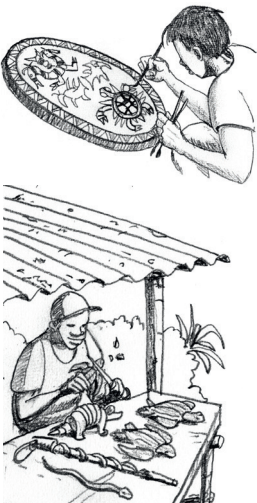


Promoting as social and economical asset (2 operational objectives):

For marine turtle conservation to be successful in French Guiana, a collective sense of ownership of conservation issues needs to be elicited. Value-adding constitutes the economic aspect of conservation actions and, when it is allowed to develop in a well-defined and integrated framework, contributes to the success of conservation schemes because social and professional stakeholders feel they have some ownership of the project.



In French Guiana, marine turtles are iconic species, which have been only recently put to the fore in tourist information media. The National Action Plan, building on existing surveys and diagnoses, could help to identify key actions likely to foster the emergence of eco-touristic activities focusing on sea turtles.

- Develop eco-tourism products focusing on marine turtles on the short term.
- Create favourable conditions for reinforcing the development of eco-touristic activities focusing on marine turtles on the medium term.



▲ Olive ridley turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea*

▼ Leatherback turtle *Dermochelys coriacea*



▲ Green turtle *Chelonia mydas*



Actors and partners agencies of the MaT NAP

The MaT NAP gathers some thirty partner agencies who work for the protection, conservation and promotion of marine turtles in French Guiana.



All these actors represent the Marine Turtles Network of French Guiana.

Ministère de l'Environnement,
de l'Énergie et de la Mer
Secrétariat général
Direction générale de l'Aménagement,
du Logement et de la Nature
Tour Séquoia - 92055 La Défense cedex
Tél. : 01 40 81 21 22
www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr

www.tortuesmarinesguyane.com
www.facebook.com/tortuesmarinesguyane



© Illustrations : J.P. Perez. © Photo couverture : A. Baglan

Marine Turtle
National Action Plan
for French Guiana
2014-2023



Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Énergie et de la Mer

www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr

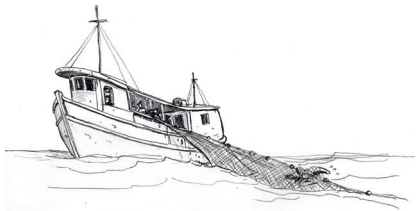


Alleviating threats (7 operational objectives):

It's the top priority. A conservation plan is expected to implement practical measures to improve the conservation status of the target species. This improvement depends on the application of measures to reduce the impact of identified and/or anticipated threats intervening during the duration of the plan.

Alleviating threats at sea:

- Minimize the impact of offshore mining activities and reduce fishing by-catch in French Guiana.



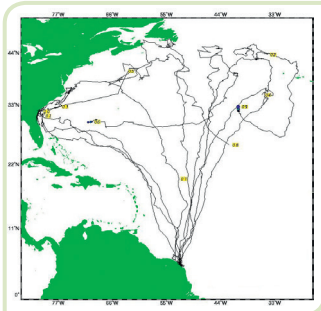
Alleviating threats on land:

- Reduce the disturbance and disorientation of hatchlings and adults.
- Reduce marine turtle mortality by decreasing predation by dogs and egg poaching.
- Reduce man-related causes of nesting site degradation.

Research for conservation (9 operational objectives):

Advancement in knowledge helps to put in place appropriate conservation actions. These studies may cover the assessment and quantification of threat, as well as the environmental factors that influence the marine turtles frequentation and their numbers. The results thus contribute to the reduction of threats at sea or on land.

- Understand the distribution of the different populations/sub-populations and their level of interaction.
- Document population trend for each population/sub-population.
- Understand environmental factors (at sea and on nesting sites) affecting marine turtles.
- Investigate poorly documented segments of population.
- Identify and quantify threats during and between the breeding periods.
- Monitor health status of marine turtles.
- Take into account possible effects of climate change in the conservation strategy.



▲ Satellite tracking of 10 leatherback turtles

Marine Turtle National Action Plan for French Guiana

The beaches of Guyana are nesting sites of international importance for 3 main marine turtles species, including the leatherback turtle, the green turtle and the olive ridley turtle.

The Marine Turtle National Action Plan (MaT NAP) was drawn up in 2014 with the support of all the partners of the Marine Turtles Network of French Guiana for a period of 10 years.

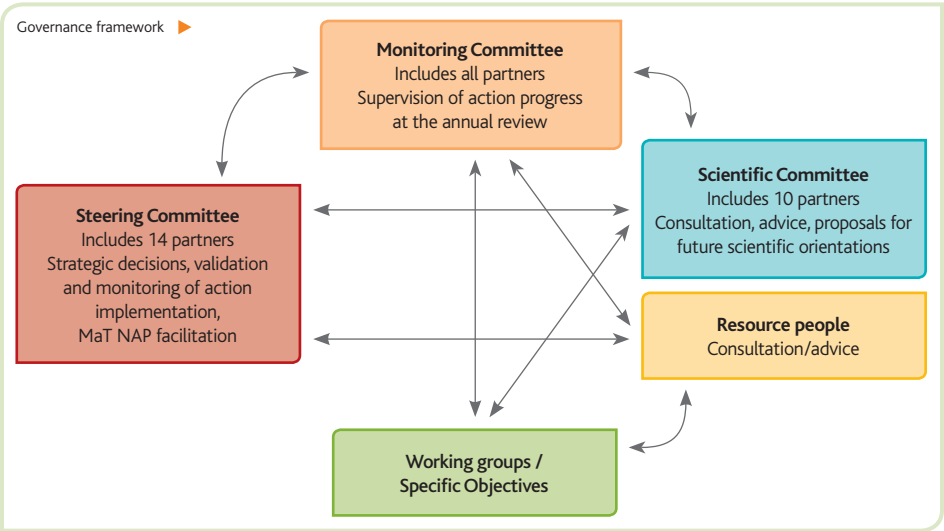
The MaT NAP is a strategic planning document to improve the conservation status of French Guianan breeding populations: the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). These three species are all listed on the IUCN Red List as threatened species.

Five specific objectives classified by decreasing degree of importance and two transversal specific objectives were determined collectively:

- Threat alleviation.
- Research for conservation.
- Transboundary cooperation.
- Environmental education.
- Promotion as socio-economic asset.
- Networking of actors.
- Governance.

Each specific objective includes a number of operational objectives, which are broken down into several actions to be implemented.

Coordination of the MaT NAP was entrusted to the ONCFS, under the supervision of the DEAL, which supports the different actors in the implementation of the actions programmed in the action plan.



Environmental education (3 operational objectives):

Environmental education applied to marine turtles directly fosters a feeling of ownership of turtle conservation issues. The actions that will be developed aims to disseminating and sharing knowledge and to improving behaviours and skills.

- Promote environmentally-friendly behaviours via project-based learning
- Promote knowledge: encourage information for all and at all times of life.
- Train and share



Transboundary cooperation (9 operational objectives):

Conservation actions in favour of marine turtles, which are migratory species, obviously cannot be limited to nesting and feeding sites. Cooperation with countries directly concerned by the target species (Suriname, Guyana, Brazil) should be developed and, more generally, international cooperative actions need to be reinforced.

- Develop greater knowledge of the various actors involved on the Guiana Shield and in Brazil and develop sharing of experience, dissemination and sharing of information.
- Obtain population trends of the three turtle species at the scale of the Guiana Shield and Brazil and investigate the mechanisms of population dynamics and exchanges.
- Improve control of threats through cooperative actions.
- Encourage interactions and economic development in the Maroni estuary area, especially eco-tourism.

