

IUCN SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group



2019 Report



Roderic Mast



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Co-Chairs

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Location/Affiliation

- ⁽¹⁾ Oceanic Society, Washington, DC, US
- ⁽²⁾ University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy
- ⁽³⁾ Ecolibrium, Inc., Boulder, Colorado, US

Number of members

301

Social networks

Website: <http://iucn-mtsg.org>



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.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

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.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: (1) complete global Red List assessments of the Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), and Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) turtles; (2) complete 11 subpopulation assessments of the Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*).

Research activities: (1) ten Regional Reports (at least partially completed) covering >50% of countries where sea turtles occur; (2) plan, fundraise, conduct pre-workshop analyses, and implement the seventh MTSG 'Burning Issues' Workshop (BI-7) focused on validating regional management units (RMUs), re-assessing vulnerability of all taxa, and creating a framework for 'Important Marine Turtle Areas', which will be attended by 30 MTSG experts in Monaco in June 2020.

Activities and results 2019

Assess

Red List

i. The Kemp's Ridley assessment is completed. The Northwest Atlantic Ocean Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) subpopulation assessment is also completed. (KSR #1)

ii. Three subpopulation assessments of the Green Turtle are completed: South Atlantic Ocean, North Central Pacific Ocean, and North Indian Ocean. Several more are in draft form, to be completed in 2020. (KSR #1)

Research activities

i. Seven regional reports were produced (one complete and six partially complete), covering 28% of the countries where sea turtles occur. Many country chapters were only drafted and could not be included due to the high workload of the editors of the regional reports. Additional editors have been recruited to improve the results in 2020. (KSR #1, 2, 4)

ii. Fundraising and planning phases to conduct pre-workshop analyses and implement the seventh MTSG 'Burning Issues' Workshop (BI-7) are completed. (KSR #3, 4)



Two Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) are released in China. The satellite trackers attached to their carapaces will give scientists information about their oceanic movements
Photo: Brian Hutchinson



An Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) makes her way down the beach at low tide
Photo: Roderic Mast

A Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) hatchling makes its way to the ocean in Trinidad
Photo: Brian Hutchinson



A biologist measures an Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) hatchling in Costa Rica
Photo: Brian Hutchinson

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the Oceanic Society.

Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 1/5

Assess **4** ||||

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 3, 4

KSR: Key Species Result