



Indian Ocean – South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding



Resolution to Establish the IOSEA Network of Sites of Importance for Marine Turtles in the Indian Ocean – South-East Asia Region

Adopted by the Signatory States at their Sixth Meeting (Bangkok, 2012)

Recalling that the IOSEA Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding encourages co-operative measures for the protection, conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats throughout the Region;

Recalling further that the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (Bergen, November 2011) adopted Resolution 10.3 on the role of ecological networks, which calls upon Signatory States to CMS Memoranda of Understanding to consider the network approach in the implementation of their instruments;

Recognizing the need to identify and promote the long-term conservation of sites of regional value for benefit of marine turtles and their habitats throughout the IOSEA region, while respecting existing national designations;

Appreciating the importance of coordinating efforts with the many other initiatives and programmes at various levels that provide for the designation and protection of sites of importance for biodiversity in the IOSEA region;

Acknowledging the substantial developmental work undertaken by the Secretariat, the Advisory Committee, and the Site Network Working Group to refine the site network proposal since the Fifth Meeting of the Signatory States (Bali, 2008);

Further recognizing the importance of the role of IOSEA in providing technical oversight and international legitimacy to cooperative conservation efforts in the region, and acknowledging the leading role of Signatory States in the designation and active management of sites of importance for marine turtles;

The Sixth Meeting of Signatory States to the IOSEA Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding:

1. Agrees to establish the IOSEA Network of Sites of Importance for Marine Turtles, as described in the annex to this resolution;
2. Requests the Advisory Committee to review and, as necessary, revise the Site Evaluation Criteria described in Document MT-IOSEA/SS.6/Doc. 7/Working Paper #2, prior to the submission of site nominations; and to draw attention to any further adjustments that may warranted in the course of using the criteria;
3. Requests the Secretariat to circulate to all Signatory States, by 31 May 2012, the revised Site Evaluation Criteria for final review and written comment by Signatory States no later than 31 July 2012; with a view to circulating a final version of the Site Evaluation Criteria by 31 August 2012;

4. Encourages Signatory States to begin preparing and submitting site nominations, as of September 2012 until six months prior to the Seventh Meeting of the Signatory States, tentatively anticipated to take place in the first half of 2014;
5. Agrees to consider, at the Seventh Meeting, recommendations of the Advisory Committee for the possible inclusion of network sites, to enable the network to be formally launched in 2014;
6. Decides to establish a steering committee to seek financial support for the implementation of the Site Network and to consider other operational issues that may arise inter-sessionally.