

Indian Ocean - South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding





IOSEA Site Network proposal

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Europa Island, France


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General location & Area



- Coordinates: -22.368491 °, 40.363741 °
- Southernmost of Iles Eparses, French Southern and Antarctic Lands (TAAF) "local authority"
- 300km SW of Cape St. Vincent (Madagascar)
- Total area: 2060km²
Land: 30km²
Terr. waters: 2030km²
- No permanent population



M. Les Eparses - Credit Aurélie Boissière

Physical characteristics & biological resources

Physical characteristics

GEOMORPHOLOGY: Land 6-7m high, Emerged land masses, Lagoon, Reef flat (200-600m wide), Outer slope (10-25 m deep)

HABITATS USED BY TURTLES: seagrass meadows (cover rate <5%), mangrove (700 ha), coral reef (23km²), beaches (1,600m)




Ecological resources

MARINE TURTLES: green nesting, foraging & dept (2000-11,000 in 1986), hawksbill foraging & dept (20-40 on 7000-10000km² in 2011).

OTHER MARINE BIODIV.: 978 sp. (fish, sharks, mammals, birds, ...)

TERRESTRIAL BIODIV.: 212 sp., high level of endemism (17 sp.)

Uniqueness: IUCN Red List (13 sp.), CMS App. I & II (14 sp.), CITES App. I (4 sp.) and II (70 sp.)

Management authority



Terr.: TAAF (5th discr.).
Funct.: Gendarmerie under authority of TAAF Prefect

Management Authority
contacts details

Head office of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (TAAF)
Rue Gabriel Dejean
97410 Saint Pierre
La Réunion Island
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NATIONAL:
- Natural Reserve (1975) - IUCN cat Ia
- Prefectoral order (1994)

INTERNATIONAL:
- Ramsar (2011)
- Under consideration: UNESCO World Heritage candidate (2013)

Strict protected status

Public ownership, no private property



Socio-eco values, land/ocean uses; Threats; interventions

Past terrestrial activities: introduced invasive species (black rat, feral goats, sisal, choca, ...)
Present: meteorological station, military unit

Fishing activities: licensed industrial purse seine outside the territorial waters





Scientific research of national interest:
- 41 field missions 2011-2013,
- Biodiversity monitoring stations

Other threats: fires, cyclones, sea water warming, rising & acidification

TAAF ACTION PLAN FOR ERADICATION OF CHOCA (2011)

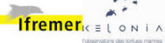


BYCATCH MITIGATION TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS 2010/2011/2013

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Current/proposed research

- Monitoring of **nesting activity** (military staff)
- Monitoring of **green & hawksbill juveniles migration**:
 - 2008-2009: 108 tagged, 5 recaptured
 - 2012: 11 FAST-LOC GPS
- 1998-2012: 20 **post-nesting green** tagged
- Genetic studies:** identification of 2 stocks (2007)
- Habitat studies** 2011-2013: mangroves, coral reef
- Planned:
 - Permanent research station (TAAF)
 - Studies on coastal vegetation
- Use of data for evaluating trends and size of management units: **database** www.torsooi.com

Current / proposed education & awareness activities

- Information centers:
 - TAAF administration headquarters in St. Pierre de la Reunion
 - Kélonia, the Observatory of marine turtles in La Reunion (www.kelonia.org/)
- Multimedia (DVDs, movies)
 - 6 Videos
 - 2 Exhibitions (Kélonia)



References and Site Map

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- ...

