Effectively meet the needs of marine turtle researchers and stakeholders over the long term: TORSOOI database and concept

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Marine turtle study and conservation rely on the accessibility of consistent data accumulated over many years and collected over all life stages. While many programs are run over the world to collect these data, their accessibility and sustainability remains however uncertain. TORSOOI database was created to promote the harmonization and standardization of on-going and future data collection in the southwest Indian Ocean and also to facilitate data exchange between organizations and researchers of this region. It is designed for data collected through marine turtle populations or individuals long-term monitoring programs and also with regards to threats. Among several tools for data queries, TORSOOI can organise, synthesise and produce preliminary reports of particular interest for managers and stakeholders. Moreover, a specific software has been implemented to manage photo identification data and allow quick recognition of individuals. To date, more than 40 years of nesting and tagging data have been recorded in the database over 8 sites of the region (the French Territories, Moheli (Comoros) and Nosy Iranja (Madagascar)). Several countries around the world recently joined the project for the use of the photo identification software and database (Brazil, South Africa, Maldives, Mayotte, French Polynesia, French West Indies, Thailand, and Chile). Regular developments are made to improve the system and fit with countries specificities and emerging technologies. Recent developments were conducted to meet the objectives of the National Action Plan for marine turtles in the French territories of the Indian Ocean and enlarge the use of the system at the national and regional level.