

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 2-14 October 2004

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

CONSERVATION OF HAWKSBILL TURTLE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. Decision 12.46 directs the Secretariat as follows:

The Secretariat shall, subject to funding and before the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, arrange at least one meeting of the wider Caribbean region on the hawksbill turtle in order to facilitate regional collaboration, planning and information exchange, as well as collaboration with other bodies and multilateral agreements with a mandate concerning the conservation and management of this species in the wider Caribbean region.

3. The Secretariat sought the required funding but was unsuccessful in raising sufficient funds to hold the meeting envisaged. The projected cost of the meeting was USD 100,000 but at the time of writing, only USD 53,500 had been pledged by donors. The only donor that offered to contribute to financing this meeting was the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to which the Secretariat is very grateful. The Secretariat would like to thank them for expressing their support.
4. Decision 12.44 directs Parties which are States in or have territories in the wider Caribbean region to:
 - a) *develop further a collaborative regional conservation strategy, based on the outline of a strategic plan provided in Annex 4 to [the] Decisions, to enhance the conservation status of hawksbill turtles and, where appropriate, other marine turtles within the wider Caribbean;*
 - b) *implement the strategy through the development and implementation of national management plans;*
 - c) *adopt and implement standard protocols for the monitoring, at recommended and agreed index sites, of populations of nesting and foraging hawksbill turtles and that similar efforts should be made to monitor legal harvests, by-catch in other fisheries and illegal take;*
 - d) *implement measures to reduce illegal catch and illegal trade in hawksbill turtles and parts and derivatives thereof, including measures to improve the control of stocks of hawksbill turtle parts and derivatives by identifying, marking, registering and securing all such stockpiles; and*
 - e) *report on progress with the implementation of the regional conservation strategy and national management plans at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

5. Decision 12.45 encourages Parties, intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies and non-governmental organizations:

to provide funds to enable the implementation of the Caribbean regional hawksbill strategy and to support the regional dialogue process.

6. With the exception of the United Kingdom's funding offer noted above, the Secretariat has received no information from Parties, intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies or non-governmental organizations with regard to Decisions 12.44 and 12.45.
7. In view of the apparent lack of interest in arranging a Caribbean regional meeting on this subject, the Secretariat suggests that the matter be taken up in the context of its regular bilateral discussions with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and intergovernmental organizations active in the region or on the conservation and sustainable use of the species.