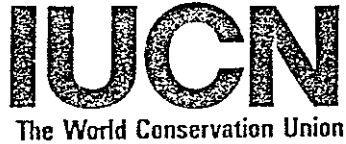


RPT  
IUCN → 3657

Country Office



1, Bath Island Road,

Karachi 75530

Pakistan

Tel: ++92 21-5861540/41/42

Fax: ++92 21-5870287

Ms Ann Fowler Wallace  
Grants Management Associates  
Conservation, Food & Health Foundation Inc.  
77 Summer Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02110  
USA

July 13, 1999

Fax: + 00 1 617 426 5441

Subject: Proposal on Marine Turtle Conservation in Pakistan

Dear Ms. Wallace,

Further to your communication with Tim Bagley of the IUCN Washington office, please find enclosed herewith the original proposal on *Marine Turtle Conservation in Pakistan* along with four copies of the same.

This proposed project will signify a milestone in the research and conservation efforts of marine turtles in Pakistan. A combination of scientific surveys, anecdotal evidence and observations from local coastal communities will be assimilated to fill in major gaps in the information on the current state of marine turtles along the extensive Pakistan coastline. Gathering such information is a critical first step towards developing an integrated management plan for marine turtle conservation in Pakistan, which may serve as a replicable model for the South Asia region.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either Tim or myself.

Yours sincerely,

Nikhat Sattar,  
Deputy Head of Programme

Cc: Tim Bagley, Programme Associate, IUCN-US  
1630 Connecticut Avenue, NW, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Washington DC 20009, USA

ALR / TR / AB / JK

## Marine Turtle Conservation in Pakistan

### Introduction:

Marine turtles are defined as endangered or vulnerable species in various parts of the world. In Pakistan, two of the seven identified species — the Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) are commonly found along the coast of Sindh and Balochistan provinces. These coasts are one of the most significant nesting sites for turtles in the Indian Ocean. Turtle populations are threatened by a number of factors, including export of oil and meat, accidental deaths and/or loss of habitat. In Pakistan, turtle meat is not consumed and they are generally venerated as a tradition, but large numbers have been exploited for export to the Middle East. It has been suspected that fishing trawlers could be the cause of incidental catch and therefore death, although no formal surveys have yet been carried out to validate this assumption.

At a local level, the Sindh Wildlife Department has been involved in the protection of marine turtles on a pilot basis. Support was provided initially by WWF, and then by IUCN, but activities have focused primarily on the protection of eggs and hatchlings, and monitoring the population status of the turtles. Funding for this initiative along the Sindh coast has been sporadic and therefore it has been difficult to sustain the conservation momentum. Meanwhile, a parallel effort has been lacking along the considerably longer and undocumented coastline of Balochistan, where there is believed to be significant turtle nesting activity. However, concrete and reliable data on the turtle population and the extent of threats to its survival have yet to be fully determined.

### Justification:

Clearly, from a national and regional biodiversity and species conservation perspective, there exists a compelling need to work towards the development of a marine turtle conservation programme. Essentially, basic information concerning turtle habitats, population dynamics, and human interaction is dubious and incomplete, particularly along the Balochistan coast. Obtaining this information is a fundamental prerequisite to the conservation of the marine turtle population and in particular to determining management priorities for the conservation of critical habitats. Once a comprehensive, scientific study is carried out, there will be greater scope for increasing awareness, education, and capacity building on marine turtle conservation among local communities and other stakeholders.

### Objective:

- To assess the current status of marine turtles in Pakistan and to support in the development of an integrated management programme.

### Activities:

- 1) To gauge the past achievements and progress of the current Turtle Conservation project promoted by the Sindh Wildlife Department — this will help to identify how much data and information currently exists, which would serve as a baseline for further research. Tasks under this activity would include:
  - Desk-based secondary research;
  - Interacting with the Sindh Wildlife Department and interviewing key resource persons;

- Visiting the turtle hatchery site and interview community elders and resource persons for historical and/or anecdotal information on marine turtles.
- 2) To conduct a survey of the turtle population from at least 3 selected points along the coasts of Sindh and particularly, Balochistan to document the kind and extent of threats to their population and growth. This constitutes the main project activity, which can be broken up into the following tasks:
- To conduct a biological count of adult turtles and hatchlings along the selected coastal beaches;
  - To conduct a biological count of turtles as 'incidental catch' in boat/trawler fishing nets. This sampling survey would be carried out from various fishing vessels on at least 6 occasions during the project period. The results of this particular survey would verify the degree of threat posed by conventional fishing nets and help determine the need and feasibility of installing Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs);
  - Consult multiple stakeholders, including local fishing communities, NGOs/CBOs, government agencies, and academic institutions to assess their perception of the threats facing marine turtles;
  - Engage local community members in the research process and encourage them to make observations, ask questions, and share indigenous knowledge of turtles. This can be achieved in part, by organising a series of marine turtle awareness workshops for coastal communities;
- 3) Based on the findings from the preceding activities, develop a project proposal for the conservation and integrated management of marine turtles along the Pakistan coast.

#### Outputs:

- Report on the results of the research/surveys carried out;
- Project proposal for the Conservation and Integrated Management of Marine Turtles along the Pakistan Coast.

#### Project Management:

IUCN Pakistan will be the project management agency, and will involve organisations such as the Sindh and Balochistan Wildlife Departments, the Karachi University's Marine Centre of Excellence, Coastal Authorities and local NGOs/CBOs working along the coast. Staff from these and other institutions will be mobilised and their capacity will be developed in data collection and analysis.

The consent and collective participation of local communities in conservation work is often vital to the success of any proposed project and this is no exception. IUCNP has long-standing links to local communities in the *Pir Shams* and *Baba Bhit* villages along Sandspit beach in Sindh, which is a well-known turtle nesting site. Much of IUCNP's interaction with the local community has been in connection with our exemplary mangrove rehabilitation work, which is being sustainably managed by the community themselves. Thus a collaborative rapport has already been established which can be extended further to promote marine turtle conservation.

## Indicative Budget (one year)

Description	US\$
<b>PROJECT PERSONNEL</b>	
Marine Turtle Expert (9 months)	3,500
Secretary (part-time)	1,200
Research/survey assistants x 2 (6 months each)	2,500
Coastal and Marine expert (Expat consultant- 1 month)	5,000
Social Scientist (3 months)	2,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>14 200</b>
<b>TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION</b>	
Local air travel (Karachi-Balochistan coast-Karachi)	1440
Accommodation	720
Vehicle Running Expenses	3,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>5,160</b>
<b>TRAINING</b>	
3 Awareness building workshops with coastal communities	1,000
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>	
Laptop computer & printer	2,000
Boat rentals for coastal survey	1,500
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>4,500</b>
<b>OPERATIONAL COSTS</b>	
Communication <i>Telephone, fax, e-mail</i>	500
Office space & Utilities	500
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,860</b>
IUCN Coordination Costs (15%)	3,729
<b>Grand Total (US\$)</b>	<b>28,589</b>

In Balochistan, IUCNP will engage local community participation through a social welfare NGO known as the Coastal Community Development, Gwadar (CCDG). While CCDG has traditionally focused on health and education issues pertaining to coastal communities along the Balochistan coast, they have indicated an interest in incorporating environmental concerns among their constituency. CCDG has a vast and intricate network of local communities/CBOs which IUCN may access to ensure that the project's objectives are met.

**Duration:**

The project activities are expected to be covered over a period of one year to enable data collection, reflecting a full seasonal cycle.

**Indicative Budget:**

An estimated budget is US Dollars 28,589