

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

PROPOSAL

Transfer of the Indonesian population of Chelonia mydas from Appendix I to Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The Republic of Indonesia.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Reptilia
12. Order: Testudinata
13. Family: Cheloniidae
14. Species: Chelonia mydas
15. Common Names: English: green turtle
French: tortue verte
Spanish: Tortuga verde
Indonesian: Penyu hijau
16. Code Numbers: -

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: The green turtle is found in nearly all tropical and sub-tropical seas around the world. It is found nesting and on feeding grounds throughout Indonesia and its neighbouring countries (see Appendix 1).
22. Population: The size and location of each population in Indonesia is not known. There are estimated to be between 68,000 and 122,000 breeding females distributed among ten principal populations (West coast Sumatera, North-West coast Kalimantan, South-East coast of Kalimantan, islands of the North-East coast of Kalimantan, South-West coast of Java, South-East coast of Java, South coast of Sumbabwa, Kep. Penyu - Kep. Lusipara in Maluku, Kep. Aru, North coast of Vogelkop in Irian Jaya) and numerous smaller populations.
23. Habitat: Green turtle feed on or near reefs and in shallow seas on algae and seagrasses. They nest on sandy beaches.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: In Indonesia the main uses of green turtle include consumption of eggs and meat and mounting and polishing of smaller specimens and carapaces. Data on egg and turtle harvest is incomplete. It is estimated that most of the harvest is taken from some populations (South-West Java, West coast of

Sumatera, North-West, North-East and South Kalimantan and Penyus -
Lusipara Islands) of the turtles which come from all parts of
Indonesia.

32. Legal International Trade:

1981: 301 specimens

1982: -

1983: 500 specimens

1984: 3,000 specimens + 3,650 Kgs.

1985: 11,264 specimens

(Note: includes parts or derivatives).

33. Illegal Trade: Not reported, but smuggling of eggs, meat and stuffed turtles remains one of the major problems which is being actively tackled by the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation.

34. Potential Trade Threats:

341. Live Specimens: There is little or no trade in live specimens, although there is some potential for export to Oceania.

342. Parts and Derivatives: This includes use of eggs and meat for consumption, bones for meal and fertilizer, skin for leather, and carapaces for handicrafts and ornaments.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Green turtles are not on the national list of protected species, but local authorities in some cases regulate harvest of eggs and turtles.

Green turtle nesting beaches are included in 21 protected areas and a further 31 sites are proposed for protection (Appendix 2).

Since 1981 the PHPA has initiated a hatching and releasing programme in two nesting beaches and at least 99,239 hatchlings have already been released in Cikepuh nesting beach, West Java. A ranching programme which was started in 1982 has so far attracted several private enterprises, one of which was granted a licence which involves the establishment of ranching facilities to ranch 10,000 hatchlings in South Sulawesi. The ongoing tagging programme in co-operation with WWF so far has already tagged 300 breeding females on nesting beaches.

42. International: Chelonia mydas is listed in Appendix I of CITES.

43. Additional Protection Needs:

431. Each population needs to be identified and its size and the extent of its exploitation need to be determined.

432. Each major population requires an individual management plan based on the principle of sustainable utilization.

433. Specific management prescriptions include:

- reduction of egg harvest to 30% of eggs laid for each population;
- limiting turtles landed at Bali to a curved carapace length of between 60 and 85 cm;
- prohibition of turtle harvest within 20 km of any nesting beach;
- control of domestic turtle trade by licencing;
- prohibition of sale of turtle meat in public eating places;
- ranching of turtles reared from eggs falling in the 30% quota to supply the demand for meat and ornaments.

434. Legalised export within quotas strictly enforced by PHPA for members of the Indonesian Fauna and Flora Trade Association (IFFTA) to help remove incentives for smuggling.

5. Additional Remarks

Indonesia is a large country with 13,667 islands and long, open, maritime boundaries with its surrounding neighbours. Control over all islands and all of this maritime boundary is near impossible. Hence smuggling is rife and a difficult problem to solve.

PHPA is promoting rearing among traders in an effort to remove pressure on wild stocks of turtles and to control smuggling. Eggs for ranches will be obtained from the 30% egg harvest quota. Thus 70% of the eggs of each population will remain protected. Reared turtles will be used to supply the Bali market and stuffed turtle industry. In this way it is planned to phase out harvest of wild turtles and replace this with capture reared ones. As a further incentive for rearing programmes it is intended that export should be legalised for turtles reared in compliance with PHPA regulations.

An integrated action plan for conservation of green turtle in Indonesia follows.

In that respect the proponent inclines to propose the downlisting of the species to Appendix II under the following considerations:

- a) the reason of inclusion of the species in Appendix I was mainly to avoid further exploitation in the wild;
- b) there are strong indications that continuous harvests from the wild still operate illegally and the evidence that a number of specimens are still taken might be an indication that the wild populations is able to tolerate a certain degree of harvest;
- c) several habitats of the species are already protected under the status of Conservation Areas;

- d) the total ban on its harvest from the wild so far could not support the main goal of its inclusion in Appendix I;
- e) a limited and controlled harvest by downlisting the species to Appendix II has a better chance to reduce the ongoing uncontrolled harvests; and
- f) the mentioned measures obviously will gain at least two benefits, i.e. financial benefit for the proponent (which until recently was only taken by illicit traders) and a wider public support toward the conservation of the species and the other conservation efforts in the country.

GREEN TURTLE MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Egg Harvest

1. Indonesia will reduce all harvest of eggs to 30% of each population and will allow the remaining 70% to hatch naturally in situ. This will increase the estimated number of hatchlings reaching the sea from 1.7 million to 5 million.
2. As an extra precaution against egg poaching, eggs will be collected only under supervision of PHPA guards, and collecting will be restricted so far as possible to clutches which would be doomed by flooding and erosion.
3. Each collection beach will be studied to determine the percentage of clutch survival and the hatching rate per clutch throughout the nesting season.
4. Based on the findings of these studies, egg harvest will be concentrated in the period with highest egg mortality.
5. PHPA will increase clutch survival by control on protected beaches, and incubation of eggs in hatcheries which are doomed by erosion and flooding.
6. PHPA will protect additional important nesting beaches (e.g. those proposed reserves at Tl. Cendrawasih, Sausapor, Wewe-Koor, Jamursba-Mandi, Muhrani-Kaironi, Sidei-Wibain, Aru Tenggara (P.Enu), Kep. Lucipara-Penyu, Birah-Birahan, Sambas-Paloh, Pangumbahan, and any others identified as important by future surveys). The aim of increased protection of eggs and beaches will be to lower natural egg mortality for each nesting population to an average of 20% of eggs laid and not collected. In combination with a 70% reduction in egg harvest this will increase production of hatchlings reaching the sea an estimated 4.2 - 7.5 million.

Turtle Harvest and Trade

1. PHPA will process a decree for signature by the Minister of Forestry which:
 - a) prohibits the collection of turtles in pens pending trans-shipment or sale in markets;

- b) bans all capture and sale of green turtle less than 60 cm curved carapace length and those larger than 85 cm;
 - c) bans the sale of turtle meat in all public eating places, both domestic and touristic;
 - d) requires that all turtle boats, hunters and traders purchase licences from PHPA on a quota basis; and
 - e) bans all capture of turtles off nesting beaches.
2. The wild green turtle trade in Unjung Pandang will be stopped as the principal outlet for this trade is the export market.
 3. The green turtle quota for traditional ceremonial purposes on Bali will be set by religious leaders. However, it should not exceed a sustainable maximum. At this stage of knowledge this would be a maximum 2,000/year (Note: this total would not allow export of turtle products).
 4. PHPA will institute a rigorous monitoring programme of turtles landed on Bali. This will require that all turtles are landed at one designated site. Here PHPA will inspect, count, identify, sex, measure and record all turtles landed. PHPA officials will also periodically inspect all eating houses on Bali for turtle meat.
 5. Violations of regulations will be severely penalised:
 - a) boat owners with illegal turtles will have to forfeit their licence, catch, boat and equipment;
 - b) dealers with illegal size turtles will forfeit their licences and all turtles, and have their facilities closed down and pay a large fine;
 - c) proprietors of eating houses selling turtle will have their place closed down and pay a substantial fine.

Turtle Rearing

1. PHPA will put a moratorium on the development of new private turtle rearing operations.
2. All current turtle operations will be inspected by PHPA and will be required to be licenced.
3. PHPA will undertake a study of rearing feasibility and develop a well-planned pilot project in co-operation with a fisheries research institution to improve techniques.
4. A proportion of collected eggs will be purchased for rearing with a view to replacing local trade of wild caught turtles by reared ones. Both eggs for market and rearing will come from the 30% quota.

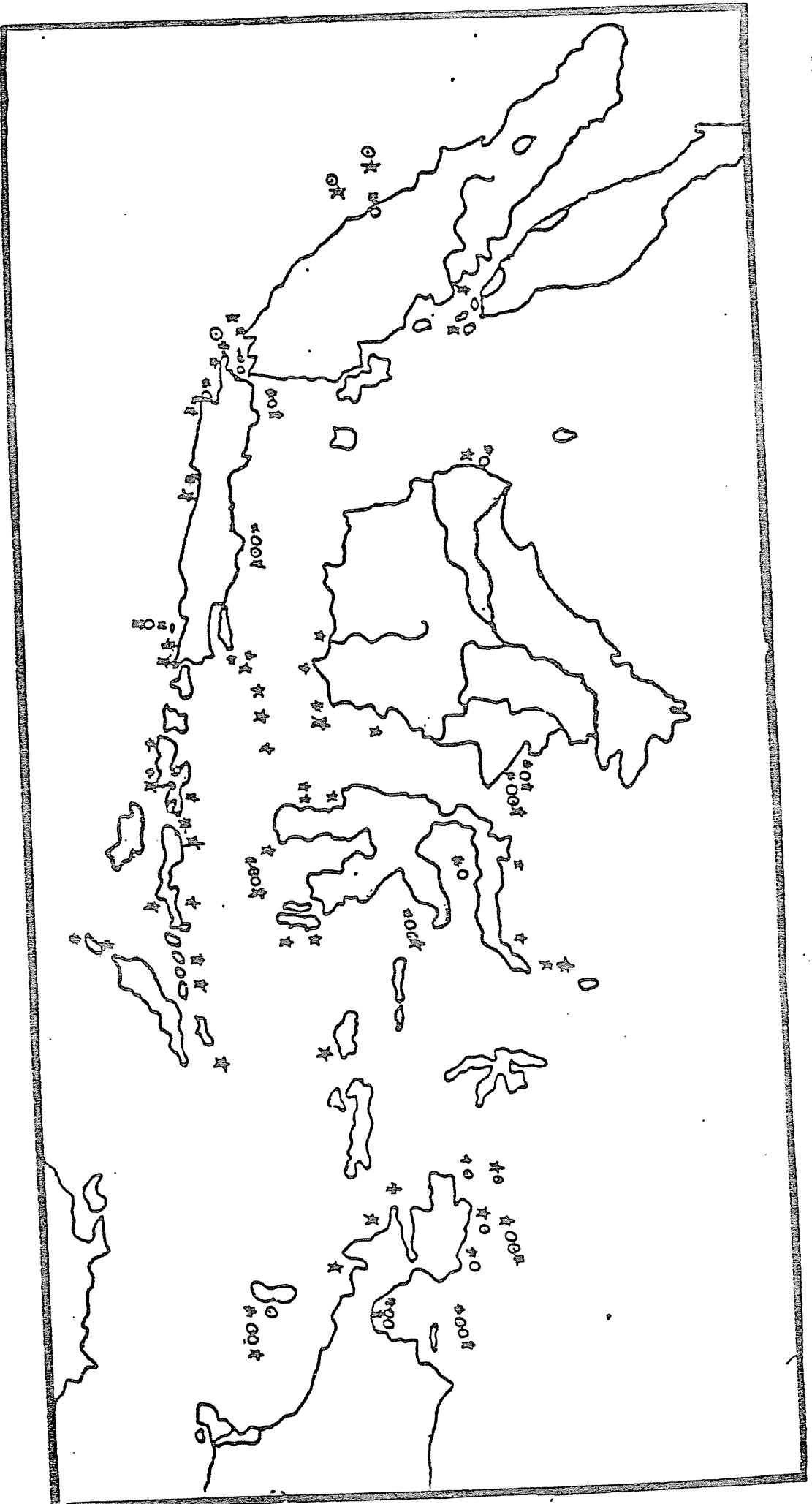
6. Comments from Countries of Origin

7. Additional Remarks

8. References

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Distribution of *Chelonia mydas*



Remarks :

- ★ : Turtle hunted
- ⊕ : Nesting site
- : Eggs collection

Appendix 2 - Protected Status of Green Turtle Nesting Beaches in Indonesia.

Gazetted Protected Areas

Bukit Barisan Selatan

Krakatau

Ujung Kulon - P. Panaitan

Pulau Seribu

Cikepuh

Leuweung Sancang Cipatijah

Nusa Kambangan

Nusa Barung

Meru Betiri

Banyuwangi Selatan

Pulau Saubi

Tanah Perdauh

Komodo - Padar - Rinca

Pulau Dana

Pleihari Tanah Laut

Pulau Samana

Pulau Sangalaki

Pulau Popaja

Sabuda - Tataruga

Karimun Jawa

Karimata

Proposed Protected Areas

P. Lengukas - P. Kepayang

Kep. Lima

Teluk Bolok - Tanjung Rusa

Pangumbahan

P. Sepanjang

Nusa Penida
Lombok Barat
Sambas - Paloh
Tanjung Penghujan
Kelompok Hutan Kahayan
Kelambau
Birah-birahan
Maratua
Karang Muaras
Pulau Pasoso
P. Togian
Banggai - Peleng
PP. Tiga
Take Bone Rate
PP. Penyu - Lugipara
Aru Tenggara
Raja Amapt
Aju
Asia
Mapia
Sausapor
Wewe-Koor
Jamursba-Mandi
Mubrani-Kairondi
Sidei-Wibain
Teluk Cendrawasih-Kepulauan Auri

