



IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group  
2015 Annual General Meeting  
Regional Update

# MEDITERRANEAN

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with contributions by

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# Regional Membership

- Countries represented: 13
- Number of members: 32

# Regional Concerns

- Emerging / ongoing concerns for turtles
  - coastal development at nesting beaches, including Kyparissia (now the #1 rookery for Cc in the Med)
  - weakness of governmental enforcement towards protection of the species and their habitats in some north African countries
  - clues of increase marine litter ingested
  - Bycatch is a well-known ongoing problem in the region

# Regional Opportunities

- **New projects, opportunities**
  - the EU MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) is being implemented to the whole Mediterranean under the name of EcAP (Ecosystem Approach). Both *C. caretta* and *C. mydas* are species considered for Good Environment Status (GES descriptor) and an integrated monitoring program is being elaborated and should be adopted by the Parties to Barcelona Convention.
  - pan-Med aerial survey on cetaceans (and turtles) by ACCOBAMS
  - The ACCOBAMS and GFCM Secretariats coordinate a project that aims at improving the conservation of endangered marine species, such as cetaceans, sea turtles, seabirds, and at promoting responsible fishing practices in the Mediterranean. This 2-year project is financially supported by the MAVA Foundation
  - using commercial ferry lines to conduct at-sea surveys

# Regional Opportunities

- **Relevant new research**
  - cooperative project Turkey-Greece on climate change and loggerhead turtles
- **Gaps**
  - lack of proper protection systems that include effectively nesting, feeding and migration areas of sea turtles in MPAs
  - demography
  - post-release mortality
  - population size: Libya
  - identification of marine hot-spot areas

# Regional Opportunities

- Opportunities for MTSG involvement in regional issues
  - See 'New project, opportunities'

# Red List Assessments

- Species in need of regional assessments
  - *Caretta caretta*
  - *Chelonia mydas*
  
- Status of regional assessments
  - ongoing support to global assessment processes
  - *C. caretta* (by P. Casale), *C. mydas* (by O. Turkozan)

# Networking & Regional Development

- Linkages between MTSG and other regional bodies (possible)
  - RMFOs in the Med, such as FAO-GFCM and ICCAT who both recently (last 5 years) showed more concerns in their meeting documents on the current fisheries impact on sea turtles
  - other IUCN SGs, such as Shark and Cetacean SGs
  - ACCOBAMS
  - RAC/SPA (UNEP/MAP, Barcelona Convention)
- Support needed from IUCN and / or MTSG
  - propose and formalize collaborations with the bodies listed above
  - identify/clarify the capacity and limits of a regional part of a SG