



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
Bonn, Germany, 8-11 September 2014

NATIONAL NETWORKS / COMMITTEES

1. The IOSEA Conservation and Management Plan, in its Objective 6.4, calls upon Signatory States to “improve coordination among government and non-government sectors in the conservation of marine turtles and their habitat” and, in particular, to “encourage cooperation within and among government and non-government sectors, including through the development and/or strengthening of national networks”.
2. The rationale for improving communication and coordination among different sectors is self-evident. Government agencies need to be aware of each other’s policies and actions on the ground, especially if they may inadvertently be at cross-purposes. In many countries, non-governmental organisations are also carrying out important field activities to conserve marine turtles which counterparts in government ought to be aware of. One way of facilitating a more coordinated approach within a country is to establish a national committee that periodically brings together the relevant actors.
3. The reporting template designed for the IOSEA Online Reporting Facility requests Signatory States to report on their efforts to develop or strengthen such networks. Under Activity 4.3.2, Signatories are requested to “describe initiatives already undertaken or planned to involve and encourage the cooperation of Government institutions, NGOs and the private sector in marine turtle conservation programmes ... [including] development of national networks, formation of steering committees, involvement in workshops, sponsorship of events, etc.”
4. Recognising the importance of this issue, the Advisory Committee and Secretariat developed a short questionnaire to encourage Signatory States to report in more depth on the initiatives undertaken to date. The questionnaire was made available prior to the Fifth Meeting of the Signatory States (Bali, 2008), and numerous responses were received before and during that meeting. Completed questionnaires were received from 17 of the then 27 Signatory States, as follows: Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Comoros, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Myanmar, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, and United States of America. A similar exercise was repeated prior to the Sixth Meeting (Bangkok, 2012), however this generated only two new questionnaire responses (from Papua New Guinea and United Kingdom), and updates of four existing questionnaires (from Madagascar, Myanmar, Philippines, and United States). Following the Sixth Meeting, the Secretariat received one new questionnaire from France and updates of United Republic of Tanzania’s existing questionnaire.
5. All of the Signatories that have provided a questionnaire response in the past are encouraged to provide updates as of 2014. It would be especially helpful to receive updated information from **Kenya, Mauritius, and Seychelles**, whose committees were rather new or in a state of transition at the time of the Fifth Meeting. Other Signatories whose committees have engaged in recent activity (such **France**, which has been drafting a National Action Plan) are also encouraged to provide updates.

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6. As for the 15 existing Signatories that have yet to return a questionnaire (**Egypt, Eritrea, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Viet Nam, and Yemen**), at least a few of these countries are thought to have committees in place, but few details about their practical functioning are known to the Secretariat. **Pakistan**, whose creation of a National Committee in June 2012 was the topic of an IOSEA Feature (http://ioseaturtles.org/feature_detail.php?id=376), and **Oman**, whose National Report now mentions the creation of a National Committee in 2013, are particularly encouraged to complete the questionnaire.

Action requested:

The blank template attached to this document is meant to be used by Focal Points to provide the latest information on their country's national network/committee. Signatories that have already completed a template which requires updating are invited to consult the 'Membership' section of the IOSEA website, where all of the completed forms are available for download, from the following URL:

http://ioseaturtles.org/content.php?page=National_Network_Committee

The information in the old template can be revised or cut/pasted into a new template, then sent to the Secretariat by email, preferably by **15 August 2014**.

The Secretariat will then compile the new findings and publish a short addendum to this paper.

IOSEA QUESTIONNAIRE – 2014 *

NATIONAL NETWORKS / COMMITTEES FOR MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION (Pursuant to Objective 6.4 of the IOSEA CMP)

Signatory State:

IOSEA Focal Point (or name
of person completing this
form)

National network or Committee (give the name, if applicable):

Brief Description / Status / Terms of Reference: (Is the network/committee formally designated by legislation, ministerial accord, MoU or some other administrative formality? Or is it an *ad hoc* organisation?)

Lead agency / organisation / institution:

Representation in the national network / committee (*list all members or N/A*):

▪ Government agencies:

—

▪ Academic and research organizations:

—

▪ Environmental NGOs:

—

▪ Development and human rights NGOs:

—

▪ Fisheries sector:

—

▪ Tourism sector:

—

▪ **Other private sector:**

—

▪ **Others:**

—

Specific resources for developing and maintaining the network / committee:

Means of communication (e.g. meetings, conference calls, email etc.)

Email.

Number of meetings / conference calls held each year:

- **2010:**
- **2011:**
- **2012:**
- **2013:**
- **2014:**

Most important topics of discussion (past / current):

Most important advances and contributions resulting from the network / committee:

Most important challenges and difficulties encountered by network / committee:

Plans for the future functioning and development of the network / committee:

Other comments:

The information in this form was last updated: (*month / year*):

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*** PLEASE REFER TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONNAIRES (2008, 2011), AS APPROPRIATE**