



**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.7.1
24 April 2024

9TH MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES
Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, 24-27 June 2024
Agenda Item 7.1

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2028

(Prepared by the Secretariat and Advisory Committee)

Background

1. During the 8th Meeting of the Signatory States, for the first time a comprehensive Work Programme (WP) outlining necessary measures to implement the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) of the MOU was adopted. A report on the status of implementation is contained in Doc.6.1 [Report on Implementation of the Work Programme 2020-2024 by the Secretariat and Advisory Committee](#).
2. The WP 2020-2024 was developed from a compilation of previous mandates that were found across multiple documents and reports (please see [CMS/IOSEA/MOS8/Doc.8.1](#) for details), reflecting the rich history of discussions and recommendations made in the context of the MOU. The long list of actions contained in it reflects the different needs and situations across the wide geographic range of the MOU, whilst ensuring that no important matters are forgotten.
3. The WP 2020-2024 followed the structure of the CMP. The same structure is used for the format of the National Reports, allowing easier correlation between the objectives of the MOU and the reports on its implementation. The intent of the WP is to identify concrete actions that support the implementation of the CMP, with responsibilities assigned to different actors.

Feedback received from AC and Signatories

4. In order to aid the Secretariat in the development of a draft WP for the period 2024-2028, Signatory States and Advisory Committee Members were asked for their feedback, including both general observations on the usefulness of the WP, its structure, its content, etc., and specific comments on any sections or activities.
5. Since the current WP contains a lot more activities than can realistically be implemented in a five-year period, the Secretariat also sought feedback from the Signatories and the AC whether a similar approach was desired for the next WP 2024-2028, or whether a more focused and realistic document would be preferred, with a view to making it more implementable.
6. Answers received were presented by the Secretariat to AC10 (see [AC10/Doc.4.1](#) for

details) and where possible were already taken into account in the draft going into that meeting. During the meeting, the AC discussed all comments received and in their work on the draft presented below tried to address them as thoroughly as possible.

Draft Work Programme 2024-2028

7. The Draft WP 2024-2028 presents uncompleted tasks of the previous WP, with some reorganization and extensive edits made by the Advisory Committee to clarify intent, action to be taken, and to bring it in line with current needs as identified by AC10 and Signatory States through comments on the WP or national reports. New measures have also been proposed, based on a review of the activities listed in the CMP and the identification of gaps in the previous WP.
8. In the course of the development of the new draft WP, some changes to the *Subjects* indicated were made. The full list of all subjects contained in the table is provided here for ease of reference:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Livelihoods • Biological Research • Capacity Building • Climate Change • Cooperation • Environmental Impact Assessment • Evaluation • Fisheries Interactions • Funding • Genetics • Habitat Protection • Hatcheries • Health • Information Sharing • Institutional • Knowledge Exchange • Legislation • Light Pollution • Marine Debris 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Method Standardization • National Networks • National Reports • Nesting Sites • Noise Pollution • Outreach and Communication • Pollution • Recruitment of New Signatory States • Research • Site Network • Socio-economics • Species: Flatback • Species: Hawksbill • Species: Olive Ridley • Stakeholder Engagement • Sub-regional Coordination • Take and Trade • Tourism
---	--
9. The *Priority* columns are to be filled by each sub-regional breakout group during MOS9, after which the overall priority will be discussed in plenary. We urge all Signatory States to review the draft thoroughly in advance of the meeting to come prepared for these discussions, which will determine the work under the MOU over the next years. Given the many measures assigned high priority at MOS8, consideration might also be given to ways of identifying 'critical activities' within the Work Programme, for example by means of a colour system in the table.
10. A new column has been added to explain more clearly the role of the AC, the Secretariat and the Marine Turtle Task Forces (MTTF) with respect to each measure where it is relevant.
11. Further, an asterisk (*) has been added in places to indicate that an activity assigned to the AC or the Secretariat requires additional funding. For example, if a consultant is needed, or a workshop should be held, this cannot generally be covered by the regular

contributions received, which remain at a very low level.

Action requested of MOS9:

- Review the document
- Discuss amendments and prioritization in the sub-regional breakout groups
- Revise as necessary and adopt 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	WIO ³	NW IO 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							
	Genetics Fisheries Interactions Take and Trade	1. 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 genetic markers identified for nesting populations, 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.					

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, **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, 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)

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA + ⁶
	Marine Debris Pollution Health Genetics	2. 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.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.					
	Noise Pollution	3. Review and investigate impacts of noise on turtles, including underwater, in-ground and aerial noise.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.					
	Light Pollution	4. Collect data on light pollution and its impact on nesting turtles and their hatchlings on the beaches and at sea.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.					
	Climate Change	5. 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 a national level.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.					
	Fisheries Interactions National Reporting	6. 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.	Sigs	AC to analyse the information and develop recommendations.					

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA ⁺ ⁶
	Fisheries Interactions	<p>7. Collaborate with the CMS Scientific Council in addressing CMS Decision 14.33 to:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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.</p>		<p>AC to establish and lead a Steering Group on Bycatch to</p> <p>a) develop an implementation approach and recommendations</p> <p>b) draft ToRs for identified potential implementing agencies/ individuals.</p>					
	Fisheries Interactions Take and Trade	<p>8. 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</p>	Sigs NGO Res	<p>AC to provide advice upon request.</p>					
	Marine Debris Cooperation	<p>9. Collect data on ghost nets and entanglement of turtles in ghost nets.</p>	Sigs	<p>AC to provide advice upon request.</p>					
	Nesting Sites	<p>10. Establish and/or continue a reliable nesting beach monitoring programme⁷ to monitor and report current threats impacting nesting and hatching, using reliable methods that are standardized across the years.</p>	Sigs NGO Res	<p>AC to provide advice upon request.</p>					

⁷ Signatories in the NWIO sub-region to consult PERSGA manuals (available [here](#))

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA ⁶
	Climate Change Marine Debris Light Pollution Cooperation	11. 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 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.		AC to establish and lead a Steering Group to advise on implementation of these mandates. Sec to assist by organizing an expert workshop. *					
	Information Sharing	12. 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.					
	Species: Olive Ridley	13. Initiate the next species assessment for Olive Ridley Turtles.		AC to lead.					
	Species: Flatback	14. 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.					
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							

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA + ⁶
		15. Identify and apply best practice protocols to mitigate threats to marine turtle populations.	Sigs	AC to provide guidance on best practice protocols.					
	Nesting Sites Hatcheries	16. Use the guidelines on the management of beaches as an ecosystem and for successful hatchling production ⁸ , including management of hatcheries if and when required, as presented to MOS9.	Sigs NGO	AC to provide advice upon request.					
	Nesting Sites Hatcheries Climate Change	17. 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 #11 above).		AC to establish and lead a Steering Group. Consult with MTTFs and other sub-regional experts through workshops. * Develop revised guidelines including recommendations.					
	Nesting Sites Hatcheries	18. Organize workshops to disseminate best practice information for the protection of eggs and hatchlings.	Sigs NGO	AC to lead. Secretariat to invite countries to nominate to participate in the training and assist by organizing workshops. *					
	Tourism Cooperation	19. Utilize the CMS <i>Guidelines for Recreational In-Water Interactions with Marine Wildlife</i> ⁹ nationally and disseminate them to relevant national authorities/departments and tourism operators.	Sigs NGO	AC to provide advice upon request.					
	Light Pollution Cooperation	20. Utilize the CMS <i>International Light Pollution Guidelines for Migratory Species</i> ¹⁰ nationally and disseminate them to the relevant authorities/departments.	Sigs NGO	AC to provide advice upon request.					
	Noise Pollution	21. Utilize the CMS <i>Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities</i> ¹¹ and disseminate them to relevant authorities/departments.	Sigs NGO	AC to provide advice upon request.					

⁸ See [MOS9/Doc.8.2](#); relates also to CMP Programme 1.6 Develop nesting beach management programmes to maximize hatchling recruitment

⁹ Resolution 12.16 (Rev.COP14) [Recreational In-Water Interaction with Aquatic Wildlife](#)

¹⁰ Resolution 13.5 (Rev.COP14) [CMS International Light Pollution Guidelines for Migratory Species](#)

¹¹ Resolution 12.14 [Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species](#)

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA ⁶
1.3		<p>Implement programmes to correct adverse economic incentives that threaten marine turtle populations</p> <p>a) Conduct socio-economic studies among communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats</p> <p>b) Identify desired modifications to the economic incentives in order to reduce threats and mortality, and develop programmes to implement the modifications</p> <p>c) Identify resources and sources of funding for the programmes</p>							
	Socio-economics	22. Compile information on available tools and mechanisms that incorporate engagement with all stakeholders to evaluate and address socio-economic issues.	Cons NGO	MTTF to coordinate in the sub-region and report to AC. AC to review and provide recommendations.					
	Socio-economics Take and Trade	23. Review knowledge on human dimensions that underpin the use and trade of marine turtles, turtle products, eggs and hatchlings, and how these are addressed within projects, e.g. focusing on: a) supporting implementation of actions agreed in the Hawksbill Turtle SSAP b) recommendations contained in the Species Assessments.	Sigs NGO	MTTF to coordinate in the sub-region and report to AC. AC to review and provide recommendations.					

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA + ⁶
1.4		<p>Reduce to the greatest extent practicable the incidental capture and mortality of marine turtles in the course of fishing activities</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>c) Exchange information and, upon request, provide technical assistance to other Signatory States to promote these activities</p> <p>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</p> <p>e) Support the UN General Assembly resolution 46/215 concerning the moratorium on the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas</p> <p>f) Develop and implement net retention and recycling schemes to minimise the disposal of fishing gear at sea and on beaches</p> <p>g) Provide and ensure the use of port facilities for the disposal of ship-borne waste</p>							
	Fisheries Interactions	24. 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	AC-led Steering Group on Bycatch to provide advice upon request.					
	Fisheries Interactions	25. Identify high priority areas, stocks and fisheries for establishing additional bycatch mitigation programmes.	Sigs Fleets Res	AC-led Steering Group on Bycatch to provide advice upon request.					
	Fisheries Interactions	26. Promote national observer, assessment, and quantification programmes to assess the impact on different turtle life stages and populations.	Sigs Fleets RFMO	AC-led Steering Group on Bycatch to provide advice upon request.					

CMP¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO³	NW IO⁴	NIO⁵	SEA +⁶
	Fisheries Interactions Cooperation	<p>27. 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) initiate dialogue on current issues of concern among Signatories and IOTC members in advance of each IOTC meeting (including subsidiary bodies) b) AC Members and National Focal Points to communicate important issues to members of national delegations attending IOTC in advance of each IOTC meeting c) 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. 	Sigs	AC-led Steering Group on Bycatch to provide advice.					
	Fisheries Interactions National Reporting	28. Report on details with respect to gillnet fishing (placement, mesh size etc.) through national reports.	Sigs	AC-led Steering Group on Bycatch to advise on revision of reporting questionnaire.					

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA + ⁶
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>a) Enact, where not already in place, legislation to prohibit direct harvest and domestic trade</p> <p>b) Assess the level and impact of traditional harvest on marine turtles and their eggs</p> <p>c) Establish management programmes that may include limits on levels of intentional harvest</p> <p>d) Determine the cultural and traditional values and economic uses of marine turtles (both consumptive and non-consumptive)</p> <p>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</p>							
	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.					
	Take and Trade Cooperation	30. Improve enforcement of national legislation on exploitation of turtles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 c) identify inconsistencies and weaknesses in existing legislation and the judicial process, and address these d) incorporate turtle-related issues in existing programmes addressing enforcement. 	Sigs CITES NGO	AC to provide advice on request and review recommendations contained in the draft Marine Turtle Legislative Review (WWF/CMS/SPREP).					
	Stakeholder Engagement	31. Consider applying innovative techniques (e.g. the Community Voice Method (CVM)) to ensure that concerns of subsistence resource users are incorporated in decision-making.	Sigs NGO Res	MTTF and AC to provide advice on request.					
	Socio-economics	32. In consultation with local communities, develop culturally acceptable management agreements on the sustainable level of legal traditional harvest.	Sigs NGO CBM	MTTF and AC to provide advice on request.					

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA + ⁶
		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.	Sigs NGO CBM	MTTF and AC to provide advice on request.					
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							
		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	AC to provide advice on request.					
		35. Share information on measures used successfully to minimize nest and hatchling loss, e.g. predation of eggs and hatchlings.	Sigs NGO Res	MTTF and AC to share or compile and update as necessary.					

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA ⁺ ⁶
		Objective 2. Protect, conserve and rehabilitate marine turtle habitats							
2.1		<p>Establish necessary measures to protect and conserve marine turtle habitats</p> <p>a) Identify areas of critical habitat such as migratory corridors, nesting beaches, inter-nesting and feeding areas</p> <p>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</p> <p>c) Develop incentives for adequate protection of areas of critical habitat outside protected areas</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>f) Monitor and promote the protection of water quality from land-based and maritime pollution, including marine debris, that may adversely affect marine turtles</p> <p>g) Strengthen the application of existing bans on the use of poisonous chemicals and explosives in the exploitation of marine resources</p>							
	Habitat Protection	36. Based on the criteria developed by the AC, geographically identify biologically important critical habitats for each turtle stock and life stage, such as nesting beaches, inter-nesting habitats, migratory corridors, foraging habitats and oceanic dispersal areas.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice on request.					
	Habitat Protection	37. Protect and adequately manage all critical habitats for each species, contributing to meeting the '30 by 30' target of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.	Sigs LC CBD	AC to provide advice on request.					
	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 across different habitats.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.					

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA + ⁶
	Habitat Protection	39. In any beach management measures, consider the potential impact of planting non-native vegetation (e.g. Casuarina trees) ¹² 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	AC to provide advice upon request.					
	Tourism	40. Where coastal tourism occurs, ensure it is following the principles of ecotourism ¹³ by being respectful of marine turtles and their habitats, while benefitting local communities.	Sigs NGO Res LC PS	AC to provide advice upon request and include in development of beach management guidelines.					
		Site Network							
	Site Network	41. Revive the Site Network Discussion Group to provide advice to Site Managers, identify funding sources, discuss how the designation can add value to the accepted Sites.	Sigs	Sec to update membership and initiate discussions. AC to provide advice upon request.					
	Site Network Cooperation	42. Consider nominating IOSEA Network Sites as Ramsar Sites and/or CBD OECMs (if not nominated yet) to achieve additional support and recognition.	Sigs	AC to provide advice upon request.					
		Environmental Impact Assessments							
	Environmental Impact Assessment	43. Analyse if and how marine turtles and their habitats are considered in EIA processes in place in each country.	Sigs	AC to provide advice upon request.					
	Environmental Impact Assessment	44. Use the <i>Guidelines for the review of EIAs of developments impacting on sea turtles and turtle habitat</i> ¹⁴ 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	AC to provide advice upon request.					

¹² See [MOS8/Doc.7.4](#)

¹³ See definition of principles of ecotourism here: <https://ecotourism.org/what-is-ecotourism/>

¹⁴ See [MOS8/Doc.7.5](#)

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA + ⁶
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	45. Identify key areas for habitat restoration, e.g. coral reefs, beaches, mangrove, seagrass, and intertidal habitats, and start addressing threats using best practice guidelines.	Sigs Res NGO LC	AC and MTTF, assisted by Sec, to provide advice on best practice guidelines.					
		Objective 3. Improve understanding of marine turtle ecology and populations through research, monitoring and information exchange							
	Research Funding	46. Make use of and periodically review the list of AC-endorsed research and other priorities to leverage funding for research on marine turtles. ^{15, 16}	Sigs NGO Res	AC to review and update periodically.					

¹⁵ List available here: <https://www.cms.int/iosea-turtles/en/page/capacity-building-resources>

¹⁶ Relates also to CMP Programme 3.2 Conduct collaborative research and monitoring

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA ⁶
3.1		<p>Conduct studies on marine turtles and their habitats targeted to their conservation and management¹⁷</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p>47. Improve understanding of the biological structure of marine turtle populations through scientific and traditional knowledge:</p> <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, annual survivorship, sex ratio) 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 and pit tagging, satellite telemetry, genetic sampling, photo-ID) 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.					

¹⁷ 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	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA ⁶
	Genetics	48. Conduct genetic analyses to identify genetic stocks (management units) for marine turtles: a) compile and assess available information to identify 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) ¹⁸ c) incorporate genetic sampling into ongoing monitoring activities (subject to budget and resources available) d) standardize protocols for collection and storage of samples to ensure they will remain usable in the long term e) address capacity building needs to enable in-country analyses, upon request	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice on 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.					
	Genetics	49. Periodically prepare a list of genetic samples collected in the IOSEA region and publish it on the IOSEA website.	NGO Res	MTTF to help compile information. Sec to publish on website.					
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							
		50. Promote and engage in collaborative studies within and among sub-regions.	Sigs NGO Res	AC and MTTF to identify and facilitate.					
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.)							

¹⁸ 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>

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA + ⁶
		51. Ensure that data collected are used to inform and prioritize conservation action through periodic population trend analyses and evaluation of 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.					
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	52. Apply guidelines and protocols recommended by the Advisory Committee for data collection and management of sea turtles and their habitats. ¹⁹	Sigs NGO Res LC	AC and MTTF to provide advice on guidelines and protocols.					
	Method Standardization	53. Review data collected to assess gaps and needs for the sub-regions in terms of research and monitoring methodology.	NGO Res	MTTF to lead. AC to provide advice upon request.					
	Method Standardization	54. Facilitate capacity building in applying best practice/standard methods and recognizing all forms of knowledge.		AC to include in Capacity Building Strategy.					
	Knowledge Exchange	55. Engage with all knowledge holders (e.g. research, traditional, indigenous, fishers, local) to exchange information.	Sigs NGO Res	AC and MTTF to provide advice upon request.					

¹⁹ 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	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA ⁺ ⁶
	Knowledge Exchange	56. Identify suitable data repositories such as TurtleNet ²⁰ , ShellBank ²¹ and "Report a Ghost Net" ²² to facilitate region-wide information exchange and consider data sharing.	Sigs NGO Res	AC and MTTF to provide advice upon request					
Objective 4. Increase public awareness and public participation									
4.1		<p>Establish public education, awareness and information programmes</p> <p>a) Collect, develop and disseminate education materials</p> <p>b) Establish community learning / information centres</p> <p>c) Develop and implement accurate mass media information programmes</p> <p>d) Develop and conduct focused education and awareness programmes for target groups (e.g. policy makers, teachers, schools, fishing communities, media)</p> <p>e) Encourage the incorporation of marine turtle biology and conservation issues into school curricula</p> <p>f) Organize special events related to marine turtle conservation and biology (e.g. Turtle Day, Year of the Turtle, symposia, Track-a-turtle)</p>							
	Outreach and Communication	57. 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 with reference to the most effective strategies, if selected, from established manuals and procedural recommendations. ²³	Sigs NGO	AC to provide advice upon request. AC and MTTF to support gathering of material. Sec to coordinate "anniversary" events, as feasible.					

²⁰ TurtleNet: <https://apps.information.qld.gov.au/TurtleDistribution/>

²¹ ShellBank: <https://shellbankproject.org/>

²² Report a Ghost Net: <https://oliveridleyproject.org/report-a-ghost-net>

²³ (Link to be added in due course)

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA + ⁶
	Outreach and Communication Take and Trade	58. 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 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	Sigs NGO Nat St	AC to provide advice upon request.					
	Outreach and Communication	59. 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.	Sigs NGO Nat St	AC to develop evaluation criteria and provide advice upon request. Sec to request information and publish on website, if appropriate.					
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	60. Develop socially and culturally appropriate alternative livelihoods, using examples of good practice to ensure genuinely sustainable approaches, which will be beneficial in the long run for both humans and turtle populations.	Sigs NGO	AC to provide advice upon request.					
	Alternative Livelihoods	61. Compile and assess available knowledge on best practice approaches compiled from national reports and consultations to produce best practice guidance for alternative livelihood projects that ensure that all stakeholders are fully involved. Follow these best practices to develop alternative livelihoods tailored to local conditions.	Sigs Cons NGO	AC to work with consultancy to develop guidance. *					

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA ⁺ ⁶
4.3		<p>Promote public participation</p> <p>a) Involve stakeholders, and local communities in particular, in planning and implementation of conservation and management measures</p> <p>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</p> <p>c) Implement, where appropriate, incentive schemes to encourage public participation (e.g. T-shirts for tag returns, public acknowledgement, certificates)</p>							
	Stakeholder Engagement	62. Engage and train organizers and (potential) participants, including local communities, of citizen science activities in species identification, data collection and monitoring.	Exp NGO	AC to provide advice upon request in consultation with local experts					
	Stakeholder Engagement	63. 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 and recognition of NGO/IGO partners.	Sigs NGO	AC to provide advice upon request. Sec to periodically call for input and publish information.					

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTFF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA + ⁶
		Objective 5. Enhance national, regional and international cooperation							
5.1		<p>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</p> <p>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)</p> <p>b) Review at a national level compliance with obligations under CITES relating to trade in marine turtles, their eggs, parts or products</p> <p>c) Facilitate better compliance with CITES through training of relevant authorities in cooperation with other signatory States, the CITES Secretariat and other relevant organisations</p> <p>d) Identify routes of international illegal trade through monitoring, and seek cooperation to take action to prevent, deter and, where possible, eliminate illegal trade</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>							
	Take and Trade, Cooperation	64. 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.	Sigs ITWG IGO NGO	AC to support and engage, as required. Sec to engage, as required.					
	Take and Trade, Cooperation	65. 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.					

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA + ⁶
	Take and Trade Cooperation Species: Hawksbill	66. Cooperate with CMS in the joint implementation of the <i>Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) for the Hawksbill Turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata) in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean Region</i> ²⁴ to address the trade and use of hawksbill turtles at both the domestic and the international level. ²⁵	Sigs ITWG IGO NGO	AC to provide advice upon request Sec to support Sigs in setting up governance structure.					
	Take and Trade, Cooperation	67. Review and update the task list for the ITWG, and present a report to the AC at its first intersessional meeting for its advice.	ITWG	AC to review and provide advice.					
	Take and Trade	68. Take further steps to understand and reduce use and domestic trade and to develop education and awareness campaigns on existing laws, as well as to target online illegal trade.	Sigs ITWG NGO	AC to provide advice upon request.					
	Legislation	69. Strengthen effective protection of marine turtle populations by: a) Providing input to the WWF/CMS/SPREP Asia-Pacific Marine Turtle Legislative Review b) Expanding the Review to include all Signatories * c) Encourage national level reviews of compliance to existing legislation.	Sigs NGO	AC to provide advice upon request.					
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							

²⁴ Available at <https://www.cms.int/en/document/single-species-action-plan-hawksbill-turtle-south-east-asia-western-pacific>

²⁵ 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

CMP¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO³	NW IO⁴	NIO⁵	SEA +⁶
	Evaluation	70. 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	AC to lead in collaboration with the Secretariat.					
	Capacity Building	71. Encourage development, implementation and regular review of national action plans, where needed, in collaboration with local communities and other stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	AC and MTTF to provide advice upon request. Sec to provide links to National Action Plans on website.					

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA + ⁶
5.3		<p>Enhance mechanisms for cooperation and promote information exchange</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 							
	Sub-regional Coordination	72. Encourage more sub-regional interactions (e.g. by organizing intersessional sub-regional meetings, training, task forces, etc.)	Sigs SRFP	AC to provide advice upon request. MTTF to identify opportunities and priorities.					

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA ⁺ ⁶
	Sub-regional Coordination Fisheries Interactions Cooperation	73. 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	MTTF to identify. Sec to invite.					
	Cooperation	74. 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	MTTF and Sec to support.					
	Sub-regional Coordination	75. 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	AC to provide advice on opportunities and priorities (see also footnote #11).					
	Cooperation	76. 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	AC to lead in setting up. Sec to host on website.					
	Sub-regional Coordination	77. 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	AC to provide advice upon request. Sec to liaise with SRFP and potential host countries.					
	Sub-regional Coordination	78. 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	AC to provide advice upon request. Sec to liaise with SRFP and potential host countries.					
		Area-based measures							
	Sub-regional Coordination	79. 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	AC and MTTF to provide advice upon request.					
	Sub-regional Coordination Habitat Protection	80. 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.					

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA + ⁶
	Sub-regional Coordination Habitat Protection	81. Promote that ecological information on marine turtles is considered in the identification of new EBSAs and report on progress in identified EBSAs through national reports.	Sigs	AC and MTTF to provide advice upon request.					
	Sub-regional Coordination Habitat Protection	82. 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	AC and MTTF to engage in the process.					
		Regional Fisheries Management Organizations							
	Stakeholder Engagement Fisheries Interactions Cooperation	83. Request RFMOs to gather information and report on the occurrence, distribution and take of marine turtles in oceanic areas.	Sigs	AC to provide advice upon request.					
	Fisheries Interactions Cooperation	84. 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	AC-led Steering Group on Bycatch to lead.					
	Fisheries Interactions Cooperation	85. 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.		AC-led Steering Group on Bycatch to lead.					
		National Reporting							
	National Reports	86. Establish a working group to 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	AC and Sec to engage.					

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA ⁶
	National Reports Information Sharing	87. 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 research institutes.	Sigs	AC and MTTF to provide advice upon request.					
	National Reports	88. 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.					
	National Reports Information Sharing	89. 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	MTTF to offer support to Sigs. AC to provide advice upon request.					
	National Reports Capacity Building	90. Provide training or webinars or any further technical help, when requested, to prepare and submit National Reports and available IOSEA online tools.	Sigs	AC and Sec to provide advice upon request and respond as required.					
	National Reports Capacity Building	91. 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.					
		Online Tools							
	Information Sharing	92. 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.					
	Information Sharing	93. Set up a database compiling information on PIT tagging practices, incl. applied location and tag type.	Sigs Res NGO	Sec to call for information and provide on website.					
	Information Sharing	94. 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. ²⁶	Sigs Res NGO	AC to provide advice upon request.					
	Information Sharing Environmental Impact Assessments	95. 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.					

²⁶ TurtleNet: <https://apps.information.qld.gov.au/TurtleDistribution/>

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA + ⁶
	Information Sharing	96. 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.					
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							
	Capacity-building	97. Adopt a proactive process for identifying needs and providing training within the IOSEA region, including by: a) developing a Capacity Building Strategy based on the Objectives of the CMP and activities in the Work Plan 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. *					
	Capacity-building Sub-regional Coordination	98. Promote regional exchange of expertise and utilize the MTTFs to identify and plan opportunities for exchange.	Sigs NGO Res	MTTF to assist.					

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA ⁶
	Capacity-building Fisheries Interactions Habitat Protection Site Network Hatcheries	99. 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	AC to lead in developing Capacity Building Strategy. AC and Sec to provide advice and/or facilitate training. * MTTF to assist.					
	Capacity-building Fisheries interactions	100. 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. ²⁷	Sigs NGO RFMO	AC-led Bycatch Steering Group to advise. AC, MTTF and Sec to organize workshops. *					
	Capacity-building Cooperation Funding	101. 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	AC to provide advice upon request. Sec to reach out to Ramsar Secretariat.					

²⁷ 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	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA ⁺ ⁶
	Capacity-building	102. Develop training material (e.g. a handbook) and a training programme (e.g. webinars and/or workshops) for National Focal Points.		AC to provide advice. Sec to lead. *					
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)							
	Legislation	103. Identify gaps in legislation relating to current conservation needs of marine turtles and their habitats.	Sigs NGO Res	AC to provide advice upon request.					
	Legislation	104. Improve enforcement of compliance with regulations, relating to activities such as fishing, tourism, coastal and offshore development, industrial development, international trade restrictions.	Sigs	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	105. Approach non-Signatory States in the IOSEA region and other countries with a view to securing IOSEA membership.	Sigs	AC to provide advice upon request. Sec to reach out periodically.					
	Cooperation, Fisheries Interactions Stakeholder Engagement	106. 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	AC to provide advice upon request.					

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA ⁺ ⁶
6.2		<p>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</p> <p>a) Secure reliable sources of funding to support the MoU Secretariat</p> <p>b) Appoint at the first meeting of the signatory States the members of the Advisory Committee</p> <p>c) Establish lines of communication between the MoU Secretariat and the Advisory Committee to facilitate advice to the signatory States</p>							
	Institutional	107. 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 to provide advice upon request.					
	Institutional	108. 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.					
	Evaluation	109. 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	AC and MTTF to review and provide advice.					
	Institutional	110. In advance of each MOS, provide advice on a new Work Programme to implement the CMP.		AC to lead in collaboration with Sec.					

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA + ⁶
6.3		<p>Seek resources to support the implementation of the MOU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	111. 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.)	Sigs						
	Institutional	112. 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.	Sigs						

CMP ¹	Subject	Measures to be taken	In-Country Actors ²	Support from AC, Sec & MTTF (* requires funding)	Overall Priority	WIO ³	NW IO ⁴	NIO ⁵	SEA + ⁶
	Capacity Building Funding	113. 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.					
	Funding	114. Review and periodically update information on available funding opportunities.		AC, MTTF and Sec to lead.					
	Funding	115. 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.					
	Institutional	116. 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.					
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	117. Establish formal and/or informal inclusive national committees/networks in order to develop synergies among governments and NGO partners.	Sigs	AC to provide advice upon request. Sec to support as required.					
	Cooperation	118. 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	AC to provide advice upon request. Sec to support as required.					

Section 2: Measures Related to MOU Administration and Coordination²⁸	Actors²
Meetings, Working Groups and Workshops	
119. Ensure Advisory Committee Meetings are organized as scheduled, with key documents circulated at least one month in advance of the meetings.	Sec, AC
120. 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
121. Ensure Meetings of Signatory States (MOS) are organized as scheduled, with key documents circulated at least two months in advance of the meetings.	Sec
122. 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
123. Support intersessional correspondence (Illegal Trade Working Group, Site Network Discussion Group, Advisory Committee) as needed.	Sec
124. Organize workshops if agreed by MOS9 and subject to available funding.	Sec
125. Organize sub-regional working groups more effectively during Signatory State meetings, by engaging Sub-regional Focal Points more actively in pre-meeting organization ²⁹ .	Sec, SRFP
126. Secure a host for MOS10 and correspond with the host to ensure all necessary arrangements are met for the next MOS.	Sec
Website	
127. 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
Budgetary, Administrative and Institutional Matters	
128. Provide guidance to Signatory States on implications of the idea to offer opportunity to designate administrative, technical or other additional Focal Points.	Sec, Sigs
129. 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
130. Prepare a draft budget for consideration by MOS10.	Sec
131. Encourage Signatories to pay agreed voluntary contributions and encourage voluntary contributions for projects and initiatives prioritized by the AC and MOS10.	Sec
132. Develop funding agreements for projects prioritized by the Meeting of Signatories.	Sec
133. Advertise consultancies, select and supervise candidates as required for the implementation of the WP.	Sec

²⁸ If not yet included in Section 1

²⁹ 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.