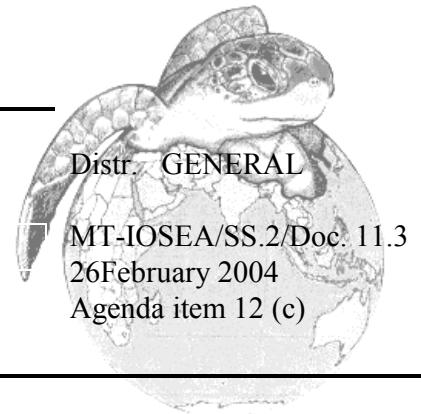


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Memorandum of Understanding on the  
Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and  
their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia



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

PROPOSAL FOR RECOGNITION OF PROJECTS CONTRIBUTING TO  
IOSEA MoU IMPLEMENTATION

*Prepared by Romeo Trono, Advisory Committee member,  
in consultation with the Secretariat*

Background

1. During the First Meeting of the Signatory States (Bangkok, January 2003), the Advisory Committee was mandated to propose a procedure that may be adopted by subsequent Meetings of the Signatory States to recognize activities, projects and programmes being developed or currently being implemented within Range States -- by NGOs, as well as other institutions that directly contribute to the implementation of the IOSEA MoU. This was prompted by a presentation given during the meeting on a tri-national marine turtle programme in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas formulated by Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. The process of formulating the tri-national programme was facilitated and funded by WWF. It was proposed that the programme be recognized as an important contribution to the implementation of the IOSEA MoU.

2. It was recognized that there are various efforts by NGOs and other non-governmental institutions (academe, corporate sector, people's organizations etc.) within range countries that address research and conservation needs of marine turtles and, in fact, contribute to the achievement of the IOSEA MoU's objectives. Recognizing these efforts could serve to encourage these organizations to more actively participate in the implementation of the MoU. It might also motivate non-signatory Range States where the NGO is working to sign the Memorandum if NGOs were planning or already implementing marine turtle conservation projects that included actions aligned with the objectives, programme of work, and activities stipulated under the Conservation and Management Plan.

Proposed Procedure

STEP 1

3. Interested non-governmental institutions may request the IOSEA MoU Secretariat to table in the agenda of the next Meeting of the Signatory States, a report by their official representative in order to present marine turtle research and management activities being planned or currently being implemented in the country or region. The Secretariat decides whether, in principle, the request can be accommodated based on time availability and informs the requesting institution accordingly.

## STEP 2

4. The requesting institution prepares an official report highlighting alignments of their activities, programme of work and project objectives vis-à-vis the objectives, programme of work, and activities stipulated under the Conservation and Management Plan. This report is submitted to the Secretariat, which disseminates it to members of the Advisory Committee at least 6 weeks prior to the Meeting of Signatory States.

## STEP 3

5. The Advisory Committee evaluates the report and submits comments and recommendations to the Secretariat within two weeks of receipt of the report. The Secretariat consolidates the comments and recommendations, which will be based on a set of criteria enumerated below. If the preliminary recommendation of the Advisory Committee is favourable (ie. in the Committee's view, the criteria for recognition appear to be met), the Secretariat then contacts the requesting institution and invites it to make a formal presentation to the Meeting of Signatory States.

*Minimum criteria for recognition of institutions and initiatives contributing to the implementation of IOSEA MoU:*

1. Requesting institution should have an institutional presence in at least 3 countries within the geographic range covered by the IOSEA MoU;
2. Relevant project being requested to be recognized should have been planned or initiated after IOSEA MoU came into effect;
3. The project being planned or implemented clearly demonstrates strong alignments with the objectives, programme of work, and activities stipulated in the IOSEA MoU Conservation and Management Plan;
4. Requesting institution should be directly involved in the project either as implementor, facilitator, donor, or technical advisor;
5. Minimum time of engagement of institution in the project should be at least 3 years;
6. Methodologies and approaches of project/s are scientifically sound and will not contribute to marine turtle mortality;
7. The project demonstrates social and cultural acceptability by affected stakeholders;
8. The project demonstrates sustainability.

## STEP 4

6. The official representative of requesting institution delivers its presentation to the Meeting of Signatory States. A representative from the Advisory Committee or the Secretariat reports on the Committee's comments and recommendations. The Meeting then provides its comments and inputs and recommends whether or not to officially recognize the requesting institution's activities, programme of work and project objectives as contributing to the implementation of the IOSEA MoU. The recommendation is captured in the official minutes of the meeting as a formal decision of the Signatory States. The activities and programme of work are then entered under the progress of implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan.

*Action requested / Expected outcome:*

Signatory States are invited to consider the proposal for adoption, subject to any amendments deemed appropriate.