

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TURTLE ISLAND HERITAGE PROTECTED AREA

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Malaysia hereinafter referred to jointly as "**PARTIES**" and singly as "**PARTY**";

RECOGNIZING the significance of the Turtle Islands as a traditional nesting area of the green (*Chelonia mydas*) and the hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) turtles;

REALIZING that effective conservation efforts cannot be independently realized at a national level and that bilateral efforts are necessary to ensure the long-term survival of marine turtles in this part of the region;

DESIRING to jointly manage and protect the only remaining major green turtle habitats and population in the Southeast Asian region through a unified approach in the formulation and attainment of the management and protection strategies/goals;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article I Location

Subject to their respective laws, the contracting PARTIES hereby agree to establish the Turtle Island Heritage Protected Area (TIHPA) composed of six islands designated by the Philippines: Boaan, Langaan, Great Bakkungaan Lihiman, Taganak, and Baguan; and three islands designated by Malaysia: Pulau Selingaan, Pulau Gulisaan, and Pulau Bakkungaan Kechil with their corresponding coordinates:

ISLANDS	N Latitude	E Longitude
Boaan	6° 17'16"	118° 04'42"
Langaan	6° 12'27"	118° 08'59"
Great Bakkungaan	6° 11'13"	118° 07'15"
Lihiman	6° 14'02"	118° 04'09"
Taganak	6° 04'38"	118° 19'00"
Baguan	6° 06'07"	118° 26'58"
Pulau Selingaan	6° 11'00"	118° 04'00"
Pulau Bakkungaan Kechil	6° 10'18"	118° 06'00"
Pulau Gulisaan	6° 09'00"	118° 03'00"

Article II Purpose

1. Subject to their respective laws, the contracting **PARTIES** shall jointly manage and protect the Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area as a green and hawksbill turtle sanctuary. The contracting **PARTIES** shall endeavor to develop an integrated management program that shall highlight, at the minimum, the following:

1.1 Implementation of an integrated and uniform approach to conservation and research that is oriented towards wise management of the TIHPA;

1.2 Establishment of a centralized database and information network on marine turtles;

1.3 Development of appropriate information awareness programs primarily targeted towards the inhabitants of the Turtle Islands on the conservation of marine turtles and the protection of their habitats;

1.4 Implementation of a joint marine turtle resource management program;

1.5 Development and implementation of a training and development program for the staff of the TIHPA; and

1.6 Development and undertaking of eco-tourism programs.

2. The contracting **PARTIES** shall adopt a Turtle Conservation and Research Program composed of activities included but not limited to those which appear in Annex A.

Article III

Joint Management Committee

1. The TIHPA Joint Management Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) is hereby established to implement the purposes specified in Article II of this Agreement.

2. The **Committee** shall be composed of five members from each contracting **PARTY**. The representatives may be accompanied by one or more experts and advisers who may come from non-government organizations involved in the conservation of marine turtles.

3. The **Committee** shall serve as the policy-making body of the TIHPA and may coordinate/collaborate with international organizations involved in marine turtle conservation for the realization of the purposes of this Agreement.

4. The representatives of each contracting **PARTY** to the **Committee** shall study and recommend to their respective authorities the enactment of such laws as may be necessary to pursue the purposes of this Agreement.

5. The **Committee** shall render periodic reports to the Philippines-Malaysia Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation.

Article IV

Implementing Agency