

STATUS OF NATIONAL NETWORKS / COMMITTEES

Signatory State: Bangladesh

Focal Point / Person completing this form MD. Jafar Siddique, National Project Director, Coastal & Wetland Biodiversity Management Project, Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forest *

Information last updated: August 2008

National network or committee:

In principle, a Committee on Marine Turtles was established in 2004 for the purpose of monitoring activities under the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU. Specific terms of reference and membership were agreed on 11 December 2004 at an inter-ministerial meeting chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF).

Status:

It is unclear as to whether or not the committee has actually been operationalised. However, the committee's original terms of reference were defined as follows:

1. Provide guidelines to the agency concerned on the conservation of marine turtles and their habitats;
2. Take initiative to review, formulate, revise and harmonies national legislation, if necessary, relevant to the conservation of Marine Turtle and their habitat and make every efforts to effectively implement such legislation;
3. Provide guidelines to the appropriate agency to identify the areas of critical habitat such as migratory corridors, nesting beaches, inter-nesting and feeding ground;
4. Provide direction to the appropriate agency to undertake assessments of the environmental impact of marine and coastal development and other human activities that may affect marine turtle populations and their habitats;
5. Provide direction to the appropriate authority to monitor and promote the protection of water quality from land based and maritime pollution including marine debris that may adversely affect marine turtles;
6. Provide direction to the appropriate authority to increase public awareness about the threats to marine turtles and their habitats and enhance public participation in conservation activities.

Lead agency / organization / institution:

Joint Monitoring Committee to be headed by Chief Conservator of Forests, with Director-General of Department of Environment as co-chair

Representation in the national network / committee:

▪ **Government agencies:**

Chief Conservator of Forests, Department of Forests	- Chair
Director General, Department of Environment	- Co-Chair
Deputy Secretary (Dev), Ministry of Environment and Forests	

Representative from the Ministry of Shipping
Representative from the Ministry of Science and ICT
Representative from the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
Representative from the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism
Representative from the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
Representative from the Ministry of Water Resources
Representative from the Ministry of Agriculture
Representative from Department of Fisheries
Conservator of Forests (WNC), FD - Member Secretary

- **Academic and research organizations:**
President, Coastal Area Research Developments and Management Association (CARDMA)
- **Environmental NGOs:**
Country Representative, IUCN, Bangladesh
Director (Program), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyer Association (BELA)
- **Development and human rights NGOs:**
 - N/A
- **Private sector:**
 - N/A
- **Fisheries:**
 - N/A
- **Tourism:**
 - N/A
- **Others:**
Project Director, Conservation of Biodiversity, Marine Park Establishment & Eco- tourism Development Project at St, Martine

Chairman, Federation of Environmental Journalist Bangladesh (FEJB)

Specific resources for developing and maintaining the network / committee:

N/A

Means of communication:

Meetings

Number of meetings held:

- **2006:** N/A
- **2007:** N/A
- **2008:** N/A

Most important topics of discussion:

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

Plans for the future development of the network / committee:

Not yet specified.

Other comments:

* Most of the information reported here is taken from a note provided to the IOSEA Secretariat in December 2004 by the then Deputy Secretary, MOEF. According to MD. Jafar Siddique (as of August 2008), an initiative has been taken recently to form the committee and take other necessary action.