
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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Bangkok, 22-24 January 2003

FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL REPORTS

This document is intended to be read in conjunction with document MT-IOSEA/SS.1/Doc.8 (Review of implementation and prioritisation of the Conservation and Management Plan).

The Memorandum of Understanding, in its paragraph 8, calls upon each Signatory State to provide to the Secretariat a regular report on its implementation of the MoU (including the Conservation and Management Plan), the periodicity of which will be determined at the First Meeting of Signatory States. Accordingly, a draft format has been prepared in order to standardise, as far as possible, the manner in which information is provided by Signatory States, with a view to facilitating the compilation and analysis of responses¹. It is considered important for the Signatory States to adopt a format for national reports at the present meeting, in order to establish a clear basis for reporting in advance of the Second Meeting of Signatory States.

The format mirrors closely the basic structure and content of the Conservation and Management Plan, making it possible, ultimately, to review progress in the implementation of each of the CMP's objectives and activities. To minimise as far as possible the effort needed to complete the report, questions are posed in a YES/NO format and tick boxes are used extensively, while giving ample opportunity to clarify or explain a given response.

Expected outcome:

The draft format is being presented for review and comment by the Signatory States. It is proposed that the document be taken up by the meeting in a smaller working group, which would recommend any necessary changes for adoption by the plenary. Should it not be possible to reach consensus on the draft format at the present meeting, an alternative -- albeit less satisfactory -- approach would be for the Advisory Committee to consider the national reporting format at its first meeting, and for the Signatory States to endorse it thereafter by correspondence.

¹ The draft format is currently being finalised and will be circulated in the week of 6 January 2003, as an addendum to the present document.