

Status of leatherback turtles in Brunei Darussalam

No report on leatherback turtles was received from Brunei. However, Brunei beaches support rookeries for green, hawksbill and olive ridley turtles during November to July, and no leatherback turtle nesting has been recorded (Anon 2001 and 2002; Harrisson 1976; Borneo Bulletin, 31 January 2001).

Although no leatherback turtles have been recorded in Brunei waters, it is likely that they pass through Brunei waters given that females tagged post nesting in Malaysia have migrated to the Philippines (Simpol 2002).

The National Turtle Management and Conservation Programme, launched in April 2000, (Borneo Bulletin, 31 January 2001) was a public awareness campaign conducted by the Brunei Fisheries Department to boost turtle conservation (Brunei ASEAN News Exchange, 15 November 2001). It included volunteer nesting beach patrols, collection of turtle eggs for rearing in a hatchery and the release of juvenile olive ridley turtles into Bruneian waters (Brunei ASEAN News Exchange, 15 November 2001). As a signatory of the MOU on ASEAN Sea Turtle Conservation and Protection together with other ASEAN countries, Brunei hopes to further protect the populations of the turtles landing and nesting on its beaches. (Anon 2001 and 2002; Brunei ASEAN News Exchange, 15 November 2001).

References

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