



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON THE CONSERVATION AND
MANAGEMENT OF MARINE TURTLES
AND THEIR HABITATS OF THE INDIAN
OCEAN AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA**

CMS/IOSEA/MOS8/Doc.8.1/Annex 2

2 September 2019

Original: English

8TH MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES

Da Nang, Viet Nam, 21-25 October 2019

Agenda Item 8.1

**SYNTHESIS OF EXISTING RECOMMENDATIONS:
NORTHWESTERN INDIAN OCEAN (NWIO) SUB-REGION**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Action Requested:

- Take note of the existing recommendations for the NWIO subregion.
- Consider relevance of recommendations for the development of the IOSEA Work Programme

Synthesis of existing recommendations specific to NWIO sub-region or arising from the sub-regional discussions

Recommendation	Lead/responsible	Source	CMP¹	Subject	Notes/priority level if known
<p>1. Conduct a region-wide capacity-building workshop on bycatch assessment and engagement strategies, involving key government authorities and stakeholders:</p> <p>a) Develop a concept note for the Capacity Building Workshop on Bycatch Assessment Methods and send a formal proposal to potential hosting countries:</p> <p>b) Government and NGOs in the region to investigate potential opportunities for organizing the workshop and the role that each party can play</p> <p>c) Dedicated discussions and workshops to address specific issues at country level should be conducted following regional capacity building workshop, involving fishermen associations and communities.</p>	IOSEA Secretariat	Drafting of a sub-regional programme of work for inclusion in the 2015-2017 IOSEA work plan, MOS7	5.4	Fisheries Interactions	<p>High priority</p> <p>The involvement of experts, policy /administrative government officials and fishermen is important to be considered at different stages of engagement and during these workshops.</p> <p>The role of NGOs providing the links between government and fishermen associations/communities should to be considered</p>
2. Conduct training on site network management.	Nominating Signatory States in coordination with IOSEA Secretariat and AC mentors	Drafting of a sub-regional programme of work for inclusion in the 2015-2017 IOSEA work plan, MOS7	5.4	Capacity Building	

¹ Corresponding Objective and/or Programme of the Conservation and Management Plan of the MOU

Recommendation	Lead/responsible	Source	CMP ¹	Subject	Notes/priority level if known
3. Investigate potential opportunities for sub-regional capacity building / technical workshops, particularly in NWIO and NIO, including involvement of Advisory Committee.	Signatory States	Action Points MOS7	5.3, 5.4	Capacity Building	
4. IOSEA to provide support and recommendations to Signatory States on the importance of the EIA process to integrate sea turtle conservation	Secretariat	Summary of the NWIO working group discussions at MOS7, MOS7 report; Drafting of a sub-regional programme of work for inclusion in the 2015-2017 IOSEA work plan, MOS7 report	2.1	Environmental Impact Assessment	
5. Consider incorporating progress updates on EIA implementation into national reporting and possibly carry out analysis on how EIA processes are implemented in each country.	Signatory States	Drafting of a sub-regional programme of work for inclusion in the 2015-2017 IOSEA work plan, MOS7	2.1	Environmental Impact Assessment	

Recommendation	Lead/responsible	Source	CMP ¹	Subject	Notes/priority level if known
6. A research programme is required to investigate potential overlaps of fishing activities and turtles/dugongs distribution.	Not specified	Summary of the NWIO working group discussions at MOS7, MOS7 report	5	Fisheries Interactions	high
7. Share methods and lessons learnt from current studies on fisheries interactions with other Signatory States.	Signatory States	Drafting of a sub-regional programme of work for inclusion in the 2015-2017 IOSEA work plan, MOS7	1.4c	Fisheries Interactions	E.g. By-catch assessment project (Abu Dhabi and potentially United Arab Emirates)
8. Keep Signatory States up to date about developments in relation to proposed sub-regional by-catch assessment project (led by CMS Abu Dhabi office) and encourage their involvement.	Secretariat, Signatory States (NWIO)	Action Points, MOS7 report	1.4c)	Fisheries Interactions	The project was not able to start due to funding issues, thus a different wording of the recommendation is suggested. Consider developing a sub-regional by-catch assessment project in NWIO subregion, involving Signatory States and CMS/IOSEA Secretariats.

Recommendation	Lead/responsible	Source	CMP ¹	Subject	Notes/priority level if known
9. Signatory States that are members of IOTC to support IOSEA's work and to coordinate with IOTC	Signatory States	Drafting of a sub-regional programme of work for inclusion in the 2015-2017 IOSEA work plan, MOS7	5.3	Fisheries Interactions	
10. Any work to assess by-catch issues (especially additional to the usual or established activities) needs to be carefully introduced and communicated to fishermen communities as it might create suspicion and add bias in the fishermen responses.	Not specified	Summary of the NWIO working group discussions at MOS7, MOS7 report	4.3a)	Fisheries Interactions, Stakeholder Engagement	
11. Countries to incorporate genetic sampling into their ongoing monitoring activities (subject to budget and resources available).	NWIO Signatory States	Drafting of a sub-regional programme of work for inclusion in the 2015-2017 IOSEA work plan, MOS7	3.1	Genetics	
12. Provide guidance on collection protocols, CITES permits, and laboratory selection.	Secretariat and AC	Drafting of a sub-regional programme of work for inclusion in the 2015-2017 IOSEA work plan, MOS7	3.1	Genetics	

Recommendation	Lead/responsible	Source	CMP ¹	Subject	Notes/priority level if known
13. Identify needs and opportunities for regional analysis to inform stock assessment.	IOSEA Secretariat and AC -in coordination with the Subregional Focal Point	Drafting of a sub-regional programme of work for inclusion in the 2015-2017 IOSEA work plan, MOS7	5.3	Genetics	not explicitly in CMP
14. Incorporate turtle conservation needs into Integrated Coastal Zone Management processes	Not specified	Summary of the NWIO working group discussions at MOS7, MOS7 report	2	Habitat Protection	Key emerging/ growing pressures: nuclear plant posing critical threats on important habitats such as sea grass and coral reefs (United Arab Emirates), Desalination infrastructure development and effluent, harbour development and dredged channels, Industrial effluent & water pollution, light pollution (Tourism development & Industrial activities).

Recommendation	Lead/responsible	Source	CMP ¹	Subject	Notes/priority level if known
15. Consider training or webinars or any further technical help to submit national reports.	IOSEA Secretariat	Drafting of a sub-regional programme of work for inclusion in the 2015-2017 IOSEA work plan, MOS7	None	IOSEA Website and Tools	
16. Turtle Biology: standardize data collection and protocols: Identify current challenges/gaps and explore opportunities for potential regional training and further coordination.	Sub regional Focal Point in coordination with IOSEA Secretariat and AC	Drafting of a sub-regional programme of work for inclusion in the 2015-2017 IOSEA work plan, MOS7	3.4	Method Standardization	
17. EAD to share methods and lessons learnt from the economic survey of fishermen conducted in UAE with the rest of NWIO Signatory States	Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD)	Drafting of a sub-regional programme of work for inclusion in the 2015-2017 IOSEA work plan, MOS7, MOS7 Action Points	4.3	Socio-economic work	

Recommendation	Lead/responsible	Source	CMP ¹	Subject	Notes/priority level if known
18. Determine the current conservation status of loggerhead turtles in the NW Indian Ocean by analyzing existing data	Oman (Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs, cooperating organisations)	Recommendations for loggerhead turtle conservation, MT-IOSEA/SS.7/Doc.9	3.1	Species: Loggerhead	
19. Organize an expert workshop, including initial training to set up a 3-5-year monitoring program of nesting Loggerhead Turtles on Socotra, Oman and in Sri Lanka (see Provisional List of Project Concepts Resulting from the Loggerhead Assessment (2013))	Not specified	Provisional List of Project Concepts Resulting from the Loggerhead Assessment (2013)	1.1	Species: Loggerhead	
20. Community engagement is necessary to focus on specific areas / needs where local consumption occurs.	Not specified	Summary of the NWIO working group discussions at MOS7, MOS7 report	4.3	Stakeholder Engagement, Illegal Take and Trade	Localized, not important on a regional scale
21. Consider hosting and organizing a NWIO sub-regional meeting, upon written request from the Secretariat.	Signatory State (UAE), Secretariat	Action Points MOS7	5.3	Sub-regional Coordination	