

## Special Session: WIO Marine Turtle Network

### **11.00 – 13.00: Open session: Research, conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats in the WIO Region.**

The WIO region hosts globally significant populations of five species of marine turtle which are highly migratory. Individual animals may travel tens of thousands of kilometres in their lifetimes, spending various lengths of time in the open sea, and in territorial waters of multiple states. Therefore, regional collaboration is essential to address the myriad of threats to marine turtles and their habitats including direct take, egg poaching, fisheries interactions, coastal development, marine pollution and climate change.

This open session provides an opportunity for scientists, coastal practitioners, researchers and students to share updates on current marine turtle research and monitoring programmes, conservation and management initiatives and key emerging threats in the region as well as identify opportunities for further collaboration.

Please email [lindsey@seasense.org](mailto:lindsey@seasense.org) if you would like to present at this session.

### **14.00 – 18.00 Closed session: Meeting of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Turtle Task Force (WIO MTTF).**

The objective of the UNEP/CMS *Indian Ocean South East Asia (IOSEA) Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles* is to protect, conserve, replenish and recover marine turtles and their habitats across IOSEA range states.

The WIO MTTF is a technical committee spanning both scientific and management expertise and serves explicitly to facilitate implementation of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU (including its Conservation and Management Plan) in the sub-region, at the same time fulfilling the general programme of work of the Nairobi Convention within its broader scope of management of East Africa's coastal and marine environment.

This is a special closed session of WIO MTTF members and invited observers to review progress of the MTTF, to discuss the MTTF work plan until its next meeting and to agree a process to elect new leadership.