

**PRELIMINARY STUDY ON SEA TURTLE DISTRIBUTION,
LAMPI ISLAND AND ADJACENT AREA, TANINTHARYI
REGION IN MYANMAR**



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Introduction

Active conservation of sea turtles has been initiated in Myanmar since 1963. The first and well known Turtle Island is Thamee Hla Island (Diamond Island) in Laputta Township in Ayeyarwaddy Division, which is facing to the Bay of Bengal and the Gulf of Martaban (Mottama). The conservation activities were not profound until 1997 when Myanmar become the member of ASEAN and convinced to go along with member nations for all economic and developmental sectors. Soon after Myanmar becomes the member of SEAFDEC, the integrated fisheries development and conservation of the resources activities and implements also have been boosted appropriately. In particular in the conservation of sea turtle conservation and protection, survey of Turtle Island, investigation of landing species and season, and record of annual nesting population and successive hatchling were conducted. In 2001 the activities was enhanced by extending collaboration with “*Understanding on Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia*” (IOSEA-MoU).The conservation activities have been leading by the Department of Fisheries through the consultation of the IOSEA and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) within the objective framework to protect sea turtles species and reduce mortality but increase propagation. Also dissemination of awareness has provoked not to harness the species migratory route to the foraging areas, nesting sites and nursery grounds. Through the implementing of such conservation activities, Department of Fisheries (DoF) has been collaborated with the local peoples, small scale fishers in the communities and commercial scale fishing vessels. DoF attempts to increase the awareness of local peoples and fishers in protection of sea turtles and its role in the sustainability of the balance of ecosystem.

Sea Turtle Conservation and Management is one of the long term global concerning activities. To following this ,requested by technical Non Governmental Organization (NGOs)Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) , Director General , Department of Fisheries (DoF) has been arranged DoF staff to accompany the trip together with BANCA staff ,Forest Department regarding Statistical Information Collection Programme on Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation at Lampi Marine National Park. In this regard DoF staff are collected information and data to facilitate and to get achieve for sea turtles conservation and management matters. This study is a very first time for Department of Fisheries cooperate and collaborate with Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) to study on Sea Turtle in Lampi Island and its adjacent areas.

Material and Method

Under mentioned DoF staff are taken responsible to collect information and data regarding sea turtle species, foraging area, feeding ground and others relevant information.

1. U Aung Hlaing Win (Assistant Fisheries Officer, Department of Fishery)
2. U Htet Myat Aung (Deputy Assistant Fisheries Officer, Department of Fishery)



Trip is carried out from 18 to 27 November. Trip Itinerary is under mentioned below:

Date	From	To	Mode	Work Description
17 Nov 2010	Yangon	Kaw Thaug	Flight	Meet with Kaw Thaug District Department of Fisheries Officer
18 Nov 2010	Kaw Thaug	Ma Kyone Galet	Boat	Meet and Discuss with Secretary of Ma Kyone Galet Village Peace and Development Council
19 Nov 2010	Ma Kyone Galet	Mi Chaung Chaung Wa	Boat	Meet with Fishers and Local People from Ma Kyone Galet regarding to query of sea turtles species and interaction between fishing activities and sea turtles
	Mi Chaung Chaung Wa	Sa Let Ga Let	Boat	Meet with Local People from Sa Let Ga Let to query of sea turtles.

20 Nov 2010	Sa Let Ga Let	Bike Nar Aw	Boat	Study of Beach and collect information on sea turtles in Bike Nar Aw
	Binedar Aw	Sa Let Ga Let	Boat	
21 Nov 2010	Sa Let Ga Let	Ba Wun Aw	Boat	Study of Beach and collect information on sea turtles in Ba Wun Aw
	Ba Wun Aw	Ko Phawt Island	Boat	Meet with Fishers from Ko Phawt Island -Collect information on sea turtles species
22 Nov 2010	Ko Phawt Island	Khe Aw Beach	Boat	Study of Beach and collect information on sea turtles in Khe Aw Beach
	Khe Aw Beach	Ma Kyone Galet	Boat	
23 Nov 2010	Ma Kyone Galet	Wa Kyun(Island)	Boat	Conduct Sea Turtles Conservation, Protection and Management Talks to make aware.
	Wa Kyun	Ma Kyone Galet	Boat	
24 Nov 2010	Ma Kyone Galet	Bake Chaung	Boat	Study of Beach and collect information on sea turtles in Khe Aw Beach
	Bake Chaung	Ma Kyone Galet	Boat	
25 Nov 2010	Ma Kyone Galet			Distributed Sea Turtle Conservatin and management Pamphlets in Ma Kyone Galet
26 Nov 2010	Ma Kyone Galet	Nga Kye Aw	Boat	Study of Beach and collect information on sea turtles in Nga Kye Aw
	Nga Kye Aw	Ma Kyone Galet	Boat	
27 Nov 2010	Ma Kyone Galet	Kaw Thaug	Boat	
29 Nov 2010	Kaw Thaug	Yangon	Flight	

During the trip, DoF staff studied at Lampi Island, and adjacent areas Andaman Sea in Tanintharyi Region. Under mentioned place were studied:

Place

(GPS) position

Lampi

10° 50' (N) 98° 12' (E)

Ma Kyone Galet

10° 40' (N) 98° 15' (E)

Mi Chaung Chaung	10° 53' (N) 98° 13' (E)
Ba Lite Aw,	10° 85' (N) 98° 09' (E)
Sa Let Ga Let village	10° 52' (N) 98° 04' (E)
Bike Nar Chaung/ Aw	10° 53' (N) 98° 06' (E)
Ba Win Aw,	10° 53' (N) 98° 11' (E)
Co Phawt Kyun	10° 50' (N) 98° 12' (E)
Hone Bill Kyun	10° 49' (N) 98° 12' (E)
Thar Kuee Aw	10° 45' (N) 98° 15' (E)
Khe Aw	10° 43' (N) 98° 14' (E)
War Kyun	10° 54' (N) 98° 15' (E)
Thin Aw	10° 52' (N) 98° 14' (E)
Kar Yann Aw	10° 50' (N) 98° 17' (E)
Bake Chaung	10° 42' (N) 98° 14' (E)
Naung Pin Aw, Ma Kyone Galet	10° 43' (N) 98° 17' (E)
Nga Kye Aw, Ma Kyone Galet	10° 46' (N) 98° 17' (E)
Hlaing Gyi Aw, Ma Kyone Galet	10° 40' (N) 98° 14' (E)

The team members was showing the sea turtles identification charts and photos to the villagers and local people regarding to collect and confirm the Information on existing sea turtle species and history.

Team also collected the major fishing gears occurring in the studied areas. And also query to fishers and villagers regarding most impact fishing gears and numbers of sea turtle caught incidentally in their fishing activities annually..

During the trip , the team conducted Sea Turtles Conservation , Protection and Management Talks to make aware the school and some villages. The team also requested to the school teachers to distribute knowledge to their students regarding Sea Turtles Conservation, Protection and Management activities.

Results

According to the information from villagers and fishermen , Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) Logger Head (*Caretta caretta*) Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) ,Hawksbill Turtle (*Erethmochelys imbricata*) are still exist in studied areas. Team found that sand type in the studied areas is Calcareous.

Some villagers informed that they found sea turtles during to find Sea Cucumber by diving. Most of the major fishing gear use in the visited areas are trammel net, squid traps, tangling hooks (Nga Myar Set Kyar). Incidental captured in Trammel Gill Net sometimes but they released back to the sea when they caught. According to the information of some villagers, they found that the baby turtles were eaten by Monitoring Lizard when they emerges from eggs sometimes. Some villagers fed boiled carapace of loggerhead turtle to Pig.

Information from the fishermen ,at present in La Ngan Kyun Shrine as their { Race of Salon (Mong Kin) } traditional believing. Head and meat of Logger Head are using for shrine during the Salon festival once in April only



Discussion

DoF Previous Studied

- 1.Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
- 2.Hawksbill Turtle(*Erethmochelys inbricata*)
- 3.Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)
- 4.L Leatherback Turtle(*Dermochelys coriacea*)

- Present Study

- 1.Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
- 2.Logger Head (*Caretta caretta*)
- 3.Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)

-Information on Loggerhead should be confirmed. According to Long Lone Tsp . DoF. 8 hawksbill turtles are caught and tagged by DoF in Tanintharyi Region. Olive Ridley Turtles are still found. Green Turtles are still exist. Information on Leatherback Turtle should be enquired.

-Nesting areas and foraging area for all turtles species should be studied.

-Need more awareness programme on conservation on sea turtles and their habitats in Tanintharyi Region(Andaman)

-Need to collect the data regarding interaction between sea turtles and fisheries

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