

**Lodging:** Participants at the Symposium will stay at the Herradura Hotel in San Jose, where a block of discounted rooms has been reserved for the Symposium. Reserve your room by e-mail to [gventas@hotelherradura.com](mailto:gventas@hotelherradura.com), or call (+506) 239-0033. Be sure to make reference to the Sea Turtle Symposium.

**International travel and pre & post-Symposium excursions:** Learn about the offerings, and register through [Manaca.com](http://Manaca.com), which can be accessed directly on the web, or from [www.seaturtle.org](http://www.seaturtle.org).

**Submission of abstracts and Resolutions:** Abstracts for oral papers or posters presentations must be received by November 15, 2003. This deadline applies also to resolutions for consideration by the by the ISTS Board.

**Visas:** If you are from Colombia, South Africa or if you envision that you may have difficulty obtaining a visa in your home nation, please seek advice from the Symposium Organizing Committee, c/o Clara Padilla ([Clarits@hotmail.com](mailto:Clarits@hotmail.com)) as soon as possible.

## Manuals on sea turtle conservation

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Five of the seven species of marine turtles are found in Indian coastal waters and at least four have significant nesting beaches and/or feeding areas. Many factors need to come together for the conservation of these species, but none more than cooperation between agencies in different states and sectors within the country.

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) recently implemented a UNDP – Government of India sea turtle conservation project. The project included surveys of status and threats in all coastal states, research, training programs, education workshops, community based conservation, digital image analysis of coastal areas, Turtle Excluder Device implementation, and a review of coastal legislation. For a continuation of the conservation efforts and the extension of capability to a host of other organizations, it is of utmost importance that certain aspects are emphasized and training provided to appropriate targets.

In this regard, sea turtle conservation manuals have been prepared by the Centre for Herpetology/Madras Crocodile Bank Trust (MCBT) for the UNDP – Government of India sea turtle project, for distribution to concerned individuals and agencies, including the state forest and fisheries departments, non government organizations and young researchers. The manuals are in English, but concerned departments may take the responsibility of translating the relevant manuals into the local language.

The manuals are aimed at an Indian audience, but they are general enough for use elsewhere, particularly in south and south east Asia. The manuals have been reviewed by a panel of international technical advisors including Jeanne Mortimer, Jack Frazier, Matthew Godfrey and Brendan Godley. They have been edited by Kartik Shanker and designed by ECOTONE, Chennai. **PDF files of all manuals are available at <http://www.kachhapa.org>.** Hard copies are available from the MCBT, Tamil Nadu.

### **Beach Management and hatchery programmes**

Since most turtle nesting beaches in India are under threat, it is often necessary to have an appropriate conservation program associated with them. In-situ and ex-situ approaches have to be adopted, depending on the nature of threat and the objective of the program. In India, many Forest Departments and non government organizations already run hatchery programs. This manual provides information on beach management for the conservation of turtles. It also provides instructions on hatchery practices. There is a section on the biology and identification of sea turtles.

### **Research and management techniques**

This manual focuses on research techniques for the study of turtles. Even without much equipment, some basic research can be carried which can be very useful for the conservation of sea turtles. Placing research

in the context of the biology of sea turtles, this manual provides information on studying nesting turtles, turtle nests and hatchlings, tracing migratory routes, and studying behaviour and evolution. It details methods such as tagging, genetics and telemetry. It also provides a brief account of sea turtle research resources such as journals and websites.

### Population Monitoring and Census

This manual aims at providing methods for intensive and extensive surveys on nesting beaches and foraging habitats, and secondary information from market surveys and interviews. In this context, it provides details on identification of adults, hatchlings and tracks. It also provides a detailed method for counting turtles during arribadas, specifically aimed at the Forest Department and non government organizations in Orissa, who are involved in monitoring the mass nesting rookeries.

### Eco (turtle) Friendly Coastal Development

The effects of urbanization and development have taken their toll on almost all the nesting beaches in India. However, the effects of many industrial and urban practices, particularly lighting, can be easily mitigated by adopting common sense approaches and new technologies. This manual deals with threats to coastal habitats such as sand mining, beach armouring, plantations, highways, ports and harbours, and artificial illumination. It also deals with tourism and offshore threats such as pollution and fisheries.

#### **Manuals are available from:**

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## Satellite Tracking on the World Wide Web

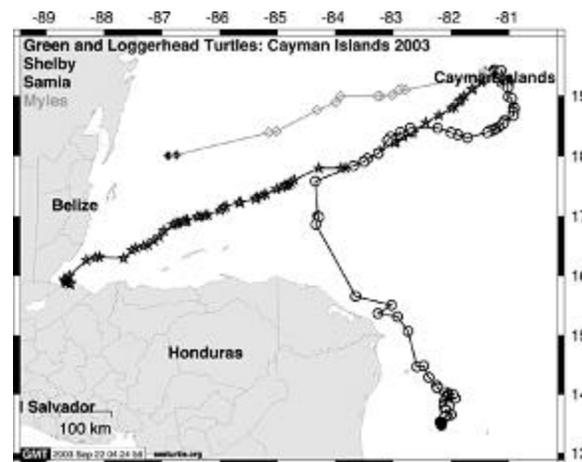
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SEATURTLE.ORG recently introduced a new satellite tracking resource, in collaboration with the Marine Turtle Research Group and a consortium of conservation organizations and donors, that provides sea turtle researchers with an easy-to-use tool for collecting, managing and sharing their satellite telemetry data in near real-time. The public interface, available on SEATURTLE.ORG at <http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/>, currently includes 12 turtles from three projects that have been tagged and are being actively tracked on the web from nesting beaches in the Cayman Islands, North Carolina and South Carolina. It is expected that other projects will join soon. Visitors to the site are able to find background information on each project and turtle and can register to receive daily e-mail updates about the movements of turtles in each of the active projects. All track maps are also updated daily. Behind the scenes is a data management system that takes most of the drudgery out of handling satellite telemetry data by automating data retrieval and archiving from the ARGOS system. A number of data filtering and management tools are in development, including a direct link to SEATURTLE.ORG's Maptool <http://www.seaturtle.org/maptool/> providing data owners

with on-the-fly mapping of their satellite telemetry data. If you are interested in adding a project to the Satellite Tracking resource on SEATURTLE.ORG, or have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact Michael Coyne [mcoyne@seaturtle.org](mailto:mcoyne@seaturtle.org).



Where will Shelby, Myles, and Samia Go? Students, supporters in the community, and others worldwide are following the migrations of these post-nesting green and loggerhead sea turtles from the Cayman Islands. The turtles' positions are updated daily on SEATURTLE.ORG <http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/>.