

IUCN SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group



2020 Report



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Co-Chairs

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

301

Social networks

Websites: www.iucn-mtsg.org

IUCN-SSC MARINE TURTLE
SPECIALIST GROUP



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 2020

Assess

Red List

i. Several subpopulation assessments of the Green Turtle are in draft form, to be completed in the next quadrennium. (KSR #1)

Research activities

i. Nine Regional Reports are underway (three complete and six partially complete), covering 51% of the countries where sea turtles occur. Many country chapters were added to the 2019 Regional Reports, and additional editors and authors are being strategically recruited to draft the missing country chapters and Regional Report for 2021. (KSR #1, 2, 4)

ii. Fundraising and initial planning phases of the Seventh MTSG 'Burning Issues' Workshop (BI-7) were completed, but the meeting scheduled for 21–25 June 2020 in Monaco was postponed due to COVID-19. We now plan to conduct the workshop online and are in the process of planning this event. (KSR #3, 4)



A Leatherback Turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea*, returns to the ocean after completing her nesting process
Photo: Brian Hutchinson

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the Oceanic Society.

Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 1/5

Assess **3** |||

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 3, 4

KSR: Key Species Result