



**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

CMS/MT-AFR.1/Doc.5
Agenda items 5,8

Draft Conservation Plan

Introduction

A rough outline of a Conservation Plan, based largely on participants' responses to a pre-circulated questionnaire as well as the working group discussions, was presented to the Abidjan Marine Turtle Conference (May 1999). As time did not allow for a detailed discussion of the contents, the Secretariat undertook to prepare a revised working draft after carefully reviewing all of the materials made available to the meeting. The version presented here in tabular form is organised according to five broad objectives, about 20 programmes of work, and numerous specific activities. The Conservation Plan aims to: (1) improve basic knowledge of species and migration routes; (2) reduce direct and indirect causes of marine turtle mortality; (3) engage local communities and others in conservation efforts; (4) enhance co-operation and co-ordination within and among Range States; and (5) secure funding to initiate or continue marine turtle conservation programmes.

The column headed "Activities" has been expanded and reorganized to include additional items raised in the course of discussions in Abidjan: it is considered now to be fairly comprehensive and a good starting point for further deliberations. The priority assigned to any given activity is indicative at this stage, as prioritization remains a point for further discussion. For the time being, little attempt has been made to assign specific activities to particular Range States or collaborating organisations, however this exercise might be useful in the future, depending on the specificity of the activities that are identified.

Two new columns have been added for the purpose of illustrating, firstly, progress that has already been made towards implementation of certain activities (this incomplete assessment has been compiled mainly from information known to the Secretariat) and, secondly, further activities to be undertaken (in most cases based on needs identified by the participants). It is expected that the column "Implementation progress" will be further developed before the next meeting of Range States, taking into account information received from official sources, and that the second column "Further specific actions to undertake" will be the focus of attention at the meeting itself.

Abbreviations used in the text / Abréviations utilisées dans le texte

ACEN	Association Caennaise des Etudiants Naturalistes (France)
ASF	Aventures sans Frontières (Gabon)
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals / Convention sur la conservation des espèces migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage
CRODT	Centre de Recherches Océanographiques Dakar-Thiaroye
CUREF	Projet Conservation et Utilisation Rationnelle des Ecosystèmes Forestiers
ECOFAF	Conservation et utilisation rationnelle des écosystèmes forestiers d'Afrique centrale
EU	European Union / Union européenne
FFEM	Fonds français pour l'Environnement Mondial
FRD	Fondation Rurale pour le Développement
GEF	Global Environment Facility / Fonds pour l'Environnement Mondial
GIS	Global Information System
HELP	Habitat, Ecologie et Liberté des Primates (Gabon)
IRD	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (anciennement / formerly ORSTOM)
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources -- World Conservation Union / Union mondiale pour la nature
MINEF	Ministère de l'Environnement et des Forêts
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service (United States)
ORSTOM	Institut français de recherche scientifique pour le développement en coopération (maintenant / now: IRD)
PIT	Passive Integrated Transponder
PROTOMAC	Protection des Tortues Marines d'Afrique Centrale
SAMFU	Save My Future Foundation (Liberia)
SOPTOM	Station d'Observation et de Protection des Tortues dans le Monde
TED / DET	Turtle Excluder Device / Dispositif d'Exclusion de Tortues
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WIDECAS	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network / Réseau de conservation des tortues marines dans la région de la Grande Caraïbe
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Conservation Plan: (Working draft as at November 2000)

(REFER TO THE INTRODUCTION, FOR EXPLANATIONS)

Objective	Programme	Activity	Range State	Collaborator	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
Improve basic knowledge of species and migration routes.	Collect and compile basic data on species occurrence and distribution, with which to evaluate conservation status	Review, update and centralise existing bibliographical information, and distribute to all Range States <i>Priority: high</i>		CMS	CMS : Update of J. Fretey document in progress; to be published in 3 rd trimester of 2000 or early 2001	
		Initiate, continue and/or complete baseline inventory and mapping of nesting beaches and feeding grounds (as appropriate). Identify those which are critical habitats for marine turtles. <i>Priority: high</i>			<p>CMS (Fretey) : preparation of preliminary nesting beach maps for each country, and maps of the overall distribution of species</p> <p>BEN : preliminary inventory of nesting sites (<i>Nature Tropicale - Musée des Sciences Naturelles</i>)</p> <p>CIV : preliminary inventory of nesting sites between Abidjan and Liberia</p> <p>CMR : preliminary inventory of nesting sites in the south; currently conducting inventory of sites between Kribi and Douala; specific study on <i>L. olivacea</i> in Campo Ma'an reserve</p> <p>COG : inventory of nesting sites in Conkouati reserve; preliminary site inventory between Pointe-Noire and Cabinda</p> <p>CPV : effective inventory project and management of nesting sites of <i>C. caretta</i> on Boavista and Sal Islands (Univerity of Las Palmas - Canarias); very important nesting beaches identified</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>GHA : eastern part of country identified as being most important for nesting</p> <p>GMB : four coastal protected areas identified as being potentially important for marine turtles</p> <p>GNB : important nesting beaches identified in studies from 1992-95; new IUCN project under preparation</p> <p>GNQ : inventory of nesting sites (ECOFAC, CUREF, Amigos de Doñana); inventory of sensitive areas (e.g seagrass beds, nesting beaches) requiring protection (CUREF)</p> <p>LIB : preliminary inventory of nesting sites (SAMFU)</p> <p>MAR : preliminary inventory of nesting sites (Archie Carr Centre)</p> <p>MRT : preliminary inventory of nesting sites, especially for <i>C. caretta</i></p> <p>NAM : inventory of reptiles, including marine turtles (no nesting sites discovered)</p>	<p>All : where not already initiated or completed: mapping of nesting beaches and feeding grounds</p> <p>AGO : proposed survey of Musula Bay, Palmeirinhas Beach as well as inventory of seagrasses; to be extended in successive years</p> <p>BEN : project evaluation, training, securing of future financing of the Biotopic project</p> <p>CIV : extended coastal inventory required to gather up to date information</p> <p>CMR : inventory of nesting sites in the north</p> <p>CPV : inventory of seagrasses</p> <p>ESP-Cn : nesting sites to be confirmed</p> <p>GAB : aerial survey of still unexplored zones; inventory of seagrasses; study and mapping of feeding area (Bay of Corisco)</p> <p>GBR-SH : confirm nesting sites</p> <p>GIN : inventory of nesting sites</p> <p>GNQ : study and mapping of feeding area (Bay of Corisco)</p> <p>MAR : inventory of nesting sites in Western Sahara</p> <p>PRT-Az and PRT-Md : study and mapping of feeding areas</p> <p>SEN : basic inventory work needed to assess conservation status</p>

AGO - Angola, BEN - Benin, CDF - Dem. Rep of Congo, CIV - Côte d'Ivoire, CMR - Cameroon, COG - Congo, CPV - Cape Verde, GAB - Gabon, GBR-SH - Saint Helena, GHA - Ghana, GIN - Guinea, GMB - Gambia, GNB - Guinea Bissau, GNQ - Equatorial Guinea, LIB - Liberia, MAR - Morocco, MRT - Mauritania, NAM - Namibia, NGA - Nigeria, PRT-Az - Azores, PRT-Md - Madeira, ESP-Cn - Canary Islands, SEN - Senegal, SLE - Sierra Leone, STP - Sao Tome and Principe, TGO - Togo, ZAF - South Africa

Objective	Programme	Activity	Range State	Collaborator	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
					<p>NGA : preliminary inventory of nesting sites (Akassa Community and Cardiff School of Biosciences)</p> <p>SEN : preliminary inventory of nesting sites in the north (IUCN, <i>Direction des Parcs Nationaux</i>, SOPTOM) and in the Saloum delta</p> <p>SLE : preliminary inventory of nesting sites on Sherbro Island</p> <p>STP : inventory on Sao Tomé completed</p> <p>ZAF : no nesting sites discovered</p>	<p>SLE : 6 month survey proposed for five administrative districts: Kambia, Port Loko, Moyamba, Bonthe and Pujehun</p> <p>STP : complete inventory to the south of Principe</p>
		Develop a protocol for collection, storage and analysis of pertinent data, harmonized at least on a sub-regional level <i>Priority: high</i>			<p>CMR, COG, GAB, GNQ, STP: expert meeting organized by ECOFAC (Libreville, 12/1997) developed draft protocol: development of a draft protocol and creation of a computerized database (PROTOMAC)</p>	<p>All Range States) Protocol(s) to be agreed by technical experts at regional/ sub-regional meetings</p> <p>AGO, CPV, ESP-Cn, GNB; GNQ; PRT-Az, PRT-Md, STP: organization of a meeting for Portuguese/Spanish speaking countries (University of Las -Canarias)</p> <p>BEN and neighbouring francophone countries: organization of a technical meeting (Biotopic)</p>
		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 <i>Priority: high</i>			<p>AGO - information on nesting is not recent</p> <p>BEN) basic information on species occurrence is known through field surveys; tagging done in 1999-2000 season</p> <p>CDF) information on nesting is not recent</p> <p>CIV) basic information on species occurrence is known; studies that were started were interrupted due to lack of funds</p> <p>CMR - tagging (Monel) of <i>L. olivacea</i>, <i>D. coriacea</i>, <i>C. mydas</i> and <i>E. imbricata</i> in the Campo-Ma'an reserve; data collection in the Campo-Ma'an and Douala-Edea reserves</p> <p>COG) species occurrence known through studies carried out since 1995 (interrupted on account of lack of funds)</p> <p>CPV) studies undertaken 1992-93, 1998; further systematic data collection and tagging programme (Monel and PIT) undertaken in 1998, especially on female <i>C. caretta</i>; satellite tracking</p> <p>ESP-Cn - tagging of accidentally-caught turtles</p> <p>GAB - systematic data collection and tagging programme (Monel and PIT) undertaken in 1998, especially on female <i>D. coriacea</i> and <i>L. olivacea</i> in the south (Mayumba, frontier of Congo)</p> <p>GBR-SH - no programme yet in place</p> <p>GHA - no programme yet in place (lack of funds)</p> <p>GIN - no programme yet in place (lack of funds)</p>	<p>PRT-Az, MRT) Continue or initiate ecological studies of the pelagic population of <i>C. caretta</i>, including migration routes</p> <p>CMR, GAB, COG, STP: tagging with PIT</p>

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					<p>GMB) basic information on species occurrence is known, but no current research or monitoring programme</p> <p>GNB - studies have started</p> <p>GNQ) species occurrence known (S. Bioko and mainland); studies begun in Bioko, but no current tagging programme</p> <p>LIB) preliminary investigation (06/1999) revealed presence of several species; no tagging programme</p> <p>MAR) little recent information on nesting (of <i>C.mydas</i>); no tagging programme</p> <p>MRT) 1995 study noted important presence (feeding) of <i>C.mydas</i>, especially at Banc d'Arguin National Park; nesting of <i>C.caretta</i>; other species reported, but less well known</p> <p>NAM) species occurrence is known</p> <p>NIG) no directed research at present</p> <p>PRT-Az) species occurrence is known; long-term tagging programme in progress (tagged ca. 2000 <i>C. caretta</i>)</p> <p>PRT-Md) ongoing tagging programme; growth/feeding studies</p> <p>STP) species occurrence well-known; tagging programme in place (ca. 1300 tagged, majority being <i>L. olivacea</i>)</p>	
		Where systematic programmes are not already in place, carry out opportunistic tagging and specimen collection for genetic analyses <i>Priority: medium</i>			<p>COG) tagging of <i>D. coriacea</i> and <i>L. olivacea</i></p> <p>NAM) 25 turtles tagged over 12 years, no returns</p> <p>BEN, CIV, CMR, CPV, GAB, GHA, GNQ, LIB, NGA, PRT-Md, STP, TGO - genetic studies conducted (Cardiff School of Biosciences, University of Las Palmas - Canarias, University of Madeira, Archie Carr Center)</p>	
		Undertake migration studies using satellite transmitters <i>Priority: as resources permit</i>			CPV, ESP-Cn, PRT-Md) Ongoing satellite tracking studies of <i>C. caretta</i>	
		Establish genetic profiles of species frequenting coastal waters <i>Priority: as resources permit</i>			<p>GAB) samples collected</p> <p>PRT-Az) MtDNA studies confirm southeast USA and Mexico origins</p>	NAM) Provide genetic samples to external programmes

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		Set up reference collections in museums for use in basic life-history research <i>Priority: as resources permit</i>				
	Gather data on harvesting and utilization of marine turtles, as well as traditional beliefs	Assess the nature and extent of exploitation and threats (especially on nesting beaches and feeding areas) <i>Priority: high</i>			BEN, CMR, GHA, GMB, GNQ, NAM, PRT-Az, MRT, SEN, STP) basic information on utilization and threats (if any) is known	AGO) Interviews proposed with local residents and fishermen in study area GMB) more data needed on extent of threats
		Gather ethno-zoological information from fishermen and local communities <i>Priority: medium</i>				
	Enhance participation of relevant institutions in research activities, and pool resources needed for data gathering	Identify relevant universities and research institutions and encourage them to become involved in turtle research, if they are not already, and co-operate with NGOs and community-based organizations <i>Priority: medium</i>			BEN - <i>Nature Tropicale, Musée des Sciences Naturelles</i> is active CMR) MINEF, Tropenbos are active COG - IRD (ex-ORSTOM) and IUCN initiated a project in 1995; a new one will be organized with WCS, HELP, ACEN and IRD CPV) University of Las Palmas is active GAB) ECOFAC, <i>Aventures sans Frontières</i> , HELP are active GHA) Ghana Wildlife Society is active GMB) not much NGO involvement to date GNB - a project is being initiated in the Bijagos Archipelago with IUCN and a local NGO GNQ) ECOFAC, Amigos de Doñana, CUREF are active LIB - SAMFU is active NIG) Akassa Community Development Project is active SEN - SOPTOM and FRD are active SLE - Conservation Society of Sierra Leone is beginning a project STP) ECOFAC is active TGO) National University of Lomé is active	

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		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) <i>Priority: high</i>				BEN) Obtain GIS technology and use it for integrating turtle data
	Establish longer-term data gathering programmes	Set up unobtrusive field camps close to nesting beaches, for longer-term observation, monitoring and conservation <i>Priority: as resources permit</i>				
Reduce direct and indirect causes of marine turtle mortality	Monitor and protect nesting sites and feeding areas identified as having priority status	Give protection status to sites identified as being critical for marine turtle nesting or feeding <i>Priority: high</i>			AGO : Kissama National Park, Iona National Park BEN : only partial protection of coastline CIV : Azagny National Park CMR : Douala Edea faunal reserve, Campo reserve COG : Conkouati faunal reserve GAB : Gamba protected areas complex GHA : Ada, Anlonga-Keta GNB : Ilhas de Orango National Park GIN : Iles Tristao, Iles de Loos, Pointe de Gonzalez, Baie de Sangareya MRT : Banc d'Arguin National Park, Diawling National Park, Beie de Lévrier, Cap Blanc NAM : 90% of coastline protected, little indigenous use SEN : Langue de Barbarie, Iles de la Madeleine National Park, Delta du Saloum National Park; Popenguine natural reserve STP : no protected areas established TGO : as yet, no protected areas along the coast	COG : consideration being given to creating two sanctuaries CPV : protected area projects (Cabo Verde Natura 2000) GAB/COG : creation of a transfrontier marine park GAB/GNQ : creation of a transfrontier marine park NAM : Establish marine protected areas (including, as appropriate, cross-border reserves) that serve also to protect marine turtles STP : protected area projects (ECOFAC)

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Objective	Programme	Activity	Range State	Collaborator	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
		Set-up and/or facilitate monitoring (information gathering) programmes in collaboration with local communities, NGOs, fishermen, trawl operators and others. Ensure adequate feedback of information collected to all concerned <i>Priority: high</i>			AGO : monitoring/conservation project in preparation CMR : Tropenbos works with former poachers on the beaches of Camp Ma'an COG : Project Conkouati long-established GNQ : Spanish NGO (<i>Amigos de Doñana</i>) and ECOFAC have conducted a project to the south of Bioko since 1996 with local populations STP : Project Tâtô well established under PROTOMAC	SEN : use NGOs, such as <i>Amis de la nature</i> , to strengthen monitoring capacity
		Put in place and train sufficient numbers of "eco-guards" to monitor nesting beaches <i>Priority: high</i>			COG : "eco-guards" trained by IUCN are in place on the beaches of Conkouati STP : beach guards trained by ECOFAC are in place on the beaches of Sao Tomé and Principe	AGO : It is proposed to patrol key nesting beaches throughout nesting season (Sept - Feb)
	Take measures to remove immediate threats to nests	Control natural sources of predation, where this poses as serious threat to nests <i>Priority: high</i>			BEN : protection of eggs in pens CMR : protection of eggs in pens GAB : study of natural predation; protection of eggs in pens GHA : Enclosures built to contain pigs, and by-laws passed to restrict access of domestic animals on beaches, enforced by fining owners NGA : protection of eggs in pens STP : protection of eggs in pens; dog control project	
		Develop contingency plans to move, where necessary, nests that are doomed (due to flooding, predation, poaching etc.) to nearby protected hatchery facilities <i>Priority: high</i>				
		Evaluate the success of existing hatcheries (pens or closed structures) and assess future needs <i>Priority: medium</i>			STP : success of incubation in pens 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>)	

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		Where necessary, establish new hatcheries, in accordance with accepted standards <i>Priority: medium</i>				BEN : Set up hatcheries in four coastal areas: Seme, Cotonou, Ouidah and Grand Popo
	Reduce and minimize the effects of fisheries by-catch in coastal waters	Put observers on industrial fishing vessels (or collaborate with existing programmes) to gather information on marine turtle by-catch levels <i>Priority: high</i>			NAM : large-scale pelagic fishing occurring offshore, but marine turtle by-catch is said to be virtually non-existent PRT-Az : Longline Observers Programme established to identify threats and reduce mortality of captured turtles in swordfish fishery; information collected from tuna fishery	
		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 records on captures, tag numbers etc.) <i>Priority: high</i>				
		Explore, in collaboration with the fishing industry, the development of mitigation measures to reduce by-catch <i>Priority: as resources permit</i>			PRT-Az : Partial funding from US-NMFS to develop an experimental design	
		Develop, in collaboration with trawl fishermen, a protocol for the treatment and release to sea of caught turtles <i>Priority: medium</i>				

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	Reduce pollution harmful to turtles through enforcement of pollution-related legislation and other means	Target industries and economic activities with significant impacts on the marine environment for awareness activities <i>Priority: medium</i>				NGA : Assess impact of offshore oil exploration and gas flares on nesting
		Encourage conservation clubs and others to carry out periodic beach clean-ups, especially on priority sites <i>Priority: medium</i>				
	Strengthen legislation and improve its application	Review and revise, as necessary, existing legislation or enact new legislation to provide for the protection of marine turtles, and oversee its enforcement <i>Priority: medium</i>			COG : legislation in preparation GAB : legislation in preparation GHA : jail sentences imposed for sale of turtle meat GNQ : general law exists for conservation of flora and fauna, but not specific to marine turtles STP : new legislation for the protection of marine turtles	
		Encourage the adoption of by-laws at local levels against killing and eating of turtles and make them part of customary laws <i>Priority: medium</i>				
	Put in place in each Range State an administrative structure which has, as part of its responsibility, the conservation of marine turtles <i>Priority: medium</i>				GIN : Create a coastal authority with clear management guidelines	

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Engage local communities and others in conservation efforts	Build partnerships with local communities through a participatory approach to conservation	Encourage the creation of village committees to promote local interest in conserving marine turtles <i>Priority: high</i>				LIB : Develop a community-based conservation plan
		Develop appropriate (non-monetary) reward or acknowledgment systems for assisting in turtle conservation (e.g. badges, trophies, T-shirts, letters of commendation etc.) <i>Priority: medium</i>				
		Establish conservation clubs in schools along the coast in order to instill in young people a well-grounded conservation ethic <i>Priority: medium</i>				
		Recruit and train local and foreign students as voluntary workers and guides, to assist with scientific work <i>Priority: medium</i>			Region-wide : genetic research undertaken by an Italian student on two species (<i>C. mydas</i> and <i>L. olivacea</i>) CMR : two students working on doctoral theses on marine turtles at the University of Yaoundé CPV : involvement of Spanish students in the project GAB : two foreign students LIB : research undertaken by an American student; seeking more volunteers for technical assistance TGO : involvement of Togolese student in the project	CIV, COG, GAB, CMR, STP, GNQ : local projects plan to use students and foreign eco-volunteers
		Ensure that information gathered about turtles and the results of conservation efforts are transmitted back to fishermen and the local community <i>Priority: high</i>			CMR : discussion of the pilot project with the residents of the village of Ebodje	

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	Promote alternatives to utilization of turtles, especially within fishing communities	Assist communities to identify other cost-effective alternatives to turtle meat and eggs <i>Priority: high</i>			CPV : eco-tourism project with village residents CMR : eco-tourism project with village residents STP : research into alternative solutions for utilization of meat and shell (aquaculture, breeding); assistance for the retraining of shell artisans	
		Develop model projects to demonstrate the benefits of eco-tourism <i>Priority: medium</i>			CMR : creation of an eco-tourism project for marine turtles with the residents of the village of Ebodje STP : creation of an eco-tourism project for marine turtles and a "House of the Turtle" to sensitize local residents	
	Increase public awareness through targeted media campaigns and other vehicles, and share results with others	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>			BEN : pedagogical interventions in schools CMR : pedagogical interventions in schools and hotels CMR, COG, GAB, GNQ, STP : development of pedagogical tools: comic strip for adults, children's tales; popularization of information on marine turtle projects in the "Canopée" review and on the Web (ECOFAC/PROTOMAC) GAB : Colouring book produced by <i>Aventures sans Frontières</i> LIB : production of educational materials, visual aids in progress STP : television film on the marine turtles of STP, radio programmes, T-shirts CMS : financed production/distribution of French language identification posters, in collaboration with WIDECAS	GMB, MRT : lack of public awareness needs to be addressed through broad information campaigns
		Carry out awareness campaigns focussing on key targets: airports, travel agencies, beach owners, beach-goers etc. <i>Priority: medium</i>			BEN : activities of the <i>Musée des Sciences Naturelles</i> GAB : installation of beach huts to inform the public SEN : installation of beach huts to inform the public	
		Integrate elements of conservation programmes in school curricula, with the active support of educators <i>Priority: medium</i>				

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		Declare a Year of the Marine Turtle for countries of the Atlantic coast of Africa, and organise national and sub-regional campaigns <i>Priority: as resources permit</i>			CPV : Year of the Marine Turtle already realised	GAB : Year of the Turtle planned to begin in January 2001
		Establish information / interpretation centres where the public can be exposed to basic information about sea turtles <i>Priority: as resources permit</i>				
	Review or set up appropriate institutional structures and build national capacity	Provide training (e.g. through workshops) in basic turtle conservation techniques to wildlife managers, local committees and other relevant agencies and individuals			CMR, COG, GAB, GNQ, STP : participated in ECOFAC training workshop (Libreville, 12/1997): GHA : community-based training programmes have been organized	BEN : training planned for local actors
		Coordinate training programmes and conduct sub-regional training workshops				
Enhance co-operation and co-ordination within and among Range States	Draft detailed national action plans and projects for marine turtle conservation	Ensure adequate consultation with concerned ministries, research institutions, NGOs, local communities and other stake-holders <i>Priority: high</i>			BEN, CIV, CMR, COG, CPV, GAB, GNQ, STP : Programmes have been developed in coordination with the respective Ministry of Environment and/or Ministry of Agriculture	

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Objective	Programme	Activity	Range State	Collaborator	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
	Improve information exchange with other countries	Designate a national focal point to serve as contact for others on marine turtle issues <i>Priority: high</i>				
		Set up sub-regional (or transborder) networks to facilitate cooperation and information exchange <i>Priority: medium</i>			Region-wide : "Kudu" information bulletin (IUCN France / PROTOMAC) PRT-Az and PRT-Md : co-operative project to be started in 1999 with EU financing	AGO, CPV, ESP-Cn, GNB, GNQ, PRT-Az, PRT-Md, STP : develop a Portuguese/Spanish language network
		Establish national databases of individuals, organisations concerned with marine turtle conservation <i>Priority: medium</i>				
		Develop and maintain a web-based regional database of marine turtle focal points, interested NGOs, researchers, resource persons etc <i>Priority: medium</i>		CMS WWF	WWF : List of NGOs on the Atlantic coast of Africa is in preparation	
	Join relevant nature conservation conventions	Accede to or ratify the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) <i>Priority: medium</i>		CMS		Relevant for: AGO, CIV, CPV, GAB, GMB, GNQ, LIB, NAM, SLE, STP
		Accede to or ratify other relevant conventions, such as CBD, Ramsar, Abidjan, Algiers etc <i>Priority: medium</i>				

Objective	Programme	Activity	Range State	Collaborator	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
	Broaden membership in the MoU, and ensure continuity of MoU activities	Encourage non-members to join the MoU in order to enhance possibilities for collaboration <i>Priority: high</i>		CMS		Arrange signature of MoU: AGO, CIV, CMR, CPV, ESP-Cn, GBR-SH, LIB, NAM, PRT-Az, PRT-Md, MAR, SEN, SLE, STP, ZAF
		Organize a follow-up meeting of all Range States to refine the Conservation Plan <i>Priority: high</i>		CMS	The Federal Ministry of Environment of Nigeria has offered to host the meeting.	CMS/NGA : Liaise on the modalities of organizing such a meeting in 2001.
	Formalize a regional Agreement under CMS	Give consideration, after a certain number of years, to transforming the MoU into a legally-binding Agreement, with more concrete institutional arrangements <i>Priority: as resources permit</i>		CMS		
Secure funding to initiate or continue marine turtle conservation programmes	Include marine turtle projects in larger programmes aimed at conserving coastal and marine areas	Review existing or proposed programmes with a view to inserting elements that focus on marine turtle conservation			EU-funded project, covering marine turtles (in part), approved for ESP-Cn and CPV PROTOMAC countries: continuation of EU financing	LIB : Develop an integrated national coastal zone management programme, with emphasis on marine turtles and other marine species SEN : Put in place a marine turtle conservation programme, involving IRD (ex-ORSTOM), CRODT, Fédération sénégalaise de pêche sportive
	Use the CMS MoU as a tool for leveraging funding for regional marine turtle conservation efforts	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>		CMS IUCN	IUCN, CMS : Project under development	

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Objective	Programme	Activity	Range State	Collaborator	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
		Approach bilateral, multilateral donors to solicit external funding (e.g. development co-operation agencies, European Union, World Bank, UNDP, UNEP etc.) <i>Priority: high</i>		CMS		STP : Project Tâtô (financed by EU, CDF and ECOFAC), in its final phase, needs new funding to continue
		Approach foundations and international NGOs that may have an interest in funding activities in particular countries to catalyse the creation of a small grants fund <i>Priority: high</i>		CMS		
		Seek synergies (with respect to fund-raising, provision of institutional support etc.) with other regional/global convention secretariats <i>Priority: high</i>		CMS		CMS : Pursue contacts with UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme
		Convince corporations (eg. oil exploitation companies) to lend support to conservation initiatives through their environmental communication strategies <i>Priority: high</i>				

Objective	Programme	Activity	Range State	Collaborator	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
		On a local level, approach governmental and non-governmental bodies, corporations, embassies, individuals for <i>ad hoc</i> sponsorship <i>Priority: medium</i>				BEN : Put collection boxes in selected public places (especially those frequented by tourists, such as airports, restaurants etc) in order to collect funds
	Generate funding for turtle projects through ecotourism and other self-supporting revenue-generating schemes (while benefiting local communities at the same time)	Set up collectives to produce and sell to the public articles with a marine turtle motif <i>Priority: medium</i>				
		Train local stakeholders, especially fishermen, to act as guides to enable them to generate income from other sources <i>Priority: medium</i>				
		Develop, where appropriate, marine turtle "adoption" programmes, benefiting from experience gained in other countries <i>Priority: medium</i>			CMR : adoption programme in place in the Campo-Ma'an area	
	Examine various options available to governments to put in place internal financial support mechanisms for research activities	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>				

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Objective	Programme	Activity	Range State	Collaborator	Implementation progress	Further specific actions to undertake
		Examine potential for "debt for nature" swaps using marine turtles as flagship species <i>Priority: as resources permit</i>				
		Establish an emergency fund for the environment in case of natural disasters <i>Priority: as resources permit</i>				