
Memorandum of Understanding on the
Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and
their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia

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FIRST MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES
Bangkok, 22-24 January 2003

NOMINATIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. The Memorandum of Understanding, in its Action 6, provides for the establishment of an Advisory Committee to provide scientific, technical and legal advice to the signatory States:

“The signatory States may nominate for membership on the Committee individuals with expertise in the fields of marine turtle biology, marine resource management, coastal development, socio-economics, law, fisheries technology, and other relevant disciplines. The size, composition and terms of appointment of the Advisory Committee shall be determined by the signatory States at their first meeting.”

2. In a working paper prepared by the United States delegation (Draft Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee – attached at Annex 1), which was considered by participants of the June 2001 conference in Manila, it was suggested that:

- the Advisory Committee be comprised of 10 members, with due regard given to achieving a balance among the areas of expertise, as well as an equitable representation of subregions and genders;
- nominations from signatory States be submitted to the Secretariat 60 days in advance of the first meeting of signatory States;
- any nominations received be circulated to all signatory States, to allow for the Advisory Committee to be appointed at the first meeting of signatory States from among the individuals nominated.

3. It is proposed that the working draft prepared in Manila be used as a starting point for discussion of this matter in Bangkok, with a view to reaching consensus on the size, composition and terms of appointment of the Advisory Committee. Among the peripheral issues to be discussed in this regard are the capacity in which individuals serve on the Committee, the possible involvement of the signatory States in its deliberations, and financial support for the Committee’s activities, including costs of participation of its members.

4. Though no terms of reference were agreed in Manila, the interim secretariat has followed the preliminary suggestions as closely as possible with a view to soliciting nominations for the meeting of the signatory States to consider in January 2003.

5. By letter of 15 November 2002, signatory States were requested to submit their nominations to the Secretariat, using the form attached at Annex 2, no later than 20 December 2002. It was noted that procedure did not preclude the possibility of considering further nominations at the meeting itself.

6. At the time of writing, only five of nominations had been received, as follows:

Nominee	Nationality	Fields of expertise	Nominated by:
M. Faissoli ben Mohadji	Comores	Marine resource management <i>(interpreted from his CV; the standard nomination form was not provided)</i>	Comores
Dr. John (Jack) Frazier	United States	Marine turtle biology, marine resource management, other	United States
Dr. Earl E. Possardt	United States	Marine turtle biology, marine coastal management, fisheries technology	United States
Dr. Nicolas Pilcher	United Kingdom	Marine turtle biology, marine resource management	Viet Nam
Mr. Dao Manh Son	Viet Nam	Marine resource management	Viet Nam

The *curricula vitae* of all of the above-mentioned candidates are provided in Annexes 3a-e.

7. In view of the fact that so few nominations have been forthcoming, and that the desired range of expertise and geographic/gender balance has yet to be attained, it is proposed that nominations be accepted at the meeting itself. However, to enable the signatory States to take decisions in Bangkok, **it is essential that proposals for additional nominations be accompanied by the CVs of the candidates.** Furthermore, consideration might be given to setting up a mechanism by which additional appointments to the Committee could be made intersessionally, exceptionally, in this early phase of its existence.

8. Assuming the Advisory Committee is formally established in Bangkok, consideration needs to be given as to when the Committee might hold its first meeting. The 23rd Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 17 - 21 March 2003, will certainly attract many marine turtle specialists from the region and elsewhere. It would be an ideal venue at which to organize a formal or *ad hoc* meeting of the Committee, provided that a sufficient number of the Committee members would be present.

Expected outcome:

Agreement on the terms of reference for the Advisory Committee (clarifying the role of signatory States in this regard); appointment of members to the Committee; agreement on a procedure for adding additional members intersessionally, should this be desirable/necessary; agreement on the timing, venue and financing of the Committee's first meeting.