

**3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding  
Concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the  
Atlantic Coast of Africa**

*Saly, Senegal, 4-5 September 2023*

CMS/Atlantic-Turtle-MOU/MOS3/In.4.a

**NATIONAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR: 2023**

**NIGERIA**

<b>Signatory State:</b>	<b>NIGERIA</b>
<b>Memorandum in effect in Signatory State since (day/month/year):</b>	May 29 <sup>th</sup> , 1999
<b>Full contact details of the agency or institution that has been primarily responsible for the preparation of this report:</b>	FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, ABUJA NIGERIA.
<b>Name and affiliation of the person completing this report</b>	MR OKUNUGA MATHEW OLUFEMI
<b>List any other agencies, institutions, or NGOs that have provided input:</b>	NIGERIAN INSTITUTE FOR OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE RESEARCH, VICTORIA-ISLAND, LAGOS.
<b>Date of completion of the National Report (day/month/year):</b>	30/07/23

**1. BACKGROUND:**

**1.1 Provide an update on sea turtle species present in your country:**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Select one for each species</b>	<b>Number of nests per year</b>	<b>Trend</b>	<b>Ref.#</b>
<b>Loggerhead (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)</b>	No sighting	Unknown	Unknown	SWOT report, Vol XII, 2017
<b>Green (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)</b>	Nesting	101-500 nests	Decreasing	SWOT report, Vol XII, 2017
<b>Leatherback (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)</b>	Nesting	101-500 nests	Decreasing	SWOT report, Vol XII, 2017
<b>Hawksbill (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>)</b>	Nesting	Unknown	Unknown	SWOT report, Vol XII, 2017
<b>Olive ridley (<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>)</b>	Nesting	1,001-5,000 nests	Decreasing	SWOT report, Vol XII, 2017
<b>Kemp's ridley (<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>)</b>	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	

**1.2 What is the total length of your coastline?**

853km

**1.3 What percentage of the coastline has nesting beaches?**

50 percent

**1.4 What percentage of the nesting beaches is currently monitored at regular intervals? (Ref.#) 0**

**1.5 Are there currently in-water projects in your country that monitor/characterize:**

- a. habitats?    yes     no
- b. sea turtle populations?    yes     no

**1.6 Are there currently:**

- a. bycatch monitoring projects in your country?                          yes     no
- b. bycatch reduction projects in your country?                          yes     no

**1.7 List the national laws and regional/international agreements in your country that protect sea turtles and/or their habitats**

1. National Environmental (Protection of Endangered Species in International Trade) Regulations, 2011, S.I. No. 15 Gazette No. 42. Vol. 98 of 6th May, 2011.
2. National Wildlife Species Protection Act, The Endangered species (Control of International Trade and Traffic) Amendment Act 2016
3. National Environmental (Coastal and Marine Areas Protection) Regulations, 2011, S.I. No. 18 Gazette No 45, Vol. 98 of 13th May 2011.
4. Abidjan Convention- Memorandum Of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures For Marine Turtles Of The Atlantic Coast Of Africa 1999

**1.8 List protected areas (PAs), sanctuaries or temporary exclusion zones that were created to protect marine turtle habitat.**

Apoi Forest Reserve, Bayelsa State
Edumenum Reserve, Bayelsa State

**1.9 List government agencies that play a role in the conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats in your country. Very briefly list their responsibilities in relation to protecting marine turtles and their habitats.**

Name of the agency	Role in the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats
NIGERIAN INSTITUTE FOR OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE RESEARCH, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS	Scientific research and conservation of marine turtles and their habitat
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, ABUJA	Policy formulation, Coordination Enforcement of Laws Protecting Sea

	turtles and other Wildlife species management and conservation in Nigeria

**1.10 List the names and locations of NGOs and other institutions working on sea turtles in your country**

<b>Name of the NGO/Institution</b>	<b>Location</b>
Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research Victoria island	Lagos Nigeria

## 2. THREATS

### 2.1 Indicate the intensity of threats currently to marine turtles at the nesting beach and/or in the water in your country

Nature of Threat	Intensity of Threat	Ref.#
Illegal exploitation of nesting females (i.e. direct harvest on land)	High / common occurrence	3
Illegal intentional harvest of animals in coastal waters	Medium	
Use: Meat consumption	High / common occurrence	
Use: Egg consumption	High / common occurrence	
Use: Fat and oil consumption	High / common occurrence	
Use: Traditional medicine	Medium	
Use: Carapace	None	
Use: Scutes for ornaments	Unknown	
Use: Traditional ceremony	Medium	
Use: Other — please specify	Medium	
International trade in sea turtle meat/eggs/parts	Medium	
Incidental capture in artisanal fisheries	High / common occurrence	
Incidental capture in industrial fisheries	Low / rare event	
IUU fishing	High / common occurrence	
Boat strikes	Low / rare event	
Marine debris (e.g. plastics at sea, flotsam)	High / common occurrence	
Degradation of in-water habitats (seagrass beds, coral reefs, etc.)	High / common occurrence	
Industrial effluent	Medium	
Inshore oil pollution	High / common occurrence	
Coastal/beach degradation from Agricultural/urban/tourism development or construction	High / common occurrence	
Artificial lighting (on land or near shore)	Medium	
Coastal erosion, debris that obstructs nesting, hatchlings, etc.	High / common occurrence	
Vehicles driving on the beach	High / common occurrence	

Unregulated tourism	High / common occurrence	
Sand mining / removal	High / common occurrence	
Predation by domestic / feral animals	Medium	
Increasing sand temperature	High / common occurrence	
Other (specify)	Choose an item.	

**2.2 Provide more details on the fisheries in your waters (including territorial waters and the EEZ)**

<b>ARTISANAL FISHERIES</b>			
	<b>Intensity of Threat</b>	<b>Species impacted</b> (please select all that apply)	<b>Ref.#</b>
Trawls	High / common occurrence	Loggerhead ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Green ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leatherback ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley ( <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley ( <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	1
Set gill nets	High / common occurrence	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Driftnets	High / common occurrence	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Purse seine	Low / rare event	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

		Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Longline	Low / rare event	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Beach seine	Not Applicable	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Stownet	Low / rare event	Loggerhead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (specify)	Choose an item.	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	

**INDUSTRIAL FISHERIES**

	<b>Intensity of Threat</b>	<b>Species impacted</b> (please select all that apply)	<b>Ref.#</b>
Bottom trawls (including shrimp trawls)	Not Applicable	Loggerhead ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leatherback ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1

		Olive ridley ( <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley ( <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	
Pelagic trawls	Not Applicable	Loggerhead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	1
Driftnets	Not Applicable	Loggerhead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	1
Purse seine	Not Applicable	Loggerhead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	1
Longline	Not Applicable	Loggerhead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	1
Other (specify)	Choose an item.	Loggerhead <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Leatherback <input type="checkbox"/> Hawksbill <input type="checkbox"/> Olive ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Kemp's ridley <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>	



**2.3 Which of the following are encouraging illegal take of marine turtles in your country? Provide Ref.#s**

- Relatively high prices, relatively high revenues earned from selling turtle parts and products (any of the following: meat, eggs, crafts)
- Lack of affordable alternatives to turtle parts and products
- Lack of culturally acceptable alternatives to turtle parts and products
- Ease of access to the turtle resource (e.g. proximity to nesting beaches, or ease of land/water access)
- Lack of patrolling and enforcement at nesting beaches and nearshore areas
- Low cost of land near nesting beaches
- Low penalties against illegal take
- Source of easy income
- Other (specify):
- None of the above
- Not Applicable

### 3. THREAT REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

#### 3.1 Indicate activities implemented currently at the nesting beach and the level of implementation based on the need for the activity

ACTIVITY	Need for the activity	IMPLEMENTATION	Ref.#
Monitoring eggs and nesting females (day time)	High	None	
Monitoring nesting females (night patrols)	High	None	
Predator control	High	None	
In-situ nest protection from predators/ high sand temperatures	High	None	
Nest relocation (hatcheries, other sections of beach)	High	None	
Vehicle access restrictions	High	None	
Regular removal of debris/ beach clean ups	High	Low	
Beach restoration	High	None	
Coastal protection from development/sand mining/pollution	High	None	
Light pollution reduction	Medium	None	
Law enforcement	High	Low	
Other (specify)	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	

#### 3.2 List the fisheries where the below methods are being used currently to address bycatch of marine turtles in your country, and indicate level of implementation

METHOD	FISHERIES (please list)	IMPLEMENTATION (mark with X) for each listed fishery			Ref.#
		Low	Moderate	Extensive	
Safe handling of incidentally caught turtles (e.g. resuscitation or release using de-hooking tools, line cutting tools and scoop nets)	Industrial shrimp trawl fisheries			X	
Devices that allow the escape of marine turtles (e.g. turtle excluder devices (TEDs))	Industrial Shrimp trawl fisheries			X	

Devices that allow marine turtles to avoid the nets (e.g. lights)					
Measures to avoid encirclement of marine turtles in purse seine fisheries					
Measures to release the turtles before the purse seine is hauled in					
Appropriate combinations of hook size and design, type of bait, depth, gear specifications and fishing practices	Artisanal fisheries	X			
Monitoring and recovery of fish aggregating devices (FADs)	Artisanal fisheries	X			
Use of eco-friendly FADs					
Spatial and temporal control of fishing (e.g. seasonal closures of fishing activities)					
Onboard observer programmes					
Vessel monitoring systems	Industrial fisheries		X		
Inspections (i.e. at sea, in port, at landing sites)	Industrial Fisheries			X	
Law enforcement at sea	Industrial and artisanal fisheries			X	
Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods	Industrial fisheries		X		
Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.	Industrial fisheries		X		
Proper disposal of discarded gear to prevent ghost fishing	Industrial and Artisanal fisheries		X		
Other (specify)					
None of the above					

**3.3 Are there efforts currently to recover degraded marine turtle habitats?**

Provide Ref.#

- a. Coral reefs:    yes             no             unsure             not applicable
- b. Seagrass:        yes             no             unsure             not applicable
- c. Other (specify): yes             no             unsure             not applicable
- Nesting beaches/ beach cleanups

### 3.4 Touristic Activities

#### 3.4.1 Are there currently touristic activities linked to marine turtles in your country?

yes  no  unsure

If yes, indicate which type:		Ref.#
a. Nesting turtle observation	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Hatchling releases	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Swimming/ snorkeling activities	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (please describe)		

#### 3.4.2 Are there any standard and government-certified protocols to ensure that touristic activities do not harm turtles and/or hatchlings?

yes  no  unsure

**If yes, have they been implemented?**

yes  no  unsure

**If they have been implemented, are they effective?**

yes  no  unsure

### 3.5 Are education/awareness programmes currently in place?

For each group indicate the extent of the programme nationally and provide Ref.#s

Target audience	Extent of the programme	Ref.#
Policy makers	Low	2
Fishing industry	Low	1
Communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats	Low	2
Local/Fishing communities	Low	2
Women's groups	Low	1
Indigenous groups	Low	
Tourists	None	
Media	Low	
Teachers	None	
Students	Low	
Military, Navy, Police	None	
Scientists	Medium	2
NGOs	Low	2
Enforcement personnel	Low	
Judicial personnel	Low	
Others (describe)	Choose an item.	

**3.6 Involvement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**

**3.6.1 Is traditional knowledge (including beliefs, taboos, etc.) being incorporated into conservation efforts?**

yes  no  unsure  not applicable

**If yes, please provide Ref.#**

**3.6.2 Do indigenous peoples and local communities participate in conservation and management planning/decision making?**

yes  no  unsure  not applicable

**If yes, please provide Ref.#**

**3.7 Are indigenous peoples and local communities benefitting from the presence of sea turtles and sea turtle projects?**

yes  no  unsure  not applicable

**If yes, explain how by selecting from the following and provide Ref#:**

<b>Benefits</b>		<b>Ref.#</b>
a. financially (hired by the project)	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
b. ecotourism	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
c. community development (infrastructure)	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
d. community members' skill development	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
e. education (children/adults)	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
f. alternative livelihoods (specify)	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
g. other (specify)	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	

**3.8 Are there any studies currently in your country to investigate the effects of climate change?**

yes  no  unsure

**If yes, specify very briefly and provide Ref.#s:**

#### 4. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

##### 4.1 Are there programmes currently to involve local stakeholders in activities to conserve marine turtles?

Indicate the level of engagement, at the national level, for each stakeholder and provide Ref.#s

Stakeholder	Level of Engagement	Ref.#
Fishing industry	Medium	1
Communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats	Medium	2
Local/Fishing communities	Medium	2
Women's groups	Medium	1
Indigenous groups	None	
Tourists	None	
Media	None	
Teachers	None	
Students	High	
Military, Navy, Police	None	
Scientists	High	
NGOs	Medium	2
Enforcement personnel	Medium	2
Judicial personnel	None	2
Others (describe)	None	

#### 5. CAPACITY-BUILDING

##### 5.1 For which of the following is capacity-building /training/technical expertise needed in your country:

Capacity-building needs		Further details (if needed)
a. Nesting beach monitoring	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
b. In-situ nest protection/predator control	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
c. Hatcheries	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
d. Bycatch monitoring	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
e. Bycatch reduction	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
f. In-water habitat monitoring	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
g. In-water sea turtle population monitoring	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
h. Community engagement/empowerment	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
i. Ecotourism	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
j. Training of law enforcement personnel	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
k. Habitat restoration	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
l. Light pollution control	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
m. Socio-economic studies	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
n. National database	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
o. Data management	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
p. Grant writing	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
q. Research	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
r. Other	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	

## 6. ABIDJAN MARINE TURTLE MOU

### 6.1 How would you describe the current sea turtle conservation and management efforts in your country?

- a. Nothing is being done
- b. Ineffective
- c. Partially effective
- d. Very effective

### 6.2 Do you believe that the « Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa » is a useful framework for conservation and management in your country?

- yes       no       unsure

## 7. REFERENCES

Provide details for all the references used in your above responses:

- 1) Improving Interview-Based Assessments Of Sea Turtle And Marine Mammal Bycatch In West Africa. Personal communication Lewinson and Moore. 2012.  
Data Source: Lewinson and Moore. 2012. Improving Interview-Based Assessments Of Sea Turtle And Marine Mammal Bycatch In West Africa: Putting fishing activity into a socio-economic context. Personal communication. Project Report, September 2012
- 2) Adegbile Oyeronke M., Olakolu F.C., Obienu J. and Awosanya S. (2015). Sea turtles still nest in Lagos, South-Western Nigeria. *African Sea Turtle Newsletter*. Vol 3: 17-20.
- 3) Girondot, M., and A. Girard. 2017. Sea turtle nesting in Nigeria. Personal communication. In SWOT Report-State of the World's Sea Turtles, vol. XII (2017).