

Range State Meeting on the Single Species Action Plan for the Hawksbill Turtle in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific

Online, 31 May to 2 June 2022

CMS/IOSEA/Hawksbill-SSAP/Doc.8

SUGGESTIONS FOR A GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Introduction

1. The governance structure aims to support the implementation of the Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) for the Hawksbill Turtle in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific by providing a framework to help all Range States identify priorities and opportunities for Hawksbill Turtle conservation within their national jurisdiction. Working groups, at both national and international levels, can use the framework to strengthen coordination and monitor implementation progress.

Coordination

Steering Group

2. A Steering Group (SG) will be established, which is to be coordinated by a Chair and Vice-Chair on a voluntary basis. The SG is suggested to comprise one national government representative (Focal Point) and one national expert per Range State. The SG could also consider including international stakeholders as either members or observers. The Secretariat will assist the SG by providing secretarial services, but will not act as a coordinator for the SSAP's implementation unless funding is provided for that function.
3. The SG will endeavour to meet online annually to review the implementation of the SSAP in all Range States.
4. The SG Chair, with support from the Vice-Chair, will facilitate regular contact between SG members, lead annual meetings of the SG, and participate in the review of reports from Range States. On a triennial basis, the SG Chair, with support from the Vice-Chair, will facilitate a review of the SSAP, will synthesize reports on the limitations Range States face and will make recommendations on how to overcome these.
5. Every three years, SG meetings will review the SSAP and update it as necessary.
6. The CMS Secretariat will support the organization of the meeting upon request by the Chair of the SG. Meetings will normally be held online and in English.

National Working Groups

7. The establishment of National Working Groups (NWG) consisting of National Focal Points, local stakeholders and scientists, particularly those who would be involved to implement actions, is strongly encouraged. The frequency and format of NWG meetings will be decided

according to the needs of the NWGs. Regular meetings are recommended, as is the taking of minutes including agreed follow-up actions.

8. NWGs are recommended to create workplans for the implementation of the SSAP and provide annual updates on the implementation of the SSAP in their Range State. These reports would be submitted to the chair of the SG ahead of yearly SG meetings.
9. NWGs may want to translate the SSAP into their preferred language, if deemed necessary.

Implementation

10. Following the finalisation of the SSAP and accompanying documents, and establishment of the SG and any NWGs, each NWG should develop a national work plan focusing on priority actions relevant to their country or territory. The NWGs work plan should be a living document, which is regularly updated by members of the NWG as they progress with the plans.
11. The SG and NWGs will be given access to online content that will contain the SSAP and accompanying documents, as well as the national progress reports and SG meeting reports. This space can also be used to share national workplans. The Secretariat is ready to assist by providing this platform, including the option to collaboratively work on documents through suitable technical tools.

Funding

12. Range States would be responsible for securing their funding for SSAP implementation activities. Range States might consider establishing a fund to support implementation activity of developing countries and non-governmental organizations.

Monitoring

13. A national reporting template will be developed by the Secretariat in consultation with the SG. A three-year reporting cycle is recommended.
14. Every three years, an analysis of national reports that were submitted to monitor progress of implementation of the SSAP will be conducted (resources permitting) led by the SG Chair. This analysis will highlight common issues between Range States, identify where further targeted effort needs to be focused and which limiting factors are hindering implementation, and include recommendations as to how these issues may be resolved or mitigated.

Documentation

15. The Secretariat will provide online space where the SSAP and accompanying documents, national progress reports, national work plans and SG meeting reports will be made available.