**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR MARINE TURTLES OF THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA**

**TEMPLATE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL REPORTS**

The objective of a Signatory State providing a National Report to the Secretariat of the Abidjan Marine Turtle MOU is to evaluate the implementation of activities for the conservation of marine turtles in the State. Each National Report should be a useful guiding framework for the Signatory State and for the CMS Secretariat. This National Report will be used to draft an updated Regional Conservation and Management Plan for MOS3.

Please answer all questions as fully and as accurately as possible.

You can use reports (governmental, departmental, university, NGO, etc.), published articles (scientific or online articles) and expert opinion to complete the report. Please always indicate the source of the information used to answer a question:

* in the National report, next to each response, the source of information must be represented by a reference number (Ref.#) in sequential order of appearance (e.g., 1, 2, 3, etc.).
* at the end of the National Report, please provide details for each Ref.#. If it is a published reference or a report, please provide: author(s), date, title, journal/book/who the report was for/etc., volume number, and page numbers). If expert opinion is used, please provide the name of the person and their affiliation.

Please complete the report by 10 August 2023 and submit by email to Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma ([heidrun.frisch-nwakanma@un.org](mailto:heidrun.frisch-nwakanma@un.org)), with copy to Manjula Tiwari ([manjula.tiwari@noaa.gov](mailto:manjula.tiwari@noaa.gov)).

**NATIONAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR: 2023**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Signatory State:** |  |
| **Memorandum in effect in Signatory State since (day/month/year):** |  |
| **Full contact details of the agency or institution that has been primarily responsible for the preparation of this report:** |  |
| **Name and affiliation of the person completing this report** |  |
| **List any other agencies, institutions, or NGOs that have provided input:** |  |
| **Date of completion of the National Report (day/month/year):** |  |

1. **BACKGROUND:**
   1. **Provide an update on sea turtle species present in your country:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Species** | **Select one for each species** | **Number of nests per year** | **Trend** | **Ref.#** |
| **Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*)** | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |
| **Green (*Chelonia mydas*)** | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |
| **Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*)** | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |
| **Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)** | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |
| **Olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)** | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |
| **Kemp’s ridley (*Lepidochelys* *kempii*)** | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |

* 1. **What is the total length of your coastline?**
  2. **What percentage of the coastline has nesting beaches?**
  3. **What percentage of the nesting beaches is currently monitored at regular intervals?** (Ref.#)
  4. **Are there currently in-water projects in your country that monitor/characterize:**

1. habitats? yes  no
2. sea turtle populations? yes  no 
   1. **Are there currently:**
3. bycatch monitoring projects in your country? yes  no
4. bycatch reduction projects in your country? yes  no 
   1. **List the national laws and regional/international agreements in your country that protect sea turtles and/or their habitats**

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* 1. **List protected areas (PAs), sanctuaries or temporary exclusion zones that were created to protect marine turtle habitat.**

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* 1. **List government agencies that play a role in the conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats in your country.** Very briefly list their responsibilities in relation to protecting marine turtles and their habitats.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of the agency** | **Role in the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

* 1. **List the names and locations of NGOs and other institutions working on sea turtles in your country**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of the NGO/Institution** | **Location** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

1. **THREATS**
   1. **Indicate the intensity of threats currently to marine turtles at the nesting beach and/or in the water in your country**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Nature of Threat** | **Intensity of Threat** | **Ref.#** |
| Illegal exploitation of nesting females (i.e. direct harvest on land) | Choose an item. |  |
| Illegal intentional harvest of animals in coastal waters | Choose an item. |  |
| Use: Meat consumption | Choose an item. |  |
| Use: Egg consumption | Choose an item. |  |
| Use: Fat and oil consumption | Choose an item. |  |
| Use: Traditional medicine | Choose an item. |  |
| Use: Carapace | Choose an item. |  |
| Use: Scutes for ornaments | Choose an item. |  |
| Use: Traditional ceremony | Choose an item. |  |
| Use: Other — please specify | Choose an item. |  |
| International trade in sea turtle meat/eggs/parts | Choose an item. |  |
| Incidental capture in artisanal fisheries | Choose an item. |  |
| Incidental capture in industrial fisheries | Choose an item. |  |
| IUU fishing | Choose an item. |  |
| Boat strikes | Choose an item. |  |
| Marine debris (e.g. plastics at sea, flotsam) | Choose an item. |  |
| Degradation of in-water habitats (seagrass beds, coral reefs, etc.) | Choose an item. |  |
| Industrial effluent | Choose an item. |  |
| Inshore oil pollution | Choose an item. |  |
| Coastal/beach degradation from Agricultural/urban/tourism development or construction | Choose an item. |  |
| Artificial lighting (on land or near shore) | Choose an item. |  |
| Coastal erosion, debris that obstructs nesting, hatchlings, etc. | Choose an item. |  |
| Vehicles driving on the beach | Choose an item. |  |
| Unregulated tourism | Choose an item. |  |
| Sand mining / removal | Choose an item. |  |
| Predation by domestic / feral animals | Choose an item. |  |
| Increasing sand temperature | Choose an item. |  |
| Other (specify) | Choose an item. |  |

* 1. **Provide more details on the fisheries in your waters (including territorial waters and the EEZ)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ARTISANAL FISHERIES** | | | |
|  | **Intensity of Threat** | **Species impacted** (please select all that apply) | **Ref.#** |
| Trawls | Choose an item. | Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*)  Green (*Chelonia mydas*)  Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*)  Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)  Olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)  Kemp’s ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*)  Unknown  Unsure |  |
| Set gill nets | Choose an item. | Loggerhead  Green  Leatherback  Hawksbill  Olive ridley  Kemp’s ridley  Unknown  Unsure |  |
| Driftnets | Choose an item. | Loggerhead  Green  Leatherback  Hawksbill  Olive ridley  Kemp’s ridley  Unknown  Unsure |  |
| Purse seine | Choose an item. | Loggerhead  Green  Leatherback  Hawksbill  Olive ridley  Kemp’s ridley  Unknown  Unsure |  |
| Longline | Choose an item. | Loggerhead  Green  Leatherback  Hawksbill  Olive ridley  Kemp’s ridley  Unknown  Unsure |  |
| Beach seine | Choose an item. | Loggerhead  Green  Leatherback  Hawksbill  Olive ridley  Kemp’s ridley  Unknown  Unsure |  |
| Stownet | Choose an item. | Loggerhead  Green  Leatherback  Hawksbill  Olive ridley  Kemp’s ridley  Unknown  Unsure |  |
| Other (specify) | Choose an item. | Loggerhead  Green  Leatherback  Hawksbill  Olive ridley  Kemp’s ridley  Unknown  Unsure |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **INDUSTRIAL FISHERIES** | | | |
|  | **Intensity of Threat** | **Species impacted** (please select all that apply) | **Ref.#** |
| Bottom trawls (including shrimp trawls) | Choose an item. | Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*)  Green (*Chelonia mydas*)  Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*)  Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)  Olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)  Kemp’s ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*)  Unknown  Unsure |  |
| Pelagic trawls | Choose an item. | Loggerhead  Green  Leatherback  Hawksbill  Olive ridley  Kemp’s ridley  Unknown  Unsure |  |
| Driftnets | Choose an item. | Loggerhead  Green  Leatherback  Hawksbill  Olive ridley  Kemp’s ridley  Unknown  Unsure |  |
| Purse seine | Choose an item. | Loggerhead  Green  Leatherback  Hawksbill  Olive ridley  Kemp’s ridley  Unknown  Unsure |  |
| Longline | Choose an item. | Loggerhead  Green  Leatherback  Hawksbill  Olive ridley  Kemp’s ridley  Unknown  Unsure |  |
| Other (specify) | Choose an item. | Loggerhead  Green  Leatherback  Hawksbill  Olive ridley  Kemp’s ridley  Unknown  Unsure |  |

* 1. **Which of the following are encouraging illegal take of marine turtles in your country?** Provide Ref.#s

Relatively high prices, relatively high revenues earned from selling turtle parts and products (any of the following: meat, eggs, crafts)

Lack of affordable alternatives to turtle parts and products

Lack of culturally acceptable alternatives to turtle parts and products

Ease of access to the turtle resource (e.g. proximity to nesting beaches, or ease of land/water access)

Lack of patrolling and enforcement at nesting beaches and nearshore areas

Low cost of land near nesting beaches

Low penalties against illegal take

Source of easy income

Other (specify):

None of the above

Not Applicable

1. **THREAT REDUCTION ACTIVITIES**
   1. **Indicate activities implemented currently at the nesting beach and the level of implementation based on the need for the activity**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ACTIVITY** | **Need for the activity** | **IMPLEMENTATION** | **Ref.#** |
| Monitoring eggs and nesting females (day time) | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |
| Monitoring nesting females (night patrols) | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |
| Predator control | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |
| In-situ nest protection from predators/ high sand temperatures | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |
| Nest relocation (hatcheries, other sections of beach) | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |
| Vehicle access restrictions | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |
| Regular removal of debris/ beach clean ups | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |
| Beach restoration | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |
| Coastal protection from development/sand mining/pollution | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |
| Light pollution reduction | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |
| Law enforcement | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |
| Other (specify) | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |  |

* 1. **List the fisheries where the below methods are being used currently to address bycatch of marine turtles in your country, and indicate level of implementation**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **METHOD** | **FISHERIES** (please list) | **IMPLEMENTATION** (mark with **X**) for each listed fishery | | | **Ref.#** |
| **Low** | **Moderate** | **Extensive** |  |
| Safe handling of incidentally caught turtles (e.g. resuscitation or release using de-hooking tools, line cutting tools and scoop nets) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Devices that allow the escape of marine turtles (e.g. turtle excluder devices (TEDs) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Devices that allow marine turtles to avoid the nets (e.g. lights) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Measures to avoid encirclement of marine turtles in purse seine fisheries |  |  |  |  |  |
| Measures to release the turtles before the purse seine is hauled in |  |  |  |  |  |
| Appropriate combinations of hook size and design, type of bait, depth, gear specifications and fishing practices |  |  |  |  |  |
| Monitoring and recovery of fish aggregating devices (FADs) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Use of eco-friendly FADs |  |  |  |  |  |
| Spatial and temporal control of fishing (e.g. seasonal closures of fishing activities) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Onboard observer programmes |  |  |  |  |  |
| Vessel monitoring systems |  |  |  |  |  |
| Inspections (i.e. at sea, in port, at landing sites) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Law enforcement at sea |  |  |  |  |  |
| Training programmes / workshops to train fishers on the use of bycatch reduction methods |  |  |  |  |  |
| Informative videos, brochures, printed guidelines etc. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Proper disposal of discarded gear to prevent ghost fishing |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other (specify) |  |  |  |  |  |
| None of the above |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. **Are there efforts currently to recover degraded marine turtle habitats?**

Provide Ref.#

1. Coral reefs: yes  no  unsure  not applicable
2. Seagrass: yes  no  unsure  not applicable
3. Other (specify): yes  no  unsure  not applicable 
   1. **Touristic Activities**
      1. **Are there currently touristic activities linked to marine turtles in your country?**

yes  no  unsure

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **If yes, indicate which type:** | | **Ref.#** |
| 1. Nesting turtle observation | yes  no |  |
| 1. Hatchling releases | yes  no |  |
| 1. Swimming/ snorkeling activities | yes  no |  |
| Other (please describe) | |  |

* + 1. **Are there any standard and government-certified protocols to ensure that touristic activities do not harm turtles and/or hatchlings?**

yes  no  unsure

**If yes, have they been implemented?**

yes  no  unsure

**If they have been implemented, are they effective?**

yes  no  unsure

* 1. **Are education/awareness programmes currently in place?**

For each group indicate the extent of the programme nationally and provide Ref.#s

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Target audience** | **Extent of the programme** | **Ref.#** |
| Policy makers | Choose an item. |  |
| Fishing industry | Choose an item. |  |
| Communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats | Choose an item. |  |
| Local/Fishing communities | Choose an item. |  |
| Women’s groups | Choose an item. |  |
| Indigenous groups | Choose an item. |  |
| Tourists | Choose an item. |  |
| Media | Choose an item. |  |
| Teachers | Choose an item. |  |
| Students | Choose an item. |  |
| Military, Navy, Police | Choose an item. |  |
| Scientists | Choose an item. |  |
| NGOs | Choose an item. |  |
| Enforcement personnel | Choose an item. |  |
| Judicial personnel | Choose an item. |  |
| Others (describe) | Choose an item. |  |

* 1. **Involvement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**
     1. **Is traditional knowledge (including beliefs, taboos, etc.) being incorporated into conservation efforts?**

yes  no  unsure  not applicable

**If yes, please provide Ref.#**

* + 1. **Do indigenous peoples and local communities participate in conservation and management planning/decision making?**

yes  no  unsure  not applicable

**If yes, please provide Ref.#**

* 1. **Are indigenous peoples and local communities benefitting from the presence of sea turtles and sea turtle projects?**

yes  no  unsure  not applicable

**If yes, explain how by selecting from the following and provide Ref#:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Benefits** |  | **Ref.#** |
| 1. financially (hired by the project) | yes  no |  |
| 1. ecotourism | yes  no |  |
| 1. community development (infrastructure) | yes  no |  |
| 1. community members’ skill development | yes  no |  |
| 1. education (children/adults) | yes  no |  |
| 1. alternative livelihoods (specify) | yes  no |  |
| 1. other (specify) | yes  no |  |

* 1. **Are there any studies currently in your country to investigate the effects of climate change?**

yes  no  unsure

**If yes, specify very briefly and provide Ref.#s:**

1. **STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION** 
   1. **Are there programmes currently to involve local stakeholders in activities to conserve marine turtles?**

Indicate the level of engagement, at the national level, for each stakeholder and provide Ref.#s

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Stakeholder** | **Level of Engagement** | **Ref.#** |
| Fishing industry | Choose an item. |  |
| Communities that interact with marine turtles and their habitats | Choose an item. |  |
| Local/Fishing communities | Choose an item. |  |
| Women’s groups | Choose an item. |  |
| Indigenous groups | Choose an item. |  |
| Tourists | Choose an item. |  |
| Media | Choose an item. |  |
| Teachers | Choose an item. |  |
| Students | Choose an item. |  |
| Military, Navy, Police | Choose an item. |  |
| Scientists | Choose an item. |  |
| NGOs | Choose an item. |  |
| Enforcement personnel | Choose an item. |  |
| Judicial personnel | Choose an item. |  |
| Others (describe) | Choose an item. |  |

1. **CAPACITY-BUILDING**
   1. **For which of the following is capacity-building /training/technical expertise needed in your country:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Capacity-building needs** | | **Further details (if needed)** |
| 1. Nesting beach monitoring | yes |  |
| 1. In-situ nest protection/predator control | yes |  |
| 1. Hatcheries | yes |  |
| 1. Bycatch monitoring | yes |  |
| 1. Bycatch reduction | yes |  |
| 1. In-water habitat monitoring | yes |  |
| 1. In-water sea turtle population monitoring | yes |  |
| 1. Community engagement/empowerment | yes |  |
| 1. Ecotourism | yes |  |
| 1. Training of law enforcement personnel | yes |  |
| 1. Habitat restoration | yes |  |
| 1. Light pollution control | yes |  |
| 1. Socio-economic studies | yes |  |
| 1. National database | yes |  |
| 1. Data management | yes |  |
| 1. Grant writing | yes |  |
| 1. Research | yes |  |
| 1. Other | yes |  |

1. **ABIDJAN MARINE TURTLE MOU**
   1. **How would you describe the current sea turtle conservation and management efforts in your country?**
2. Nothing is being done
3. Ineffective
4. Partially effective
5. Very effective 
   1. **Do you believe that the « Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa » is a useful framework for conservation and management in your country?**

yes  no  unsure

1. **REFERENCES**

Provide details for all the references used in your above responses:

Etc.