
THE UTILISATION OF MARINE TURTLE PRODUCTS ALONG THE COAST OF GHANA

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Like many other natural resources, marine turtles have been used in various ways by local communities. We looked at the situation in Ghana and how the use of turtle products varied from tribe to tribe. We used semi-structured questionnaires in combination with site observations to collect information on all aspects of utilisation. Preliminary results show that there are two extreme situations of

utilisation. The people living on the east coast used most of the products for medicine and featured prominently in their cultural practices. On the other hand the major use for turtles on the west coast is for food as protein. This would suggest that there would be the need to adopt different conservation and management approaches to the various species found along the entire coast of Ghana.

**THE HUMAN FACE OF COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION:
PARTICIPANTS' PERCEPTIONS OF THE TURTLE CONSERVATION PROJECT (TCP), SRI LANKA**

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‘Community-based conservation’ (CBC) is widely promoted as an ideal means of engaging stakeholders in long-term marine turtle conservation and has been extensively discussed. However, an area that has received relatively little attention is the experience and perception of stakeholder participants. This paper examines the results of a rapid appraisal of stakeholder participants’ perceptions of the establishment, development and current state of the Turtle Conservation Projects (TCP) community-based *in situ* marine turtle rookery protection

programme in Rekawa, Sri Lanka. Personal accounts were gathered, through a structured interview, from community members who have been directly involved with the TCP in Rekawa over the past decade. Analysis of the data sheds light on participants’ experiences of the impact of the CBC approach on their lives and provides an insight into their evaluation of the projects methodological successes and failures. This paper identifies potential pitfalls in the CBC approach and highlights lessons that have been learned from examining the participants’ experiences.