gamba protected areas complex; Wonga-Wongue Presidential Reserve; Ramsar sites of Petit Loango and Setté Cama</p> <p>STP: No protected coastal areas has been established despite ECOFAC proposals</p> <p>COG: Conkouati National Park</p> <p>AGO : Kissama National Park, Iona National Park</p> <p>NAM : 90% of coastline protected, little indigenous use</p> <p>GBR-A: Draft legislation for national parks is being prepared</p>	<p>CPV: Protected area projects (Cabo Verde Natura 2000)</p> <p>CMR: Creation of a marine reserve at Ebodje/Mbode</p> <p>GAB/COG: Creation of a transboundary marine park</p> <p>GAB/GNQ: Creation of a transboundary marine park</p> <p>STP: Protected area projects (ECOFAC)</p> <p>COG: Creation of two sanctuaries being considered</p> <p>AGO: More coastal protected areas being planned; there is a need for enforcement within existing protected areas</p> <p>NAM: Establish marine protected areas (including, as appropriate, transboundary reserves) that serve also to protect marine turtles</p>

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
	<p>2.1.2. Set-up and/or facilitate monitoring (information gathering) programmes in collaboration with local communities, NGOs, fishermen, trawl operators, coastal developers, and others. Ensure adequate feedback of information collected to all concerned</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>SLE: Using officials of the IBA programme and local people for monitoring of important areas (programme ends at the end of 2002) GHA: Community-based task force created between fishermen/chief fishermen; Site Management Committee (SMC)</p> <p>BEN: Working at Grand-Popo with young college students</p> <p>CMR: Partnership with a pilot village (Ebodje); Tropenbos works with former poachers on the beaches of Campo Ma'an; positive contacts with a commercial fishing association</p> <p>GNQ: Spanish NGO (Amigos de Doñana) and ECOFAC have conducted a project in the south of Bioko since 1996 with local populations; new programme (Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program) involving villagers for monitoring sites and tagging turtles</p> <p>STP: Project Tâtô well established under PROTOMAC, now to be carefully reviewed for better awareness-raising of fishermen</p> <p>COG: Project Konkouati with village communities has been long-established</p> <p>AGO: Monitoring/conservation project in preparation; preliminary work initiated</p> <p>GBR-A: Continuous monitoring programme by local residents</p>	<p>SEN: Use NGOs, such as Amis de la Nature, to strengthen monitoring capacity</p> <p>GMB: Hope to encourage communities, NGOs and government departments (collaborators) to strengthen monitoring capacity through community-based monitoring programmes</p>
	<p>2.1.3. Put in place and train sufficient numbers of "eco-guards" to monitor nesting beaches and harvests</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>GMB: The GEPADG have one turtle warden at Bolong Fenyo</p> <p>GHA: community based turtle conservation guards are trained to collect data within the two Ramsar sites and Ningo</p> <p>BEN: Committees have been established along the coast; eco-guards have been trained by the NGO Nature Tropicale</p> <p>CMR: Team comprising around 10 fishermen (some of whom were formerly poachers) was established between Kribi and Campo (currently disbanded because of a transition between GEF 1 and Phase 2 of the project in UTO Campo-Ma'an)</p> <p>STP: Beach guards trained by ECOFAC were in place on many beaches in Sao Tomé and Principe</p> <p>COG : "Eco-guards" trained by IUCN are in place on the beaches of Konkouati</p> <p>AGO: (2001/2002 season) Several initiatives by resident fisherman protected small stretches of beach</p> <p>GBR-A: Turtle wardens trained and in place</p>	<p>GMB: Proposed GEF project includes placing guards in 11 sites</p> <p>SLE: Provide training for Game wardens and site support groups</p> <p>GNQ: Monitoring of intentional captures on Corisco Island</p> <p>AGO: Patrolling key nesting beaches throughout nesting season (Sept – Feb) is proposed – based on participation of resident communities; training is required</p>

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
2.2. Take measures to remove immediately threats to nests	2.2.1. Develop contingency plans to move, where necessary, nests that are doomed (due to flooding, depredation, poaching, etc.) to nearby enclosures or hatcheries; establish new protected enclosures where necessary <i>Priority: high</i>	TGO: Incubation of eggs from many nests in artificial incubators BEN: Protection of eggs in provisional enclosures GHA: Enclosures to hold pigs; by-laws passed to restrict access of domestic animals on beaches, enforced by fining owners. NGA: Protection of eggs in enclosures CMR: Protection of eggs in enclosures (Ebodje, Epenengue) GNQ: Rio Campo hatchery for leatherback nests built in 2000 STP: Protection of eggs in many enclosures GAB: Protection of eggs in enclosures south of Mayumba GBR-A: Cat eradication programmes AGO: Hatcheries are not a viable option for social reasons	GMB: Initiate an evaluation programme regarding the need for hatcheries GHA, STP: Work in collaboration with veterinarians and the community to kill unvaccinated and unauthorized dogs when found on nesting beaches TGO: Create at least one proper hatchery near a nesting site BEN: Set up hatcheries for transplantation in four coastal areas: Seme, Cotonou, Ouidah and Grand Popo GAB: Create hatcheries in the Complex of protected areas in the Gamba COG: Create a hatchery for transplanted nests
	2.2.2. Control natural sources of predation, where this poses a serious threat to nests <i>Priority: high</i>		GAB: Studies to be conducted at Setté Cama and south of Mayumba on natural predation
	2.2.3. Evaluate the success of existing hatcheries and enclosures and assess future needs <i>Priority: medium</i>	STP: Incubation success in hatcheries is monitored (on average: 72.8% for <i>L. olivacea</i> ; 65.9% for <i>E. imbricata</i> ; 69.6% for <i>C. mydas</i> ; 72.2% for <i>D. coriacea</i>)	ALL: Ensure training of all involved, work according to a strict protocol, provide sites with necessary equipment; analyses of incubation results are imperative GNQ: Evaluation of effectiveness of Rio Campo hatchery needed
2.3. Reduce and minimize the effects of fisheries by-catch in coastal waters	2.3.1. Put observers on industrial fishing vessels (or collaborate with existing programmes) to gather information on marine turtle by-catch levels <i>Priority: very high</i>	PRT-A: Observers on tuna fishing boats (under the Programa de Obsevação para Pescas dos Azores (POPA Programme) through the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries and the University of the Azores to monitor turtle captures GHA: Awareness programmes on the seriousness of the problem GAB: Observer programme aboard trawling vessels NAM: Large-scale pelagic fishing, but marine turtle by-catch is said to be virtually non-existent CMR: Requirement for observers aboard trawling vessels (according to the existing draft of the ministerial decree)	ALL: Need for observers aboard trawling vessels, common information forms; photographs and genetic samples are wished for GMB: Train existing fisheries/community observers to gather information on marine turtles SLE: Need basic information on turtle-fisheries interactions AGO: In the planning process

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	<p>2.3.2. Establish, and ensure compliance with, a protocol for shipowners (eg. use of TEDs, no consumption of turtles on board, no offloading of turtles in ports, maintenance of verbal warnings resulting from captures, tag numbers etc.)</p> <p><i>Priority: very high</i></p>	<p>GIN: Observers on trawling vessels and availability of forms specific to marine turtles</p> <p>NGA: Shrimp trawlers have been fitted with TEDs for commercial exportation of shrimps to the USA</p> <p>CMR: Instructions have been given by some fishing societies to ship captains to not allow consumption of turtles on board nor offload turtles at ports</p>	<p>ALL: Protocol to be developed for ship owners</p> <p>AGO: In the planning process</p>
	<p>2.3.3. Explore, in collaboration with the fishing industry, the development of mitigation measures to reduce by-catch</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>PRT-A: Experiments in progress to reduce accidental captures of turtles through gear modification in the swordfish longline fisheries, financed by the American National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and undertaken by the Archie Carr Center and the University of the Azores</p>	<p>AGO: In the planning process</p> <p>GMB: Initiate protocol for ship owners</p>
	<p>2.3.4. Develop, in collaboration with trawl fishermen a protocol for the treatment and release to sea of captured turtles</p> <p><i>Priority: very high</i></p>		<p>ALL: Protocol to be developed</p>
	<p>2.3.5. Develop respect for fishing zones</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>		<p>ALL: Need for marine patrols to ensure respect for fishing zones and prohibit capture of protected species, especially by the three thousand sailors on trawling vessels</p>
<p>2.4.Reduce pollution harmful to turtles through enforcement of pollution-related legislation and other means</p>	<p>2.4.1. Target industries and economic activities with significant impacts on the marine environment for awareness activities</p> <p><i>Priority: medium</i></p>	<p>AGO: Oil industry was approached</p>	<p>AGO: More complementary activities required</p> <p>NGA, CMR, GNQ: Assess impact of offshore oil exploration and gas flares on nesting</p>

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
	<p>2.4.2. Encourage conservation clubs and others to carry out periodic beach clean-ups, especially on priority sites</p> <p><i>Priority: medium</i></p>	<p>SLE: Youth clubs clean beaches end of every month, supervised by tourism officials</p> <p>GHA: Periodic cleanups in communities carried out in collaboration with clubs and schools</p> <p>BEN, CMR, STP: Cleanup activities by young people from nature clubs, colleges, and high schools</p> <p>AGO: "Clean up Angola" carried out by the Ministry of Fisheries and Environment and national NGOs</p> <p>GBR-A: Periodic cleanup are carried out</p>	<p>ALL: Create a regional network of nature clubs</p> <p>GMB: Encourage youth and environmental groups to carry out beach cleaning</p> <p>AGO: Other activities are in the planning process</p>
<p>2.5.Strengthen legislation and improve its application</p>	<p>2.5.1. Review and revise, as necessary, existing legislation or enact new legislation to ensure protection of marine turtles and their habitats, and oversee its enforcement</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>PRT-A: Rigorous protection of species by decrees of 1989 and 1997 (Annexes II and IV)</p> <p>PRT-M: Total protection of species by decree of 1985</p> <p>ESP-C: All the species are protected by Spanish law</p> <p>CPV: New text for the protection of all the species is in preparation</p> <p>MAR: No specific protection</p> <p>MRT: Capture, detention, sale, exportation of wild animals prohibited (law of 1997)</p> <p>SEN: All the species are protected by decree 'Chasse et Protection de la Nature' of 1986 and by the maritime code of fisheries of 1976</p> <p>GMB: Protection of all the species by the Wildlife Act of 1977</p> <p>GNB: Protection of all the species by the Maritime fisheries Act of 1994</p> <p>GIN: Protection by ordinance of 1990, forestry code, and code of protection of the Wildlife Act of 1997</p> <p>SLE: Wildlife Act (The Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997) is undergoing review and amendment to include the protection of turtles and to enforce CITES (entered into force in 1995) trade ban on turtles</p> <p>LIB: Only <i>C. mydas</i> is completely protected by the Forestry Act of 1976</p> <p>CIV: Protection of chelonians in all laws pertaining to wildlife protection and hunting in 1994</p> <p>GHA : Complete protection of three species (<i>E. imbricata</i>, <i>C. mydas</i>, and <i>D. coriacea</i>) by the Wildlife law of 1971; legal instrument prepared for Wildlife Dept and Ramsar sites (for example, jail sentences imposed for hunting, capturing, possessing, and selling turtle meat)</p> <p>TGO: Ordinance of 1968 pertaining to the protection and hunting of wildlife and decrees of 1979 and 1980 (unclear on the protection of marine turtles)</p> <p>BEN: Protection of "large turtles at sea" by the protection law of 1987; chelonians are considered "small game" in Annexe III</p> <p>NGA: The decree of 1985 seems to consider all threatened species, but only <i>C. mydas</i> is officially protected</p> <p>CMR: The decree No. 0565 (by-law for the management of the environment of 1996) cites "the large marine turtle, Cheloniidae spp." as protected</p> <p>GNQ : General law (1988) exists for conservation of flora and fauna, but not specific to marine turtles</p>	

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
		<p>STP: New legislation for the protection of marine turtles is in process</p> <p>GAB: <i>D. coriacea</i> is partially protected by the decree of 1987; new legislation is in preparation</p> <p>COG: Law of 1991 on the protection of the environment; legislation for marine turtles is in preparation</p> <p>COD: Protection of four species (<i>E. imbricata</i>, <i>C. caretta</i>, <i>C. mydas</i>, <i>D. coriacea</i>) by the hunting decree of 1982</p> <p>AGO: All the species are protected according to the amendment of 1972; environmental legislation is in revision and preparation</p> <p>NAM: All the species are protected in their habitats and by the fisheries law of 1993</p> <p>ZAF: All the species are protected by the ordinance of 1974</p> <p>GBR-S: No legislation for marine turtles</p> <p>GBR-A: Legislation is in preparation</p>	
	<p>2.5.2. Encourage the adoption of by-laws at local levels against utilization of turtles and make them part of customary laws</p> <p><i>Priority: medium</i></p>	<p>GHA: Bylaws for Ramsar sites under preparation</p> <p>GBR-A: Local regulation for the protection of species is in place</p>	AGO: Under consideration
	<p>2.5.3. Use of local taboos to improve protection of marine turtles in coastal villages</p> <p><i>Priority: medium</i></p>	<p>GMB: Turtle meat is a taboo in certain communities</p> <p>CIV: Marine turtles are considered taboo by the Neo</p> <p>GHA, TGO, BEN: In certain ethnic groups consumption of marine turtles is prohibited</p>	
	<p>2.5.4. Put in place in each Range State an administrative structure which has, as part of its responsibility, the conservation of marine turtles</p> <p><i>Priority: medium</i></p>	<p>GMB: Collaboration between Dept of Parks and Wildlife and Department of Fisheries</p> <p>SLE: Ramsar sites under active protection by Wildlife officers and IBA personnel</p> <p>GHA: All Site Wardens in Ramsar sites are responsible for conservation of sensitive species</p> <p>BEN: Creation of a coastal protection service of which marine turtles are a priority</p> <p>GBR-A: Designation of an Officer responsible for conservation</p>	<p>GIN: Create a coastal authority with clear management guidelines</p> <p>SLE: Plan to establish wildlife crew to specifically undertake marine turtle conservation activities</p> <p>CMR, GAB: Creation of a coastal protection service following the model of BEN</p> <p>AGO: Nature conservation authority is in preparation</p>
	<p>2.5.5. Improve general knowledge of legislation</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>SLE: Radio programmes directed at village chiefs to implement bylaws to protect turtles and protected areas</p>	ALL: Need to make increase public awareness of legislations and promote their implementation

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Objective 3: Integrate local communities and others in a socio-economic context

Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
3.1. Build partnerships with local communities through a participatory approach to conservation	3.1.1. Involve local communities in marine turtle conservation programs <i>Priority: very high</i>	CIV, CMR, GNQ, STP, GAB, COG: Hire local villagers (oftentimes former poachers) for nesting beach surveys NGA: Conservation project for marine turtles by the Community of Akassa	ALL: Maximum integration of local villagers in projects
	3.1.2. Encourage the creation of local committees to promote local interest in conserving marine turtles <i>Priority: high</i>	GMB: Community-based organization in place in Bolong Fenyó; fisheries staff supporting development of local awareness SLE: Meetings, discussions and consultations with resident communities on conservation issues GHA: Turtle Task Force, fishermen/ chief fishermen, SMC NGA: Akassa Community CMR: Creation of an ecotourism committee at Ebodje COG: Fishermen's associations establishing harvest quotas for eggs collected in Conkouati Park AGO: 2000/2001 season – meetings and discussions with all of the fishermen associations in Cabinda GBR-A: Ascension Island Group	GMB: Encourage fisheries committees to be involved in marine turtle conservation SLE: Plan to establish community-based programmes on marine resource conservation LIB: Develop a community-based conservation plan STP: Work necessary with fishermen AGO: Further activities planned for next season
	3.1.3. Develop appropriate (non-monetary) reward or acknowledgement systems for assisting in turtle conservation (e.g. badges, trophies, T-shirts, letters of commendation, etc.) <i>Priority: medium</i>	AGO: Fishermen protecting turtles are interviewed in all of the media channels and noted in association meetings STP: Done on the initiative of the regional office, with the aid of the Alliance française CMR: Reactivation of existing clubs at Kribi and Campo; provide T-shirts to women of local villages by SNV	GMB, SLE, GHA: clubs to be considered in schools and coastal communities

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
	<p>3.1.4. Establish conservation clubs in schools along the coast in order to instil in young people a well-grounded conservation ethic</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>SLE: Conservation clubs already established in schools, but remain to be extended to coastal areas</p> <p>BEN: Globe clubs already established in some schools</p> <p>CMR: Reactivation of existing nature clubs in Kribi and Campo</p> <p>STP: Creation of a nature club with students from colleges and Alliance Française</p> <p>AGO: Environmental education implemented in schools by the Ministry of Fisheries and the Environment and national NGOs</p> <p>GHA: Clubs established in schools and communities</p>	<p>ALL: Creation of a regional network of nature clubs</p> <p>GMB, SLE, GHA: Potential clubs in schools and coastal communities</p> <p>GBR-A: Working on school environment policy with Two Boats School, and working with assisting clubs on a regular basis on conservation issues</p>
	<p>3.1.5. Recruit and train local and foreign students as voluntary workers and guides, to assist with scientific work</p> <p><i>Priority: medium</i></p>	<p>Region-wide: Genetic research undertaken by Italian Cardiff University student; English student studying accidental captures by trawlers; 3 French veterinary students (fibropapillomatosis etc.); French student examining hatching success at south Mayumba</p> <p>CIV: Participation of two students in the project</p> <p>SLE: Involvement of a university of the project of the Conservation Society</p> <p>GHA: Students assist government departments and NGOs</p> <p>TGO: Involvement in the project by Togolese student who founded Agbo-Zegue Association</p> <p>CMR: One student working on doctoral thesis on marine turtles at the University of Yaoundé</p> <p>GNQ: Project uses local university faculty and students and foreign eco-volunteers</p> <p>CPV: Involvement of Spanish students in the project</p> <p>GBR-A: Local recruitment in operation under Ascension Island Turtle Group</p> <p>GAB: Two foreign students</p> <p>GMB: Collaborating with German and UK Universities for student research</p> <p>LIB: Research undertaken by an American student; seeking more volunteers for technical assistance</p>	<p>AGO: Preference to national students (not on voluntary basis). Training is required.</p> <p>CIV, COG, GAB, CMR, STP, GNQ: Local projects plan to use students and foreign eco-volunteers</p> <p>GMB: Encourage further collaboration with foreign students</p> <p>SLE: Enlarge the current wildlife manpower and build the institutional capacity</p>
	<p>3.1.6. Ensure that information gathered about turtles and the results of conservation efforts are transmitted back to fishermen and the local community</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>AGO: Implemented.</p> <p>CMR: Discussion of the pilot project with the residents of the village of Ebodje</p> <p>GHA: Site management committee meets 2 times per year to present progress reports to the local communities and other stakeholders, and to discuss future work plans</p> <p>PRT-A: Information circulated by projects LIFE/MARÉ (Integrated Management of Coastal and Marine Areas in Azores) to fishermen, whale watching companies, schools, and included in training of tourist guides</p>	<p>AGO: More follow-up is planned</p> <p>GMB: Planned for the future</p>

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
3.2. Develop international cooperation	3.2.1. Encourage cooperation among States <i>Priority: high</i>	BEN: Cooperative agreements between Benin, Costa Rica, and the Netherlands are being finalized by a partnership among the Benin NGO Nature Tropicale, ANAI and BIOTOPIC	
	3.2.2. Encourage the establishment of "sister city" associations between coastal African towns and European cities. <i>Priority: high</i>	CMR: Initiated by the marine turtle project of UTO Campo-Ma'an, a sister city pilot project between the town of Ebodje (southern Cameroon) and the French community of Courteranges should result in social and cultural development in the Cameroon town.	
	3.2.3. Encourage the participation of non-African students in collaborative research projects with African Universities and other research organizations. <i>Priority: medium</i>	CPV: Genetic research conducted by a student from the University of Cardiff; an English student focusing on accidental capture by trawlers; 3 French veterinary students (fibropapillomatosis, feedings...); French student working on the hatching success in south Mayumba, etc. GMB: Participation of many Spanish students in the project LIB: Collaboration between German and British universities to facilitate student research projects GHA: Ongoing research by an American student CMR: Participation by a German student in the project GNQ: Regular participation of French students in the marine turtle project of Campo-Ma'an GAB: Previous calls for international participation has resulted in collaboration with Spanish students (thesis work ongoing) and currently American students on nesting areas in the south of Bioko Participation of two foreign students in field work	GMB: Encourage greater collaborative projects with foreign students CIV, COG, GAB, CMR, STP, GNQ: Local projects should plan on involving foreign students and foreign ecovolunteers.
	3.2.4. Ensure that data and results from monitoring and conservation activities are made available to fishermen and local communities <i>Priority: high</i>	PRT-A: Information disseminated from LIFE/MARE project (Integrated management of marine and coastal zones in the Azores) to fishing communities, to whale-watching organizations, and to schools. This information is also included in the training of tourist guides. CMR: Discussion of a pilot project with the leadership of the village of Ebodje GHA: The Site Management Committee meets twice a year to present activity reports to local communities and other interested parties, and to discuss future work plans. AGO: Work under way	GMB: Develop plans for the future AGO: A greater survey is planned for the future

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
3.3 Promote alternatives to utilization of turtles, especially within fishing communities	3.3.1. Assist communities to identify other cost-effective alternatives to turtle exploitation. Identify collaborations across disciplines and institutions to assist in this kind of activity <i>Priority: high</i>	<p>CPV : Ecotourism project with village inhabitants</p> <p>GMB : The "African process" has identified 3 important zones for turtles where it would be possible to develop ecotourism projects</p> <p>GHA: Community investment support fund provides soft loans to fishermen and fishmongers to expand their work, to encourage them to release turtles</p> <p>CMR: Information on the marine turtle project in the hotels of Kribi; eco-tourism potential under consideration involving inhabitants of the village of Ebodje; project to establish small-scale chicken farming in a small Pygmy village.</p> <p>STP: Research into alternative solutions for utilization of meat and shell (aquaculture, breeding); assistance for the retraining of shell artisans; ECOFAC ecotourism project; idea of creating a "House of turtles" (suspended) in order to sensitise local resident populations</p> <p>AGO: In consultation with fishermen associations, it was proposed to distribute chickens and relevant information as an alternative to turtle eggs and meat. nets would be provided to fishermen who release turtles they have caught</p>	<p>GMB : Future plan to encourage tourists to respect marine turtles</p> <p>SLE: Introduce alternative sources of income (e.g., community-based microprojects)</p> <p>AGO: Implementation depends on funding. Further alternatives should be explored with the fishermen</p>
	3.3.2. Develop model projects to demonstrate the benefits of eco-tourism <i>Priority: medium</i>	<p>CPV: Eco-tourism project with village residents</p> <p>CMR: Creation of an eco-tourism project for marine turtles with the residents of the village of Ebodje</p> <p>GHA: Information on turtle watch sent to hotels, travel agencies, and tourist centres</p> <p>GMB: African Process identifies three turtle focal areas to develop ecotourism projects</p> <p>STP: ECOFAC eco-tourism project; creation of an eco-tourism project for marine turtles and a "House of the Turtle" (project currently suspended) to sensitise local residents</p>	<p>AGO: Ecotourism is not relevant in the short term; to be considered for long term.</p> <p>GMB: Future plan to encourage turtle awareness by tourists</p>

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
3.4. Increase public awareness through targeted media campaigns and other vehicles, and share results with others	3.4.1. Produce radio and TV programmes, videos, posters and leaflets aimed at adult audiences; and cartoons, colouring books and games for children <i>Priority: high</i>	<p>CMS: Financed production/distribution of French language identification posters, in collaboration with WIDECAS</p> <p>SLE: Radio and TV programmes are in progress on marine ecosystem conservation and general conservation issues</p> <p>LIB: Production of educational materials, visual aids in progress</p> <p>GHA: Children's tale project with SOPTOM. Posters, signposts (in both local and English languages), billboards and books</p> <p>TGO: Television programme project</p> <p>BEN: Pedagogical interventions in schools by Nature Tropicale</p> <p>CMR: Pedagogical interventions in schools and hotels; French television project (FR3) and colouring book</p> <p>CMR, COG, GAB, GNQ, STP: Development of pedagogical tools – comic strip for adults, children's tales; popularisation of information on marine turtle projects in the "Canopée" magazine and on the Web (ECOFAC/PROTOMAC). Informational posters on sea turtles distributed</p> <p>GAB: Colouring book produced by <i>Aventures sans Frontières</i></p> <p>STP: Television film on the marine turtles of STP, radio programmes, T-shirts; French television project (Thalassa programme)</p> <p>AGO: Awareness campaign in progress for all media channels</p>	<p>GMB, MRT: Lack of public awareness needs to be addressed through broad information campaigns (in planning in GMB)</p> <p>ALL: Following the example of GHA, develop a theatrical production and encourage circulation of theater troupes</p>
	3.4.2. Carry out awareness campaigns focussing on key targets: airports, travel agencies, beach owners, beach-goers etc. <i>Priority: medium</i>	<p>SEN: Installation of beach kiosks to inform the public</p> <p>GHA: Creation of a theatrical play, signposts (both local and English languages) at beaches, and in hotels, motels and tourist centers. Theatrical play shown at cinemas and in beach communities</p> <p>GAB: Installation of beach kiosks to inform the public</p> <p>BEN: Good information on turtles at Natural History Museum of Cotonou</p> <p>GAB, CMR: Small museums on marine turtles in preparation</p>	<p>ALL: Creation of a teaching tool (1 per language) with the assistance of WWF (eg using example of "WWF-France Kawana")</p> <p>GMB: Awareness campaign planned</p> <p>AGO: Under development</p>
	3.4.3. Integrate elements of conservation programmes in school curricula, with the active support of educators <i>Priority: medium</i>	<p>SLE: Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL) initiated curriculum in Environmental Studies with available textbooks</p> <p>GHA: General wildlife conservation issues included in integrated science programme</p> <p>GMB: Social environmental studies curriculum does not yet include turtles</p> <p>CMR: Interventions at Kribi high school</p> <p>AGO: Included in the National Plan for Environmental Education and implemented</p>	<p>GMB: Target schools' curricula</p> <p>SLE: To be extended to provincial schools</p>

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
	<p>3.4.4. Declare a Year of the Marine Turtle for countries of the Atlantic coast of Africa, and organise national and sub-regional campaigns</p> <p><i>Priority: as resources permit</i></p>	<p>CPV: Year of the Marine Turtle already realised</p> <p>GHA: Wildlife week exists as an annual programme, focusing on a species or site each year; turtles will be focus this year</p>	<p>ALL: Common Year of the Turtle suggested</p> <p>SLE: To be undertaken in the near future</p> <p>GAB: Year of the Turtle is under consideration</p>
	<p>3.4.5. Establish information / interpretation centres where the public can be exposed to basic information about sea turtles</p> <p><i>Priority: as resources permit</i></p>	<p>GHA: Wildlife Division and Wildlife Society have established library and education centers</p> <p>BEN: Good information on turtles at Natural History Museum of Cotonou</p> <p>GAB, CMR: Small museums on marine turtles in preparation</p>	<p>GMB: Expand existing education centers in 2 protected areas to include information on turtles and create new ones</p> <p>SLE: Production of posters, slide shows, brochures for public information on marine turtles</p> <p>AGO: In planning</p>
3.5. Review or set up appropriate institutional structures and build national capacity	<p>3.5.1 Provide training (e.g. through workshops) in basic turtle conservation techniques to wildlife managers, local committees and other relevant agencies and individuals</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>GMB: Workshop to train field observers in areas impacted by World Bank Project</p> <p>GHA: Community-based training programmes have been organized</p> <p>GNQ: Local BBPP members have attended workshops in Venezuela and Barbados</p> <p>COG: Training workshop for ecoguardians by IUCN in the protected area of Konkouati in 1998</p>	<p>GHA: Further training needed</p> <p>BEN: Training planned for local actors</p> <p>SLE: Staff capacity-building is needed; local committees to undergo special training</p> <p>AGO: In planning; training is essential</p>
	<p>3.5.2. Co-ordinate training programmes and conduct sub-regional training workshops</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>CPV, MRT, SEN, GNB, GIN: Subregional workshop in June 2002 hosted in Dakar by WWF-Senegal, IUCN-Senegal and FIBA</p> <p>BEN: Sub-regional workshop organised at Grand-Popo by Nature Tropicale</p> <p>CMR, COG, GAB, GNQ, STP: Participated in ECOFAC training workshop (Libreville, 12/1997)</p>	<p>GMB: Collaboration with Senegal to standardize activities in the transborder national park</p>

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Objective 4: Facilitate co-operation and co-ordination within and among Range States

Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
4.1 Draft detailed national action plans and conservation projects for marine turtles	<p>4.1.1 Ensure adequate consultation with concerned ministries, research institutions, NGOs, local communities and other stake-holders</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>GMB: Done under ICAM (Integrated Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Project) as turtle conservation component</p> <p>CPV, CIV, BEN, CMR, GNQ, STP, GAB, COG: Programmes have been developed in coordination with the respective Ministry of Environment and/or Ministry of Agriculture</p> <p>GHA: Regular consultations already being held</p> <p>TGO, BEN, CMR, STP, GAB: Preliminary Action Plan written with the help Regional Office</p> <p>AGO: implemented through a multi-sectoral committee. Further consultation is required, especially with local communities</p>	
4.2 Improve information exchange with other countries	<p>4.2.1. Designate a national focal point to serve as contact for others on marine turtle issues</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>GMB: Director of National Parks designated</p> <p>GHA: Senior Wildlife Officer designated (not exclusively concerned with marine turtles)</p> <p>BEN: The government calls upon the president of Nature Tropicale / Natural History Museum to deal with issues concerning marine turtles</p> <p>AGO: current co-ordination through the National Directorate of the Environment (Ministry of Fisheries and Environment). Focal point will be designated at a later stage</p> <p>COG: Until recently, an ichthyologist with IRD in Pointe-Noire was the national contact for issues related to marine turtles</p> <p>SLE: Designated as the Forestry Division/ Wildlife Conservation Branch</p>	ALL: Some nominations still to be confirmed
	<p>4.2.2. Set up sub-regional (or transborder) networks to facilitate cooperation and information exchange</p> <p><i>Priority: medium</i></p>	<p>Region-wide: "Kudu" information bulletin (IUCN France / PROTOMAC); creation of a regional bulletin, available on the Internet, is foreseen. Creation of two subregional specialist networks (PROTOMAC and WASTCON)</p> <p>PRT-A and PRT-M: Collaborated in a LIFE project (EU funding) in 1999-2001</p> <p>GMB: Included in WWF Marine Conservation Programme for West Africa</p> <p>CPV, MRT, SEN, GNB, GIN: Creation of a subregional West-African network in June 2002 by WWF-Senegal, UICN-Senegal and FIBA</p>	ALL: Under development

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
	<p>4.2.3. Establish national databases of individuals, organisations concerned with marine turtle conservation</p> <p><i>Priority: medium</i></p>	<p>ALL: Draft database prepared by regional office, including code of ethics</p> <p>GMB: includes Fisheries Department, Makasutu Wildlife Trust (NGO), Wildlife International Trust, WABSA and GENE</p>	<p>ALL: Under development</p>
	<p>4.2.4. Develop and maintain a web-based regional database of marine turtle focal points, interested NGOs, researchers, resource persons etc</p> <p><i>Priority: medium</i></p>	<p>ALL: Draft directory prepared by regional office; list of NGOs in West African countries is being prepared by WWF</p>	<p>ALL: Under development</p>
4.3 Join relevant nature conservation conventions	<p>4.3.1. Accede to or ratify the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>PRT, ESP, MAR, MRT, SEN, GMB, GNB, GIN, CIV, GHA, TGO, BEN, NGA, CMR, STP, COG, COD, GBR, ZAF have signed and/or ratified CMS</p> <p>AGO: Anticipated (principal approved by government)</p>	<p>CPV, LIB, GNQ, GAB, NAM : States encouraged to sign</p>
	<p>4.3.2. Accede to or ratify other relevant conventions, such as CBD, Ramsar, Abidjan, Algiers etc</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>Signed or ratified Abidjan: PRT, MRT, SEN, GMB, GIN, LIB, CIV, GHA, TGO, BEN, NGA, CMR, GNQ, GAB, COG</p> <p>Signed or ratified Alger: MAR, MRT, SEN, GMB, GIN, LIB, CIV, GHA, TGO, BEN, NGA, CMR, GNQ, GAB, COG, COD</p> <p>Signed or ratified Ramsar: PRT, ESP, MAR, MRT, SEN, GMB, GNB, GIN, CIV, GHA, TGO, BEN, NGA, GAB, COG, COD, NAM, GBR</p> <p>Signed or ratified CITES: PRT, ESP, MAR, MRT, SEN, GMB, GNB, GIN, CIV, GHA, TGO, BEN, NGA, CMR, GNQ, GAB, COG, COD, NAM</p> <p>Signed or ratified CBD: PRT, ESP, CPV, MAR, MRT, SEN, GMB, GNB, GIN, LIB, CIV, GHA, TGO, BEN, NGA, CMR, GNQ, GAB, COG, COD, AGO, NAM, GBR</p>	<p>States encouraged to ratify Abidjan: CPV, GNB, STP, COD, AGO, NAM, GBR</p> <p>States encouraged to ratify Alger: CPV, GNB, STP, AGO, NAM, GBR</p> <p>States encouraged to ratify Ramsar: CPV, LIB, CMR, GNQ, STP, AGO</p> <p>States encouraged to ratify la CITES: CPV, STP, AGO</p> <p>State encouraged to ratify CBD: STP</p>

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
4.4 Broaden membership in the MoU, and ensure continuity of MoU activities	4.4.1. <i>Encourage non-members to join the MoU in order to enhance possibilities for collaboration</i> <i>Priority: high</i>	Countries having already signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU d'Abidjan) : MAR, MRT, SEN, GMB, GNB, GIN, SLE, GHA, BEN, TGO, NGA, GNQ, STP, GAB, COG, COD, AGO	Arrange signature of MoU by States not already involved: PRT-A, PRT-M, ESP-C, CPV, GBR-S, GBR-A, LIB, CIV, CMR, NAM, ZAF
	4.4.2. Organize a follow-up meeting of all Range States to refine the Conservation Plan <i>Priority: high</i>	First meeting of Signatory States held at UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi, under Nigerian chairmanship; possibility of 2 nd meeting in Dakar during World Congress on Chelonian Conservation	
4.5 Formalize a regional Agreement under CMS	4.5.1. Give consideration, after a certain number of years, to transfor-ming the MoU into a legally binding Agreement, with more concrete institutional arrangements <i>Priority: as resources permit</i>		

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Objective 5: Secure funding to initiate or continue marine turtle conservation programmes

Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
5.1. Include marine turtle projects in larger programmes aimed at conserving coastal and marine areas	5.1.1. Review existing or proposed programmes with a view to inserting elements that focus on marine turtle conservation	<p>ALL: Evaluations and technical assistance (J. Fretey) carried out with financing from French Ministry of Environment, / IUCN French Committee EU-funded project, covering marine turtles (in part)</p> <p>PRT-A: Turtle conservation included in LIFE/MARÉ (EU) projects – Integrated Management of Coastal and Marine Areas in Azores</p> <p>ESP-C, CPV: Approved project financed by EU covering (in part) marine turtles</p> <p>GMB: Coastal and Marine GEF Project (ICAM) to carry out nationwide sea turtle survey and conservation among other activities</p> <p>GHA: Turtle programme is embedded in Coastal Wetlands Management Project</p> <p>PROTOMAC countries: Continuation of EU financing (theme “flagship species”)</p>	<p>SEN: Put in place a marine turtle conservation programme, involving IRD (ex-ORSTOM), CRODT, Senegal Federation of Sport Fishing</p> <p>LIB: Develop an integrated national coastal zone management programme, with emphasis on marine turtles and other marine species</p> <p>AGO: Under consideration</p>
5.2 Use the CMS MoU as a tool for leveraging funding for regional marine turtle conservation efforts	5.2.1. Develop, with the <i>Fonds français pour l'Environnement Mondial</i> (FFEM), a feasibility study on the submission of a regional FFEM project <i>Priority: high</i>	IUCN, CMS, France: Project under development, in possible partnership with ECOFAC and GEF	
	5.2.2. Approach bilateral and multilateral donors to solicit external funding (e.g. development co-operation agencies, European Union, World Bank, UNDP, UNEP etc.) <i>Priority: high</i>	<p>GMB: Integrated management project for coastal zones (spanning 3 years)</p> <p>SLE: CSSL and Forestry Division collaboration on GEF Project in 2 Ramsar sites ends in Dec. 2002</p>	<p>GMB: Plan to apply for extensions of ICAM beyond 3 years</p> <p>AGO: In planning</p>

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
	<p>5.2.3. Approach foundations and inter-national NGOs that may have an interest in funding activities in particular countries to catalyse the creation of a small grants fund</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>West Africa: (MRT, FEN, CPV, GMB, GNB, GIM) Potential with FIBA, IUCN-Senegal, WWF-Senegal, and UNESCO</p> <p>GAB, COG: potential support from WCS and WWF-CARPO</p> <p>Conservation International approached by J. Fretey towards this end</p>	<p>Possible support by NGOs</p> <p>AGO: in planning</p> <p>SLE: CSSL working on proposals for further funding. Forestry division to re-establish contacts with IUCN and WWF to upgrade proposed marine sites to national parks</p>
	<p>5.2.4. Seek synergies (with respect to fund-raising, provision of institutional support etc.) with other regional/global convention secretariats</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>ALL: Potential synergies with assistance of BRED bank</p> <p>GAB, COG: Potential for UNESCO funding (in transboundary areas)</p>	<p>CMS: Pursue contacts with UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme</p>
	<p>5.2.5. Convince corporations (e.g., oil exploitation companies) to lend support to conservation initiatives through their environmental communication strategies</p> <p><i>Priority: high</i></p>	<p>GAB, COG, AGO: Oil industry approached</p> <p>GNQ: US oil companies provide extensive financial and logistical support for marine turtle project on Bioko</p>	<p>CMR, GAB: Approaches in progress</p> <p>AGO: Further activity in planning</p>
	<p>5.2.6. On a local level, approach governmental and non-governmental bodies, corporations, embassies, individuals for <i>ad hoc</i> sponsorship</p> <p><i>Priority: medium</i></p>	<p>AGO: Consultancy supported by UNDP and NORAD</p>	<p>All: Seek greater involvement of Embassies of France, Germany and Netherlands; for future development: awarding of T-shirts and other gifts to be distributed to persons who release captive turtles</p> <p>BEN and other countries in Gulf of Guinea: Put collection boxes in selected public places (especially those frequented by tourists, such as airports, restaurants etc) in order to collect funds</p> <p>AGO: Further activity in planning</p>

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Programme	Activity	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
5.3 Generate funding for turtle projects through ecotourism and other self-supporting revenue-generating schemes (while benefiting local communities at the same time)	5.3.1. Set up collectives to produce and sell to the public articles with a marine turtle motif <i>Priority: medium</i>	GHA: Trying to generate funds through ecotourism	ALL: Under study by regional office GMB: Planned for future
	5.3.2. Train local stakeholders, especially fishermen, to act as guides (or turtle monitors or guards) to enable them to generate income from other sources <i>Priority: medium</i>	CMR: Training of guides within framework of Campo-Ma'an UTO GHA: Working to include these individuals in other training programmes	GMB: Planned for future GHA: Encourage participation of persons with other types of training AGO: In planning
	5.3.3. Develop, where appropriate, marine turtle "adoption" programmes, benefiting from experience gained in other countries <i>Priority: medium</i>	GMB: Tourists occasionally purchase turtles for release CMR: Positive results from adoption programme for turtles accidentally captured the Campo-Ma'an area STP: Small adoption program for captured turtles regularly conducted in the past	GHA: To be attempted
5.4 Examine various options available to governments to put in place internal financial support mechanisms for research activities	5.4.1. Consider taxation of selected industries (e.g. fisheries, tourism, real-estate) that have impacts on marine turtles (i.e. introduction of polluter pays principle) <i>Priority: as resources permit</i>		ALL: To be considered AGO: To be considered (depending on legal advice/framework)
	5.4.2. Examine potential for "debt for nature" swaps using marine turtles as flagship species <i>Priority: as resources permit</i>		AGO: To be considered (depending on legal advice/framework)

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	5.4.3. Establish an emergency fund for the environment in case of natural disasters 5.4.4. <i>Priority: as resources permit</i>		AGO: For study

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Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



First Meeting of Signatory States to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa

6 - 9 May 2002, Nairobi, Kenya

Nairobi Declaration

Participants to the First Meeting of Signatory States to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa;

Noting with satisfaction the considerable progress made to implement the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding since its adoption in Abidjan in May 1999 under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species;

Recognizing the importance of populations of marine turtles frequenting the waters of the Atlantic coast of Africa in relation to global populations, many of which are severely depleted in other regions of the world;

Aware of the social, cultural and economic values of marine turtles to the peoples of the region;

Aware that the serious threats to marine turtles cited in the Memorandum -- namely habitat destruction, pollution, unsustainable taking and by-catch in fisheries -- continue to impede the recovery of the region's marine turtle populations;

Concerned that the impact of industrial fishing operations, particularly those conducted by vessels of third countries in near-shore and off-shore waters used by marine turtles for reproduction, feeding, development and migration, is largely undocumented in the region;

Encouraged that the African Process for the Development and Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment in Sub-Saharan Africa, in addition to contributing to sustainable development in Africa, also holds promise for mitigating these fundamental threats;

Appreciating the concern of African Ministers for the importance of coastal and marine ecosystems, as well as the conservation of marine biodiversity, as expressed in the *African Ministerial Statement to the World Summit on Sustainable Development* (Nairobi, October 2001);

Welcoming the establishment of sub-regional networks of non-governmental organizations in west and central Africa aimed at facilitating and co-coordinating conservation efforts in countries with geographic affinities;

HEREBY

Endorse the contents of the Conservation Plan finalized in Nairobi through a process of extensive discussion and revision, with input from both governmental and non-governmental sources of expertise from throughout the region;

Welcome the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding by representatives of the Governments of Angola, Morocco, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, and Sierra Leone, joining twelve other States (Benin, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Nigeria, and Togo) having already made a commitment in this regard;

Invite all Signatory States that have not already done so to nominate a national correspondent to serve as a focal point for the Memorandum of Understanding and to communicate the relevant details without delay to the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species;

Acknowledge with satisfaction the positive indication from the Government of Spain of its intention to sign the Memorandum of Understanding at the earliest opportunity, and welcome the undertaking by the Government of France to study the possibility of becoming a Signatory State;

Urge other States of the region that have yet to sign the Memorandum -- namely, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Namibia, Portugal, South Africa, and United Kingdom -- to make the necessary arrangements to become members as soon as possible; and encourage other States that may have an impact on marine turtle populations in the region and/or may be in a position to contribute to the fulfillment of the Memorandum's objectives to consider their participation;

Encourage the contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region to use the Memorandum of Understanding as the principal tool through which to implement the provisions of that convention as these relate to the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats;

Invite international and national non-governmental organizations to recognize the Memorandum of Understanding as contributing to their own activities, such that the latter complement and reinforce the measures contained in the Conservation Plan;

Encourage Signatory States to continue and strengthen the integration of resident communities in the development and implementation of activities provided for in the Conservation Plan, and affirm that the participation of resident communities should contribute, as far as possible, to an improvement of their socio-economic condition, such improvement being necessary for the sustainable conservation of marine turtles;

Recommend that a marine turtle conservation component be incorporated in the framework of coastal zone management projects being developed or implemented with funding from the Global Environment Facility and other sources;

Express appreciation to the Government of France, in particular, for its continuing support towards implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and encourage other countries to follow this example;

Invite the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) and the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the Convention on Migratory Species and other interested partners, to pursue the elaboration of a project in selected countries to contribute to the conservation of marine turtles and the habitats on which they depend; and

Urge the African Process for the Development and Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment in Sub-Saharan Africa to take note of these positive developments and seek to ensure the full integration of marine turtle conservation in its programme of intervention.

Done at Nairobi, 9 May 2002