



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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Agenda item 6

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THIRD MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES
Bangkok, 29-31 March 2005

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. The present report covers the activities of the Secretariat from the end of the Second Meeting of the Signatory States (Bangkok, 16-19 March 2004) until mid-March 2005. The main issues covered include: staffing, recruitment of Signatory States, substantive activities undertaken and planned, sub-regional coordination/interagency cooperation, project oversight, and meetings attended.

General / Secretariat staffing

2. The IOSEA Secretariat remains co-located with the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP) in the United Nations building in Bangkok. The administrative arrangements continue to run smoothly, and the support received from both UNEP/ROAP and ESCAP in relation to administrative issues has been conducive to a very productive work environment.

3. In April 2005, the Secretariat will be moving to the 2nd floor of the UN building, as part of a general rearrangement of office space. Situated next to the recently rejuvenated East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit, the new location should facilitate closer links to that body. It is hoped that the move can be accomplished with a minimum of disruption to regular activities and communications. Signatory States will be advised in due course of any necessary changes to telephone or fax numbers.

4. The Secretariat continues to be staffed by one full-time officer (Coordinator/Senior CMS Advisor) supported by a volunteer "Youth Ambassador" funded through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). The Coordinator was able to secure a first Youth Ambassador placement which ran from mid-March 2004 to mid-February 2005. The incumbent, Ms. Louisa Perrin, provided invaluable assistance during that time, particularly in relation to maintenance of the IOSEA website. On the strength of the positive experience for both parties, the Secretariat submitted an application for another Youth Ambassador which has recently been approved. The chosen candidate (Ms. Sarah Yip) is expected to come on board during the week of the Meeting of the Signatory States.

5. In view of the additional activities that the Secretariat expects to take on in the second half of 2005 and in 2006, in relation to the Year of the Turtle campaign, the Secretariat has applied for another volunteer through the same programme. If the application is successful, that individual would begin work in September/October 2005. In any case, this generous in-kind support for the IOSEA MoU provided by the Government of Australia is greatly appreciated and is worthy of special acknowledgment.

6. In January 2005, the Secretariat began advertising through the IOSEA website its willingness to accept interns for periods of three to six months. Apart from contributing to the work of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU, the unremunerated internship programme offers a good opportunity for young people to become acquainted with the work of the United Nations, and to experience a multi-cultural environment.

7. One such intern was accepted in mid-February (bridging the gap between the two Youth Ambassador placements) and has already made a valuable contribution in a short time to the organisation of the present meeting. The Secretariat has received several other serious applications for internships, at least two or three of which can be expected to materialise over the coming year.

8. Keeping within the limited budget for the Secretariat's operations, a part-time secretary was recruited last year to assist with basic secretarial tasks until October 2004; more recently another secretary "borrowed" occasionally from another UNEP officer away on extended sick leave has helped with the logistics of the present meeting. It is hoped that the budget will allow for a replacement secretary to be recruited in April-May 2005 under a similar part-time arrangement.

9. Overall, the Secretariat has made judicious use of the limited finances available, and has been successful in securing additional human resources at no cost, through various temporary arrangements. Document MT-IOSEA/SS.3/Doc. 11 addresses the additional direct voluntary financial support provided by a number of Governments.

Recruitment of Signatory States

10. In the twelve months since the Second Meeting of the Signatory States, the Memorandum of Understanding has taken effect in another four Range States: Jordan (1 June 2004), Oman (1 June 2004), Thailand (1 August 2004) and Pakistan (1 October 2004). Additionally, the MoU will take effect for South Africa on 1 May 2005, bringing to 21 the number of States participating in the MoU. While this year-on-year growth in membership is satisfying, it is hoped that at least another 5 or 6 States will have signed the MoU before the Fourth Meeting.

11. Over the past year, the Coordinator has solicited almost all potential Signatory States – through direct personal contacts and/or in writing – with a view to encouraging their signature of the Memorandum of Understanding. The table at Annex 1 summarises the efforts that have been made in this regard. Time and budget constraints have hampered this work, but much has already been done with limited means; and hopefully more effort can be devoted to recruitment activities in the coming year. Participants are invited to make use of this information to initiate their own follow-up with the individuals/agencies concerned.

12. It is disappointing that a number of States whose representatives made definitive statements at the Second Meeting about signing the Memorandum in the near future have yet to finalise the necessary domestic arrangements. They include India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea. It is hoped that further information will be forthcoming if they attend the present meeting as observers.

Depositary functions

13. The text of the Memorandum of Understanding, including the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP), has been circulated and posted on the IOSEA MoU Website in the three official languages: Arabic, English and French. The Secretariat has also secured unofficial translations of the MoU and CMP texts in Farsi (Persian), Khmer, Thai and Vietnamese and has made these available on the website. The Secretariat would be interested to know if anyone is aware of the existence of translations into any other language.

Substantive activities undertaken

14. The following section summarises the main activities in which the Secretariat has been involved over the past year:

Facilitating exchange of information

15. The Secretariat has continued to play a central role facilitating exchange of information within the IOSEA region, and this has been achieved primarily through the IOSEA website (www.ioseaturtles.org). A new “Profile of the Month” has been added to the site every month since April 2004, the titles of which are given in Annex 2. Additionally, about 40 features have been added to the homepage since March 2004 with information on project activities, national implementation arrangements, newsworthy events, meeting announcements, new publications etc. (Annex 3). Over that same period, links were made to more than 110 individual news stories concerning marine turtle and habitat conservation in and around the IOSEA region (Annex 4). Making use of a web-trawling facility since November 2004, the website has become a dynamic vehicle for consolidating information from English language media throughout the IOSEA region. The coverage of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster was particularly comprehensive.

16. A service was initiated in December 2004 to send out monthly e-mails summarising changes made to the website over the previous month, in the form of a “What’s New on the Site” announcement. This innovation has been well received, especially by those who might not visit the site regularly, and the subscription list is growing steadily. A semi-automated archive system allows users to consult material they may have overlooked in the past.

17. The electronic library continues to be populated with useful reference material. For example, it now contains summaries (as pdf handouts) of more than 20 informative PowerPoint presentations delivered at various meetings and workshops (Annex 5); and details of more than 30 useful publications of various kinds. A new education section allows users to download booklets and posters that have been made freely available. Elsewhere on the site, a new facility has been added to display information about the flipper tag series used in countries around the IOSEA region. At present, there is information from 15 countries – Signatories and non-Signatories alike. A background paper prepared by Advisory Committee member Dr. Jeanne Mortimer, gives the rationale for the approach that is being advocated.

18. Various aspects of the website are in need of review and/or updating, such as the list of “Useful Contacts and “Links” to other relevant websites. These and other potential improvements are described in more detail in document MT-IOSEA/SS.3/Doc. 12 – “Further development of implementation tools”.

19. Three aspects of the IOSEA website fulfil a greater role than simply facilitating exchange of information. The Online Reporting Facility, finalised in 2004, 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 Online Report Viewer allows users to view and query the contents of all national reports interactively – for example, according to: a particular country, any of the four IOSEA sub-regions, any of the six MoU thematic objectives, and any one of about 100 individual activities. In addition, about 225 discrete sites of relevance to marine turtles have been identified, and the intensity of about 15 potential threats at each site has been rated – all of which can be queried interactively. Though a few technical improvements have yet to be introduced, the basic system has proven its effectiveness, as evidenced by the relative ease with which it was possible to produce a report analysing over 100 different aspects of implementation in nearly 20 countries (Document MT-IOSEA/SS.3/Doc. 7.2).

20. 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 from around the IOSEA region, and overlays of important coral reef, mangrove and sea grass habitats, the IMapS remains at the forefront of this kind of interactive management tool. While the underlying data have not been updated as frequently as had been hoped over the past year, the Secretariat has initiated discussions with UNEP-WCMC and the Advisory Committee about a protocol that would allow individual users to input data, subject to a rigorous screening process.

21. Finally, the Online Projects Database now contains detailed descriptions of more than 40 project activities in 16 countries around the region. The Secretariat has made a concerted effort to solicit and compile the information from a wide range of sources. Though there are numerous project activities still not included in the system, an excellent start has been made in the first year to establish the database. In addition to supplementing the content, further technical improvements are planned for 2005-06.

Marine turtle site network proposal

22. At the second Meeting of the Signatory States, the Secretariat introduced an outline of a concept to develop a network of sites of importance for marine turtles, linked to the IOSEA MoU. The Secretariat has worked over the past year to develop the proposal, a first draft of which was circulated in June 2004 to the Advisory Committee and to a number of other individuals. The proposal has been revised and further elaborated in the light of comments received, and will be presented as Document MT-IOSEA/SS.3/Doc. 8.1.

Compilation of information on tsunami impacts

23. In the immediate aftermath of the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, in response to requests for information on the status of marine turtle conservation projects around the Indian Ocean region, as well as the tsunami's impact on vital turtle habitats, the Secretariat compiled preliminary assessments of the affected countries. The information gleaned from a variety of sources, mostly in the public domain but not compiled in one place, has been periodically updated. The feedback received indicated that it was a useful source of information for those concerned about the fate of the various marine turtle conservation projects around the region. The impacts of the Indian Ocean tsunami are the focus of a separate paper, Document MT-IOSEA/SS.3/Doc. 9.

Year of the Turtle Campaign

24. The Second Meeting of the Signatory States welcomed the idea of organising a Year of the Turtle campaign in the IOSEA region in 2006, and participants undertook to consult – already in 2004 – about the funding and creative inputs needed and to organise an effective event two years hence. The Secretariat and the Advisory Committee have had little spare capacity to develop the overall concept further over the past year, however a number of ideas are reflected in Document MT-IOSEA/SS.3/Doc. 8.2 prepared for this meeting. In connection with the Year of the Turtle campaign, the Secretariat plans to develop some much-needed promotional materials, such as a brochure and fact sheets.

Project oversight

25. The Secretariat has been responsible for the initiation or oversight of a number of project activities / consultancies over the past year. They have included the following:

- *Tracing the Migrations of Indian Marine Turtles: Towards an Integrated and Collaborative Conservation Program.* Implementing agencies: Centre for Herpetology, Madras Crocodile Trust; and Wildlife Institute of India. USD 34,500 co-funding from the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). Progress report is expected to be tabled under Agenda item 8c – Document MT-IOSEA/SS.3/Doc. 7.3.
- *Advancing Sea Turtle Conservation in Kenya.* Implementing agency: Kenya Sea Turtle Conservation Committee. USD 16,450 co-funding from Government of United Kingdom, via CMS. Various administrative delays resulted in the funds for the initiation of this project being transferred only in January 2005. A preliminary report on steps already taken to begin the work is expected to be tabled under Agenda item 8c – Document MT-IOSEA/SS.3/Doc. 7.3.

- *Continuation of development work on the IOSEA website.* IOSEA/UK Government funding. Online reporting facility was made operational in September 2004.
- *Multi-lingual information/awareness booklet for longline fishers: “Catch Fish not Turtles, using Longlines”.* IOSEA/UK Government co-funding, together with UNEP Regional Seas Programme and other sponsors. Published/distributed by Blue Ocean Institute in August 2004 in English, Japanese and Spanish.
- *Provision of tags and applicators to turtle projects in the Islamic Republic of Iran.* Implementing Agency: Department of Environment, Wildlife Bureau. IOSEA/UK Government funding. Secretariat facilitated the purchase/delivery of 1000 tags and four applicators to support the initiation in 2004-05 of a useful tagging programme.
- Assistance in preparing technical summaries of national report database entries. IOSEA/UK Government funding. Used as basis for Document MT-IOSEA/SS.3/Doc. 7.2.

Facilitation of sub-regional coordination and inter-agency cooperation

26. Over the coming one to two years, the Secretariat hopes to co-opt existing bodies within each of the IOSEA MoU’s four sub-regions to play an active role in facilitating implementation of the MoU on a sub-regional level. To that end, the Coordinator participated in a workshop held in Mombasa, Kenya, from 16-17 September 2004, jointly organised by the Kenya Sea Turtle Conservation Committee (KESCOM) and the Kenya Wildlife Service. The meeting was well-attended by representatives of most of the countries concerned, as well as other interested organisations.

27. The meeting acknowledged that the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU provides a specific framework for marine turtle conservation in the Western Indian Ocean, as it is already operational and has been signed by most of the WIO States. The Nairobi Convention – which has a broader remit for the management of East Africa’s coastal and marine environment – could provide additional political and potential financial support for the IOSEA MoU within this large sub-region.

28. The meeting proposed a formal link between the two instruments, to be achieved by establishing a WIO-IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU Task Force under the Nairobi Convention. The task force would serve explicitly to facilitate implementation of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU, while contributing to fulfilling the general programme of work of the Nairobi Convention. It was agreed that a proposal for interim recognition of this novel arrangement would be presented to the next meeting of Nairobi Convention Focal Points, now tentatively scheduled to take place in May 2005. If agreed there, the Nairobi Convention’s Conference of the Parties would then be invited to formally confirm the decision when it meets in late 2006.

29. Already in 2003, the Secretariat initiated discussions with the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) with a view to exploring a comparable role for SACEP in the Northern Indian Ocean sub-region. A number of actual and potential Signatory States attending the Second Meeting of the Signatory States in March 2004 took advantage of the opportunity to discuss how best to make use of limited funds to initiate some collaborative activity. However there was no consensus view among the participants on a way forward. Notwithstanding the two secretariats’ interest to move this agenda along, there was no spare capacity to devote to this task in 2004. It is hoped that this initiative can be progressed in 2005.

30. Similar resource constraints have prevented the Secretariat from developing closer linkages with other bodies that might fulfil a similar role in other sub-regions, such as PERSGA in the Northwest Indian Ocean, and ASEAN (through its 1997 sub-regional sea turtle MoU) and/or SEAFDEC in South-East Asia. SEAFDEC is already making an important contribution to marine turtle conservation there, and it would be useful to explore the potential for aligning the two programmes more closely. Communication has also been initiated with the relevant Regional Fishery Body

(RFB) in the Indian Ocean – the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) – with a view eventually to promoting more involvement of that organisation in turtle by-catch mitigation.

Advisory Committee

31. Over the past year, the Secretariat has arranged for the integration of three additional members to the Advisory Committee, and has encouraged all members to provide feedback in their respective areas of expertise through regular e-mail contact. The work of the Advisory Committee is described in more detail in Document MT-IOSEA/SS.3/Doc.10, where suggestions are made on ways to enhance the Committee's inputs.

Meetings attended

32. Budget constraints limited the amount of travel that could be undertaken on behalf the IOSEA MoU over the past year; and several of the missions that were undertaken were combined with CMS-related activities (see below) in order to reduce costs. The Coordinator conducted six missions, as follows: Consultations on the marine turtle site network proposal (Washington, DC – July 2004); Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission meeting (Chiang Mai – August 2004); Workshop on sea turtle conservation (Terengganu, Malaysia – August 2004); Western Indian Ocean marine turtle workshop (Mombasa, Kenya – September 2004); 25th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium (Savannah, Georgia – January 2005); and the 26th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (Rome – March 2005). As reported in Document MT-IOSEA/SS.3/Doc. 11, the total expenditure on the IOSEA-related travel in 2004 amounted to just over USD 10,000.

Convention on Migratory Species representation

33. Under the arrangement whereby the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) makes a significant contribution to the operating costs of the Secretariat and to the organisation of the Meeting of the Signatory States, approximately 20 percent of the Co-ordinator's time is devoted to CMS work in the Asia region. Many of these activities have no direct relation to the IOSEA MoU, however there may be positive ancillary benefits from the contacts that have been established.

34. The Coordinator represented CMS at two meetings related to the CMS Siberian Crane MoU and its associated UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane/Wetlands project; an expert workshop on harmonisation of information management (where the IOSEA Online Reporting Facility was well-received); the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES; the First Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on Albatross and Petrels (ACAP); the 9th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee; and the 10th Meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. He recently attended a CMS strategic planning session which provided some extremely useful insights that are applicable to the IOSEA context.

35. Ideally, it would be advantageous to both CMS and IOSEA if an interested Government were to second a Junior Professional Officer to Bangkok for 2-3 years, as has been proposed in the past, who could devote more time to general CMS migratory species work, and also be available to assist with IOSEA MoU implementation. If time allows, later in 2005, the idea will be pursued again.

Preparations for the present meeting

36. The first announcement for the present meeting was circulated on 8 November 2004, with a request for completed registration forms to reach the Secretariat no later than 31 December 2004. Signatory States were requested at the same time to submit their nominations/re-nominations for the Advisory Committee by 28 January 2005.

37. For the most part, the Secretariat has had to rely on e-mail communication and periodic reminders to inform potential participants about the meeting – the result being that the level of

attendance is expected to be comparable to that of the previous year. If more resources were available to promote the ongoing work of the IOSEA MoU and its relevance to other organisations and individuals around the Indian Ocean – South-East Asia region, the attendance would likely be considerably higher. For the time being, however, the minimum target of assuring the participation of nearly all of the Signatory States is being achieved.

Work programme for the year ahead

38. The work programme of the Secretariat will be shaped by the outcomes of the present meeting, and will depend on the decisions taken with respect to a number of agenda items. However, some core activities can already be identified which will demand attention, notably:

- Further development of the marine turtle site network proposal; and coordination of 2006 Year of the Turtle activities;
- Promoting and facilitating the establishment of sub-regional co-ordination mechanisms where these do not already exist, through increased contact with selected intergovernmental bodies;
- Developing closer linkages with non-governmental organisations, particularly those whose activities span several countries in the region;
- Developing new ties with regional fisheries bodies that have a critical role to play in managing marine turtle by-catch;
- More proactive awareness-raising among decision-makers not only in Signatory States, but also in non-Signatory Range States to encourage membership, as well as other States with an interest in the MoU – taking more advantage of synergies arising from the co-location arrangement with the UNEP regional office;
- Further development of certain elements of the IOSEA website (discussed in more detail in document MT-IOSEA/SS.2/Doc. 12);
- Incorporating changes made to the national report template in the Online Reporting Facility; further analysis of the national reports, particularly the information on sites and threats, and identification of gaps in implementation/reporting;
- Overseeing timely implementation of a number of projects funded by CMS/IOSEA.

Action requested / expected outcome:












Signatory States are invited to note the report of the Secretariat, to seek any clarification that might be necessary, and to reflect on any additional activities that may warrant inclusion in the Secretariat's work programme over the coming year, subject to there being sufficient resources for implementation.

Summary of Secretariat recruitment efforts among non-Signatory States

REGION/POTENTIAL SIGNATORY STATE	RECENT CONTACTS	REMARK
<i>South-East Asia "plus"</i>		
Brunei Darussalam	Fisheries Department	SEASTAR2000, Dec. 2004
Indonesia	Ministry of Forestry, Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation	Registered to attend SS3 (no sponsorship available). Also: informal contacts with Conservation International (Dec. 2004), WWF-Indonesia (Mar 2005)
Malaysia	Dept. of Fisheries (DG; Marine Parks Division etc); Dept. of Wildlife and National Parks etc. – Terengganu workshop, August 2004	Full briefing: Dept. of Fisheries, MITI, Foreign Affairs, Attorney General Chambers, SEAFDEC etc – July 2003
Papua New Guinea	Dept of Environment and Conservation	Attended IOSEA SS2 Registered to attend SS3 (no sponsorship available)
Singapore	National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University	Registered to attend SS3
Timor Leste	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, National Directorate for Fisheries and Aquaculture	Director of Fisheries Resources Management expected to attend SS3
China	State Environmental Protection Administration, Department of International Cooperation	Sent letter 28 June 2004 (no reply)
Japan	Min. of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries – Fisheries Agency	FAO Technical Consultation, Dec. 2004; FAO COFI, March 2005
Republic of Korea	Min. of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries – International Cooperation Office	FAO – A-P Fishery Com, Aug 2004 FAO Technical Consultation, Dec. 2004
<i>Northern Indian Ocean</i>		
India	Minister for Environment and Forests	Sent letter to Minister, 26 Nov 2004 (no reply)
Maldives	Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources – Marine Research Centre; Ministry of Environment	FAO Technical Consultation, Dec. 2004; CBD SBSTTA, Feb 2005
<i>Northwest Indian Ocean</i>		
Bahrain	–	No recent contact
Djibouti	Ministere de l'habitat, de l'urbanisme, de l'environnement et de l'aménagement du territoire	Directeur de l'Environnement registered to attend SS3 (no sponsorship available)
Egypt	Min. of State for Environmental Affairs – Environmental Affairs Agency	CBD SBSTTA, Feb 2005 Director, Nature Conservation Sector registered to attend SS3
Eritrea	–	No recent contact
Kuwait	Environment Public Authority – Living Resources Department	CITES COP13, Oct. 2004
Qatar	–	No recent contact

Saudi Arabia	Ministry of Agriculture – Fisheries Affairs Directorate; NCWCD	FAO COFI, March 2005; Briefing paper provided May 2003
Sudan	Wildlife Conservation, General Administration	Director, Planning and Projects Development registered to attend SS3 (no sponsorship available)
United Arab Emirates	ERWDA, Marine Environment Research Centre	Briefing paper provided Dec. 2004
Yemen	Environment Protection Authority	CBD SBSTTA, Feb 2005 – handed over comprehensive briefing pack
<i>Western Indian Ocean</i>		
France	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Environment Sub-direction; Ministry of Ecology	CBD SBSTTA, Feb 2005; Regular contact: Feb-Mar 2004
Mozambique	Centre for Sustainable Development of Coastal Zones	Attended IOSEA SS2 Director, registered to attend SS3 (no sponsorship available)
Somalia	–	No recent contact

Profile of the Month Archive

Month	Title	Author
 April 2004	Seychelles Demonstrates Public Support for Turtle Conservation	Dr. J.A. Mortimer
 May 2004	Thamlee Hla Island, Myanmar	Aung Naing Oo & Shwe Tin Ohn
 June 2004	Mon Repos Conservation Park, Australia	Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage
 July 2004	Bangladesh: St Martin's Island Sea Turtle Conservation Project	M. Zahirul Islam and Mohammad Qamar Munir
 August 2004	Tracking the Migrations of Indian Marine Turtles	
 September 2004	Online National Report Viewer now available!	
 October 2004	Kiunga Marine Conservation and Development Project	Source: <i>WWF: Conserving Marine Turtles on a Global Scale (2004) 2nd edition</i> and Haroun Sif Kombo (WWF)
 November 2004	Marine Turtle Conservation on Reunion Island (France)	Source: <i>TortueMarine</i> and Stephane Ciccione Photos: Marc Taquet/Ifremer and Stéphane Ciccione/CEDTM
 December 2004	Renewed enthusiasm and commitment to turtle conservation and management in South Africa	Source and photos: Dr Ronel Nel (KZN Wildlife)
 January 2005	Snapshots of research and conservation action across Northern Australia	Source: Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage Photos: Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation 2004
 February 2005	Caring for the Turtles of Redang Island, Malaysia	Source: Prof. Eng-Heng Chan

Features Archive

Date	Features
10/01/2005	Internships at the IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU Secretariat
05/01/2005	Turtle Conservation Project (TCP)'s appeal for support
05/01/2005	Tsunami impacts on Indian Ocean turtle projects and habitats
30/12/2004	IOSEA Advisory Committee adds fishing gear specialist
28/12/2004	Tsunami claims life of young British conservationist
24/12/2004	Advance draft report of FAO Technical Consultation on bycatch available
22/12/2004	Flipper Tag Series resource added to IOSEA Website
20/12/2004	Bangladesh establishes national framework for marine turtle conservation
15/12/2004	Progress towards reducing sea turtle mortality in fishing operations
10/12/2004	First satellite tracking of Australian Flatback turtles
30/11/2004	Novel Nairobi Convention-IOSEA collaboration proposed
26/11/2004	FAO Technical Consultation on Sea Turtles Conservation and Fisheries
09/11/2004	International Symposium on SEASTAR2000 and Bio-logging Science
09/11/2004	First Announcement: Third Signatory State Meeting
04/11/2004	Bali Marine Police confiscate sea turtles -- 45 are released alive
27/10/2004	Tanzania establishes National Committee for Marine Turtle Conservation and Management
08/10/2004	Sea Turtles: An ecological guide
20/08/2004	Bellagio Blueprint for Action on Pacific Sea Turtles
11/08/2004	Handbook on Asia-Pacific Fishery Bodies
10/08/2004	Viet Nam marine turtle conservation action plan
02/08/2004	Guide gives fishermen advice on how to catch fish not turtles
12/07/2004	Pakistan signs MoU: IOSEA reaches 20 Signatory State milestone
07/07/2004	Malaysia workshop: Conservation and sustainable management of sea turtles
05/07/2004	IATTC adopts marine turtle / by-catch resolutions
01/07/2004	Sea Turtle and Dugong Project at Ranong, Thailand
28/06/2004	IOSEA Signatory State Meeting ends on a high note
28/06/2004	Thailand affirms commitment to sea turtle protection
28/06/2004	Managing sea turtles in South East Asia: hatcheries and tagging activities
28/06/2004	Coastal Resources Assessment Workshop – Thailand
28/06/2004	United States Marine Turtle Conservation Act passed
28/06/2004	25 years of the Convention on Migratory Species
31/05/2004	IOSEA Signatories reach 18: Oman and Jordan sign MoU
31/05/2004	Rare green turtle nesting reported in Iran
31/05/2004	Community-based nest protection programme in Sri Lanka
31/05/2004	Remarkable breeding record for Australian flatback turtle
03/03/2004	Mass-nesting of turtles begins in Gahiramatha, India

Headlines Archive

Date	Headlines
21/02/2005	Australia: Early turtle ancestor found 21 February 05 -
18/02/2005	Sri Lanka's coral reefs still intact 18 February 05 -
18/02/2005	Orissa - 25,000 Olive ridleys lay eggs 18 February 05 -
18/02/2005	Change in India's turtle breeding 18 February 05 -
17/02/2005	Turtle find on Malaysian tsunami beach 17 February 05 -
17/02/2005	Australian turtle centre receives more funding 17 February 05 -
15/02/2005	Protection urged for coastal mangrove forests 15 February 05 -
14/02/2005	Ridleys massacre to be taken up at World Wilderness Congress 14 February 05 -
11/02/2005	South African leatherbacks 11 February 05 -
10/02/2005	Orissa: 5,000 Olive Ridley turtles perish 10 February 05 -
09/02/2005	Scientists: Tsunami did not damage Malaysian coral reefs 9 February 05 -
07/02/2005	Thai divers have two weeks to rescue coral 7 February 05 -
07/02/2005	72 arrested for fishing near Bhubaneswar turtle site 7 February 05 -
04/02/2005	Myanmar: restaurants may be forced to drop shark and turtle from menus 4 February 05 -
04/02/2005	Sri Lankan turtle conservation projects begin 4 February 05 -
03/02/2005	Sri Lanka Turtles Victim of Tsunami 3 February 05 -
03/02/2005	Orissa rally to save Olive Ridley turtles 3 February 05 -
02/02/2005	Ancient beasts raise questions about climate change 2 February 05 -
02/02/2005	Indian conservation officers abducted 2 February 05 -
02/02/2005	Tracking South African turtles 2 February 05 -
02/02/2005	Thailand coral escaped tsunami largely unscathed 2 February 05 -
31/01/2005	Philippines turtle experts track "lost years" 31 January 05 -
27/01/2005	Sri Lanka: biologists to conduct tsunami impact study 27 January 05 -
27/01/2005	Indonesian priests call for a halt to sea turtle slaughter 27 January 05 -
25/01/2005	Divers help clean battered coral reefs 25 January 05 -
25/01/2005	Turtle found nesting in Campbell Bay, India 25 January 05 -
25/01/2005	Asian tsunami inflicts severe damage on Indonesia's environment 25 January 05 -
24/01/2005	Sri Lanka reefs 'survive tsunami' 24 January 05 -
24/01/2005	New turtle display planned for Mon Repos Conservation Park 24 January 05 -
20/01/2005	Dive industry perspective on Thailand's tsunami disaster 20 January 05 -
20/01/2005	Cutting mangroves for tourist resorts increased tsunami death toll 20 January 05 -
20/01/2005	Silt threatens India's tsunami-hit coral life 20 January 05 -
18/01/2005	Tsunami affects turtle conservation programmes 18 January 05 -
18/01/2005	Leatherback welcomed back to her old nesting grounds 18 January 05 -
18/01/2005	Phuket clearing tsunami-affected coral reefs 18 January 05 -
18/01/2005	New master plan for Bangladesh island 18 January 05 -
15/01/2005	Experts concerned over the killings Olive Ridley turtles 15 January 05 -
15/01/2005	Thailand to restore coral reefs 15 January 05 -
15/01/2005	Conservationist holds on to turtle dream 15 January 05 -
14/01/2005	Flutopfer Schildkröte - Turtle Flood Victim (German article) 14 January 05 -
14/01/2005	Biologists rescue turtle tsunami survivor 14 January 05 -
13/01/2005	Australia counts discarded fishing nets 13 January 05 -






12/01/2005	Loggerhead sea turtles return to Mon Repos, Australia 12 January 05 -
12/01/2005	Great Nicobar field assistant found alive 12 January 05 -
12/01/2005	Indonesia: Turtle outpaces tsunami by 2 days 12 January 05 -
12/01/2005	Tsunamis, Mangroves and the Market Economy 12 January 05 -
12/01/2005	Memorial Fund established for Phra Thong project 12 January 05 -
11/01/2005	Rescued male Green turtle returns to Andaman Sea 11 January 05 -
10/01/2005	Divers begin Thailand's coral clean-up 10 January 05 -
10/01/2005	CSIRO help for Maldives' corals 10 January 05 -
10/01/2005	Leatherback caught/released in Philippines 10 January 05 -
10/01/2005	Leatherback reported to nest on Phuket 10 January 05 -
10/01/2005	Seacology establishes tsunami relief fund 10 January 05 -
10/01/2005	Five die in PNG after eating turtle meat 10 January 05 -
10/01/2005	Saving Sri Lanka's sea turtles 10 January 05 -
10/01/2005	Indian institute to study tsunami impacts 10 January 05 -
06/01/2005	Gahirmatha marine sanctuary affected by tsunami waves 6 January 05 -
06/01/2005	Brilliant turtle researcher dies at hands of sea 6 January 05 -
06/01/2005	Award for anti-poaching efforts: Konkan, India 6 January 05 -
04/01/2005	Canadian among Koh Phra Thong tsunami victims 4 January 05 -
04/01/2005	Indian dead Ridley count worries experts 4 January 05 -
04/01/2005	Australian shark hook design more turtle friendly 4 January 05 -
03/01/2005	Marine biologist Tripathy found alive 3 January 05 -
02/01/2005	Leatherback researcher at Great Nicobar unaccounted for 2 January 05 -
01/01/2005	Thailand: Breeding farm sea turtles lost 1 January 05 -
31/12/2004	Four turtle biologists missing at Indira Point, Andaman & Nicobar Islands 31 December 04 -
31/12/2004	UNEP earmarks US \$1 million for environmental needs assessments 31 December 04 -
30/12/2004	East Malaysia: Turtle egg sales rampant 30 December 04 -
30/12/2004	Coral reefs among ecological victims of wall of water 30 December 04 -
23/12/2004	Australia: Dugong, turtle hunting restricted under new agreement 23 December 04 -
23/12/2004	Australia: Turtle returns to Mon Repos 23 December 04 -
23/12/2004	Australia: Loggerhead turtle population stabilising 23 December 04 -
23/12/2004	Sri Lanka: TCP President honoured 23 December 04 -
15/12/2004	Orissa: Hundreds of Olive Ridley turtles killed 15 December 04 -
15/12/2004	Borneo school into turtle conservation 15 December 04 -
15/12/2004	Turtle nesting season begins in Australia 15 December 04 -
02/12/2004	Australian Government provides \$2 million to clear killer nets 2 December 04 -
24/11/2004	The trade of marine turtles in the Toliara region, Madagascar 24 November 04 -
24/11/2004	Rat eradication as part of a green turtle conservation programme in Indonesia 24 November 04 -
23/11/2004	Orissa port near nesting site of Olive Ridelys 23 November 04 -
09/11/2004	Community reserves to protect Olive Ridelys 9 November 04 -
08/11/2004	Offshore drillings threaten Olive Ridley turtles 8 November 04 -
28/10/2004	Leatherback turtles disappearing, says Melanesian forum 28 October 04 -
24/09/2004	Singapore foils attempt to smuggle marine turtle eggs on Indonesian boat 24 September 04 -
06/09/2004	Redang areas to be made turtle sanctuaries 6 September 04 -
20/08/2004	Malaysia's sea turtles are "on the brink of collapse," say scientists 20 August 04 -
10/08/2004	Lifeline for sea turtle project on Redang Island, Malaysia 10 August 04 -
02/08/2004	New hook rules endanger turtles 2 August 04 -

28/07/2004	Viet Nam rallies to save marine turtles 28 July 04 -
09/07/2004	President Boosts International Marine Turtle Conservation Efforts 9 July 04 -
17/06/2004	Study: sea protection costs less than fish subsidies 17 June 04-
27/05/2004	WWF study links sea turtles to jobs 27 May 04 -
19/05/2004	Wild Shrimp from Thailand Embargoed over Turtle Conservation 19 May 04-
18/05/2004	Orissa: proposed Dhamra Port threatens the Olive Ridley turtle 18 May 04-
18/05/2004	Bhitarkanika mangrove reserve endangered by Dhamra Port facility 18 May 04-
17/05/2004	Reliance vs the olive ridley turtle 17 June 04-
13/05/2004	Maldives' coral reefs spring back to life 13 May 04
13/05/2004	United States bans Thai non-farmed shrimps 13 May 04-
10/05/2004	Trawler with 130 dead turtles held 10 May 04 -
26/03/2004	Olive Ridley turtles keep their date with Indian beach 26 March 04 -
26/03/2004	"Aamakaar - The Turtle People" (Indian film on links between turtles and people) 26 March 04-

PowerPoint Archive

Presentation	Title /Author /Size	Venue where presented	Country/ Region
	Sea Turtles and their conservation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands Author: Dr. A. Murugan - Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute (SDMRI) Size: 26 (205KB)	International Symposium on SEASTAR2000 and Bio-logging Science, Bangkok, Thailand, 2004	India NIO
	Sea Turtle Conservation in India: Existing laws and problems - a case study from Gulf of Mannar, Southeast coast of India Author: Dr. A. Murugan - Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute (SDMRI) Size: 29 slides (323KB)	International Symposium on SEASTAR2000, 2003	India NIO
	Strengthening Sea Turtle Conservation in Cambodia Author: Touch Bunthang Size: 17 slides (217KB)	International Symposium on SEASTAR2000 and Bio-logging Science, Bangkok, Thailand, 2004	Cambodia SEA
	Sea Turtle Monitoring Program Author: Dr Ronel Nel Size: 18 slides (310KB)	Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region Marine Turtle Workshop, Mombasa, Kenya	South Africa WIO
	Conservation Status of Marine Turtles in Kenya Author: KESCOM Size: 39 slides (302KB)	Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region Marine Turtle Workshop, Mombasa, Kenya	Kenya WIO
	Status of Marine Turtles in Mauritius Waters Author: M. Nallee Size: 15 slides (118KB)	Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region Marine Turtle Workshop, Mombasa, Kenya	Mauritius WIO
	Seychelles National Turtle Report 2004 Author: Pierre-Andre Adam Size: 30 slides (192KB)	Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region Marine Turtle Workshop, Mombasa, Kenya	Seychelles WIO

	Sea turtles and their habitats conservation programs of France in the South West of Indian Ocean Author: Stephane Ciccione Size: 14 slides (252KB)	Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region Marine Turtle Workshop, Mombasa, Kenya	Reunion WIO
	Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region Marine Turtle Workshop. Madagascar Status Report. Sept 16-17, Mombasa, Kenya Authors: Rakotonirina, B.P., Razafinjara, A.L. and Harding S.P. Size: 23 slides (166KB)	Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region Marine Turtle Workshop, Mombasa, Kenya	Madagascar WIO
	Marine Turtle Conservation Initiatives in Tanzania Author: Jairos Mahenge Size: 10 slides (113KB)	Western Indian Ocean (WIO) Region Marine Turtle Workshop, Mombasa, Kenya	Tanzania WIO

	Community-based conservation of Marine Turtle in Nui Chua Nature Reserve – Ninh Thuan Province (Viet Nam) Author: TrÇn Phong Size: 17 slides (Part I)	National Workshop on Marine Turtle Conservation; Vung Tau and Con Dao, Viet Nam, July 2001	Viet Nam SEA
	Community-based conservation of Marine Turtle in Nui Chua Nature Reserve – Ninh Thuan Province (Viet Nam) Author: TrÇn Phong Size: 17 slides (Part II)	National Workshop on Marine Turtle Conservation; Vung Tau and Con Dao, Viet Nam, July 2001	Viet Nam SEA
	Tagging, Database Management and Marine Turtle Statistics Authors: Liew Hock Chark and Chan Eng Heng Size: 36 slides	22nd Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Conservation and Biology; Miami, April 2002	Viet Nam SEA
	Sea Turtle Conservation and Management in Kenya Authors: Simmons K. Nzuki et al. Size: 29	23th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Conservation and Biology; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, March 2003	Kenya WIO
	Overview of Longline Fisheries in the Indian Ocean Author: Robert Campbell Size: 37 slides	International Technical Expert Workshop on Marine Turtle Bycatch in Longline Fisheries, February 2003, Seattle	IO

	<p>Charting Multidisciplinary Research and Action Priorities towards the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Sea Turtles in the Pacific Ocean: A Focus on Malaysia. Aspects in the Biology of Sea Turtles Author: H.C. Liew Size: 31 slides (2 MB)</p>	<p>Bellagio Blueprint for Action on Pacific Sea Turtles Workshop, Terengganu, Malaysia</p>	<p>Malaysia SEA</p>
	<p>40 Years of Sea Turtle Conservation Efforts: Where did we go wrong? (Did we go wrong?) Lessons learnt and the way forward. Authors: Kamaruddin Ibrahim and Dionysius S.K. Sharma Size: 73 slides (1MB)</p>	<p>Bellagio Blueprint for Action on Pacific Sea Turtles Workshop, Terengganu, Malaysia</p>	<p>Malaysia SEA</p>
	<p>Olive Ridleys in Orissa: Rashoman revisited Author: Kartik Shankar Size: 23 slides (280Kb)</p>	<p>Second Meeting of Signatory States to the IOSEA MoU, Bangkok, March 2004</p>	<p>India NIO</p>
	<p>Turtle trade in Bali Author: WWF Size: 20 slides (615Kb)</p>	<p>Second Meeting of Signatory States to the IOSEA MoU, Bangkok, March 2004</p>	<p>Indonesia SEA</p>
	<p>Modelling human threats to sea turtle population viability Author: Dr Milani Chaloupka Size: 32 slides (937Kb)</p>	<p>Second Meeting of Signatory States to the IOSEA MoU, Bangkok, March 2004</p>	<p>Pacific</p>
	<p>Research and Management of Sea Turtles along the Indigenous Coast of Northern Australia Authors: Scott Whiting, Damian White, Linda Cuttriss and Karen Cook Size: 31 slides (674Kb)</p>	<p>Second Meeting of Signatory States to the IOSEA MoU, Bangkok, March 2004</p>	<p>Australia SEA</p>
	<p>Marine Turtle Hatcheries: what is their role in conservation Author: Thushan Kapurusinghe Size: 29 slides (546Kb)</p>	<p>Second Meeting of Signatory States to the IOSEA MoU, Bangkok, March 2004</p>	<p>Sri Lanka NIO</p>