

IUCN SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



Roderic Mast



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Co-Chairs

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

301



Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG) is to develop and support strategies, set priorities, and provide tools that promote and guide the conservation of marine turtles, and their ecological roles and habitats.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

i. The draft Kemp's Ridley turtle assessment was prepared by the assessors, reviewed by our assessment steering committee, revised, reviewed by the entire MTSG membership, and is now being further revised. (KSR #1)

■ Research activities

i. We developed an internal data reporting process to improve participation in Red List and other status assessments by our vast membership, and to aid with this (traditionally) extremely time intensive task by distributing the workload away from one or two assessors by engaging many members in this important task. We are still working out some challenges in getting members to participate in a timely fashion and in tackling some regions that have vast marine turtle populations or encompass many countries, but we are seeing progress.

Communications

■ Scientific meetings

i. We hosted an MTSG Annual General Meeting in March 2017 in Las Vegas, NV, US, as a forum for exchange of information and discussion of plans and priorities among MTSG members.

Acknowledgements

We thank IUCN and the US Department of State for their support to the State of the World's Sea Turtles Project.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: (1) complete global Red List assessments of the Kemp's Ridley, Olive Ridley, and Hawksbill turtles; (2) complete 11 subpopulation assessments of the green turtle.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

By 2020, we envision vastly improved global and first-ever subpopulation Red List assessments being completed for six of the seven sea turtle species, providing greater focus and clarity to conservation planning for marine turtles.

Release of juvenile Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) after tissue sampling and body size measurements were obtained, Alta Guajira, Gulf of Venezuela
Photo: Héctor Barrios-Garrido



Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 2/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (2 activities)
 - Communications (1 activity)
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Main KSRs addressed: 1

KSR: Key Species Result



Leatherback Sea Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Vulnerable
Photo: Brian J. Hutchinson