

## **Final Act of the Negotiation Meeting to adopt the text of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia**

An intergovernmental meeting was held in Kuantan, Malaysia, from 11 to 14 July 2000 for the purpose of negotiating and adopting a Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia, an agreement pursuant to Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. The Meeting was convened by the Department of Fisheries of the Government of Malaysia.

The following 24 States were represented:

Australia, Bangladesh, Comores, Egypt, France (Reunion), India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Vietnam and Yemen.

Observers from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Danish Cooperation for Environment and Development (DANCED) and The World Conservation Union (IUCN) were also present, as were a number of legal advisors and resource persons from the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group. The Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species provided technical advice to the meeting.

The Meeting adopted by consensus the text of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia, in the English language, appended as the annex to this Final Act. The meeting noted that the Memorandum of Understanding requires the completion of the Conservation and Management Plan prior to being opened for signature. The Meeting agreed to develop further the Conservation and Management Plan with a view to having it adopted at the next intergovernmental meeting, at which time the Memorandum of Understanding, including the Conservation and Management Plan, will be open for signature. The Meeting accepted the offer of the Government of Malaysia to prepare official translations of the Memorandum of Understanding in the Arabic and French languages.

The Meeting accepted the offer of the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species to act as Depositary for the Memorandum of Understanding, and to act as an interim secretariat, providing basic services until the Secretariat established under the Memorandum is operational. It is understood that, should the signatory States not reach consensus on making the Secretariat operational by the end of 2001, continuation of this interim arrangement will be subject to availability of resources.

The Meeting also noted with appreciation the willingness of the Governments of Australia, United Arab Emirates and United States of America to contribute financial

resources or in-kind support for the development and/or implementation of the Memorandum and requested the interim secretariat to seek written confirmation of these offers and to solicit any other offers of financial or in-kind support in advance of the next intergovernmental meeting.

The Meeting agreed that a session to conclude the Conservation and Management Plan and to open the Memorandum of Understanding for signature should be held in the first quarter of 2001, and requested the interim secretariat to solicit offers from potential host countries. The Meeting noted the importance for delegations to attend the session with appropriate credentials enabling them to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

Finally, the Meeting expressed a vote of thanks to the Government of Malaysia for having hosted the negotiation session, and to the Governments of the United States and Australia, as well as the Convention on Migratory Species, for having provided the necessary financial support.

Done at Kuantan on the fourteenth day of July in the year Two Thousand in a single copy in the English language.