SEA TURTLE EXPERT WORKSHOP REPORT

Sea Turtle Expert Workshop Report

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Cover Image: Suryono. Green turtle on Enu Island.

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

The Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) is part of the North Australian Shelf large marine ecosystem, which is a tropical sea lying between the Pacific and Indian Oceans and extending from the Timor Sea to the Torres Strait and including the Arafura Sea and Gulf of Carpentaria. The region is adjacent to the Coral Triangle, which hosts the world's highest marine biodiversity and contains some of the most pristine and highly threatened coastal and marine ecosystems. At the regional scale, the ecosystems of the ATS play an important economic and ecological role in the littoral nations bordering the Arafura and Timor Sea: Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

ATSEA-2 is the 2nd phase of the GEF-financed, UNDP and PEMSEA supported Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action (ATSEA) programme. This 5-year project (2019-2024) will support the implementation of the following governance and environmental objectives of the ATS regional Strategic Action Programme: (i) Strengthening of ATS regional governance; (ii) Recovering and sustaining fisheries; (iii) Restoring degraded habitats for sustainable provision of ecosystem services; (iv) Reducing land-based and marine sources of pollution; (v) Protecting key marine species; and (vi) Adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

In connection with protecting key marine species, ATSEA-2 has produced two documents in regard to improving regional collaboration and management in the ATS for sea turtles. Those are the Status of Sea Turtles in the ATS and the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for Sea Turtles in the ATS. These documents, especially the RAP, focus on strengthening coordination and management within governments and communities engaged in sea turtle conservation. The RAP has been consulted at national and regional levels and was presented to the Regional Steering Committee Meeting, the ultimate decision-making body for the ATS region, in December 2021.

The sea turtle RAP comprises six proposed priority themes, each with its objectives, actions, measures of success, and outcomes. The priority themes are 1) addressing discards of fishing gear given the impact on sea turtles (regional), 2) establish a funding mechanism (regional), 3) addressing turtle bycatch in the Arafura Sea prawn fisheries (Indonesia), 4) enhanced conservation of sea turtles in Timor-Leste (Timor-Leste), 5) enhanced conservation of sea turtles in Indonesia with a focus in Aru Island (Indonesia), and 6) enhanced conservation of sea turtles in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

The RAP was endorsed by all ATS countries but several uncertainties remained which required input from sea turtle experts in the region. An international consultant (Sea Turtle Expert), Dr. Kiki Dethmers, was contracted to lead the sea turtle expert workshop involving other sea turtle experts from Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste and to finalise the Regional Sea. The aim of this workshop was to compile insights and inputs from the experts on both documents and to further refine and finalise the Status Report and the RAP. This report documents the process and outcomes of the sea turtle expert workshop.

CHAPTER 2. WORKSHOP PROCESS

In consultation with the ATSEA-2 Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU), 26 sea turtle experts with a thorough understanding of sea turtle status and conservation in the ATS region from Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste were identified and invited to attend the workshop (see: Appendix 1). The experts were affiliated with NGOs, Academia, or Government, warranting that conservation needs and requirements were addressed from various angles of accountability. The workshop was held online on April 20th 2022.

The workshop objectives were:
1. To ensure the status review reflects the current condition of sea turtles in the ATS region.
2. To gather input on missing points, especially for measures of success and other concerns in the RAP.
3. To further refine the two documents.

Moderation was done by the ATSEA-2 RPMU and technical support for the virtual workshop was facilitated by *More Media*. Detailed workshop outline is attached (Appendix 2).

Table 1. Workshop Agenda

Time (GMT+8)	Agenda	PIC
12:00-12:05	Opening and brief introduction of ATSEA-2 and objective of the workshop	ATSEA-2 RPMU
12:05-12:20	Overall summary of both assessment results and explanation of workshop process	Kiki Dethmers
12:20-12:30	Summary of outstanding issues in the Regional Action Plan	Kiki Dethmers
12:30-14:00	Inputs and comments from workshop participants (Max 5' per person)	Workshop participants
14:00-14:10	Short break	
14:10-14:25	Recap of inputs, concerns and missing info	Kiki Dethmers
14:25-14:55	Final discussion to address the inputs, concerns and missing info	Kiki Dethmers
14:55-15:00	Closing	ATSEA-2 RPMU

Synopsis of the status of sea turtles

Table 2. Update on all six turtle species occurring in the ATS

Species	Current Situation	Need
Chelonia mydas Green turtle	A single Regional Management Unit 4 Genetically distinct breeding stocks Aggregations of multiple breeding stock at feeding grounds Few studies of long-term trends for rookeries	Long term data sets Ongoing monitoring at index green turtle rookeries to see trends
Eretmochelys imbricata Hawksbill	Nests on multiple islands across the region Few estimates of abundance are available 5,000 nesters each year 2 genetic stocks breeding in Australia Aggregations of multiple breeding stocks at feeding grounds	Samples for genetic data Monitoring at index hawksbill turtle rookeries to see trends Long term data sets
Lepidochelys olivacea Olive Ridley	Moderately abundant in the ATS Nest on beaches in Australia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste 2 genetically distinct breeding stocks In Australia, there was an estimated 90% loss of nests to pig predation on western Cape York	Long term data studies Build long term data sets Ongoing monitoring at index olive ridley rookeries to see trends
Natator depressus Flatback	Nests only in Australia Foraging flatbacks encountered in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia 7 genetically distinct breeding stocks Population sizes appear to be stable at present	Population appears stable Ongoing monitoring at index flatback turtle rookeries to see trends
Dermochelys coriacea Leatherback	Handful nesters use beaches in Northern Australia Leatherback turtle is considered a single RMU Leatherbacks from Papua New Guinea or Indonesia generally do move into the ATSEA region Small proportion near Kei islands	~~Do not appear to move into the ATS region~~ Monitoring at index leatherback rookeries in the close vicinity of the ATS region to see trends
Caretta caretta Loggerhead	Loggerheads are widespread throughout the ATS No breeding by loggerhead turtles in the ATS Loggerhead turtles are considered a single RMU	Monitoring at index loggerhead rookeries in the close vicinity of the ATS region to see trends

Synopsis of the Regional Action Plan

Fundamental requirements of the RAP

1. Clear pathways – from implementation to conservation outcomes
2. Realistic outputs, measurable deliverables, long-term objectives
3. Engage appropriate stakeholders to implement the actions
4. Cooperative, inclusive, adaptable and share
5. Acceptable to local community and general public

Key threats to sea turtle populations in the ATS

1. Fisheries bycatch
2. Direct take
3. Predation
4. Anthropogenic lighting
5. Climate change and variation
6. Tortoiseshell trade
7. Discarded fishing gear
8. Habitat loss

The RAP contains 6 themes, 21 objectives and 72 actions, promoting the conservation of sea turtles and their habitats at a regional level and increasing the knowledge of spatial distribution, mortality and population structure. Each theme is assigned to a specific country or deemed regional and is envisioned to impact one or more sea turtle species.

Priority themes for the RAP

1. Bycatch
2. Ghost nets (entanglement, ingestion)
3. Direct take
4. Lack of information (nesting beaches, species, genetics)
5. Scarcity of long-term trend data
6. Long-term, stable financing

Theme 1 Addressing discards of fishing gear given the impacts on sea turtles

| Spatial Coverage | | Species: | Gr | Ha | Lg | Lb | Or | Fb |

Theme 2 Establish a funding mechanism

| Spatial Coverage | | Species: | Gr | Ha | Lg | Lb | Or | Fb |

Theme 3 Addressing sea turtle bycatch in the Arafura Sea prawn fishery

| Spatial Coverage | | Species: | Gr | | | Lb | Or | Fb |

Theme 4 Enhanced conservation of sea turtles in Timor Leste

| Spatial Coverage | | Species: | Gr | Ha | | | Or |

Theme 5 Enhanced conservation of sea turtles in Indonesia with a focus on Aru

| Spatial Coverage | | Species: | Gr | Ha | | Lb | Or |

Theme 6 Enhanced conservation of sea turtles in PNG

| Spatial Coverage | | Species: | Gr | Ha | | Or | Fb |

The main objective of the workshop was to conclude several outstanding issues for some of the themes

	Theme	Objectives	*Outstanding issues*
1.	Addressing discards of fishing gear given the impacts on sea turtles	Knowledge transfer Improve understanding of scope of issue and mitigation options Implement management solutions	==
2.	Establish a funding mechanism	Development of a funding strategy Establish potential funding sources Develop funding proposals	==
3.	Addressing sea turtle bycatch in the Arafura Sea prawn fishery	Knowledge transfer Enhanced mitigation of turtle - fishery interactions Closing knowledge gaps	Is a minimum of 90% TED compliance realistic?
4.	Enhanced conservation of sea turtles in Timor-Leste	Knowledge transfer Enhance community participation Close knowledge gaps Implement management solutions	Set a minimum % reduction in take of eggs and turtles Set a minimum % reduction in accidental bycatch in local community fisheries
5.	Enhanced conservation of sea turtles in Indonesia with a focus on Aru	Knowledge transfer Enhance community participation Close knowledge gaps Implement management solutions	Realistic % reduction in take of eggs and turtles

			Realistic % reduction in accidental bycatch in local community fisheries
6	Enhanced conservation of sea turtle in PNG with a focus on PNG	Revision / Adoption of Moro Mamoro Gamo Management Plan Capacity building Closing knowledge gaps Implement management solutions	Target number of tissue samples collected for genetic analysis

Slido was used for participant input for the following questions during the workshop and up until one week after the workshop.

1. Do you think ATSEA's Regional Sea Turtle Action Plan can complement/bring added values to already existing national and/or regional action plans? Why?
2. Do you have suggestions for us to improve the chance of the ATSEA's Regional Action Plan being adopted/referred to by ATS countries?
3. What do you think is the best overall measure of success for sea turtle conservation in the ATS? What would be the main activity required to get there and when do you envision that to happen?

Some responses for in Slido are available (Appendix 3).

Presentations from Participants

Prior to the workshop, participants were asked to prepare a short presentation about their work and current status. Presentations provided further information from participants on missing information and are presented in this report together with the discussion points in chapter 3.

Throughout the workshop participants were encouraged to present, communicate via the chatbox or speak in the language they felt comfortable with (Indonesian or English) for their input. After the workshop, several online one-to-one interviews and discussions were held to gather additional information and fill in the remaining gaps.

Presentations from the workshop can be accessed at:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wBIIvKxPuRiiugcDcB5GQanE7zTLtB3y?usp=sharing

Workshop recording can be accessed at:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/k5ouji6mm11yspg/STEW%20-%2020%20April%202022%20-%20VMIX%20Record-001.mp4?dl=0

CHAPTER 3. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

Additional information, not already covered in the sea turtle status report, is presented by topic and per country.

3.1 Long-term data

Australia:

Long-term data is available since 1996 on Bare Sand Island, with annual census data of nesting Flatback and Olive ridleys turtles. Sea-level has increased since 1990, water temperature, air temperature increased but appears to have little impact on the Flatback population. Other islands in the vicinity of Bare Sand Island are also surveyed but less frequently.

Indonesia:

Data is available on Leatherbacks in the Moluccas (Banda, Ceram, Halmahera) and in West Papua on Leatherbacks, Olive ridleys, Greens, and Hawksbills. There is an increase in numbers and recent figures update from data is available. This data is currently being summarized and analysed for scientific papers but has not yet been published. Some of this information was shared during the post-workshop conversations and where relevant included in the RAP and Status report.

3.2 Discards of fishing gear

Indonesia:

Two documents on the status of Sea Turtles are available, however, despite these documents, information on turtle capture by fishing gear is scarce but needed.

There is a high impact on turtles by ghost nets, there is a need to collect data on this.

3.3 Bycatch

Indonesia:

There is no recent data on turtle bycatch. In 2006-2015, Indonesia was an FAO participant. Since 2015 there is a ban on shrimp trawlers, and gillnet fisheries. However, there is low compliance to the actual use of TEDs. The use of TED super shooter is 13 % and has an effect on shrimp catch. It is effective for small bycatch but is ineffective for turtles and large animals. Observer data collected on vessels (trawlers, gillnet and longline fisheries) can be accessed at the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (*Kementerian Kelautan dan Perikanan*). Bycatch includes sharks. WWF has the recent bycatch data.

Application of TED is used at the Arafura Sea. However, fishermen say there is a technical problem and say it is very difficult to use. The fishermen are not always willing to use TED and there is no compliance. The economic bycatch is decreasing, so the issue is more willingness of the fishermen rather than technical. It should be mandatory to use TED.

Compliance of 90% is not realistic to achieve, more realistic would be 60%. Compliance is generally higher when observers are used.

Green LED illumination seems to help to mitigate bycatch.

In addition to discard of fishing gear, plastic pollution is also a major problem in the ATS. Indonesia participates in a major international project that will help reduce marine plastic litter from maritime transport and fishing sectors. The GloLitter Partnerships Project is implemented by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with initial funding from the Government of Norway via the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). A GloLitter project is currently trialled in the Savu Sea and could be implemented in the ATS as well.

3.4 Turtle conservation

Australia:

The recently published CMS IOSEA Hawksbill review needs to be checked for in-depth info on hawksbills in the region. There is evidence of recovery of Hawksbill nesting numbers at multiple sites since Japan withdrew its reservation on turtle trade under CITES in ~1992.

Incorrect representation of Hawksbill populations that nest in the NE Indian Ocean from Andamans along southern Indonesia to northern Australia. This is a different stock to the NW Pacific stock that breeds in NW Papua, PNG & Solomons. This NE Indian Ocean Hawksbill distribution warrants better investigation and probably includes the Kei harvest.

Publicly available data on Hawksbill nesting and migration and for all the other species in the CMS global turtle atlas: **TurtleNet**. A summary of this turtle atlas is available and can facilitate ATS participants to display the results of their turtle conservation work.

Include bi-lateral Torres Strait Treaty that allows for PNG traditional take of turtles within Australian waters of Torres Strait. This treaty only addresses the right of PNG villagers to take the turtles, but it has no consideration for the conservation issues related to this take. It would be reasonable for ATSEA-2 to explore potential for inclusion of conservation components within the Torres Strait Treaty

Papua New Guinea:

There is a need to look at threats of direct take where traditional use of turtles is to provide a protein source for people. Since 2013 communities are engaged. It is suggested to give responsibility and power to the local government and engage local communities for direct use management. The Moro Momoro Gamo Management Plan is still in draft and depending on getting funds.

Indonesia:

In December 2021 started to use satellite tagging and drone surveys for Leatherbacks at Kei Island. Since 2016, religious leaders have been involved in activities to engage local communities to reduce direct take. Further input for RAP on customary use and cultural shift of Leatherback turtle use in Kei. Participatory monitoring is used with drone surveys to follow up in Kei. In the future, plan for Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Maluku Barat Daya.

Additional notes:
1. Several hybrid turtles have been found; mix of Hawksbill and Green turtle or other species.
2. Update of NAP and National Regulation in Indonesia (Permen LHK nr p 106/2018).
3. Not much information about protection of turtle habitat. Needs to be completed.
4. Consider action plans related to technology transfer.
5. MMAF regulation: shrimp nets need to equip TED and fishing line.
6. No reports on gear loss drift nets.
7. RAP: pay attention to several country plans that have been prepared.
8. Collaboration is needed in handling illegal trade between countries.
9. There is a GEF 6 EAFM in Kei that will focus on awareness raising and training.
10. 25% reduction in take of eggs and turtles (Aru). *KD questions this: what is this estimate based on? In a much reduced population, still heavily exploited, 25% reduction is not going to prevent extinction of the Aru population.*

Main threats in Aru area are:

1. People still catching turtles for their meat and eggs consumption.
2. Loss of/damage to habitat; coast and coral.
3. Management is difficult due to remoteness of location.
4. Community involvement: increased threat of death amongst hatchlings because they are not immediately released to sea.
5. Enu island is a transit area for fishermen from Dobo. Turtles and eggs are food sources.

Timor-Leste:

There is a high potential for turtle programs along the south coast to promote turtle protection. Overall, there is understanding and there is involvement of volunteers for conservation.

A conservation group at Nino Konis Santana NP has simple facilities for the conservation of eggs. Local communities and fishermen are involved.

3.5   Long term funding

Indonesia:

It is essential to get support from local players and it is important to identify the long term-funding.

CHAPTER 4. WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

The workshop recording was shared for participants to follow up on the discussion and additional input was provided to Dr. Kiki Dethmers.

Additional one-to-one discussions were facilitated and managed to provide additional input from Col Limpus, Anselmo Amaral, Deasy Lontoh, Dwi Suprapti and through emails from Jaya Ratha and Nancy FitzSimmons.

Status report adjustments

Based on the workshop input and additional discussion, several important adjustments were made to the Status report, especially where information was missing (e.g. on Leatherbacks nesting on Buru and a Leatherback programme for Timor-Leste) or where information presented was not quite correct (e.g. green turtle migration and genetics).

RAP edits

TED compliance of 90% was not deemed realistic. 70% was suggested. There was no other input, either in favour or against this adjustment. If 70% compliance is achieved within the first 2 years of enhanced enforcement, is therefore adopted in the ATS turtle RAP. This level of compliance can be reviewed after 5 years.

Reduction of egg and turtle take in Timor-Leste and Aru is set to 90% reduction. This is based on the scientific evidence that a 10% loss of eggs is sustainable but 40% is not. Of the 90% protected nests, another 10% will be predated or lost to natural circumstances. Taking an 80% hatching success into account, would mean that just under 65% of all eggs deposited would survive. This is only just sustainable. These reductions are also based on a study looking at extinction risks of exploited Green turtle stocks in the Indo-Pacific (Dethmers and Baxter, 2010).

A 70% reduction in accidental bycatch in Timor-Leste and Aru is analogous to the 70% TED compliance set for commercial fisheries in the ATS.

At least 30 tissue samples for genetic analysis of the PNG turtle populations are based on the bare minimum of samples required to conduct statistically sound analysis of genetic sequences for population identification and mixed stock analysis. However, more samples are preferable if this is possible.

APPENDIX 1

DETAILED WORKSHOP OUTLINE

SEA TURTLE EXPERT WORKSHOP
VIRTUAL, 20 APRIL 2022, 12-3PM (GMT+8)

Time (GMT+8)	Agenda	Remarks
12:00-12:05	Opening and welcome all participants	• More Media to play opening bumpers (i.e. logos, workshop guideline, STEW bumper, workshop agenda, CT's bumper) • CT to greet and welcome participants • CT to request More Media to play ATSEA-2's animated video (3')
12:05-12:10	Introduction of ATSEA-2 and workshop objectives	• CT to request HA to present introduction of ATSEA-2 and workshop objectives • More Media to play HA's bumper and show HA's ppt (1. Introduction of ATSEA-2.pptx) • HA to present introduction of ATSEA-2 and workshop objectives • HA to hand over back to CT
12:10-12:15	Group photo	• CT to ask participants to turn on their videos and More Media to take the group photos • CT to remind participants to use Slido to post comments/inputs/questions throughout the workshop. DT to post link to Slido
12:15-12:35	1. Overall summary of both assessment results and explanation of workshop process 2. Summary of outstanding issues in the Regional Action Plan	• CT to introduce KD • More Media to play KD's bumper • KD to present 2 PPTs (Overall summary of both assessment results and explanation of workshop process and Summary of outstanding issues in the Regional Action Plan) • CT to inform KD if there are any comments/inputs/questions on Slido. If yes, KD to request More Media to show the Slido screen. KD (and RPMU as needed) to respond to the comments/inputs/questions on Slido
12:35-13:55	Inputs and comments from workshop participants (presentation max 5' per person)	• More Media to play session bumper • KD to encourage participants to share their insights. Some participants may prepare some slides, but many may prefer speaking without slides. KD to encourage participants to write their comments/inputs on Slido If they are not comfortable speaking. KD may call upon all participants to ensure everyone's voice is heard

		• KD to hand over to CT
13:55-14:00	Questions to workshop participants	• CT to explain the two questions on Slido. DT to post the Slido link again. More Media to show the two questions • CT to inform participants that there will be 10' break
14:00-14:10	Short break	More Media to play workshop bumpers in loop
14:10-14:15	Overview of the responses from participants	• CT to welcome the participants again and ask More Media to share the Slido screen. • CT to read out some responses and summarise • CT to hand over to KD
14:15-14:30	Recap of inputs, concerns and missing info	• More Media to play session bumper • KD to present the recap (the slides will be prepared by KD and FD if any)
14:30-14:55	Final discussion to address the inputs, concerns and missing info	• More Media to play session bumper • KD to facilitate the final discussion and encourage the use Slido if needed • KD to hand over to CT
14:55-15:00	Closing	• More Media to play session bumper • CT to present closing slide (5. A Way Forward) and to thank participants. • CT to request participants to turn on their videos and saying goodbye • More Media to play closing bumpers

Notes: KD: Kiki Dethmers, FD: Franny Dethmers, HA: Handoko Adi Susanto, DT: Deti Triani, CT: Casandra Tania

APPENDIX 2

SEA TURTLE EXPERT WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

NO	COUNRY	NAME	INSTITUTION/COMPANY	Gender
Experts
1	Australia	Col Limpus	University of Queensland	Male
2	Australia	Duane March	Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment	Male
3	Australia	Kathryn McKenna	Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment	Female
4	Australia	Mick Guinea	Consultant	Male
5	Australia	Moni Carlisle	TSRA Australian Government	Female
6	Indonesia	Andrianus Sembiring	Yayasan Biodiversitas Indonesia (BIONESIA)	Male
7	Indonesia	Deasy Natalia Lontoh	LPPM UNIPA	Female
8	Indonesia	Dian Dewi	MMAF	Female
9	Indonesia	Dwi Suprapti	WWF Indonesia	Female
10	Indonesia	I Made Jaya Ratha	IAM Flying Vet	Male
11	Indonesia	Ida Ayu Dian Kusuma Dewi	IAM FLYING VET	Female
12	Indonesia	Jan Manuputty	Consultant	Male
13	Indonesia	Matheus Halim	Consultant	Male
14	Indonesia	Mochammad Riyanto	IPB University	Male
15	Indonesia	Prabowo	MMAF	Male
16	Indonesia	Retno Kusuma Ningrum	WWF Indonesia	Female
17	Indonesia	Windia Adnyana	Udayana University	Male
18	Indonesia	Yusup Jentewo	LPPM UNIPA	Male
19	Netherlands	Kiki Dethmers	Consultant	Female
20	Papua New Guinea	Marzena Ann Marinjembi	CEPA	Female
21	Papua New Guinea	Phelameya J. Haiveta	CEPA	Female
22	Papua New Guinea	Ralph Mana	University of Papua New Guinea	Male
23	Papua New Guinea	Rita Goiye	CEPA	Female
24	Papua New Guinea	Vagi Rei	CEPA	Male
25	Timor-Leste	Anselmo Amaral	MAF	Male
26	Timor-Leste	Celestino da Cunha Baretto	MAF	Male
ATSEA-2 Team
27	Indonesia	Nara Wisesa Wiwardhana	ATSEA-2	Male
28	Indonesia	Dwi Ariyoga Gautama	ATSEA-2	Male
29	Papua New Guinea	Kenneth Yhuanje	ATSEA-2	Male
30	Regional	Ezekiel Benjamin Taffarel Marpaung	ATSEA-2	Male
31	Regional	Ketut Listyani Sri Rejeki	ATSEA-2	Female
32	Regional	Dwi Aryo Tjiptohandono	ATSEA-2	Male
33	Regional	Handoko Adi Susanto	ATSEA-2	Male
34	Regional	Vivekananda Gitandjali	ATSEA-2	Female

35	Regional	Casandra Tania	ATSEA-2	Female
36	Regional	Deti Triani	ATSEA-2	Female
37	Timor-Leste	Almerindo da Silva	ATSEA-2	Male

APPENDIX 3

RESPONSES ON SLIDO

1. **Do you think ATSEA's Regional Sea Turtle Action Plan can complement/bring added values to already existing national and/or regional action plans? Why? (Please provide your name before your answer)**

    a. Yusup Jentewo (LPPM UNIPA)- Yes, of course, it will make good progress in adding some values to make a solution for problems in ATS will be solved. especially to facilitate stakeholders can be connected. We know maybe there are some of the policies in each country that are different to head the same problem and with this occasion

    b. The ATSEA Regional Sea Turtle Action Plan is a valuable supplement to the existing national and regional action plans. Data on the status of turtles in the ATS is still limited, so information on the status of sea turtles in the ATS Region and Regional sea turtle action plans supplement the available data. Some turtle research is still conducted on a local level.

    c. Ya, karena dapat melengkapi gap informasi dan aksi dari NPoA yang tersedia. Mengingat lokasi ATSEA adalah habitat penting bagi penyu namun belum banyak tertuang didalam draft NPoA penyu periode 2022 - 2026.

    d. Retno from WWF Indonesia. Yes. As the regional is based on the expert's input on current conditions and situation in the ATS region, where Indonesia is included in it, I believe this could be the based document that can be considered in proposing the strategy of the national plan of action in sea turtle conservation in Indonesia.

    e. Riyanto from IPB University Thank you for the presentation. Concerned about data on bycatch turtles in the Arafura Sea from shrimp trawls and other fishing, There is still no recent data on the number of turtle bycatch caught in the status report. Shrimp trawling has been banned by the government in recent years, but other fishing gears such as gillnets and purse seiners have increased; what about turtle bycatch caused by this fishing gear?

    f. ATSEA Regional Plan can complement what activities are been implemented within PNG and especially in the Southfly region. It will have help PNG guide us with the development of a national marine turtle plan Vagi Rei PNG

    g. Yes, because sea turtle trading still happening and we need some data to improve that issue.

2. **Do you have suggestions for us to improve the chance of the ATSEA's Regional Action Plan being adopted/referred to by ATS countries? (Please provide your name before your answer)**

    a. Yusup Jentewo (LPPM UNIPA) - Maybe ATSEA and partners can share these documents with stakeholders in each country and make sure they can understand the documents, I think there are other important stakeholders (like province governments) who didn't attend this meeting and will be good if they can also know about these documents and about the movement to protect turtle in ATS

    b. Retno from WWF Indonesia. Aside of the funding support to stakeholders that will implement the conservation action, I believe it is important as well to encourage the government in considering the RPoA into the NPoA establishment.

3. **What do you think is the best overall measure of success for sea turtle conservation in the ATS? What would be the main activity required to get there and when do you envision that to happen? Please provide your name before your answer)**

    a. Deasy Lontoh - LPPM UNIPA A successful sea turtle conservation is one where success is sustained in the long term. To promote long-term success of a

conservation program, it is essential to obtain support from local beach owners, local communities, regional to national government, and other conservation partners. Identifying long-term funding to support sea turtle conservation is also important. The main activity needed in the near future is to obtain good baseline data and information about nesting and foraging numbers, bycatch, direct take, beach ownership/management, and socioeconomic status of communities living near important nesting beaches, etc. We can then develop region-specific plans for conservation with quantifiable targets/objectives/measures of success from these baselines. Dutton and Squires (2008) have outlined a holistic strategy for sea turtle conservation.

b. Dwi Suprapti 1. Keberhasilan terbaik apabila Populasi penyu di wilayah ATS bisa tetap stabil namun memberikan manfaat bagi masyarakat. 2. Upaya tersebut bisa tercapai apabila ancaman kematian penyu seperti bycatch, kerusakan habitat, perburuan massive, pencemaran dll bisa diminimalisir. Selain itu RPoA yg tersedia bisa terimplementasi dg baik dan kesadaran masyarakat meningkat. 3. Apabila semua pihak terkait berkolaborasi dalam upaya konservasi penyu di wilayah tersebut.

ATSEA