



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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THIRD MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES
Bangkok, 29-31 March 2005

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Revised and adopted on 19 March 2004

Nomination and Appointment

1. Each Signatory State may nominate one or more individuals to serve as members of the Advisory Committee. The Secretariat should inform the Signatory States of any vacancies arising from the end of a term or other reasons, such as voluntary resignation. Nominations for any vacancies should be provided in writing to the Secretariat at least 60 days in advance of the Meeting of Signatory States, and should include a detailed and complete curriculum vitae. The Secretariat should circulate such nominations to all Signatory States. At their meetings, the Signatory States should appoint the members of the Advisory Committee from among the individuals nominated.
2. If there are more nominees than necessary to constitute the Advisory Committee, the Signatory States shall make every effort to appoint members by consensus following close consultation. If every effort to appoint members of the Advisory Committee by consensus fails, the Signatory States shall appoint members of the Advisory Committee by election (voting).
3. Advisory Committee members should serve for two years (i.e. through two regular Meetings of the Signatory States), and should be eligible for re-nomination and reappointment at subsequent Meetings of Signatory States.
4. Should a vacancy arise intersessionally, the Advisory Committee may propose a replacement for consideration by the Signatory States. The proposal shall be communicated to Signatory States via the Secretariat, and shall be accompanied by the same supporting documents as would be required for a regular nomination. In the absence of an objection of any Signatory State, received within 30 days of the communication from the Secretariat, the interim appointment will be considered as having been accepted, and will become effective immediately. If an objection is raised by a Signatory State, the procedure may be repeated, as appropriate, until an acceptable nominee is identified. The term of appointment of the provisional nominee shall expire at the end of the next meeting of Signatory States. The provisional nominee should be eligible for nomination and appointment to the Advisory Committee, as a full member, at that meeting.

Size and Composition

5. The Advisory Committee should have up to 10 members. In appointing the Advisory Committee, Signatory States should strive to achieve a balance among the areas of expertise set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding (marine turtle biology, marine resource management, coastal development, socio-economics, law, fisheries technology, and other relevant disciplines), as well as an equitable representation of sub-regions and gender, to the extent possible.
6. The Advisory Committee should select a chair, who should be the principal point of contact between the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat.

Meetings

7. To minimize costs, the Advisory Committee should conduct as much of its activity as possible through electronic communication. Regular meetings of the Advisory Committee should occur immediately prior to the regular meetings of the Signatory States, also to minimize travel and meeting costs. At the direction or approval of the Signatory States, the Advisory Committee may hold additional meetings.

8. The Advisory Committee Chair should participate in the meetings of the Signatory States, and may also participate in the meetings of related and associated agreements and organisations that the Signatory States deem relevant to the work of the MoU. The other members of the Advisory Committee are encouraged to participate as observers in the meetings of the Signatory States.