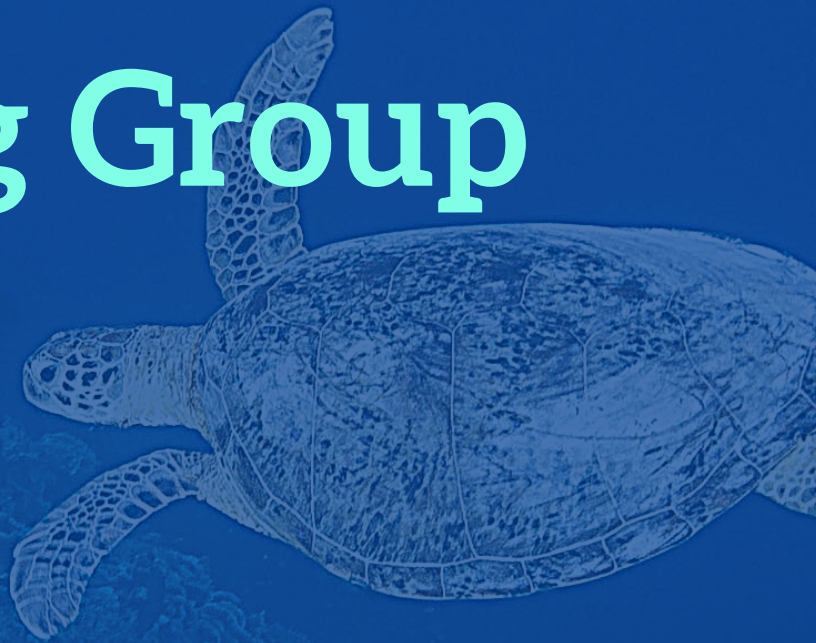


Asia-Pacific Marine Turtle Genetic Working Group

Virtual Workshop Series
FEBRUARY - JUNE 2022



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Asia Pacific
Marine Turtle Genetic
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ASIA-PACIFIC MARINE TURTLE GENETIC WORKING GROUP

As marine turtles often have ranges that span the waters of multiple nations, collaborative genetic studies are important to provide information on many aspects related to marine turtle conservation.

By establishing the APMTGWG, we hope to support such collaborations throughout the Western Pacific and Asia Region.

GOALS:

- Enhance technical capacity
- Standardise methodologies
- Identify research priorities
- Establish a regional collaborative network to facilitate genetic studies
- Support national and international marine turtle management and protection efforts

AIM:

Develop and deliver an onboarding and refresher marine turtle genetic workshop program for the Western Pacific Region.

BACKGROUND

The Asia-Pacific Marine Turtle Genetic Working Group (APMTGWG) was established in 2020 to bring together marine turtle researchers from across the Asia-Pacific region in order to enhance in-country capacity for marine turtle genetic studies in the region.

From January to August 2021, the Working Group held its first series of online workshops, which served to: (1) introduce the working group members to each other, (2) showcase each other's work and experiences in the region, and (3) share expertise and new techniques with a focus on marine turtle genetics. Participants consisted of researchers working in the East and Southeast Asian regions who has access to marine turtle ecological data, tissue samples, or genetic laboratories.

With the support of the European Union and the Swedish Government, the Working Group will hold a second series of online workshops and will invite researchers and stakeholders in the Pacific region who are interested in supporting or initiating marine turtle genetic studies. This is in line with the Working Groups' mission to build and support collaborations throughout the Western Pacific and Asia Region.

PRELIMINARY OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Create a directory of individuals, groups, and institutions currently involved in genetics research (or with the potential to get involved).
- 2) Identify and prioritise conservation knowledge gaps that can be solved with a genetic approach, establish research directions, and recognise opportunities and challenges.
- 3) Consolidate best practice protocols for sample collection, long-term storage, and genetic analysis, as well as pipelines for priority research questions.
- 4) Provide training on sample processing, genetic analysis, and interpretation in order to increase participants' genetic comprehension and enhance in-country capacity.
- 5) Work towards developing a regional collaborative digital tissue sample database while also identifying the most appropriate mechanisms for data sharing.
- 6) Create a directory of relevant government agencies, points of contact, and permit processes and enhance their understanding of the role of genetics in national and international policy and legislative decision-making.
- 7) Create a long-term plan for the Asia Pacific Marine Turtle Working Group.



ASIA-PACIFIC MARINE TURTLE GENETIC WORKING GROUP

This series of workshops is supported by the By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) Initiative being implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) under the Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme.

Funded by the European Union (EU) and the Government of Sweden, the EUR 45 million PEUMP programme promotes sustainable management and sound ocean governance for food security and economic growth, while addressing climate change resilience and conservation of marine biodiversity. It follows a comprehensive approach, integrating issues related to oceanic fisheries, coastal fisheries, community development, marine conservation and capacity building under one single regional action.

FUNDING PROVIDED BY:



ONLINE WORKSHOP SERIES

A series of five (5) online workshops will be conducted from February to June 2022, with an additional workshop to be held during the International Sea Turtle Symposium (ISTS) in March 2022.

This online series aims to expand and enhance the Working Group, identify additional members, support collaboration and sharing, and promote familiarity with field and laboratory genetic techniques, as well as to introduce, harmonise and facilitate cohesion between the Asia and Western Pacific participants for a way forward together.



PROGRAM:

Workshop 1 - Introduction to the Working Group, the Participants, and their Projects

Workshop 2 - Sample Collection, Preservation, and Management

Workshop 3 - Genetic Analyses of Samples for Rookery Stock Structure and MSA and Novel Genetic/Genomic tools

Workshop 4 - Illegal Trade, Forensics and the ShellBank Project

Workshop 5 - Wrap Up Workshop - Summary and Looking Towards the Future

ISTS40 WORKSHOP

Bridging the Gaps: The Asia-Pacific Marine Turtle Genetic Working Group

<https://www.ists40perth.com.au/program/workshops-regional-meetings/>

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TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:



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