



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

Distr. GENERAL

MT-IOSEA/SS.4/Doc. 12
Agenda Item 11

3 March 2006

FOURTH MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES
Muscat, Oman, 11-14 March 2006

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Status of voluntary contributions

1. The table at Annex 1 summarises the status of contributions that have been received thus far towards the operation of the IOSEA MoU Secretariat and related activities. The most recent statement from the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) of the Trust Fund Status for the biennium ending 31 December 2005 is attached at Annex 2.
2. Voluntary contributions from the Governments of Australia, France, United Kingdom and United States; as well as from the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the UNEP Division of Environmental Conventions, and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC) have sustained the MoU since its inception. Most recently, the Government of South Africa has contributed generously to the Year of the Turtle campaign. All of these contributions of financial support are gratefully acknowledged.
3. Thus far in 2006, Australia, United Kingdom, United States and WPRFMC have made firm pledges of support that are expected to materialise in the coming weeks, totalling just over USD 110,000. The relationship of contributions received/pledged to anticipated expenditures is discussed in paragraph 8, below.
4. Contributions in-kind received since the Third Meeting also warrant mention. The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) sponsored one volunteer 'Youth Ambassador' who was attached to the Secretariat from March 2005 through February 2006; and a second one from September 2005 through February 2006. In addition, the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP) has provided office space and essential administrative support, and is absorbing some of the Secretariat's basic operating costs. The affiliated UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRCAP) hosts the IOSEA website (www.ioseaturtles.org), and has always been responsive whenever basic maintenance was required. The Secretariat would not have been able to function effectively without this additional generous in-kind support.
5. The Secretariat established an unremunerated internship programme, beginning in February 2005, that enables interns to volunteer their services for periods of 3-6 months. Following one such successful placement in early 2005 several more expressions of interest were received, a couple of which were followed up. Ultimately these did not materialise as the circumstances of the interested candidates did not allow them to pursue an internship. Consideration may be given to re-advertising for interns in 2006 to help with specialised tasks. The Secretariat will also be investigating other programmes that offer placements of mature individuals on a volunteer basis.

Statement of expenditure for 2004

6. Annex 3 is an unofficial statement of expenditure for 2005, based on information provided by the local administration in Bangkok (ESCAP) and UNON, set against the budget estimates that were

presented to the Third Meeting of the Signatory States in March 2005. (Some adjustments may be necessary to the figures after reviewing all of the data from these two sources.) The accompanying notes for certain budget lines are meant to be self-explanatory; however a few specific comments may be helpful.

7. Additional contributions received after the budget was prepared in 2005 made it possible to begin preparations for the Year of the Turtle campaign in 2005 and to undertake the Leatherback-tsunami assessment work that will be presented as a draft report to the present meeting. Thanks in part to the extensive automation built into the IOSEA website and the use of electronic communication, it was possible to avoid engaging additional secretarial support in 2005 (though this is unlikely to be the case during the 2006 Year of the Turtle). Travel costs were again kept to a minimum, partly by combining missions with work undertaken on behalf of CMS, and by purchasing tickets below standard United Nations entitlements.

Budget estimates for 2006-2007

8. Annex 4 contains a budget that provides for basic Secretariat operating costs, the organisation of meetings of the Signatory States and Advisory Committee, and expenditures related to Year of the Turtle activities (for which earmarked contributions have been received). According to current projections of income from all sources, there is insufficient funding to cover the core operating costs of the Secretariat through the end of 2006. All of the available funds, including the pledges made thus far in 2006, will have been exhausted before the end of the year.

9. If additional contributions were received later in the year, as is customary, operations might continue into the first few months of 2007. However, this would still leave no funds available for the organisation of meetings of the Signatory States and Advisory Committee in early 2007. Funding from CMS for this purpose is no longer available because of budget constraints, and the funds received from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for this year's meeting are considered extraordinary. The Meeting of the Signatory States may have to consider not holding a meeting in 2007 or encourage another Signatory State to host it and assume a very substantial portion of the costs.

10. Continuation of the IOSEA MoU programme as it currently exists into next year is contingent on: (1) existing donors continuing to provide voluntary contributions, and pledging those funds well in advance of 2007, as some do already; (2) some or all of those donors increasing the funding they provide in support of secretariat operations, meetings and related activities; and (3) identification of new sources of funding (e.g. from existing Signatory States that have yet to make a voluntary contribution; new Signatory States; private sector, foundations, funds earmarked through special legislation etc.)

11. Whereas the IOSEA MoU is likely to be funded through voluntary contributions for the foreseeable future, it may be helpful to provide guidance as to the level of contributions that would be assessed if the official United Nations Scale of Assessments or some variant of this were applied. Among the variants of the UN scale that might be explored informally, are: setting a minimum level of contributions from all Signatory States, if only to partly defray the cost of participation in meetings; modifying the standard scale to better reflect the interest of Signatory States in the Memorandum of Understanding (for example, differentiating between Range States and non-Range States); and taking account of contributions expected to accrue from other sources (e.g. traditional donors, new Signatories etc.).

12. It should be stressed that there has never been any discussion within the IOSEA MoU of assessing obligatory contributions, nor is the Secretariat proposing that there should be such an arrangement so long as the MoU remains a non-binding instrument. At the same time, however, it

must be recognised that the Memorandum of Understanding requires a more stable source of funding and that all Signatory States have a responsibility to assure its long-term viability.

13. It goes without saying that the discussion above does not take into account the funds required at a national level for implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding within each of the Signatory States, nor the funds required for broader collective initiatives, such as the establishment of the network of sites of importance for marine turtles.

Action requested / Expected outcome:

Signatory States are invited to note the report on financial and administrative matters; to seek clarification of any points requiring further explanation; and to consider further ways and means of providing financial or in-kind support for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and the operation of the Secretariat, with a view to assuring continuity into 2007.

Status of Contributions as at 3 March 2006
(United States dollars)

Annex 1

Technical Cooperation Trust Fund on the Conservation and Management of
Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South East Asia

Countries/Organisations	Year in which contribution was received							Total
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Australia	32,394	18,519	26,697	65,161	<i>22,300</i>			165,071
France	-	37,240	-	-				37,240
United Kingdom	20,000	39,850	37,900	94,782	<i>52,968</i>			245,500
United States of America	89,800	49,998	-	132,000	<i>25,000</i>			296,798
West.Pacific Fish.Council	-	-	15,000	10,000	<i>10,000</i>			
South Africa	-	-	-	-	<i>25,000</i>			25,000
Subtotal	142,194	145,607	79,597	301,943	135,268			804,609
CMS	-	50,000	25,000	-	25,000	<i>25,000</i>	<i>25,000</i>	150,000
CMS - meeting support	-	22,500	22,500	27,500	5,000	0	0	77,500
UNEP/DEC	-	25,000	-	-				25,000
Interest Income	2,237	5,978	5,497	8,547				22,259
Grand Total	144,431	249,085	132,594	337,990	165,268	35,000	35,000	1,099,368

Notes:

Figures in italics reflect pledged contributions pending receipt

2006: United Kingdom (reflects pledge of GBP 20,000 for secretariat operations, plus GBP 10,000 for project work)

2006: Reflects USFWS Service support for SS4 meeting; additional US contribution for 2006 is pending

2006: Australia (approx. USD equivalent of advance pledge of AUS 30,000 for 2007)

Not reflected: Australia in-kind contribution of staff in 2004, 2005, 2006; support for AdvCom participation of Dr Limpus
UNEP/ROAP provision of office space, miscellaneous office expenses, administrative support

TECHNICAL COOPERATION TRUST FUND ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MARINE TURTLES AND THEIR HABITATS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AND SOUTH EAST ASIA		
Status as at 31/12/2005		
<u>COMMITABLE RESOURCES:</u>		
	Balance Available as at 01 January 2004	239,081
	Contributions Received in 2004-05	378,372
	Interest Accrued in 2004-05	14,044
	Prior period adjustment- 2003 CMS related travel	11,678
A.	<i>Commitable Resources</i>	643,175
<u>ALLOCATION:</u>		
	<i>2004-05 Allocation Issued by the Executive Director</i>	294,291
<u>APPROVED COMMITMENTS:</u>		
	Approved Commitments for 2004-05	408,835
	Approved Provisions for Programme Support Costs (PSC) for 2004-05	53,149
B.	<i>Total Approved 2004-05 Commitments & PSC Provisions</i>	461,984
C.	<i>Balance Available after Commitments (A - B)</i>	181,192
<u>PROPOSED COMMITMENTS:</u>		
	Proposed Commitments for 2004-05	0
	Proposed Provisions for Programme Support Costs (PSC) for 2004-05	0
D.	<i>Total Proposed Commitments & PSC Provisions</i>	0
E.	<i>Total Approved & Proposed Commitments & PSC Provisions (B + D)</i>	461,984
F.	<i>Balance Available after Commitments and Proposals (A - E)</i>	181,192

B. APPROVED COMMITMENTS:

	Project Number and Title	2004	2005	Total 2004-05
1	MR/6020-02-01/Rev.4 Secretariat to Service the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South East Asia	136,468	240,750	377,218
2	MR/6020-02-35 Sub account of MR/6020-02-01	31,617	0	31,617
3				0
Total Approved Commitments		168,085	240,750	408,835

D. PROPOSED COMMITMENTS:

	Project Number and Title	2004	2005	Total 2004-05
1	MR/6020-02-01/Rev.5 Secretariat to Service the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South East Asia	0	0	0
2	MR/6020-02-35 Sub account of MR/6020-02-01	0	0	0
Total Proposed Commitments		0	0	0

Unofficial statement of expenditure for 2005 (in US Dollars)

Budget line	Budget	Actual
10 Personnel		
1100 Professional Staff		
1101 Co-ordinator / Senior CMS Advisor	132,000	143,443
1201 Consultancies (YoT-related)		14,875
1202 Consultancies (Leatherback-tsunami, etc.)		19,700
1220 Unspecified consultancies	30,000	27,580
1300 Administrative Support		
1301 Secretarial/administrative support	10,000	0
1600 Travel on official business		
1601 Secretariat staff	15,000	17,602
1999 Personnel Subtotal	187,000	223,200
30 Meetings		
3301 Meetings of Signatory States + Advisory Committee	40,000	32,114
3999 Meetings Subtotal	40,000	32,114
40 Equipment and Premises		
4100 Expendable equipment		
4101 Miscellaneous supplies (if not from UNEP/ROAP)	500	44
4200 Non-expendable equipment		
4201 Office equipment (computers, peripherals)	3,000	3,498
4300 Premises		
4301 Rent, maintenance costs (covered by UNEP/ROAP)	0	0
4999 Equipment and Premises Subtotal	3,500	3,542
50 Miscellaneous Costs		
5100 Operation and Maintenance		
5101 Operation/maintenance computers (UNEP/ROAP)	0	0
5102 Operation/maintenance of copier/fax (UNEP/ROAP)	0	0
5200 Reporting Costs		
5201 External production of info material (if not from UNEP/ROAP)	5,000	9,314
5300 Sundry		
5301 Telephone and Fax (UNEP/ROAP)	0	0
5302 Postage and miscellaneous (UNEP/ROAP)	0	0
5303 Contingency	2,000	-349
5999 Miscellaneous Costs Subtotal	7,000	8,965
SUBTOTAL	237,500	267,821
6000 UNEP programme support costs (13%)	30,875	34,817
GRAND TOTAL	268,375	302,638

Notes: 1201: YoT-related expenditures made possible through additional voluntary contributions

1202: Leatherback/tsunami assessment made possible through additional UK voluntary contribution

Budget Estimates for 2005 - 2006 (in US Dollars)

Annex 4

Budget line	2006	2007	Total
10 Personnel			
1100 Professional Staff			
1101 Co-ordinator / Senior CMS Advisor*	140,000	142,500	282,500
1201 Consultancies: YoT-related	21,000	0	21,000
1202 Consultancies: Leatherback-tsunami follow-up + project	38,000	0	38,000
1220 Unspecified consultancies	10,000	30,000	40,000
1300 Administrative Support			
1321 Temporary assistance	10,000	5,000	15,000
1600 Travel on official business			
1601 Secretariat travel	20,000	20,000	40,000
1999 Personnel Subtotal	239,000	197,500	436,500
20 Sub-contracts			
2201 YoT-related (unspecified)	65,000	0	65,000
30 Meetings			
3301 Meetings of Signatory States + Advisory Committee	40,000	60,000	100,000
3999 Meetings Subtotal	40,000	60,000	100,000
40 Equipment and Premises			
4100 Expendable equipment			
4101 Miscellaneous supplies (if not from UNEP/ROAP)	500	500	1,000
4200 Non-expendable equipment			
4201 Office equipment (computers, peripherals)	1,000	4,000	5,000
4300 Premises			
4301 Rent, maintenance costs (covered by UNEP/ROAP)	0	0	0
4999 Equipment and Premises Subtotal	1,500	4,500	6,000
50 Miscellaneous Costs			
5100 Operation and Maintenance			
5101 Operation/maintenance computers (UNEP/ROAP)	0	0	0
5102 Operation/maintenance of copier/fax (UNEP/ROAP)	0	0	0
5200 Reporting Costs			
5201 External production of info material (if not from UNEP/ROAP)	7,500	2,500	10,000
5300 Sundry			
5301 Telephone and Fax (UNEP/ROAP)	0	0	0
5302 Extraordinary YoT postage and miscellaneous	15,000	0	15,000
5303 Contingency	2,000	2,000	4,000
5999 Miscellaneous Costs Subtotal	24,500	4,500	29,000
SUBTOTAL	305,000	266,500	571,500
6000 UNEP programme support costs (13%)	39,650	34,645	74,295
GRAND TOTAL	344,650	301,145	645,795

* CMS contributes USD 25,000 towards salary cost in exchange for CMS-related work and advisory services