



**THE FIRST SEAFDEC MEETING ON
REGIONAL SEA TURTLE DATA MANAGEMENT**

Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia 20 – 21 November, 2000

**REVIEW ON THE PROGRESS OF
REGIONAL SEA TURTLES TAGGING PROGRAM
AND POPULATION STATISTICS**

By

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1. INTRODUCTION

MFRDMD/SEAFDEC had organised the first meeting on Regional Tagging Program and Data Collection on Marine Turtle at MFRDMD, Kuala Terengganu from 21st – 23rd December 1997. Two main issues had been discussed during the meeting; (i) turtle tagging program and (ii) turtle statistics. MFRDMD as a host had presented two proposal (i) Collaborative Tagging Program of Marine Turtle in the Southeast Asian Region and (ii) Marine Turtle Statistics for the Southeast Asia.

The First SEAFDEC Meeting on Regional Sea Turtle Data Management was organised by MFRDMD / SEAFDEC with the intention to evaluate the progress action done by the SEAFDEC Members Countries according to the decision/agreement from the above meeting. This meeting will also act as a platform to gather the current population status of six living species of sea turtles in the Southeast Asian region. Finally, these information will facilitate MFRDMD/SEAFDEC to produce a bulletin on *Sea Turtle Population Statistics in Southeast Asia* and to create a *digitised atlas of sea turtles in the region*. The following table showed the distribution of six species of sea turtles in the SEAFDEC Member Countries.

Country	Leatherback	Green	Hawksbill	Loggerhead	Olive ridley	Flatback
Brunei		X	X		X	
Cambodia	X	X	X	X	X	
Indonesia	X	X	X	X	X	X
Malaysia	X	X	X		X	
Myanmar	X	X	X	X		
Philippines	X	X	X	X	X	
Singapore	X	X	X	X		
Thailand	X	X	X	X	X	
Vietnam	X	X	X	X	X	

2. REGIONAL SEA TURTLE POPULATION STATISTICS

The Objectives of these activities are (i) to compile all available sea turtle population statistics in the region and (ii) to collate, update and disseminate the information to countries in and outside the region. In December 1998, MFRDMD had disseminated the format of regional sea turtle population statistics to the SEAFDEC Member Countries for their action to obtain the current status of marine turtles in the region. The details of the format are shown below:



Format code	Descriptions
Statistics 01	Turtle Nesting Site.
Statistics 02	Annual Landing.
Statistics 02A	Annual Nesting.
Statistics 03	Monthly Landing.
Statistics 03A	Monthly Nesting.
Statistics 04	Number of <i>in-situ</i> and artificial hatcheries.
Statistics 05	Total of annual production, egg incubation, hatchlings and emergence success.
Statistics 06	Total annual egg incubation, hatchling and emergence success by <i>in-situ</i> hatcheries.
Statistics 07	Total annual egg incubation, hatchling and emergence success by artificial hatcheries.
Statistics 08	Monthly statistics of egg production at every nesting site.
Statistics 09	Monthly statistics of egg production, egg incubation, hatchling and emergence success.
Statistics 10	Monthly record on mortality for every species.

According to schedule, all Member Countries are requested to send these data on turtle population statistics for the year 1998 to MFRDMD before 15th March 1999. Whereas for the years 1999 & 2000 data should be sent before 16th November 2000. At this moment MFRDMD had only received the data from Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, Thailand and Vietnam.

3. REGIONAL SEA TURTLE TAGGING PROGRAM

Tagging program has been implemented intensively in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, Sarawak, Indonesia as well as Philippines and had already started in Thailand and Con Dao National Park in Vietnam. The objectives of tagging programs are to understand the migration, growth, mortality and reproduction of sea turtles in the region. Starting in 1997, SEAFDEC Member Countries had agreed to implement a standard tagging code for sea turtle tagging program in the region. A total of 11,000 units of inconel tag had been distributed by MFRDMD to the SEAFDEC Member Countries from 1998 to the year 2000. The details of tagging code and serial number are described below:



Country Code	Institution	Serial Number	No. of unit
MY: Malaysia	DOF	MY0001-MY2000	2000
	Sabah Park	MY(S)0001-MY(S)1000	1000
	S'wak F. Dept.	MY(Sa)0001-MY(Sa)1000	1000
TH: Thailand	Queen Project	TH0001-TH1100	1100
	PMBC	TH(P)0001-TH(P)1000	1000
PH: Philippines	DOE	PH0001-PH2000	2000
VN: Vietnam	North Vietnam	VN(N)0001-VN(N)0200	200
	South Vietnam	VN(S)0001-VN(S)0200	200
	Central Vietnam (RIMP)	VN(C)0001-VN(C)0200	200
ID: Indonesia	PHPA	ID0001-ID2000	2000
BN: Brunei	DOF	BN0001-BN0300	300

Cambodia and Myanmar are not registered yet as members of SEAFDEC during the meeting in 1997. As a result, these two countries are not involved in the standardization of the regional sea turtle tagging code. Therefore the distribution of inconel tags does not cover these countries. As a regional co-ordinator, MFRDMD suggest that both countries will propose the details of tagging code in order to implement the tagging exercises in their own territories. In future, MFRDMD will no longer provide the inconel tag to the Member Countries except for Cambodia and Myanmar.



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