

STATUS REPORT OF TAMIL NADU ON SEA TURTLES

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To save the marine turtles from extinction, the Tamil Nadu Forest Department had undertaken the task of providing safe conditions. The turtle conservation work was taken up by the department on a large scale. During 1982-83 season turtle walks were conducted and the eggs collected by the Department and transported to temporary hatcheries where they were put in the same way as found in nature. Thus, the loss of eggs due to predation was avoided. The hatchlings when they came out were



totally protected from any predator and taken safely into the sea and released. Thus, all possible predation on the egg and hatchling stages were totally controlled. In the 1982-83 season, hatcheries were established over the coastline of 150 km and in places such as Madras, Kodikkarai and at Tiruchendur and about 94,000 eggs were collected for the programme. Out of these nearly 77,000 hatchlings were released into the sea by the Forest Department in 1982-83 season.

The hatchery programme was continued in the 1983-84 season also and the details of work carried out will be furnished in due course.

STATUS OF SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION IN KARNATAKA STATE

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The Karnataka State has a coastline on western side having Arabian Sea to a length of about 207 km. As per the recent Wildlife (Protection) Act, action is being taken to conserve and protect sea turtles along our coast. The available information shows that sea turtles are found along the coastal sea and come out at number of places for nesting. It is learnt that eggs of turtles are collected by poorer class of people and consumed as food. But the selling of turtles and eggs in large scale in bazars is not reported. We have fairly good response by recent publicity on conservation and protection of turtles. We will chalk out a programme and plan to conserve the turtle in Karnataka after consulting higher authorities by making use of the valuable suggestions of the Workshop.

DISTRIBUTION OF NESTING SITES OF SEA TURTLES IN MAHARASHTRA

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It is now recognised all over the world that most species of sea turtles are commercially over exploited and are in urgent need of complete protection for survival, especially as the females come on the seashore for egg laying. The eggs also fall prey to human and other predators. The International Union for Conser-