

Summary Report of
“National Workshop on Education and Awareness Strategy
for Sea Turtle Conservation”

Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad
&
Sundarvan Nature Discovery Centre, Ahmedabad



CEE

Centre for Environment Education

Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India



undp



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

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Introduction:

Like many plants and animals, sea turtles are also threatened species. While some of the threats are direct and easily perceived, there are certain issues which pose indirect threats. These latter are due to possible linkages among the direct threats. Such issues are rarely highlighted in the media. It is here that education and communication needs to be applied to bring about awareness amongst maritime communities and other stakeholders. However, awareness alone may not serve the purpose of sea turtle conservation: mechanisms to involve communities in conservation efforts at the ground level need to be evolved.

The purpose of the "National Workshop on Awareness and Education Strategy for Sea Turtle Conservation" was to provide a forum where the various processes involved in conservation education and in people's participation in conservation education could be discussed in the context of local or provincial requirements.

It was envisaged that in this workshop mechanisms for implementation of conservation education would be examined by participating NGOs, CBOs and governmental agencies in the context of the various issues pertaining to their states, and that appropriate plans of action, support services and infrastructure would be made.

This workshop was organised by Centre for Environment Education (CEE) Ahmedabad in collaboration with UNDP, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India and the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

Kiran Desai
Programme Director
Protected Area Education & Interpretation

SUMMARY REPORT OF "NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON EDUCATION AND AWARENESS STRATEGY FOR SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION", 16-17 AUGUST, 2001 AT CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION (CEE), AHMEDABAD

E. K. Nareshwar, Sundarvan Nature Discovery Centre, Jodhpur Tekra, S. M. Road, Ahmedabad - 380 015, India

Synopsis of GOI-UNDP Sea Turtle Project

The Government of India (GOI) - United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) - Sea Turtle Project is national sea turtle conservation project which is being executed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, which is nodal agency, to coordinate the various sub-programmes within the project. The project initiated in the late 1999, has various components, including extensive surveys along the Indian coast, review of legislation and community based conservation education and awareness, GIS studies of key nesting areas, Turtle Excluder Device (TED) demonstration and training for wildlife fisheries managers and field biologists.

WII identified CEE as a collaborating agency in the project, with the specific role of organising a national level workshop programme focusing on education and awareness strategy and thereby facilitate programmes in the various maritime states of the country.

This workshop was earlier scheduled for January 2001, prior to "A Workshop for the development of a National Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan", on 9-10 April, 2001 at Hubaneshwar, jointly organised by the Forest Department Orissa, Government of Orissa and II. Unfortunately this could not happen due to the massive earthquake which struck the region and other parts of Gujarat on 26 January, 2001. The "National Workshop on Education and Awareness Strategy for Sea Turtle Conservation" was then rescheduled for 16-17 August, 2001.

Objectives of the workshop

The basic objective of the workshop included the scope sharing ideas and experiences related to conservation education with special reference to sea turtles and develop a strategy of implementation for education and awareness. Primarily a national strategy was envisaged keeping in mind the key issues around which educational programmes were to be designed. Besides this, the objectives also emphasised on eliciting support from various governmental agencies for the purpose of ensuring and sustaining education and awareness programmes in their respective maritime states or jurisdiction. There was also the urgent need for networking between various agencies and communities for awareness, action and evaluation.

The Participants

Based on the primary objectives of the workshop, officials from the various Forest Departments of the maritime states and Union Territories were invited, particularly those at the level of Chief Wildlife Wardens. Government participation also included Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) of the Ministry of Commerce, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) and Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) of the Ministry of Agriculture. Representation from the Ministry of Defense (MoD) was also sought out. Among the three ministries mentioned earlier, only the Indian Coast Guard of the MoD was present and provided valuable inputs.

Representations from the NGO sector and other autonomous institutes included Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology (GUIDE), Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) and Students Sea Turtle Conservation Network (SSTCN). Besides there happened to be a participant as an overseas observer from the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Programme, Yemen. CEE Central Pune also participated since an educational initiative was being carried out in Goa. The official representative from UNDP was also present for the occasion.

WII and CEE resource persons and facilitators aided in organising the working groups. The workshop was formally inaugurated by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Chairperson of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, while the welcome address was given by Shri. Kartikeya V. Sarabhai, Director CEE.

Working Groups

In order to facilitate the deliberation of the process, three working groups were planned. They were (1) East Coast (2) West Coast and (3) Islands. Since there happen to be no representations from the third group only the former two groups had to be considered.

Conservation issues related to marine turtles of the east and west coast were presented. These were basically the results of the earlier studies undertaken by participating agencies under this project. Key issues pertaining to the islands were highlighted by some of the field biologists of WII and other research and management institutions.

Issues pertaining to the east and west coast included:

1. Mortalities due to mechanised fishing
2. Coastal development
3. Light pollution
4. Industrial pollution
5. Plantations
6. Feral predation
7. Sea walls
8. Subsistence exploitation
9. Sand mining

The target groups included:

1. Trawler owners/ operators
2. Fisheries department
3. Local NGOs
4. Fishing communities
5. Political leaders
6. Industrial groups
7. Environment clearance authorities
8. Tourism departments
9. Legal community

10. Ministries of Commerce, Surface transport and Industries
11. Urban development authorities
12. Schools and Colleges
13. Municipal corporation
14. Forest department personnel
15. General public and coastal residents

A wide variety of communication methodologies Education and Awareness Program development were suggested such as:

1. Media campaign
2. Establishing interpretive centres in PAs for sea turtles and marine life conservation
3. Organise nature education camps for different target groups to sensitize them to im issues
4. Development of issue specific print materials with appropriate curricular linkages
5. Provide training to enforcement authorities (Forest department, Police, Navy, Guard and legal authorities)
6. Develop eco-tourism with benefits to local people
7. Local level capacity building and community participation in conservation action
8. Promote networking between governmental agencies, NGOs and village communities
9. Set up demonstration hatcheries with scientific guidelines for the purpose of conse education and research

Plenary participation:

There were two plenary sessions during the course of the workshop. On Day-I af conclusion of inaugural formalities, the tone of the workshop was set by the outlining objectives of the workshop and the expected outcomes. The entire process of getti NGOs, CBOs and the Governmental agencies such as the Forest Department, Fi Training and Research Institute as well the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard on a co platform was achieved by organizing them into cohesive groups, the participant divided into two major working groups i.e., East Coast and West Coast. Each gro advised to consider the present status of sea turtles, threats to their conservation, and

with respect to the participant's jurisdiction, and then put forward suggestions for drawing up plans for the purpose of conservation education.

On Day-II, the second plenary was a process to consolidate on the work done by both the working groups. Similarities and differences in the issues pertaining to the East Coast and the West coast were identified besides scrutinizing the needs and methodologies required for an appropriate conservation education strategies, with local specific reference considering the heterogeneous constituents of the various target groups.

Keeping in view the variety of target groups, methods were discussed for appropriate conservation education strategies that would address local needs.

Plenary Outcomes :

On the conclusion of the workshop recommendations based on the discussions were presented:

- (1) Immediate needs for networking for the purpose of setting up a data bank of information on sea turtle conservation education and information dissemination would be a priority.
- (2) Simple low cost print materials such sea turtle identification chart to be used by trawler owners with dos and don'ts. Such charts will be handy for identification purpose by the local community and nature club members.
- (3) Certain materials such as teachers or instructors hand guide for schools should follow an activity based approach.
- (4) Training was reflected as all important component of any sea turtle conservation initiatives. Training of forest department personnel, field biologist and nature club members in interpretation and other educational activities. Training for legal and enforcement authorities has also been envisaged.

- (5) Controlled eco-tourism for the purpose ensuring direct benefits to local communities and community participation such beach patrol and maintenance of demonstration hatcheries was re-emphasized.
- (6) The role of the media was also highlighted.
- (7) Most importantly there should be local fora consisting of the community youth, local administrators, corporate houses or stakeholders of economic interests in marine resources including those inadvertently made victims in the process of certain developmental activities to jointly work out mechanisms to solve issues at the grass root level.

Sl.No.	Name/Designation	Organizational Address	Address
1	Dr. S. Bhupathy	SACON, Tamilnadu	Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History (SACON) Analkatty P.O., Coimbatore 641 108
2	Dr. Wesley Sunderraj	GUIDE, Vadodara	GUIDE, 106 GSFC Township, Fertilizer Nagar, Vadodara 391 750
3	Commandant S.C. Tyagi	Indian Coast Guards, Porbandar	Tatrakshak Zilla Mukhyalaya No.1, Headquarters, Coast Guar Dist No.1, Porbandar 360 575
4	Mr. Vikas Gupta	Govt. of Maharashtra	Dy. Conservator of Forests, Sawantwadi Division, Sindhudurg, Govt. of Maharashtra, Nagpur 440 001
5	Mr. Osan Bahurmiz	Red Sea & Gulf of Aden Programme	CEE participant from Yemen
6	Mr. Sanjiv Gopal	SSTCN, Chennai	Students Sea Turtle Conservation Network (SSTN) C/o The School, Krishnamurthy foundation of India, Besant Avenue, Chennai 600 090
7	Mr. Sujitkumar Dongre	CEE Central, Pune	Centre for Environment Education, Pune
8	Mr. Lavkumar Khacher	Gandhinagar	646, Vastunirman Society, Sector 22, Gandhinagar 382 022
9	Mr. R. J. Asari	Forest Department, Govt. of Gujarat	Conservator of Forests, Forest Department, Government of Gujarat
10	Mr. Bharat J Pathak	W L Circle, Junagadh, Govt of Gujarat	Conservator of Forests, Wildlife Circle, Junagadh, Government of Gujarat
11	Ms. Bindia Sahgal	WPSI, New Delhi	Wildlife Protection Society of India, TULEC Building, Link Road, Cuttack 753 001
12	Dr. S. Sukhdev Thakur	Govt. of Tamil Nadu	Chief Conservator of Forests & chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Tamilnadu, 6D, Panagal Building, Jeenis Road, Saidapet, Chennai 600 015

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Sl.No.	Name/Designation	Organizational Address	Address
WII Participants			
13	Mr. B. C. Choudhury	Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun	P.O. Box 18, Chandrabani, Dehradun
14	Dr. Karik Shankar	Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun	P.O. Box 18, Chandrabani, Dehradun
15	Dr. Bivash Pandav	Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun	P.O. Box 18, Chandrabani, Dehradun
16	Ms. Shyamli Mehta	Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun	P.O. Box 18, Chandrabani, Dehradun
UNDP Participants			
17	Mr. Sudarshan Rodrigues	UNDP Project	
WWF Participants			
18	Mr. Pranav Trivedi	WWF-India	Ahmedabad
CEE Participants			
19	Mr. Kiran Desai	CEE, Ahmedabad	
20	Mr. E K Nareswar	CEE (Sundarvan), Ahmedabad	
21	Mr. Rajendra Jadeja	CEE (Sundarvan), Ahmedabad	
22	Mr. Santosh Gupta	CEE, Ahmedabad	

Sl.No.	Name/Designation	Organizational Address	Date & time of Arrival
23	Ms. Meena Raghunathan	CEE, Ahmedabad	
24	Mr. Manoj Dholakia	CEE, Ahmedabad	
25	Ms. Mamata Pandya	CEE, Ahmedabad	
26	Ms. Zehra Hararwala	CEE, Ahmedabad	
27	Ms. Sarita Thakar	CEE, Ahmedabad	
28	Ms. Logakanthi	CEE, Ahmedabad	
29	Mr. Vinay Sanchela	CEE, Ahmedabad	
30	Ms. Sukhjit Kaur	CEE, Ahmedabad	
31	Mr. Abhijit Lokre	CEE, Ahmedabad	
32	Ms. Meena Nareshwar	CEE, Ahmedabad	
	PRESS		
33	Ms. Palak Nandi	Indian Express, Ahmedabad	
34	Mr. J. M. Trivedi	Madhur Gujarat	
35	Mr. Harish V Raval	Madhur Gujarat	
36	Mr. Shashikant Jha	Gandhinagar Samachar	

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36	Mr. Shashikant Jha	Gandhinagar Samechar	

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