



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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Manila, Philippines, 23 - 28 October 2017  
Agenda Item 21.2.5

**CONSOLIDATION OF RESOLUTIONS: MARINE TURTLES**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee)*

Summary:

This document consolidates two Recommendations on marine turtles into a single Resolution. It also proposes a new Decision.

## CONSOLIDATION OF RESOLUTIONS: MARINE TURTLES

### Background

1. Two Recommendations provide advice to the Parties relating to marine turtles:
  - a) [Recommendation 7.6, \*Improving the Conservation Status of the Leatherback Turtle \(Dermochelys coriacea\)\*](#);
  - b) [Recommendation 8.17, \*Marine Turtles\*](#).
2. Annex 1 presents a draft consolidated resolution that includes, in the left-hand column, the original text and preamble of the Recommendations being consolidated. The right-hand column indicates the source of the text and a comment regarding any proposed change.
3. Annex 2 contains the clean version of the draft consolidated Resolution, taking into account the comments in Annex 1.
4. The consolidation highlights the disparate treatment given to *Dermochelys coriacea* relative to other species of marine turtles covered by the Convention. Consequently, the Secretariat has proposed a Decision to the Scientific Council requesting that it review relevant scientific information to determine whether the consolidated resolution should be revised. The draft Decision is included in Annex 3.

### Recommended Actions:

5. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to
  - a) adopt the consolidated Resolution included in Annex 2; and
  - b) adopt the Decision included in Annex 3.

**ANNEX 1**

**DRAFT CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTION**

**MARINE TURTLES**

NB: Proposed new text is underlined. Text to be deleted is ~~crossed-out~~.

Text from Existing Recommendations	Origin/ Comment
<del>Recalling</del> Recommendation 7.6 and Recommendation 8.17;	New text to reflect consolidation
<u>Recognizing</u> that the Leatherback turtle ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> ) is listed in Appendix I and Appendix II of CMS and is also categorised as <del>endangered</del> <u>vulnerable</u> in the IUCN Red List (201304);	<a href="#">Recommendation 7.6</a> Retain with updated status for the species
<del>Recalling</del> Resolution 3.2 (Geneva, 1991) on the review of species listed in Appendix I;	<a href="#">Recommendation 8.17</a> Repeal; Resolution 3.2 has been superseded by Resolution 11.13, <i>Concerted and Cooperative Actions</i>
<del>Recalling</del> further Resolution 6.1 (Cape Town, 1999), Resolution 7.1 (Bonn, 2002) and Resolution 8.29 (Nairobi, 2005), especially their annexed tables that designate marine turtles as species for continued concerted action;	Recommendation 8.17 Repeal; Resolution 3.2 has been superseded by Resolution 11.13, <i>Concerted and Cooperative Actions</i> .
<u>Concerned</u> that recent surveys of <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> in the Pacific Ocean indicate that breeding populations have declined by more than 90% <del>between 1982 and 2002 over the last two decades</del> and that these population declines are continuing;	Recommendation 7.6 Retain with updated text
<u>Noting</u> that fisheries <u>bycatch</u> <del>by catch</del> , including that from distant water fishing fleets, has been identified as one of the most significant impacts contributing to the <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> population declines in the Pacific Ocean;	Recommendation 7.6 Retain
<u>Recognizing</u> the intent of Resolution 6.2 (Cape Town, 1999) to reduce fisheries <u>bycatch</u> <del>by catch</del> on migratory species of concern to the Parties to the Convention;	Recommendation 7.6 Retain
<u>Noting</u> that the distribution and current status of <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> in the eastern Atlantic, Indian and Western Pacific Ocean regions have not been comprehensively monitored;	Recommendation 7.6 Retain
<u>Concerned</u> that the harvest of <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> , whether it be turtles or their eggs, by coastal communities is widespread and unsustainable in many countries, including some Range States within the western Pacific, Indian and eastern Atlantic Oceans; <del>and</del>	Recommendation 7.6 Retain
<u>Acknowledging</u> that the Leatherback turtle is culturally significant to some communities and that some harvesting may be permitted within the context of traditional harvest in accordance with Article III, paragraph 5, of the Convention;	Recommendation 7.6 Retain
<u>Noting</u> that the objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA <u>Turtles MOU</u> ) are for Range	Recommendation 8.17 Retain

Text from Existing Recommendations	Origin/ Comment
States in the region, and other concerned States, to conserve and replenish depleted marine turtle populations for which they share responsibility;	
<i>Noting</i> also the Signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa ( <del>African Atlantic Coast Marine Turtles MoU</del> <u>Atlantic Turtles MOU</u> ) have agreed to work closely together to improve the conservation status of the marine turtles and the habitats on which they depend;	Recommendation 8.17 Retain
<del>Recalling Resolution 7.6 (Bonn, 2002) on improving the conservation status of the leatherback turtle, and Resolution 7.7 endorsing the Secretariat's proposal to explore the possible development of an instrument for marine turtles in the Pacific Ocean;</del>	Recommendation 8.17 Repeal first clause as redundant (see first paragraph above).  Repeal second clause; Range States decided not to pursue the development of an MOU.
<i>Recognizing</i> the valuable contribution made by existing Pacific conservation programmes and instruments to the conservation of marine turtle stocks;	Recommendation 8.17 Retain
<del>Endorsing the conclusions of The Bellagio Blueprint for Action on Pacific Sea Turtles, 2003, which calls for the development of a regional conservation arrangement for marine turtles in the Pacific;</del>	Recommendation 8.17 Repeal; Range States decided not to pursue the development of an MOU.
<i>Welcoming</i> the financial and in-kind support from Signatory States and the Convention on Migratory Species for the IOSEA <del>Turtles MOU</del> Secretariat's operation and implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan;	Recommendation 8.17 Retain
<del>Welcoming also the decision at the IOSEA Third Meeting of Signatory States to hold the regional Year of the Sea Turtle campaign in 2006 and noting that 2006 has also been designated as Year of the Sea Turtle in the Pacific region;</del>	Recommendation 8.17 Repeal; out of date
<i>The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals</i>	
<p>1. Urges the Range States of the Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean and eastern Atlantic Ocean regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) to implement <u>this</u> Resolution <del>6.2 and Recommendation 7.2</del>;</li> <li>(b) to identify the breeding sites for <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> and to quantify the size of these breeding populations;</li> <li>(c) to identify a suitable index site within each recognized management unit and establish a monitoring program at such index sites to determine population trends and responses to management actions;</li> <li>(d) to monitor the traditional harvest and prevent commercial harvest of <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> turtles and/or eggs, within national waters and on nesting beaches;</li> </ul>	Recommendation 7.6 Retain as modified

Text from Existing Recommendations	Origin/ Comment
<p>(e) to promote activities to enhance the maintenance of secure and safe nesting habitat and to increase the nesting success for <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>;</p> <p>(f) to promote activities that will increase the production of healthy, correctly imprinted <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> hatchlings of both sexes into the sea; and</p> <p>(g) to engage in cooperative activities with neighbouring countries to promote sustainable management of this shared resource, including conducting training workshops to enhance the conservation and management of <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> nesting beaches;</p>	
<p><del>2. Invites the CMS Scientific Council to develop guidelines for managing sustainable and humane harvests of <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> turtles and/or their eggs by traditional communities;</del></p>	<p>Recommendation 7.6</p> <p>Repeal; the Scientific Council has not adopted such guidelines in 15 years</p>
<p><del>4. 2. Encourages Parties and Range States within the geographic scope of the IOSEA Turtles MOU or the African Atlantic Coast Marine Turtles MOU, to become signatories to the respective MOU and to actively implement their respective Conservation and Management Plans;</del></p>	<p>Recommendation 8.17</p> <p>Retain</p>
<p><del>3. Urges the Signatory States to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa <u>IOSEA Turtles MOU and the Atlantic Turtles MOU</u> and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia to give a high priority within the respective Conservation Plans to the implementation of projects to enhance the conservation status of <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>;</del></p>	<p>Recommendation 7.6</p> <p>Retain</p>
<p><del>4. Further urges non-governmental organizations and international organizations that have the conservation of biodiversity within their mandate to provide appropriate technical, logistical and financial assistance for the conservation and management of <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>; <u>and</u></del></p>	<p>Recommendation 7.6</p> <p>Retain</p>
<p><del>2. Encourages Parties and Range States in the Pacific to cooperate to develop and conclude a Memorandum of Understanding and associated Conservation Plan for the conservation and management of marine turtles in that region under the CMS;</del></p>	<p>Recommendation 8.17</p> <p>Repeal; Range States met in 2009 and decided not to pursue an MOU.</p>
<p><del>3. Encourages existing Pacific regional conservation programmes and instruments relevant to marine turtles to participate in the development and implementation of a regional conservation arrangement for marine turtles in the Pacific; and</del></p>	<p>Recommendation 8.17</p> <p>Repeal; superseded by Resolution 11.12</p>
<p><del>4. Encourages Signatories of the African Atlantic Coast Marine Turtles MoU to consider also recognising 2006 as their year of the sea turtle to complement the IOSEA, and Pacific regions' Year of the Sea Turtle of 2006, recognising that such events usefully focus attention on the conservation and protection of sea turtles on a regional basis.</del></p>	<p>Recommendation 8.17</p> <p>Repeal; out of date</p>

Text from Existing Recommendations	Origin/ Comment
<p><u>5. Repeals</u></p> <p><u>(a) Recommendation 7.6, <i>Improving the Conservation Status of the Leatherback Turtle (Dermochelys coriacea)</i>.</u></p> <p><u>(b) Recommendation 8.17, <i>Marine Turtles</i>.</u></p>	<p>New text to reflect the consolidation.</p>

## ANNEX 2

## DRAFT RESOLUTION

## MARINE TURTLES

*Recalling* Recommendation 7.6 and Recommendation 8.17;

*Recognizing* that the Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) is listed in Appendix I and Appendix II of CMS and is also categorised as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List (2013);

*Concerned* that recent surveys of *Dermochelys coriacea* in the Pacific Ocean indicate that breeding populations have declined by more than 90% between 1982 and 2002 and that these population declines are continuing;

*Noting* that fisheries bycatch, including that from distant water fishing fleets, has been identified as one of the most significant impacts contributing to the *Dermochelys coriacea* population declines in the Pacific Ocean;

*Recognizing* the intent of Resolution 6.2 (Cape Town, 1999) to reduce fisheries bycatch on migratory species of concern to the Parties to the Convention;

*Noting* that the distribution and current status of *Dermochelys coriacea* in the eastern Atlantic, Indian and Western Pacific Ocean regions have not been comprehensively monitored;

*Concerned* that the harvest of *Dermochelys coriacea*, whether it be turtles or their eggs, by coastal communities is widespread and unsustainable in many countries, including some Range States within the western Pacific, Indian and eastern Atlantic Oceans; and

*Acknowledging* that the Leatherback turtle is culturally significant to some communities and that some harvesting may be permitted within the context of traditional harvest in accordance with Article III, paragraph 5, of the Convention;

*Noting* that the objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA Turtles MOU) are for Range States in the region, and other concerned States, to conserve and replenish depleted marine turtle populations for which they share responsibility;

*Noting* also the Signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa (Atlantic Turtles MOU) have agreed to work closely together to improve the conservation status of the marine turtles and the habitats on which they depend;

*Recognizing* the valuable contribution made by existing Pacific conservation programmes and instruments to the conservation of marine turtle stocks; and

*Welcoming* the financial and in-kind support from Signatory States and the Convention on Migratory Species for the IOSEA Turtles MOU Secretariat's operation and implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan;

*The Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Urges* the Range States of the Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean and eastern Atlantic Ocean regions:
  - a) to implement this Resolution;
  - b) to identify the breeding sites for *Dermochelys coriacea* and to quantify the size of these breeding populations;
  - c) to identify a suitable index site within each recognized management unit and establish a monitoring program at such index sites to determine population trends and responses to management actions;
  - d) to monitor the traditional harvest and prevent commercial harvest of *Dermochelys coriacea* turtles and/or eggs, within national waters and on nesting beaches;
  - e) to promote activities to enhance the maintenance of secure and safe nesting habitat and to increase the nesting success for *Dermochelys coriacea*;
  - f) to promote activities that will increase the production of healthy, correctly imprinted *Dermochelys coriacea* hatchlings of both sexes into the sea; and
  - g) to engage in cooperative activities with neighbouring countries to promote sustainable management of this shared resource, including conducting training workshops to enhance the conservation and management of *Dermochelys coriacea* nesting beaches;
2. *Encourages* Parties and Range States within the geographic scope of the IOSEA Turtles MOU or the Atlantic Turtles MOU, to become signatories to the respective MOU and to actively implement their respective Conservation and Management Plans;
3. *Urges* the Signatory States to the IOSEA Turtles MOU and the Atlantic Turtles MOU to give a high priority within the respective Conservation Plans to the implementation of projects to enhance the conservation status of *Dermochelys coriacea*;
4. *Further urges* non-governmental organizations and international organizations that have the conservation of biodiversity within their mandate to provide appropriate technical, logistical and financial assistance for the conservation and management of *Dermochelys coriacea*; and
5. *Repeals*
  - a) Recommendation 7.6, *Improving the Conservation Status of the Leatherback Turtle* (*Dermochelys coriacea*);
  - b) Recommendation 8.17, *Marine Turtles*.

**ANNEX 3**

DRAFT DECISION

***Directed to the Scientific Council***

12.AA The Scientific Council shall review relevant scientific information to determine whether Resolution 12.XX, *Marine Turtles*, should be revised to incorporate new recommendations for the conservation of all species of marine turtles included in Appendix I or II of the Convention.