



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON THE CONSERVATION AND
MANAGEMENT OF MARINE TURTLES
AND THEIR HABITATS OF THE INDIAN
OCEAN AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA**

CMS/IOSEA/MOS9/Doc.8.1.2
14 May 2024

9TH MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES
Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, 24-27 June 2024
Agenda Item 8.1.2

**PROPOSALS FOR INCLUSION INTO THE NETWORK OF SITES OF IMPORTANCE
FOR MARINE TURTLES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. The Network of Sites of Importance for Marine Turtles in the Indian Ocean – South-East Asia Region was formally adopted by the Signatory States to the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU in 2012. To date, eleven sites have been accepted into the Network.
2. The overarching goal of the Site Network is to promote the long-term conservation of sites of regional and global importance to marine turtles and their habitats. The network serves as a mechanism for sites to operate more cooperatively and synergistically, both ecologically and administratively, rather than working in isolation with minimal coordination. We have developed robust [criteria to evaluate sites](#) nominated for inclusion in the network to prioritise the most critical sites needed to secure the future of marine turtle species/ management units.
3. Following a thorough revision of the Site Information Template used for nominations and of the evaluation criteria between MOS8 and MOS9, the Secretariat circulated a call for proposals of sites to be considered for inclusion in the Site Network in mid-March 2024. By the deadline of 30 April, five nominations were received:
 - Al Qurm Protected Area, United Arab Emirates ([CMS/IOSEA/MOS9/Doc.8.1.2.1](#))
 - Cox's Bazar Coast, Bangladesh ([CMS/IOSEA/MOS9/Doc.8.1.2.2](#))
 - Sharma, Jathmoun & Dhargum, Yemen ([CMS/IOSEA/MOS9/Doc.8.1.2.3](#))
 - Khore Omiera, Yemen ([CMS/IOSEA/MOS9/Doc.8.1.2.4](#))
 - Mawtin Coast, Myanmar (cannot be considered because UN engagement with the de facto government is limited to urgent humanitarian needs and necessary transactional correspondence)
4. The Advisory Committee is reviewing the proposals, making use of the revised evaluation criteria. Their recommendations will be appended to this document when the review has been completed.

Action requested of MOS9:

- Review the proposals included in documents [CMS/IOSEA/MOS9/Doc.8.1.2.1](#), [CMS/IOSEA/MOS9/Doc.8.1.2.2](#), [CMS/IOSEA/MOS9/Doc.8.1.2.3](#) and [CMS/IOSEA/MOS9/Doc.8.1.2.4](#) and decide on the sites' inclusion in the Site Network