



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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SEVENTH MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES
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REVIEWS / ANALYSES ARISING FROM THE SIXTH MEETING
OF SIGNATORY STATES

The Sixth Meeting of Signatory States identified five main priority areas for Signatory States, the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat to address intersessionally, as follows (not in any particular order of priority)¹:

- (1) Socio-economic considerations, particularly stakeholder engagement;
- (2) Identification of index beaches associated with genetic stocks;
- (3) Investigation of illegal direct take of marine turtles;
- (4) Investigation of indirect take (incidental capture) in legal fisheries; and
- (5) Capacity-building in support of Signatory State efforts.

Accordingly, the Secretariat and members of the Advisory Committee have taken the lead in developing a series of papers that address each of these areas:

- Doc. 10.1 Illegal Take and Trade of Marine Turtles in the IOSEA Region (*Secretariat*)
- Doc. 10.2 Marine Turtle Genetic Stocks of the Indo-Pacific: Identifying Boundaries and Knowledge Gaps (*Dr. Nancy FitzSimmons and Dr. Colin Limpus*)
- Doc. 10.3 Socio-economic and Cultural Implications of Marine Turtle Use and Conservation (*Secretariat*)
- Doc. 10.4 Insights into Indian Ocean Fisheries-Turtle Interactions (*Secretariat*)

A fifth paper, Further Development of the IOSEA Technical Support / Capacity-building Programme (MT-IOSEA/SS.7/Doc. 8), prepared by Advisory Committee member Dr. Jeff Miller, which will be dealt with under its own agenda item, addresses the last area of concern.

The purpose of each of these detailed papers is to enable Signatory States to make informed decisions about the nature of concrete follow-up actions that will be required, especially on their part, to begin to address the specific challenges and recommendations identified by the authors.

¹ See also Report of the Sixth Meeting of IOSEA Signatory States (pp. 114-121). Annex 12: Action points arising from the Sixth Meeting of Signatory States; including suggested mechanisms for addressing these areas.