



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



First Meeting of Signatory States to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa

6 - 9 May 2002, Nairobi, Kenya

CMS/MT-AFR.1/Doc.2
Agenda item 2

Annotated Provisional Agenda

Documents

1. Welcoming remarks

The meeting will be opened at 0930 on 6 May 2002 with the welcoming addresses of a senior representative of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the Minister of State for Environment of Nigeria, Hon. Chief (Dr) Imeh. T. Okopido.

2. Adoption of the agenda and work programme

The meeting is invited to review the provisional agenda and schedule and make any proposals for amendment prior to their adoption.
Expected outcome: Agreement on the agenda and schedule for the meeting.

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3. Reports from the region and introductory statements

The secretariat has solicited a number of oral presentations in order to give the meeting an overview of activities and meetings that have furthered marine turtle conservation regionally over the past 2-3 years. It is not envisaged to have general presentations of *national* activities, however delegates are requested to come prepared with written contributions that will be used to complete the Conservation Plan (agenda item 5).
Expected outcome: Indication of progress made in key areas of marine turtle conservation and research.

4. Report on participation in the Memorandum of Understanding

The secretariat will report on the status of membership in the Memorandum of Understanding, and prospects for further signatory States to join the MoU at the present meeting, based on credentials submitted prior to the opening. Delegates from countries not included in the secretariat's list may wish to make brief opening statements concerning their Government's intentions to formally endorse and implement the Memorandum of Understanding.
Expected outcome: Clear indication of the position of Government's vis-à-vis the MoU, as well as future recruitment priorities.

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5. Review and finalization of the draft Conservation Plan

The meeting will have before it the working draft of the Conservation Plan for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa that emerged from the first consultations held in Abidjan (May 1999) and which was circulated by secretariat in December 2000 as part of the CMS Technical Series Publication No. 5: Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa. A Conservation and Management Plan adopted in July 2001 for the Indian Ocean - South-East Asian region may also be instructive.

Expected outcome: Agreement, by consensus, on the content and format of a Conservation Plan through which the Memorandum of Understanding shall be implemented.

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6. Format for national reports

The Memorandum of Understanding calls for Signatory States to provide to the secretariat no later than 30 September of each year an annual report on implementation.

Expected outcome: Agreement on the content and format of national reports.

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7. Frameworks for future action and collaboration

A number of presentations have been invited and information documents prepared in order to illustrate the broader context within which the African marine turtle conservation initiative is being developed.

Expected outcome: Identification of synergistic linkages with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, processes and projects.

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(List to be expanded before the meeting)

8. Prioritization of key areas of work, and further development of initiatives at the sub-regional level

Using the agreed Conservation Plan to guide the discussion, it is proposed that working groups be established to identify the highest priorities for action at sub-regional levels.

Expected outcome: Consensus on the prioritization given to activities listed in the Conservation Plan.

Conservation Plan: revised in-session document

9. Identification of potential project proposals and further sources of funding for implementation

(1) Governments, IGOs and NGOs are invited to indicate the resources, financial and in-kind, they are likely to make available to support the further development and implementation of the MoU over the next 2-3 years.

(2) Taking account the discussion under the previous agenda items, the meeting may wish to review specific project proposals already available or to develop a number of project concepts for possible bilateral funding.

Expected outcome: Thorough exploration of possible sources of funding for MoU activities; preparation/refining of project concepts that could be further developed prior to presentation to funding agencies.

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Project proposals/concepts tabled at the meeting

10. Organization and provisional schedule of future activities

The meeting is invited to agree a timetable for activities arising from the present meeting, including follow-up meetings at sub-regional and regional levels.

Expected outcome: Identification of key dates and opportunities for follow-up meetings from mid-2002 to mid-2004.

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11. Any other business

Any other matters relevant to the discussion may be raised under this agenda item.

12. Official opening for signature of the Memorandum of Understanding

Assuming the Conservation Plan will have been finalized, the Memorandum of Understanding will be formally opened for signature by those Government representatives who have been granted appropriate credentials.

Expected outcome: It is expected that many of the official representatives will have been authorized to sign the Memorandum of Understanding, which encourages Governments to undertake co-operative actions without necessarily creating an obligation that is *legally* binding. A significant number of signatures in Nairobi would send a positive signal as to the willingness of Governments to address without delay the problems facing sea turtles, and would facilitate the work of the Depositary (which would otherwise have to invest resources to secure the remaining signatures at a later date).

Original Memorandum of Understanding, concluded in Abidjan on 29 May 1999

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13. Closure of the meeting

The meeting will be closed no later than 1730 on 9 May 2002