



**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.6.1
19 April 2024

9TH MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES
Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, 24-27 June 2024
Agenda Item 6.1

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME 2020-2024

(Prepared by the Secretariat and Advisory Committee)

1. This document is intended to provide an overview of the activities of the Advisory Committee (AC) and Secretariat in relation to the Work Programme (WP) adopted by the 8th Meeting of the Signatory States (MOS8).
2. At MOS8, each sub-region had prioritized the items in the WP. It addresses a variety of actors besides the AC and Secretariat, and of course first and foremost the Signatory States themselves.
3. A number of items have been marked complete (green) in the table on the following pages. Some have been addressed to some degree without having been completed (yellow), while others have been addressed or partly addressed, but are ongoing responsibilities (blue).
4. The WP contains many activities foreseen for implementation by the Signatory States. Progress with these is not reported on in this document, but will be contained in the Analysis of National Reports ([CMS/IOSEA/MOS9/Doc.6.3](#)).
5. It should be noted that implementation of many activities requires funding beyond the levels usually collected by the MOU Secretariat. Also, numerous activities relating to information sharing depend on input from the outside, including potential submission of articles on projects or any other topics of interest to the MOU constituency for publication in the news section of the MOU website and in the Newsletter.
6. Highlights of the completed activities include:
 - #12 – [Assessment of the Conservation Status of Hawksbill Turtles in the IOSEA Region](#), launched on 25 March 2022 at ISTS Workshop
 - #42 – [List of IOSEA AC-endorsed research and other priorities to help to leverage funding for scientific research](#), finalized after consultations and published
 - #50 – [“Anniversary” Celebration of World Sea Turtle Day](#) in June 2021, in which many countries across all sub-regions had an active share
 - #60 – [Illegal Trade Working Group](#) re-established with updated task list; chair: Iran
 - #69 – [North-Western Indian Ocean Sub-Regional Meeting](#) in November 2021
 - #78 – Revised [National Reporting Format](#) developed, adopted and used in preparation of MOS9 in 2024
 - #82 – Updated [Flipper Tag Series](#) database online

- #95 – AC held two intersessional meeting ([AC9](#), online, March 2021, [AC10](#), Thailand, March/April 2024)
- #102 – [Funding Opportunities and Fundraising Resources for Marine Turtle Conservation](#)
- #110 – meetings of both the Western ([WIO-MTTF](#)) and the Northern Indian Ocean ([NIO-MTTF](#)) Marine Turtle Task Forces held

7. In this regard, the following new pages on the MOU website are noteworthy:

- [Capacity-building Resources](#)
- [TurtleNet](#)
- [Links to Other Relevant Resources](#)
- [Marine Turtles and Underwater Noise](#)
- [Habitats: Seagrass](#)

Action requested of MOS9:

- Review and endorse the progress report

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
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								
	1. Determine population-specific threats to be used as a basis for monitoring and management: a) collect samples to perform genetic analysis on bycaught, stranded and confiscated specimens and record results systematically; b) using genetic markers identified for nesting populations, determine population structure of marine turtle bycatch, and stranded and confiscated turtles; c) investigate potential overlaps of fishing activities and turtle/dugong distribution.	Genetics, Fisheries Interactions, Take and Trade	Sigs	High	High	High	High	High	
	2. Assess vulnerability of turtles to marine debris, including ghost nets and plastic pollution, heavy metals and chemical pollutants a) investigate transport and abundance of marine debris, marine debris ingestion rates, and vulnerability b) investigate impact on each genetic stock / population / management unit	Marine Debris, Genetics	Sigs	High	High	High	Med	High	
	3. Encourage the review and investigation of longer-term impacts of underwater noise on turtles.	Underwater Noise	Sigs	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	
	4. Collect data on light pollution and its impact on nesting turtles and their hatchlings	Light Pollution, Nesting Sites	Sigs	Medium	High	Med	Med	Med	

¹ 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, **Exp** = in-country or external experts, **Fleets** = nations with fleets in the region, **IGO** = Intergovernmental Organizations, **ITWG** = IOSEA Illegal Trade Working Group, **MTTF** = IOSEA Marine Turtle Task Forces, **Nat St** = national stakeholders, **NGO** = Non-governmental Organizations, **NRWG** = IOSEA National Report Working Group, **Res** = research institutions, **RFMO** = Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, **RS** = Range States, **Sec** = Secretariat, **Sigs** = Signatory States, **SRFP** = IOSEA Sub-regional Focal Points

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	5. Identify nesting beaches that are vulnerable to climate change in the IOSEA region, using beach height data, temperature profiles, and distribution maps.	Climate Change	Sigs, AC	High	High	Med	High	High	• AC working to stimulate research (see #42, #102)
	6. Compile information on the status of on-board observer programmes and the status of marine turtle bycatch recording within those observer programmes and share with the Advisory Committee.	Fisheries Interactions	Sigs, AC	Medium	Med	Low	Low	High	
	7. Conduct surveys with fishing communities to estimate catch and motivations behind that catch to identify solutions to mitigate bycatch, e.g. making use of and adapting as appropriate the questionnaire developed by the CMS Dugong MOU	Fisheries Interactions	Sigs	High	High	High	High	High	
	8. Collaborate with the Olive Ridley Project by regularly submitting available data and/or linking to existing databases on ghost nets and entanglement of turtles in ghost nets to the online data portal. ³	Marine Debris, Cooperation	Sigs, AC	Medium -Low	Med	Low	Low	Med	
	9. Establish and/or continue a reliable nesting beach monitoring programme ⁴ for nesting and hatching, with a specific focus on suitable index sites for each species (e.g. taking into account gaps identified in the species assessments). Ensure that data are standardized.	Nesting Sites	Sigs, AC	High	Very high	High	High	High	• AC working on guidance, linked with task #15
	10. Provide input to the CMS Scientific Council review of relevant scientific information on conservation and threats to marine turtles, such as climate change and sky glow, and to the development of corresponding recommendations.	Climate Change, Light Pollution, Cooperation	AC, Sec	Medium	Med	Med	High	-	
	11. Identify or establish and maintain long-term, secure data management systems.	Information Sharing	Sigs	High	High				• AC working on guidance

³ <https://oliveridleyproject.org/report-a-ghost-net>

⁴ Signatories in the NWIO sub-region to consult PERSGA manuals (available [here](#))

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	12. Send out the draft Hawksbill Assessment to other experts in the region for their comments and provide a final report to the Secretariat by 30 June 2020 for publishing.	Species: Hawksbill	AC	High	High	High	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed, available here
	13. Initiate the next species assessment for Olive Ridley Turtles with a view to tabling a draft at IOSEA MOS9.	Species: Olive Ridley	AC	High	Med	High	High	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC initiated discussions
	14. Prepare a brief document on the conservation status of Flatback Turtles with a view to tabling a draft at IOSEA MOS9.	Species: Flatback	AC	Low	Low	-	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC initiated discussions
1.2	Determine and apply best practice approaches to minimising those threats to marine turtle populations and their habitats								
	15. Develop guidelines on the management of beaches for successful hatchling production, including management of hatcheries if and when required ⁵ . The Advisory Committee to provide these documents to the Secretariat by 31 October 2020 for circulation to the Signatories for their comments within two months. The Secretariat to circulate to Signatories the final proposals for intersessional adoption by correspondence in order to enable their use in the run-up to MOS9.	Hatcheries Nesting Sites	AC, Sec	High	High	High	Low	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See MOS9/Doc.8.2
	16. Organize workshops to disseminate best practice information for the management of hatcheries. Secretariat to invite countries to nominate to participate in the training.	Hatcheries	Sigs, AC, Sec	Medium	High	Low	High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handle when #15 is completed
	17. Provide input to the CMS Scientific Council development of draft tourism guidelines and recommended code of conduct for operators on recreational in-water interactions with CMS-listed species.	Tourism, Cooperation	AC, Sec	Medium	Med	High	Low	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed and adopted as CMS Resolution 12.16 (Rev.COP14)

⁵ Relates also to CMP Programme 1.6 Develop nesting beach management programmes to maximize hatchling recruitment

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	18. Utilize the <i>Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife Including Marine Turtles, Seabirds and Migratory Shorebirds</i> ⁶ nationally and engage with CMS in any further work to be done on the subject. Ensure that the document reaches the relevant authority/department.	Light Pollution, Cooperation	Sigs, AC, Sec	High	High	High	Low	High	
	19. Utilize the CMS Family <i>Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities</i> ⁷ and disseminate them to all national departments involved in deciding on noise-generating activities	Underwater Noise	Sigs	Medium	Med	Med	Low	High	
1.3	Implement programmes to correct adverse economic incentives that threaten marine turtle populations								
	20. Compile information on available tools and mechanisms that incorporate all stakeholders to evaluate and address socio-economic issues.	Socio-economics	Cons, MTTF, NGO	Low	Low	-	-	High	
	21. Investigate human dimensions that underpin the use and trade of marine turtles and turtle products.	Socio-economics, Take and Trade	Sigs, MTTF, NGO	High	High	-	-	High	
1.4	Reduce to the greatest extent practicable the incidental capture and mortality of marine turtles in the course of fishing activities								
	22. Continue national and/or regional bycatch mitigation programmes for industrial and artisanal fisheries (including gear modification, TEDs, and improved fishing practices to reduce bycatch).	Fisheries Interactions	Sigs, Fleets	High	High	High	High	High	
	23. Identify high priority areas, stocks and fisheries for establishing additional bycatch mitigation programmes.	Fisheries Interactions	Sigs, Fleets	High	High				
	24. Establish national observer, assessment and quantification programmes to assess the impact on different turtle life stages and populations.	Fisheries Interactions	Sigs, Fleets, RFMO	Medium	High	Med	Low	High	

⁶ See [MOS8/Doc.11.1](#)

⁷ See [MOS8/Doc.11.2](#)

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	<p>25. Ensure that concerns related to sources of turtle mortality are presented at IOTC Meetings/ especially WPEB (e.g. including FADs and gill nets, based on new information that comes to light):</p> <p>a) initiate dialogue on current issues of concern among Signatories and IOTC members in advance of each IOTC meeting (including subsidiary bodies)</p> <p>b) continue to contribute to the IOTC Executive Summary on marine turtles</p> <p>c) AC Members and National Focal Points to communicate important issues to members of national delegations attending IOTC in advance of each IOTC meeting</p> <p>d) Signatories (especially if FPs are the same) to promote the cause of turtles in IOTC meetings, and to communicate issues with Secretariat and others for information.</p>	Fisheries Interactions, Cooperation	Sigs, AC, Sec	High	High	Low	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sec attended all recent (online) WPEB meetings (see also #74)</i> • <i>Sec co-organized IOTC Multi-taxa Gillnet Bycatch Workshop in August 2022</i>
1.5	<p>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</p>								
	<p>26. Request inclusion of an AC member in the CMS Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group and provide opportunities to the Advisory Committee to comment on draft documents.</p>	Take and Trade, Cooperation	AC, Sec	High	High	High	High	Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Two AC Members included (Limpus, Mohd Jani)</i>

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	27. Improve enforcement of national legislation on exploitation of turtles: a) identify and articulate actual resource needs and raise funds to increase human and material resources, b) build field-level capacity at national and regional levels, and c) identify weaknesses in the judicial process and address these	Take and Trade, Cooperation	Sigs, CITES	High	High	High	Low	High	• see also #63
	28. Consider applying innovative techniques (e.g. the Community Voice Method (CVM)) to ensure that concerns of subsistence resource users are incorporated in decision-making.	Stakeholder Engagement	Sigs	Medium	-	High	Low	Med/High	
	29. In consultation with local communities, develop culturally acceptable management agreements on the sustainable level of legal traditional harvest.	Socio-economics	Sigs	Low	Low	-	Low	-	
Objective 2. Protect, conserve and rehabilitate marine turtle habitats									
2.1	Establish necessary measures to protect and conserve marine turtle habitats								
	30. Define criteria for identifying habitats critical for marine turtles (e.g. proportion of population, core areas).	Habitat Protection	AC	Medium	High				• See MOS9/Doc.8.3
	31. Geographically identify critical habitats for each turtle stock and life stage, such as nesting beaches, inter-nesting habitats, migratory corridors, foraging habitats and oceanic dispersal areas.	Habitat Protection	Sigs	High	High	High	High	High	
	32. Protect and adequately manage already identified critical habitats.	Habitat Protection	Sigs	High	High	High	High	High	
	33. Create marine protected area networks to provide management and connectivity across different habitats, for example by completing development and implementation of an effective network / list of sites of importance for marine turtles.	Habitat Protection	Sigs, AC, Sec	High	High	-	High	High	

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	34. In any beach management measures, consider the potential impact of planting non-native vegetation (e.g. Casuarina trees) along their coastline ⁸ and evaluate which native plants could serve the purposes of providing shading and beach protection without the negative side effects of Casuarina plantations outside of their native range.	Habitat Protection	Sigs	Medium	Med	Med	Med	Med	
	Site Network								
	35. The Site Network working group ⁹ established by MOS8 should develop 1) revised Site Information Template, 2) refined evaluation criteria and scoring instructions, and 3) a simplified post-scoring process. The working group to provide these documents to the Secretariat by 31 October 2020 for circulation to the Signatories for their comments within two months. The Secretariat to circulate to Signatories the final proposals for intersessional adoption by correspondence in order to enable their use in the run-up to MOS9.	Site Network	Sigs, AC, Sec	High	High	High	High	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised documents approved by Signatories on 15 March, call for nominations sent on 18 March 2024
	36. Revive the Site Network Discussion Group (composed of the members of the WG established above and Site Managers) established by MOS7 to provide advice to Site managers, identify funding sources, discuss how the designation can add value to the accepted Sites, and consider whether OECMs ¹⁰ are a helpful concept.	Site Network	Sigs	Low	-	-	Low	-	
	37. Consider nominating IOSEA Network Sites as Ramsar Sites and/or CBD OECMs (if not nominated yet) to achieve additional support and recognition.	Site Network, Cooperation	Sigs	Medium-Low	Med	Low	-		

⁸ See [MOS8/Doc.7.4](#)

⁹ Membership: Saudi Arabia, UAE, Seychelles, Pakistan, Viet Nam, M. Hamman (AC), M. Tiwari (AC), R. Nel (AC), J. Frazier (AC)

¹⁰ OECMs = other effective area-based conservation measures, as defined in [CBD Decision 14/8](#)

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	38. Explore the possibility of introducing certification schemes through multinational companies and organizations involved in coastal tourism and development to reduce impact on turtle habitat	Habitat Protection, Tourism	Sigs, Cons	Low	Low	Low	Low	-	
Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs)									
	39. Consider incorporating progress updates on EIA implementation in national reporting; and possibly analyse how EIA processes are implemented in each country.	Environmental Impact Assessment	NRW G, AC, Sec	Medium -High	Med	High	High	Med	• <i>Handle as part of #78</i>
	40. Utilize the EIA guidelines regarding impacts on sea turtles and their habitats ¹¹ and incorporate turtle conservation needs into EIA / risk assessment of new developments and into Integrated Coastal Zone Management processes. The key emerging issues may include: energy sector (e.g. oil refineries, nuclear power energy plants), desalination infrastructure development and effluent, harbour development and dredged channels, industrial and domestic wastewater, light pollution (residential and tourism development and industrial activities).	Environmental Impact Assessment	Sigs	High	High	High	Low	High	
2.2	Rehabilitate degraded marine turtle habitats								
	41. Identify key areas for habitat restoration, e.g. coral reefs, beaches, mangrove, seagrass, and intertidal habitats, and start removing threats using best practice guidelines.	Habitat Protection	Sigs	Medium -High	High	Med	Med	High	
Objective 3. Improve understanding of marine turtle ecology and populations through research, monitoring and information exchange									
	42. Promote a list of IOSEA-endorsed research projects to help to leverage funding for scientific research to investigate the conservation biology of marine turtles.	Biological Research, Funding	AC, Sec, Res	High	High	-	-	High	• <i>Document online and circulated</i>

¹¹ See [MOS8/Doc.7.5](#)

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
3.1	Conduct studies on marine turtles and their habitats targeted to their conservation and management¹²								
	43. Improve understanding of the biological structure of marine turtle populations through scientific and traditional knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) prioritize major gaps in each sub-region b) quantify key demographic parameters (e.g. reproductive output, clutches per season, remigration interval, growth rates, and annual survivorship) c) map the breeding distributions and assess population size and status d) determine foraging distributions, migration pathways, habitat use etc, using appropriate technology, (e.g. flipper tagging, satellite telemetry and genetic sampling) e) collect data on hatchling production including sex ratios and 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 	Biological Research	Sigs, Res	High	High	High	High	High	

¹² 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

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	<p>44. Conduct genetic analyses to identify genetic stocks (management units) for Marine Turtles in the IOSEA region:</p> <p>a) compile and assess available information to identify needs and opportunities for regional analyses to inform genetic stock assessment, starting with nesting beach sampling</p> <p>b) develop maps for each genetic stock indicating rookery locations and habitat use in pelagic and benthic environments, rather than relying on the Regional Management Unit (RMU) maps given in Wallace et al. (2011)¹³</p> <p>c) incorporate genetic sampling into ongoing monitoring activities (subject to budget and resources available)</p> <p>d) standardize protocols for collection and storage of samples to ensure they will remain usable in the long term</p> <p>e) address capacity building needs to enable in-country analyses, upon request</p> <p>f) AC and Secretariat to facilitate contacts with laboratories and CITES permits to conduct genetic analyses, upon request</p>	Genetics	Sigs, AC, Sec	High	High	High	Med	High	
	45. Periodically update the list of genetic studies in the IOSEA region ¹⁴ and publish it on the IOSEA website.	Genetics	AC, Sec	Medium	Med	High	High	Low	
3.4	Exchange Information								
	46. Apply guidelines and protocols recommended by the Advisory Committee for data collection and management of sea turtles and their habitats. ¹⁵	Method Standardization	Sigs, AC	High	High	High	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC working on compilation • See also #15, #115

¹³ Wallace et al. (2011) Global Conservation Priorities for Marine Turtles. PLoS ONE 6(9): e24510. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0024510>

¹⁴ (link to be provided in due course)

¹⁵ 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).

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	47. Review data collected to assess gaps and needs for the sub-regions in terms of research and monitoring methodology	Method Standardization	AC	High	Med	High	High	High	• See also #9, #15, #46 and #78
	48. Facilitate capacity building in applying best practice/standard methods	Method Standardization	AC, Sec	High	High	High	High	High	• Being addressed together with other capacity-building points below
	49. Prepare an overview of scientific information available on effects of underwater noise on turtles, supported by the USA, and place it on the MOU website.	Underwater Noise	Sec	Medium	-	-	-	-	• Online
Objective 4. Increase public awareness and public participation									
4.1	Establish public education, awareness and information programmes								
	50. Promote high profile events such as World Sea Turtle Day for the purpose, <i>inter alia</i> , of raising public and political awareness of turtle conservation and IOSEA's role. Develop media materials to raise the profile of marine turtle conservation issues.	Outreach and Communication	Sigs, AC, Sec, NGO	High	High	High	High	High	• Major event held in June 2021 • Suggestions for future based on lessons learnt to be presented to MOS9
	51. To address consumptive use and domestic trade: a) work with local communities to reduce poaching 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) educate youth and women e) enhance transboundary cooperation in education and awareness campaigns	Outreach and Communication, Trade and Trade	Sigs, NGO, Nat St	High	Very High	High	Low	High	• see also #63

CMP¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	52. 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 your campaigns based on evaluation criteria to be developed by the Advisory Committee c) share lessons learnt publicly, for example, through IOSEA Secretariat	Outreach and Communication	Sigs, AC, NGO, Nat St	Medium	Med	Med	Med	High	
4.2	Develop alternative livelihood opportunities for local communities to encourage their active participation in conservation efforts								
	53. Develop alternative livelihoods, such as ecotourism and/or livestock keeping, using examples of good practice to ensure genuinely sustainable approaches, which will be beneficial in the long run for both humans and turtle populations.	Alternative Livelihoods	Sigs, NGO	High	High	High	Low	Med/High	
	54. Assess available knowledge on best practice approaches compiled from national reports and consultations to produce a best practice guide for alternative livelihood projects that ensure that all stakeholders are fully involved. Follow these best practices to develop alternative livelihoods tailored to local conditions.	Alternative Livelihoods	Sigs, AC, Cons	Medium	High	Med	Med	Med	
4.3	Promote public participation								
	55. Train organizers and (potential) participants of citizen science activities about species identification and data collection techniques.	Stakeholder Engagement	AC, Exp	Medium	High	Med	-	Med	
	56. Collaborate with local communities to engage stakeholders in data collection and monitoring.	Stakeholder Engagement	Sigs	Medium	Med	Med	High	Med/High	

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	57. Showcase exemplary work through the IOSEA Newsletter and website to highlight successes to multiple stakeholders: a) periodically recognize and acknowledge noteworthy contributions to IOSEA implementation (by Signatory States, organizations, corporate sector, individuals etc.) b) enhance appreciation / recognition of NGO/IGO partners	Stakeholder Engagement	Sigs, Sec	High	High	Med	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletter revived, frequency to be increased • Articles published online
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								
	58. Strengthen internal, bilateral and international cooperation in enforcement, collaborating with IGOs and NGOs, such as 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	Take and Trade, Cooperation	Sigs, Sec, ITWG, IGO, NGO	Medium -High	Very high	Med	High	Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration ongoing in context of Hawksbill SSAP (see #63)
	59. 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.	Take and Trade, Cooperation	Sigs, ITWG, NGO	Medium	High	Low	High	Low	
	60. Extend an invitation to Signatories not present at MOS8, non-Signatory Range/consumer States, CITES, as well as relevant NGOs active in consumer states to join the Illegal Trade Working Group (ITWG) ¹⁶ . The ITWG will choose its chair and update its task list.	Take and Trade, Cooperation	Sigs, Sec	High	High	Med	High	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG re-established, invitations issued, chair elected; see MOS9/Doc.8.4

¹⁶ Members: Australia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Viet Nam, C. Limpus (AC), J. Miller (AC), InterAmerican Sea Turtle Convention (IAC) – NEW MEMBERS: MOZAMBIQUE, WWF, TRAFFIC; CHAIR: ASHGAR MOBARAKI. [Membership and Task List are available here.](#)

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	61. Take further steps to understand and reduce use and domestic trade and to develop awareness campaigns to target online illegal trade.	Take and Trade	Sigs, ITWG	Medium	Med	High	Low	Med	
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								
	62. Encourage development and implementation 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 adaption 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.	Capacity Building	AC, Exp	High	High	High	High	High	
	63. Cooperate with CMS in the joint development of a draft Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) for the conservation of the Hawksbill Turtle to address the trade, use and other threats to the conservation of hawksbill turtles in South-east Asia, and the adjacent western Pacific.	Take and Trade, Cooperation, Species: Hawksbill	Sigs, AC, Sec	Medium-High	Med	-	High	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSAP adopted in June 2022 and by CMS COP14; sign-up of more range states needed
5.3	Enhance mechanisms for cooperation and promote information exchange								
	64. Encourage more sub-regional interactions (e.g. by organizing intersessional sub-regional meetings, training, task forces, etc.)	Sub-regional Coordination	Sigs, SRFP, AC, MTTF Chairs	High	High	High	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIO-MTTF-8, 9, 10 • NWIO-SRM-1 • NIO-MTTF-3, 4

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	65. Encourage the participation of RFMOs and other relevant bodies (e.g. IOTC, ASCLME, IOC, SWIOFP, SEAFDEC, CTI) in the Marine Turtle Task Forces (MTTF) or other sub-regional meetings.	Sub-regional Coordination, Fisheries Interactions, Cooperation	RS, MTTF	Medium-High	High	High	Med	Med	• <i>Invitations issued</i>
	66. Engage with other relevant initiatives, such as International and regional Sea Turtle Symposia, global and regional Newsletters and Regional Seas Programmes.	Cooperation	Sec	Medium	Low	High	High	-	• <i>Ongoing</i>
	67. Encourage cooperative research and management of marine turtle management units that are shared across international boundaries.	Sub-regional Coordination	Sigs, SRFP, AC	High	High	High	High	High	
	68. Organize with a host country in the region a SEA+ sub-regional meeting to facilitate coordination and discuss the establishment of a Marine Turtle Task Force (MTTF).	Sub-regional Coordination	Sigs, Sec	High	High	-	-	-	• <i>Discussions with SRFP initiated</i>
	69. Organize with a host country in the region a NWIO sub-regional meeting to facilitate coordination and discuss the establishment of a Marine Turtle Task Force (MTTF).	Sub-regional Coordination	Sigs, Sec	High	-	High	-	-	• <i>NWIO-SRM-1</i>
Area-based measures									
	70. Liaise with counterparts in neighbouring countries regarding possibilities for developing transboundary MPAs or other forms of transboundary collaboration, where applicable considering EBSAs.	Sub-regional Coordination	Sigs	High	High	Low	High	High	
	71. When developing MPAs, get sound scientific advice so as to ensure boundaries are based on ecological criteria, where applicable considering EBSAs.	Sub-regional Coordination, Habitat Protection	Sigs	High	High	Low	High	High	

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	72. Ensure that ecological information on marine turtles is considered in the identification of new EBSAs.	Sub-regional Coordination, Habitat Protection	Sigs	High	High	High	High	High	
RFMOs									
	73. Request RFMOs to gather information and report on the occurrence, distribution and take of marine turtles in oceanic areas.	Stakeholder Engagement, Fisheries Interactions, Cooperation	Sigs, AC, Sec	High	High	High	High	High	• <i>Topic under discussion</i>
	74. Revive efforts to conclude a cooperation agreement with IOTC on marine turtles.	Fisheries Interactions, Cooperation	Sec	High	High	High	High	High	• <i>Agreement concluded</i>
	75. Engage with WCPFC to identify options for collaboration.	Fisheries Interactions, Cooperation	Sec	High	High	-	-	-	• See MOS9/Doc.9.2
National reporting									
	76. 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 and universities.	National Reports, Information Sharing	Sigs	High	High	High	High	Med	
	77. Include in the analysis of the National Report matrices indicating which countries reported implementation of different activities outlined in the reporting questionnaire.	National Reports	Sec	High	High	High	High	Med	

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	78. The working group established by MOS8 to revise the format for National Reports ¹⁷ should seek feedback from Signatory States and the Advisory Committee. It will deliver its outputs to the Secretariat by 31 October 2020 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 MOS9.	National Reports	Sigs, AC, Sec	High	High	High	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Reporting Format adopted, used in 2024 reporting
	79. IOSEA Focal Points are encouraged to 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.	National Reports, Information Sharing	Sigs	Medium -High	Med	Med	High	High	
	80. Provide training or webinars or any further technical help, when requested, to prepare and submit National Reports and available IOSEA online tools.	National Reports, Capacity Building	AC, Sec	Medium -Low	Med	Med	Low	Low	
	81. Encourage and facilitate online communications between Signatories and the Secretariat (e.g. submit reports through online system and use online tools).	National Reports, Capacity Building	Sec	High	High	High	High	Low	
Online Tools									
	82. Provide 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.	Information Sharing	Sigs, Sec, Res, NGO	Medium -High	Med	High	High	Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call for updates circulated, revised information online

¹⁷ Membership: Comoros, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, J. Miller (AC), N. Esteban (Swansea University) and the Secretariat

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	83. Submit information on satellite tracking studies (location, species, number of tags, contact information) to the IOSEA Secretariat for inclusion in and management of the Satellite Tracking Meta-database.	Information Sharing	Sigs, Sec, Res, NGO	Medium-Low	Low	High	Low	Med	
	84. Develop page on EIA guidance based on MOS8 Documents 7.5 and 11.2 on the IOSEA website.	Information Sharing, Environmental Impact Assessments	AC, Sec	High	High	High	High	Med	
5.4	Build capacity to strengthen conservation measures								
	85. Adopt a proactive process for identifying needs and providing training within the IOSEA region: a) offer Signatory States training topic options b) develop an over-arching structure for training to be based on the Objectives of the CMP and activities in the Work Plan c) structure training to address identified 'needs' of the Signatory States through tailoring content d) develop skills of country representatives in the preparation and revision of country reports e) develop skills of Sub-regional and Country representatives and researchers in (1) collecting, analyzing, 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) organize follow-up visits to assess the effectiveness of the transfer of information and skills	Capacity-building	Sigs, Sec, AC	High	High	High	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC is developing a capacity-building strategy; see MOS9/Doc.7.2

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	86. Promote regional exchange of expertise and utilize the MTTFs to identify and plan opportunities for exchange.	Capacity-building, Sub-regional Coordination	Sigs, MTTF	High	-	-	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several meetings held (see #64)
	87. Encourage organization of sub-regional capacity building / technical workshops, including involvement of Advisory Committee. Topics could include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> management of nesting beaches, hatchery management, lighting etc. identification of threatening processes rescue and rehabilitation training on site network management socio-economic and cultural aspects training and technology-transfer needs to reduce mortalities in fisheries operations, in particular by providing training for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> observers particularly for small-scale fisheries (separate for trawlers/ gill nets, smaller outboard fisheries in large quantities) proper recording of turtle interactions in a harmonized and standard way, inter alia, to assist IOTC member countries in meeting their reporting requirements safe release of bycaught turtles enhancing use of bycatch reduction technologies 	Capacity-building, Fisheries Interactions, Habitat Protection, Site Network, Hatcheries	SRFP, AC, MTTF, Sec	High	High	High	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC is developing a capacity-building strategy; see MOS9/Doc.7.2

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	88. 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. ¹⁸	Capacity-building, Fisheries interactions	Sigs, AC, MTTF, Sec	High	High	High	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC is developing a capacity-building strategy; see MOS9/Doc.7.2
	89. 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 for sites that are both IOSEA Network Sites and Ramsar Sites, from the IOSEA and Ramsar Secretariats.	Capacity-building, Cooperation, Funding	Sigs, AC, Sec	Medium	Med	Med	-	High	
	90. Identify relevant Agreements and provide an overview of membership of IOSEA Signatory States to MOS9.	Cooperation	Sec	Medium	Med	Med	High	Med	
5.5	Strengthen and improve enforcement of conservation legislation								
	91. Improve enforcement of compliance with regulations, relating to activities such as fishing, tourism, coastal and offshore development, industrial development, international trade restrictions.	Fisheries interactions, Tourism	Sigs	High	High	Med	High	High	

¹⁸ 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.

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
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								
	92. Approach non-Signatory States in the IOSEA region and other countries with a view to securing IOSEA membership	Recruitment of New Signatory States	Sigs, Sec	High	High	-	High	High	• Ongoing
	93. 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).	Cooperation, Fisheries Interactions, Stakeholder Engagement	Sigs, Sec	High	High	High	Med	High	• Sec engagement with IOTC intensified
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								
	94. Periodically review the appropriateness of the size and composition (skill sets) of the Advisory Committee.	Institutional	Sigs, AC	Medium-High	Med	Med	High	High	
	95. Arrange two intersessional meetings of the Advisory Committee, the first one within the first 18 months after a MOS. The timing of the second one (either three or four months before, or immediately prior to the next MOS) is to be agreed between the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat.	Institutional	Sec	High	Med	High	High	High	• AC9 • AC10
	96. Develop revised draft terms of reference for the AC, giving the different feasible options with regard to terms and composition of the AC, attendance of observers, and timing and frequency of the meetings. The draft should be ready for MOS9 and be prepared in consultation with the AC.	Institutional	Sec	High	-	-	-	-	• See MOS9/Doc.12.1
	97. Review, comment, and provide guidance on advances and new and emerging issues related to species and habitat management.	Evaluation	AC, MTTF	High	High	Med	High	High	• Regular discussions of AC

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
	98. In advance of each MOS, provide advice on a new Work Programme to implement the CMP.	Institutional	AC	High	High	High	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See MOS9/Doc.7.1
6.3	Seek resources to support the implementation of the MOU								
	99. Secure 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.)	Institutional	Sigs, MTTF	High	High	High	High	High	
	100. Provide 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.	Institutional	Sigs	High	High	High	High	High	
	101. 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.).	Capacity Building, Funding	AC, Sec	High	High	High	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largely depends on requests by countries
	102. Compile and disseminate information on available funding opportunities.	Funding	AC, Sec	High	High	High	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview online and circulated
6.4	Improve coordination among government and non-government sectors in the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats								
	103. Establish formal and/or informal inclusive national committees/networks in order to develop synergies among governments and NGO partners.	National Networks, Stakeholder Engagement	Sigs	High	High	Med	High	High	
	104. Engage with relevant international bodies to address the problem of ghost nets, plastic debris, oil pollution, etc. and undertake direct dialogue with relevant local industries and stakeholders.	Cooperation	Sigs	High	High	High	High	High	

CMP ¹	Measures to be taken	Subject	Actors ²	Overall Priority	SEA +	NWIO	NIO	WIO	Progress
Other matters									
	105. Provide guidance to Signatory States on implications of the idea to offer opportunity to designate administrative, technical or other additional Focal Points ¹⁹	Institutional	Sigs, Sec	High	High	High	High	Med	
	106. Organize sub-regional working groups more effectively during Signatory State meetings, by engaging Sub-regional Focal Points more actively in pre-meeting organization ²⁰ .	Institutional	SRFP, Sec	High	High	High	High	Med	

Section 2: Measures Related to MOU Administration and Coordination²¹								Actors ²	Progress
Meetings, Working Groups and Workshops									
107. Ensure Advisory Committee Meetings are organized as scheduled, with documents circulated at least two months in advance of the meetings.							Sec, AC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC9 • AC10 	
108. Facilitate conference calls with the Advisory Committee on a quarterly basis to discuss and facilitate progress in the implementation of the WP							Sec	• <i>Ongoing</i>	
109. Ensure Meetings of Signatory States (MOS) are organized as scheduled, with key documents circulated at least two months in advance of the meetings							Sec	• <i>Ongoing</i>	
110. 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>WIO-MTTF-8, 9, 10</i> • <i>NWIO-SRM-1</i> • <i>NIO-MTTF-3, 4</i> 	
111. Support intersessional correspondence (Illegal Trade Working Group, Site Network Discussion Group, Advisory Committee) as needed.							Sec	• <i>Ongoing</i>	
112. Organize workshops if agreed by MOS8 and subject to available funding.							Sec		
113. Secure a host for MOS9 and correspond with the host to ensure all necessary arrangements are met for next MOS.							Sec	• <i>MOS9 to be held in Tanzania</i>	

¹⁹ Secretariat to lead

²⁰ 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.

²¹ If not yet included in Section 1

Website		
114. 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	• <i>Ongoing</i>
115. Restore selected functions on IOSEA website: a) 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 b) restore and update flipper tag database in collaboration with government authorities, research institutions, MTTF members and other relevant stakeholders c) as time and resources allow, address restoring of project database, satellite tracking database, genetic directory.	Sec	• <i>Ongoing</i>
Budgetary and Administrative Matters		
116. 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 inter-sessionally as required.	Sec	• <i>Ongoing; see MOS9/Doc.11.1</i>
117. Prepare a draft budget for consideration by MOS9.	Sec	• <i>See MOS9/Doc.11.2</i>
118. Encourage Signatories to pay agreed voluntary contributions and encourage voluntary contributions for projects and initiatives prioritized by the AC and MOS	Sec	• <i>Ongoing</i>
119. Develop funding agreements for projects prioritized by the Meeting of Signatories.	Sec	• <i>Done, depending on funding availability</i>
120. Advertise consultancies, select and supervise candidates as required for the implementation of the WP.	Sec	• <i>Done, depending on funding availability</i>