

## STATUS OF NATIONAL NETWORKS / COMMITTEES

**Signatory State:** Sri Lanka

**Focal Point / Person completing the form** Kumara Sisira De Silva Igala Hewa, Park Warden, Department of Wildlife Conservation

**Information last updated:** August 2008

### National networks or committees:

Monthly congress meeting

### Status:

Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors, Park Wardens and Wildlife Rangers who work in relevant protected areas sit together monthly to discuss progress with the Director General of the Department of Wildlife and Conservation, with an emphasis on turtle conservation

### Lead agency / organization / institution:

Department of Wildlife and Conservation

### Representation in the national network / committee:

- **Government agencies:**
  - Department of Wildlife and Conservation (Director General, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors, Park Wardens, and Wildlife Rangers)
- **Academic and research organizations:**
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- **Environmental NGOs:**
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- **Development and human rights NGOs:**
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- **Private sector:**
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- **Fisheries:**
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- **Tourism:**
  -
- **Others:**
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**Specific resources for developing and maintaining the network / committee:**

**Means of communication:**

Meetings

**Number of meetings held:**

- **2006:** 7
- **2007:** 7
- **2008:** 4

**Most important topics of discussion:**

- Rehabilitation of the habitats affected by the 2004 tsunami
- Importance of in-situ turtle conservation
- Awareness programme
- Collaborative programme with NGOs

**Most important advances and contributions of the network / committee's work:**

- Protection
- Sustainable development of in-situ conservation

**Most important challenges and difficulties in the network / committee's work:**

- Legalize and protect hatcheries in Sri Lanka
- Initiate the Eco-tourism plan for turtles in protected areas

**Plans for the future development of the network / committee:**

Proposal for a committee representing other national government agencies, institutions and NGOs

**Other comments:**

National Marine Action Plan established in 2005, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.