



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

CMS/IOSEA/MOS9/Doc.10.3
8 May 2024

9TH MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES
Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, 24-27 June 2024
Agenda Item 10.3

LESSONS LEARNT FROM WORLD SEA TURTLE DAY 2021

(Prepared by the Advisory Committee and Secretariat)

1. Measure #50 of the Work Programme 2020-2024 encouraged the use of 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.
2. In 2021, the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU celebrated its 20th Anniversary. Following a suggestion by an Advisory Committee Member, and taking into account the restricted options for celebrations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a round-the-clock, virtual event was proposed to Signatory States to mark the 20th Anniversary on World Sea Turtle Day.
3. World Sea Turtle Day is celebrated in many countries on 16 June. On this day in 2021, a 'global launch' of virtual 'Anniversary celebrations' hosted by the United States was held. This was followed by a day-long series of online events taking place around the IOSEA region on Saturday, 19 June 2021, so as to maximize the opportunities for public participation.
4. The 'round-the-clock virtual event' was organized by local hosts in collaboration with the Secretariat and was streamed by Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) on the CMS YouTube channel ([BonnConvention](#), [playlist here](#)), with events throughout the region 'passing the baton' to each other.
5. With programmes from 20 countries, on 16 and 19 June 2021 the IOSEA region celebrated World Sea Turtle Day, the 20th Anniversary of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU and the fascinating world of marine turtles. Streamed on YouTube, several hundred viewers watched parts of the programme already, and dozens engaged in the live chat during the live streaming.
6. With the videos remaining available, viewers continue to be invited on a journey from one country to the next, learning about and from the communities, children, researchers and conservationists striving to protect marine turtles in those places. Also, in a two-hour webinar hosted in Malaysia, the audience has the chance to delve into the history of sea turtle conservation in the IOSEA region and hear about the panellists' hopes and visions for the next twenty years.
7. The videos can be accessed on YouTube: http://bit.ly/seaturtle_livestream.
 - The [one-hour programme hosted by the United States](#) on Wednesday, 16 June 2021 focuses on Dr Archie Carr and his enormous influence on sea turtle conservation worldwide, including in the area of the MOU

- The first 8 hours streamed on 19 June 2021 are available [in this video](#), with chapters covering:
 - [0:00:00](#) Intro
 - [0:02:00](#) Australia
 - [1:02:30](#) Bangladesh
 - [2:02:40](#) Maldives
 - [3:02:20](#) Indonesia
 - [4:02:00](#) Philippines
 - [5:02:00](#) Tanzania
 - [5:32:51](#) Mozambique
 - [6:00:00](#) Comoros
 - [6:20:45](#) Madagascar
 - [6:30:07](#) Kenya
 - [7:02:50](#) South Africa
 - [8:02:00](#) Oman
- The final 9 hours streamed on 19 June 2021 are available [in this video](#), with chapters covering:
 - [0:00:00](#) Intro
 - [0:01:50](#) Reunion
 - [1:01:45](#) Malaysia - "20 Years of IOSEA" webinar
 - [3:04:30](#) Happy World Sea Turtle Day messages
 - [3:14:20](#) Seychelles
 - [4:12:45](#) Pakistan
 - [5:08:50](#) India
 - [6:10:00](#) Iran
 - [7:01:50](#) Chagos Archipelago
 - [7:31:00](#) Secretariat (Germany)

8. Details of the registered events can be accessed through [the map on this page](#).
9. This 'round-the-clock virtual event' was organized by local hosts in collaboration with the CMS/IOSEA Secretariat and was streamed by Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT).

Evaluation of the Event

10. Following the event, local hosts were sent an evaluation questionnaire. Nineteen responses from seventeen countries were received and analysed by the Advisory Committee. The questions principally aimed at capturing the local hosts' perception of the global event's performance.
11. Generally, the local hosts were highly satisfied with the event organization. It allowed people to share their own as well as learn about other ongoing sea turtle conservation efforts in the vast IOSEA region. This created a sense of togetherness that helps to foster greater regional collaboration. However, running an online event did pose technical challenges to some local hosts, especially when the segment was not pre-recorded and had to be run on real time.
12. It was also noted that due to the wide-ranging time zone, following the whole event was not an easy feat. Therefore, the online availability of recorded segments that allowed for "catch-up" sessions after the event was expressly appreciated by local hosts.

Recommendations for Future Events

13. In sum, the local hosts had felt that such regional level celebrations should be continued, but with more coordination, perhaps with satellite programs at sub-regional levels. A rotating host country system could be suggested, to encourage inter-signatory state collaboration in awareness raising. Any future region-wide celebrations could also be given specific themes. Further, MOU-hosted celebrations do not need to be an annual event, given the high workload this creates.
14. However, respondents encouraged a yearly dissemination and documentation of national-level WSTD activities. A first easy step to facilitate this could be to set up an online reporting platform for WSTD yearly events that are held in IOSEA region, similar to the facility provided under <https://www.worldcleanupday.org/> for the annual World Clean Up Day.
15. The WSTD event was run in the first part of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has accelerated the advancement of online technologies all over the world. Many of the technical problems faced by local hosts during the event may therefore not be a concern anymore. However, consideration must be given on providing technical support to stakeholders that may lack access to online platforms to ensure a smooth running of the event for all participating stakeholders.

Action requested of MOS9:

- Provide feedback on the WSTD2021 event and its evaluation
- Review the recommendations for future events and decide how these should be reflected in the draft Work Programme 2024-2028 (Doc.7.1)