



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

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#### DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME (WP) 2020-2024 FOR THE IOSEA MARINE TURTLE MOU

(Prepared by the Secretariat with Initial Revisions by the Advisory Committee)

### Action Requested:

- Review this document
- Prioritize, amend and shorten the draft WP to a realistic number of concrete and feasible measures in Section 1
- Review and, if necessary, amend Section 2 of the draft WP

#### DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME (WP) 2020-2024 FOR THE IOSEA MARINE TURTLE MOU

#### Introduction

- Numerous topics have been discussed, actions recommended and implemented during the 18 years since IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU came into force. At every meeting, recommendations have been made to Signatory States, Advisory Committee and Secretariat. These have often been spread across different documents, and have only partly been included in the lists of Action Points introduced by MOS6. With the changes in Secretariat staff in recent years, identifying all proposed activities and following up on them has proved challenging. The same is likely true for new Focal Points.
- 2. In order to capture the outcomes of these important discussions, the IOSEA Secretariat has compiled a synthesis of existing recommendations (Doc. 8.1) and, based on this compilation, developed a draft Work Programme (Part 1 of this document).
- 3. To facilitate effective implementation of agreed activities in the coming intersessional period, it is important to make sure all important outcomes of MOS8 are captured and all necessary follow-up activities are clearly defined. Therefore, the IOSEA Secretariat proposes that MOS8 adopts a Work Programme, which would:
  - a) serve as the most important MOS8 outcome document to guide stakeholders in the implementation of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU and its CMP
  - b) reflect the priorities of the Signatory States
  - c) be compiled, agreed and adopted by the MOS in a systematic way
- 4. The Secretariat prepared this document as a first draft of the IOSEA Work Programme from 2020 onwards for the review, amendment and adoption by MOS8.

#### **Structure of the Document**

- 5. The present document is derived from the Synthesis of Existing Recommendations (Doc. 8.1). The document consists of two parts:
  - Section 1: IOSEA Draft Work Programme (WP) 2020-2024 and
  - Section 2: Programmes of the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP), which are not addressed in the current draft WP, because they were not represented in the "Synthesis of Existing Recommendations".
- 6. Part 1, the Draft Work Programme (WP) 2020-2024, contains three sections:
  - Section 1 "Measures that Correspond to CMP Objectives and Programmes" comprises measures derived from existing recommendations for the MOU (Synthesis of Existing Recommendations, Document 8.1), organized according to the structure of the CMP;
  - Section 2 "Measures Related to MOU Administration and Coordination" lists dayto-day tasks of the Secretariat that are needed to maintain and advance MOU coordination and administration;
  - Section 3 "Measures without Corresponding CMP Programmes" lists four existing recommendations, which did not match any of the CMP Programmes and activities.

7. MOS8 should particularly focus on Section 1, as these measures directly address conservation of marine turtles and their habitats. Measures in Section 1 are sorted according to the structure of the IOSEA Conservation and Management Plan. Repetitive or similar recommendations were combined into single measures to reduce the total number of measures. Currently, there are 100 measures in Section 1, derived from existing recommendations.

#### Main subjects and activities covered by the current draft WP

- 8. The current draft WP covers 27 subjects (Subject column of the Draft WP), identified in the Synthesis of Existing Recommendations (Doc. 8.1). However, most of the measures address the following five subjects (Table 1):
  - 1) scientific research needs (genetics and other species-specific research (17 measures),
  - 2) fisheries interactions (15 measures),
  - 3) capacity-building (10 measures), and
  - 4) illegal take and trade (8 measures)
  - 5) outreach and communication (8 measures)

Table 1: Ten most frequently addressed subjects from the current draft IOSEA WP (2020-2024) and the number of measures corresponding to different subjects

Subject	Number of measures addressing the subject
1) Fisheries interactions	15
3) Capacity-building	10
2) Genetic research	9
4) Species-specific research	8
5) Illegal Take and Trade	8
6) Outreach and Communication	8
7) Habitat Protection	7
8) Socio-economics	4
9) Funding	4
10) Alternative livelihoods	3
Others	24
Total	100

9. In terms of the types of action required for the suggested measures, by far the most frequent is conducting targeted studies on marine turtles and their habitats, including assessment of existing knowledge (31 measures) (Table 2). This is followed by measures to enhance institutional and international cooperation (14 measures), and to provide training, assistance and to enhance capacity of Signatory States (10 measures).

Table 2: Number of measures from the Draft IOSEA WP 2020-2024 containing various types of action

Type of action required	Number of measures addressing the subject
Conducting targeted studies and assessments, including compilation of existing information	31
Enhancing cooperation and coordination within and between countries, as well as with various stakeholders	14
Enhancing outreach and communication	13
Providing training, assistance and capacity-building	9
Establishing habitat protection, management and conservation measures	8
Enhancing MOU processes	8
Fundraising	5
Others	12
Total	100

## Prioritization of the WP according to priorities identified by National Reports in 2014 and in 2019

- 10. Signatory States indicated main priorities for action in their National Reports submitted prior to the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Signatory States (MOS7). The highest priority for action was "conducting targeted studies on marine turtles and their habitats". This is well reflected in the current draft WP with 32 measures out of 100 addressing this issue. "Establishing habitat protection and conservation measures" was the second most frequently mentioned by Signatory States as a high priority topic. However, this topic ranked only fourth in terms of frequency of corresponding measures in the current draft WP (8 measures). This is because existing recommendations (Doc 8.1), from which the measures were derived, address this issue only to a limited extent. MOS8 may thus wish to ensure that establishing "habitat protection and conservation measures" is addressed sufficiently to reflect this priority. For this purpose, MOS8 may find it useful to consult Part II of this document with the prioritized list of the CMP Programmes which are not addressed in the current Draft WP.
- 11. The analysis of national reports submitted for MOS8 showed slightly changed priorities of the Signatory States. Similar to the previous reporting period, these included "conducting studies on marine turtles and their habitats", "habitat protection" and "education and information programmes". However, in the 2019 reports, measures to reduce bycatch and to protect and rehabilitate marine turtle habitats ranked higher than in the previous reporting period.
- 12. In their 2019 National Reports, Signatories mentioned 20 out of 24 Programmes of the CMP, or activities corresponding to these Programmes. The twelve CMP Programmes most frequently mentioned<sup>1</sup> have been indicated as high priority in the last column of the original Draft WP. However, based on the advice from the Advisory Committee, the Secretariat has removed this prioritization in the current 2<sup>nd</sup> revision. This is to allow each sub-regional group to assign their own priority (high, medium or low) to each

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Mentioned by at least four countries in their National Reports submitted by the reporting deadline in 2019 as a high priority

measure, and hence get a more comprehensive picture of the situation in each subregion.

#### Selection of a realistic number of actionable measures for the WP

- 13. The MOS8 is requested to review the draft WP with a particular focus on Section 1. The total number of measures contained in Section 1 of this Draft WP is 106. This number remains too high to be realistically addressed within a five-year period. The Meeting of Signatories might therefore wish to prioritize measures further and reduce the number of measures to a number that can be realistically implemented in five years. For example, MOS8 might consider reducing the number of measures in Section 1 to a maximum of 40, similar to the number of Action Points agreed at MOS7.
- 14. In addition, some of the measures in the current draft are too broad and require further specification, indicating what the steps to be taken should be; others may be out of date. MOS8 is therefore invited to review, select, amend and update any of the measures they feel necessary, guided by the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

## Part I: Draft Work Programme (WP) 2020-2024

Table 3: Proposed measures based on the Synthesis of Existing Recommendations (Doc.8.1)

CMP <sub>2</sub>	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
	Section 1: Measures that Correspond to CMP Objectives and Programmes			
1	Objective 1: Reduce direct and indirect causes of marine turtle mortality			
1.1	Identify and document threats to turtles and their habitats <sup>3</sup>			
1.1 a	Collate and organize existing data			
	<ol> <li>Determine population-specific threats to be used as a base for monitoring and management:         <ul> <li>a) collect samples to perform genetic analysis on bycaught, stranded and confiscated specimen and record results systematically;</li> <li>b) using genetic markers identified for nesting populations, determine population structure of marine turtle bycatch, stranded and confiscated turtles</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	Fisheries	Signatory States	
	COMPLETED			
	3. Assess vulnerability of nesting beaches to climate change in the IOSEA region, using beach height data, temperature profiles, and distribution maps	Climate Change	Signatory States	
	COMPLETED			
	COMPLETED			
	<ul> <li>6. Assess vulnerability of turtles to marine debris, including ghost nets and plastic pollution</li> <li>a) Investigate transport and abundance of marine debris, marine debris ingestion rates, and vulnerability<sup>4</sup></li> <li>b) Investigate impact on each genetic stock / population / management unit</li> </ul>	Marine Debris, Genetics	Signatory States	
	6 (1). Send out the draft Hawksbill Assessment to other experts in the region for their comments and provide a final report to the Secretariat by 30 June 2020 for publishing.	Species: Hawksbill	Advisory Committee	

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Number of the Programme (indicated by a number) or a specific activity (indicated by a number and a letter) from the CMP 3 Similar to 3.3: Analyze data to mitigate threats and improve conservation practices

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Similar to CMP 2.1

CMP <sub>2</sub>	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
	6 (2). Initiate the next species assessment for Olive Ridley Turtles with a view to tabling a draft at IOSEA MOS9.	Species: Olive Ridley	Advisory Committee	
	6 (3). Prepare a brief document on the conservation status of Flatback Turtles with a view to tabling a draft at IOSEA MOS9.	Species: Flatback	Advisory Committee	
	6 (4). Cooperate with the CMS Scientific Council in their review of relevant scientific information on conservation and threats to marine turtles, such as climate change and sky glow, and the development of corresponding recommendations.	Climate Change, Light Pollution	Advisory Committee	
	6 (5). Encourage the review and investigation of longer-term impacts of underwater noise on turtles.	Underwater Noise	Signatory States	
Mov ed from 1.4	18. Compile information on the status of on-board observer programmes and the status of marine turtle bycatch recording within those observer programmes.	Fisheries Interactions	Signatory States	
1.1 b	Establish baseline data collection and monitoring programmes			
	7. Investigate potential overlaps of fishing activities and turtle/dugong distributions.	Fisheries Interactions	Signatory States	
	REDUNDANT:			
	REDUNDANT:			
	9. Establish and/or continue a reliable nesting beach monitoring programme	Nesting Sites	Signatory States, Advisory Committee	
	COMPLETED			
	11. Conduct surveys with fishermen to estimate bycatch and identify solutions to mitigate bycatch, e.g. making use of the questionnaire developed by the CMS Dugong MOU	Fisheries Interactions	Signatory States	
	11 (1). Collaborate with the Olive Ridley Project by regularly submitting available data on ghost nets and ghost net turtle entanglement to the online data portal.	Marine Debris, Cooperation	Signatory States, Advisory Committee	

CMP <sub>2</sub>	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
	11 (2) Monitor light pollution and its impact on the nesting turtles and their hatchlings	Light Pollution, Nesting Sites	Signatory States	
1.2 a, b	Determine, adapt and adopt best conservation and management practices			
	12. Develop guidance on the management of beaches for successful hatchling production, including management of hatcheries if and when required.	Hatcheries	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	
	12 (1). Organize workshops to disseminate the best practice information for the management of hatcheries	Hatcheries	Signatory States	
	12 (2). Consult with the Advisory Committee on the draft tourism guidelines and recommended code of conduct for operators on recreational in-water interactions with CMS-listed species when these are developed through the CMS Scientific Council.	•	Secretariat	
	12 (3). Utilize the Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife Including Marine Turtles, Seabirds and Migratory Shorebirds (presented in MOS8/Doc.11.1) nationally, and engage with CMS in any further work to be done on the subject.	Light Pollution, Cooperation	Signatory States, Advisory Committee, Secretariat	
	12 (4). Utilize the CMS Family <i>Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities</i> and disseminate them to all national departments involved in deciding on noise-generating activities	Underwater Noise	Signatory States	
1.3	Implement programmes to reduce adverse economic incentives			
1.3 a	Conduct socio-economic studies among communities that interact with marine turtles	and their habitats	i ,	
	(WIO-MTTF specific)			
	13 (1). Compile information on available tools and mechanisms which incorporate all stakeholders to evaluate and address socio-economic issues	Socio- economics	Specialised project consultancy	
	13 (2). Investigate human dimensions that underpin the use and trade of marine turtles and turtle products.	Socio- economics		
	(WIO-MTTF specific)			

CMP <sub>2</sub>	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
	REDUNDANT			
1.3 c	Identify resources and sources of funding for these programmes			
	REDUNDANT			
	16 (1). Compile and disseminate information on available funding opportunities	Funding	Secretariat, Advisory Committee	
1.4	Reduce incidental capture and mortality from fisheries interactions		•	
1.4 a	Develop and use gear, devices and techniques to reduce bycatch			
	17. Establish and continue national and/or regional bycatch mitigation projects for industrial and artisanal fisheries (including gear modification, TEDs, and improved fishing practices to reduce bycatch).	Fisheries Interactions	Signatory States, Nations with fleets in the region	
1.4 b	Procedures and training to reduce bycatch			
	19. Establish national observer, assessment and quantification programmes to assess the impact on different turtle life stages and populations	Fisheries Interactions	Signatory States, Nations with fleets in the region, RFMOs	
1.4 d	Liaise and coordinate with fisheries industries and FMO		•	
	<ul> <li>20. Ensure that concerns related to sources of turtle mortality are presented at IOTC Meetings/ especially WPEB (e.g. including FAD s and gill nets, based on new information that comes to light):</li> <li>a) Initiate dialogue on current issues of concern among Signatories and IOTC members in advance of each IOTC meeting (including subsidiary bodies)</li> <li>b) Continue to contribute to the IOTC Executive Summary on marine turtles</li> <li>c) AC Members and National Focal Points to communicate important issues to members of national delegations attending IOTC in advance of each IOTC meeting</li> <li>d) Signatories (especially if FP are the same) to promote the cause of turtles in IOTC</li> </ul>	Fisheries Interactions, Cooperation	Secretariat, AC, Signatory States who are members of the IOTC	

CMP <sub>2</sub>	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
	meetings, and to communicate issues with Secretariat and others for information.			
1.5	Prohibition/regulation of direct harvest and domestic trade			
	20 (1). Request inclusion of an AC member in the CMS Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group and provide opportunity to the Advisory Committee to comment on draft documents.	Take and Trade	Secretariat, Advisory Committee	
1.5 a	Enact legislation to prohibit direct harvest and domestic trade			
	21. Harmonize national legislation within countries and in accordance with the CMP Objective 1.5 to prohibit direct take and trade, except traditional harvest for CMC listed species	Take and Trade	Signatory States	
	<ul> <li>22. Improve enforcement of national legislation on exploitation of turtles:</li> <li>a) identify and articulate actual resource needs and raise funds to increase human and material resources,</li> <li>b) build field-level capacity at national and regional levels, and</li> <li>c) identify weaknesses in the judicial process and address these</li> </ul>	Take and Trade	Signatory States, CITES	
1.5 d	Determine the cultural and traditional values and economic uses of marine turtles (both consumptive)	consumptive and	d non-	
	23. Consider applying innovative techniques (e.g. the Community Voice Method (CVM)) to ensure that concerns of subsistence resource users are incorporated in decision-making	Stakeholder Engagement	Signatory States	
1.5 e	Negotiate, where appropriate, management agreements on the sustainable level of trad	itional harvest		
	24. In consultation with local communities, develop culturally acceptable management agreements on the sustainable level of legal traditional harvest	Socio- economics	Signatory States	
2	Objective 2. Protect, conserve and rehabilitate marine turtle habitats			
2.1 a	a) Designate and manage protected /conservation areas in areas of critical habitat or ta	ke other measure	s to remove th	reats
	25. Continue to identify critical habitats; protect and adequately manage already identified critical habitats.	_	Signatory States	

CMP <sub>2</sub>	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
	25 (1). Create marine protected area networks to provide management and connectivity across different habitats <sup>5</sup> , for example by completing development and implementation of an effective network / list of sites of importance for marine turtles	Habitat Protection	Signatory States, Advisory Committee, Secretariat	
	Site Network			
	REDUNDANT			
	27. Establish a working group to develop revised Site Information Template, refined evaluation criteria and scoring instructions, and a simplified post-scoring process. The working group to provide these documents to the Secretariat for circulation to the Signatories for their comments within two months.  The Secretariat to circulate to Signatories the final proposals for intersessional adoption by correspondence in order to enable their use in the run-up to MOS9.	Site Network	Signatory States, Advisory Committee, Secretariat	
	27 (1). Merge the steering committee and Site Network Discussion Group established by MOS7 to provide advice to Site managers.	Site Network	Signatory States	
	27 (2). Consider nominating IOSEA Network Sites as Ramsar Sites (if not nominated yet) to achieve additional support and recognition.	Site Network, Cooperation	Signatory States	
2.1 c	Develop incentives for adequate protection of areas of critical habitat outside protected	areas		
	28. Explore possibility of introducing certification schemes through multinational companies and organizations involved in coastal tourism and development to reduce impact on turtle habitat		Specialized project consultancy, Signatory States	
2.1 d	Undertake assessments of the environmental impact of human activities on turtles and	their habitats		
	29. Provide support, recommendations and guidelines to Signatory States and stakeholders on the importance of integrating sea turtle conservation into EIA processes; consider incorporating progress up-dates on EIA implementation in national re-porting; and	Impact	Secretariat, AC	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Similar to CMP 2.1 a) and b)

CMP <sub>2</sub>	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
	possibly analyse how EIA processes are implemented in each country.			
	29 (1). Utilize the EIA guidelines regarding impacts on sea turtles and their habitats (Document 7.5).	Environmental Impact Assessment	Signatory States	
	30. Incorporate turtle conservation needs into EIA / risk assessment of new developments and into Integrated Coastal Zone Management processes. The key emerging issues may include: energy sector (e.g. oil refineries, nuclear power energy plants), desalination infrastructure development and effluent, harbour development and dredged channels, industrial and domestic wastewater, light pollution (residential and tourism development & industrial activities). <sup>6</sup>	Impact	Signatory States	
2.1 f	Monitor and protect water quality from pollution including marine debris		•	
	31. Continue to address the problem of ghost nets, plastic debris, oil pollution, etc. via direct dialogue with relevant industries and stakeholders	Environmental Impact Assessment	Signatory States	
2.2	Rehabilitate degraded marine turtle habitats			
	31 (1). In any beach management measures, consider the potential impact of planting Casuarina trees along their coastline (see Document 7.4).	Habitat Protection	Signatory States	
	31 (2). Maintain and/or restore habitats important for turtles, such as mangrove, seagrass, and intertidal habitats.	Habitat Protection	Signatory States	
3	Objective 3. Improve understanding of marine turtle ecology and populations through exchange	research, monito	ring and inforn	nation
3 a	Conduct baseline studies on marine turtle populations and their habitats			
	<ul> <li>32. Improve understanding of the biological structure of Marine Turtle populations through scientific and traditional knowledge:</li> <li>a) Quantify key demographic parameters (e.g. reproductive output, clutches per season, remigration interval, growth rates, and annual survivorship)</li> <li>b) Complete mapping of the breeding distributions and assess population size and status</li> </ul>	Biological Research	Signatory States	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Same as CMP 2.1

CMP <sub>2</sub>	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
	<ul> <li>c) determine foraging distributions, migration path-ways, habitat use etc, using appropriate technology, (e.g. flipper tagging, satellite telemetry and genetic sampling).</li> <li>d) Collect data on hatchling production including sex ratios and health and survivorship</li> </ul>			
	33. Provide partial support or help to leverage funding for post-graduate studies to investigate the conservation biology of Marine Turtles.	Biological Research, Funding	Advisory Committee, Secretariat, Research Institutions	
	34. Improve understanding of the dispersal mechanisms and routes for marine turtle hatchlings and post-hatchlings, and migration routes for adults of each of the management units.		Research Institutions	
	REDUNDANT			
	REDUNDANT		Advisory Committee	
3.1 c	Characterize genetic identity of marine turtle populations (genetic stocks)			
	37. Develop maps for each genetic stock indicating rookery locations and habitat use in pelagic and benthic environments, rather than relying on the Regional Management Unit (RMU) maps given in Wallace et al. (2011),.	Genetics	Signatory States	
	<ul> <li>38. Conduct genetic analyses to identify genetic stocks (management units) for Marine Turtles in the IOSEA region:</li> <li>a) Compile and assess available information to identify needs and opportunities for regional analyses to inform genetic stock assessment, starting with nesting beach sampling</li> <li>b) Incorporate genetic sampling into ongoing monitoring activities (subject to budget and resources available)</li> <li>c) standardized and storage Address capacity building needs to enable in-country analyses, upon request</li> <li>d) AC and Secretariat to facilitate contacts with laboratories and CITES permits to conduct genetic analyses, upon request</li> </ul>	Genetics	Signatory States, Secretariat, Advisory Committee	

CMP <sub>2</sub>	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
	39. Expand on the existing knowledge about genetic stocks <sup>7</sup> to identify genetic studies conducted in the region and submit the information to the IOSEA Secretariat for posting on the IOSEA website and presentation at MOS9.		Advisory Committee	
	REDUNDANT			
3.2, 3.4	Exchange Information, standardize data collection and conduct collaborative research			
	45. Apply accepted guidelines and protocols for data collection and management.8	Method Standardization	Signatory States, Advisory Committee	
	46. Review data collected to assess gaps and needs for the sub-regions in terms of research and monitoring methodology	Method Standardization	Advisory Committee,	
	46 (1). Facilitate capacity building in applying best practice/standard methods	Method Standardization	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	
	REDUNDANT			
	REDUNDANT			
4	Objective 4. Increase public awareness and public participation		•	
4.1	Establish education, awareness and information programmes			
	REDUNTANT			

<sup>7</sup> Citations will be provided on the IOSEA website. [LINK TO BE INCLUDED]
8 Citations to useful and accepted guidelines and protocols for data collection and management will be provided on the IOSEA website (LINK TO BE) INCLUDED].

CMP <sub>2</sub>	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
	50. Establish linkages with other relevant initiatives, such as International and regional Sea Turtle Symposia; and global and regional Newsletters; Regional Seas Programmes and RFMOs.		Secretariat	
	51. Promote high profile events such as World Sea Turtle Day for the purpose, <i>inter alia</i> , of raising public and political awareness of turtle conservation and IOSEA's role.	Outreach and Communication		
	COMPLETED			
	53. Develop media materials to raise the profile of marine turtle conservation issues.	Outreach and Communication	Signatory States	
	<ul> <li>54. To address domestic trade:</li> <li>a) Work with local communities to reduce poaching</li> <li>b) engage religious leaders in awareness campaigns</li> <li>c) educate youth</li> <li>d) enhance transboundary cooperation in education and awareness campaigns</li> </ul>	Outreach and Communication, Take and Trade	Signatory States	
	55. Raise awareness of turtle consumers, highlight existing regulations, conservation and possibly health issues involved (e.g. tourists, vendors, egg consumers)	Outreach and Communication	Signatory States, NGOs, national stakeholders	
	<ul> <li>56. Develop and document lessons learnt from successful campaigns:</li> <li>a) use examples and lessons learnt from previous campaigns to develop successful approaches,</li> <li>b) evaluate and document lessons learnt from your campaigns</li> <li>c) share lessons learnt publicly, for example, through IOSEA Secretariat</li> </ul>	Outreach and Communication	Signatory States, NGOs, national stakeholders	
4.2	Develop alternative livelihood opportunities			
	REDUNDANT			

CMP <sub>2</sub>	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
	58. Develop alternative livelihoods, such as ecotourism and/or livestock keeping, using examples of good practice to ensure genuinely sustainable approaches, which will be beneficial in the long run for both humans and turtle populations <sup>9</sup>		Signatory States, NGOs	
	59. Assess available knowledge on best practice approaches compiled from national reports and consultations to produce a best practice guide for alternative livelihood projects that ensure that all stakeholders are fully involved.		Specialised project consultancy	
4.3	Promote public participation			
	60. Train organizers and (potential) participants of citizen science activities about species identification and data collection techniques	Stakeholder Engagement	Advisory Committee, in-country experts	
	REDUNDANT			
	<ul> <li>62. Showcase exemplary work through the IOSEA Newsletter and website:</li> <li>a) Periodically recognize and acknowledge noteworthy contributions to IOSEA implementation (by Signatory States, organizations, corporate sector, individuals etc.)</li> <li>b) Enhance appreciation / recognition of NGO/IGO partners</li> </ul>	Stakeholder Engagement	Secretariat, with input from the Signatory States	
5	Objective 5. Enhance national, regional and international cooperation			
5.1	Collaborate with and assist signatory and non-Signatory States to regulate and share in illegal trade, and to cooperate in enforcement activities relating to marine turtle product		de, to combat	
	63. Strengthen internal, bilateral and international cooperation in enforcement, collaborating with IGOs and NGOs, such as CITES, ASEAN WEN, SAWEN, TRAFFIC to ensure the issue of marine turtle trade is on the agenda of future meetings	Take and Trade, Cooperation	Signatory States, IGOs, NGOs, Secretariat	
	REDUNDANT			
	65. Identify supply and demand areas and trade routes for the international trade in Marine Turtles and their products, and develop targeted strategies to address these issues.	Take and Trade	Signatory States, NGOs	

<sup>9</sup> Similar to CMP 4.2

CMP	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
	65 (1). Renew the membership of the Illegal Trade Working Group (ITWG), for example to include CITES, nominate a chair and update the tasks. The ITWG will []	Take and Trade, Cooperation	Signatory States	
	65 (2). Enhance exchange of information with CITES, to ensure synergies and to avoid duplication of effort.	Take and Trade, Cooperation	Secretariat, ITWG	
	65 (3). Take further steps to understand and reduce use and domestic trade and to develop awareness campaigns to target online illegal trade.	Take and Trade	Signatory States, ITWG	
5.2	Assist Signatories and Non-Signatories in developing and implementing action plans for management of marine turtles and their habitats	or the conservatio	n and	
	<ul> <li>66. Encourage development and implementation of national action plans, where needed, in collaboration with local communities and other stakeholders:</li> <li>a) Compile/provide examples of National Action Plans for review and possible adaption by Signatory States to other contexts</li> <li>b) Prioritize countries that need National Action Plans and offer additional assistance to Signatory States in their development (e.g. using expertise within the Advisory Committee, Focal Points, external expertise).</li> <li>c) Assist in the implementation and review of such plans, if requested.</li> </ul>	Capacity Building	Advisory Committee, external experts	
	66 (1). Cooperate with CMS in the development of a draft Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) for the conservation of the Hawksbill Turtle to address the trade, use and other threats to the conservation of hawksbill turtles in South-east Asia, and the adjacent western Pacific.	Cooperation,	Signatory States, Advisory Committee, Secretariat	
5.3	Enhance cooperation and information exchange			
5.3 a	Identify and strengthen existing mechanisms for cooperation at the sub-regional level	<del>,</del>	<del>,</del>	
	67. Encourage more sub-regional interactions (e.g. by organizing intersessional sub-regional meetings, training, task forces, etc.)	Sub-regional Coordination	Signatory States, MTTF Chairs, Advisory Committee, Sub-regional Focal Points	

CMP	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
	68. Establish coordinated regional approaches to illegal fishing and bycatch management through the engagement of RFMOs and other bodies. Encourage those not yet participating to participate in the Marine Turtle Task Forces (MTTF), including IOTC, ASCLME, IOC, SWIOFP, etc.		Range States, MTTFs	
	69. Encourage cooperative research and management of marine turtle management units that are shared across international boundaries.	Sub-regional Coordination	Signatory States, Advisory Committee, Sub-regional Focal Points	
	REDUNDANT			
	REDUNDANT			
	REDUNDANT			
	72. Organize with a host country in the region a SEA+ sub-regional meeting to facilitate coordination and discuss the establishment of a Marine Turtle Task Force (MTTF).	Sub-regional Coordination	Signatory States, Secretariat	
	73. Organize with a host country in the region a NWIO sub-regional meeting to facilitate coordination and discuss the establishment of a Marine Turtle Task Force (MTTF).	Sub-regional Coordination	Signatory States, Secretariat	
5.3 b	Develop a web-based information resource for marine turtle conservation			
	74. Provide up-to-date lists of flipper tag series used in the countries to the IOSEA Secretariat for inclusion in and management of the existing IOSEA online database of tag series.		Secretariat Signatories, scientific institutions, NGOs	
	75. Submit information on satellite tracking studies to the IOSEA Secretariat for inclusion in and management of the Satellite Tracking Meta-database.	Information Sharing	Secretariat Signatories, scientific institutions,	

CMP <sub>2</sub>	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority	
			NGOs		
	75 (1). Develop page on EIA guidance based on MOS8 Documents 7.5 and 11.2 on the IOSEA website.	Information Sharing, Environmental Impact Assessments	Secretariat, Advisory Committee		
5.3 f	Cooperate where possible in the establishment of transboundary marine protected area boundaries	as using ecologica	al rather than p	oolitical	
	75 (2). Liaise with counterparts in neighbouring countries regarding possibilities for developing transboundary MPAs.	Sub-regional Coordination	Signatory States		
	75 (3). When developing MPAs, get sound scientific advice so as to ensure boundaries are based on ecological criteria.	Sub-regional Coordination, Habitat Protection	Signatory States		
5.3 g	Develop a streamlined format for reporting and exchanging information				
	76. Continue to improve the quality of information provided in national reports and encourage integration in National Reports, of positive substantive contributions from NGO/IGO partners.	National Reports, Information Sharing	Signatory States		
	76 (1). Include in the analysis of the National Reports matrices indicating which countries reported implementation of different activities outlined in the reporting questionnaire.	National Reports	Secretariat		
	76 (2). Establish a working group to revise the format for National Reports.	National Reports	Signatory States, Advisory Committee, Secretariat		
	77. IOSEA Focal Points are encouraged to work directly with MTTF members and relevant stakeholders to complete and improve the quality of data in national reports, for example, in relation to identifying specific resource needs and improving data on fisheries and fisheries interactions, in particular.	National Reports, Information Sharing	Signatory States		

CMP <sub>2</sub>	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
	REDUNDANT			
	79. Consider training or webinars or any further technical help to submit national reports and use IOSEA online tools.	National Reports, Capacity Building	Secretariat, Signatory States, Advisory Committee	
	79 (1). Encourage and facilitate online communications between Signatories and the Secretariat (e.g. submit reports through online system and use online tools).	National Reports, Capacity Building	Secretariat	
5.3 j	3 j Establish relationships with regional fisheries bodies with a view to obtaining data on incidental capture and encourage them to adopt marine turtle conservation measures within EEZs and on the high seas			
	79 (2). Request RFMOs to gather information and report on the occurrence, distribution and take of marine turtles in oceanic areas.	Stakeholder Engagement, Fisheries Interactions, Cooperation	Signatory States, Advisory Committee, Secretariat	
	79 (3). Revive efforts to conclude a cooperation agreement with IOTC on marine turtles (potentially as a joint arrangement with CMS if other protected species are to be included).	Fisheries Interactions, Cooperation	Secretariat	
	79 (4). Engage with WCPFC to identify options for collaboration.	Fisheries Interactions, Cooperation	Secretariat	
5.4	Build capacity			
	COMPLETED			
	<ul> <li>81. Adopt a proactive process for identifying needs and training within the IOSEA region:</li> <li>a) Offer Signatory States training topic options.</li> <li>b) Develop an over-arching structure for training to be based on the Objectives of the CMP and activities in the Work Plan</li> <li>c) Structure training to address identified 'needs' of the Signatory States through</li> </ul>	Capacity Building	Secretariat, Advisory Committee, Signatory States	

CMP <sub>2</sub>	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
	tailoring content.  d) Develop skills of country representatives in the preparation and revision of country reports  e) Develop skills of Sub-regional and Country representatives and researchers in (1) collecting, analyzing, and presenting biological data, (2) defining foraging populations, and (3) conservation management techniques (interactions with fisheries, coastal development). In addition, training should emphasize communication and coordination techniques that can be used among various levels (local, province, country, sub-region, region) to coordinate conservation activities.  f) Organize follow-up visits to assess of the transfer of information and skills.			
	<ul> <li>82. Encourage organization of sub-regional capacity building / technical workshops, including involvement of Advisory Committee. Topics could include: <ul> <li>a) Management of nesting beaches, hatchery management, lighting etc.</li> <li>b) bycatch reduction (see Section 1.4)</li> <li>c) Identification of threatening processes</li> <li>d) Rescue and rehabilitation</li> <li>e) Conduct training on site network management.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Capacity Building; Hatchery Management, Fisheries Interactions, Habitat Protection, Site Network	Secretariat, AC, MTTF, Sub-Regional Focal Points	
	REDUNDANT			
	REDUNDANT			
	<ul> <li>85. Address associated training and technology transfer needs to reduce mortalities in fisheries operations. In particular, provide training for: <ul> <li>a) observers particularly for small-scale fisheries (separate for trawlers/ gill nets, smaller outboard fisheries in large quantities)</li> <li>b) proper recording of turtle interactions in a harmonized and standard way, inter alia, to assist IOTC member countries in meeting their reporting requirements</li> <li>c) safe release of bycaught turtles</li> <li>d) enhancing use of bycatch reduction technologies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Capacity Building, Fisheries Interactions	External experts, Signatory States	
	86. Conduct sub-regional capacity-building workshops on bycatch assessment methods and engagement strategies with key government authorities and stakeholders	Capacity Building,	Secretariat, Signatory	

CMP <sub>2</sub>	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
	<ul> <li>a) develop a concept note and send a formal proposal to potential hosting countries:</li> <li>b) government and NGOs in the region to investigate potential opportunities for organizing the workshops and identify the role that each party can play</li> <li>c) conduct follow-up workshops to address specific issues at country level following regional capacity building workshops, involving fishers associations and communities.</li> </ul>	Fisheries interactions	States, AC	
	86 (1). Consider activities to address capacity-building needs to integrate marine turtle considerations into existing Ramsar Site management plans, and consider cooperating with the Ramsar Secretariat to raise funds for implementing these activities.		Advisory Committee, Signatory States, Secretariat	
	86 (2). Consider soliciting capacity-building support to conduct coordinated or joined activities for sites that are both IOSEA Network Sites and Ramsar Sites, from the IOSEA and Ramsar Secretariats.		Signatory States, Secretariat, NGOs	
5.4 i.	Encourage Signatory States to become Parties to global fisheries agreements such as the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (1995) and the FAO Compliance Agreement (1993) and implement the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995)			
	86 (3). Identify relevant Agreements and provide an overview of membership of IOSEA Signatory States to MOS9.	Cooperation	Secretariat	
5.5	Strengthen and improve enforcement of conservation policies		•	
	87. Improve enforcement of compliance with regulations, relating to activities such as fishing tourism, coastal development, industrial development, international trade restrictions.	Fisheries interactions, Tourism	Signatory States	
6	Objective 6. Promote implementation of the MoU including the Conservation and Mana	gement Plan		
6.1	MOU membership and legal status			
	88. Approach non-Signatory States in the IOSEA region and other countries with a view to securing IOSEA membership	Recruitment of New Signatory States	Signatory States, SEA sub-region,	

<sup>10</sup> Note: The involvement of experts, policy/administrative government officials and fishermen is important to be considered at different stages of engagement and during these workshops - the role of NGOs providing the links between government and fishermen associations/communities should to be considered

CMP <sub>2</sub>	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
			Secretariat	
	89. Engage with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), as well as other RFMOs relevant to the IOSEA, to reach out to non-Signatory States with fleets fishing in the IOSEA region (e.g. China / Taiwan, Japan, Republic of Korea, Spain etc).	Engagement,	Signatory States, Secretariat	
6.2 Promote the role of Secretariat and Advisory Committee				
	90. Periodically assess the appropriateness of the size and composition (skill sets) of the Advisory Committee	Effectiveness of the Advisory Committee	MOS, AC	
	90 (1). Arrange two intersessional meetings of the Advisory Committee, the first one within the first 18 months after a MOS, the second one three or four months before the next MOS, to facilitate communication regarding the implementation of the Work Programme.	Effectiveness of the Advisory Committee	Secretariat	
	91. Secure adequate resources for the Advisory Committee to function effectively (e.g. through enhanced communication, increased frequency of meetings, strengthened capacity to respond to requests from Signatory States, etc.)	Effectiveness of the Advisory Committee	Signatory States	
	92. Facilitate attendance of Sub-regional Focal Points and Chairs of the sub-regional Marine Turtle Task Forces as observers at Advisory Committee Meetings to provide advice on core issues to be addressed at Signatory State meetings.	Institutional	Sub-regional Focal Points, Advisory Committee, Secretariat	
	93. Seek periodic feedback from Signatory States through the national reports and the Advisory Committee on the general effectiveness, role, current priorities, etc. for consideration by the Meeting of Signatory States	Evaluation	Secretariat, Signatory States, AC	
	94. The Advisory Committee should review, comment, and provide guidance on advances and new and emerging issues related to species and habitat management.	Evaluation	AC	
	95. In advance of each MOS, provide advice on a new Work Programme to implement the CMP	Institutional	Advisory Committee	
6.3	Seek resources to support the implementation of the MoU			
	96. Assist countries to seek available counterpart funding (e.g. by helping with national or	Capacity	Advisory	High

CMP <sub>2</sub>	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority
	regional project proposal development, offering guidance on "packaging" of proposals, facilitating links to potential donors, providing letters of support, etc.)	Building, Funding	Committee, Secretariat	
	REDUNDANT			
	REDUNDANT			
6.4	Improve coordination among government and non-government sectors			
	REDUNDANT			
	100. Establish inclusive national committees/networks in order to develop synergies among governments and NGO partners	National Networks, Stakeholder Engagement	Signatory States	

Measures to be taken	Actors
Section 2: Measures Related to MOU Administration and Coordination <sup>11</sup>	
Meetings, Working Groups and Workshops	
101. Ensure Advisory Committee Meetings are organized as scheduled, with papers circulated at least two months in advance of the meetings.	Secretariat, Advisory Committee
102. Facilitate conference calls with the Advisory Committee on a quarterly basis to discuss and facilitate progress in the implementation of the WP	Secretariat
103. Ensure Meetings of Signatory States (MOS) are organized as scheduled, with key papers circulated at least two months in advance of the meetings	Secretariat
104. Organize meetings of sub-regional groups and assist with organization of the meetings of Marine Turtle Task Forces (NIO, WIO MTTF, NWIO and SEA+ sub-regions) at intervals defined in each group's ToR.	Secretariat
105. Support intersessional correspondence (Illegal Trade Working Group, Site Network Discussion Group, Advisory Committee) as needed.	Secretariat
106. Organize workshops if agreed by MOS8 and subject to available funding.	Secretariat
107. Secure a host for MOS9 and correspond with the host to ensure all necessary arrangements are met for next MOS.	Secretariat
Website	
108. Maintain and develop the IOSEA website, post news items and other material as appropriate. Reach out to Signatories and stakeholders to solicit their input and publish relevant information in the website news section.	Secretariat, Signatory States, Advisory Committee, MTTFs, NGOs
<ul> <li>109. Restore selected functions on IOSEA website:</li> <li>a) Continue work to restore and update IOSEA bibliography and library in collaboration with the AC and set up the electronic bibliography on the IOSEA Website</li> <li>b) Restore and update flipper tag database in collaboration with government authorities, research institutions, MTTF members and other relevant stakeholders</li> <li>c) As time and resources allow, address restoring of: project database, satellite tracking database, genetic</li> </ul>	Secretariat
directory.	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> If not yet included in Section 1

Budgetary and Administrative Matters	
110. Administer the MOU's Trust Fund in collaboration with the CMS Administrative and Fund Management Unit and report on budgetary and administrative issues to each meeting of the Signatory States, and intersessionally as required.	Secretariat
111. Prepare a draft budget for consideration by MOS9.	Secretariat
112. Encourage Signatories to pay agreed voluntary contributions and encourage voluntary contributions for projects and initiatives prioritized by the AC and MOS9	Secretariat
113. Develop funding agreements for projects prioritized by the Meeting of Signatories.	Secretariat
114. Advertise consultancies, select and supervise candidates as required for the implementation of the WP.	Secretariat

СМР	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors	Priority				
	Section 3 Measures without corresponding CMP Programmes							
	Other Matters							
	115. Offer Signatory States the opportunity to designate both administrative and technical Focal Points	Institutional	Meeting of Signatory States, Secretariat					
	117. Explore options to formalize inter-sessional decision-making (e.g., through Sub-regional Focal Points and/or develop a clear procedure agreed upon by all Signatory States		Meeting of Signatory States, Secretariat					
	118. Organize sub-regional working groups more effectively during Signatory State meetings, by engaging Sub-regional Focal Points more actively in pre-meeting organization (ideally Sub-regional Focal Points should be individuals who are likely to be in the post for a longer period of time, to provide continuity, and be knowledgeable/experienced in key IOSEA matters).		Sub-regional Focal Points, Secretariat					

## Part II: CMP Objectives and Programmes that are not Addressed in the Draft WP 2020-2024

- 15. Part II of the document includes the programmes and activities of the Conservation and Management Plan that do not have corresponding measures in the current Draft WP.
- 16. Table 4 below shows that a number of CMP Objectives and Programmes are currently without corresponding recommended measures. This includes issues directly relating to priorities identified by the Signatories, such as activities to establish/improve nesting beach management and to rehabilitate degraded habitats. In relation to illegal and legal take and trade, sustainability of traditional harvest, correcting adverse economic incentives, and improving compliance with CITES are not being addressed, among other issues. MOS8 is thus requested to take these identified gaps into account when working on the WP 2020-2024 with the assistance of the Advisory Committee.

Table 4: CMP Objectives and Programmes without corresponding existing recommendations

#### **CMP Programmes and activities**

- 1.1 Identify and document the threats to marine turtle populations and their habitats
- 1.1 c) Determine those populations affected by traditional and direct harvest, incidental capture in fisheries, and other sources of mortality
- 1.2 Determine and apply best practice approaches to minimising those threats to marine turtle populations and their habitats
- 1.2 b) Adapt and adopt the best conservation and management practices for marine turtle populations
- 1.3 Implement programmes to correct adverse economic incentives that threaten marine turtle populations
- 1.3 b) Identify desired modifications to the economic incentives in order to reduce threats and mortality, and develop programmes to implement the modifications
- 1.4 Reduce to the greatest extent practicable the incidental capture and mortality of marine turtles in the course of fishing activities
- 1.4 e) Support the UN General Assembly resolution 46/215 concerning the moratorium on the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas
- 1.4 f) Develop and implement net retention and recycling schemes to minimise the disposal of fishing gear at sea and on beaches
- 1.5 b) Assess the level and impact of traditional harvest on marine turtles and their eggs
- 1.5 Prohibit the direct harvest (capture or killing) of, and domestic trade in, marine turtles, their eggs, parts or products, whilst allowing exceptions for traditional harvest by communities
- 1.5 c) Establish management programmes that may include limits on levels of intentional harvest
- 1.6 Develop nesting beach management programmes to maximize hatchling recruitment
- 1.6 Develop nesting beach management programmes to maximize hatchling recruitment
- 1.6 a) Evaluate the effectiveness of nest and beach management programmes
- 1.6 b) Reduce the mortality of eggs and hatchlings to maximise hatchling recruitment and survival, preferably using conservation techniques that emphasize natural processes wherever possible
- 1.6 c) Minimize the mortality of eggs, hatchlings and nesting female turtles caused by feral

#### **CMP Programmes and activities**

and domestic animals

#### 2.1 Establish necessary measures to protect and conserve marine turtle habitats

- 2.1 e) Manage and regulate within each jurisdiction the use of beaches and coastal dunes, for example location and design of buildings, use of artificial lighting, and transit of vehicles in nesting areas
- 2.1 g) Strengthen the application of existing bans on the use of poisonous chemicals and explosives in the exploitation of marine resources

# 3.1 Conduct studies on marine turtles and their habitats targeted to their conservation and management

- 3.1 f) Conduct research on the frequency and pathology of diseases of marine turtles
- 3.1 g) Promote the use of traditional ecological knowledge in research studies
- 3.1 h) Review periodically and evaluate research and monitoring activities

#### 3.4 Exchange information

- 3.4 c) Exchange at regular intervals scientific and technical information and expertise among nations, scientific institutions, non-governmental and international organizations, in order to develop and implement best practice approaches to conservation of marine turtles and their habitats
- 3.4 d) Disseminate traditional knowledge on marine turtles and their habitats for conservation and management
- 3.4 e) Compile on a regular basis data on marine turtle populations of regional interest

#### 4.3 Promote public participation

- a) Involve stakeholders, and local communities in particular, in planning and implementation of conservation and management measures
- 4.3 c) Implement, where appropriate, incentive schemes to encourage public participation (e.g. T-shirts for tag returns, public acknowledgement, certificates)

# 5.1 Collaborate with and assist Signatory and non-Signatory States to regulate and share information on trade, to combat illegal trade, and to cooperate in enforcement

- 5.1 a) Encourage Signatory States that have not already done so to become Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- 5.1 b) Review at a national level compliance with obligations under CITES relating to trade in marine turtles, their eggs, parts or products
- 5.1 c) Facilitate better compliance with CITES through training of relevant authorities in cooperation with other signatory States, the CITES Secretariat and other relevant organisations
- 5.1 e) Exchange and discuss information on compliance and trade issues at regular intervals, such as through annual reporting to the MoU Secretariat and at meetings of the signatory States
- 5.1 f) Identify, prevent, deter and, where possible, eliminate domestic illegal trade through monitoring, implementation of legislation, identification of gaps in enforcement capabilities in each country, and training of enforcement officers

## 5.2 Assist Signatory and non-Signatory States, upon request, to develop and implement national, sub-regional and regional action plans

5.2 d) Review (national) action plans at regular intervals to take into account recent advances in skills and knowledge regarding marine turtle conservation and management, as well as changes in conservation status of marine turtle populations

#### 5.5 Strengthen and improve enforcement of conservation legislation

5.5 a) Review domestic policies and laws to address gaps or impediments to marine turtle

## **CMP Programmes and activities**

conservation

5.5 b) Cooperate in law enforcement to ensure compatible application of laws across and between jurisdictions (including through bilateral/multilateral agreements and intelligence sharing)