



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

Distr. GENERAL

MT-IOSEA/SS.3/Doc. 13  
Agenda item 14

24 February 2005

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

ORGANISATION OF THE FOURTH MEETING  
OF THE SIGNATORY STATES

1. The Memorandum of Understanding, in its “Basic Principles”, calls for annual meetings of the Signatory States to be convened by the Secretariat and to be “hosted by, and organised in collaboration with, one of the Signatory States.”
2. Notwithstanding this provision, the Meeting of the Signatory States has never been hosted or organised by one of the Signatory States. Each of the three meetings held to date has been convened and organised by the Secretariat and has been held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. Holding the meeting there has numerous advantages, including good travel connections, the relatively modest cost of the conference facilities and the immediate proximity to the Secretariat.
3. One of the few justifications for possibly considering a venue other than Bangkok for the Fourth Meeting is that the Year of the Turtle campaign in 2006 may well be launched in conjunction with the Meeting of the Signatory States. One of the member States may wish to use that occasion to bring new publicity to turtle conservation activities at home and abroad. Indeed, holding the Meeting of the Signatory States in a region other than South-East Asia could help to raise the profile of the Memorandum of Understanding and its aims in other countries, including non-signatories.
4. Should any Signatory State wish to contemplate this option, the Secretariat has prepared an information document (MT-IOSEA/SS.3/Inf.6) which outlines the requirements of the Host Country in this regard. Signatory States are invited to discuss this possibility domestically in the coming weeks, with a view to tabling an expression of interest at the forthcoming meeting. The Secretariat is available to provide any additional clarification.

*Action requested / Expected outcome*

Signatory States are invited to consider and decide on the location and approximate timing of the Fourth Meeting of the Signatory States, bearing in mind the possible linkage with the launch of the 2006 Year of the Turtle campaign, and to investigate before the present meeting the possibility of offering to host and organise the meeting in collaboration with the IOSEA MoU Secretariat.