
# Oman

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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## OBJECTIVE I. REDUCE DIRECT AND INDIRECT CAUSES OF MARINE TURTLE MORTALITY

### 1.1 Introduction to marine turtle populations and habitats, challenges and conservation efforts. [INF]

There are five sea turtle species in Oman: Green, Hawksbill, Loggerhead, Olive ridley and Leatherback. All of these species nests in Oman except the Leatherback which only feeds in Omani waters. Green turtles mainly nest in Ras al Hadd, with other small nesting areas in the beaches of Sea of Oman and Arabian Sea . Nesting season is from end of April to October. The population of this species is about 20,000 nesting females, with a number of eggs range from 80 to 110. Loggerhead turtles mainly nest on Masirah Island and Barr Al Hikman, as well as other scattered nesting beaches. Their population is

around 30,000 nesting females. Nesting season is from June to October. Hawksbill turtles nest on Masirah and Demaniyat Islands. Their population numbers around 600 nesting females. Nesting season is from February to March. Olive ridleys nest on Masirah Island, with a population of around 150-400 nesting females. Nesting season is from February to March. Leatherbacks are occasionally trapped in fishermen nets.

Turtles -- especially the meat and eggs of Green turtles -- are eaten by local people of some regions of Oman.

**1.2.1 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. [BPR]**

-Royal Degree (114/2001) and Royal Decree (6/2003) that protect wild species sea turtles - Ranger patrolling in protected areas
- Regional protection of sea turtles which are known to migrate to other countries beaches or coast.
- regional cooperation in research for sea turtles, especially genetic studies.
- Cooperation with the Environment Society ofOman on their Turtle Research and Conservation Programme (conducted underpermits from MECA) along with other local partners.

**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]**

- Awareness campaigns in the local schools and women societies.
- Visitors center was constructed in Masirah Islands.
-local employment Development of a visitor center in Ras al Hadd - Community Outreach projects done by the Environment Society of Oman on Masirah such as: -The Annual Masirah Festival which takes place at the beginning of the loggerhead nesting season; -The deployment of signage and public information posters on Masirah island promoting turtle conservation.

**1.3.2 Which of these adverse economic incentives are underlying threats to marine turtles in your country? [TSH]**

- ■ **High prices earned from turtle products relative to other commodities**
- ■ **Lack of affordable alternatives to turtle products**
- ■ **Ease of access to the turtle resource (eg. by virtue of proximity or ease of land/water access)**
- ■ **Low cost of land near nesting beaches**
- ☐ Low penalties against illegal harvesting
- ☐ Other1: Low penalties on turtle by-catch by fishermen
- ☐ Other2:
- ☐ Other3:
- ☐ None of the above or Not Applicable

**1.3.3 Has your country has taken any measures to try to correct these adverse economic incentives? [BPR]**

■ YES ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE (no adverse economic incentives exist)

- Ranger units have been established to increase protection and effective monitoring.
Awareness campaigns were organized to increase social responsibility of the local communities.
- National committee for sea turtle conservation was formed in 2013 from the different agencies.

-beach managment

**1.4.1 Indicate, and describe in more detail, the main fisheries occurring in the waters of your country, as well as any high seas fisheries in which flag vessels of your country participate, that could possibly interact with marine turtles. [INF]**

***a) Shrimp trawls:*** ■ YES ☐ NO

(2011-2014) shrimp resources survey projectconducted by Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Wealth. The project was to survey Wusta governorate by using Trawls. Sometimes turtles caught during the trawls and it release to the sea.

***b) Set gill nets:*** ■ YES ☐ NO

A lot of drifted gill net are used by fishermen and trawling nets are used by companies as well as set gill nets are used by local fishermen.

***c) Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs):*** ■ YES ☐ NO

This method of fishing is now used in certain place in Omani water but in small scale.

***d) Purse seine (with or without FADs):*** ■ YES ☐ NO

Y-es, used by local fishermen close to the beach with no effect reported on sea turtles in Oman.

***e) Longline (shallow or deepset):*** ■ YES ☐ NO

Used by some companies' vessels and fishermen especially for tuna and shark fishing.

***f) Driftnet:*** ☐ YES ■ NO

Common method in Oman Used by local fishermen.

***g) Other1:***

Traps are used by local fishermen, and could affect the feeding area of turtles.

***h) Other2:***

☐ **None of the above**

**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]**

***a) Shrimp trawls***

**Fishing effort:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ☐ MODERATE ☐ RELATIVELY LOW ■ **NONE** ☐ UNKNOWN

**Perceived Impact:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ☐ MODERATE ☐ RELATIVELY LOW ☐ NONE ■ **UNKNOWN**

Source: Shrimp trawls are not used in Omani waters.

***b) Set gill nets***

**Fishing effort:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ☐ MODERATE ■ **RELATIVELY LOW** ☐ NONE ☐ UNKNOWN

**Perceived Impact:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ☐ MODERATE ■ **RELATIVELY LOW** ☐ NONE ☐ UNKNOWN

Source: Set gill nets have been used in certain fishing areas, this method also effecting feeding areas of turtles.

***c) Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)***

**Fishing effort:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ☐ MODERATE ■ **RELATIVELY LOW** ☐ NONE ☐ UNKNOWN

**Perceived Impact:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ☐ MODERATE ☐ RELATIVELY LOW ☐ NONE ■ **UNKNOWN**

Source: Not common method of fishing in Oman.

***d) Purse seine (with or without FADs)***

**Fishing effort:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ☐ MODERATE ☐ RELATIVELY LOW ■ **NONE** ☐ UNKNOWN

**Perceived Impact:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ☐ MODERATE ☐ RELATIVELY LOW ☐ NONE ■ **UNKNOWN**

Source: used on only small scale, without any direct effect to turtles.

***e) Longline (shallow or deepset)***

**Fishing effort:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ☐ MODERATE ■ **RELATIVELY LOW** ☐ NONE ☐ UNKNOWN

**Perceived Impact:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ☐ MODERATE ☐ RELATIVELY LOW ☐ NONE ■ **UNKNOWN**

Source:

***f) Driftnet***

**Fishing effort:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ■ **MODERATE** ☐ RELATIVELY LOW ☐ NONE ☐ UNKNOWN

**Perceived Impact:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ■ **MODERATE** ☐ RELATIVELY LOW ☐ NONE ☐ UNKNOWN

Source: Occasionally affect turtles that get trapped in these nets.

***g) Other1 (from 1.4.1):***

**Fishing effort:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ■ **MODERATE** ☐ RELATIVELY LOW ☐ NONE ☐ UNKNOWN

**Perceived Impact:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ■ **MODERATE** ☐ RELATIVELY LOW ☐ NONE ☐ UNKNOWN

Source: Trawling, set gill net and drift gill nets could affect the turtles life occasionally in Omani waters.No data available.

***h) Other2 (from 1.4.1):***

**Fishing effort:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ☐ MODERATE ☐ RELATIVELY LOW ☐ NONE ☐ UNKNOWN

**Perceived Impact:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ☐ MODERATE ☐ RELATIVELY LOW ☐ NONE ☐ UNKNOWN

Source:

**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]**

Trawling and drift gill nets (illegal poaching of green turtles on small scale) have affected the population of sea turtles.

**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 fishers using equipment such as de-hooking, line cutting tools and scoop nets)

☐ YES ☐ NO ■ **NOT APPLICABLE**

Fishermen release live turtles if they are caught in their nets or lines.

b) **Devices that allow the escape of marine turtles** (e.g. turtle excluder devices (TEDs) or other measures that are comparable in effectiveness)

☐ YES ☐ NO ■ **NOT APPLICABLE**

No devices have been introduced as there is no shrimp trawling in Oman waters.

c) **Measures to avoid encirclement** of marine turtles in purse seine fisheries

☐ YES ☐ NO ■ **NOT APPLICABLE**

not a common fishing practice.

d) **Appropriate combinations** of hook design, type of bait, depth, gear specifications and fishing practices

☐ YES ☐ NO ■ **NOT APPLICABLE**

e) **Monitoring and recovery of fish aggregating devices** (FADs)

☐ YES ☐ NO ■ **NOT APPLICABLE**

f) **Net retention and recycling schemes**

☐ YES ☐ NO ■ **NOT APPLICABLE**

g) **Spatial and temporal control of fishing** (e.g. seasonal closures of fishing activities)

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

Spatial and temporal control are effect to protect certain species of fish or crustaceans. ( They are not specific to sea turties 'but there could be ancillary benefits for turtles).

h) **Effort management control**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

-There are protected areas for protecting turtles beaches as Ras al hadd beaches and Demaniyat Islands' beaches.
-Rangers units are covering most oman's coast.

☐ Other (list and explain):

☐ None of the above

**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]**

**Onboard observer programmes**

☐ YES ☐ NO ■ **NOT APPLICABLE**

**Vessel monitoring systems**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

**Inspections** (i.e. at sea, in port, at landing sites)

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

**Training programmes / workshops** to educate fishers

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

**Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines** etc.

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

**Other (list and explain):**

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

☐ **None of the above**

**1.4.6 Are the mitigation measures described in 1.4.4 and 1.4.5, periodically reviewed and evaluated for their efficacy? [SAP]**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE

**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]**

Data is collected and and analyzed by the Ministry Of Environment and Climate Affairs and other related Ministries and research organization such as Sultan Qabood University and other research centers . The data collected includes flipper tagging data , counting of turtles tracks in the beach,satellite tracking,..etc.

**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** ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE

Exchange of information and experts with other countries and organizations has been done through participation in the region and international meetings and conferences.

**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]**

In process.

**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]**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE

Harvesting of turtles and their eggs is illegal by the national low.

**1.5.2 Which, among the following list, are economic uses and cultural values of marine turtles in your country? Please rate the relative prevalence / importance of each consumptive or non-consumptive use. [INF]**

| USES / VALUES | RELATIVE PREVALENCE / IMPORTANCE |
|---|---|
| **Meat consumption** | |
| ■ **YES** ☐ NO | ☐ HIGH ☐ MODERATE ■ **LOW** ☐ UNKNOWN |
| **Egg consumption** | |
| ■ **YES** ☐ NO | ☐ HIGH ☐ MODERATE ■ **LOW** ☐ UNKNOWN |
| **Shell products** | |
| ■ **YES** ☐ NO | ☐ HIGH ☐ MODERATE ■ **LOW** ☐ UNKNOWN |
| **Fat consumption** | |
| ☐ YES ■ **NO** | ☐ HIGH ☐ MODERATE ☐ LOW ■ **UNKNOWN** |
| **Traditional medicine** | |
| ■ **YES** ☐ NO | ☐ HIGH ☐ MODERATE ■ **LOW** ☐ UNKNOWN |
| **Eco-tourism programmes** | |

■ **YES** ☐ NO ■ **HIGH** ☐ MODERATE ☐ LOW ☐ UNKNOWN

**Cultural / traditional significance**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ■ **HIGH** ☐ MODERATE ☐ LOW ☐ UNKNOWN

**Other**

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

**Level of harvest:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ☐ MODERATE ■ **RELATIVELY LOW** ☐ NONE ☐ UNKNOWN

**Impact of harvest:**

☐ RELATIVELY HIGH ☐ MODERATE ■ **RELATIVELY LOW** ☐ NONE ☐ UNKNOWN

Source of information:

ministry of environment

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

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ UNKNOWN

-national legislation -public awareness -patrolling -NGO's participation

**1.5.5 Describe any management agreements negotiated 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]**

Monitoring and awareness campagins to ensure the conservation process in such area of illegal consumptim.

**1.6.1 First, select one of the options at left 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]**

| MEASURES | RELATIVE EFFECTIVENESS |
|---|---|
| **Monitoring/protection programmes** | |
| ■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ N/A | ☐ EXCELLENT ■ **GOOD** ☐ LOW ☐ UNKNOWN |

**Education/awareness programmes**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ N/A ☐ EXCELLENT ■ **GOOD** ☐ LOW ☐ UNKNOWN

**Egg relocation/hatcheries**

☐ YES ■ **NO** ☐ N/A ☐ EXCELLENT ☐ GOOD ☐ LOW ☐ UNKNOWN

**Predator control**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ N/A ☐ EXCELLENT ☐ GOOD ■ **LOW** ☐ UNKNOWN

**Vehicle / access restrictions**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ N/A ☐ EXCELLENT ■ **GOOD** ☐ LOW ☐ UNKNOWN

It is prohibited for vehicle to drive through nesting areas.

**Removal of debris / clean-up**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ N/A ☐ EXCELLENT ■ **GOOD** ☐ LOW ☐ UNKNOWN

But it does not cover all nesting and feeding areas .

**Re-vegetation of frontal dunes**

☐ YES ■ **NO** ☐ N/A ☐ EXCELLENT ☐ GOOD ☐ LOW ■ **UNKNOWN**

**Building location/design regulations**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ N/A ☐ EXCELLENT ■ **GOOD** ☐ LOW ☐ UNKNOWN

EIA is required by law for all projects.

**Light pollution reduction**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ N/A ■ **EXCELLENT** ☐ GOOD ☐ LOW ☐ UNKNOWN

Control of light pollution is taken into consideration.

**Other (list and rate them)**

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A

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

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

Alot of research and studies have been carried out by national institutes such as sultan qaboos university(SQU), university of nizwa and the research council(TRC)

## OBJECTIVE II. PROTECT, CONSERVE AND REHABILITATE 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]**

by law and through Royal D agree (6/2003) turtles species are protected.rangers are patroling to ensure the implementation of the low. Masirah Island has more conservation actions as it will be decleared as natural reserve.

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

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

It is usually done by academic institutions such as SQU,TRC and university of nizwa at the national and international level.

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

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

Throughout the country, water quality is monitored in two phases each year by the national marine pollution monitoring program.

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

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

The measures that are used are according to Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. In addition, there is a national monitoring program.Coopration with ROPME to coserve marine environment and measure dapolition.There are lows that prohibit use of poising chemicals within sea areas.

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

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE (no degraded coral reefs)

.Coral reef cleaning Campinas are conducted through the year annually at different places in oman by marine specialist divers and volunteer.Also artificial coral reef has been translated in several areas.There are many action plans to protect coral reef echo system such as coastal zone management and coral reef management plan.

**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** ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE (no mangrove habitats important for turtles)

There are mangrove conservation, restoration and management programs to establish mangroves. This includes plantation projects , started since 2001 up to the present. More than 500,000 seedlings has been transplanted 2000 in has been transplanted in the region.Also there are environmental education programmers mangrove echo system for school students,Omani women society and other involved stakeholder. There is also a management plan for rehabilitation and restoration of mangroves.

**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** ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE (no degraded sea grass habitats)

Research has been done by SQU on the economic of seagraas as by feul

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

**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]**

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**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]**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE

Monitoring programmes conducted by MECA include Ras Al Hadd monitoring started in 1977. Masirah Island monitoring started in 1977 as well; while in Dimanyat and Hallniyat Islands it started in 1999 and 2000, respectively. The data collected include the measurements of turtle tracks, mortality and migration, etc. Additional monitoring, addressingnesting beach surveys, have been done on Masirah island from 2006 by the Environment Society of Oman. ESO's recent monitoring efforts also included beach use surveys and stranding beach surveys.

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

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE

Some studies on green and loggerhead have been conducted by SQU.

**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]**

**Tagging** ■ **YES** ☐ NO

Long term monitoring program on Hawksbill, loggerhead, Green and olive ridley by flipper tagging program started in 1977.

**Satellite tracking** ■ **YES** ☐ NO

Several efforts have been conducted by MECA with local partners on satellite tracking projects, these notably include:::
* Oman 2006:Loggerhead Turtles of Masirah: in 2005 a three year project to assess and evaluate sea turtle populations in Masirah Island as well as establish a sustainable, general management plan for the Island and the surrounding areas (Barr al Hikman and the Islands in the Masirah Channel) was initiated. One of the focal activities in 2006 is to track 10 nesting females to their possibly remote foraging areas as many years of flipper tagging have so far revealed very little of their migratory behaviour.

*Oman 2008:Olive Ridley turtles of Masirah:Olive ridley migration and behaviour are, in general, poorly studied and hence this project will provide vital information, not only for this populatoin but for this species as a whole.
Later, in the summer of 2008, a green turtle telemetry project will take place at Masirah providing evidence of migration routes and raising awareness of this threatened and depleted population.

*Oman 2011: deployment of 4 sir-track satellite tags on Hawksbills turtles on Damaniyat by EWS-WWF, in collaboration with MECA and the Environment Society of Oman. Fitting of 18 satellite tags on loggerhead turtles nesting at Masirah Island (each turtle fitting with wildlife computers). *Oman 2012: deployment of 4 sir-track satellite tags on Hawksbill turtles under the MECA 'Yeosu Turtle Friendship Programme' in collaboration with the Environment Society of Oman. *Oman 2013:

deployment of 4 sir-track satellite tags on Hawksbills turtles on Damaniyat and Masirah by EWS-WWF, in collaboration with MECA and the Environment Society of Oman *Post-Nesting Migrations of Green Turtles from Ras al Hadd Turtle Reserve, Sultanate of Oman.This satellite tracking study to determine post and inter-nesting movements of the green turtles nesting at Ras al Jinz nesting beach.

*Post-Nesting Migrations of Hawksbill Turtles from the Daymaniyat Islands, Oman. This tracking project will further our understanding of the migratory patterns of turtles nesting on the Daymaniyat's.

*Post-Nesting Migrations of Loggerhead Turtles From Masirah Island, Oman. This satellite telemetry project is being implemented to assist in determining the migration paths of post-nesting loggerhead trutles and to raise awareness of the importance of marine trutle populations and the international efforts needed for their wise conservation. The project is one component of a larger and more complex conservation strategy undertaken by the Omani government, which includes training and capacity-building, strategic conservation planning, streamlining of survey methodology and data analysis, and addressing threats to sea turtles such as artificial lighting.

☐ **Other**

☐ **None of the above**

**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** ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE

Only in eggs and hatchlings, but there are some data have been gathered previously through monitoring programs for returned, lost and dead turtles and also for measuring length and width of turtles.

**3.1.6 Has research been conducted on the frequency and pathology of diseases in marine turtles? [INF, PRI]**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE

Only ectoparasites and toxicology (metals in organs)

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

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE

Individuals from local communities are employed and trained as rangers in order to keep them involved. Their knowledge and expertise are are used to monitor the turtle nests, tracks and to conduct tagging.

**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]**

MECA was part of EWS-WWF sea turtle conservation program. MECA is also party of ROPMI

**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** | ■ **YES** | ☐ NO | ☐ NOT APPLICABLE |
| **b) Conservation status** | ■ **YES** | ☐ NO | ☐ NOT APPLICABLE |
| **c) Migrations** | ■ **YES** | ☐ NO | ☐ NOT APPLICABLE |
| **d) Other biological and ecological aspects** | ■ **YES** | ☐ NO | ☐ NOT APPLICABLE |

☐ **Other**

**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]**

- protection of turtles inside and outside omani waters. - understand the migration routes of all species. - protections of turtles from the fishing equipments. - identify the genetic features. - engage local community .

**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** ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE

Its done by MECA.

**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]**

Certain research were applied for establishement of protected area of turtles in Oman: Ras AL Hadd and Dymaniyat Island sea turtle natural reserve .

**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]**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE

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

☐ OFTEN (SYSTEMATICALLY) ■ **OCCASIONALLY** ☐ RARELY ☐ NEVER

**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]**

- Meeting , Workshop , conferences and training , regionally and internationally . - national reports .

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

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE

Some data has been shares through the Environment Society of Oman.

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

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

- Posters, booklets and brochures

- TV and radio programs, signs and boards on beaches, as well as the distribution of educational materials in coastal areas.

- Seminar , lectures for school and local peoples and tourism.

- Environmental days celebrations - beach cleaning campaigns -Deployment of awareness signs on Masirah island and Damaniyat Island >

**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**
☐ Indigenous groups
■ **Tourists**
■ **Media**
☐ Teachers
■ **Students**
☐ Military, Navy, Police
■ **Scientists**
☐ Other:
☐ None of the above

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

■ **YES** ☐ NO

An environmental center in Ras al Hadd has been opened in 2010. in addition, a small environmental visiting centre in Massirah Island was established at the island .

**4.2 Alternative livelihood opportunities [IND, BPR] Describe initiatives already undertaken or planned to identify and facilitate alternative livelihoods (including income-generating activities) for local communities.**

Promoting ecotourism, establishing rangers units from local communities.

**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]**

Communities are not so much involved in planning and implementation of marine turtles conservation.

**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]**

Co-operation with WWF (1970s), IUCN (1990s), Sultan Qaboos University, Oman (2000s), and informal cooperation with projects from The University of Algarve, Portugal (1999-2003),and long term cooperation with ESO, Environment society of Oman.

## OBJECTIVE V. ENHANCE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

**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** ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

Oman has no reported international trade in sea turtles or products therefrom.

**5.1.2 Does your country have, or participate/cooperate in, CITES training programmes for relevant authorities? [SAP]**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

**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]**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

Oman applies CITES procedures to all imports and exports of wildlife as of Feb. 2008, permits are issued by MECA .

**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]**

None

**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]**

Turtle products are not traded at all.

**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]**

■ **YES** ☐ NO

We have management plans for all protected areas.

**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? [PRI]**

**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 to achieve progress. [PRI]**

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

**Genetics studies** ☐ ESSENTIAL ■ **IMPORTANT** ☐ LIMITED ☐ NOT AT ALL

**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]**

The Regional Organization for Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME).

The Government of Oman works closely with ROPME but not yet on sea turtle conservation.

**5.3.2 Has your country developed, or is it participating in, any networks for cooperative management of shared turtle populations? [BPR, INF]**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ NOT APPLICABLE

**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? [SAP]**

the information is not available yet

**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]**

-Technical fields - Economic assessments - genetic

**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]**

Training on nesting and monitoring are conducted for rangers.

**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]**

-Programs of studying on sea turtles in college of science, Sultan Qaboos University. -Cooperation with local and international academic institutions. -Scientific center were built in protected area for education. -

**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]**

Relatively high.

**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]**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE

In process

**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]**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE

Low does exit but there is a need to aware people of the importance of these laws.

## OBJECTIVE VI. PROMOTE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MoU INCLUDING THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

**6.1.1 What has your country already done, or will it do, to encourage other States to sign the IOSEA MoU? [INF]**

No action has been done or taken to encourage other states to sign the IOSEA.

**6.1.2 Is your country currently favourable, in principle, to amending the MoU to make it a legally binding instrument? [INF]**

☐ YES ☐ NO ■ **NO VIEW**

**6.1.3 Would your country be favourable, over a longer time horizon, to amending the MoU to make it a legally-binding instrument? [INF]**

☐ YES ☐ NO ■ **NO VIEW**

**6.2 Secretariat and Advisory Committee**

**6.2.1 What efforts has your country made, or can it make, to secure funding to support the core operations of the IOSEA MoU (Secretariat and Advisory Committee, and related activities)? [IND]**

Usual voluntary funding is paid to IOSEA.

**6.3.1 What funding has your country mobilised for domestic implementation of marine turtle conservation activities related to the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU? Where possible, indicate the specific monetary values attached to these activities/programmes, as well as future plans. [IND]**

Not available.

**6.3.2 Has your country tried to solicit funds from, or seek partnerships with, other Governments, major donor organisations, industry, private sector, foundations or NGOs for marine turtle conservation activities?**

**[IND]**

☐ YES ■ NO

- Eco tourism revenues at Ras Al Hadd. - Guided turtle-watch at Ras Al Hadd.

**6.3.3 Describe any initiatives made to explore the use of economic instruments for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats. [BPR]**

**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]**

■ **YES** ☐ NO

Directorate General of Nature Conservation at MECA.

**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]**

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE

**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]**,

■ **YES** ☐ NO ☐ UNSURE

National committee for sea turtles conservation was formed 2013.

**Comments/suggestions to improve the present reporting format:**

**Additional information not covered above:**