

STATUS OF NATIONAL NETWORKS / COMMITTEES

Signatory State: Australia

Focal Point: Dr Donna Kwan

Information last updated: August 2008

National networks or committees:

- a) National Turtle Recovery Group
- b) National Partnership Approach for the Sustainable Harvest of Turtles and Dugongs

Status:

- a) National Turtle Recovery Group - established to advise the Australian Government on the evaluation and implementation of the Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia, under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, and to identify priority actions.
- b) National Partnership Approach for the Sustainable Harvest of Turtles and Dugongs - is a ministerial directive initiated by the NRM Ministerial Council of Australia to establish a Partnership between the Australian, Western Australian, Northern Territory and Queensland Governments, the Torres Strait Regional Authority and relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, to further develop the sustainable management of Indigenous harvest of turtles and dugongs. The National Partnership Approach provides a policy and guidance framework for many activities already underway, or planned, to engage Indigenous communities in the management of dugong and turtle.

Lead agency / organization / institution:

Australia Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)

Representation in the national network / committee:

- **Government agencies:**
 - Dr Tamra Chapman - Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation
 - Dr Scott Whiting - Northern Territory Department of Resources
 - Dr Col Limpus - Queensland Environmental Protection Agency
 - Dr Mark Read - Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
 - Dr Donna Kwan - Australian Australia Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
- **Academic and research organizations:**
 - Dr Mick Guinea - Charles Darwin University
- **Environmental NGOs:**
 - HIS representative TBA

- **Development and human rights NGOs:**
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- **Private sector:**
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- **Fisheries:**
 - Industry representative TBA
- **Tourism:**
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- **Others:**
 - Indigenous: Djawa Yunipingu and Northern Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance representative
 - National Partnership Approach: Contains government and Indigenous representatives - names currently being sought

Specific resources for developing and maintaining the network / committee:

Secretariat and meeting costs are funded by DEWHA

Means of communication:

Meetings, telephone conferences calls

Number of meetings held:

- **2006:** 1
- **2007:** 4
- **2008:** nil to date

Most important topics of discussion:

Turtle Recovery Group

- Key issues (national) - emerging and current
- Research priorities
- Evaluation and progress of the implementation of recovery plan

National Partnership Approach

- Best practice approaches to management
- Key issues - local, regional and national

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

Recovery Plan - providing input to implementation of turtle recovery plan from all stakeholders.

National Partnership Approach - allowing Indigenous communities to share information, expertise and resources to each other to support sustainable management of turtle take.

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

Maintaining ongoing engagement from all members.

Keeping the number of members to an efficient level - ensuring sufficient attendance as well as the need to limit attendance levels.

Plans for the future development of the network / committee:

DEWHA will continue to provide funding to maintain the recovery group and national partnership approach. Further development will be advised by the members.

Other comments: