



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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REVIEW OF ARTICLE IV AGREEMENTS ALREADY CONCLUDED

- I. The Secretariat is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, the report provided by the Secretariat of the **Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia**, to accompany document UNEP/CMS/Conf.8.10.
2. The report is provided unedited in the format and language that it was submitted.

EXAMEN DES ACCORDS DE L'ARTICLE IV DEJA CONCLUS

1. Le Secrétariat diffuse ci-joint, pour l'information des participants à la 8ème session de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention sur les espèces migratrices, le rapport développé fourni par le Secrétariat de Mémoire d'Accord sur la Conservation et la Gestion des Tortues Marines et de leurs habitats de l'Océan Indien et de l'Asie du Sud-Est pour accompagner le document UNEP/CMS/Conf. 8.10.
2. Le rapport est fourni sans avoir été mis au point, dans le format et la langue dans lesquels il a été soumis.

REVISIÓN DE ACUERDOS ARTÍCULO IV YA CONCLUIDOS

1. La Secretaría adjunta, para información de los participantes a la Octava Conferencia de las Partes de la Convención sobre Especies Migratorias, el informe completo presentado por la Secretaría del Memorando de entendimiento sobre la conservación y la gestión de las tortugas marinas y de su hábitat en el Océano Índico y el sudeste asiático, en complemento en el documento UNEP/CMS/Conf. 8.10.
2. El informe se presenta sin modificaciones editoriales, bajo la forma y en el idioma originales.

**Report of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU Secretariat to the Eighth Meeting of the
Conference of the Parties to CMS (Nairobi, 19-25 November 2005)
Douglas Hykle, Coordinator / Senior CMS Advisor, August 2005**

The *Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia* puts in place a framework through which States of the region, as well as other concerned States, can work together to conserve and replenish depleted marine turtle populations for which they share responsibility. The MoU came into effect in September 2001 and has been operational since 2003, with the establishment of a secretariat in Bangkok, co-located with the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Major threats to marine turtles include unsustainable exploitation, destruction of nesting and feeding habitats, and incidental mortality in fishing operations. The IOSEA MoU's Conservation and Management Plan focuses on reducing threats to six species of marine turtles, conserving critical habitat, exchanging scientific data, increasing public awareness and participation, promoting regional cooperation, and seeking resources for implementation. There are currently 23 Signatory States to the MoU from all across the IOSEA region.

The Secretariat has continued to play a central role facilitating exchange of information, and this has been achieved primarily through the IOSEA website (www.ioseaturtles.org). The Online Reporting Facility represents a huge advance in the way that information from Signatory States is gathered, consolidated and analysed for management purposes. Almost all of the Signatory States have submitted reports, which are available for public viewing in their entirety or as part of specialised queries. The system allows for a comprehensive analysis of gaps in implementation and reporting.

The IOSEA Interactive Mapping System (IMapS), a collaborative venture with UNEP-WCMC, was formally launched in February 2004. With its detailed maps of marine turtle nesting and migration, and overlays of important coral reef, mangrove and sea grass habitats, the IMapS remains at the forefront of this kind of interactive management tool. An Online Projects Database contains detailed descriptions of more than 50 project activities in about 20 countries around the region. An electronic library is populated with useful reference material; and a new facility has been added to display information about the flipper tag series used in countries around the IOSEA region.

A proposal for a network of sites of importance for marine turtles, linked to the IOSEA MoU, is being circulated for official endorsement in 2005, with a view to seeking resources for implementation. Efforts are also underway to strengthen policy linkages between the conservation and management objectives of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU and the interests of regional fisheries management organisations, particularly in the area fisheries by-catch reduction.

A 'Year of the Turtle' campaign has been declared for the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia region in 2006. The campaign will raise awareness of the diversity of social, cultural, ecological and economic values of marine turtles. The initiative will promote collaborative, concerted actions to conserve and manage these threatened animals, as well as the habitats on which they depend for their survival. The official launch of the YoT campaign will coincide with the Fourth Meeting of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU Signatory States in early 2006.

The work programme over the coming year will include promoting and facilitating the establishment of sub-regional co-ordination mechanisms where these do not already exist; developing closer linkages with non-governmental organisations; proactive awareness-raising among decision-makers, taking advantage of synergies arising from the co-location arrangement with the UNEP regional office; overseeing timely implementation of a number of projects funded by CMS/IOSEA; and further enhancements to the IOSEA website.

Finally, under the arrangement whereby CMS makes a contribution to the operating costs of the Secretariat and to the organisation of meeting, approximately 20 percent of the Co-ordinator/Senior Advisor's time has been devoted to CMS work in the Asia region – notably in relation to the Siberian Crane MoU, the Central Asian Flyway initiative, ACAP, and the emerging dugong initiative.