IOSEA 25 YEARS

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

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6 November 2026

11TH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Bonn, Germany, 8-11 December 2026
Agenda Item 3.1

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2028

(*Prepared by the Advisory Committee*)

Summary:

- Overview of the activities of the Advisory Committee (AC) and Secretariat in relation to the Work Programme (WP) adopted by the 9th Meeting of the Signatory States (MOS9).
- Completed items have been marked complete (green), in the understanding that some of these may require repeated attention.
- Ongoing or regular activities have been marked yellow. Activities not started that are not dependent on others, or that aren't scheduled for later in the meeting cycle, are marked red.
- Activities foreseen for implementation by the Signatory States are not reported on in this document.
- Implementation of many activities requires additional funding, as indicated by means of an asterisk and/or a note.

Action requested:

- Review the progress report
- Advise on any updates or revisions
- Agree on next steps for priority actions

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2028

CMP[1] #	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors[2]	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	Priority by Sub-region				*Progress*
						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
Section 1: Measures that Implement CMP Objectives and Programmes										
Objective 1: Reduce direct and indirect causes of marine turtle mortality										
1.1	**Identify and document the threats to marine turtle populations and their habitats a) Collate and organise existing data on threats to marine turtle populations b) Establish baseline data collection and monitoring programmes to gather information on the nature and magnitude of threats c) Determine those populations affected by traditional and direct harvest, incidental capture in fisheries, and other sources of mortality**									
	Threat assessment	1. Conduct a situational analysis of threats to sea turtle populations in the SEA+ region a) Identify gaps in knowledge on threats b) Prioritize threats based on impacts to populations (e.g., risk analysis)	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.		n/a	n/a	n/a		
	Genetics Fisheries Interactions Take and Trade	2. Determine population-specific threats to be used as a basis for monitoring and management: a) collect samples to perform genetic analysis on marine turtles caught in fisheries interactions, take or trade and record results systematically b) using existing information (e.g., satellite tracking, stable isotopes, flipper tags, genetic markers) to determine population structure of marine turtles caught in fisheries interactions, take or trade c) map potential overlaps of fishing activities and turtle distribution.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	H	H		

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	Marine Debris Pollution Health Genetics	3. Assess vulnerability of turtles to marine pollution, including marine debris entanglement and ingestion, heavy metals, and chemical pollutants: a) Investigate transport, abundance, exposure pathways of marine pollution to describe the impact on marine turtles, life stage of turtle affected and estimated numbers affected b) Investigate impact on each genetic stock / population / management unit c) Identify the locations where mitigation is required including marine spatial planning with sensitive areas identified d) Review and or develop effective waste management plans (liquid, solid) Monitor causes of mortality and injury in strandings	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	H	H		
	Noise Pollution	4. Review, investigate and measure impacts of noise on turtles, including underwater, in-ground and aerial noise. a) Conduct mapping of where noise pollution and sea turtle distribution overlap b) Identify the locations where mitigation is required, and include them in marine spatial planning with sensitive areas identified c) Exchange information on and make use of existing guidelines/best practices aimed at reducing noise pollution underwater, in-ground and at nesting beaches[7]	Sigs NGO Res PS	AC to provide advice upon request.	M	H	M	L		

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	Light Pollution	5. Collect data on light pollution and its impact on nesting turtles and their hatchlings on the beaches and at sea. a) Conduct mapping of where light pollution and sea turtle distribution overlap b) Identify the locations where mitigation is required, and include them in marine spatial planning with sensitive areas identified c) Exchange information on and make use of existing guidelines/best practices aimed at reducing light pollution on nesting beaches[8]	Sigs NGO Res PS	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	H	M		
	Climate Change	6. Identify the current and potential impacts of climate change on all life stages of marine turtles present and map the critical habitats at risk, including nesting beaches and in-water habitats, at national and regional levels, and come up with mitigation strategies.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	H	H		
	Fisheries Interactions National Reporting	7. Report on the status of on-board observer programmes, and/or alternative data collection methods, and the status of marine turtle bycatch recording within those observer programmes, including by improving technology use on vessels (e.g. cameras) to facilitate remote observation.	Sigs	AC to analyse the information and develop recommendations.	H	H	H	H		

	Fisheries Interactions	8. Collaborate with the CMS Scientific Council in addressing CMS Decision 14.33 to: a) identify regions where reviews of relative levels of bycatch of CMS-listed marine mammals and marine turtles in commercial and artisanal fisheries would be a priority and/or beneficial; collaborate with all relevant organizations including fisheries management bodies to develop regional reviews with a view to reducing the levels of bycatch of all CMS-listed marine mammals and turtles in commercial and artisanal fisheries; identify and prioritize fisheries and areas in which adverse impacts of bycatch are highest for CMS-listed marine mammals and turtles and cooperate with the relevant organizations, including fisheries bodies to develop the most appropriate bycatch mitigation measures for fisheries of highest priority; and develop appropriate bycatch mitigation measures with associated timebound action plans; b) in collaboration with the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU and, if possible, the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and the Caribbean Environment Programme, review current knowledge about existing measures to reduce and mitigate bycatch of marine turtles for both commercial fisheries and artisanal fisheries, and make recommendations to Parties and the Signatory States of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU on the most effective and appropriate measures to reduce and mitigate bycatch, while ensuring that recommended measures do not act to the disadvantage of other CMS-listed marine species.		AC to establish and lead a Steering Group on Bycatch to a) develop an implementation approach and recommendations b) draft ToR for identified potential implementing agencies/ individuals.	M		M	M		- see AC11 agenda item 5.1

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	Fisheries Interactions Take and Trade	9. Conduct community surveys to estimate catch and motivations behind that catch to identify solutions to mitigate targeted take and bycatch by using and adapting as appropriate e.g. the questionnaire developed by the CMS Dugong MOU	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	M	H	H		
	Marine Debris Cooperation	10. Collect data on ghost gear, and entanglement of turtles in ghost gear, and develop rehabilitation/rescue plans and ghost gear removal programmes.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	M	H	H		
	Nesting Sites	11. Establish and/or continue a reliable nesting beach monitoring programme[9] to monitor and report current threats impacting nesting and hatching, using reliable methods that are standardized across the years.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	H	H		
	Climate Change Marine Debris Light Pollution Cooperation	12. Collaborate with the CMS Scientific Council in addressing CMS Decision 14.94 to: a) review, as far as feasible in collaboration with the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU) and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, relevant scientific information on conservation and threats to marine turtles in a region- and species-specific context, including their vulnerability to climate change, the threats of plastic pollution and light pollution on post-hatchlings, and the identification of habitats resilient to climate change as these habitats may require increased conservation effort over time; and b) based on this review, develop new recommendations for the conservation of all species of marine turtle included in		AC to establish and lead a Steering Group to advise on implementation of these mandates. Sec to assist by organizing an expert workshop. *	M		M	M		- see AC11 agenda item 5.2

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		Appendix I or II of the Convention including on the preservation of the current nesting beaches and the identification of new nesting beaches, and collate current and innovative management options to mitigate the effects of climate change on nesting beaches, such as beach cooling and beach restoration projects, for presentation at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.								
	Information Sharing	13. Identify or establish and maintain long-term national secure data management systems, and consider sharing data with relevant regional and global databases.	Sigs NGO Res	AC and MTTF to provide advice on relevant regional and global databases.	H	H	M	H		- see AC11 agenda item 5.4
	Species: Olive Ridley	14. Initiate the next species assessment for Olive Ridley Turtles.		AC to lead.	H	L	H	H		
	Species: Flatback	15. Circulate the Red List Assessment for Flatback Turtles once it is completed and provide a summary document of it, if required.		AC to provide summary, if required. Sec to circulate.		n/a	n/a	n/a		
1.2	**Determine and apply best practice approaches to minimising those threats to marine turtle populations and their habitats** **a) Identify and document best practice protocols for conserving and managing marine turtle populations within the region** **b) Adapt and adopt the best conservation and management practices for marine turtle populations**									
	Methods Standardization	16. Identify, tailor to local context, and apply best practice protocols to mitigate main threats to marine turtle populations.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide guidance on best practice protocols.	H	H	H	M		- collaboration with IUCN SSC MTSG
	Nesting Sites Hatcheries	17. Use the guidelines on the management of beaches as an ecosystem and for successful hatchling production[10], including management of hatcheries if and when required, as presented to MOS9. a) Review existing national beach management guidelines to ensure sea turtle protection needs are met. b) Identify and map the existing nesting sites c) Identify other potential sites for nesting.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	H	H		

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	Nesting Sites Hatcheries Climate Change	18. Expand the guidelines on the management of beaches as an ecosystem and for successful hatchling production to include relevant mandates given in CMS Decision 14.94 (see measure #12 above).		AC to establish and lead a Steering Group. Consult with MTTFs and other sub-regional experts through workshops. * Develop revised guidelines including recommendations.	H	H	M	H		- see AC11 agenda item 5.2
	Nesting Sites Hatcheries	19. Organize workshops to disseminate best practice information for the protection of eggs and hatchlings.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to lead. Secretariat to invite countries to nominate to participate in the training and assist by organizing workshops. *	M	M	M	H		
	Tourism Cooperation	20. Utilize the CMS *Guidelines for Recreational In-Water Interactions with Marine Wildlife*[11] nationally and disseminate them to relevant national authorities/departments and tourism operators.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	M	H	H		
	Light Pollution Cooperation	21. Utilize the CMS *International Light Pollution Guidelines for Migratory Species*[12] nationally and disseminate them to the relevant authorities/departments.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	M	H	H		
	Noise Pollution	22. Utilize the CMS Family *Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities*[13] and disseminate them to relevant authorities/departments.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	M	H	H		
1.3	**Implement programmes to correct adverse economic incentives that threaten marine turtle populations** **a) Conduct socio-economic studies among communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats** **b) Identify desired modifications to the economic incentives in order to reduce threats and mortality, and develop programmes to implement the modifications** **c) Identify resources and sources of funding for the programmes**									

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	Socio-economics	23. Identify and assess the suitability of available tools and mechanisms that incorporate engagement with all stakeholders to evaluate and address socio-economic issues.	Cons NGO Res	MTTF to coordinate in the sub-region and report to AC. AC to review and provide recommendations.	H	H	M	H		
	Socio-economics Take and Trade	24. Review knowledge on motivations and drivers that underpin the use and trade of marine turtles, turtle products, eggs and hatchlings in order to develop context-specific solutions	Sigs NGO Res	MTTF to coordinate in the sub-region and report to AC. AC to review and provide recommendations.	M	H	M	M		
1.4	**Reduce to the greatest extent practicable the incidental capture and mortality of marine turtles in the course of fishing activities a) Develop and use gear, devices and techniques to minimise incidental capture of marine turtles in fisheries, such as devices that effectively allow the escape of marine turtles, and spatial and seasonal closures b) Develop procedures and training programmes to promote implementation of these measures, such as vessel monitoring systems and inspections at sea, in port and at landing sites, and national on-board observer programmes c) Exchange information and, upon request, provide technical assistance to other Signatory States to promote these activities d) Liaise and coordinate with fisheries industries and fisheries management organisations to develop and implement incidental capture mitigation mechanisms in national waters and on the high seas e) Support the UN General Assembly resolution 46/215 concerning the moratorium on the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas f) Develop and implement net retention and recycling schemes to minimise the disposal of fishing gear at sea and on beaches g) Provide and ensure the use of port facilities for the disposal of ship-borne waste**									
	Fisheries Interactions	25. Establish or continue national and/or regional bycatch mitigation programmes for industrial and artisanal fisheries (including gear modification, TEDs, and improved fishing practices to reduce bycatch).	Sigs Fleets RFMO NGO CBM PS	AC-led Steering Group on Bycatch to provide advice upon request.	H	H	H	H		
	Fisheries Interactions	26. Identify high priority areas, sea turtle RMUs and fisheries for establishing additional bycatch mitigation programmes.	Sigs Fleets Res PS	AC-led Steering Group on Bycatch to provide advice upon request.	H	H	H	H		
	Fisheries Interactions	27. Promote national observer, assessment, and quantification programmes to assess the impact on different turtle life stages and populations.	Sigs Fleets RFMO PS	AC-led Steering Group on Bycatch to provide advice upon request.	H	M	H	H		

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	Fisheries Interactions Cooperation	28. Ensure that concerns related to fisheries interactions with marine turtles are presented at relevant RFMO Meetings a) Initiate dialogue on current issues of concern among Signatories and RFMO members in advance of each RFMO meeting (including subsidiary bodies) b) National Focal Points to communicate important issues to members of national delegations attending relevant RFMOs in advance of each meeting	Sigs Res NGOs	AC-led Steering Group on Bycatch to provide advice. Secretariat to communicate with National Focal Points regarding upcoming RFMO meetings.	M	M	L	H		- presentations on two reports at IOTC WPEB22
1.5	**Prohibit the direct harvest (capture or killing) of, and domestic trade in, marine turtles, their eggs, parts or products, whilst allowing exceptions for traditional harvest by communities within each jurisdiction provided that: such harvest does not undermine efforts to protect, conserve and recover marine turtle populations and their habitats; and the marine turtle populations in question are able to sustain the harvest** **a) Enact, where not already in place, legislation to prohibit direct harvest and domestic trade** **b) Assess the level and impact of traditional harvest on marine turtles and their eggs** **c) Establish management programmes that may include limits on levels of intentional harvest** **d) Determine the cultural and traditional values and economic uses of marine turtles (both consumptive and non-consumptive)** **e) Negotiate, where appropriate, management agreements on the sustainable level of traditional harvest, in consultation with other concerned States, to ensure that such harvest does not undermine conservation efforts**								
	Take and Trade Cooperation	29. Engage with the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group of the CMS Scientific Council and transmit any relevant advice to Signatories.		AC to lead with participation from ITWG	M	M	M	L		- see AC11 agenda item 5.8

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	Take and Trade Cooperation	30. Improve enforcement of national legislation on exploitation of turtles, if needed: a) Identify efficiencies and/or inconsistencies and/or gaps in existing legislation, judicial processes and actions in communities b) Identify and articulate resource needs and raise funds required to improve outcomes c) Build field-level capacity at national and regional levels, if required d) Take into consideration the knowledge and laws of local communities and indigenous peoples	Sigs CITES NGO Res LC	AC to provide advice on request and review recommendations contained in the draft Marine Turtle Legislative Review (WWF/CMS/SPREP)	H	H	H	M		
	Stakeholder Engagement	31. Consider applying effective techniques to ensure that concerns of subsistence resource users are incorporated in decision-making.	Sigs NGO Res LC	MTTF and AC to provide advice on request.	M	L	M	M		
	Socio-economics	32. In consultation with local communities, develop culturally acceptable management agreements on the sustainable level of legal traditional harvest, where appropriate.	Sigs NGO CBM LC	MTTF and AC to provide advice on request.	L	L	M	L		
	Stakeholder Engagement Cooperation Socio-economics	33. In consultation with local communities, develop culturally acceptable recommendations on human dimensions, incl. cultural and traditional values and economic values, and behaviour-change models informed by social science concepts to understand and reduce the demand for use and trade of marine turtle products, where appropriate.	Sigs Res NGO CBM LC	MTTF and AC to provide advice on request.	H	H	M	H		
1.6	**Develop nesting beach management programmes to maximize hatchling recruitment** **a) Evaluate the effectiveness of nest and beach management programmes** **b) Reduce the mortality of eggs and hatchlings to maximise hatchling recruitment and survival, preferably using conservation techniques that emphasize natural processes wherever possible** **c) Minimise the mortality of eggs, hatchlings and nesting female turtles caused by feral and domestic animals**									

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	Habitat Protection Nesting Sites	34. Review effectiveness of nest and beach management programmes, in particular at index beaches, including evaluation of nesting success, clutch survival, hatching and emergence success, hatchling fitness, and hatchlings entering the sea.	Sigs NGO Res LC	AC to provide advice on request.	H	H	H	H		
	Habitat Protection Nesting Sites Information Sharing	35. Share information and best practices on measures used successfully in nest and beach management programmes.	Sigs NGO Res LC	MTTF and AC to share or compile and update as necessary.	H	H	H	H		
Objective 2: Protect, conserve and rehabilitate marine turtle habitats										
2.1	**Establish necessary measures to protect and conserve marine turtle habitats** **a) Identify areas of critical habitat such as migratory corridors, nesting beaches, inter-nesting and feeding areas** **b) Designate and manage protected/conservation areas, sanctuaries or temporary exclusion zones in areas of critical habitat, or take other measures (e.g. modification of fishing gear, restrictions on vessel traffic) to remove threats to such areas** **c) Develop incentives for adequate protection of areas of critical habitat outside protected areas** **d) Undertake assessments of the environmental impact of marine and coastal development and other human activities that may affect marine turtle populations and their habitats** **e) Manage and regulate within each jurisdiction the use of beaches and coastal dunes, for example location and design of buildings, use of artificial lighting, and transit of vehicles in nesting areas** **f) Monitor and promote the protection of water quality from land-based and maritime pollution, including marine debris, that may adversely affect marine turtles** **g) Strengthen the application of existing bans on the use of poisonous chemicals and explosives in the exploitation of marine resources**								
	Habitat Protection	36. Identify critical habitats for each turtle management unit and life stage, such as nesting beaches, inter-nesting habitats, migratory corridors, foraging habitats and oceanic dispersal areas, making use of the criteria developed by the AC,[14] as appropriate.	Sigs NGO Res LC PS	AC to provide advice on request.	H	H	M	H		

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	Habitat Protection	37. Identify, protect and adequately manage critical habitats for each species, contributing to meeting the '30 by 30' target of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.	Sigs LC CBD Res NGOs	AC to provide advice on request.	H	H	H	H		
	Habitat Protection	38. Identify habitats already protected, as well as critical habitats still in need of protection, and create protected area networks to provide management and connectivity.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	H	H		
	Habitat Protection	39. In any beach management measures, consider the potential impact of planting non-native vegetation (e.g. Casuarina trees)[15] and evaluate which native plants could serve the purposes of providing shading, shielding and beach protection without the negative side effects of non-native vegetation.	Sigs NGO Res LC	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	M	H		
	Tourism	40. Where coastal tourism occurs, ensure it is following best practices of ecotourism[16] to minimize impacts to marine turtles and their habitats, while seeking opportunities to engage local communities.	Sigs NGO Res LC PS	AC to provide advice upon request and include in development of beach management guidelines.	H	M	H	H		
Site Network										
	Site Network	41. Revive the Site Network Discussion Group to provide advice to Site Managers, identify funding sources, and discuss how the designation can add value to the accepted Sites, and maximize the benefit to the IOSEA network.	Sigs NGOs LC	Sec to update membership and initiate discussions. AC to provide advice upon request.	H	M	H	H		- see AC11 agenda item 5.5

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	Site Network	42. Establish a working group[17] to further revise the Site Information Template required for proposal of sites and the associated evaluation criteria and scoring instructions. It will deliver its outputs to the Secretariat by 30 June 2025 for circulation to the Signatories for their comments within two months. The Secretariat will circulate to Signatories the final proposals for intersessional adoption by correspondence in order to enable their use in the run-up to MOS10.	Sigs NGOs	AC and Sec to engage.	H					- see AC11 agenda item 5.5
	Site Network Cooperation	43. Consider nominating IOSEA Network Sites under legally binding mechanisms, such as those under the Ramsar Convention, to achieve additional support and recognition.	Sigs Res NGOs LC	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	H	H		
	Site Network	44. Prepare brief updates on the situation in IOSEA Network Sites using a form circulated by the Secretariat in advance of MOS10.	Sigs	Sec to circulate form to Focal Points and Site Managers.	H					
Environmental Impact Assessments										
	Environmental Impact Assessment	45. Analyse if and how marine turtles and their habitats are considered in EIA processes in place in each country.	Sigs Res NGOs LC PS	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	H	H		

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	Environmental Impact Assessment	46. If needed, use the *Guidelines for the review of EIAs of developments impacting on sea turtles and turtle habitat*[18] and incorporate turtle conservation needs into EIA / risk assessment of new developments and into Integrated Coastal Zone Management and spatial planning processes. The key emerging issues may include: energy sector (e.g. oil refineries, nuclear power energy plants, offshore wind developments), desalination infrastructure development and effluent, harbour development and dredged channels, industrial and domestic wastewater, light pollution (residential and tourism development and industrial activities).	Sigs Cons PS NGOs Res LC	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	H	H		
2.2	**Rehabilitate degraded marine turtle habitats** **a) Re-vegetate, where appropriate, frontal dunes at nesting beaches, with indigenous flora as far as possible, in order to provide visual barriers to coastal development and to restore appropriate beach temperature regimes** **b) Remove debris that impedes turtle nesting and hatchling production** **c) Enhance recovery of degraded coral reefs** **d) Enhance recovery of degraded mangrove and seagrass habitats**									
	Habitat Protection	47. Identify key areas for habitat restoration, e.g. coral reefs, nesting beaches, mangrove, seagrass, and intertidal habitats, and address existing and potential threats using best practice guidelines.	Sigs Res NGO LC	AC and MTTF, assisted by Sec, to provide advice on best practice guidelines.	H	H	H	H		
Objective 3: Improve understanding of marine turtle ecology and populations through research, monitoring and information exchange										
	Research Funding	48. Review and prioritize by sub-region or country the *List of AC-endorsed research and other priorities*,[19] to leverage funding for research on marine turtles and their habitats.[20]	Sigs NGO Res	AC to review and update periodically.	H	M	H	H		- see AC11 agenda item 5.7

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3.1	**Conduct studies on marine turtles and their habitats targeted to their conservation and management[21]** **a) Conduct baseline studies or gather secondary information on marine turtle populations and their habitats** **b) Initiate and/or continue long-term monitoring of priority marine turtle populations in order to assess conservation status** **c) Characterise genetic identity of marine turtle populations** **d) Identify migratory routes through the use of tagging, genetic studies and/or satellite tracking** **e) Carry out studies on marine turtle population dynamics and survival rates** **f) Conduct research on the frequency and pathology of diseases of marine turtles** **g) Promote the use of traditional ecological knowledge in research studies** **h) Review periodically and evaluate research and monitoring activities**									
	Biological Research	49. Improve understanding of the biological structure of marine turtle populations through scientific and traditional knowledge: a) explore opportunities to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge in IOSEA processes and considerations b) prioritize major research gaps in each sub-region b) quantify key demographic parameters (e.g. reproductive output, clutches per season, remigration interval, growth rates, annual survivorship, sex ratio) c) map the breeding distributions and assess population size and status (e.g., TurtleNet) d) determine foraging distributions, migration pathways, habitat use etc, using appropriate technology, (e.g. flipper and pit tagging, satellite telemetry, genetic sampling, photo-ID) (TurtleNet) e) collect data on hatchling production including sex ratios, fitness, health and survivorship f) improve understanding of the dispersal mechanisms and routes for marine turtle hatchlings and post-hatchlings, and migration routes for adults of each of the management units.	Sigs NGO Res	AC and MTTF to provide advice upon request.	H	M	H	H		

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	Genetics	50. Conduct genetic analyses to identify genetic stocks (management units) for marine turtles: a) Compile and assess available information to identify gaps, needs and opportunities for regional analyses to inform genetic stock assessment, starting with nesting beach sampling b) Develop maps for each genetic stock indicating rookery locations and habitat use in pelagic and benthic environments, to provide greater resolution to the Regional Management Unit (RMU) 2.0 maps given in Wallace et al. (2023)[22] c) Incorporate genetic sampling into ongoing monitoring activities (subject to budget and resources available) d) Agree on, and then use, a standardize protocol for collection and storage of samples to ensure they will remain usable in the long term e) Address capacity building gaps and needs to enable in-country analyses, upon request	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice on standardizing protocols. AC and Secretariat to facilitate contacts with laboratories and experts, incl. specialized working groups. Sec to liaise with CITES Sec to promote simplification of obtaining permits for sending of genetic samples.	H	H	H	H		
	Genetics	51. Periodically contribute, if appropriate, to a list of genetic samples collected in the IOSEA region and publish it on the IOSEA website.	Sigs NGO Res	MTTF to help compile information. Sec to publish on website.	M	M	L	H		
3.2	**Conduct collaborative research and monitoring** **a) Identify and include priority research and monitoring needs in regional and sub-regional action plans** **b) Conduct collaborative studies and monitoring on genetic identity, conservation status, migrations, and other biological and ecological aspects of marine turtles**									
	Sub-regional Coordination	52. Promote and engage in collaborative studies within and among sub-regions.	Sigs NGO Res	AC and MTTF to identify and facilitate.	H	M	H	H		

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3.3	**Analyse data to support mitigation of threats and to assess and improve conservation practices** **a) Prioritise populations for conservation actions** **b) Identify population trends** **c) Use research results to improve management, mitigate threats and assess the efficacy of conservation activities (e.g. hatchery management practices, habitat loss, etc.)**									
	Information Sharing Evaluation	53. Ensure that data collected and existing trend analyses are used to a) Inform and prioritize conservation action through periodic population trend analyses b) Evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures and conservation and management practices.	Sigs NGO Res	AC and MTTF to provide advice upon request. AC to identify priority sites or populations at regional level.	H	H	M	H		
3.4	**Exchange Information** **a) Standardise methods and levels of data collection and adopt or develop an agreed set of protocols for inter alia monitoring of nesting beaches, feeding ground studies, genetic sampling, and collection of mortality data** **b) Determine the most appropriate methods for information dissemination** **c) Exchange at regular intervals scientific and technical information and expertise among nations, scientific institutions, non-governmental and international organisations, in order to develop and implement best practice approaches to conservation of marine turtles and their habitats** **d) Disseminate traditional knowledge on marine turtles and their habitats for conservation and management** **e) Compile on a regular basis data on marine turtle populations of regional interest**									
	Method Standardization	54. Review, and apply where appropriate, protocols recommended by the Advisory Committee for data collection and management of sea turtles and their habitats.[23]	Sigs NGO Res LC	AC and MTTF to provide advice on guidelines and protocols.	M	M	M	H		- collaboration with IUCN SSC MTSG
	Method Standardization	55. Review data collected to assess gaps and needs for the sub-regions in terms of research and monitoring methodology.	Sigs NGO Res	MTTF to lead. AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	M	H		
	Method Standardization	56. Facilitate capacity building in applying best practice/standard methods and recognizing all forms of knowledge.	NGO Res LC CBM	AC and Capacity Building Working Group to include in Capacity Building Strategy.	H	M	H	H		- see AC11 agenda item 5.6
	Information Sharing	57. Engage with all knowledge holders (e.g. research, traditional, indigenous, fishers, local) to exchange information.	Sigs NGO Res LC CBM	AC and MTTF to provide advice upon request.	H	M	H	H		

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						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
	Information Sharing	58. Encourage voluntary contribution of nesting abundance and distribution data to the existing format of the TurtleNet,[24] and establish an AC-lead working group to explore future options i.e. to: a) Expand the data collected and displayed in TurtleNet, and b) Maximize the use of the National Report information in the database	Sigs NGO Res	AC and Sec to provide advice and support upon request. AC to lead WG.	M					- see AC11 agenda item 5.4
	Information Sharing	59. Identify suitable data repositories such as TurtleNet, ShellBank[25] and "Report a Ghost Net"[26] to facilitate region-wide information exchange and consider data sharing.	Sigs NGO Res	AC and MTTF to provide advice upon request	M	H	M	M		- see AC11 agenda item 5.4
Objective 4: Increase public awareness and public participation										
4.1	**Establish public education, awareness and information programmes** **a) Collect, develop and disseminate education materials** **b) Establish community learning / information centres** **c) Develop and implement accurate mass media information programmes** **d) Develop and conduct focused education and awareness programmes for target groups (e.g. policy makers, teachers, schools, fishing communities, media)** **e) Encourage the incorporation of marine turtle biology and conservation issues into school curricula** **f) Organize special events related to marine turtle conservation and biology (e.g. Turtle Day, Year of the Turtle, symposia, Track-a-turtle)**									
	Outreach and Communication	60. Promote high profile events such as World Sea Turtle Day for the purpose, inter alia, of raising public and political awareness of turtle conservation and IOSEA's role. Develop media, including social media, materials to raise the profile of marine turtle conservation issues.	Sigs NGO PS Res LC Media	AC to provide advice upon request. AC and MTTF to support gathering of material. Sec to coordinate "anniversary" events, as feasible.	H	M	H	H		- see 25th Anniversary campaign

CMP[1] #	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors[2]	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	Priority by Sub-region				*Progress*
						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
	Outreach and Communication	61. Develop Fact Sheets on topics such as the species covered by the MOU, main threats, specifics of each sub-region, the Site Network, information on the MOU and CMP, and the guidance and capacity-building material available.		Sec to draft in collaboration with AC and the Sigs.	M					- under development
	Outreach and Communication Take and Trade	62. To collect information on, evaluate the context of, and address consumptive use and domestic trade in marine turtles through a culturally sensitive process: a) Work with local communities to reduce unsustainable use, incl. by engaging appropriate local actors, such as educators b) Raise awareness of turtle consumers, highlight existing regulations, conservation and possibly health issues involved (e.g. tourists, vendors, egg consumers) c) Engage religious leaders, as appropriate, in awareness campaigns d) Support initiatives to increase youth and women participation in marine turtle conservation e) Enhance transboundary cooperation in education and awareness campaigns	Sigs NGO Nat St PS LC Res Media	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	M	H		
	Outreach and Communication	63. Develop and document lessons learnt from successful campaigns about turtle conservation issues: a) Use examples and lessons learnt from previous campaigns to develop successful approaches b) Evaluate and document lessons learnt from campaigns based on evaluation criteria c) Share examples of campaigns and lessons learnt publicly, e.g., on the website and social media.	Sigs NGO Nat St LC PS Media	AC to develop evaluation criteria and provide advice upon request. Sec to request information and publish on website, if appropriate.	M	M	M	H		

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						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
	Fisheries Interactions Outreach and Communication	64. Compile and exchange information on effective mitigation programs and fisher engagement to reduce interactions for that fishery.	Sigs Fleets RFMO PS	AC-led Steering Group on Bycatch to provide advice upon request.	H	M	H	H		- see AC11 agenda item 5.1
4.2	**Develop alternative livelihood opportunities for local communities to encourage their active participation in conservation efforts a) Identify and facilitate alternative livelihoods (including income generating activities) that are not detrimental to marine turtles and their habitats, in consultation with local communities and other stakeholders**									
	Alternative Livelihoods	65. Compile and assess available knowledge on best practice approaches to produce best practice guidance for alternative livelihood projects.	Sigs Cons NGO LC Res PS	AC to work with consultancy to develop guidance.	H	H	M	H		- see AC11 agenda item 5.3
	Alternative Livelihoods	66. Develop socially and culturally appropriate alternative livelihoods, using established best practices to ensure sustainable approaches tailored to local conditions, which will be beneficial in the long run for both humans and turtle populations.	Sigs NGO LC Res PS	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	M	H		
	Alternative Livelihoods	67. Share and learn from existing alternative livelihood projects that use established best practices.	Sigs Cons NGO LC Res PS	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	M	H		
4.3	**Promote public participation a) Involve stakeholders, and local communities in particular, in planning and implementation of conservation and management measures b) Encourage the participation of Government institutions, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and the general community (e.g. students, volunteers, fishing communities, local communities) in research and conservation efforts c) Implement, where appropriate, incentive schemes to encourage public participation (e.g. T-shirts for tag returns, public acknowledgement, certificates)**									
	Stakeholder Engagement	68. Engage and train organizers and (potential) participants, including local communities, of citizen science activities in species identification, data collection and monitoring.	Exp NGO Res LC PS	AC to provide advice upon request in consultation with local experts	H	H	H	H		

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						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
	Stakeholder Engagement	69. Showcase exemplary work through appropriate avenues to highlight successes to multiple stakeholders: a) Periodically recognize and acknowledge noteworthy contributions to IOSEA implementation (by Signatory States, organizations, corporate sector, individuals, influencers, etc.) b) Enhance appreciation and recognition of all partners.	Sigs NGO Res Sigs LC PS	AC to provide advice upon request. Sec to periodically call for input and publish information.	M	H	M	M		- see 25th Anniversary campaign
Objective 5: Enhance national, regional and international cooperation										
5.1	**Collaborate with and assist Signatory and non-Signatory States to regulate and share information on trade, to combat illegal trade, and to cooperate in enforcement activities relating to marine turtle products** **a) Encourage signatory States that have not already done so to become Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** **b) Review at a national level compliance with obligations under CITES relating to trade in marine turtles, their eggs, parts or products** **c) Facilitate better compliance with CITES through training of relevant authorities in cooperation with other signatory States, the CITES Secretariat and other relevant organisations** **d) Identify routes of international illegal trade through monitoring, and seek cooperation to take action to prevent, deter and, where possible, eliminate illegal trade** **e) Exchange and discuss information on compliance and trade issues at regular intervals, such as through annual reporting to the MoU Secretariat and at meetings of the signatory States** **f) Identify, prevent, deter and, where possible, eliminate domestic illegal trade through monitoring, implementation of legislation, identification of gaps in enforcement capabilities in each country, and training of enforcement officers**								
	Take and Trade Cooperation	70. Use information collected in National Reports to identify potential barriers for Signatory States to join and implement CITES obligations.	Sigs ITWG IGO NGO	AC to support and engage, as required. Sec to engage, as required.						

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						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
	Take and Trade Cooperation	71. Strengthen internal, bilateral and international cooperation in enforcement, collaborating with IGOs and NGOs, including but not limited to CITES, ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (WEN), South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), and TRAFFIC, to ensure the issue of marine turtle trade is on the agenda of future meetings, where required.	Sigs ITWG IGO NGO	AC to support and engage, as required. Sec to engage, as required.	H	H	M	H		
	Take and Trade Cooperation	72. Cooperate with CITES to ensure synergies and identify supply and demand areas and trade routes for the international trade in marine turtles and their products and develop targeted strategies to address these issues.	Sigs ITWG NGO	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	M	H		
	Take and Trade Cooperation Species: Hawksbill	73. Cooperate with CMS in the joint implementation of the *Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) for the Hawksbill Turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata) in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean Region*[27] to address the trade and use of hawksbill turtles at both the domestic and the international level.[28]	Sigs ITWG IGO NGO	AC to provide advice upon request Sec to support Sigs in setting up governance structure.		n/a	n/a	n/a		
	Take and Trade Cooperation	74. Review and update the task list for the ITWG.[29]	ITWG	AC to review and provide advice.	M	M	M	M		- see AC11 agenda item 5.8
	Take and Trade	75. Take further steps to understand and reduce use and domestic trade, if necessary, and to develop education and awareness campaigns on existing laws, including online trade.	Sigs ITWG NGO	AC to provide advice upon request.	M	M	M	M		

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						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
	Legislation	76. Strengthen effective protection of marine turtle populations by: a) Participating in relevant projects regarding regional legislative reviews, such as the WWF/CMS/SPREP Asia-Pacific Marine Turtle Legislative Review, where capacity allows b) Expanding the WWF/CMS/SPREP Asia-Pacific Marine Turtle Legislative Review to include all Signatories * c) Assess compliance of existing regulations d) Encourage national level reviews of compliance to and effectiveness of existing legislation.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.	M	H	M	M		
5.2	**Assist Signatory and non-Signatory States, upon request, to develop and implement national, sub-regional and regional action plans for the conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats a) Develop a set of key management measures that could be used as a basis for action plans, through consultation with concerned Government authorities, research institutions, NGOs, local communities and other stakeholders b) Identify existing action plans that could be used as models c) Identify specific local management issues where cooperation among States is required for successful conservation and management d) Review action plans at regular intervals to take into account recent advances in skills and knowledge regarding marine turtle conservation and management, as well as changes in conservation status of marine turtle populations**									
	Evaluation	77. Establish a working group to develop a system allowing evaluation of the progress made with the implementation of this Work Programme, including key performance indicators for high priority measures, where appropriate.	Sigs NGOs Res	AC to lead in collaboration with the Secretariat.	M	H	M	M		- see AC11 agenda item 7.2

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						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
	Capacity Building	78. Encourage development, implementation and regular review of national action plans, where needed, in collaboration with local communities and other stakeholders: a) Compile/provide examples of National Action Plans for review and possible adoption by Signatory States to other contexts b) Prioritize countries that need National Action Plans and offer additional assistance to Signatory States in their development (e.g. using expertise within the Advisory Committee, Focal Points, external expertise) c) Assist in the implementation and review of such plans, if requested.	Sigs Exp NGO Res PS	AC and MTTF to provide advice upon request. Sec to provide links to National Action Plans on website.	M	H	M	M		
5.3	**Enhance mechanisms for cooperation and promote information exchange** **a) Identify and strengthen existing mechanisms for cooperation at the sub-regional level** **b) Develop a website and/or newsletter to facilitate networking and exchange of information** **c) Develop a web-based information resource for marine turtle conservation (including data on populations, nesting, migration, on-going projects)** **d) Create a directory of experts and organisations concerned with marine turtle conservation** **e) Develop networks for cooperative management of shared populations, within or across sub-regions, and, where appropriate, formalise cooperative management arrangements** **f) Cooperate where possible in the establishment of transboundary marine protected areas using ecological rather than political boundaries** **g) Develop a streamlined format for reporting and exchanging information (through the MoU Secretariat and among signatory States) on the state of marine turtle conservation at the national level** **h) Encourage MoU signatory States that have not already done so to become Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)** **i) Encourage signatory States to become Parties to global fisheries agreements such as the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (1995) and the FAO Compliance Agreement (1993) and implement the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995)** **j) Establish relationships with regional fisheries bodies with a view to obtaining data on incidental capture and encourage them to adopt marine turtle conservation measures within EEZs and on the high seas**								
	Method Standardization	79. Hold virtual information exchange workshops to highlight case studies of where protocols or new threat-reduction techniques have been successfully applied.	Sigs SRFP Res	AC and MTTF to provide advice upon request.	H					

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						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
	Sub-regional Coordination	80. Encourage more sub-regional interactions (e.g. by organizing intersessional sub-regional meetings, training, task forces, etc.)	Sigs SRFP	MTTF to identify opportunities and priorities.	H	H	H	H		
	Sub-regional Coordination Fisheries Interactions Cooperation	81. Encourage the participation of RFMOs and other relevant bodies (e.g. IOTC, IOC, SEAFDEC, CTI) in the Marine Turtle Task Forces (MTTF) or other sub-regional meetings.	RS Sigs	MTTF to identify. Sec to invite.	H	H	L	H		
	Cooperation	82. Cooperate with IAC on activities of mutual interest in relevant action plans and initiatives.	Sigs ITWG IGO NGO	AC to provide advice upon request.						
	Cooperation	83. Engage with other relevant initiatives, such as international and regional Sea Turtle Symposia, regional networks (e.g., VOCAL (Voice of Conservation Action Leaders)), global and regional Newsletters and Regional Seas Programmes.	Sigs Res NGOs	MTTF and Sec to support.	M	M	M	M		
	Sub-regional Coordination	84. Encourage cooperative research and management of marine turtle management units that are shared across international boundaries, incl. by exploring shared interests with neighbouring countries making use of information provided in the national reports.	Sigs SRFP NGOs Res	AC to provide advice on opportunities and priorities.[30]	M	M	M	H		
	Cooperation	85. Establish a database of expertise available to support Signatory States and the AC and provide a platform to match up requests with the appropriate expertise.	Sigs Exp Res NGOs	AC to lead in setting up. Sec to host on website.	H	H	M	H		- see AC11 agenda item 5.6 - initial exploration with potential partners, such as Ocean Connector
	Sub-regional Coordination	86. Organize with a host country in the region a SEA+ sub-regional meeting to facilitate coordination and discuss the potential establishment of a Marine Turtle Task Force (MTTF).	Sigs NGO	AC to provide advice upon request. Sec to liaise with SRFP and potential host countries.	H	n/a	n/a	n/a		

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						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
	Sub-regional Coordination	87. Organize with a host country in the region a NWIO sub-regional meeting to facilitate coordination and discuss the potential establishment of a Marine Turtle Task Force (MTTF).	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request. Sec to liaise with SRFP and potential host countries.	M	n/a	M	n/a		
	Cooperation	88. Strengthen synergies with CMS by making linkages between national conservation planning documents and the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032,[31] where appropriate.	Sigs	AC to provide advice upon request.	L					
Area-based measures										
	Sub-regional Coordination	89. Liaise with counterparts in neighbouring countries regarding possibilities for developing transboundary MPAs or other forms of transboundary collaboration, where applicable considering EBSAs.	Sigs IGO NGO Res	AC and MTTF to provide advice upon request.	M	M	L	H		
	Sub-regional Coordination Habitat Protection	90. When developing MPAs, get sound scientific advice so as to ensure boundaries are based on socio-ecological criteria, where applicable considering EBSAs.	Sigs Res NGO LC	AC and MTTF to provide advice upon request.	H	H	H	H		
	Sub-regional Coordination Habitat Protection	91. Consider ecological information on marine turtles when identifying new EBSAs and report on progress in identified EBSAs through national reports.	Sigs Res NGOs	AC and MTTF to provide advice upon request.	H	H	M	H		
	Sub-regional Coordination Habitat Protection	92. Consider making use of the criteria for identification of Important Marine Turtle Areas (IMTA) developed by the IUCN MTSG to identify priority areas for transboundary and sub-regional initiatives.	Sigs MTSG Res NGOs	AC and MTTF to engage in the process.	M	H		M		
Regional Fisheries Management Organizations										
	Stakeholder Engagement Fisheries Interactions Cooperation	93. Work with national focal points to RFMOs to encourage better data collection and reporting on the occurrence, distribution and take of marine turtles in oceanic areas.	Sigs	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	L	H		

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						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
	Fisheries Interactions Cooperation	94. Collaborate with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) on marine turtles, in particular with the Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB) with regard to the development of indicators for sea turtles, potential revisions of relevant Conservation and Management Measures, as well as preparation of updates of the Executive Summary: Marine Turtles, as and when required.	Sigs NGOs Res	AC-led Steering Group on Bycatch to lead.	M	H	L	L		- see AC11 agenda item 5.1
	Fisheries Interactions Cooperation	95. Review the overlap of the activities managed by the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) with turtle populations covered by IOSEA, the data availability, level of information available, nature of the discussions in these fora and potential for collaboration.	Sigs NGOs Res	AC-led Steering Group on Bycatch to lead.	L	M	L	L		- see AC11 agenda item 5.1
National Reporting										
	National Reports	96. Establish a working group[32] to conduct an in-depth review and improve the national reporting format to facilitate effective reporting and analysis, incl. spatial analysis. It will deliver its outputs to the Secretariat by 30 June 2025 for circulation to the Signatories for their comments within two months. The Secretariat will circulate to Signatories the final proposals for intersessional adoption by correspondence in order to enable their use in the run-up to MOS10.	Sigs NGOs	AC and Sec to engage.	H	H	H	H		- see AC11 agenda item 7.2

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						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
	National Reports	97. Extend the deadline for submission of National Reports for 2024 until 31 July 2024, after which the Secretariat will commence the preparation of the data for analysis. The full analysis of all reports submitted by the deadline will be made available to Signatories latest by 28 February 2025.	Sigs	Sec to manage process.	H					- see Analysis of the 2024 National Reports
	National Reports Information Sharing	98. Continue to improve the quality of information provided in National Reports and encourage integration in National Reports of positive substantive contributions from NGO/IGO partners, research institutes and other key stakeholders	Sigs Res NGO	AC and MTTF to provide advice upon request.	H	M	H	H		
	National Reports	99. Include in the analysis of the National Report matrices indicating which countries reported implementation of different activities outlined in the reporting questionnaire.	Sec	AC to provide advice upon request.	M	M	L	H		
	National Reports Information Sharing	100. Work directly with MTTF members and relevant stakeholders to complete and improve the quality of data in National Reports, for example, in relation to identifying specific resource needs and improving data on fisheries and fisheries interactions, in particular.	Sigs Res NGO PS	MTTF to offer support to Sigs. AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	H	H		
	National Reports Capacity Building	101. Provide training or webinars or any further technical help, when requested, to prepare and submit National Reports and available IOSEA online tools.	Sigs Res NGO	AC and Sec to provide advice upon request and respond as required.	M	H	M	M		
	National Reports Capacity Building	102. Encourage and facilitate online communications between Signatories and the Secretariat (e.g. submit reports through online system and use online tools).	Sigs	Sec to reach out.	H	H	H	H		- SharePoint sites for WGs
Online Tools										

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						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
	Information Sharing	103. Periodically call for up-to-date lists of flipper tag series used in the countries to the IOSEA Secretariat for inclusion in and management of the existing IOSEA online database of tag series.	Sigs Res NGO	Sec to call for information and provide on website.	H	H	M	H		- ongoing
	Information Sharing	104. Set up a database compiling information on PIT tagging practices, incl. applied location and all tag types.	Sigs Res NGO	Sec to call for information and provide on website.	M	H	M	L		
	Information Sharing	105. Submit information on marine turtle nesting, distribution, abundance and migration, reporting on index beach monitoring, as well as satellite tracking studies to the TurtleNet database.[33]	Sigs Res NGO LC	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	H	L		
	Information Sharing Environmental Impact Assessments	106. Develop a page on EIA guidance based on MOS8 Documents 7.5 and 11.2 on the IOSEA website.		AC to provide advice. Sec to lead.	H	H	H	H		
	Information Sharing	107. Continue work to restore and update IOSEA bibliography and library in collaboration with the AC and set up the electronic bibliography on the IOSEA Website, as well as other features as feasible.		AC to provide advice. Sec to lead.	H	M	H	H		- ongoing
5.4	**Build capacity to strengthen conservation measures** **a) Identify needs for capacity-building in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities** **b) Provide training (e.g. through workshops) in marine turtle conservation and management techniques to relevant agencies, individuals and local communities** **c) Coordinate training programmes and workshops** **d) Develop partnerships with universities, research institutions, training bodies and other relevant organisations**									

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						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
	Capacity-building	108. Adopt a proactive process for identifying needs and providing training within the IOSEA region, including by: a) Establishing an intersessional working group[34] to develop a Capacity Building Strategy based on the Objectives of the CMP and activities in the Work Programme b) Offering Signatory States training topic options and options for developing co-funding arrangements for capacity building c) Structuring training to address the needs identified by Signatory States in the process of developing the Capacity Building Strategy d) Developing skills of country representatives in the preparation and revision of country reports e) Developing skills of the AC, Sub-regional and Country representatives and researchers in (1) collecting, analysing, and presenting biological data, (2) defining foraging populations, and (3) conservation management techniques (interactions with fisheries, coastal development). In addition, training should emphasize communication and coordination techniques that can be used among various levels (local, province, country, sub-region, region) to coordinate conservation activities f) Organizing follow-up visits to assess the effectiveness of the transfer of information and skills.	Sigs NGO Res LC	AC to lead in developing Capacity Building Strategy. AC and Sec to provide advice and/or facilitate training. * MTTF to assist.	H	H	H	H		- see AC11 agenda item 5.6
	Capacity-building Sub-regional Coordination	109. Promote regional exchange of expertise and utilize the MTTFs to identify and plan opportunities for exchange.	Sigs NGO Res	MTTF to assist.	H	H	M	H		

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						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
	Capacity-building Fisheries Interactions Habitat Protection Site Network Hatcheries	110. Encourage organization of sub-regional capacity building / technical workshops, on topics such as: a) Management of nesting beaches, hatchery management, lighting etc. b) Identification of threatening processes c) Rescue and rehabilitation d) Training on site network management e) Socio-economic and cultural aspects f) Training and technology-transfer needs to reduce mortalities in fisheries operations, in particular by providing training for: i. observers particularly for small-scale fisheries (separate for trawlers/ gill nets, smaller outboard fisheries in large quantities) ii. proper recording of turtle interactions in a harmonized and standard way, inter alia, to assist IOTC member countries in meeting their reporting requirements iii. safe release of bycaught turtles iv. enhancing use of bycatch reduction technologies.	Sigs SRFP NGO Res LC PS LC	AC to lead in developing Capacity Building Strategy. AC and Sec to provide advice and/or facilitate training. * MTTF to assist.	H	H	H	H		- see AC11 agenda item 5.6

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						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
	Capacity-building Fisheries interactions	111. Conduct sub-regional capacity-building workshops on bycatch assessment methods and engagement strategies with key government authorities and stakeholders: a) Develop a concept note and send a formal proposal to potential hosting countries b) Government and NGOs in the region to investigate potential opportunities for organizing the workshops and identify the role that each party can play c) Conduct follow-up workshops to address specific issues at country level following regional capacity building workshops, involving fishers associations and communities.[35]	Sigs NGO RFMO PS	AC-led Bycatch Steering Group and Capacity-Building WG to advise. AC, MTTF and Sec to organize workshops. *	H	H	H	H		- see AC11 agenda item 5.6
	Capacity-building Cooperation Funding	112. Consider: a) Activities to address capacity-building needs to integrate marine turtle considerations into existing Ramsar Site management plans b) Cooperating with the Ramsar Secretariat to raise funds for implementing these activities c) Soliciting capacity-building support to conduct coordinated or joined activities, e.g. for sites that are both IOSEA Network Sites and Ramsar Sites.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request. Sec to reach out to Ramsar Secretariat.	M	M	M	H		
	Capacity-building	113. Develop training material (e.g. a handbook) and a training programme (e.g. webinars and/or workshops) to assist National Focal Points to fulfil their role		AC to provide advice. Sec to lead. *	H	M	H	H		- handbook under development
5.5	**Strengthen and improve enforcement of conservation legislation** **a) Review domestic policies and laws to address gaps or impediments to marine turtle conservation** **b) Cooperate in law enforcement to ensure compatible application of laws across and between jurisdictions (including through bilateral/multilateral agreements and intelligence sharing)**									

CMP[1] #	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors[2]	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	Priority by Sub-region				*Progress*
						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
	Legislation	114. Identify gaps in legislation relating to current conservation needs of marine turtles and their habitats including assessing the effectiveness of the implementation of legislations.	Sigs NGO Res LC PS	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	H	H		
	Legislation	115. Improve enforcement of compliance with regulations, relating to activities such as fishing, tourism, coastal and offshore development, industrial development, international trade restrictions.	Sigs Res NGO PS LC	AC to provide advice upon request.	H	H	H	H		
	Legislation Collaboration	116. Improve interagency coordination and collaborations to enhance the monitoring and enforcement of legislations.	Sigs Res NGO PS LC	AC to provide advice upon request.						
Objective 6: Promote implementation of the MOU including the Conservation and Management Plan										
6.1	**Broaden membership in the MOU, and ensure continuity of MOU activities a) Encourage non-signatory States to sign the MoU b) Arrange sub-regional workshops involving non-signatory States to raise awareness of the MoU c) Consider at the first meeting of the signatory States the development of a timetable for possible amendment of the MoU to make it a legally binding instrument**									
	Recruitment of New Signatory States	117. Approach non-Signatory States in the IOSEA region and other countries with a view to securing IOSEA membership.	Sigs NGO	AC to provide advice upon request. Sec to reach out periodically.	L	L	L	M		- ongoing
	Cooperation, Fisheries Interactions Stakeholder Engagement	118. Engage with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), as well as other RFMOs relevant to the IOSEA, to reach out to non-Signatory States with fleets fishing in the IOSEA region (e.g. China / Taiwan, Japan, Republic of Korea, Spain etc).	Sigs SRFP NGO	AC to provide advice upon request.	M	H	L	M		

CMP[1] #	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors[2]	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	Priority by Sub-region				*Progress*
						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
6.2	**Promote the role of the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee of the MOU in ensuring the objectives of the Conservation and Management Plan are met** **a) Secure reliable sources of funding to support the MoU Secretariat** **b) Appoint at the first meeting of the signatory States the members of the Advisory Committee** **c) Establish lines of communication between the MoU Secretariat and the Advisory Committee to facilitate advice to the signatory States**									
	Institutional	119. Periodically review the appropriateness of the size and composition (skill sets appropriate for the activities identified in the WP) of the Advisory Committee.	Sigs	AC and Sec to provide advice upon request.	H	M	H	H		
	Institutional	120. Arrange two intersessional meetings of the Advisory Committee, the first one within the first 12 months after a MOS, the second one preferably three to four months prior to the next MOS.		Sec to arrange.	H	M	H	H		- AC11
	Evaluation	121. Review, comment, and provide guidance on advances and new and emerging issues related to species and habitat management raised by Signatory States and/or identified by the global turtle research and conservation community.	Sigs NGOs Res	AC and MTTF to review and provide advice.	H	M	H	H		
	Institutional	122. In time for the process foreseen in #123, develop a draft Work Programme to implement the CMP.		AC to lead in collaboration with Sec and MTTF.	H					- see AC11 agenda item 4
	Institutional	123. Provide comments on the draft Work Programme (see #122) through a sub-regional process approximately six months in advance of each MOS, which will then be considered by the AC in its preparations of the final draft.	Sigs SRFP	AC to finalize draft for consideration by MOS10.	H	H	H	H		
	Institutional Evaluation	124. Establish a working group[36] to develop an evaluation questionnaire based on the Key Performance Indicators drafted by the Sec and AC.		AC to lead. MTTF and Sec to support and engage.						- see AC11 agenda item 7.1

CMP[1] #	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors[2]	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	Priority by Sub-region				*Progress*
						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
6.3	**Seek resources to support the implementation of the MOU** **a) Prioritise conservation and management activities for funding** **b) Explore funding options with Governments and other donors such as the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, UNDP, European Union, UNEP, GEF, etc.** **c) Solicit funding and other contributions from industries that have impacts on marine turtles and their habitats (e.g. fisheries, tourism, oil industry, real estate)** **d) Explore the use of economic instruments for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats** **e) Approach the private sector, foundations and NGOs that may have an interest in funding activities in particular countries to catalyse the creation of a small grants fund** **f) Generate funding for conservation and management activities through managed ecotourism and other self-supporting schemes (while benefiting local communities)** **g) Seek synergies (with respect to fund-raising, provision of institutional support, etc.) with other regional/global convention secretariats** **h) Explore international funding support and other incentives for signatory States that effectively manage marine turtle populations, which might include the complete prohibition of direct harvest (capture or killing)**									
	Institutional	125. Identify and actively seek adequate resources for the Advisory Committee (and MTTFs) to function effectively (increased frequency of meetings, strengthened capacity to respond to requests from Signatory States, etc.)	Sigs	Sec to reach out to Sigs.	H	H	H	H		- no positive responses
	Institutional	126. Identify and secure adequate resources for the attendance of Sub-regional Focal Points and Chairs of the sub-regional Marine Turtle Task Forces as observers at Advisory Committee Meetings to provide advice on core issues to be addressed at Signatory State meetings.	Sigs	Sec to reach out to Sigs.	H	H	H	H		- fundraising not successful
	Capacity Building Funding	127. Assist countries to seek available counterpart funding (e.g. by helping with national or regional project proposal development, offering guidance on 'packaging' of proposals, facilitating links to potential donors, providing letters of support, etc.).	Sigs Res NGO	AC and MTTF to provide advice upon request. Sec to circulate List of AC-endorsed research projects, and provide letters of support, as appropriate.	H	H	H	H		- efforts ongoing, e.g. through KBF and GEF proposals

CMP[1] #	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors[2]	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	Priority by Sub-region				*Progress*
						WIO[3]	NWIO[4]	NIO[5]	SEA+[6]	
	Funding	128. Review and periodically update information on *Funding Opportunities and Fundraising Resources for Marine Turtle Conservation*[37] and circulate ad hoc, opportunities to Sigs.	Sigs	AC, MTTF and Sec to lead.	H	M	H	H		- ongoing
	Funding	129. Seek advice on diversifying funding sources (e.g. private sector) for implementation of conservation measures for marine turtles and their habitats, as well as activities in the framework of the MOU.	Sigs Cons NGO	AC and Sec to develop a fundraising plan.	H	H	H	H		
	Institutional	130. Strengthen synergies with the CMS Dugong MOU by ensuring representation of the Advisory Committee on the Dugong Technical Advisory Group (DTAG).		AC to identify representative.	H	H	H	M		- common member: Nicolas Pilcher
6.4	**Improve coordination among government and non-government sectors in the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats** **a) Review the roles and responsibilities of government agencies related to the conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats** **b) Designate a lead agency responsible for coordinating national marine turtle conservation and management policy** **c) Encourage cooperation within and among government and non-government sectors, including through the development and/or strengthening of national networks**									
	National Networks Stakeholder Engagement	131. Establish formal and/or informal inclusive national committees/networks in order to develop synergies among governments and partners and report on their work through the national reports.	Sigs Res NGO PS LC	AC to provide advice upon request. Sec to support as required.	H	H	H	H		
	Cooperation	132. Engage with relevant national and international bodies to address the problem of ghost nets, plastic debris, oil pollution, etc. and undertake direct dialogue with relevant local industries and stakeholders.	Sigs NGO Res LC PS	AC to provide advice upon request. Sec to support as required.	H	H	H	H		

Section 2: Measures Related to MOU Administration and Coordination[38]				
WP #			***Actors***	***Progress***
Meetings, Working Groups and Workshops				
133.	Meetings, Working Groups and Workshops	Ensure Advisory Committee Meetings are organized as scheduled, with key documents circulated at least one month in advance of the meetings.	Sec, AC	- AC11
134.	Meetings, Working Groups and Workshops	Facilitate conference calls with the Advisory Committee on a quarterly basis to discuss and facilitate progress in the implementation of the WP, with additional calls to be arranged as needed.	Sec	
135.	Meetings, Working Groups and Workshops	Ensure Meetings of Signatory States (MOS) are organized as scheduled, with key documents circulated at least two months in advance of the meetings.	Sec	
136.	Meetings, Working Groups and Workshops	Organize meetings of sub-regional groups and assist with organization of the meetings of Marine Turtle Task Forces (NIO, WIO MTTF, NWIO and SEA+ sub-regions) at intervals defined in each group's terms of reference.	Sec	
137.	Meetings, Working Groups and Workshops	Support intersessional correspondence (Illegal Trade Working Group, Site Network Discussion Group, Advisory Committee) as needed.	Sec	
138.	Meetings, Working Groups and Workshops	Organize workshops if agreed by MOS9 and subject to available funding.	Sec	
139.	Meetings, Working Groups and Workshops	Organize sub-regional working groups more effectively during Signatory State meetings, by engaging Sub-regional Focal Points more actively in pre-meeting organization.[39]	Sec, SRFP	
140.	Meetings, Working Groups and Workshops	Secure a host for MOS10 and correspond with the host to ensure all necessary arrangements are met for the next MOS.	Sec	
Website				
141.	Website	Maintain and develop the IOSEA website, post news items and other material as appropriate. Reach out to Signatories and stakeholders to solicit their input and publish relevant information in the website news section.	Sigs, AC, Sec, MTTF, NGO	- ongoing
Budgetary, Administrative and Institutional Matters				
142.	Budgetary, Administrative and Institutional Matters	Reach out to Signatory States to encourage the nomination of alternate Focal Points.	Sec, Sigs	- ongoing
143.	Budgetary, Administrative and Institutional Matters	Administer the MOU's Trust Fund in collaboration with the CMS Administrative and Fund Management Unit and report on budgetary and administrative issues to each meeting of the Signatory States, and intersessionally as required.	Sec	- ongoing
144.	Budgetary, Administrative and Institutional Matters	Prepare a draft budget for consideration by MOS10.	Sec	

145.	Budgetary, Administrative and Institutional Matters	Encourage Signatories to pay agreed voluntary contributions and encourage voluntary contributions for projects and initiatives prioritized by MOS9.	Sec	- ongoing, response level continues very low
146.	Budgetary, Administrative and Institutional Matters	Develop funding agreements for projects prioritized by the Meeting of Signatories.	Sec	
147.	Budgetary, Administrative and Institutional Matters	Advertise consultancies, select and supervise candidates as required for the implementation of the WP.	Sec	

Footnotes

[1] **CMP** = Conservation and Management Plan. Number of the Programme (indicated by a number) or a specific activity (indicated by a number and a letter) from the CMP

[2] **AC** = Advisory Committee, **Cons** = specialized project consultancy, **CBD** = Convention on Biological Diversity, **CBM** = Community Fisheries Initiatives, **CITES** = Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, **Exp** = in-country or external experts, **Fleets** = nations with fleets in the region, **IGO** = Intergovernmental Organizations, **ITWG** = IOSEA Illegal Trade Working Group, **LC** = Local Communities, **Media** = media, incl. social media, **MTSG** = IUCN Species Survival Commission Marine Turtle Specialist Group, **MTTF** = IOSEA Marine Turtle Task Forces, **Nat St** = national stakeholders, **NGO** = Non-governmental Organizations, **Res** = research institutions, **PS** = private sector, **RFMO** = Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, **RS** = Range States, **Sec** = Secretariat, **Sigs** = Signatory States, **SRFP** = IOSEA Sub-regional Focal Points

[3] Western Indian Ocean Sub-Region (Sigs: Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania)

[4] North-Western Indian Ocean Sub-Region (Sigs: Bahrain, Egypt, Eritrea, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Yemen)

[5] Northern Indian Ocean Sub-Region (Sigs: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka)

[6] South-East Asia+ Sub-Region (Sigs: Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam + Australia, United States)

[7] See also #22

[8] See also #21

[9] Signatories in the NWIO sub-region to consult PERSGA manuals (available here: https://persga.org/Documents/Publications/QR_Downloads/English/SSM_May_2019.pdf)

[10] See MOS9/Doc.8.2 *Beach Management and Hatchery Practices* (available on www.cms.int/iosea-turtles/en/page/capacity-building-resources); relates also to CMP Programme 1.6 Develop nesting beach management programmes to maximize hatchling recruitment

[11] See Resolution 12.16 (Rev.COP14) *Recreational In-Water Interaction with Aquatic Wildlife* and Resolution 11.29 (Rev.COP12) *Sustainable Boat-based Marine Wildlife Watching*

[12] See Resolution 13.5 (Rev.COP14) CMS *International Light Pollution Guidelines for Migratory Species*

[13] See Resolution 12.14 *Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species*

[14] See *Critical Habitat for Sea Turtles in the IOSEA Region* (available on www.cms.int/iosea-turtles/en/page/capacity-building-resources)

[15] See MOS8/Doc.7.4 *The Vulnerability of Casuarina-backed Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches to Erosion* (available on www.cms.int/iosea-turtles/en/page/capacity-building-resources)

[16] See definition of principles of ecotourism here: https://ecotourism.org/what-is-ecotourism/

[17] Members: Australia, Papua New Guinea, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Advisory Committee (other Signatories and MTTF Members are welcome to join)

[18] See MOS8/Doc.7.5 *EIA guidelines regarding impacts on sea turtles and their habitats* (available on www.cms.int/iosea-turtles/en/page/capacity-building-resources)

[19] See List of IOSEA AC-endorsed research and other priorities to help to leverage funding for scientific research (available on www.cms.int/iosea-turtles/en/page/capacity-building-resources)

[20] Relates also to CMP Programme 3.2 Conduct collaborative research and monitoring

[21] Relates also to CMP Programme 3.2 Conduct collaborative research and monitoring, and CMP Programme 3.3 Analyse data to support mitigation of threats and to assess and improve conservation practices

[22] Wallace et al. (2023) Marine turtle regional management units 2.0: an updated framework for conservation and research of wide-ranging megafauna species. Endang Species Res 52:209-223.https://doi.org/10.3354/esr01243

[23] Citations to useful and accepted guidelines and protocols for data collection and management will be provided on the IOSEA website (link to be provided in due course).

[24] TurtleNet: https://apps.information.qld.gov.au/TurtleDistribution/

[25] ShellBank: https://shellbankproject.org/

[26] Report a Ghost Net: https://oliveridleyproject.org/report-a-ghost-net

[27] See *Single Species Action Plan for the Hawksbill Turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata) in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean Region* (Meeting Outcome 9.3)

[28] Relates also to CMP Programme 5.2 Assist Signatory and non-Signatory States, upon request, to develop and implement national, sub-regional and regional action plans for the conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats

[29] Membership: Australia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mozambique, Philippines, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Advisory Committee, Inter American Sea Turtle Convention, TRAFFIC Vietnam and WWF

[30] See also #48

[31] See CMS Resolution 14.1 *Samarkand Strategic Plan for migratory species 2024 - 2032*

[32] Members: Australia, Kenya, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, Advisory Committee (other Signatories and MTTF Members are welcome to join)

[33] TurtleNet: https://apps.information.qld.gov.au/TurtleDistribution/

[34] Members: Bahrain, Maldives, Pakistan, Thailand, United States, Advisory Committee (other Signatories and MTTF Members are welcome to join)

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

[36] Membership: Advisory Committee, MTTF Members, experts and Signatory States to be determined

[37] See *Funding Opportunities and Fundraising Resources for Marine Turtle Conservation* (available on www.cms.int/iosea-turtles/en/page/capacity-building-resources)

[38] If not yet included in Section 1

[39] Ideally, Sub-regional Focal Points should be individuals who are likely to be in the post for a longer period of time, to provide continuity, and be knowledgeable / experienced in key IOSEA matters.