



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



RECOMMENDATION 6.6

REGIONAL COORDINATION FOR MARINE TURTLES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Sixth Meeting (Cape Town, 10-16 November 1999)

Aware that initiatives have been taken among groups of nations within the Indian Ocean and south-east Asian region, including the recent meeting held in Perth, Australia, in October 1999 addressing the needs and mechanisms for regional conservation and management for marine turtles;

Acknowledging that a Memorandum of Understanding on ASEAN Sea Turtle Conservation and Protection aims to promote conservation of marine turtles and their habitats in the ASEAN Region;

Noting that communities within the Indian Ocean and south-east Asian region value marine turtles for a wide range of reasons including subsistence, tourism, cultural and religious purposes, medicinal and educational purposes, for scientific and research purposes, and as a significant component of the region's biodiversity;

Aware that threats to marine turtles, including harvest of eggs and turtles, destruction or modification of habitats by coastal development and pollution, tourism, hatchery operations, and incidental mortality of turtles could, if not properly managed, lead to further decline in marine turtle populations;

Further aware that marine turtles are a highly migratory species which can move within and between national jurisdictions;

Recognizing the need for shared responsibility for the conservation and sustainable management of marine turtle populations and their habitats, in the Indian Ocean-south-east Asian region;

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

1. *Encourages* the participation of all key stakeholders, including marine and terrestrial conservation and resource management government agencies, existing bodies collaborating in the conservation of marine turtles, and other relevant non-governmental organizations;
2. *Notes* that an important component of any new regional instrument would be the sharing of management and technical skills between member countries;
3. *Recognizes* the need for the promotion of, and the provision of assistance for, conservation activities, in particular the implementation of effective mitigation measures that address the incidental mortality of marine turtles arising from fishing operations;

Recommendation 6.6

4. *Endorses* the resolution arising from the meeting on Indian Ocean and South East Asian Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats (UNEP/CMS/Conf.6/Inf.14) that all Range States would benefit from closer collaboration and that an appropriate structure to facilitate this would be a new regional Agreement, possibly under the Convention on Migratory Species; and

5. *Encourages* all Parties in the region, as well as all interested States from outside the region to actively to pursue the conclusion of an Agreement in the Indian Ocean and south-east Asian region.