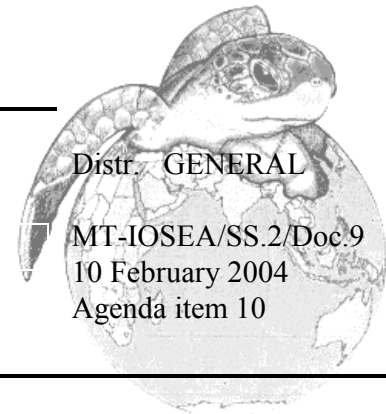


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## Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia



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SECOND MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES  
Bangkok, 16-19 March 2004

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. The Memorandum of Understanding, in its Action 6, provides for the establishment of an Advisory Committee to offer 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. The first Meeting of Signatory States confirmed that the Advisory Committee could comprise up to ten members, nominated by the signatory States, and it endorsed the recommendation of a screening committee that six individuals be appointed to serve on the Committee in their personal capacity. In limiting the number of appointments to six, the meeting intentionally left scope to bring in additional expertise, as required, at a later stage -- for example, in the fields of community development, socio-economics, coastal development/management and environmental impact assessment.

3. Dr. Colin Limpus (Australia) agreed to serve as chair of the Committee, and is expected to give an oral report on the Committee's activities under this agenda item. The current list of Advisory Committee members is given in Annex 1. Sadly, one of the Committee members who was appointed in January 2003, Mr Kamal Dewapriya Amarasooriya (Sri Lanka), passed away in September of last year. Working from the National Aquatic Resources Agency, his classification of sea turtle nesting beaches of southern Sri Lanka, carried out in the 1990s, remains a seminal reference on which to base turtle conservation activities in that country. His untimely passing leaves an immediate vacancy on the Committee which has yet to be filled.

4. The first Meeting of Signatory States also adopted detailed terms of reference for the Advisory Committee, which have been reproduced at Annex 2. As the Committee has not been operational for very long, the Secretariat does not recommend that its terms of reference be reopened for discussion at this meeting, other than to deal with the matter of filling vacancies that arise intersessionally or co-opting individuals with specialised expertise, at least on a provisional basis. The Advisory Committee, which will meet in Bangkok on 15 March, is expected to make a proposal in this regard. Should any signatory State wish to propose any other amendments to the terms of reference, it would be helpful if these could be circulated prior to the meeting, for consideration and eventual adoption by consensus.

5. In its invitation letter of 18 December 2003, the Secretariat invited signatory States to submit nominations for additional members of the Committee, with a request that the nomination form (Annex 3) and relevant CV be submitted to the Secretariat by mid-January, in keeping with the Advisory Committee's terms of reference. As of the time of writing, no nominations had been received by the Secretariat.

6. As the Advisory Committee has yet to specify the areas in which it believes additional expertise is needed, the signatory States may wish to consider allowing nominations to be made after the deadline, including at the meeting itself, provided they are accompanied by all necessary supporting documentation. The terms of reference do not preclude such a procedure, however imperfect it may be, and some flexibility in this regard may be desirable. Indeed, this produced a good result at the first meeting. Should any nominations be submitted for consideration, it is suggested that a screening committee be established to review them and to make recommendations to the plenary.

7. Though the terms of reference encourage, but make no provision for, Advisory Committee members (other than the Chair) to participate in the Meeting of Signatory States, it is hoped that sufficient funding will be made available to allow for this eventuality at this meeting. Apart from an informal session held in March 2003, the meeting that is planned for 15 March will be the first occasion for the Committee to have thorough discussions in person. It may be useful for the Committee to meet again, later in 2004, in order to maintain momentum; however this will depend on availability of funds and a mutually convenient venue and timing.

*Action requested / Expected outcome:*

Identification of any additional expertise required; appointment of new members to Committee; agreement on any necessary amendments to the Committee's terms of reference (e.g. to deal with inter-sessional vacancies and immediate need for specialised expertise); identification of major tasks to be undertaken by the Committee inter-sessionally; agreement the timing, venue and financing of the Committee's next meeting.

**Membership of the Advisory Committee (as at March 2004)**

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**Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee established pursuant  
to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of  
Marine Turtles of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia**

**Adopted on 24 January 2003**

*Nomination and Appointment*

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.

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).

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.

*Size and Composition*

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.

The Advisory Committee should select a chair, who should be the principal point of contact between the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat.

*Meetings*

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.

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.

### *Mandate and Tasks*

The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to serve and assist the signatory States in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding. Members of the Advisory Committee serve in their individual capacities, rather than as representatives of Governments or organisations with which they also may be affiliated.

The Secretariat should serve as a clearinghouse of requests from the signatory States for advice from the Advisory Committee.

As set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding, the mandate of the Advisory Committee is to “provide scientific, technical and legal advice to the signatory States, individually and collectively, on the conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats in the Region.” The signatory States may request the Advisory Committee to give priority to certain activities and tasks, which may include, but are not limited to, actions to:

- Evaluate and provide advice, at the request of any signatory State, on any conservation and management programme proposed or implemented within the State;
- Provide advice to the meetings of signatory States on the adoption of additional conservation and management actions and on revisions to the Conservation and Management Plan;
- Evaluate, at the request of any signatory State, the efficiency of different measures proposed or implemented to reduce the capture and incidental mortality of marine turtles in fishing operations;
- Promote the use of standardised marine turtle research techniques, monitoring programme data collection, and data storage and reporting;
- Review scientific reports, annual reports of the signatory States, and other appropriate documents to assist the Secretariat in assessing progress in the implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan;
- Bring to the attention of the signatory States significant new information relating to the conservation and management of marine turtles;
- Respond to requests for advice from signatory States in the fields of socio-economics and law related to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding;
- Seek input from other individuals and bodies, as appropriate, in responding to requests for advice, *e.g.*, from the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDC), etc;
- Assist signatory States in the development of projects and initiatives so that regional, sub-regional and local concerns and interests are taken into account;
- Provide such other scientific, technical and legal advice relating to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding as the signatory States may request, individually or collectively;
- Make recommendations regarding other fields of expertise needed within the Advisory Committee to assist with its work; and
- Provide a report on its activities, prior to scheduled Meetings of the signatory States.

**Nomination for membership of the Advisory Committee of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia**

*(For completion by Signatory States only)*

Name of nominee (Title, first name, LAST NAME):								
Institutional affiliation (provide full contact details):								
<b>* * * Attach current <i>curriculum vitae</i> of the nominee * * *</b>								
Field(s) of expertise (tick relevant boxes):  <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Marine turtle biology</td> <td>Law</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marine resource management</td> <td>Fisheries technology</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal development</td> <td>Other relevant discipline (state which, below):</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Socio-economics</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Marine turtle biology	Law	Marine resource management	Fisheries technology	Coastal development	Other relevant discipline (state which, below):	Socio-economics	
Marine turtle biology	Law							
Marine resource management	Fisheries technology							
Coastal development	Other relevant discipline (state which, below):							
Socio-economics								
Working languages of the nominee:								
Has the nominee been contacted and agreed to serve on the Advisory Committee, if appointed?  Yes Not contacted yet (will be contacted prior to the March 2004 meeting of signatory States) Other (please explain)								
Other remarks in support of the nomination (use additional pages, if necessary):								
Nominated by (Name of Signatory State, Agency):  Signature / Date:								