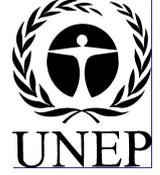




Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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SECOND MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR MARINE TURTLES OF THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA

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Agenda Item 5

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MARINE TURTLES OF THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA *(Proposal for a more concise version)*

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OBJECTIVE 1. Reduce direct and indirect causes of marine turtle mortality

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
1.1. Identify and document the anthropogenic threats to marine turtle populations and habitats	1.1.1. Compile existing data on anthropogenic threats to marine turtles populations and their habitats; 1.1.2. Establish data collection and monitoring programs to determine the nature and magnitude of the threats; 1.1.3. Evaluate the impact of traditional exploitation, accidental take in artisanal and commercial fisheries, and other sources of mortality.	High	
1.2. Determine and implement the best measures to minimize anthropogenic threats to marine turtle populations and their habitats	1.2.1. Identify and document the best practices for the conservation of marine turtle populations and their habitats; 1.2.2. Adopt and implement the best practices for the conservation and management of marine turtle populations and their habitats.	High	
1.3. Implement programs to correct adverse economic incentives threatening marine turtle populations	1.3.1. Undertake socio-economic studies on coastal communities and their interactions with marine turtles and their habitats; 1.3.2. Identify and modify economic incentives to reduce threats and mortality; 1.3.3. Identify funding sources and resources for these programs.	High	
1.4. Maximize population increase on the nesting beaches and developmental habitats	1.4.1. Train and put in place sufficient numbers of “eco-guards” to monitor nesting beaches and developmental habitats; 1.4.2. Evaluate the effectiveness of management programs on the nesting beaches and developmental habitats; 1.4.3. Reduce embryo and hatchling mortality and ensure their survival and recruitment using conservation techniques similar to natural processes; 1.4.4. Minimize nest destruction and the mortality of embryos,	High	

	hatchlings, and adult females during the nesting season by domestic animals and technophiles.		
1.5. Reduce and minimize the effects of fisheries by-catch in coastal waters	<p>1.5.1. Explore, in collaboration with the fishing industry, the development of mitigation measures, including gear, to reduce by-catch;</p> <p>1.5.2. Establish protocols with the commercial fishing industry;</p> <p>1.5.3. Demonstrate the use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs), hold TED workshops and promote the implementation of TEDs;</p> <p>1.5.4. Train and put observers on commercial fishing vessels;</p> <p>1.5.5. Inform artisanal fishermen about the need to conserve marine turtles;</p> <p>1.5.6. Initiate and implement recovery and release systems for turtles accidentally captured by artisanal fishermen;</p> <p>1.5.7. Encourage, in feeding grounds, fishing practices that are not detrimental to adult and subadult turtle populations, and human activities that do not destroy the marine habitat;</p> <p>1.5.8. Get commercial fisheries to respect the fishing zones.</p>	High	

OBJECTIVE 2. Protect, conserve and restore terrestrial and marine habitats for marine turtles

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
2.1. Establish necessary measures to protect and conserve marine turtle terrestrial and marine habitats	<p>2.1.1. Identify the critical and non-critical habitats such as nesting beaches, feeding and developmental areas, internesting areas, and migration corridors;</p> <p>2.1.2. Design and manage critical habitats as protected areas, sanctuaries, or impose seasonal bans on human activities;</p> <p>2.1.3. Develop incentives for the adequate protection of terrestrial and marine habitats outside classified protected areas;</p>	High	

	<p>2.1.4. Conduct assessments of the environmental impact of marine and coastal development and other human activities on marine turtles and their habitats;</p> <p>2.1.5. Manage and regulate the use of nesting beaches around urban areas (for example, placement and construction of buildings, artificial lights, and vehicles);</p> <p>2.1.6. Initiate and cooperate in the creation of transboundary protected marine areas, including nesting beaches and feeding and developmental areas, using ecological borders rather than political borders.</p>		
2.2. Restore degraded marine turtle habitats	<p>2.2.1. Reduce anthropogenic threats, on the nesting beaches, to adults and hatchlings (e.g. by identifying the appropriate forestry companies to address the issue of logs on the nesting beaches);</p> <p>2.2.2. Reduce toxic marine chemical pollution in marine turtle coastal habitats (identifying companies, including oil companies, and economic activities that have significant impacts on the marine environment, and making them reduce their impacts through taxes/fines);</p> <p>2.2.3. Enforce the recovery of mangroves and seagrass beds;</p> <p>2.2.4. Encourage nature clubs and NGOs to organize regular beach cleaning activities.</p>	High	

OBJECTIVE 3. Improve our knowledge of marine turtle populations and ecology through research and information exchange

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
3.1. Conduct studies on marine turtles and their habitats	<p>3.1.1. Collect and compile basic data on the presence and distribution of species;</p> <p>3.1.2. Conduct saturation tagging of all nesting females on all beaches;</p>	High	

	<p>3.1.3. Carry out studies in the terrestrial (nesting beaches) and marine (developmental and foraging areas) habitats of marine turtles and map the data;</p> <p>3.1.4. Carry out tracking studies from the nesting beach and foraging grounds and map the data;</p> <p>3.1.5. Initiate and/or continue the long-term monitoring of marine turtle populations to evaluate their status and conservation;</p> <p>3.1.6. Establish standardized protocols for data collection, create a database and analyze data at national, sub-regional and regional levels;</p> <p>3.1.7. Define the genetic identity of marine turtle populations;</p> <p>3.1.8. Maintain an updated bibliography and distribute it to all the signatory States;</p> <p>3.1.9. Initiate studies on population dynamics and determine the survival rates of marine turtles;</p> <p>3.1.10. Conduct research on diseases in marine turtles and their frequency in the region covered by the Memorandum of Abidjan;</p> <p>3.1.11. Create reference collections in museums, research institutes or universities to be used for research or teaching;</p> <p>3.1.12. Collect ethnozoological information from local communities and promote the use of popular and traditional knowledge;</p> <p>3.1.13. Put observers on trawlers, longlining vessels, and boats using driftnets in the region covered by the Memorandum of Abidjan;</p> <p>3.1.14. Periodically evaluate research and monitoring activities.</p>		
<p>3.2. Undertake collaborative research and monitoring</p>	<p>3.2.1. Identify and integrate research and monitoring priorities into sub-regional and regional Action Plans;</p> <p>3.2.2. Encourage universities and local institutes to undertake research relevant to marine turtles in collaboration with NGOs and local communities.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	
<p>3.3. Analyze data to reduce threats and</p>	<p>3.3.1. Have the necessary means to suitably manage a national, sub-regional, and regional database;</p>		

improve conservation practices	<p>3.3.2. Prioritize populations for conservation at a regional and international level;</p> <p>3.3.3. Identify population trends by species;</p> <p>3.3.4. Use the research results to improve management, reduce threats, and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation activities.</p>	High	
3.4. Information exchange	<p>3.4.1. Standardize data collection methodologies, and adopt or develop an approved series of protocols for monitoring of nesting beaches, studies at feeding and developmental habitats, genetic sampling, and data collection on mortality;</p> <p>3.4.2. Determine the most suitable ways of diffusing information in Africa;</p> <p>3.4.3. Initiate or develop internet discussion forums and newsletters and provide the means to connect more easily to the international network;</p> <p>3.4.4. Exchange, at regular intervals, scientific and technical information and expertise among nations, scientific institutions, and national and international NGOs to develop and use approaches based on the best practices for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats;</p> <p>3.4.5. Spread the traditional knowledge on marine turtles and their habitats to improve the conservation of turtles and the management of their habitats by the residential communities;</p> <p>3.4.6. Develop and maintain a directory with the names and addresses of people working on marine turtles, of directors and other authorities in charge of wildlife, fisheries, and protected areas, of researchers, NGOs, etc.;</p> <p>3.4.7. Organize training workshops regularly at a sub-regional level to evaluate the work in progress and to meet the people involved to ensure greater effectiveness.</p>	Medium	

OBJECTIVE 4. Increase public awareness to threats facing marine turtles and their habitats, and enhance public participation in conservation activities

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
4.1. Establish public education programs for awareness and information exchange	4.1.1. Collect, develop, and distribute educational material suitable for African culture (cartoons, coloring books, games, posters, T-shirts, etc.) in the 4 languages; 4.1.2. Set up information centers for villages, small museums for schools and tourists; 4.1.3. Develop and implement rigorous media programs; 4.1.4. Develop and undertake education and awareness programs for targeted groups (e.g. for relevant authorities and politicians, students, teachers, fishing communities, beach owners, the media); 4.1.5. Train people from local communities; 4.1.6. Encourage the integration of biodiversity themes, especially marine turtles, into school curriculum; 4.1.7. Organize special events on the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats (e.g., day of the turtle, festival or year of the turtle, publicized releases of accidentally captured turtles, etc.); 4.1.8. Use local taboos to better protect marine turtles by coastal communities; 4.1.9. Inform foreign tourists, at airports and through travel agencies, about bans on the sale or purchase of carapaces and objects made from scutes.	High	
4.2. Develop alternative livelihood opportunities for local communities to encourage their participation in	4.2.1. Encourage the twinning of coastal African villages with western villages in a cooperative framework; 4.2.2. Help in the establishment and operation of dispensaries and hospitals, committees to help prevent AIDS and malaria, women's groups, and activities for the youth, etc.; 4.2.3. Help the sponsoring of children from coastal villages by western	High	

conservation efforts	<p>families to pursue their education and professional training courses;</p> <p>4.2.4. Help local communities to identify and set up activities (breeding of animals, sale of smoked fish, ecotourism, etc.) that can support them year round;</p> <p>4.2.5. Help in the conversion of artisans who work with scutes (primarily in Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe).</p>		
4.3. Promote public participation	<p>4.3.1. Get local communities and other interested parties to participate in the planning and implementation of conservation measures for marine turtles and the management of their habitats;</p> <p>4.3.2. Encourage participation by public administrators, NGOs, the private sector, and various groups (women, fishermen, youth, sports) in efforts to conserve coastal biodiversity and especially marine turtles;</p> <p>4.3.3. Establish incentives to encourage participation by the public (e.g., by gifting T-shirts, awarding diplomas/certificates for good work).</p>	Medium	

OBJECTIVE 5. Enhance national, regional and international cooperation

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
5.1. Collaboration with signatory and non-signatory States to the Memorandum of Abidjan to organize and share information and prevent illegal	<p>5.1.1. Encourage the Signatory States to the Memorandum of Abidjan, who are not yet parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to join;</p> <p>5.1.2. Examine compliance to CITES at the national level with regard to trade in marine turtles eggs and products;</p> <p>5.1.3. Improve compliance with CITES by training the relevant and competent authorities in cooperation with other Signatory States,</p>	High	

<p>trade, and enforce laws concerning marine turtle products</p>	<p>the CITES Secretariat, and other relevant organizations;</p> <p>5.1.4. Identify and monitor illegal international trade routes (for marine turtle products etc.) and seek cooperation to take measures to prevent and where possible eliminate illegal trade;</p> <p>5.1.5. Exchange and discuss regularly compliance and trade issues (e.g., in the annual national reports to the Secretariat of the Memorandum of Abidjan, at meetings of the Signatory States);</p> <p>5.1.6. Attempt to identify, prevent, deter, and where possible eliminate internal illegal trade through monitoring, legislation implementation, identification of weaknesses in the law enforcement in each State;</p> <p>5.1.7. Train personnel (customs people, the police force, guards, authorities of protected areas, fisheries inspectors, etc.) authorized to monitor illegal trafficking and the enforcement of national legislation for the conservation of marine turtles.</p>		
<p>5.2. Assist signatory and non-signatory States with the development and implementation of national action plans for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats</p>	<p>5.2.1. Designate national focal points (one scientific and the other administrative) to serve as correspondents in issues relating to marine turtles;</p> <p>5.2.2. Develop key management measures, that will serve as the basis for Action Plans, in consultation with relevant administrators, NGOs, research institution, local communities and other interested parties;</p> <p>5.2.3. Develop the national Action Plans on the model of the current regional Plan;</p> <p>5.2.4. Identify the specific management questions at the local level that require cooperation among the signatory States, in particular those pertaining to the creation of transboundary marine protected areas, to ensure successful conservation and management;</p> <p>5.2.5. Every year a national report (format approved by the signatory States) will be submitted by each signatory State on the progress made in the implementation of the objectives in the regional</p>	<p>High</p>	

	<p>conservation Plan;</p> <p>5.2.6. The Unit for Regional Coordination will examine the national reports for the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and do an analysis to help the signatory States to improve their conservation activities, possibly using a pilot project in one country as a model for others;</p>		
5.3. Enhance mechanisms for cooperation and promote information exchange	<p>5.3.1. Identify and enforce existing mechanisms that allow for successful cooperation in each sub-region;</p> <p>5.3.2. Develop a website on the conservation of marine turtles along the Atlantic coast of Africa to create a network, exchange information, and post newsletters with information on each project especially for field people (ecoguards, ecovolunteers, etc.). Cf also 3.4.3</p> <p>5.3.3. Establish networks for the coordinated management of shared populations within a State or across a sub-region and where possible formalize the collaboration;</p> <p>5.3.4. Create a directory of experts and organisations interested in the conservation of marine turtles; Cf also 3.4.6.</p> <p>5.3.5. Encourage signatory States to the Memorandum of Abidjan, who are not parties to the CMS, to join;</p> <p>5.3.6. Encourage signatory States to ratify big environmental conventions and join global fishing agreements such as the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement, and the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;</p> <p>5.3.7. Establish relationships with regional fisheries bodies to obtain data on accidental captures and encourage them to adopt marine turtle conservation measures within Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and on the high seas.</p>	Medium	
5.4. Capacity-building and increase in conservation measures	<p>5.4.1. Identify the needs, in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities, for capacity building;</p> <p>5.4.2. Hold training workshops on conservation and management</p>	Medium	

	<p>techniques for the relevant agencies and local communities;</p> <p>5.4.3. Create partnerships with universities, research institutions, training bodies, and other relevant organizations;</p> <p>5.4.4. Review or establish suitable institutional structures and in general reinforce the national capacity of each signatory State.</p>		
5.5. Enforce and improve the implementation of national conservation legislation in each signatory State of wildlife and their habitats	<p>5.5.1. Review and revise, if necessary, the existing national legislation and internal legal provisions to identify any gaps or impediments in their application to marine turtle conservation;</p> <p>5.5.2. Cooperate in the implementation of legislation, in order to ensure the compatible application of legal and lawful provisions across and among jurisdictions (including through bilateral/multilateral agreements and the sharing of information).</p>	High	

OBJECTIVE 6. Promote implementation of the Memorandum of Abidjan

Program	Activities	Priorities	Implementation Progress
6.1. Expand membership and ensure activities of the Memorandum of Abidjan	<p>6.1.1. Encourage non-signatory States in the region and international organizations to sign the Memorandum of Abidjan;</p> <p>6.1.2. Encourage western nations with and without territories in the region to sign the Memorandum of Abidjan;</p> <p>6.1.3. Encourage big organizations (UNESCO, UICN, FAO...) to sign the Memorandum of Abidjan;</p> <p>6.1.4. Discuss modifications to the Memorandum of Abidjan, during a meeting of the signatory States, that would make it a legally binding document.</p>	Medium	
6.2. Promote the role of the Secretariat/Unit	6.2.1. Obtain reliable funding to support the Unit for Regional Coordination and the sub-regional networks;		

<p>for Regional Coordination and Scientific and Technical Committee to ensure that the objectives of the conservation Plan are achieved</p>	<p>6.2.2. Define the role of the Scientific and Technical Committee, during the second meeting of the signatory States, and designate members;</p> <p>6.2.3. Set up suitable ways of management amongst CMS, NEPAD, and the Unit for Regional Coordination and the Scientific and Technical Committee so as to better help the signatory States and provide advice for improving the conservation of marine turtles in their territory.</p>	<p>High</p>	
<p>6.3. Locate resources to support the implementation of the Memorandum of Abidjan</p>	<p>6.3.1. Prioritize conservation and management activities for funding;</p> <p>6.3.2. Explore funding possibilities with governments and other potential donors such as the World Bank, UNDP, European Union, GEF, FFEM, etc.</p> <p>6.3.3. Request funds, donations of materials/equipment and other contributions from international and local industries whose activities have an impact on marine turtles and their habitats (e.g., petroleum companies, breweries, hotels, fisheries, tourism, etc.);</p> <p>6.3.4. Study the use of economic instruments for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats;</p> <p>6.3.5. Approach the private sector, foundations, and international NGOs who might be interested in funding activities in particular countries to catalyze installation of funds for small subsidies;</p> <p>6.3.6. Fund conservation and management activities through directed ecotourism and other independent financial ways with benefits to the local communities;</p> <p>6.3.7. Search for synergies among the Secretariats and other regional and international conventions;</p> <p>6.3.8. Encourage international financial support and other incentives so that the signatory States effectively implement the conservation Plan.</p>	<p>High</p>	
<p>6.4. Improve coordination among</p>	<p>6.4.1. Examine the roles and responsibilities of all the relevant administrative agencies in the conservation of marine turtles and</p>		

<p>government and non-government agencies for the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats</p>	<p>the management of their habitat; 6.4.2. Designate an organization responsible for the coordination and implementation of the national Action Plan for the conservation of marine turtles and the management of their habitat; 6.4.3. Encourage cooperation within and among governmental and non-governmental sectors including the development and reinforcement of national networks.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	
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