



Facilitating online reporting for Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles

Streamlining national reporting to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles through deployment of the Online Reporting System

Summary

The reporting cycle for the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles continues in 2019, providing a good opportunity for the Convention to begin using an online reporting process, capitalizing on the advantages and efficiencies which electronic preparation and submission of national reports can bring, building on the experience of several other biodiversity-related conventions.

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Objectives and outcomes

There are three major objectives for this work:

1. To provide the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles with a system that will allow countries to report online by creating a new installation of the Online Reporting System for the Minamata Convention.
2. To create and set up the first online national reporting questionnaire, based on the Convention's reporting requirements.
3. To provide support to the Convention Secretariat that will allow them to fully make use of the Online Reporting System's features.

Outcomes:

1. By using the ORS, the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles will be able to receive and collect information from reporting countries in one centralized and secure location.
2. Reporting countries will have a simple online tool to manage the completion of their national reports to the Convention, leading to more streamlined reporting and increased response rates.
3. The Convention will have a centralised mechanism to manage and monitor the distribution of, and responses to, their first online reporting cycle.
4. The Convention will be better placed to allow access to reported information both on its own website, and through other channels.



5. The Convention will be well placed to take advantage of online reporting for future reporting cycles, and could extend this to cover other data collection activities.

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Context and justification

The reporting cycle for the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles continues in 2019. It is desirable for the treaty to have one centralized online system, offering the advantages of online reporting where reporting is streamlined and information received from countries is consolidated. The Secretariat is exploring existing online survey options but are in need of a solution that specifically meets MEA reporting needs.

The Online Reporting System (ORS) was originally developed by UNEP-WCMC working with the CMS family of agreements, and is already being used by a number of MEAs (African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Ramsar, Bern Convention) several of which are already benefitting from more streamlined reporting compared to previous offline reporting systems.

The Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles has expressed interest in potentially using the ORS as a way of receiving reports from Contracting Parties, and as a tool for centrally storing reported information. The ORS provides both the multi-language support and the user management features required by the Convention.

Moving to an online reporting system would reduce the administration burden for the Convention during their reporting cycle, as well as making it easier for reporting countries to submit information. As a result, more up-to-date and comprehensive information will be made available to the Convention, in turn leading to improved efforts and impact in conserving turtles in the region.



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Activities and outputs

Activities:

1. Implementation of Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles branding
2. Training of Secretariat:
 - Preparation
 - Deliver training
3. Creation, and support of creation, for initial questionnaire:
4. Setting up the application:
 - Deployment
 - Database Back-up^[SEP]
 - Hosting, Analytics and Server Monitoring for first online reporting cycle
5. Management^[SEP]
6. Support to Secretariat during first online reporting cycle

Outputs:

1. Convention branded instance of ORS set-up and deployed
2. Key Convention staff trained on how to use ORS
3. Initial questionnaire for the first online reporting cycle created and working
4. Reporting countries using the ORS in developing and delivering reports

Expected timing of activities												
	2019											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Activity												
1. Implement first reporting format into exist ORS	█	█										
2. Training		█	█	█								
3. Questionnaire creation	█	█										
4. Setting Up	█	█										
5. Management	█	█	█	█								
6. Hosting & Support	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█



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Budget

The total cost of the project will be USD \$15,917.

Budget breakdown

Activity	Total (USD)
1. Implementing Convention branding on ORS	\$824
2. Training	\$5,652
3. Questionnaire creation	\$2,112
4. Setting up application	\$2,939
5. Management	\$3,168
6. Hosting & support for first year	\$600
TOTAL	15,295

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Assumptions and risks

It is assumed that the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and reporting countries have the appropriate computer equipment at their disposal, possess the basic-level IT skills required to create and submit a questionnaire, and have internet access.

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Collaborators

The project would be carried out as a direct collaboration between UNEP-WCMC and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, ideally with the involvement of a number of reporting countries and other experts in testing the implementation before countries are informed and asked to report online.