



# Marine Turtle Specialist Group

Species Survival Commission / IUCN – The International Union for Conservation of Nature

## Regional Vice-Chair (RVC) Terms of Reference

The following guidelines are provided to ensure that Regional Vice-Chairs understand the overriding vision, mission and objectives of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group.

### MTSG Vision

We envision marine turtles fulfilling their ecological roles on a healthy planet where all peoples value and celebrate their continued survival.

### MTSG Mission

To develop and support strategies, set priorities, and provide tools that promote and guide the conservation of marine turtles, and their ecological roles and habitats. We accomplish this by:

1. Providing advice and practical support to those who manage and conserve marine turtles and their habitats;
2. Promoting, using and synthesizing the best multidisciplinary science and information and innovative approaches;
3. Ensuring that conservation planning and actions are guided by the biological constraints of marine turtles such as delayed maturity, long distance migrations and dependence on multiple habitats;
4. Building and promoting diverse and dynamic partnerships among stakeholders including local communities to ensure effective networking and synergy;
5. Promoting universal appreciation of the values of marine turtles and their habitats through varied means to diverse peoples of different backgrounds and cultures;
6. Building capacity to educate, inspire, and empower people to conserve marine turtles and their habitats;
7. Recognizing that marine turtles are a shared international resource;
8. Promoting conservation and population monitoring efforts that are long-term in nature and anticipate changes in environmental, social and political climates;
9. Integrating local, national, and international conservation efforts;
10. Recognizing that marine turtle conservation is integrally linked to broader conservation issues.

## Membership Policies

1. MTSG will build, nurture, and maintain a dynamic, active, multi-skilled, professional, and regionally representative group of members who support the mission and activities of the group.
2. Regional Vice Chairs (RVCs) will assist the MTSG Chairs in selecting and appointing members from their regions, and will pledge to lead, manage and represent their regional memberships.

3. Member appointments are on a four-year cycle, marked by the IUCN World Conservation Congress; at the cusp of each quadrennium, all SSC specialist groups are dissolved and Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members must be appointed anew.
4. Members are advised that their comments and actions when representing the MTSG should be consistent with the IUCN-SSC mission and policies. This includes adherence to the "[Code of Conduct of the Members of IUCN Commissions](#)" described within section 8 of the SSC bylaws. The SSC mission and bylaws can be found here: <https://www.iucn.org/theme/species/about/species-survival-commission>.
5. Members are authorized to comment or act on behalf of the MTSG only when officially representing the MTSG with prior approval of the Co-Chairs.
6. When an MTSG member or office holder is involved in a private consultancy, their reports should carry an explicit disclaimer to read: "The content and views expressed herein are those of the author(s), and do not necessarily represent the positions and policies of IUCN, SSC, or the MTSG."
7. When any MTSG office holder (i.e. Regional Vice Chair or Chair) is involved in a private consultancy on marine turtles, they should provide the appropriate MTSG Regional Vice Chair(s) with prior notification of the specific nature of the consultancy.

## **Regional Vice Chair (RVC) Roles and Pledge**

### **Overview**

Accepting appointment as a MTSG Regional Vice Chair (RVC) or Co-RVC implies a pledge to volunteer one's service through building, managing and leading a strong and representative body of MTSG members within an MTSG Region. RVCs are expected to contribute in a substantial way to the overall objectives of the MTSG, and to:

1. Dedicate a minimum of 80 hours (2 weeks) per year to MTSG-related business.
2. Commit to regular communication with the Co-Chairs, and timely response to queries from the Co-Chairs, other RVCs, and their regional members.
3. Coordinate, at a regional level, member contributions to specific MTSG tasks.
4. Provide annual updates and participate (or delegate participation) in the Annual General Meeting, held each year at the International Sea Turtle Symposium.
5. Assist the Co-Chairs and Program Officer in selecting and inviting nominees for membership, and assure that the regional membership represents a cross-section of local and thematic expertise and a variety of views and opinions from within the region.
6. Assure that the regional members remain active and informed, that they adhere to the aforementioned membership policies, and that concerns from the membership are relayed to the Co-Chairs in a timely manner.
7. Actively identify research, management, and conservation priorities for marine turtles and their habitats in their region, and make data available for inclusion in status assessments.
8. Assure the active participation of regional members in MTSG activities including Burning Issues assessments, Regional Management Unit updates, Red List Assessments, relevant white papers, and online discussions.
9. Ensure that the Co-Chairs and Program Officer are aware of issues of regional importance to the conservation of marine turtles, either internal or external to the MTSG.