



# THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MEDITERRANEAN MARINE TURTLE

" Adopted in 1989 and revised in 1999 "



Photo by RAC/SPA

## OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Action Plan are to enhance the population of marine turtles, conserve their critical habitats in the Mediterranean region and improve scientific knowledge about these species.

## PRIORITIES

- Identification, protection and management of nesting, feeding and wintering areas and migration routes
- Banning of exploitation and minimization of incidental catches
- Increasing knowledge on their biology in particular aspects related to their life cycle

## ACTIONS TO ATTAIN THESE OBJECTIVES

### Protection of their critical Habitats

As the creation of protected areas is an effective way of protecting their necessary habitats, RAC/SPA has and is supporting a network of managed and monitored nesting sites (Tunisia, Libya, Lebanon, Turkey). This support aims also to facilitate the exchange of information and experience.

### Legal Protection

National law should take into account the basic biology of marine turtles and in tune with relevant international obligations. Guidelines were elaborated to address this issue.

### Awareness of fishermen

Reduction of marine turtle mortality needs the voluntary collaboration of fishermen. To provide them with awareness material and tools, RAC/SPA has elaborated and translated

- the sea turtle handling Guidebook for fishermen (11 languages)
- the corresponding teachers' manual into several languages to facilitate their use.

### Rescue centre

Rehabilitation of injured or sick turtles is done by a multitude of rescue centres. With adequate technical facilities and specialised personnel. To this end, guidelines were formulated and will serve as basis for each nation's regulation.

### Training

Training programme should be elaborated for the exchange of expertise among the Mediterranean countries, and particularly for those countries that have no expert with specialised knowledge on marine turtles. In this context RAC/SPA is supporting

- annual training in collaboration with Cyprus wildlife Society (CWS) on conservation techniques on nesting site and
- with Naples station on rehabilitation of marine turtles.



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