

Table 1: Turtle casualty on the Devi coast from Devi river to Kadua river mouth from 1999 –2001

	1999 - 2000	2000 – 2001
December	120	535
January	963	833
February	236	714
March	114	194
Total	1433	2276

The main achievements of this programme are

1. The country fishermen were enlightened about the role of the sea turtles in marine ecosystems

2. They were also made aware of the provisions of law regarding marine fisheries and the reservation of an exclusive fishing zone for them

Conclusion

Despite financial and infrastructure constraints, better protection is given to the turtle population to turtles in the Devi river coast by actively involving the district administration. Much is needed to be done towards upgradation of the enforcement and involving local fishermen in turtle protection. The area has to be declared as protected to strengthen the legal provisions. Use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) at Nuagadh and Paradeep has to be enforced strictly

NEWS AND REPORTS

Satellite Telemetry of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles on the East Coast of India

Source: GOI UNDP Sea Turtle Project

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Though sea turtles have been the focus of conservation attention and scientific research for decades, much about these ancient animals is still unknown to us. This is particularly true of the mass nesting populations in Orissa. Foremost amongst these questions is where do these turtles migrate after they have nested in large numbers on the coast of Orissa? Sea turtles are known to migrate thousands of kilometres across international waters. Satellite telemetry is now being used to track olive ridley turtles which nest on the coast of Orissa to study their long range migrations and foraging areas. This is a collaborative project between the Orissa Forest

Department and the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, made possible by the GOI UNDP sea turtle project of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Dr. Jack Frazier of the Conservation and Research Center, Smithsonian Institution is providing technical assistance on the project. From April 17 –19, 2001, 4 nesting sea turtles were fitted with the satellite transmitters. The first of the turtles was named ‘Chandra’ after Dr. Chandrasekhar Kar, well known turtle biologist of the Orissa Forest Department. The four turtles have been transmitting data which is being analysed and mapped at the Wildlife Institute of India (an updated map is available at <http://www.wii.gov.in>)

A National Workshop For The Development Of A National Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan For India

Source: GOI UNDP Sea Turtle Project

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A national workshop on sea turtles was conducted at Bhubaneshwar from April 9 –10, 2001 with about 100 participants including Forest and Fisheries

Department officials from most coastal states, academic institutions, agencies involved in the UNDP sea turtle project, and many individuals interested in

sea turtle conservation in Orissa. The workshop was jointly conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and the Orissa Forest Department with the support of Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India and UNDP. The first day began with presentations on the history of sea turtle conservation in India and in Orissa. This was followed by presentations and intense discussion on threats to sea turtles, the impact of fisheries and possible solutions including the use of Turtle Excluder Devices. Methods of estimation of turtles during arribadas was also extensively discussed. Research techniques and the results of research studies in Orissa were included in the next session. The day ended with presentations and discussion on the protection of ridley sea turtles by various agencies in Orissa. The second day consisted of presentations by various agencies working under the GOI UNDP Sea Turtle Project. This included surveys on the east and west coasts and reviews of legislation and community based conservation. The afternoon session was devoted to group discussions on three topics namely (1) Protection and Enforcement (2) Monitoring, Research and Evaluation and (3) Community participation. The group leaders made presentations on the points raised within the group. During the valedictory session, the main recommendations of the workshop were summarized. The presentations made at the workshop are being compiled into a proceedings by Wildlife Institute of India.

Workshop Recommendations

On Enforcement and Management

- Uniform guidelines from Government of India for responsible fisheries.

- Identification of nodal agencies and delineation of authority.
- Co-ordination mechanism amongst agencies.
- Training of grassroots level staff for enforcement.
- Monitoring of compliance of international conventions.
- Augmentation of infrastructural facilities.
- Demarcation of Protected Areas.
- Use of 'TED' as statutory requirement.
- Use of innovating preventive techniques such as artificial reefs.

On Monitoring, Evaluation and Research

- Setting up of a national directorate.
- Five year national situation report and annual state report on sea turtle status.
- Standardization of survey and research methods.
- Global and regional collaboration.
- Priority studies on population dynamics, migration, pollutants and impacts.
- Comprehensive study on marine turtle genetics
- Database and resource centre for sea turtle.

On Community Based Conservation and Participatory Management

- Economic and livelihood strategies to be safeguarded.
- Local ethnic community with cultural linkages to be prioritized.
- Incentives to local stakeholders.
- Alternate livelihood strategies for affected fishermen.
- Development of a national and local education awareness programmes.
- Review of progress and monitoring.

Conference on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia 19 to 23 June 2001, Manila, Philippines

Press release June 23, 2001

Delegates from 21 countries agreed on a comprehensive plan for conserving marine turtles in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia during a meeting in Manila from 19 –23 June, 2001. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and was

hosted by the Government of the Philippines. The meeting was convened to conclude the best possible conservation and management plan to achieve the objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles of the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, building on