



CMS

IOSEA Marine Turtles Memorandum of Understanding - National Report 2024

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE NATIONAL REPORTING QUESTIONNAIRE:

The main purpose of completing the National Reporting Questionnaire (NRQ) is to provide information on your country's implementation of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU, including its Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) and the IOSEA Work Programme adopted by the 8th Meeting of Signatory States. Please include activities undertaken by the government, non-governmental organizations, private sector and other relevant stakeholders.

The IOSEA Secretariat will analyze national reports and use the provided information to facilitate marine turtle conservation work using the resources at its disposal, as well as in fundraising efforts. The information will also be used to raise any issues, as mandated by IOSEA Signatories, at relevant political fora, such as CMS, CITES, or Regional Fisheries Management Organizations.

Most importantly, collecting information of relevance to marine turtle conservation in the NRQ can help national decision makers to plan marine turtle conservation activities within countries and sub-regions, and guide national and international project planners and donors.

The NRQ is structured to reflect progress in implementation of the six objectives of the CMP: There are two modalities of the NRQ: it can be accessed via the online reporting system (ORS) or filled out using an MS Word file. However, the Word version should be used only if using the online questionnaire is not possible for technical reasons (e.g. the internet connection is too unreliable).

Please answer all questions as fully and as accurately as possible. Wherever possible, please indicate the source of information used to answer the question, particularly if a published reference or report is available. Comprehensive responses to the questions posed in Section 1.4 should also satisfy many of the reporting requirements of the 2009 FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations, thereby avoiding duplication of effort.

When working on the online version of the NRQ, 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. If additional information is available (e.g. published reports, maps) please attach it to this questionnaire. If working on an offline MS Word file, please submit the completed NRQ by email to the IOSEA Secretariat (iosea@un.org); with a copy to the Coordinator (heidrun.frisch-nwakanma@un.org), as a Word attachment.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Signatory State:

>>> Vietnam

List any other agencies, institutions, or NGOs that have provided input:

- >>> - Provincial Sub-Department of Fisheries (Local Fisheries Authorities);
- Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF);
- Institute of Oceanography;
- Institute of Marine Environment and Resources
- Con Dao National Park; Nui Chua Natural Park; Bai Tu Long National Park;
- Cu Lao Cham MPA; Ly Son MPA; Hon Cau MPA; Nha Trang Bay MPA; Phu Quoc MPA;
- Sub-Department of Forest Protection (Provincial Authority);
- TRAFFIC international Viet Nam;
- IUCN Viet Nam;
- WWF Viet Nam;
- Humane Society International in Viet Nam
- Viet Nam Fisheries Society,
- Viet Nam Tuna Association.

Memorandum in effect in Signatory State since (dd/mm/yyyy):

>>> 01 October 2001

This report was last modified: (dd/mm/yyyy):

>>> 12 June 2024

Designated Focal Point (and full contact details):

>>> Mr. LE HUU TUAN ANH

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MARINE TURTLE SPECIES AND HABITATS

Provide sources of information supporting the responses, include reports (governmental, departamental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources, and attach digital files if necessary.

0.1 Overview of marine turtles and their habitats in the IOSEA MOU Signatory States within the IOSEA region.

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departamental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

a) Please list marine turtle species and genetic stocks in your country, give a general population estimate and trend for your country and indicate where they occur.

	Population trend (increase, decrease, stable, unknown)	Number of egg clutches per year	Species, genetic stock	Type of habitat (nesting, feeding developmental)?	Geographic area
	Stable	NA	Green turtle	Nesting	Con Dao Archipelago, Vietnam
	Unknown	NA	Hawksbill turtle	Nesting	Bai Tu Long Bay, Vietnam
	Unknown	NA	Leatherback turtle	NA	NA
	Unknown	NA	Olive Ridley turtle	Nesting	Con Dao Archipelago, Vietnam

b) Do government agencies and/or scientific institutions submit data on the occurrence and population numbers of marine turtles to an international database?

☒ NO

c) Does your country have index nesting beaches in the IOSEA region?

☒ YES

d) Does your country have an IOSEA Network site?

☒ YES

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[IOSEA Site Network-Con Dao National Park 2019.pdf](#)

0.2 Site-specific information

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departamental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

Please fill out the following section for index beaches and/or IOSEA Site Network Sites in your country. If there are no such beaches or sites in your country, please leave this section blank. **An index beach is defined as a marine turtle nesting beach, which has been monitored for at least five years using a standardized set of methods and which will continue to be monitored in the long term.** An index beach may be located in a remote area or close to human settlements with influence of anthropogenic activities.

Please complete a separate section for each site.

Sites

Site 1

a) Provide the name, location and length of the site

Name of the site:

>>> Con Dao National Park

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<http://condaopark.com.vn>

State/province:

>>> Ba Ria - Vung Tau

Latitude and longitude (middle of the beach or two from either end of the beach):

>>> 8.6870570°N

Length:

>>> 106.6427420°E

b) Is this an index beach (An index beach is defined as a marine turtle nesting beach, which has been monitored for at least five years using a standardized set of methods and which will continue to be monitored in the long term)?

☒ YES

c) Is this an IOSEA Network Site?

☒ YES

d) Does this site have any other international or national status (e.g. protected area, Ramsar, UNESCO)?

☒ YES

Details:

>>> On November 1, 2014, Con Dao National Park was designated as the world's 2,203rd Ramsar Site by the Ramsar Convention

e) When did marine turtle monitoring start at this location (year) and how often is monitoring carried out?

>>> Since 1994, Con Dao National Park has tracked marine turtle nesting, recording 25,345 nests and 2,281,072 eggs by 2018, with 1,815,827 hatchlings released at an 80% success rate. Utilizing Nguyen T.G's (2009) identification methods, nests are moved to hatcheries for monitoring and conservation. Since 1998, about 3,000 females have been tagged. Con Dao represents over 90% of Vietnam's turtle nesting, with the season stretching mainly from March to November. Turtles lay 50-200 eggs per nest at 2-8 year intervals, weigh 100-160 kg, and have a 55-day incubation period.

f) Indicate the species present at this site, estimated number of nests per year for each species by inserting, in the appropriate boxes, one of the letters ' a ' through ' h ', 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. If trend information is available, add "increasing", "decreasing" or "stable". If information on population and trend is not available, simply indicate which species are present at each location by inserting "yes" or "no" in the appropriate boxes.

	How often is this species monitored?	Monitored since (year)	Trend (decreasing, increasing, stable)	Number of clutches per year	Species present at this location?
Flatback (<i>Natator depressus</i>)					
Olive ridley (<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>)					
Hawksbill (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>)					
Leatherback (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)					

Green (Chelonia mydas)	Regularly	1994	Increasing	about 700 individuals/per year	Yes
Loggerhead (Caretta caretta)					

g) Please estimate the approximate area of adjacent in-water habitat for this site.

☒ more than 100 km²

Please describe the approximate area of the in-water habitat near the site and provide any references and links:

>>> Con Dao National Park spans 19,990.7 hectares across 14 islands, divided into two main areas: a Terrestrial Component of 5,990.7 hectares and a Marine Protected Area of 14,000 hectares

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

https://www.cms.int/iosea-turtles/sites/default/files/basic_page_documents/IOSEA_Site_Network-Con_Dao_National_Park_2019.pdf

h) Please fill out the following table for the in-water habitat of the site. Please include information on population number and trend, if available.

	How often is this species monitored?	Monitored since (year)	Trend (decreasing, increasing, stable)	Population number	Are marine turtles monitored in water?	Species present at this location
Flatback (Natator depressus)						
Olive ridley (Lepidochelys olivacea)						
Hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata)						
Leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea)						
Green (Chelonia mydas)	Daily	1994	Decreasing	N/A	yes	
Loggerhead (Caretta caretta)						

Please provide any references and links:

>>> https://www.cms.int/iosea-turtles/sites/default/files/document/cms_iosea_mos8_doc.9.2_proposal-site-network-con-dao_e.pdf

i) Please describe the main threats to marine turtles at this site (both at the nesting beach and in the water).

	High (common occurrence)	Medium	Low (rare event)	None	Unknown
Other (type in)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Predation by domestic / feral animals (cats, dogs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural threats, disease, predation of nests/nesting females or natural predation at sea	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sand mining / removal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Habitat degradation (e.g. coastal erosion, debris that obstructs nesting etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Artificial lighting (on land or near shore)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural/urban/tourism development (e.g. construction that disrupts nesting activities)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inshore oil pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial effluent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marine debris (e.g. plastics at sea, flotsam)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boat strikes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incidental capture in coastal fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Egg collection (i.e. direct harvest by humans)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Direct harvest of animals in coastal waters at or near the site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exploitation of nesting females (i.e. direct harvest on land)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

j) What assistance for conservation and management at this site would be useful, including through the IOSEA Capacity-building programme? Please choose from the list below:

- ☒ Training/ capacity building for researchers and field workers
- ☒ Training/ capacity building for authorities and/or managers
- ☒ Training/ capacity building for people from coastal communities
- ☒ Training/capacity building for community-based activities
- ☒ Training/capacity building for onboard observer programmes
- ☒ Training/capacity building for project development, fundraising, execution, evaluation
- ☒ Scientific equipment and/or technical support
- ☒ Technical expertise to enhance conservation or management at the site

Please provide details:

>>> 1. Training/Capacity Building for Researchers and Field Workers:

1.1. Equip researchers and field workers with the latest scientific methods and techniques for studying marine turtles.

1.2. Offer workshops on data collection, analysis, and reporting to enhance the accuracy and reliability of research findings.

1.3. Address the current limitations in Vietnam, where marine turtle research is restricted, and there are few experts in the field.

2. Training/Capacity Building for Authorities and/or Managers:

2.1. Provide training for governmental and non-governmental authorities to improve policy-making and enforcement.

2.2. Develop management skills and strategies for effective conservation and regulation of marine turtle habitats.

3. Training/Capacity Building for People from Coastal Communities:

3.1. Educate coastal community members on the importance of marine turtle conservation and sustainable practices.

3.2. Conduct outreach programs to foster community engagement and support for conservation efforts.

4. Training/Capacity Building for Community-Based Activities:

4.1. Support local initiatives by providing the knowledge and skills needed for community-led conservation projects.

4.2. Promote activities such as beach clean-ups, turtle monitoring, and nest protection.

5. Training/Capacity Building for Onboard Observer Programmes:

5.1. Train onboard observers to monitor and document marine turtle bycatch in fisheries.

- 5.2. Enhance their ability to collect data, identify species, and implement mitigation measures.
- 5.3. Acknowledge that observer is not currently recognized as an occupation in Vietnam's working list, and national observer programs are only at the pilot stage.
6. Training/Capacity Building for Project Development, Fundraising, Execution, Evaluation:
 - 6.1. Guide conservation practitioners in developing, funding, and executing effective marine turtle conservation projects.
 - 6.2. Teach evaluation techniques to assess project outcomes and improve future initiatives.
7. Scientific Equipment and/or Technical Support:
 - 7.1. Provide necessary scientific equipment such as GPS trackers, cameras, and data loggers.
 - 7.2. Offer technical support to ensure proper use and maintenance of equipment.
8. Technical Expertise to Enhance Conservation or Management at the Site:
 - 8.1. Supply expert advice on habitat restoration, threat mitigation, and species management.
 - 8.2. Assist in developing site-specific conservation strategies based on scientific research and best practices.
9. Monitoring System at Sea:
 - 9.1. Establish a monitoring system involving observers on fishing vessels and maintaining fishing logbooks.
 - 9.2. Continue to improve fishing gear and apply Turtle Exclusion Devices (TEDs) to minimize bycatch and meet international integration requirements.
10. Sea Turtle Conservation Communication Program:
 - 10.1. Organize and implement communication programs to raise awareness about sea turtle conservation.
11. Socializing Rescue and Release of Sea Turtles:
 - 11.1. Establish sea turtle rescue stations in key fisheries areas.
 - 11.2. Promote community involvement in the rescue and release efforts.
 - 11.3. Address the limited human resources available for rescue teams and the current lack of established rescue stations for marine turtles.
12. Research and Habitat Mapping:
 - 12.1. Continue to investigate, evaluate, and map the current status of sea turtles and their habitats.
 - 12.2. Propose solutions for preserving sea turtles based on research findings.
13. Database Management:
 - 13.1. Maintain, update, and utilize the sea turtle database for effective management.
 - 13.2. Track migration routes and feeding areas of sea turtle populations using satellite positioning devices.
14. Genetic Research and Photo Identification:
 - 14.1. Conduct genetic research on Vietnam's sea turtle population.
 - 14.2. Apply image recognition technology (PhotoID) to identify individual sea turtles.
15. Establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):
 - 15.1. Establish MPAs, such as Nam Du, Tho Chu, and Hai Giang - Hon Kho sandbank, to protect feeding areas and migration routes.
 - 15.2. Implement fishery ban areas during the nesting season, such as in the Con Dao sea area.
16. Coordination of Law Enforcement:
 - 16.1. Clearly define roles and coordination responsibilities of law enforcement forces, including Environmental Police, Customs, Market Management, Army, Fisheries Control, etc.

I) Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources, and attach digital files if necessary.

>>> <https://condaopark.com.vn/vn/rua-xanh-malaysia-vuot-ngan-hai-ly-den-con-dao-de-trung.html>

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

1.1 BEST PRACTICE APPROACHES TO MINIMIZING THREATS

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departamental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

1.1.1. Are there any best practice protocols relating to the protection of marine turtles and their habitats used in your country that you would like to share with other IOSEA Signatories? Please name the protocols and describe briefly, providing references or links to more detailed reports or online texts.

If more rows are required, please contact the secretariat at iosea@un.org

	References and links	Has the effectiveness of this approach been evaluated? What was the result?	What does this approach/ protocol help to achieve	Title of best practice protocol or approach
	https://vanban.chinhphu.vn/default.aspx?pageid=27160&docid=197809	Positive	The legal framework has been fully developed to support the conservation of endangered turtle species. Efforts are intensified in the investigation, assessment, and research of these species, particularly those that are critically endangered and prioritized for protection. Models are being developed to establish and efficiently manage protected areas. Additionally, the rescue, breeding, and conservation practices for these prioritized turtles are being effectively implemented. There is also a significant focus on enhancing the enforcement and management effectiveness of conservation laws. Moreover, initiatives to increase community awareness and involvement in these conservation efforts are actively promoted.	Conservation program for Vietnam's endangered turtle species until 2025, with a vision to 2030.
	https://vietnam.panda.org/en/?361754/Viet-Nam-Yellowfin-FIP-Makes-Steady-Progress-in-Mainstreaming-Use-of-Circle-Hooks-to-Reduce-Sea-Turtle-Bycatch	Positive	Reduce marine turtles bycatch	Use of Circle Hooks to Reduce Sea Turtle Bycatch

	https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Tai-nguyen-Moi-truong/Quyét-dinh-811-QĐ-BNN-TCTS-2016-phe-duyet-Ke-hoach-hanh-dong-bao-ton-rua-bien-Viet-Nam-425865.aspx	Positive	<p>General Goal: Conserve and sustainably protect sea turtle populations and their habitats in Vietnam. Specific Objectives</p> <p>Period 2016-2020: The primary aim during this period is to develop and complete the legal framework for the protection and conservation of sea turtles. Efforts will be made to improve and apply fishing gears to protect sea turtles by ensuring 100% of tuna fishing boats use circle hooks and piloting turtle evasion devices in gill net fisheries. Additionally, at least 3% of trawl vessels will use Turtle Exclusion Devices (TEDs). The plan includes protecting 100% of natural nesting grounds for sea turtles through targeted investments and achieving membership for Con Dao National Park in the IOSEA Marine Turtle Site Network. Two sea turtle rescue stations will be established and operated effectively in Ba Ria - Vung Tau and Khanh Hoa. To build capacity, 100% of officials and employees in marine protected areas and national parks with marine conservation components will be trained in sea turtle conservation. Furthermore, the plan aims to educate 100% of communities in and around these protected areas. Training will also be provided to 100% of captains of ships engaged in trawling, gill nets, purse seines, and ocean tuna fishing to raise awareness and skills for protecting and conserving sea turtles. Finally, an effective database on sea turtles will be built and operated at the Department of Fisheries.</p> <p>Period 2020-2025: The focus will shift to ensuring at least 5% of gill net vessels and 10% of trawl vessels use Turtle Exclusion Devices (TEDs) to minimize bycatch. The protection of 100% of sea turtle habitats will be a priority. The organizational system, mechanisms, and policies for sea turtle conservation will be completed in accordance with the National Action Plan on biodiversity conservation. The sea turtle database will be completed, ensuring connectivity from the Department of Fisheries to national parks, marine protected areas, and local Fisheries Sub-Departments to enhance coordination and management efforts.</p>	National Plan of Action for Marine Turtles Conservation with vision from 2016 to 2025

1.2 REDUCTION OF INCIDENTAL CAPTURE AND MORTALITY

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departamental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

1.2.1 Indicate, and describe in more detail, the main fisheries occurring in the waters of your country (including territorial waters and the EEZ), as well as any high seas

fisheries in which flag vessels of your country participate and interact with marine turtles within the IOSEA region.

For each of the different fisheries listed below, please indicate whether the fishery is present and use the text box below to provide more detailed information. Please include information on what marine turtle species are affected and number of reported interactions, if known.

1) Bottoms trawls (including shrimp trawls)

a) Fishing effort:

☒ PRESENT

Please provide the information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> 15554

Boat size (range or average):

>>> 6 - >24m Maximum length

Number of trips per year:

>>> N/A

Mesh size used:

>>> 10-90mm

Geographic distribution:

>>> Offshore

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> N/A

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> N/A

b) Methods used by your country to minimise bycatch of marine turtles in this fishery

- ☒ Safe handling (as per existing protocols e.g., FAO guidelines) of incidentally caught turtles (e.g. resuscitation or release by fishers using equipment such as de-hooking, line cutting tools and scoop nets)
- ☒ Devices that allow the escape of marine turtles (e.g. turtle excluder devices (TEDs))
- ☒ Spatial and temporal control of fishing (e.g. seasonal closures of fishing activities)
- ☒ Effort management control
- ☒ Other

Details:

>>> - Spatial and temporal control of fishing have been being implemented but still low and weak enforcement. However, seasonal closures of fishing activities are applied in some certain sea areas, especially at MPA and NP boundaries, for the purposes of aquatic resource protection;

The use of simple de-hooking and line-cutting devices on long-liners could significantly reduce marine turtle by-catch in the hotspot region. However, further training, distribution of awareness raising materials, and supported hardware, and development of official marine turtle rescue guidelines are required;

- TEDs were developed and tested with trawlers and currently considered to be required in Vietnamese trawl fisheries;

- Convert J-hooks to circle hooks (C-hooks)

- Control the mesh-size and net length

- Enhance the enforcement of the Fisheries Law and other related national laws and regulations;

- Decision 208/QĐ-TTg dated March 10, 2023 on Approval of the project for converting marine capture fisheries impacting resources and ecological environment. By 2025, the plan involves converting 700 trawling vessels that operate in offshore areas to use alternative fishing methods such as trap nets, falling nets, purse seines, longlines, handlines, and to serve as logistics vessels. In the subsequent period from 2026 to 2030, the focus will shift to converting 1,000 trawling vessels that operate in the high seas. These vessels will transition to using trap nets, falling nets, purse seines, longlines, handlines, and will also be adapted for logistics services, aquaculture, aquaculture services, and recreational fishing.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Decision 208/QĐ-TTg dated March 10, 2023 approving the Scheme on transforming a number of fisheries that affect

the resources and the ecological environment

Circular 01/2022/ND-CP dated 18 January 2022 amending and supplementing several circulars in the fisheries sector

Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 providing guidance for the protection and development of fisheries resources

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Law on Fisheries 2017; Decree 26 Circular No. 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

19-bnnptnt.signed.pdf

208qd.signed.pdf

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Decree 37/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 4th, 2024 on Amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries

Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law

Law on Fisheries 2017

c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below.

- ☒ Onboard observer programmes
- ☒ Vessel monitoring systems
- ☒ Inspections (i.e. at sea, in port, at landing sites)
- ☒ Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods
- ☒ Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.

Onboard observer programmes

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Decree No. 37/2024/ND-CP dated April 4, 2024

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

37-nd-cp.signed.pdf

The measure is voluntary:

>>> N/A

Details/future plans:

>>> There is strong potential for developing near future Observer Program and future experimental trials of gear replacement (i.e. circle hooks) in the priority provinces, in terms of national, provincial and community support and willingness to become involved.

Phase two of "Improving the Knowledge Base and Identifying Management Options for the Reduction of Marine Turtle Interactions in Vietnamese Fisheries" project will focus of the implementation of a first-of-its-kind Observer Program in the long-line fleet, in order to ground-truth data, determine baseline on catch rates for target fish and for by-catch, as well as socio-economic parameters (2008-2009).

Plan:

1. Design and implement Observer Program with fishing communities and government authorities
2. Consider first deploying pilot program of smaller size and scope
3. Implement comprehensive training before full Observer Program

Vessel monitoring systems

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Law on Fisheries 2017 & Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated 8/3/2019 & Decree No. 37/2024/ND-CP dated April 4, 2024 by the Government

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law

Decree 37/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 4th, 2024 on Amending and supplementing some articles of

Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries

Law on Fisheries 2017

The measure is voluntary:

>>> N/A

Details/future plans:

>>> Priority Program Number 3, scheduled for implementation during the period 2021-2030, is part of Vietnam's fisheries development strategy, which extends until 2030 with a vision towards 2045. (Decision 339/QĐ-TTg, dated March 11, 2021 by the Prime Minister)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Decision 339/QĐ-TTg dated March 11, 2021 approving the Strategy for Development of Vietnam's Fisheries by 2030, Vision to 2045

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

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> - Law on Fisheries 2017; - Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law; - Decree 37/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 4th, 2024 on Amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries; - Decree 38/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 5, 2024 stipulating the administrative sanctions in the field of fisheries; - Circular 21/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 stipulating the recording and submission of logbooks; Announcing designated fishing ports for catch certification; - Circular 22/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 regulating crew members on fishing vessels and fisheries enforcement vessels; - Circular 23/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 regulating fishing vessel classification officers; recognition of a fishing vessel classification unit; ensuring technical safety of fishing vessels, fisheries surveillance vessels; Registration of fishing vessels, fisheries enforcement vessels; - Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 providing guidance for the protection and development of fisheries resources; ; - Circular 01/2022/ND-CP dated 18 January 2022 amending and supplementing several circulars in the fisheries sector;

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Decree 38/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 5, 2024 stipulating the administrative sanctions in the field of fisheries

Decree 37/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 4th, 2024 on Amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries

Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law

Law on Fisheries 2017

The measure is voluntary:

>>> N/A

Details/future plans:

>>> Priority Program Number 1, scheduled for implementation during the period 2021-2030, is part of Vietnam's fisheries development strategy, which extends until 2030 with a vision towards 2045. (Decision 339/QĐ-TTg, dated March 11, 2021 by the Prime Minister)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Decision 339/QĐ-TTg dated March 11, 2021 approving the Strategy for Development of Vietnam's Fisheries by 2030, Vision to 2045

Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods

Details/future plans:

>>> The latest regulation addressing bycatch is Decree 37/2024/ND-CP, issued by the Government on April 4th, 2024. This decree amends and supplements certain articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP, dated March 8th,

2019, which details various articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries. The decree provides definitions and general management measures for bycatch species. Additional training programs and workshops have been conducted by several institutions and NGOs. However, these initiatives are still in the early stages and primarily focus on ETP (Endangered, Threatened, and Protected) species, as the Vietnamese government has not yet clarified target species for each type of capture fishery.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Decree 37/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 4th, 2024 on Amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries

Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law

Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.

Details/future plans:

>>> Several videos, brochures, and informational panels about these species have been created and distributed in popular beaches, fishing communities, and coastal provinces. These efforts are prioritized in the National Plan of Action for these species. Other activities such as "Save Turtle Run 2023"

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Run 4 Sea Turtles

I paint the blue ocean - home of marine creatures

2) Pelagic trawling

a) Fishing effort:

☒ NONE

Please provide the information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> N/A

Boat size (range or average):

>>> N/A

Number of trips per year:

>>> N/A

Mesh size used:

>>> N/A

Geographic distribution:

>>> N/A

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> N/A

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> N/A

b) Methods used by your country to minimise bycatch of marine turtles in this fishery

☒ None of the above

Details:

>>> Pelagic trawling is not practiced in Vietnam due to the small size and limited power of fishing vessels. In

Vietnam, trawlers primarily engage in bottom otter trawling and pair trawling.

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> N/A

c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below.

☒ None of the above

None of the above

Explanation/future plans:

>>> N/A

3) Set nets

a) Fishing effort:

☒ UNKNOWN

Please provide the information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> Setnets are categorized as "Other fisheries", which include variety of artisanal fishing methods and is not detail for each fishing gear.

Boat size (range or average):

>>> N/A

Number of trips per year:

>>> N/A

Mesh size used:

>>> N/A

Geographic distribution:

>>> N/A

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> N/A

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> N/A

b) Methods used by your country to minimise bycatch of marine turtles in this fishery

☒ None of the above

Details:

>>> N/A

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulations:

>>> Artisanal fisheries are regulated under several legal frameworks. The Law of Fisheries 2017 provides the foundational legal basis. Decree 26/2019/ND-CP, dated March 8, 2019, outlines several articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law. This decree was further amended and supplemented by Decree 37/2024/ND-CP, dated April 4, 2024. Additionally, Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT, dated November 15, 2018, offers guidance for the protection and development of fisheries resources. Circular 01/2022/ND-CP, dated January 18, 2022, amends and supplements several circulars in the fisheries sector. Together, these regulations

provide comprehensive guidance and measures for the protection, development, and management of artisanal fisheries.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Circular 01/2022/ND-CP dated 18 January 2022 amending and supplementing several circulars in the fisheries sector
Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 providing guidance for the protection and development of fisheries resources

Decree 37/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 4th, 2024 on Amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries

Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law

Law on Fisheries 2017

c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below.

☒ None of the above

None of the above

Explanation/future plans:

>>> N/A

4) Driftnet

a) Fishing effort

☒ PRESENT

Please provide the information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> 32043

Boat size (range or average):

>>> 6 - >24m

Number of trips per year:

>>> N/A

Mesh size used:

>>> 10-90mm

Geographic distribution:

>>> Nationwide

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> All turtle species.

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> N/A

b) Methods used by your country to minimise bycatch of marine turtles in this fishery

☒ Safe handling (as per existing protocols e.g., FAO guidelines) of incidentally caught turtles (e.g. resuscitation or release by fishers using equipment such as de-hooking, line cutting tools and scoop nets)

☒ Devices that allow marine turtles to avoid the nets (e.g. stick lights)

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

Details:

>>> - Safe handling guidelines have been developed and disseminated to the responsible agencies.
- The pilot implementation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in shrimp trawling was conducted, but the results were not favorable by fishers due to high costs.
- Spatial control fishing regulations are outlined in Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT, dated November 15, 2018, which provides comprehensive guidance for the protection and development of marine fisheries resources.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 providing guidance for the protection and development of fisheries resources - Vietnamese

Decision No. 811 /QD-BNN-TCTS on approving the Vietnam Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan for the period 2016 - 2025. - Vietnamese

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> - Law on Fisheries 2017; - Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law; - Decree 37/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 4th, 2024 on Amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries; - Decree 38/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 5, 2024 stipulating the administrative sanctions in the field of fisheries; - Circular 21/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 stipulating the recording and submission of logbooks; Announcing designated fishing ports for catch certification; - Circular 22/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 regulating crew members on fishing vessels and fisheries enforcement vessels; - Circular 23/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 regulating fishing vessel classification officers; recognition of a fishing vessel classification unit; ensuring technical safety of fishing vessels, fisheries surveillance vessels; Registration of fishing vessels, fisheries enforcement vessels; - Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 providing guidance for the protection and development of fisheries resources; ; - Circular 01/2022/ND-CP dated 18 January 2022 amending and supplementing several circulars in the fisheries sector;

c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below

- ☒ Vessel monitoring systems
☒ Inspections (i.e. at sea, in port, at landing sites)
☒ Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.

Vessel monitoring systems

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> - Law on Fisheries 2017; - Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law; - Decree 37/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 4th, 2024 on Amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries;

The measure is voluntary:

>>> N/A

Details/future plans:

>>> - Fishing vessels with maximum length at least 15m or greater must be equipped with VMS (Article 44, Decree 26/2019/ND-CP);
- From now to 2030, the total number of gill net fishing vessel will be 33700, equivalent to 40.3%, according to Decision 389/QD-TTg by the Government dated May 9, 2024 approving the planning for protection and exploitation of aquatic resources in the period 2021 - 2030, vision to 205

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law

Decision 389/QD-TTg by the Government dated May 9, 2024 approving the planning for protection and exploitation of aquatic resources in the period 2021 - 2030, vision to 205

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

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Law on Fisheries 2017 & Decree 26/2019/NĐ-CP dated 8/3/2019 & Decree No. 37/2024/ND-CP dated April 4, 2024 by the Government; Circular 01/2022/NĐ-CP dated 18 January 2022 Amending and supplementing several circulars in the field of fisheries.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 providing guidance for the protection and development of fisheries resources

Decree 37/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 4th, 2024 on Amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries

Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law

Law on Fisheries 2017

The measure is voluntary:

>>> N/A

Details/future plans:

>>> Continue to enforce regulations through law enforcement and the Fishing Port Authority to ensure that all landings of ETP species are properly recorded.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Circular 01/2022/ND-CP dated 18 January 2022 amending and supplementing several circulars in the fisheries sector
Decision No. 811 /QĐ-BNN-TCTS on approving the Vietnam Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan for the period 2016 - 2025.

Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.

Details:future plans:

>>> Informative videos, brochures, and printed guidelines for protecting marine turtles are generally focused on overall protection measures and do not specify guidelines for any particular fishing gear.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Decision 1176/QĐ-TTg of the Government on approving the program to conserve Vietnam's endangered turtle species until 2025, with a vision to 2030

5) Purse seine (with or without FADs)

a) Fishing effort

☒ PRESENT

Please provide the information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> 5904

Boat size (range or average):

>>> 6 ->24m

Number of trips per year:

>>> N/A

Mesh size used:

>>> 10-90mm

Geographic distribution:

>>> Nationwide, concentrate in Southwest and Southeast region

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> All turtle species

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> N/A

b) Methods used by your country to minimise bycatch of marine turtles in this fishery

- ☒ Safe handling (as per existing protocols e.g., FAO guidelines) of incidentally caught turtles (e.g. resuscitation or release by fishers using equipment such as de-hooking, line cutting tools and scoop nets)
- ☒ Measures to avoid encirclement of marine turtles in purse seine fisheries
- ☒ Measures to release the turtles before the seine is howled in
- ☒ Spatial and temporal control of fishing (e.g. seasonal closures of fishing activities)

Details:

>>> - Safe handling guidelines have been developed and disseminated to the responsible agencies.
- Spatial control fishing regulations are outlined in Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT, dated November 15, 2018, which provides comprehensive guidance for the protection and development of marine fisheries resources.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 providing guidance for the protection and development of fisheries resources](#)

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulations:

>>> - Law on Fisheries 2017; - Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law; - Decree 37/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 4th, 2024 on Amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries; Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 providing guidance for the protection and development of fisheries resources; Circular 01/2022/ND-CP dated 18 January 2022 amending and supplementing several circulars in the fisheries sector

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Law on Fisheries 2017](#)

[Decree 37/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 4th, 2024 on Amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries](#)

[Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law](#)

[Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 providing guidance for the protection and development of fisheries resources](#)

[Circular 01/2022/ND-CP dated 18 January 2022 amending and supplementing several circulars in the fisheries sector](#)

c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below.

- ☒ Vessel monitoring systems
- ☒ Inspection (i.e. at sea, in port, at landing sites)
- ☒ Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.

Vessel monitoring systems

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> - Law on Fisheries 2017; - Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law; - Decree 37/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 4th, 2024 on Amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the

Law on Fisheries;

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Law on Fisheries 2017

Decree 37/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 4th, 2024 on Amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries

Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law

The measure is voluntary:

>>> N/A

Details/future plans:

>>> According to the planning period 2021 - 2030, the total number of purse seine fishing vessels will be 5110, accounting for 6.1% of the total fishing vessels nationwide.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

- Decision 389/QĐ-TTg by the Government dated May 9, 2024 approving the planning for protection and exploitation of aquatic resources in the period 2021 - 2030, vision to 2050

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

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Law on Fisheries 2017 & Decree 26/2019/NĐ-CP dated 8/3/2019 & Decree No. 37/2024/ND-CP dated April 4, 2024 by the Government; Circular 01/2022/NĐ-CP dated 18 January 2022 Amending and supplementing several circulars in the field of fisheries; Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 providing guidance for the protection and development of fisheries resources

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Decree 37/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 4th, 2024 on Amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries

Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law

Circular 01/2022/ND-CP dated 18 January 2022 amending and supplementing several circulars in the fisheries sector

Circular 21/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 stipulating the recording and submission of logbooks; Announcing designated fishing ports for catch certification

Law on Fisheries 2017

Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 providing guidance for the protection and development of fisheries resources

The measure is voluntary:

>>> N/A

Detail/future plans:

>>> Continue to enforce regulations through law enforcement and the Fishing Port Authority to ensure that all landings of ETP species are properly recorded.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Law on Fisheries 2017

Circular 01/2022/ND-CP dated 18 January 2022 amending and supplementing several circulars in the fisheries sector
Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 providing guidance for the protection and development of fisheries resources

Circular 21/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 stipulating the recording and submission of logbooks; Announcing designated fishing ports for catch certification

Decision No. 811 /QĐ-BNN-TCTS on approving the Vietnam Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan for the period 2016 - 2025.

Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.

Details/future plans:

>>> Informative videos, brochures, and printed guidelines for protecting marine turtles are generally focused on overall protection measures and do not specify guidelines for any particular fishing gear.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Decision 1176/QĐ-TTg of the Government approving the program to conserve Vietnam's endangered turtle species until 2025, with a vision to 2030

Decision No. 811 /QĐ-BNN-TCTS on approving the Vietnam Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan for the period 2016 - 2025.

6) longline

a) Fishing effort

☒ PRESENT

Please provide the information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> 15824

Boat size (range or average):

>>> 6 - >24m

Number of trips per year:

>>> N/A

Mesh size used:

>>> N/A

Geographic distribution:

>>> Nationwide

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> All species

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> N/A

b) Methods used by your country to minimise bycatch of marine turtles in this fishery

- ☒ Safe handling (as per existing protocols e.g., FAO guidelines) of incidentally caught turtles (e.g. resuscitation or release by fishers using equipment such as de-hooking, line cutting tools and scoop nets)
- ☒ Appropriate combinations (as per existing guidelines e.g., FAO, IOTC guidelines) of hook size and design, type of bait, depth, gear specifications and fishing practices
- ☒ Spatial and temporal control of fishing (e.g. seasonal closures of fishing activities)
- ☒ Effort management control

Details:

- >>> - Safe handling guidelines have been developed and disseminated to the responsible agencies;
- 50000 C-Hook has been disseminated to fishers;
 - regulations about no fishing zone, season closures, and fishing gear specifications are outlined in Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT, dated November 15, 2018, which provides comprehensive guidance for the protection and development of marine fisheries resources;
 - Effort management control through limit the number of longline fishing vessel (Long line fishing vessels are 15840, account for 18,9% nationwide)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Decision 389/QĐ-TTg by the Government dated May 9, 2024 approving the planning for protection and exploitation of aquatic resources in the period 2021 - 2030, vision to 2050

Circular 01/2022/ND-CP dated 18 January 2022 amending and supplementing several circulars in the fisheries sector

Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 providing guidance for the protection and development of fisheries resources

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Law on Fisheries 2017 & Decree 26/2019/NĐ-CP dated 8/3/2019 & Decree No. 37/2024/ND-CP dated April 4, 2024 by the Government; Circular 01/2022/NĐ-CP dated 18 January 2022 Amending and supplementing several circulars in the field of fisheries.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Circular 01/2022/ND-CP dated 18 January 2022 amending and supplementing several circulars in the fisheries sector
Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 providing guidance for the protection and development of fisheries resources

Decree 37/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 4th, 2024 on Amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries

Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law

Law on Fisheries 2017

c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below.

- ☒ Vessel monitoring systems
- ☒ Inspections (i.e. at sea, in port, at landing sites)
- ☒ Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods
- ☒ Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.

Vessel monitoring systems

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Law on Fisheries 2017 & Decree 26/2019/NĐ-CP dated 8/3/2019 & Decree No. 37/2024/ND-CP dated April 4, 2024 by the Government; Circular 01/2022/NĐ-CP dated 18 January 2022 Amending and supplementing several circulars in the field of fisheries.

The measure is voluntary:

>>> N/A

Details/future plans:

>>> 100% of fishing vessels with maximum length equal or greater than 15m equip with VMS

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Certainly! Here is the revised text: Decision 81/QĐ-TTg by the Government issued the National Plan of Action against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in preparation for cooperation with the 4th inspection team of the European Commission

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

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Law on Fisheries 2017 & Decree 26/2019/NĐ-CP dated 8/3/2019 by the Government; Circular 01/2022/NĐ-CP dated 18 January 2022 Amending and supplementing several circulars in the field of fisheries.

The measure is voluntary:

>>> N/A

Details/future plans:

>>> 100% catch landings are recorded

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Decision 81/QĐ-TTg by the Government issued the National Plan of Action against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in preparation for cooperation with the 4th inspection team of the European Commission.

Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods

Details/future plans:

>>> The training programs provided by the government, fisheries associations, and NGOs are not conducted periodically. Although raising awareness activities are mentioned in Decision 811 & 1176 about Marine turtles conservation NPOA, their funding depends on government allocations and is coordinated by the Department of Fisheries Surveillance. Occasionally, international NGOs cooperate with domestic institutions to support these activities.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Decision 1176/QĐ-TTg of the Government approving the program to conserve Vietnam's endangered turtle species until 2025, with a vision to 2030

Decision No. 811 /QĐ-BNN-TCTS on approving the Vietnam Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan for the period 2016 - 2025

Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.

Details/future plans:

>>> Certainly! Here's the revised text in paragraph format:

Billboards have been designed and installed at fishing ports in six provinces, along with the printing of 3,000 sea turtle conservation posters, which have been distributed to fishing boats (TCTS/locality/TRAFFIC). A sea turtle conservation volunteer program and the Community Participatory Sea Turtle Nesting Site Conservation Project (IUCN) have been initiated. Additionally, five awareness-raising panels have been installed at Con Dao National Park, a hotline has been set up to report violations, and an awareness-raising program is being conducted in collaboration with ENV and Con Dao National Park.

7) Artisanal fishing gear

Type and description:

>>> Artisanal fisheries typically involve fishing vessels smaller than 12 meters. These fisheries usually operate over short durations, often just a few hours within a single day. Artisanal fisheries employ a diverse range of fishing methods including trawling, push netting, falling netting, lift netting, driftnetting, handlining, and diving.

a) Fishing effort

☒ PRESENT

Please provide any available information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> 42642

Boat size (range or average):

>>> <12m

Number of trips per year:

>>> N/A

Main gear used (beach seine, traps, nets, handline, other?):

>>> Driftnet

Geographic distribution:

>>> nationwide coastal

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> limited evidences show that artisanal fishing affects to marine turtles.

Number of bycaught turtles per year:

>>> N/A

b) Methods used by your country to minimise bycatch of marine turtles in this fishery

- ☒ Safe handling (as per existing protocols e.g., FAO guidelines) of incidentally caught turtles (e.g. resuscitation or release by fishers using equipment such as de-hooking, line cutting tools and scoop nets)
- ☒ Devices that help marine turtles avoid or escape the nets
- ☒ Appropriate combinations (as per existing guidelines e.g., FAO, IOTC guidelines) of hook size and design, type of bait, depth, gear specifications and fishing practices
- ☒ Spatial and temporal control of fishing (e.g. seasonal closures of fishing activities)
- ☒ Effort management control

Details:

>>> Artisanal fishing boats, generally outfitted with small engines, operate primarily along coastal areas. Their most notable interaction with marine turtles occurs when these turtles come ashore to lay eggs. These nesting sites, often located within heavily guarded Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), ensure that intentional capture rates are low. Other management measures such as no fishing zone, seasonal closures, fishing gear specifications are stipulated in listed regulations.

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Law on Fisheries 2017 & Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated 8/3/2019 by the Government; Circular 01/2022/ND-CP dated 18 January 2022 Amending and supplementing several circulars in the field of fisheries.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Circular 01/2022/ND-CP dated 18 January 2022 amending and supplementing several circulars in the fisheries sector](#)
[Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 providing guidance for the protection and development of fisheries resources](#)

[Decree 38/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 5, 2024 stipulating the administrative sanctions in the field of fisheries](#)

[Decree 37/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 4th, 2024 on Amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries](#)

[Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law](#)

[Law on Fisheries 2017](#)

c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below.

- ☒ Inspections (i.e. at sea, in port, at landing sites)
- ☒ Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods
- ☒ Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc

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

The measure is mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> Law on Fisheries 2017 & Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated 8/3/2019 by the Government; Circular 01/2022/ND-CP dated 18 January 2022 Amending and supplementing several circulars in the field of fisheries.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Circular 01/2022/ND-CP dated 18 January 2022 amending and supplementing several circulars in the fisheries sector](#)
[Circular 19/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated November 15, 2018 providing guidance for the protection and development of fisheries resources](#)

[Decree 38/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 5, 2024 stipulating the administrative sanctions in the field of fisheries](#)

[Decree 37/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 4th, 2024 on Amending and supplementing some articles of Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 of the Government detailing a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries](#)

[Decree 26/2019/ND-CP dated March 8th, 2019 by the Government on Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Fisheries Law](#)

[Law on Fisheries 2017](#)

The measure is voluntary:

>>> N/A

Details/future plans:

>>> N/A

Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods

Details/future plans:

>>> 100% of captains of fishing vessels (In Con Dao Archipelago) employing drift-net, drag-net, tunny-net, trawl net, gillnet, purse seine net and lines, and tuna fishing vessels shall be trained to improve awareness and skills to protect and conserve marine turtles

Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc.

Details/future plans:

>>> Billboards have been designed and installed at fishing ports in six provinces, along with the printing of 3,000 sea turtle conservation posters, which have been distributed to fishing boats (TCTS/locality/TRAFFIC). A sea turtle conservation volunteer program and the Community Participatory Sea Turtle Nesting Site Conservation Project (IUCN) have been initiated. Additionally, five awareness-raising panels have been installed at Con Dao National Park, a hotline has been set up to report violations, and an awareness-raising program is being conducted in collaboration with ENV and Con Dao National Park.

8) Other types of fisheries

a) Fishing effort

☒ NONE

Please provide any available information below:

Number of vessels:

>>> N/A

Boat size (range or average):

>>> N/A

Number of trips per year:

>>> N/A

Mesh size used:

>>> N/A

Geographic distribution:

>>> N/A

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> N/A

If known, turtle species affected:

>>> N/A

b) Methods used by your country to minimise bycatch of marine turtles in this fishery

☒ None of the above

Details:

>>> N/A

If applicable, the measures are mandatory under the following regulation:

>>> N/A

c) Programmes to promote implementation of measures to minimise bycatch of turtles. Please tick the boxes that apply in your country and provide details in the text boxes below

☒ None of the above

None of the above

Explanation/future plans

>>> N/A

1.2.2 Provide sources of information supporting the responses in 1.2.1, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources, and/or attach digital files to this report.

References and links:

>>> Attached link below

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Preliminary conference summarizing five years of implementing Vietnam's Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan for the period 2016-2025.

1.2.3 Are the bycatch mitigation measures described above (in 1.2.1) periodically reviewed and evaluated for their efficacy?

☒ UNSURE

1.2.4 Has your country provided technical assistance (formally or informally) to other Signatory States of the IOSEA MOU to promote the activities to mitigate incidental catch of marine turtles in fisheries?

☒ NO

1.2.5 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?

Details:

>>> In Vietnam, marine turtle mortality due to fisheries has been highlighted as a significant issue in the National Plan of Action for Marine Turtles, requiring urgent management actions. Key strategies include implementing by-catch reduction measures such as observer programs to decrease marine turtle fatalities and enhance fisheries sustainability. Regulations are being considered to limit the number of trawlers in coastal waters, except for specific types, and to potentially restrict the size of large-scale driftnets to a maximum of 2,500 meters. Additionally, the adoption of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in trawl fisheries is under consideration to protect these marine species further.

References and links:

>>> - Law on Fisheries 2017: <https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC171855/> (English);
- Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP of the Government Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries (<https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC191156/>);
- Decision 339/QĐ-TTg dated March 11, 2021 on Approval of the Vietnam Fisheries Development Strategy through 2030 with a Vision for 2045 (<https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Tai-nguyen-Moi-truong/Quy-et-dinh-339-QD-TTg-2021-phe-duyet-Chien-luoc-phat-trien-thuy-san-Viet-Nam-den-2030-467332.aspx>);
- Decision 811/QĐ-BNN-TCTS dated March 14, 2016 on Approval of the Action Plan for Sea Turtle Conservation in Vietnam, 2016-2025 (Vietnamese: <https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Tai-nguyen-Moi-truong/Quy-et-dinh-811-QD-BNN-TCTS-2016-phe-duyet-Ke-hoach-hanh-dong-bao-ton-rua-bien-Viet-Nam-425865.aspx>)

1.2.6 Describe illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing that is known to occur in the territorial waters of the exclusive economic zone of your country that may impact marine turtles. Does IUU fishing occur in your country?

☒ UNKNOWN

a) Please indicate number of vessels per year (0, 1-10, 11-50, 51-100, 101-500, more than 500)

>>> N/A

b) Countries of origin of IUU fishing, if known?

Details:

>>> N/A

References and links:

>>> N/A

c) Is there enforcement in place to deter these practices? Please indicate area covered and challenges.

Details:

>>> N/A

1.3 ADDRESSING HARVEST OF, AND TRADE IN, MARINE TURTLES

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departamental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

1.3.1 Are marine turtles and/or their eggs harvest in your country? Please indicate which species are harvested.

☒ NO

Details:

>>> Sea turtles are listed among endangered and rare species prioritized for protection according to the provisions of STT 88, Section 2, Appendix I, issued with Decree 160/2013/ND-CP, as amended by Article 1 of Decree 64/2019/ND-CP. The buying and selling of sea turtle eggs is illegal and can be criminally prosecuted under Article 244 of the 2015 Penal Code, as amended by point a, clause 64, Article 1 of the Law amending the Penal Code 2017. Offenders may face fines ranging from 500,000,000 VND to 2,000,000,000 VND (approximately \$21,500 to \$86,000) or imprisonment from one to five years.

References and links:

>>> - Decree 160/2013/ND-CP, as amended by Article 1 of Decree 64/2019/ND-CP;
- Article 244 of the 2015 Penal Code, as amended by point a, clause 64, Article 1 of the Law amending the Penal Code 2017.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Penal Code 2015

Decree 64/2019/ND-CP of the government amending article 7 of Decree No. 160/2013/ND-CP dated November 12, 2013, regarding criteria for determining the management regime for listed endangered, precious, and rare species prioritized for protection

Decree 160/2013/ND-CP of the Government on Criteria for Determining and Management Regime for Species in the List of Endangered, Precious, and Rare Species Prioritized for Protection - Vietnamese

1.3.2 Which types of consumptive use of turtles are practiced in your country?

Use the text boxes below each rating to explain or clarify your responses.

a) Meat consumption

☒ NO

Details (e.g. species, estimated number taken per year, location, if known):

>>> N/A

b) Egg consumption

☒ NO

c) Fat and oil consumption

☒ NO

d) Traditional medicine

☒ NO

e) Shell

☒ NO

f) Making of tortoise shell products (bekko)☒ NO**h) Which type(s) of consumptive use of marine turtles are the most common in your country?**

Please list the most common types of consumption:

>>> No

1.3.3 Does your country have active legislation to prohibit direct harvest and domestic trade in marine turtles, their eggs, parts and products?☒ YES

If yes, please provide details (title/date) of the relevant legislation, as well as any exemptions (e.g. for traditional use) under that legislation and comment on effectiveness of the legislation in terms of enforcement.

If more rows are required, please contact the secretariat at iosea@un.org

	What are the challenges?	Is the legislation enforced?	Is traditional use allowed under this legislation?	Legislation date	Legislation title
		Yes	No	November 21, 2017	Law on Fisheries 2017
		Yes	No	March 8, 2019	Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP of the Government Regulating a number of articles and measures to implement the Law on Fisheries
		Yes	No	May 16, 2019	Decree No.42/2019/ND-CP: Penalties for administrative violations against regulations on fisheries
		Yes	No	February 24, 2017	Circular No.04/2017/TT-BNNPTNT of adopting the list of species of wild flora and fauna regulated in Appendices of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
		Yes	No	January 18, 2022	Circular 01/2022/NĐ-CP on Amending and supplementing several circulars in the field of fisheries.
		Yes	No	December 10, 2018	Biodiversity Law 2019
		Yes	No	November 12, 2013	Decree No.160/2013/ND-CP of on criteria for species identification and species management regime on the list of endangered, precious, and rare species
		Yes	No	July 10, 2017	Criminal Code 2017

1.3.4 Please describe the LEGAL traditional harvest of marine turtles, their parts and products in your country by answering the questions below.

NOTE: If there is no legal harvest of marine turtles in your country, please skip question 1.3.4 and 1.3.5.

a) Please provide the regulation, which allows traditional harvest of marine turtles in your country.

Details:

>>> Conditions for exploiting marine turtles on the List of Species Prioritized for Protection include several key requirements, as outlined in Decree No. 160/2013/ND-CP, dated November 12, 2013, which provides criteria for determining the management regime for listed endangered, precious, and rare species prioritized for protection. First, the exploitation must serve the purposes of biodiversity conservation, scientific research, and the creation of initial seed sources. It is essential that such activities do not negatively affect the existence and development of marine turtles in their natural habitat. An exploitation license must be obtained from a competent authority as prescribed in the relevant regulations. Additionally, consent must be obtained from the Management Board of the Nature Reserve for activities conducted within the reserve. For activities at biodiversity conservation facilities, consent must be obtained from the facility's owner. For exploitation

activities conducted outside of nature reserves and biodiversity conservation facilities, approval must be obtained from the provincial specialized agency.

References and links:

>>> Decree 160/2013/ND-CP of the Government on Criteria for Determining and Management Regime for Species in the List of Endangered, Precious, and Rare Species Prioritized for Protection
Decree 64/2019/ND-CP of the government amending article 7 of Decree No. 160/2013/ND-CP dated November 12, 2013, regarding criteria for determining the management regime for listed endangered, precious, and rare species prioritized for protection

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Decree 64/2019/ND-CP of the government amending article 7 of Decree No. 160/2013/ND-CP dated November 12, 2013, regarding criteria for determining the management regime for listed endangered, precious, and rare species prioritized for protection](#)

[Decree 160/2013/ND-CP of the Government on Criteria for Determining and Management Regime for Species in the List of Endangered, Precious, and Rare Species Prioritized for Protection](#)

b) Does this or another regulation limit the level of traditional take?

☒ YES

Details:

>>> There are no traditional take except for those mentions above.

c) Does your country have a harvest quote for traditional use of marine turtles?

☒ NO

Details:

>>> There are no traditional take except for those mentions above.

d) If there is a quota, does it take into account existing quotas in other States that share marine turtle populations in your country?

☒ NO

e) Please list the specific locations where harvest is allowed.

Note: please provide a reference to any reports or documents, which give the background for the management of turtle harvest in your country.

Details:

>>> There are no traditional harvest as this act consider as illegal.

f) Where does traditional harvest occur, and which species are affected?

Details:

>>> There are no traditional harvest as this act consider as illegal.

References and links:

>>> link below

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[5 years of implementing the Vietnam Marine Turtle NPOA](#)

1.3.5 List any management agreements between your country and other States in the IOSEA region to ensure that legal harvest of marine turtles has no negative effects on the population size. Please provide references and links to published documents.

Details:

>>> N/A

References and links:

>>> N/A

1.3.6 Please describe the ILLEGAL harvest of marine turtles and eggs in your country

by answering the questions below.

a) Does illegal harvest of marine turtles occur in your country?

☒ YES

Details:

>>> According to the customs and beliefs prevalent among fishermen, particularly in the Central and Northern provinces, sea turtles are considered sacred and are generally avoided. Historically, when fishermen encountered sea turtles or found them entangled in their nets, they would release them back into the sea. Sea turtles are not targeted for exploitation; instead, they are incidental bycatch that sometimes die when caught in nets. Interviews with fishermen who are ship owners and captains indicate that none of the ships intentionally target sea turtles for capture.

References and links:

>>> CUONG Chu The (2019). Presentation at Preliminary Conference on the Five-Year Implementation of the Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan in Vietnam.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[5 years of implementing the Vietnam Marine Turtle NPOA](#)

b) Please list the specific locations where illegal harvest is known to occur, if possible.

Details (examples of areas where illegal harvest is known to occur):

>>> The locations of encounters vary, and there are no official reports or statistics available.

c) What is the impact of this illegal harvest on the populations of marine turtles? In case of illegal egg collection, what is the impact on marine turtle recruitment?

Details:

>>> Before 1987, consumption of marine turtle meat and eggs were legal and tradition of coastal communities. However, marine turtle have been considered as endangered species to be high priority protection and meat consumption is facing criminal sanctions, only some cases have been recently detected and handled by competent authorities. The illegal harvest, although has been significantly decreased in the recent years, but the impacts are deep and take long time to recover.

1.3.7 Which of the following adverse economic incentives are encouraging illegal take of marine turtles in your country?

☒ Relatively high prices, relatively high revenues earned from selling turtle parts and products (any of the following: meat, eggs, crafts)

1.3.8 Has your country taken any measures to try to correct these adverse incentives?

☒ YES

If yes, please describe these measures in detail.

Details:

>>> - The program for the conservation of Vietnam's endangered turtle species extends until 2025, with a vision for 2030, as outlined in Decision No. 1176/QĐ-TTg issued by the Prime Minister on September 12, 2019. The overarching goal of this initiative is to ensure the protection and sustainable development of Vietnam's endangered turtle populations and their habitats. This contributes significantly to the broader conservation efforts aimed at preserving Vietnam's biodiversity;

References and links:

>>> <https://vanban.chinhphu.vn/default.aspx?pageid=27160&docid=197809>

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<https://vanban.chinhphu.vn/default.aspx?pageid=27160&docid=197809>

1.3.9 Are there touristic activities linked in marine turtles in your country?

☒ YES

If yes, please indicate which type:

	N o	Ye s
Other (please describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Swimming/ snorkeling activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Hatching releases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) Nesting turtle observation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Details:

>>> The tour is set in Con Dao National Park, located in Ba Ria - Vung Tau province and part of the IOSEA networks. This two-day, one-night experience is guided by a park ranger and offers a comprehensive introduction to the local marine life and conservation efforts. Tourists will travel to the island to explore the primeval forest and the turtle egg incubation lake, gaining insights into the turtles' life cycle and the sea turtle conservation activities at the park. Observations of turtles laying eggs are facilitated by park rangers and depend on the turtles' natural timing. Additionally, if hatchlings are available, tourists may have the opportunity to release them back to the sea the following morning.

References and links:

>>> <https://condaopark.com.vn/vn/du-lich-con-dao/detail/Xem-rua-de-trung-vuon-quoc-gia-con-dao-29.html>;
<https://condaopark.com.vn/vn/du-lich-con-dao/detail/TOUR%20TH%E1%BA%A2%20R%C3%99A%20CON%20V%E1%BB%80%20BI%E1%BB%82N%20V%C6%AF%E1%BB%9CN%20QU%E1%BB%90C%20GIA%20C%C3%94N%20%C4%90%E1%BA%A2O-30.html>

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

☒ UNKNOWN

Please briefly describe the type of protocols used, references or links, if available.

Details:

>>> N/A

References and links:

>>> N/A

1.3.11 Does your country have mechanisms in place to identify domestic and international illegal trade routes (for illegally traded marine turtles, eggs and derivatives)?

Please provide references to any published reports (e.g. already prepared for CITES purposes) that give a more ample explanation.

☒ YES

Details:

>>> The legal framework for the protection of endangered, precious, and rare species in Vietnam, including marine turtles, encompasses several pivotal regulations aimed at conserving biodiversity and preventing illegal trading. The Investment Law of 2014, specifically in Group I of Appendix 3, strictly prohibits the exploitation and business investment use of listed endangered, precious, and rare wild species, which includes marine turtles. Furthermore, Decree 06/2019/ND-CP, issued on January 22, 2019, manages endangered, precious, and rare forest and aquatic species while implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) within Vietnamese law. This includes Appendix I, which lists wild animals and plants threatened with extinction, including marine turtles, and prohibits their export, import, re-export, introduction from the sea, and transit when exploited for commercial purposes. Additionally, Decree 64/2019/ND-CP, dated July 16, 2019, amends Article 7 of Decree No. 160/2013/ND-CP, updating the list in Appendix I of species prioritized for protection, which also covers marine turtles. The original Decree 160/2013/ND-CP, issued on November 12, 2013, sets the criteria for determining and managing the species under this protection list. Finally, Decree 26/2019/ND-CP, from March 8, 2019, details regulations and measures to implement the Fishery Law, noting that the list in Appendix IX bans certain aquatic species from export, though this does not overlap with Appendices I and II, which include endangered, precious, and rare aquatic species, inclusive of marine turtles, listed under Decree 160/2013. These decrees collectively aim to enhance the protection and management of vulnerable species, including marine turtles, against illegal trading and exploitation in Vietnam.

References and links

>>> - Law on Investment 2014: <https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Dau-tu/Luat-Dau-tu-2014-259729.aspx>;
- Decree 06/2019: <https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Tai-nguyen-Moi-truong/Nghi-dinh-06-2019-ND-CP-quan-ly-thuc-vat-rung-dong-vat-rung-nguy-cap-quy-hiem-405883.aspx>;
- Decree 64/2019: <https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Tai-nguyen-Moi-truong/Nghi-dinh-64-2019-ND-CP-sua-doi-Dieu-7-Nghi-dinh-160-2013-ND-CP-tieu-chi-xac-dinh-loai-418816.aspx>;
- Decree 160/2013: <https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Tai-nguyen-Moi-truong/Nghi-dinh-160-2013-ND-CP-xac-dinh-loai-Danh-muc-loai-nguy-cap-quy-hiem-duoc-uu-tien-bao-ve-213485.aspx>;
- Decree 26/2019: <https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Linh-vuc-khac/Nghi-dinh-26-2019-ND-CP-huong-dan-Luat-Thuy-san-356284.aspx>.

1.3.12 Please describe any activities/projects that aim(ed) to reduce illegal take of and/or trade in marine turtles in your country.

If more rows are required, please contact the secretariat at iosea@un.org

	Project website or other links with project description	Lessons learned	How does the project involve local communities?	End year (if completed)	Start year	Implemented by	Title of the project/activity

1.3.13 Has your country submitted the annual illegal trade report to CITES, including information relevant for marine turtles?

Please provide a copy of this report or a link to the published report online, if possible.

☒ YES

Details:

>>> The annual illegal trade report to CITES is prepared and responsible by Viet Nam CITES Management Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - A separate agency. All the reports can be found online at <https://cites.org/eng/node/53738>

References and links:

>>> - Annual Illegal trade report to CITES: <https://cites.org/eng/node/53738>;
- Contacts for CITES VIETNAM: <https://cites.org/eng/parties/country-profiles/vn>

1.3.14 Are there any compliance and/or trade issues (either domestic or international) that your country would like to raise at the upcoming IOSEA MOS or otherwise through the IOSEA Secretariat?

☒ NO

1.4. MINIMIZING MORTALITY THROUGH NESTING BEACH PROGRAMMES

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

1.4.1 Tick the boxes that apply to indicate whether your country has any of the following measures in place to minimise the mortality of eggs, hatchlings and/or nesting females.

Please indicate if these measures are being implemented at the IOSEA Network sites and index beaches that you described in question 0.2.

Measures

a) Nesting beach monitoring (eggs and nesting females)

☒ YES

Details:

>>> Every year from April to November marks the breeding season for sea turtles at Con Dao National Park, with the peak nesting period occurring from May to September. During this time, rangers at the park's stations organize nightly patrols on the sandy beaches. These patrols are timed before and after the highest tide to ensure prompt detection of mother turtles as they come ashore to lay their eggs.

Implemented at the sites described in question 0.2 (name the sites, where this applies):

>>> Con Dao National Park is home to a total of 14 nesting beaches covering about 24 hectares. Notably, eight important nesting beaches are located on small islands around Con Son Island. Bay Canh Island features four of these beaches—Cat Lon, Duong, San, and Xi Mang—stretching along a coastline of approximately 1,700 meters. The island's terrain is rugged, measuring 5.7 km in length and 3 km in width, with its highest peaks reaching 352 m and 310 m above sea level. The average slope ranges from 20° to 25°, and the soil layer varies from 30 cm to 60 cm in depth. About 20% of the island is covered with stony outcrops, and there are a few large boulders scattered across the landscape. Cat Lon Beach is the longest and records the highest number of marine turtles laying eggs in Vietnam.

Tai Island has one nesting beach with a coastline of about 90 meters, characterized mainly by medium to coarse-grained and coralline sand. Tre Lon Island also has one nesting beach, with a coastline of about 180 meters, which is experiencing erosion due to rising sea levels, resulting in a gradual loss of area each year. Cau Island includes two nesting beaches with a total coastline of about 170 meters, both predominantly covered by dead coral.

The remaining six nesting beaches are on Con Son Island itself. These beaches are known for their medium to coarse-grained and coralline sand, contributing to the area's robust marine turtle population.

References and links:

>>> - https://www.cms.int/iosea-turtles/sites/default/files/document/cms_iosea_mos8_doc.9.2_proposal-site-network-con-dao_e.pdf

- <https://www.vietnamplus.vn/con-dao-vao-mua-sinh-san-cua-rua-bien-post942597.vnp>

b) Nesting beach protection (patrolling)

☒ YES

Details:

>>> Every night, before and after the highest tide, rangers at the stations conduct regular patrols and checks on the sandy beaches. This routine helps to promptly identify mother marine turtles as they come ashore to lay their eggs.

Implemented at the sites described in question 0.2 (name the sites, where this applies):

>>> Con Dao National Park is made up of 14 islands, 13 of which are uninhabited. Bay Canh Island, notable for its lighthouse, is one of the primary locations where patrolling occurs.

References and links:

>>> https://www.cms.int/iosea-turtles/sites/default/files/document/cms_iosea_mos8_doc.9.2_proposal-site-network-con-dao_e.pdf

c) Predator control

☒ YES

Details:

>>> National Park's rangers daily patrolling and supervise the nesting and hatchling process to keep the hatchling safe from predators.

Implemented at the sites described in question 0.2 (name the sites, where this applies):

>>> Bay Canh Island.

d) Nest screening (placing wire screens over the buried nests)

☒ N/A

Implemented at the sites described in question 0.2 (name the sites, where this applies):

>>> Bay Canh Island

e) Vehicle access restrictions

☒ YES

Implemented at the sites described in question 0.2 (name the sites, where this applies):

>>> Bay Canh Island

f) Regular removal of debris / clean-up programmes

☒ NO

List recent clean-up programmes/references and links:

>>> There are clean-up programs, but they are not systematically established. These efforts primarily come from volunteer programs organized by institutions, NGOs, INGOs, and local agencies.

Implemented at the sites described in question 0.2 (name the sites, where this applies):

>>> Bay Canh Island

g) Has re-vegetation of dunes at nesting beaches been carried out, using native vegetation?

☒ N/A

Implemented at the sites described in question 0.2 (name the sites, where this applies):

>>> Bay Canh Island

h) Building location design regulations (coastal protection)

☒ N/A

Implemented at the sites described in question 0.2 (name the sites, where this applies):

>>> Bay Canh Island

i) Light pollution reduction (direct lights visible from the beach)

☒ YES

Details:

>>> Nesting beach was prohibited for human access, except for rangers and their associations.

Implemented at the sites described in question 0.2 (name the sites, where this applies):

>>> Bay Canh Island

k) Are these measures in place in protected areas only, or also outside of established protected areas?

In protected areas only (list the measures above e.g. a, b, c, etc.):

>>> Both

1.4.2 To what extent is egg relocation practiced in your country (including relocation to hatcheries)?

☒ Egg relocation is practiced on >50% of nesting beaches

1.4.3 Has your country undertaken an evaluation of the effectiveness of its nesting beach management programmes in terms of maximizing the recruitment of marine turtle hatchlings?

☒ NO

OBJECTIVE II: PROTECT, CONSERVE AND RESTORE MARINE TURTLE HABITATS

2.1 MEASURES TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE MARINE TURTLE HABITATS

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

2.1.1 Please list Protected Areas (PAs), sanctuaries or temporary exclusion zones that were created to protect marine turtle habitat. Please provide the official name and date of establishment.

Details:

>>> Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) have been play a crucial role in marine turtle conservation, particularly protecting coastal ecosystems and providing good foraging and laying habitats, and may be keeping them safe from the threats of fishing. On 26 May 2010, the Prime Minister issued the Decision No. 742/QĐ-TTg approving the Viet Nam marine protected areas network to 2020, in which 16 marine protected areas will be established in the period 2010-2015 and the planning and expansion will be implemented in the period 2016-2020. At present, 10 marine protected areas have been established, namely: Bach Long Vi and Cat Ba National Park (Hai Phong city), Nha Trang Bay (Khanh Hoa province), Cu Lao Cham (Quang Nam province), Phu Quoc (Kien Giang province), Con Co (Quang Tri Province), Hon Cau (Binh Thuan province), Ly Son (Quang Ngai province), Nui Chua National Park (Ninh Thuan province), Con Dao National Park (Ba Ria - Vung Tau province), Bai Tu Long National Park (Quang Ninh province). The key MPAs for marine turtle breeding populations are Con Dao National Park, Bai Tu Long National Park, Nui Chua National Park, Hon Cau and Nha Trang MPA; and for foraging populations are: Bach Long Vy (Hai Phong), Phu Quy (Binh Thuan), Phu Quoc (Kien Giang) and Nam Yet (Khanh Hoa). Of these MPAs, Con Dao National Park is particularly important MPA for marine turtle conservation, both foraging and breeding populations.

Most recently, the Prime Minister of Vietnam approved the Planning for the Protection and Exploitation of Aquatic Resources for the period 2021 - 2030, with a vision to 2050, in which the number of marine protected areas that need to be established by 2030 is increased 27 zones.

References and links:

>>> Decision 389/QĐ-TTg by the Government dated May 9, 2024 approving the planning for protection and exploitation of aquatic resources in the period 2021 - 2030, vision to 2050

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Decision 389/QĐ-TTg by the Government dated May 9, 2024 approving the planning for protection and exploitation of aquatic resources in the period 2021 - 2030, vision to 2050](#)

2.1.2 Has your country developed any incentives to encourage protection of marine turtle habitat outside of protected areas?

Details:

>>> Not yet.

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.

☒ YES

Details:

>>> Currently, IUCN Vietnam, along with several domestic organizations, has organized and implemented a program to monitor plastic waste at sea. The monitoring of plastic waste on beaches was conducted from 2019 to 2023, with assessments taking place every six months, totaling ten rounds. This effort covered 33 beaches in 11 areas, with ten of these areas located within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and along the coast of Quang Tri province. WWF supported monitoring in Con Dao, Phu Quoc, and Cu Lao Cham, while GreenHub focused on Bach Long Vy and Cat Ba, and IUCN on Bai Tu Long, Con Co, Ly Son, Nha Trang, Hon Areca, and Chua Mountain.

Additionally, the monitoring of plastic waste in coral reefs began in 2021 and continued until 2023. This aspect of the program covered 20 reefs in five areas: Bai Tu Long, Cat Ba, Con Co, Ly Son, and Nha Trang. Furthermore, trash collection on coral reefs was conducted in Cu Lao Cham, Phu Quoc, and Con Dao.

2.1.4 Are measures in place to prohibit the use of poisonous chemicals and explosives in the

marine environment?

☒ YES

Use the text box to elaborate on your response.

Details:

>>> Clause 7, Article 7 of the Law on Fisheries 2017 stipulates the prohibition of using banned substances or chemicals, toxins, explosives, electric impulses, electric currents, and destructive methods, means, and fishing tackle for extracting aquatic resources. Violations will be subject to administrative sanctions according to Decree 38/2024/ND-CP or criminal prosecution under the relevant crime code

References and links:

>>> - Law on Fisheries 2017;

- Penal Code 2015;

- Decree 38/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 5, 2024 stipulating the administrative sanctions in the field of fisheries

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[18.signed.pdf](#)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Law on Fisheries 2017](#)

[Decree 38/2024/ND-CP by the Government dated April 5, 2024 stipulating the administrative sanctions in the field of fisheries](#)

2.2 RESTORATION OF DEGRADED MARINE TURTLE HABITATS

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

2.2.1 What efforts are being made to recover degraded coral reef habitat? Give details (location, how long efforts have been carried out, effectiveness, lessons learned, future plans, etc).

☒ YES see below

Details/future plans:

>>> Since 2013, the Management Board of Cu Lao Cham Marine Protected Area, in collaboration with the Nha Trang Institute of Oceanography, has planted over 6,000 coral colonies in the area. Each year, the growth levels are surveyed, and dead coral locations are replanted. Recent research indicates that 20,300 coral colonies, comprising 24 types of hard corals from 8 genera and 6 families, were planted and restored in Ly Son and Con Dao MPAs, with survival rates ranging from 60% to 97.7%. Coral reef restoration models are being developed and implemented through a collaborative approach, with tourism businesses working together with protected areas to plant coral on the seabed.

References and links:

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Assessment of effective coral rehabilitated in Marine Protected Areas of South Vietnam](#)

2.2.2 Are efforts being made to recover degraded mangrove habitats that are important for turtles?

☒ YES see below

If yes, give details (location, duration, effectiveness, lessons learned, future plans etc.)

Details/future plans:

>>> Vietnam has restored more than 4,000 hectares of mangrove forests

References and links:

>>> Attached link below.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Vietnam has restored more than 4,000 hectares of mangrove forests](#)

2.2.3 What efforts are being made to recover degraded seagrass habitats? Give details (location, duration, effectiveness, lessons learned, future plans etc.).

☒ NO efforts to recover degraded seagrass habitats

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

provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

3.1.2 Has your country undertaken an evaluation of its marine turtle monitoring programmes?

☒ YES

Please indicate when the evaluation took place and describe lessons learned.

Details:

- >>> 1). Assessing the impact of offshore capture fisheries on Vietnam's sea turtle population (Directorate of Fisheries/Research Institute for Marine Fisheries)
2). Investigation of the current status of marine turtles and their habitats in the North and North Central regions (2016-2017), and the South and Southeast regions (2018-2019) (IUCN/Institute of Natural Resources and Environment)
3). Research biological and ecological characteristics, propose measures to protect and conserve sea turtles (Research Institute for Marine Fisheries)

3.1.3 Which of the following methods have been or are being used to identify migration routes of turtles?

Use the text boxes to provide details

a) Tagging (flipper)

☒ YES

Details (e.g., list species, duration of programme, start and end year):

>>> Marine turtles that lay eggs or are rescued will be tagged for monitoring and conservation purposes. The tagging program was initially funded by international non-governmental organizations such as WWF and IUCN. Subsequently, the Marine Protected Areas Management Agencies took over the funding and implementation of the program.

The Marine turtle tagging project in collaboration with MFRDMD/SEAFDEC by using Inconel Tag Style on the front flipper has been conducted since 1997. Tagging of marine turtles started at Con Dao NP in 1998 using 900 Inconel tags provided by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD and also 1000 self-made tags. From August 1998 to July 2008, a total of 3,221 turtles had been tagged with the country code such as: (1) CD XXXX; (2) VN XXXXXX; (3) VN(S) XXXX (4) VN(C) XXXX (5) VN(N) XXXX.

Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) and Microchip tags have never been used in Viet Nam. Marine turtle tagging process:

- August 1996 to September 2008: 2,870 female had been tagged.
- Frequency back to re-lay egg as $3,11 \pm 1,87$ per year (n:64)
- 2004 - 2008: 1,658 FM had been laid with total of 3,266 clusters. That means of $270,29 \pm 106,17$ female/year (from 404 to 568)
- 2004 - 2008: Moved 1,303 clusters into hatcheries and 155,354 hatchlings were reared before releasing.
- The satellite tracking program by using 10 of Platform Transmitter Terminal (PTT) was tested at Con Dao National Park.

The satellite tracking studies for green turtles had been conducted to determine their routes and feeding grounds at the southern part of Viet Nam waters.

- Foraging Map of marine turtle had been done in case of Viet Nam.
- Marine turtle metadata in relation to distribution, hot spot, nesting site, species composition, annual female landing, and hatchling released.

b) Satellite tracking

☒ Yes

Details (e.g. species, genetic stock):

>>> Satellite telemetry project using modern satellite telemetry had been initiated by WWF-Indochina and NOAA at Con Dao National Park in 2001. 10 Platform Transmitter Terminals (PTT) were tested at Con Dao National Park. The satellite tracking studies for green turtles had been conducted to determine their routes

and feeding grounds at the southern part of Vietnamese waters.

In 2006, satellite tracking of green turtle populations was conducted for the first time in Vietnam. 04 satellite transmitters were tagged to green turtle nesters in Con Dao in the project, namely, "Vietnam marine turtle tracking". The project was being led by the WWF Vietnam Country Programme, in partnership with IUCN Vietnam, the Vietnamese Ministry of Fisheries, Con Dao National Park, with support from the Danish Embassy (DANIDA) and with technical assistance from the Marine Research Foundation.

The satellite tracking results showed that the probable feeding areas for green marine turtles are within the water of Palawan Island (Phillipine) Phu Quy Island (Viet Nam), and Truong Sa island (Viet Nam)

c) Genetic studies

☒ YES

Details (e.g. species, genetic stock):

>>> This kind of activity has started since 2006. 60 tissues samples of green and 60 tissues samples of hawksbill turtles were collected for mtDNA sampling, analysis and identifying the sub-population of Marine turtle structure in Viet Nam.

The training course on molecular genetics Mitochondrial De-oxiribo Nucleotit Acid (mtDNA) identification for marine turtle between RIMF and MFRDMD was held in Haiphong, 23-26 June 2005.

d) Other (list and provide details)

Details (e.g. species, genetic stock):

>>> N/A

3.1.4 Have the studies mentioned in 3.1.3 helped to identify foraging and migration areas of marine turtles in your country?

☒ UNSURE

3.1.5 Is the use of traditional ecological knowledge in research being promoted?

☒ YES

Explanation/examples:

>>> Viet Nam is promoting the use of traditional ecological knowledge in marine turtle studies, such as:

- Local participation as Nui Chua (Ninh Thuan), Bai Tu Long National Park (Quang Ninh), Hai Lang (Quang Tri), Nhan Hai (Binh Dinh), Hon Tre (Nha Trang Bay MPA (Khanh Hoa), Con Dao National Park (Ba Ria Vung Tau) Phu Quoc MPA (Kien Giang) that volunteers are encouraged to participate in egg collection and the release of the hatchlings back to sea at outside their village.

3.1.6 Give a list of relevant literature that includes information from studies carried out in your country on marine turtle populations and their habitats, sorting them by topic.

a) Bycatch mitigation measures

Details (e.g. numbers and species of released turtles, type of fishery and gear used, method for monitoring survival, result):

>>> N/A

b) Effect of bycatch mitigation measures on non-target species

Details (e.g. type of fishery and gear used, mitigation method assessed, result):

>>> N/A

c) Frequency and pathology of disease in marine turtles

Details (disease, incidence, species and genetic stock):

>>> N/A

d) Genetic studies

Details (species and genetic stock):

>>> This kind of activity has started since 2006. Initiating collection of tissues for mtDNA sampling, analysis and identifying the sub-population of Marine turtle structure in Viet Nam from 60 sample of green and 60 one of hawksbill turtles.

Viet Nam have being great effort to research, conservation and management on marine turtle that was recognized and implemented under the National Action Plan beyond to 2010. Those have greatly appreciated SEAFDEC/MFRDMD support. In connection to the sample collection for marine turtle population genetic identification and inconnel tagging activities are focused. Those issues has being done in the selected sites, time and followed the special contract signed.

The training course on molecular genetics Mitochondrial De-oxiribo Nucleotit Axid (mtDNA) identification for marine turtle between Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF) - Viet Nam and Marine Fisheries Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) Malaysia held at Haiphong, 23-26 June 2005.

e) Socio-economic studies within communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats

Details (aim of study, methods, results):

>>> N/A

f) Evaluation of the efficacy of conservation activities for marine turtles and their habitats

Details (types of activities assessed, participation of local communities in the evaluaton, methods, results):

>>> N/A

g) Other

Details (aim of study, results):

>>> N/A

3.2 COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

3.2.1 Does your country participate in any regional or sub-regional action plans that identify regional priorities in terms of research and monitoring needs?

☒ YES

Please specify:

If more rows are required, please contact the secretarat at iosea@un.org

	Lin ks	Identified research and monitoring needs	Regional or sub-regional action plan
			All activities of IOSEA MoU have been prioritised since 1st September 2001
			ASEAN-MoU had signed 12th September 1997 focusing on Viet Nam
			More than 20 sub-projects in the National Action Plan on Marine turtle research, management and conservation in Viet Nam have been appointed to involve institutions
			Continuing the tagging and rescuing management program with MFRDMD/SEAFDEC and others.
			Considering and trialing TEDs implementation with TD/SEAFDEC and others if possible
			Completed a satellite tracking project with NOAA (USA) and looking for next steps
			Continuing the incubation at hatchery project with WWF_Indochina and others
			On-going marine turtle distribution surveys the with IUCN
			On-going marine turtle trade activities surveys with Traffic_Indochina.
			Continuing marine turtle bio-logging and ecological topic with SEASTAR 2000

3.2.2 On which of the following themes have regional 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.

a) Reproductive biology (including any of the following: nesting data, hatchling survival, nest protection, recruitment, etc.)

☒ YES

Details (year when collaboration took place, project name, future plans):

>>> Many research, conservation and management activities on marine turtles have been done in Viet Nam. RIMF, WWF Indochina, IUCN Viet Nam, Con Dao National Park and Nui Chua National Park staff have conducted programs of research on marine turtles to determine solutions for protection, conservation and management activities, which focus on biological, ecological, enhancement and management aspects.

b) Genetic characterization

☒ YES

Details (year when collaboration took place, project name, future plans):

>>> This kind of activity has started since 2006. 60 tissues samples of green and 60 tissues samples of hawksbill turtles were collected for mtDNA sampling, analysis and identifying the sub-population of Marine turtle structure in Viet Nam.
The training course on molecular genetics Mitochondrial De-oxiribo Nucleotit Axid (mtDNA) identification for marine turtle between RIMF and MFRDMD was held in Haiphong, 23-26 June 2005.
Coordination with TRAFFIC Vietnam and WWF Australia is planned to conduct genetic research on sea turtle populations by collecting sea turtle specimens during rescue operations and while handling violations. The implementation is expected to begin in 2025.

c) Migratory and dispersal routes

☒ YES

Details (year when collaboration took place, project name, future plans):

>>> - The tagging and rescuing management program
- Satellite tracking project

d) Other biological and ecological aspects

☒ YES

Details (year when collaboration took place, project name, future plans):

>>> Many research, conservation and management activities on marine turtles have been done in Viet Nam. RIMF, WWF Indochina, IUCN Viet Nam, Con Dao National Park and Nui Chua National Park staff have conducted programs of research on marine turtles to determine solutions for protection, conservation and management activities, which focus on biological, ecological, enhancement and management aspects

3.3 DATA ANALYSIS AND APPLIED RESEARCH

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

3.3.1 Describe how research results are being applied to improve management practices and mitigation of threats.

Details:

>>> Certainly! Here's the revised text in paragraph format:

The system of legal documents has been built and essentially completed to meet the requirements of sea turtle protection, conservation, and international integration. Research, application, and improvement of fishing gear have been initiated, yielding initial results in reducing the rate of sea turtle bycatch, particularly in tuna fishing. Con Dao National Park is recognized as a member of the IOSEA Sea Turtle Conservation Area Network (TCTS/Con Dao National Park - 2019). The natural breeding grounds of sea turtles, mostly located in MPAs, are strictly protected, and the rescue and release of sea turtles have been carried out effectively with

the participation and coordination of management agencies and the wider society.

Raising Awareness program and training to raise awareness and capacity for protecting and conserving sea turtles are well conducted, creating widespread effectiveness throughout society. The detection and handling of violations concerning sea turtle protection and conservation have seen positive changes with the participation of many stakeholders.

However, there are limitations. Regulations on protecting sea turtles and other endangered, precious, and rare aquatic species still overlap, leading to enforcement difficulties. Funding for implementing priority tasks and projects is limited, resulting in many initiatives not being carried out or implemented inconsistently, thus reducing efficiency. The sea turtle conservation plan lacks sufficient measures to control and prevent illegal trade and handle violations by sea turtle traders. Additionally, there is no clear role for law enforcement forces such as environmental police, customs, market management, the army, and fisheries control. Some priority projects have yet to receive funding for implementation.

3.3.2 Is traditional knowledge on marine turtles and their habitats being used for conservation and management?

☒ UNSURE

Details, future plans:

>>> N/A

3.4 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

3.4.1 Has your country undertaken any initiatives (nationally or through collaboration with other IOSEA Signatory States) to standardise methods of data collection?

☒ YES

If yes, please give details of the agreed protocol(s).

Details:

>>> Using FAO, WWF, IUCN and CITES methods and categories to assess.

- The information is separated at the institutions involved.

- NPOA - Marine Turtles: marine turtle research, conservation and management in Viet Nam as a guideline/protocol was approved by Minister of Fisheries (MARD at present) on 8th March, 2004 and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on 14 March 2016.

3.4.2 Has your country taken part in producing IUCN regional status reports for red list assessments?

☒ YES

3.4.3 How often does your country share information on marine turtle populations of regional interest with other IOSEA Signatories?

☒ every 5 years

3.4.4 Since 2019, has your country taken part in any workshops or other events with participation of other countries, scientific institutions, non-governmental or international organisations in order to develop and implement best practice approaches for marine turtle conservation?

☒ YES

Details (name of the event, year, main objective of the event):

>>> Each year, we collaborate with TRAFFIC Vietnam to organize national workshops aimed at evaluating the implementation outcomes of the sea turtle conservation action plan and proposing effective conservation measures.

References and links:

>>> N/A

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

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

4.1.1 Are education/awareness programmes in place at/near nesting beaches?

☒ YES

Please indicate at which sites, described in question 0.2 these programmes are being implemented.

Details:

>>> Annually, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) collaborates with Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) such as Con Dao National Park and Hon Cau to hold conservation programs for marine turtles. These programs recruit Vietnamese citizens as volunteers to participate in various activities. The objectives of the program include raising community awareness about the value and importance of marine and sea turtle conservation by creating opportunities for participants to patrol and protect sea turtles at spawning grounds on Hon Cau Island. Additionally, the program aims to train a team of knowledgeable and skilled volunteers who can assist professional staff at MPAs in sea turtle and marine conservation efforts. The program also seeks to enhance the capacity of MPAs in communication activities and in attracting financial and technical support. Volunteers actively participate in practical activities related to marine environmental protection and sea turtle conservation at Hon Cau and will receive a Certificate of Participation upon completing the program. Furthermore, MPAs such as Con Dao National Park offer daily tours for tourists interested in learning more about marine turtles and participating in the release of hatchlings back into the sea.

References and links:

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Hatching release tour Con Dao National Park](#)

[IUCN Marine Turtles Volunteer Program](#)

4.1.2 Describe the educational materials, including mass media information programmes that your country has collected, developed and/or disseminated.

Details/future plans:

>>> The establishment of five public awareness panels at Con Dao National Park, along with the creation of a hotline for reporting violations and the implementation of an awareness-raising program in collaboration with ENV and Con Dao National Park

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[poster_rua_bien.png](#)

References and links:

>>> Preliminary conference summarizing five years of implementing Vietnam's Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan for the period 2016-2025.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Preliminary conference summarizing five years of implementing Vietnam's Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan for the period 2016-2025.](#)

4.1.3 Which of the following groups have been the targets of focused education or awareness programmes?

- ☒ Policy makers
- ☒ Fishing industry
- ☒ Communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats
- ☒ Local/Fishing communities
- ☒ Indigenous groups
- ☒ Tourists
- ☒ Media
- ☒ Teachers
- ☒ Students

- ☒ Military, Navy, Police
- ☒ Scientists
- ☒ NGOs
- ☒ Enforcement personnel
- ☒ Judicial personnel

References and links:

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Decision 1176/QĐ-TTg of the Government approving the program to conserve Vietnam's endangered turtle species until 2025, with a vision to 2030

Decision No. 811 /QĐ-BNN-TCTS on approving the Vietnam Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan for the period 2016 - 2025.

4.14 Have any community learning centres or information centres been established in your country?

☒ YES

Details/future plans:

>>> The Hero House, a sea turtle conservation center, has been established at Nui Chua National Park in Ninh Thuan. Additionally, volunteer teams are organized to participate in sea turtle conservation efforts across various regions, including Quang Tri, Binh Dinh, Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, and Khanh Hoa. These initiatives aim to protect and conserve sea turtle populations through community involvement and dedicated conservation activities.

References and links:

>>> Link below.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

The Hero House - Nui Chua National Park

4.2 STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

4.2.1 Are there public participation programmes in place at nesting beaches to involve local stakeholders in activities to conserve marine turtles?

☒ YES

If yes, which stakeholders are being involved?

- ☒ Fishing industry
- ☒ Communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats
- ☒ Local/Fishing communities
- ☒ Indigenous groups
- ☒ Tourists
- ☒ Media
- ☒ Teachers
- ☒ Students
- ☒ Military, Navy, Police
- ☒ Scientists
- ☒ NGOs
- ☒ Enforcement personnel
- ☒ Judicial personnel

Please indicate at which sites, described in question 0.2 these programmes are being implemented.

Details/future plans:

>>> Nui Chua National Park

Quang Tri

Hon Cau MPA

Con Dao National Park

References and links:

>>> Link below

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Preliminary conference summarizing five years of implementing Vietnam's Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan for the period 2016-2025.](#)

4.2.2. The role of local communities. Please answer the questions below, giving examples of activities that took place since 2019.

a) Is traditional knowledge used in the development of education and awareness programmes in your country?

☒ YES

b) Do local communities participate in the development and implementation of conservation measures?

Details, examples:

>>> Local communities are regularly consulted on measures to minimize bycatch, contributing to plans for the protection of aquatic resources in general and marine turtles in particular within their distribution areas.

4.2.3 Describe initiatives undertaken or planned since 2019 to involve and encourage the cooperation of Government institutions, NGOs and the private sector in marine turtle conservation programmes.

Details/future plans:

>>> Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) actively participate in successfully implementing the national sea turtle conservation plan through various activities. TRAFFIC Vietnam engages in investigating the illegal trade of sea turtles in Vietnam and proposes management measures to prevent such activities. They also participate in sea turtle conservation communication initiatives. Humane Society International (HSI) in Vietnam supports public awareness activities, provides rescue support, and develops plans to reduce the bycatch of marine turtles. The Education for Nature Vietnam (ENV) supports hotline activities to receive information about violations related to the poaching and trade of sea turtles. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Vietnam supports communication activities to raise awareness about sea turtle conservation. They maintain volunteer teams that protect marine turtles during the nesting season and work on building a comprehensive database on marine turtles in Vietnam.

OBJECTIVE V: ENHANCE NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

5.1 COOPERATION NEEDS

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

5.1.1 Please indicate, the extent to which the following local management issues require regional and/or international cooperation in order to achieve progress.

In other words, how important is **regional/international** cooperation for addressing the issues listed below?

a) Illegal fishing in territorial waters

☒ ESSENTIAL

b) Incidental capture by foreign fleets in territorial waters

☒ ESSENTIAL

c) Enforcement/patrolling of territorial waters

☒ ESSENTIAL

d) Illegal fishing in EEZ

☒ ESSENTIAL

e) Incidental capture by foreign fleets in EEZ

☒ ESSENTIAL

f) Enforcement/patrolling of EEZ

☒ ESSENTIAL

g) Harvest exploitation of turtles and eggs

☒ ESSENTIAL

h) Illegal trade in turtle parts and products

☒ ESSENTIAL

i) Development of gear technology to reduce bycatch of marine turtles

☒ ESSENTIAL

j) Marine pollution, including oil spills and marine debris

☒ IMPORTANT

k) Training / capacity-building

☒ ESSENTIAL

l) Alternative livelihood development

☒ ESSENTIAL

m) Characterisation of turtle populations/genetic stocks

☒ ESSENTIAL

n) Identification of migration routes

☒ IMPORTANT

o) Tagging / satellite tracking

☒ IMPORTANT

p) Habitat studies

☒ IMPORTANT

q) Genetic studies

☒ IMPORTANT

5.2 COOPERATION AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

5.2.1 Regional cooperation to enhance marine turtle conservation and management

a) Which regional/bilateral agreements for marine turtle conservation and management does your country participate in?

Details:

>>> WCPFC; IOSEA

b) Please list the organizations that your country cooperates with to enhance regional collaboration on marine turtle conservation in your subregion.

Details:

>>> It is anticipated that during the period from 2024 to 2026, Vietnam will collaborate with Malaysia to share information, lessons learned, and conservation measures for sea turtles. This collaboration will be part of the project "Addressing Serious Threats to Sea Turtles in Vietnam and Malaysia," proposed by TRAFFIC Vietnam (proposal submitted).

c) Do these agreements and organizations have an associated action plan for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats? Please list the respective actions plans.

If more rows are required, please contact the secretariat at iosea@un.org

	Threats addressed by the plan	Objectives	Geographic coverage	Species covered	Name of the regional/sub-regional action plan (include web links to plan if available)
	Bycatch in longline and purse seine fisheries Habitat degradation and incidental capture during fishing operations	To reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations by implementing the FAO Guidelines To ensure proper handling and recovery techniques for incidentally captured sea turtles To collect and report data on sea turtle interactions to improve management and mitigation strategies	Western and Central Pacific Ocean	All marine turtles	Conservation and Management Measure 2018-04

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[CMM 2018-04](#)

5.2.2 Has your country encouraged Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) in the Indian Ocean to adopt marine turtle conservation measures within Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and on the high seas? Please describe the interventions made by your country in this regard in the last 5 years, referring to specific RFMOs.

Details/future plans:

>>> Vietnam is currently a Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). As a CNM, Vietnam is allowed to participate in discussions and benefit from shared information, while committing to abide by the WCPFC's rules and regulations and contributing to its conservation and management efforts. However, Vietnam's influence on the decision-making process is limited due to its lack of voting rights.

References and links:

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[WCPFC](#)

5.2.3 Please describe any additional efforts of your country to enhance sub-regional turtle conservation.

Details/future plans:

>>> Vietnam has made significant efforts to enhance sub-regional turtle conservation. The country collaborates with international organizations like TRAFFIC Vietnam to investigate illegal trade and raise awareness, and with HSI Vietnam to support public awareness and reduce bycatch. ENV manages hotlines for reporting violations, while IUCN Vietnam promotes conservation activities and maintains volunteer teams. Vietnam has established a sea turtle rescue network and developed standardized rescue procedures. The installation of tracking devices helps monitor migration routes and feeding sites. Planned collaboration with Malaysia from 2024 to 2026 aims to share information and conservation measures. Public awareness campaigns include annual workshops to evaluate conservation plans and the distribution of promotional materials at fishing ports. These efforts involve a range of stakeholders, enhancing the conservation of marine turtles in the region.

5.3 CAPACITY-BUILDING

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

5.3.1 Describe your country's needs in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities, in order to build capacity to strengthen marine turtle conservation measures in the IOSEA region.

Details:

>>> Training and capacity building in population genetic research on marine turtles are key components of our conservation efforts. Additionally, we aim to establish a comprehensive sea turtle rescue network by building rescue stations associated with marine protected areas. To monitor the migration routes and feeding sites of sea turtles, we will install tracking devices, allowing us to implement necessary protection measures. Furthermore, the establishment of a management area dedicated to applying effective conservation strategies will ensure the protection and preservation of sea turtles.

5.3.2 Describe any training your country provided in marine turtle conservation and management in the last 5 years (e.g., workshops held, training manuals produced etc.), and indicate your plans for the coming year.

Details/future plans:

>>> Annually, a National Workshop is organized to evaluate the results of the Sea Turtle Conservation Plan for the period 2016-2025. Efforts include printing posters and panels promoting sea turtle protection, which are then posted on fishing boats and placed at fishing ports. Additionally, a comprehensive manual for sea turtle rescue is being developed, alongside documents that provide detailed guidance on sea turtle rescue procedures. These initiatives aim to enhance awareness, improve rescue operations, and ensure effective implementation of conservation measures.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[poster rua bien.png](#)

References and links:

>>> Marine turtle Rescue Handbook attached below

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Sổ tay Cứu hộ Rùa view_10.pdf](#)

5.3.3 Specifically in relation to capacity-building for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats, describe any partnerships with universities, research institutions, training bodies and other relevant organisations, national, regional, and/or international.

Details/future plans:

>>> Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) actively participate in implementing the national sea turtle conservation plan through various activities. TRAFFIC Vietnam engages in investigating the illegal trade of sea turtles and proposes management measures to prevent such activities. They also participate in sea turtle conservation communication initiatives. Humane Society International (HSI) in Vietnam supports public awareness activities, provides rescue support, and develops plans to reduce the bycatch of marine turtles.

The Education for Nature Vietnam (ENV) supports hotline activities to receive information about violations related to the poaching and trade of sea turtles. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Vietnam supports communication activities to raise awareness about sea turtle conservation, maintains volunteer teams that protect marine turtles during the nesting season, and works on building a comprehensive database on marine turtles in Vietnam.

In addition to these NGOs, key institutions such as the Vietnam Institute of Fisheries Economics and Planning (VIFEP), the Research Institute for Marine Fisheries (RIMF), and the Research Institute for Natural Resources and Environment are pioneers in capacity-building for marine turtle conservation. These institutions collaborate with universities, research bodies, and training organizations both nationally and internationally to enhance conservation efforts and develop effective strategies for protecting marine turtles and their habitats.

5.4 STRATEGY AND LEGISLATION

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

5.4.1 Development of a national action plan

a) Is there a national action plan for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats in your country?

☒ YES

Details:

title of the document, year, link:

>>> - Decision No. 811 /QD-BNN-TCTS on approving the Vietnam Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan for the period 2016 - 2025;

- Decision 1176/QD-TTg of the Government approving the program to conserve Vietnam's endangered turtle species until 2025, with a vision to 2030

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Decision No. 811 /QD-BNN-TCTS on approving the Vietnam Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan for the period 2016 - 2025](#)

[Decision 1176/QD-TTg of the Government approving the program to conserve Vietnam's endangered turtle species until 2025, with a vision to 2030](#)

b) If there is no action plan yet, has a set of key management measures been identified that could eventually serve as a basis for a more specific action plan at a national or local level?

☒ NO

c) List the genetic stocks (marine turtle populations) identified as priorities in the national action plan or in other action plans for conservation of biodiversity in your country.

Details/future plans:

>>> Currently, Vietnam has not conducted studies to identify genetic stocks of marine turtle populations. However, investigating, evaluating, and mapping the genetic diversity of sea turtles is identified as a priority task in the national action plan. This research is planned for the near future to better understand and conserve marine turtle populations in Vietnam.

References and links:

>>> Links below

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Decision 1176/QD-TTg of the Government approving the program to conserve Vietnam's endangered turtle species until 2025, with a vision to 2030](#)

[Decision No. 811 /QD-BNN-TCTS on approving the Vietnam Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan for the period 2016 - 2025.](#)

5.4.2 Which are the main threats to marine turtles in your country per species and the most urgent management activities to address them?

Please list up to 5 corresponding activities from the IOSEA Conservation and Management Plan (CMP).

>>> - Bycatch: Caught in fishing nets, especially trawls and longlines.

- Illegal Trade and Poaching: Harvested for their eggs, meat, and shells.

- Habitat Degradation: Coastal development impacting nesting beaches.

- Pollution: Marine debris ingestion and entanglement.

- Climate Change: Rising temperatures affecting sex ratios and sea levels impacting nesting sites; Coral bleaching affecting their primary habitat; Changes in ocean currents affecting migratory patterns.

To address the main threats to marine turtles in Vietnam, several urgent management activities from the IOSEA Conservation and Management Plan have been identified. First, the implementation and enforcement of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in trawl fisheries and the promotion of circle hooks in longline fisheries are essential to mitigate bycatch. Strengthening the legal framework and enforcement mechanisms is crucial to combat the illegal trade and poaching of marine turtles and their products. Protecting and restoring critical habitats, such as nesting beaches and foraging grounds, through conservation programs and sustainable coastal development practices are necessary to maintain the environments crucial for marine turtle survival. Additionally, reducing marine pollution through waste management initiatives and public awareness campaigns is vital for controlling pollution and marine debris that threaten marine turtle health. Finally, developing and implementing climate change adaptation strategies, such as protecting and relocating nesting beaches, will help mitigate the impacts of climate change on marine turtles. These activities are aligned with the broader objectives of the IOSEA Conservation and Management Plan and aim to ensure the survival and recovery of endangered marine turtle species in Vietnam.

5.4.3 Has your country conducted a review of policies and laws to address any inconsistencies in relation to the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats?

☒ YES

References and links:

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[1.2024. HSI Bycatch reduction report_English.pdf](#)

5.4.5 Does your country have legislation that explicitly requires marine and coastal development projects and natural resource extraction projects to be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in relation to marine turtles and their habitats?

☒ YES

a) If yes, please provide references to legal texts, date of adoption and briefly describe such legislation.

Details:

>>> The Law on Environmental Protection, adopted on January 10, 2022, outlines comprehensive activities for environmental protection and specifies the rights, obligations, and responsibilities of agencies, organizations, residential communities, households, and individuals involved in these activities. While the law covers various aspects of environmental protection, it does not specifically address marine turtles but applies to environmental protection in general.

According to Article 30 of the law, certain projects must carry out environmental impact assessments (EIA).

These projects are classified into Group I and Group II based on their environmental risks.

Group I projects, specified in Clause 3, Article 28, include large-scale industrial projects with potential pollution risks, hazardous waste treatment facilities, projects importing scrap as raw materials, and extensive land or sea use projects. This category also covers large-scale mining or water resource exploitation projects and those requiring significant land use changes or resettlement. Group II projects, specified in Clause 4, Article 28, encompass medium-scale projects involving sensitive environmental factors, such as medium-scale land or sea use, mining, or water resource projects, and projects requiring small-scale land use changes or resettlement.

Urgent public investment projects are exempt from EIA requirements. The EIA process, conducted by the project owner or a qualified consultant, occurs concurrently with the feasibility study. The results are documented in an EIA report, which includes the project's origins, owner, and approval authority, conformity with environmental regulations, evaluation of project technology and potential environmental impacts, and an assessment of natural and socio-economic conditions, biodiversity, and current environmental status. It also identifies and forecasts environmental impacts and waste, outlines measures for waste management and impact mitigation, and includes environmental management and monitoring plans, consultation results, and commitments from the project owner. This structured approach ensures thorough evaluation and management of the environmental impacts of proposed projects.

References and links:

>>> Link below

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Law on Environmental Protection](#)

b) Which measures are in place to ensure compliance with this regulation?

References and links:

>>> Violations related to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) are subject to penalties as outlined in Decree 45/2022/ND-CP, dated July 7, 2022, which stipulates regulations on penalties for administrative violations in the field of environmental protection. Intentionally committing fraud in the EIA process is addressed under Article 359 of the 2015 Penal Code, amended and supplemented in 2017, with penalties for such fraud reaching up to 20 years in prison.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Penal Code

Decree 45/2022/ND-CP

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

6.1 IOSEA MARINE TURTLE MOU MEMBERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

6.1.1 What has your country already done in the past 5 years to encourage other States to sign the IOSEA MOU?

Details/future plans:

>>> N/A

6.1.2 Is your country currently favourable, in principle, to amending the MOU to make it a legally binding instrument?

☒ YES

6.2 RESOURCES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MOU

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

6.2.1 What programmes has your country funded for domestic implementation of marine turtle conservation activities related to the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU?

Please refer to the IOSEA CMP and IOSEA Work Programme.

Name of the funded programme, corresponding CMP activity or IOSEA Work Programme measure:

>>> Vietnam has conducted various activities to investigate and conserve sea turtles and their habitats. The Institute of NCHS investigated the current status of sea turtles and their habitats in the North and North Central regions from 2016 to 2017, and in the South and Southeast regions from 2018 to 2019, in collaboration with IUCN and the Institute of Natural Resources and Environment. Research on the biological and ecological characteristics of sea turtles was carried out to propose protective measures. From 2017 to 2018, Cu Lao Cham MPA translocated 1,400 eggs from Con Dao National Park, achieving a 90% hatching rate after 40 days of incubation. In 2019, 500 eggs were translocated, sponsored by the Quang Nam Provincial People's Committee. Approximately 50,000 circle hooks were distributed to reduce bycatch, and a tuna Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) and observer program were implemented on fishing vessels. Billboards were designed and established at fishing ports in six provinces, and 3,000 sea turtle conservation posters were printed and disseminated to fishing vessels. A sea turtle conservation volunteer program and the Community Participatory Sea Turtle Nesting Site Conservation Project were launched by IUCN. Public awareness panels were set up at Con Dao National Park, and a hotline was established to report violations. An awareness-raising program was also conducted in collaboration with ENV and Con Dao National Park. Training workshops for tuna fishermen on sea turtle conservation, focusing on the use of circle hooks and the presence of observers on fishing vessels, were provided by WWF and local organizations. Documents on the conservation of endangered species, including sea turtles, were developed for high school students in collaboration with HSI, CITES MA, the Department of Student Management (Ministry of Education and Training), and localities. Community models combining tourism and sea turtle protection were established at Con Dao National Park and Hon Cau MPA, supported by the UNDP GEF-SGP.

6.2.2 In the last 5 years, what funding sources have been available for your country to support marine turtle conservation?

☒ YES

Details: (national, other governments, international organisations, donor organisations, industry, private sector, foundations)

>>> Funding for these conservation efforts comes from both the Government and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) such as TRAFFIC, WWF, IUCN, HSI, and ENV. These organizations provide financial support and technical expertise to facilitate various projects and initiatives aimed at protecting marine turtles and their habitats.

6.2.3 In accordance with CITES decisions on marine turtles, has your country attempted to raise funds for the activities listed below through CITES?

☒ YES

a) If yes, please indicate the number of the activity (or activities) in the text box below. Was this effort

successful?

1. Training and capacity building and training on the implementation and enforcement of national and international regulations that apply to marine turtles, and on identification, monitoring, reporting and wildlife enforcement capability;
2. raise awareness on conservation status and compliance with national legislation and cites in relation to marine turtles;
3. research into the socioeconomics of harvest of marine turtles, its effect on conservation and sustainability of alternative livelihoods;
4. cooperative international/regional research to establish population estimates to evaluate the impact of illegal trade;
5. research into the impact of fisheries on marine turtles and its linkages to illegal trade.

>>> Activities and Success Evaluation

1. Training and capacity building and training on the implementation and enforcement of national and international regulations that apply to marine turtles, and on identification, monitoring, reporting and wildlife enforcement capability:
 - o Effort: Workshops for tuna fishermen on using circle hooks and employing observers on fishing vessels were conducted by WWF and local organizations.
 - o Success: This effort has been successful in enhancing the knowledge and skills of local fishermen, improving compliance with regulations and reducing bycatch.
 2. Raise awareness on conservation status and compliance with national legislation and CITES in relation to marine turtles:
 - o Effort: Various awareness programs, including the distribution of 3,000 sea turtle conservation posters to fishing vessels and the establishment of public awareness panels at Con Dao National Park.
 - o Success: These programs have successfully raised awareness about sea turtle conservation and compliance with national and international legislation.
 4. Cooperative international/regional research to establish population estimates to evaluate the impact of illegal trade:
 - o Effort: Planned collaboration with Malaysia from 2024 to 2026 to share information and conservation measures for sea turtles.
 - o Success: This planned effort aims to enhance regional cooperation and understanding of the impact of illegal trade on sea turtle populations.
 5. Research into the impact of fisheries on marine turtles and its linkages to illegal trade:
 - o Effort: Distribution of ~50,000 circle hooks and implementation of a tuna Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) and observer program on fishing vessels.
 - o Success: These measures have helped mitigate the impact of fisheries on marine turtles, demonstrating successful management practices.
- Based on the provided information, activities 1, 2, 4, and 5 have been undertaken, with significant success observed in training and capacity building, raising awareness, and implementing cooperative research initiatives.

b) Does your country require assistance in raising funds for any of these activities? Which ones? (provide numbers of the activities in the box)

>>> Several key projects require funding to advance sea turtle conservation efforts in Vietnam. One priority project is the development and management of a comprehensive database on sea turtles and their habitats. This database, to be integrated into the aquatic resources database by 2020, will include regular data from IUCN in Con Dao and information on sea turtle violations from ENV. Another critical initiative is a communication and education program aimed at raising awareness about sea turtle conservation. This program is currently being developed and submitted to the Ministry for approval by the Department of Archive Surveillance, HSI, and the Vietnam Institute of Fisheries Economics and Planning. Additionally, there is a project focused on investigating, evaluating, and mapping the current status of sea turtles and their habitats, along with proposing preservation solutions. The establishment of sea turtle protection areas and the restoration of typical sea turtle habitats are also essential, with these efforts being integrated within existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and National Parks. Tracking migration routes and feeding areas of sea turtle populations using satellite positioning devices is another vital project. Lastly, there are plans to set up two sea turtle rescue stations in Ba Ria Vung Tau and Khanh Hoa to enhance rescue and rehabilitation efforts.

6.3 COORDINATION AMONG GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Provide sources of information supporting the above responses, include reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.) as well as published articles (scientific or online articles); also include appropriate links to these information sources and/or attach documents to this report.

6.3.1 List government agencies that play a role in the conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats in your country. Please indicate their responsibilities in relation to protecting marine turtles and their habitats.

If more rows are required, please contact the secretariat at iosea@un.org

	Role in the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats	Name of the agency
	Coordinates and unifies the implementation of the conservation program, guides local projects, monitors progress, and reports to the Prime Minister.	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
	Integrates conservation tasks into forestry, agriculture, and fisheries plans, and coordinates with other ministries to prevent illegal trade and manage endangered species.	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
	Leads efforts to prevent and fight crimes related to the illegal trade and handling of endangered turtles, and enhances international cooperation on wildlife smuggling investigations.	Ministry of Public Security
	Allocates investment capital and mobilizes international funding for conservation and sustainable development of endangered species.	Ministry of Planning and Investment
	Balances funds for the program's implementation and strengthens customs inspection and control against illegal wildlife trade	Ministry of Finance
	Coordinate with relevant ministries to implement conservation tasks as per their respective scopes and responsibilities	Other Ministries (Science and Technology, Education and Training, Information and Communications, Culture, Sports and Tourism, National Defense)

6.3.2 What are the main limitations of enforcing the laws in relation to marine turtles and their habitats across and between jurisdictions?

Details:

>>> - Insufficient Personnel: Enforcement agencies often struggle with a lack of trained personnel to monitor and enforce regulations effectively. This limitation is compounded by the extensive and often remote coastal areas that need surveillance.

- Inadequate Equipment: Many enforcement bodies lack the necessary equipment such as boats, surveillance technology, and communication tools to monitor marine turtle habitats and respond to illegal activities.

- Budget Limitations: Many conservation and enforcement programs suffer from limited funding. This affects the ability to hire and train personnel, purchase necessary equipment, and conduct essential research and monitoring activities.

- Dependency on External Funding: Reliance on intermittent funding from international organizations or NGOs can result in inconsistent enforcement and conservation efforts.

References and links:

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Decision 1176/QĐ-TTg of the Government approving the program to conserve Vietnam's endangered turtle species until 2025, with a vision to 2030](#)

OTHER REMARKS

Please provide any comments/suggestions to improve the present reporting format.

>>> Should remove the "Mark question answer"