

Update on the Status of the IOSEA Network Site (Version: 8 April 2024)

[Site Title]

A. Date of submission (DD/MM/YYYY):

The date on which the questionnaire was completed.

14/ 6/2024

B. Name and address of compiler(s), if not the IOSEA Focal Point

Name and contact information (including affiliation) for the individual(s) who prepared this information.

Name:

Asghar Mobaraki

Functional Title:

Organization:

Address:

Email:

Name:

Functional Title:

Organization:

Address:

Email:

C. Country: *The name of the country in which the site is located.*

Iran

D. Name of site: *The name of the site (alternative names should be given in brackets).*

Sheedvar (Shidvar) Island

1. Have there been changes in the management authority?

Name, address and contact details of the body responsible for the direct local conservation and management of the site, if different than in original proposal.

Not different

2. What are the current population numbers and trends for the marine turtle species present at the site?

Please insert population numbers for each species present and the year when the population was estimated, as well as the population trend (e.g. stable, increasing, decreasing, unknown)

The main reproducing species in the site is Hawksbill turtles. The number of the annual nests in the site estimates 50-100 (LESS THAN 50 NESTING TURTLES). The population size due to annual monitoring and surveys and control by local stakeholders seems to be stable or sometimes increasing.

3. Have there been any changes in land/sea ownership, protected status, legislation and/or governance framework, which affect the site?

Describe any changes to legislation / regulations relevant to the protection / conservation of marine turtles and their habitats at this site, and comment on their effectiveness.

Mention any changes in nationally relevant protected area status, international conservation designations and, in the case of transboundary sites, bilateral or multilateral conservation measures which pertain to all or part of the site since 2019. If a protected area or reserve has been established (at a national/regional level), give the date of its establishment and size. If only a part of the site is included within a protected area, the area of marine turtle habitat that is protected should be noted.

New International designations since 2019 may include sites listed under the UNESCO/World Heritage Convention, Man and Biosphere Reserve Network, Ramsar Convention, other site conservation networks, etc. Where appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas management category(ies) that apply to the site.

The site remains as wildlife refuge which is a category of national protected areas. The site receives international importance as a wetland site (Ramsar site) and important bird area.

4. What are currently the most important threats to marine turtles and their habitat at the site?

Describe the human and natural factors negatively affecting the ecological character of the site, both within and in the vicinity of the site. These may include new or changing activities/uses, major development projects etc., which have had, are having, or may have a detrimental effect on the natural ecological character of the site. For example, describe in terms of the percentage of coastline (or other area) modified/affected by a particular threat; for egg collection, describe in terms of number of nests, per species, per year. Mention also data-deficient threats, where a threat is known to be present but is not quantified. Collectively, this information should provide a basis for monitoring of ecological character of the site.

Sea turtle poaching: in the past years this threat has been controlled

Pollution: marine debris have some effects, no serious pollutions have occurred/

Natural Hazards : seasonal storm sometimes have some effects

Illegal fishing in the area: coral damage and bycatch: the site is used by local fishermen, but not directly fishing in the site area,

Habitat destruction/modification: only in some parts uncontrolled tourism have some minor negative effects

Socio economic factors: tourism use of the site in the past years, with pressure from local communities, put some negative effects.

5. New conservation and management interventions taken since 2019 and measures planned for near future

Describe conservation and management interventions taken at the site to address threats since 2019. Any application of coastal and marine spatial planning, or integrated coastal/marine zone management planning, involving or affecting the site should be noted.

Describe any other new conservation measures taken at the site, such as restrictions on development, management practices beneficial to wildlife, closures of fishing, etc. (Note that information on any monitoring schemes and survey methods should be given under point 19, below.)

Where applicable, describe public outreach and communication activities. In addition, if applicable, describe any new developments in the involvement of local communities and indigenous people in the participatory management of the site, including co-management activities, surveillance and enforcement, and performance evaluation since 2019.

Conservation and management plan for the site is being prepared by the Wetlands office of department of the environment.

6. Current / proposed scientific research and monitoring since 2019

Name current and/or proposed scientific research projects and their start and end dates, relating to marine turtles and their habitats. Please describe monitoring activities (e.g., tagging, satellite tracking, genetic sampling, nesting and foraging ground surveys, ongoing beach monitoring, etc.). Cite relevant published papers in support of the submission.

- Annual monitoring/tagging sea turtles (nesting- foraging) during the nesting season (March-July),
- monitoring of foraging turtles (mainly green turtles)
- sampling turtles for genetic works
- annual monitoring and data collection on migratory birds during the nesting season (June-July)

7. Briefly describe current financial as well as capacity-building needs

Identify fundraising and capacity building needs for the site (e.g. in relation to monitoring, management interventions, surveillance and enforcement, and performance evaluation).

The local stakeholders (The Lavan refinery and Lavan Offshore oil company) provides supports for field works. But according the importance of the site, it needs for a special national and provincial budget to properly be controlled. More close cooperation and co-ordination with local stakeholders and community is necessary, specially controlling the tourism activities. Enforcement and management interventions is a critical issue for the site and capacity building programs need to be continued.

8. References since 2014

List any new references relevant to marine turtle records and to the site, including management plans, major scientific reports, scientific articles and bibliographies. When a large body of published material on the site is available, only the most important references need be cited, with priority being given to recent literature containing extensive bibliographies. Reprints or copies of the most important literature should be appended whenever possible. Provide website addresses of references where available.

- 1-Mobaraki. Asghar., Andrea, Phillot., Malihe. Erfani., Meysam. Ghasemi., Hossein. Jafarie., 2022, Inferred Impacts of Extreme Environments on Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) Body Size and Reproductive Output, *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*, 2022, 21(2): 000–000 doi:10.2744/CCB-1546.1
- 2- Mobaraki, Asghar., Rastegar-Poyani, Eskandar., Kami, Haji Goli., Khorasani, Neamatollah., 2020., Population study of foraging Green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in the Northern Persian Gulf and Oman Sea, *Iran, Regional Studies in Marine Science* 39 (2020) 101433
- 3- Mobaraki. Asghar, Meysam, Gasemi, Haj Goli Kami and Faraham Ahmad zadeh, 2019. First record on Green sea turtle nesting in Sheedvar Island, *Indian Ocean Turtle Newsletter*, 30, 5-8

4-Sarah M. Vargas, Michael P. Jensen, Simon Y. W. Ho, Asghar Mobaraki,

Damien Broderick, Jeanne A. Mortimer, Scott D. Whiting, Jeff Miller, Robert I. T. Prince, Ian P. Bell, Xavier Hoenner, Colin J. Limpus, Fabrício R. Santos, and Nancy N. FitzSimmons, 2015, Phylogeography, Genetic Diversity, and Management Units of Hawksbill Turtles in the Indo-Pacific, *Journal of Heredity*, 1-15

5- Nicolas J. Pilcher , Marina Antonopoulou , LisaPerry,.....AsgharMobaraki,and AndrewWillson., 2014, Identification of Important Sea Turtle Areas (ITAs) for hawksbill turtles in the Arabian Region, *Journal of Experimental Marine biology and Ecology*, 640, 89-99

6- Nicolas J. Pilcher, Marina Antonopoulou , Lisa Perry,...., Robert Baldwin,

Oliver J. Kerr , AsgharMobaraki ,....and James Williams, 2014, Short-term behavioural responses to thermal stress by hawksbill turtles in the Arabian region, *Journal of Experimental Marine biology and Ecology*, 457, 190-198

9. Please describe how the official designation as an IOSEA Network Site supports conservation efforts. Please also suggest how benefits of inclusion in the Network could be maximized..

Receiving international importance, encourages the national and local governmental and local stakeholders to pay more attention to the subject, this is a unique feature for Sheedvar in the country. This situation, could be a s motivation for proper management and enforcement.

Any supports, specially official and financial, from the secretariat, especially for the local stakeholders would increase their interest and encouraged their participation and supports for the field works.