UN environment CMS

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

CMS/IOSEA/MOS8/Inf.7.1.o

28 August 2019

Original: English

8TH MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES
Da Nang, Viet Nam, 21-25 October 2019
Agenda Item 9.1

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – NATIONAL REPORT 2019

(Prepared by the United Arab Emirates)

IOSEA MARINE TURTLES MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - NATIONAL REPORTING 2019

IOSEA Marine Turtles MoU - National Reports

The purpose of completing the national report is to provide information on your country's implementation of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU including, as far as possible, contributions of cooperating non-governmental partners. Implementation will be assessed in terms of the six objectives of the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP). The online questionnaire is divided into these six main objectives, and asks specific questions in relation to the activities that need to be carried out to fulfil those objectives.

Please answer all questions as fully and as accurately as possible. It may seem time-consuming, but once you have completed the first report, the next time will be much easier because you can simply revise your existing report online. Comprehensive responses to the questions posed in Section 1.4 should satisfy many of the reporting requirements of the 2004 FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations, thereby avoiding duplication of effort.

Description text is provided below some of the questions to explain what information needs to be provided. Text boxes can be expanded to accommodate longer answers or to explain and provide additional information, beyond what is requested. Details of future plans are especially encouraged. Wherever possible, please try to indicate the source of information used to answer a particular question, if a published reference is available. Remember that you are sharing information with other countries about your progress, so that it may be of benefit to them. At the same time, you may find it useful to look at other countries' reports to get ideas for marine turtle conservation that might be adapted to your context.

When working on the online questionnaire, save your information by clicking on the "Save all" button inside each section. An auto-save feature also saves any changed responses every 30 seconds, and whenever you move between sections. Feel free to attach additional material (published reports, maps etc) to this questionnaire.

Throughout the questionnaire, alongside each question you will find one or more 3-letter abbreviations within square brackets. These are used to indicate the purpose for which the information provided will be used in the subsequent analysis of all of the national reports, as shown in the following table.

To some extent, the order in which these different types of information are listed below is a reflection of their importance – ranging from critical indicators of performance to factual details that are merely informative.

Abbreviation	**Type**	**Treatment / Purpose**
IND	Indicator	The information provided serves, in and of itself, as a key indicator of successful implementation or of pre-requisites for same (eg. of core actions undertaken, resource availability, capacity etc.)
PRI	Priorities	The collective data will be synthesized to give an indication of what has been done already (helping to avoid duplication of effort); what is generally not being done (gaps that need to be addressed); and what interventions or specific assistance may be required.
TSH	Trouble-shooting	

Particular implementation problems and issues (possibly of special interest to a small group of countries) are identified/highlighted with a view to stimulating remedial action in the short-term.

BPR

Best practice

Well-documented examples of best practices / success stories will be compiled and presented as approaches that other Signatory States might consider pursuing (ie adopting or adapting to suit their own circumstances).

SAP

Self-Appraisal

Self-assessment of effectiveness and completeness of actions undertaken – intended to stimulate reflection within a given Signatory State on what more could or should be done in relation to a particular activity.

INF

Information

The information will be collected and compiled, with little or no modification, mainly for purpose of sharing of information that could be of interest or value to other readers and/or other analyses.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Signatory State:
Which agency or institution has been primarily responsible for the preparation of this report?
› Ministry of Climate Change and Environment

List any other agencies, institutions, or NGOs that have provided input:
› • Environmental Agency – Abu Dhabi
• Dubai Municipality
• Environment and Protected Areas Authority - Sharjah
• Municipality and Planning Department -Ajman
• Umm Al Quwain Municipality
• Environment Protection and Development Authority – Ras Al Khaimah
• Fujairah Municipality
• Dibba Al Fujairah Municipality
• Emirates Nature-WWF

Memorandum in effect in Signatory State since (dd/mm/yyyy):
› 1 April 2007

This report was last modified (dd/mm/yyyy):
› 15 July 2019

Designated Focal Point (and full contact details):
› Nahla Noobi
Biologist
email address: Nanoobi@moccar.gov.ae

OBJECTIVE I: REDUCE DIRECT AND INDIRECT CAUSES OF MARINE TURTLE MORTALITY

1.1 Introduction to marine turtle populations and habitats, challenges and conservation efforts

Please introduce and summarise, in an abstract of less than a page, the marine turtle populations and their habitats in your country. Comment on their status and highlight the main conservation challenges and achievements to date. It is not necessary to list here by name the individual nesting beaches, feeding areas and developmental habitats that are important for marine turtles in your country, as this information can be generated from the 'Site-Threat' data sheets to be completed in Annex 1. **[INF]**

› The Arabian region supports relatively substantial marine turtle populations, with green turtles (Chelonia mydas) and hawksbills (Eretmochelys imbricata) found to be most abundant within the Gulf and loggerheads (Caretta caretta) and green turtles (Chelonia mydas) dominating the Sea of Oman. Whereas, leatherbacks (Dermochelys coriacea) and olive ridley (Lepidochelys olivacea) are occasional visitor's. Marine turtles play valuable ecological roles in marine ecosystems as consumers and prey among other roles, and they are indirectly linked to seabed and fisheries stability. They function as key individuals in a number of habitats. These habitats support commercial fish and invertebrates (found in seagrass beds, open oceans and coral reefs, among others) that are valued by mankind.

Coastal development is one of a major factor that threatens life stages of turtles in the Arabian Gulf. Particularly impacting hawksbill turtle nesting beaches. In addition, marine pollution and incidental mortality of turtles in fishing nets and collision with boats have an important impact on adults and sub-adult turtles in the country. Extreme temperatures during winter in the Gulf region also impact juvenile turtles which are usually found cold stunned. Among other threats noise, and light are also important potentially impacting turtle's migratory and nesting natural behaviours. However, the full extent of impact on marine turtle populations is not yet well understood for the region.

Given the relevance that marine turtles hold for the environment and its link to human societies, the region has developed an increasing interest for the study and protection of marine turtles in the last decades. Conservation efforts of nesting sites have successfully been established in key sites such as Sir Bur Nair island and Marawah marine protected reserve in the UAE which has been recognized as internationally important sites for turtles Under IOSEA Marine Turtles MoU. In addition, environment protection and biodiversity laws have been enacted and enforced in several locations, conferring protection to marine turtles. However, greater protection and monitoring of populations at sea is desirable.

Education and awareness programmes are spreading across the UAE, whereas the conservation effort for marine turtle has resulted in increase of its population to a vulnerable state of both green and hawksbill turtle (national red list assessment). However, focusing on the study of ecological aspects such as distribution of critical turtle habitats and the associated impacts such as incidental capture of turtles is essential for the design of effective and efficient conservation programmes to successfully preserve these highly mobile marine species. Filling the gaps in our knowledge about marine turtle populations is needed to inform management and conservation practices.

1.2 Best practice approaches to minimizing threats

Describe any protocol or approaches practiced in your country, which you consider exemplary, for minimising threats to marine turtle populations and their habitats, which may be suitable for adaptation and adoption elsewhere. **[BRP]**

› • Development of the National Plan of Action for the Conservation of Marine Turtles in the UAE
• Fishing gear modifications (use of circle hooks for shark fishing) aimed at limiting incidental catches of sea turtles.
• Drift net fishing is regulated which mitigates impacts on marine turtles through equipment specifications, seasonal bans on the use of drift nets, limiting drift nets use to specific areas.
• A ban on trawling.
• Beach cleaning and underwater clean ups initiatives which are supported by stakeholders, NGOs and government agencies.
• Public awareness and education activities.
• Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for all developmental projects along the coastal areas of the UAE. Mitigations measures which address the protection of nesting sea turtles and associated beaches are incorporated into the environmental permitting process.
• Establishment of a representative network of Marine Protected Areas (one of which has a UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) designation. Besides, 6 marine Ramsar sites designated in UAE
• Rehabilitation of sick and injured turtles and maintenance of a turtle rehabilitation facility.
• Identification and monitoring program of marine turtle threats
• Commitment to International Conventions which ban the hunting and trading of marine turtles such as CMS & CITES

1.3 Programmes to correct adverse economic incentives

1.3.1 Describe any socio-economic studies or activities that have been conducted among communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats. **[BPR, INF]**

Elaborate on the nature of the socio-economic study/ activity undertaken, the results obtained (successful or otherwise) and the desirability/ suitability for replication.
Include references to published reports, where available.
› Socio-economic studies have been undertaken involving local communities and other stakeholders within the marine protected areas. These have included issues and perceptions pertaining to protection of endangered species including marine turtles and conservation of their habitats and the role that these groups could play in this regard.

1.3.2 Which of these adverse economic incentives are underlying threats to marine turtles in your country? **[TSH]**
☑ Others (Please describe)

› Not applicable

1.3.3 Has your country taken any measures to try to correct these adverse economic incentives? **[BPR]**
☑ Not applicable (No adverse economic incentives exist)

1.4 Reduction of incidental capture and mortality

1.4.1 Indicate, and describe in more detail, the main fisheries occuring in the waters of your country, as well as any high seas fisheries in which flag vessels of your country participate and interact with marine turtles.

Tick 'YES' to indicate that a fishery is present and interacting marine turtles or 'NO' to indicate that a fishery is not present or is not interacting with marine turtles. **[INF]**
If a fishery is present, use the text box to indicate, for example, the approximate geographic distribution of the fishery, how long it has been operating, how many vessels are involved, etc.

a) Shrimp trawls:
☑ No (Please provide details)

› All forms of trawling are banned by the UAE law and there are no records of illegal trawling in the country

b) Set gill nets:
☑ No (Please provide details)

› All forms of set gill nets are banned by the UAE law

c) Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs):
☑ No (Please provide details)

› Anchored fish aggregating devices are not used in the UAE.

d) Purse seine (with or without FADs):
☑ No (Please provide details)

› Purse seine is banned in the UAE.

e) Longline (shallow or deepset):
☑ Yes (Please provide details)

› Only surface longlines are used for shark fishing. The gears are relatively small in size (in terms of length) and their use is strictly limited. Furthermore, these gears are banned in protected areas and areas where large concentration of marine turtles and other endangered species occur. Only circle hooks are allowed for surface longlines to ensure safe release of by-catch and so far there is no record relating to marine turtles by-catch.

f) Driftnet:
☑ Yes (Please provide details)

› Drift net fishing is regulated which mitigates impacts on marine turtles through equipment specifications, seasonal bans on the use of drift nets, limiting drift nets use to specific areas.

g) Others (Please provide details)
› Beach seining net may result in marine turtle by catch, but they can be released safely. There are no recorded moralities from beach seining nets. Also, increased awareness efforts resulted in increased compliance by fishers

1.4.2 Please indicate the relative level of fishing effort and perceived impact of each of the above fisheries on marine turtles (e.g. in terms of by-catch) [TSH]. Select from

one of the following descriptions: RELATIVELY HIGH, MODERATE, RELATIVELY LOW, NONE (i.e. not present), UNKNOWN (i.e. unable to answer for whatever reason).

a) Shrimp trawls
Please select only one per line

	UNKNOWN	NONE	RELATIVELY LOW	MODERATE	RELATIVELY HIGH
Fishing efforts:	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Perceived impact:	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐

- Source of information / clarification
› There are no shrimp fisheries in the UAE

b) Set gill nets
Please select only one per line

	UNKNOWN	NONE	RELATIVELY LOW	MODERATE	RELATIVELY HIGH
Fishing effort:	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Perceived impact:	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐

- Source of information / clarification
› Set gill nets are not used in the fisheries of the UAE.

c) Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)
Please select only one per line

	UNKNOWN	NONE	RELATIVELY LOW	MODERATE	RELATIVELY HIGH
Fishing effort:	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Perceived impact:	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐

- Source of information / clarification
› Fish aggregating devices are not used in the fisheries of the UAE.

d) Purse seine (with or without FADs)
Please select only one per line

	UNKNOWN	NONE	RELATIVELY LOW	MODERATE	RELATIVELY HIGH
Fishing efforts:	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Perceived impact:	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐

- Source of information / clarification
› Purse seines are banned and not used in the fisheries of the UAE

e) Longline (shallow or deepset)
Please select only one per line

	UNKNOWN	NONE	RELATIVELY LOW	MODERATE	RELATIVELY HIGH
Fishing effort:	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐
Perceived impact:	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐

- Source of information / clarification
› Only surface longlines are used for shark fishing. The gears are relatively small in size (in terms of length)

and their use is strictly limited. Furthermore, these gears are banned in protected areas and areas where large concentration of marine turtles and other endangered species occur. Only circle hooks are used for longlines to ensure safe release of by-catch and so far there is no record relating to marine turtle by-catch.

f) Driftnet
Please select only one per line

	UNKNOWN	NONE	RELATIVELY LOW	MODERATE	RELATIVELY HIGH
Fishing effort:	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐
Perceived impact:	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐

- Source of information / clarification
› Drift net fishing is regulated which mitigates impacts on marine turtles through equipment specifications, seasonal bans on the use of drift nets, limiting drift nets use to specific areas.

g) Others (from 1.4.1 g))
Please select only one per line

	UNKNOWN	NONE	RELATIVELY LOW	MODERATE	RELATIVELY HIGH
Fishing effort:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑
Perceived impact:	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐

- Source of information / clarification
› The most important gear type in the commercial fishery in the UAE is the dome shaped wire trap which is used to target demersal species. Whilst marine turtle mortality is perceived to be relatively low in general, experimental fishing trials have revealed that mortality of yearlings can occur in demersal fish traps

1.4.3 Describe any **illegal fishing** that is known to occur in or around the waters of your country that may impact marine turtles. Describe the measures being taken to deal with this problem and any difficulties encountered in this regard. **[TSH]**
› Some monofilament nets are used (although banned by law) e.g. for demersal crab fisheries, lost monofilament gear is a particular threat to turtle populations. Large industrial scale drift nets are a major threat to marine turtle populations in neighboring countries. The local problem is addressed by patrolling which is conducted by authorities; Critical Infrastructure and Coastal Protection Authority (CICPA) and Marine Protected Area staff e.g. Environment competent Agencies.

1.4.4 Which of the following methods are used by your country to minimise incidental capture/mortality of marine turtles in fishing activities? [IND]

a) **Appropriate handling** of incidentally caught turtles (e.g. resuscitation or release by fishersusing equipment such as de-hooking, line cutting tools and scoop nets)
☑ YES (Details/future plans)

› Fishermen release caught turtles in gear by hand without the use of any specialized equipment

b) **Devices that allow the escape of marine turtles** (e.g. turtle excluder devices (TEDs) or other measures that are comparable in effectiveness)
☑ NO (Details/future plans)

› There are no trawlers operating in the UAE so the use of TED’s is not applicable.

c) **Measures to avoid encirclement** of marine turtles in purse seine
☑ YES (Details/future plans)

› Purse seine in the UAE is banned by ministerial decree number 695 of the year 2016.

d) **Appropriate combinations** of hook design, type of bait, depth, gear specifications and fishing practices
☑ NO (Details/future plans)

› There is very limited information on which to base fishing gear regulations to reduce by-catch of marine turtles in the country. However, certain gears (purse seine, trawls) and materials (monofilament) are banned

for a variety of reasons including the detrimental impact that they have on marine turtle populations. Also, for surface longlines used to catch sharks, only circle hooks are allowed to ensure safe release of by-catch and so far there is no record relating to marine turtles by-catch.

e) **Monitoring and recovery of fish aggregating devices** (FADs)
☑ UNDER INVESTIGATION or NOT APPLICABLE

› Fish aggregating devices are not used in the fisheries of the UAE.

f) **Net retention and recycling schemes**
☑ NO (Details/future plans)

› There is no net retention of recycling schemes in the UAE.

g) **Spatial and temporal control of fishing** (e.g. seasonal closures of fishing activities)
☑ YES (Details/future plans)

› The UAE implements spatial fishery closures through marine protected areas and biosphere reserves. Moreover, there are seasonal fishery closures for some species and gear types.

h) **Effort management control**
☑ NO (Details/future plans)

› Fishing effort is capped and the effort constraint is implemented through a licensing scheme. For example, a temporary moratorium on issuing new fishing licenses has been in place since 2013. Limits on the number of fishing gears are also implemented. For example, both fishing traps (Gargoors) and driftnets are banned in Abu Dhabi's waters which represent approximately 70% of the UAE's Arabian Gulf waters. These management regulations are associated with rebuilding depleted fish stocks and not related to the reduction of turtle by-catch.

1.4.5 Which of the following programmes has your country developed – in consultation with the fishing industry and fisheries management organisations – to promote implementation of measures to minimise incidental capture and mortality of turtles in national waters and in the high seas? [IND]

Please use the corresponding text boxes to explain/clarify each of your responses, including 'NOT APPLICABLE' responses, and indicate future plans in this regard. [IND]
Please describe the collaboration, when/where the programmes were introduced, any difficulties encountered, and general results obtained (i.e. successful and unsuccessful). Provide references to publications, where available.

a) **Onboard observer programmes**

X
☑ NOT APPLICABLE (Details/future plans)

› The artisanal vessels used in the fisheries of the UAE are small in size and not commercial in nature. There haven't been any on-board observer programmes developed by fisheries management authorities.

b) **Vessel monitoring systems**
☑ YES (Details/future plans)

› A vessel monitoring system is in place in the UAE.

c) **Inspections** (i.e. at sea, in port, at landing sites)
☑ YES (Details/future plans)

› Inspections of the fishing gear are carried out in the UAE

d) **Training programmes / workshops** to educate fishers
☑ YES (Details/future plans)

› Workshop have been held with stakeholders including fishermen to educate them in relation to environmental issues and the importance of wildlife conservation.

e) **Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines** etc.
☑ YES (Details/future plans)

› Many educational materials such as brochures and videos have been produced towards increasing the general public's awareness.

1.4.6 Are the mitigation measures described in 1.4.4 and 1.4.5 periodically reviewed and evaluated for their efficiency? **[SAP]**
☑ NO (Please provide details)

› None of the measures used to mitigate impacts on marine turtles are periodically reviewed for their efficacy. However, some of the initiatives like the bans on trawling, driftnets and monofilament netting are precautionary measures implemented to conserve marine habitats and wildlife in general.

1.4.7 In your country, what types of data collection, research and development have been undertaken to support the reduction of marine turtle incidental catch (while taking into consideration the impact of various mitigation measures on other species)? **[SAP]**
› Research included identification, quantification and documentation of threats to marine turtles. This was followed by the establishment of a monitoring program to document turtle mortality and its causes. The results of these studies are used to direct public awareness activities and to implement regulatory measures. Recent research is being conducted for the identification of key habitats for turtles such as, forging, nesting and migratory routes using satellite tracking technology, findings of these studies will be used to better conserve and protect these areas.

1.4.8 Has your country exchanged information and provided technical assistance (formally or informally) to other Signatory States to promote the activities described in 1.4.4, 1.4.5 and 1.4.7 above? **[SAP]**
☑ YES (If yes, please give details of the exchanges/technical assistance)

› This has been done through workshops held in the UAE and other countries in which UAE participated and through publications and reporting to a variety of organizations including the IOSEA secretariat.

1.4.9 What legislative and practical measures has your country taken in support of UN General Assembly Resolution 46/215 concerning the moratorium on the use of large-scale driftnets? **[SAP]**
› Drift net fishing is regulated which mitigates impacts on marine turtles through equipment specifications, seasonal bans on the use of drift nets, limiting drift nets use to specific areas.

1.5 Addressing harvest of, and trade in, marine turtles; and protecting of habitat

1.5.1 Does your country have legislation to prohibit direct harvest and domestic trade in marine turtles, their eggs, parts and products; and to protect important turtle habitats? **[IND]**

Please provide details (title/date) of the relevant legislation, as well as any exemptions (e.g. for traditional harvest) under that legislation.
☑ YES

› Federal Law No. (23) of year 1999 concerning Exploitation, Protection and Development of the Living Aquatic Resources in the waters of the state of the United Arab Emirates, Federal Law No. (24) of year 1999 concerning protection and development of the environment and Federal Law No. (11) of year 2002 concerning Regulating and Controlling the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora, prohibit the harvest and domestic trade of marine turtles and their eggs.

1.5.2 Which, among the following list, are economic uses and cultural values of marine turtles in your country? [INF]

Please rate the relative prevalence / importance of each consumptive or non-consumptive use.
Use the text boxes below each rating to explain or clarify your responses.

a1) Meat consumption
☑ NO

› Egg meat has been practiced in the past but no longer exist and its banned by law.

a2) Meat consumption: relative prevalence/importance
☑ UNKNOWN

b1) Egg consumption
☑ NO

› egg consumption is banned by law

b2) Egg consumption: relative prevalence/importance
☑ UNKNOWN

c1) Shell products
☑ NO

› There are no uses of turtle shell products in the UAE for ornamental decoration etc.

c2) Shell products: relative prevalence/importance
☑ UNKNOWN

d1) Fat consumption
☑ NO

› There is no record or anecdotal information that specifically suggests that turtle fat is consumed in the UAE.

d2) Fat consumption: relative prevalence/importance
☑ LOW

e1) Traditional medicine
☑ NO

› There is no record or anecdotal information that turtles are used for traditional medicine in the UAE.

e2) Traditional medicine: relative prevalence/importance
☑ LOW

f1) Eco-tourism programmes
☑ YES

› There are many Eco-tourism programs in regards to turtles specifically, for example turtle nest patrols.

f2) Eco-tourism programmes: relative prevalence/importance
☑ MODERATE

g1) Cultural / traditional significance
☑ NO

› Although turtle hunting has formed a part of the activities of coastal communities in the past, it was never a major cultural or traditional activity.

g2) Cultural/traditional significance: relative prevalence/importance
☑ LOW

1.5.3 Please indicate the relative level and impact of traditional harvest on marine turtles and their eggs. **[IND, TSH]**

	RELATIVELY HIGH	UNKNOWN	NONE	RELATIVELY LOW	MODERATE
Level of harvest:	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐
Impact of harvest:	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐

Source of information / explanation:
› There is no traditional harvest allowed of marine turtles and their eggs. There are some anecdotal reports of the illegal harvest of turtle eggs although the activity and associated impact is probably limited.

1.5.4 Have any domestic management programmes been established to limit the levels of intentional harvest? **[SAP]**

Use the text box to give details.
☑ NO

› As harvest is illegal and poaching perceived to be extremely limited, there has been no need to implement management programs to limit the levels of intentional harvest.

1.5.5 Describe any management agreements negotiating between your country and other States in relation to sustainable levels of traditional harvest, to ensure that such harvest does not undermine conservation efforts. **[BPR]**
› This is not applicable to the UAE, as such there are no agreements to date.

1.6 Minimizing mortality through nesting beach programmes

1.6.1 Measures and effectiveness

First, tick one of the YES/NO-boxes to indicate whether or not your country has any of the following measures in place to minimise the mortality of eggs, hatchlings and nesting females. If yes, then **estimate the relative effectiveness** of these measures. **[IND, SAP]**

Use the text boxes below each rating to elaborate on your responses, including any lessons learned that might be of value to other Signatory States, and indicate your plans for the coming year. Please explain any "Not Applicable (N/A)" responses.

a1) Monitoring/protection programmes
☑ YES

› Turtle nesting beaches have been monitored in the UAE. However, continued monitoring data overtime is not completely available for all key nesting sites. The monitoring is combined with beach cleaning which intensifies in advance of the nesting season.

a2) Monitoring/protection programmes: relative effectiveness
☑ GOOD

b1) Education/awareness programmes
☑ YES

› Education and awareness programmes have involved a variety of stakeholders including fishermen, teachers, students and island and coastal communities.

b2) Education/awareness programmes: Relative effectiveness
☑ GOOD

c1) Egg relocation/hatcheries
☑ YES

› There is egg relocation in some areas as a measures to minimize the mortality and protection of eggs. The relocation of eggs only happens to nests that are going to be inundated due to them being in the lower part of the beach or nests on beaches that are to be reclaimed.

c2) Egg relocation/hatcheries: Relative effectiveness
☑ EXCELLENT

d1) Predator control
☑ YES

› There is predator control program in Jabel Ali - Dubai

d2) Predator control: Relative effectiveness
☑ EXCELLENT

e1) Vehicle / access restrictions
☑ YES

› Some off shore islands have restrictions including barriers to prevent access of vehicles to nesting beaches. All other inspection is done by foot.

e2) Vehicle/access restriction: relative effectiveness
☑ EXCELLENT

f1) **Removal of debris / clean-up**
☑ YES

› Physical removal of debris from nesting beaches is regularly conducted prior to the nesting season.

f2) Removal of debris /clean-up: relative effectiveness
☑ GOOD

g1) Re-vegetation of frontal dunes
☑ NO

g2) Re-vegetation of frontal dunes: relative effectiveness
☑ UNKNOWN

h1) Building location/design regulations

☑ YES

› As part of a variety of mitigation measures, regulations have been developed including set-back lines, which have been imposed on various coastal development projects to mitigate impact on turtle nesting activity.

h2) Buidling location/design regulations: relative efectiveness
☑ GOOD

i1) Light pollution reduction
☑ YES

› As part of a variety of mitigation measures, regulations have been developed to mitigate the impact of lighting on turtle nesting activity.

i2) Light pollution reduction: Relative effectiveness
☑ GOOD

1.6.2 Has your country undertaken any evaluation of its nest and beach management programmes? **[SAP]**

Use the text box to elaborate on your response, if necessary.
☑ NO

› A comprehensive national monitoring program for turtle nesting beaches is in place, it does not independently assess the nest and beach management regulations.

OBJECTIVE II: PROTECT, CONSERVE AND REHABILITATE MARINE TURTLE HABITATS

2.1 Measures to protect and conserve marine turtle habitats

2.1.1 What is being done to protect critical habitats outside of established protected areas? (NB: It is assumed that legislation relating to established protected areas will have been described in Section 1.5.1) **[BPR, SAP]**

› Federal Law No. (23) of year 1999 concerning Exploitation, Protection and Development of the Living Aquatic Resources in the waters of the state of the United Arab Emirates, Federal Law No. (24) of year 1999 concerning protection and development of the environment applies to the whole of UAE and its natural areas including marine turtle nesting and foraging habitats. Also, there is a requirement of Environment impact assessment for all development projects.

2.1.2 Are assessments routinely made of the environmental impact of marine and coastal development on marine turtles and their habitats? **[IND, SAP]**

Use the text box to elaborate on your response.
☑ YES

› Regular monitoring and reporting of critical coastal and marine habitats are done through various research programs. All development projects require an environmental permit which often involves and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and associated monitoring.

2.1.3 Is marine water quality (including marine debris) monitoring near turtle habitats? If yes, describe the nature of this monitoring and any remedial measures that may have been taken. **[SAP]**
☑ YES

› A long term monitoring program of water quality is in place.

2.1.4 Are measures in place to prohibit the use of poisonous chemicals and explosives? **[SAP]**

Use the text box to elaborate on your response.
☑ YES

› Federal Law No. (23) of year 1999 concerning Exploitation, Protection and Development of the Living Aquatic Resources in the waters of the state of the United Arab Emirates, Federal Law No. (24) of year 1999 concerning protection and development of the environment.

2.2 Rehabilitation of degraded marine turtle habitats

2.2.1 Are efforts being made to recover degraded coral reefs? If yes, give details (location, duration, effectveness, lessons learned, future plans etc.). **[IND, SAP]**

Provide sufficient details of the measures taken, especially those measures shown to have been effective in recovering degraded coral reefs. Please indicate future plans in this regard.
☑ YES (Details/future plans)

› There are many efforts being made to recover degraded coral reefs such as:
• Coral reefs restoration programs using the micro fragmentation techniques.
• Developing the artificial Caves
• Relocation of corals (In 2008 in Dubai one of the largest coral relocation projects ever conducted globally, with over 20,000 coral colonies spared from the effects of infrastructure development.)
• Coral gardening at some water front infrastructures

2.2.2 Are efforts being made to recover degraded mangrove habitats that are important for turtles? If yes, give details (location, duration, effectiveness, lessons learned future plans etc.). **[IND, SAP]**
☑ YES (Details/future plans)

› There are programs to rehabilitate mangroves in general. In executing these programs coordination is done to ensure that nesting beaches are not compromised. Efforts have focussed on mangrove sapling plantation primarily in coastal areas of the mainland. Mangroves in the UAE includes natural as well as planted mangrove, represented by one species, Avicennia marina, where variety of wildlife use mangroves and the associated back waters. Mangroves appear to have increased in the last 30- 40 years due to plantation and increased public awareness and conservation efforts. Mangroves area cover in UAE more than 180.0 km2.

2.2.3 Are efforts being made to recover degraded sea grass habitats? If yes, give details (location, duration, effectiveness, lessons learned future plans etc.). **[IND, SAP]**

☑ YES (Details/future plans)

› There have been programs to recover degraded sea grass habitats carried out by the private sector and other authorities in UAE.

OBJECTIVE III: IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF MARINE TURTLE ECOLOGY AND POPULATIONS THROUGH RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

3.1 Studies on marine turtles and their habitats

3.1.1 Give a list of available literature that includes baseline information from studies carried out in your country on marine turtle populations and their habitats. **[INF]**

› • National action plan for the conservation of marine turtle
• Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) turtle monitoring reports including aerial surveys data.
• Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI) Blue Carbon Report
• Emirates Nature/Worldwide Fund for Nature (EN/WWF) Satellite Tagging Programme report and two scientific publications:
 Pilcher, N. J., Antonopoulou, M., Perry, L., Abdel-Moati, M. A., Al Abdessalaam, T. Z., Albeldawi, M., ... Willson, A. (2014). Identification of important sea turtle areas (ITAs) for hawksbill turtles in the Arabian region. Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology, 460, 89–99. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jembe.2014.06.009
 Pilcher, N. J., Perry, L., Antonopoulou, M., Abdel-Moati, M. A., Al Abdessalaam, T. Z., Albeldawi, M., ... Willson, A. (2014). Short-term behavioural responses to thermal stress by hawksbill turtles in the Arabian region. Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology, 457, 190–198. https://doi.org/10.1016/J.JEMBE.2014.04.002
• Annual Report of the Environmental Protection Authority of Sharjah (EPAA)
• Emirates Marine Environmental Group (EMEG) Technical Reports
• Research by Dubai turtle rehabilitation center
• Other relevant scientific publications:
 Natoli, A., Phillips, K. P., Richardson, D. S., & Jabado, R. W. (2017). Low genetic diversity after a bottleneck in a population of a critically endangered migratory marine turtle species. Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology, 491, 9–18. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jembe.2017.01.009
 Robinson, D. P., Jabado, R. W., Rohner, C. A., Pierce, S. J., Hyland, K. P., & Baverstock, W. R. (2017). Satellite tagging of rehabilitated green sea turtles Chelonia mydas from the United Arab Emirates, including the longest tracked journey for the species. PLoS ONE, 12(9), 1–19. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0184286
 Yaghmour, F., Al, M., Whittington-jones, B., Pereira, J., García-nuñez, S., & Budd, J. (2018). Marine debris ingestion of green sea turtles , Chelonia mydas , (Linnaeus , 1758) from the eastern coast of the United Arab Emirates. Marine Pollution Bulletin, 135(July), 55–61. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2018.07.013
 Ross, J.P. and Barwani, M.A. 1982. Review of sea turtles in the Arabian area. In: Bjorndal, K.A. ed. Biology and conservation of Sea Turtles. Washington, D.C. Smithsonian Institute Press, pp. 373-382.
 Al-Ghais, S.M. 2009. Nesting of Hawksbill Turtles (Eretmochelys imbricata) on the islands of the Arabian Gulf. Zoology in the Middle East. Online. 48 pp. 43-48. [Accessed 8 July 2017]. Available from: http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09397140.2009.10638365
 Pilcher, N.J.1999. The hawksbill turtle Eretmochelys imbricata in the Arabian Gulf. Chelonian Conservation Biology. 3(2) 312-317.

3.1.2 Have **long-term** monitoring programmes (i.e. of at least 10 years duration) been initiated or planned for priority marine turtle populations frequenting the territory of your country? **[IND, BPR]**

Please give details of the nature, duration and continuity of these programmes.
☑ YES

› Monitoring has been on-going since 2000 and has long term perspective. The monitoring includes turtle nesting surveys, hatching success surveys and abundance surveys as part of a marine wildlife monitoring programme.

3.1.3 Has the genetic identity of marine turtle populations in your country been characterised? **[INF, PRI]**

Please give details (e.g. which species, which populations?).
☑ YES

› There have been some samples collected, however the genetic identity of marine turtle populations in the UAE has still not been characterized.

3.1.4 Which of the following methods have been or are being used to try to identify migration routes of turtles? Use the text boxes to provide additional details [INF, PRI]

a) Tagging
☑ YES (Details/future plans)

› Conventional and satellite tagging have been conducted.

b) Satellite tracking
☑ YES (Details/future plans)

› Satellite tracking of post nesting hawksbill turtles was conducted and for green turtle is being conducted and results will be available in 2020.

3.1.5 Have studies been carried out on marine turtle population dynamics and survival rates (e.g. including studies into the survival rates of incidentally caught and released turtles)? **[INF, PRI]**
☑ YES

› Population estimates and hatching from aerial surveys of marine turtles have been conducted. Furthermore, the academic sector is running several research projects to understand the population dynamics of the turtles and the impact of climate change on turtles.

3.1.6 Has research been conducted on the frequency and pathology of diseases in marine turtles? **[INF, PRI]**
☑ NO

› There has been no research conducted on the frequency and pathology of diseases in marine turtles, barnacle infestations are treated on a regular basis, particularly during the winter months.

3.1.7 Is the use of traditional ecological knowledge in research studies being promoted? **[BPR, PRI]**
☑ UNSURE

3.2 Collaborative research and monitoring

- 3.2.1 List any **regional** or **sub-regional action plans** in which your country is already participating, which may serve the purpose of identifying priority research and monitoring needs. **[INF]**

Use the text box to elaborate on your response.
› None

3.2.2 On which of the following themes have collaborative studies and monitoring been conducted? Use the text boxes to describe the nature of this international collaboration or to clarify your response. Answer 'NO' if the studies/monitoring undertaken do not involve international collaboration. [INF, PRI]

a) Genetic identity
☑ NO (Details/future plans)

b) Conservation status
☑ NO (Details/future plans)

c) Migrations
☑ YES (Details/future plans)

› Satellite tagging program conducted in collaboration with EN/WWF.

d) Other biological and ecological aspects
☑ YES (Details/future plans)

› Feeding ecology and epibiota being investigated by Environment and Protected Area Authority in Sharjah.

3.3 Data analysis and applied research

3.3.1 List, in order of priority, the marine turtle populations in your country in need of conservation actions, and indicate their population trends. **[PRI]**
› The priority conservation actions are:
• Identify and assess the threats to marine turtle populations and their habitats
• Reduce the incidental capture and mortality of marine turtles
• Develop nesting sites management programs
• Establish measures to protect and conserve marine turtle habitats
• Identify, protect and conserve important turtle areas (ITAs) and habitat
• Develop rehabilitation and rescue programs for marine turtles
• Conduct research studies and monitoring activities on marine turtles and their habitats
• Exchange information on a national level
• Establish and/or enhance the implementation of public education and awareness programs

• Promote public participation in marine turtle's conservation activities
• Enhance mechanisms for regional and international cooperation and promote information exchange
• Strengthen legislation framework and enforcement of conservation legislation
• Training and capacity building on marine turtle and their habitats conservation

3.3.2 Are research and monitoring activities, such as those described above in Section 3.1, periodically reviewed and evaluated for their efficacy? **[SAP]**
☑ YES

› The monitoring programme undergoes an annual audit.

3.3.3 Describe how research results are being applied to improve management practices and mitigation of threats (in relation to the priority populations identified in 3.3.1, among others). **[SAP]**
› Trends in annual nesting patterns provide input to review site specific conservation actions.

3.4 Information exchange

3.4.1 Has your country undertaken any initiatives (nationally or through collaboration with other Range States) to standardise methods and levels of data collection? **[BPR, INF]**
☑ UNSURE

3.4.2 To what extent does your country exchange scientific and technical information and expertise with other Range States? **[SAP, IND]**
☑ OCCASIONALLY

3.4.3 If your country shares scientific and technical information and expertise with other Range States, what mechanisms have commonly been used for this purpose? Comment on any positive benefits/outcomes achieved through these interactions. **[INF]**
› Regional and International workshops and conferences and obligations under the IOSEA Turtle MOU for reporting act as mediums for the exchange of information. Also, using globally repository data sites for sea turtles such as SWOT, OBIS.

3.4.4 Does your country compile and make available to other countries data on marine turtle populations of a regional interest?

Please give details **[INF]**
☑ YES

› Marine turtle distribution and nesting data is available through the ministry of climate change and environment websites and shared with many international organization. Research data has also been published on scientific journals by different organisations working on turtle's conservation in the UAE and are accessible online.

OBJECTIVE IV: INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE THREATS TO MARINE TURTLES AND THEIR HABITATS, AND ENHANCE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

4.1 Public education and information programmes

4.1.1 Describe the educational materials, including mass media information programmes that your country has collected, developed and/or disseminated. **[INF, PRI]**

Details/future plans:
› - Brochures and posters specific to various stakeholders such as students, general public and fishermen.
- Marine school programs visit to sea turtle foraging habitats.
- Regular media interactions and reports.
- Annual turtle release program (rescued and rehabilitated) by Dubai Rehabilitation center.
- Information is shared through Social media channels of relevant organization working on conservation of turtles in the UAE.

4.1.2 Which of the following groups have been the targets of these focused education and awareness programmes described in above in Section 4.1.1? **[PRI, INF]**
☑ Policy makers
☑ Fishing industry
☑ Local/Fishing communities
☑ Tourists
☑ Media
☑ Teachers
☑ Students
☑ Military, Navy, Police
☑ Scientists

4.1.3 Have any community learning / information centres been established in your country? **[BPR, SAP]**

Please give details and indicate future plans
☑ YES

› Environment and Protected Areas Authority in Sharjah is currently constructing a new mangrove center in Kalba which will include marine turtle rehabilitation center and education.

4.2 Alternative livelihoods opportunitiesDescribe initiatives already undertaken or planned to identify and facilitate alternative livelihoods (including income-generating activities) for local communities. **[IND, BPR]**
› There are no livelihood dependencies associated with marine turtles so this is not applicable in the UAE.

4.3 Stakeholder participation

4.3.1 Describe initiatives already undertaken or planned by your country to involve **local communities**, in particular, in the planning and implementation of marine turtle conservation programmes. Please include details of any incentives that have been used to encourage public participation, and indicate their efficacy. **[BPR, IND]**
› Meetings have been held with coastal communities on the conservation of marine turtles and their habitat.

4.3.2 Describe initiatives already undertaken or planned to involve and encourage the cooperation of **Government institutions, NGOs** and the **private sector** in marine turtle conservation programmes. **[IND, BPR]**
› Beach cleaning, marine turtle rescue and rehabilitation, sponsorship for research, monitoring and education and awareness programs. Stuck Threads Initiative (Sheerat Ghazl) is a designated hotline provided by Dubai Voluntary Diving Team for reporting fishing waste especially lost nets to prevent ghost fishing.

OBJECTIVE V: ENHANCE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

5.1 Collaboration with, and assistance to, signatory and non-signatory States

5.1.1 Has your country undertaken a national review of its compliance with Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) obligations in relation to marine turtles? **[SAP]**
☑ YES (If yes, please elaborate briefly)

› This is conducted as part of an on-going and regular review.

5.1.2 Does your country have, or participate/cooperate in, CITES training programmes for relevant authorities? **[SAP]**
☑ YES (If yes, please provide details of these training programmes)

› Several workshops in national and regional (west Asia) level involving customs, and technical groups.

5.1.3 Does your country have in place mechanisms to identify **international** illegal trade routes (for marine turtle products etc.)? Please use the text box to elaborate on how your country is cooperating with other States to prevent/deter/eliminate illegal trade. **[SAP]**

Please give details of particularly successful interventions and prosecutions; and/or mention any difficulties experienced that impede progress in this area. Please provide references to any published reports (e.g. already prepared for CITES purposes) that give a more ample explanation.
☑ NOT APPLICABLE

5.1.4 Which international compliance and trade issues related to marine turtles has your country raised for discussion (e.g. through the IOSEA MoU Secretariat, at meetings of Signatory States etc.)? **[INF]**
› Not applicable.

5.1.5 Describe measures in place to prevent, deter and eliminate domestic illegal trade in marine turtle products, particularly with a view to enforcing the legislation identified in Section 1.5.1**. [INF]**
› • All such trade is banned by Federal Law No. (24) of year 1999 concerning protection and development of the environment and Federal Law No. (11) of year 2002 concerning Regulating and Controlling the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora
• Awareness program with stakeholders including fishermen.
• Social media campaign.
• Awareness workshops.

5.2 Prioritisation, development and implementation of national action plans

5.2.1 Has your country already developed a national **action plan** or a set of **key management measures** that could eventually serve as a basis for a more specific action plan at a national level? **[IND]**

Please explain.
☑ YES

5.2.2 From your country's perspective, which **conservation and management activities**, and/or which particular **sites or locations**, ought to be among the highest priorities for action?
(List up to 10 activities from the IOSEA Conservation and Management Plan). **[PRI]**
› • Continue to gather information on the nature and magnitude of threats through implementation of a regular monitoring program.
• Monitoring and protection of critical marine turtle habitats such as nesting beaches, foraging areas and migratory corridors.
• Assessment of incidental mortality (bycatch) and interaction with fisheries operations
• Assessment of the impact of marine litter and ghost nets on turtles
• Clean-up programs along the known and potential turtle nesting beaches
• Clean-up of marine turtle feeding grounds
• Research and monitoring of coral and seagrass ecosystems.
• Management of Marine Protected Areas.
• Focused education and awareness programs for target groups (e.g. policy makers, teachers, schools, fishing communities, media).
• Stakeholder engagement on management issues.

5.2.3 Please indicate, from your country's standpoint, the extent to which the following **local** management

issues require **international** cooperation in order to achieve progress. **[PRI]**
In other words, how important is **international** cooperation for addressing these issues?
Please select only one per line

	NOT AT ALL	LIMITED	IMPORTANT	ESSENTIAL
Illegal fishing in territorial waters	☐	☐	☑	☐
Incidental capture by foreign fleets	☐	☐	☑	☐
Enforcement/patrolling of territorial waters	☑	☐	☐	☐
Hunting/harvest by neighboring countries	☑	☐	☐	☐
Poaching, illegal trade in turtle products	☐	☑	☐	☐
Development of gear technology	☐	☑	☐	☐
Oil spills, pollution, marine debris	☐	☐	☐	☑
Training / capacity-building	☐	☐	☑	☐
Alternative livelihood development	☑	☐	☐	☐
Identification of turtle populations	☐	☐	☐	☑
Identification of migration routes	☐	☐	☐	☑
Tagging / satellite tracking	☐	☐	☑	☐
Habitat studies	☐	☐	☑	☐
Genetics studies	☐	☐	☐	☑

Use the text box to list and rank any other local management issues for which international cooperation is needed to achieve progress.
› None

5.3 Cooperation and Information exchange

5.3.1 Identify existing frameworks/organisations that are, or could be, useful mechanisms for cooperating in marine turtle conservation at the sub-regional level. Please comment on the strengths of these instruments, their capacity to take on a broader coordinating role, and any efforts your country has made to enhance their role in turtle conservation. **[INF, BPR]**
› IOSEA Marine Task force in the Western Indian Ocean. Capacity building initiatives could be enhanced, development of regional database including tag returns, nesting sites and foraging areas.

5.3.2 Has your country developed, or is it participating in, any networks for cooperative management of shared turtle populations? **[BPR, INF]**
☑ YES (if yes, give details)

› IOSEA Network

5.3.3 What steps has your country taken to encourage Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) to adopt marine turtle conservation measures within Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and on the high seas? Please describe the interventions made in this regard, referring to specific RFBs. **[SAP]**
› None

5.4 Capacity-building

5.4.1 Describe your country’s needs, in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities, in order to build capacity to strengthen marine turtle conservation measures. **[PRI]**
› • Biology and ecology of marine turtles.
• Assessment and monitoring methods for marine turtles.
• Management plan development.
• Education and awareness development.
• Marine Turtle by-catch assessment.

5.4.2 Describe any training provided in marine turtle conservation and management techniques (e.g. workshops held, training manuals produced etc.), and indicate your plans for the coming year. **[PRI, INF]**
› • Ministry of climate change and environment help a workshop to indicate the current situation of marine turtles in the country.
• Environment and Protected Areas Authority in Sharjah held a workshop on marine turtles in the International Conservation Workshop for Arabia's Biodiversity (ICWAB).

5.4.3 Specifically in relation to **capacity-building**, describe any partnerships developed or planned with universities, research institutions, training bodies and other relevant organisations. **[BPR]**
› Emirates Nature-WWF has done capacity building sessions with government agencies for implementation of research studies on turtles. Specifically, around tracking programmes.

5.5 Enforcement of conservation legislation

5.5.1 National policies and laws concerning the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats will have been described in Section 1.5.1. Please indicate their effectiveness, in terms of their practical application and enforcement. **[SAP, TSH]**
› effective

5.5.2 Has your country conducted a review of policies and laws to address any gaps, inconsistencies or impediments in relation to marine turtle conservation? If not, indicate any obstacles encountered in this regard and when this review is expected to be done. **[SAP]**

Please give details.
☑ YES

› we have developed an action plan that aims to identify future gaps on legislation to conserve the marine turtles

5.5.3 From the standpoint of law enforcement, has your country experienced any difficulties achieving cooperation to ensure compatible application of laws across and between jurisdictions? **[TSH]**

Please give details.
☑ NO

OBJECTIVE VI: PROMOTE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU, INCLUDING THE CMP

6.1 IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU membership and activities

6.1.1 What has your country already done, or will it do, to encourage other States to sign the IOSEA MoU? **[INF]**
› The UAE advocates non-signatory states to encourage joining the IOSEA MOU. In February 2014 a regional workshop was conducted in collaboration of Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and IFAW for building the capacity and beside it 2 countries signed the IOSEA MoU and 9 countries signed the sharks MoU.

6.3 Resources to support implementation of the MoU

6.3.2 Has your country tried to solicit funds from, or seek partnerships with, other Governments, major donor organizations, industry, private sector, foundations or NGOs for marine turtle conservation activities? **[IND]**
☑ NO

6.3.3 Describe any initiatives made to explore the use of economic instruments for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats. **[BPR]**
› Not applicable.

6.4 Coordination among government agencies

6.4.1 Has your country designated a lead agency responsible for coordinating national marine turtle conservation and management policy? If not, when is this information expected to be communicated to the IOSEA MoU Secretariat? **[IND]**

Please elaborate, as necessary.
☑ YES

› Ministry of Climate Change and Environment

6.4.2 Are the roles and responsibilities of all government agencies related to the conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats clearly defined? **[IND]**

Use the text box to elaborate.
☑ YES

6.4.3 Has your country ever conducted a review of agency roles and responsibilities? If so, when, and what was the general outcome? If not, is such a review planned and when? **[SAP]**

This question seeks to ascertain whether Signatories have made a serious examination of which agencies have a role to play in marine turtle conservation, either directly or indirectly, and which therefore should be apprised of the IOSEA MoU and its provisions.
If no internal review of interagency roles and responsibilities has been or will be undertaken, please elaborate if only to indicate that the necessary arrangements are already clear and not in need of further review.
☑ YES (Use the text box to elaborate)

ANNEX 1: SPECIES, HABITAT AND THREAT DATA [PRI, INF]

PLEASE COMPLETE A SEPARATE SECTION FOR EACH SITE/AREA

Site 1

Name of site/area:

› East coast of UAE: Kalba and Khorfakkan coasts

On-site research activities:

☑ Tagging
☑ Genetic Sampling
☑ Satellite tracking
☑ Foraging surveys

Province / State:
› Sharjah

Name of person / agency wwho has provided the information:

› Environment and Protect Areas Authority

Information was last updated: (dd/mm/yyyy)

› 15 July 2019

Indicate the species occurence / use and relative importance of the site:

Abbreviations: Loggerhead Caretta caretta (CC); Olive Ridley Lepidochelys olivacea (LO); Green Chelonia mydas CM); Hawksbill Eretmochelys imbricata (EI); Leatherback Dermochelys coriacea (DC); Flatback Natator depressus (ND)
Use one of the following symbols or letters to indicate the presence or absence of a species at this site in the table above, including details (if known) about the relative importance of the site for nesting, feeding or development.

Insufficient information is available on the presence or absence of the species (leave box empty)

The species is **not present** or does not use this particular habitat type at this site.
?
It is speculated (only) that the species is present at this site and may be using one or more particular habitat types. In the absence of definitive information, place a **?** in the appropriate box(es).
✓
The species is definitely **known to be present** at this site; however no information is available on the relative importance of the site for nesting, feeding or development.
✓
H
The species is known to be present at this site and definitely uses this particular habitat. The site is considered to be of **high importance** for this species, relative to other sites in the country.
✓
A
The species is known to be present at this site and definitely uses this particular habitat. The site is considered to be of **average importance** for this species, relative to other sites in the country.
✓
L
The species is known to be present at this site and definitely uses this particular habitat. The site is considered to be of **lower importance** for this species, relative to other sites in the country.
a - h
Additional information on nesting habitat (where available):

Indicate the estimated number of nests per year for each species by inserting, in the appropriate boxes, one of the letters ' **a** ' through ' **f** ', corresponding to the following scale: **a**: 1 - 10 nests ; **b**: 11 - 100 nests ; **c**: 101 - 500 nests ; **d**: 501 - 1,000 nests ; **e**: 1,001 - 5,000 nests ; **f**: 5,001 - 10,000 nests ; **g**: 10,001 - 100,000 nests; **h**: more than 100,000 nests

	ND Flatback	DC Leatherback	EI Hawksbill	CM Green	LO Olive Ridley	CC Loggerhead
Nesting						
Feeding				H		

Developmental				H		

Describe the nature of and intensity of threats to marine turtles at this site:

	High (common occurence)	Medium	Low (rare event)	None	Unknown
Exploitation of nesting females (i.e. direct harvest on land)				Nesting is virtually absent	
Direct harvest of animals in coastal waters at or near the site			✓		
Egg collection (i.e. direct harvest by humans)				✓	
Incidental capture in coastal fisheries	✓				
Boat strikes	✓				
Marine debris (e.g. plastics at sea, flotsam)	✓				
Industrial effluent					✓
Inshore oil pollution	✓				
Agricultural/urban/tourism development (e.g. construction that disrupts nesting activities)					
Artificial lighting (on land or near shore)			✓		
Habitat degradation (e.g. coastal erosion, debris that obstructs nesting etc.)	✓				
Vehicles				✓	
Sand mining / removal					
Natural threats, disease, predation of nests/nesting females (e.g. by domestic / feral animals), or natural predation at sea			✓		
Other (type in):					

What measures have been introduced to remove threats to marine turtles at this site?
☑ Regulations on artificial lighting