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The Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) are two of the seven species of sea turtles in the world that nest on the beaches of Pakistan every year. For more than 100 million years of Earth's history, sea turtles have made the oceans their home. They are a species so ancient they have seen dinosaurs evolve and become extinct. Their habitat ranges from tropical to subtropical regions of the world. The sandy beaches of Sindh and Balochistan are important nesting sites for sea turtles. After spending most of their lives in the oceans, adult turtles return to the beach where they were born to lay eggs. After an incubation period of about two months the young people hatch and clamber towards the water. Only one in a thousand lived to adulthood. The main threats to their survival are pollution, loss of nesting and feeding grounds, poaching, predators, boating and falling into fishing nets. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species has classified six of the seven species of sea turtles in the world as endangered or endangered, and prohibits their exploitation by international law. The Convention also prohibits the trade in freshwater turtles. However, in the absence of laws in any of our provinces to protect them, the booming trade in freshwater turtles continues with the support of the Government of Pakistan, which recently lifted their export duty with the help of the Export Promotion Bureau. Until a few years ago, at least 60,000 sea turtles a year accidentally hit a network of American shrimp trawlers alone. Prawn trawlers around the world are now required to use the Turtle Exclusion device, which allows turtles trapped in nets to escape. This law, however, is generally poorly enforced around the world. Uncontrolled development on the beach is another major threat to sea turtle populations and their nesting habitats. Pakistan's Sheln-GRE is developing a habitat management plan that will provide an important guideline for any future beach development and turtle conservation activities. Since 1979, the Sindh Wildlife Department, along with IUCN and WWF, has been implementing a sea turtle conservation project in Pakistan. Adults are tagged and eggs collected from the beach are incubated in special enclosures in Hawksbey and Sandspite. Hatchlings are weighed and counted at the Sindh Wildlife Laboratory on the beach and the relevant data is carefully collected. To date, more than 400,000 cubs have been released into the sea. The Department also organizes school visits during the peak nesting season between August and January to raise awareness of the conservation of sea turtles. To celebrate sea turtles promoting conservation efforts, 2006 was declared the Year of the Turtle in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia Asia Recently, a satellite transmitter was attached to the green turtle as part of a joint project between WWF, SWD and the Abu Dhabi Environment Agency. The battery on the transmitter will last for six months, during which invaluable data will be collected on the navigation of sea turtles and feeding habits. For beachgoers visiting the beach at night it is important to remember not to make noise or approach the turtles as they get out of the water, or they will return without laying their eggs. If you should see one close, then wait quietly at some distance until it is out of the water, dug the nest completely and starts laying eggs. This may take some time, so you need a lot of patience. The use of lights and bonfires should also be avoided, as the lights tend to disorient the chicks and force them to head towards the road instead. If you find a cub on the road carry it safely to the beach and release it a few feet from the water's edge. In addition, individuals can help protect sea turtles by not leaving debris on the beach and calling on the authorities to implement building laws for huts. They can also share their knowledge with their friends, as well as write letters to the editors of leading Pakistani newspapers about the urgency and importance of keeping turtles. Virtually all sea turtle nesting sites in Sindh occur on Hawksbay - Sandspit beaches are concentrated along one 5km stretch, but extends to some extent along the entire beach strip of about 20 km, some nesting also occurs on parts of the remaining coast stretching west to the Belcuchistan border near Cape Monze. Although the Hawkesbai-Sandspit beaches are the largest nesting site for sea turtles in Pakistan, which are important both regionally and globally, there are some indications that Pakistan's remaining coastline, in Balkujistan Province, may have a significant number of sea turtles. According to Aamir LatifKARACHI, Pakistan's karachi's glistening beaches attract thousands of picnics daily because of their shallow waters and sandy nature, but they are also home to rare green turtles - once a prime candidate for extinction. Increased pollution of water and debris scattered throughout the beach, a decrease in natural habitat, and illegal trade have led to a reduction in the number of large types of salt water in recent decades. But, recent research shows that the number of green turtles is actually on the rise in Pakistan.Thanks to the joint efforts of government agencies and wildlife NGOs (NGOs), which have brought a 10 to 20 percent increase in the green turtle population in the last decade. Our (last) five-year study shows that the population of endangered green turtles is actually There is no evidence to support the general perception of population declines population. Moazzam Khan, technical adviser (marine fisheries) in Karachi office of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), told the Anadolu Agency.The WWF five-year study, according to Khan, puts estimates of offshore numbers of green turtles around 8,000, which is considered a healthy population and 5 to 10 percent larger than previous figures. In addition, he added, the marine population of Olive Ridley - another species of sea turtle belonging to the same group - is also on the rise. It is estimated that the population of these turtles is now almost 28,000.Fahmida Firdus, a wildlife expert from Karachi and one of the founders of the government-sponsored project to conserve and protect green turtles, started in the 1980s, shares a similar view. The situation with regard to the growth of the green turtle population is much better compared to the year when we launched the project, Firdous, which made her doctorate in protection and conservation of sea turtles, said Anadolu Agency.According to Firdous, a former wildlife conservator of the southern Sindh province, of which Karachi is the capital, there is an overall 20 percent increase in the population of large marine reptiles compared to their figures in the 1980s. Rashid Agha, head of sindh's state center for the conservation and protection of green turtles, said the center released 900 green turtles each year, hatching in the Arabian Sea. The female turtles lay eggs on the beach between October and February, which take 40 to 50 days to hatch, the Aga added. Khan gives equal credit to the community, mostly fishermen, for the protection of reptiles. Still endangered, aged between 60 and 90 kilograms, green turtles use the famous Karachi sands and Hawksbey beaches as nesting grounds because of their sandy nature. They are also found on some beaches in the southwestern province of Baluchistan. Despite the encouraging scenario of population growth, experts see the growth of human activity on beaches as a potential threat to reptiles - the largest sea turtles with a hard shell. The danger is not over yet. This requires more attention and awareness regarding the protection of this marine beauty. Firdous warned, referring to the growing pollution of water, encroachments, concrete structures, and debris, especially plastic bags left by picnics. Plastic bags are a killer for the reptile, as if consumed it causes suffocation and eventually kill the reptile, she noted. They (plastic bags) also obstacle for female turtles to dig holes to lay eggs, she said. She dubbed the protected species a gift from nature because it massively enhances the protection of marine life by feeding on harmful algae. Green turtles are the beauty of our seas. If they disappear, there will be unimaginable growth that will destroy the marine life, she added. Han Khan with Firdous. The species is still considered endangered because it is crammed into meat and skin in several countries. But not in Pakistan, he said. Rising sea levels due to climate change, according to Khan, were another threat because it occupied the breeding grounds of reptiles. Illegal tradeln the present as a large marine reptile species has the status of an endangered species in accordance with the laws of the country of wildlife, its trade and export continue unabated. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), not only in Pakistan, but the export of green turtles or their eggs is strictly prohibited worldwide because of the status of endangered species. But, in Pakistan, you can not only buy a protected species or its eggs from the open market, but online as well. Several websites offer deals to buy baby turtles. They are also hunted for meat, eggs, shells and skin. A large number of turtles get into fishing nets in sea waters that are later sold out at the local market or online. Anadolu's website contains only a portion of the news offered to subscribers in the AA (HAS) news broadcasting system and in a generalized form. Please contact us for subscription options. KARACHI, Sept 22 (September 22) Due to limited resources and lack of official and public support, the future of the turtle conservation project is in turmoil, as only 5,000 sea turtles have been tagged in the past 20 years, while with increasing coastal populations and development work, more difficult times to save the project lie ahead. In Pakistan, the only major nesting sites for these turtles are Sonmiani in Balochistan and Sandspite. WWF has its own observation and awareness projects in both of these locations, while the Sindh Wildlife Department has been running a green turtle conservation project for the past 20 years at Sandspit. Karachi is one of 11 places in the world where green turtles make their nests during September to mid-December. The Sindh Department of Wildlife has kept track of all turtles nesting on beaches, tagging them, moving eggs to safe places and releasing chicks into the sea. The population of sea turtles has been severely reduced worldwide due to numerous factors, but human influence has had the worst effect. These include overdeveloped coastal areas that reduce their natural nesting habitat and catching adult turtles for eggs, meat, skin and turtles, reducing breeding populations. The obfuscation of adults in fishing nets and shrimp trawls has brought one species - the Ridley tortoise - right to the brink of extinction. While green turtles and olive turtles - which lay eggs on the coast of Pakistan - don't hunt on a large scale for their meat or skin, the lack of protective measures and limited work Conservation departments are causing a steady decline in the sea turtle population. Ms. Fehmida Firdus, chief of SWD, has been attached to the project since its inception. According to her, if calmly, the females leave the water and crawl up the beach to a point well above the tide line. There, using her rear flippers, the female digs out the egg chamber cavity about 8 inches in diameter and about 18 inches deep. After resting briefly, it lays about 100 eggs (sometimes more) measuring about 2 inches in diameter. She then gently covers the eggs with sand, and spreads the sand over a wide area with her front flippers to hide the exact location of the camera. The female leaves the nest and returns to the water. It is worth noting that male sea turtles never leave the ocean, and their carcass or full body washed ashore after their death. Due to the limited study of sea turtles, experts are completely unsure of their age, but some international research conducted on green turtles proves that they live for fifty years. SWD has three plots of about 200 square meters that have been singled out as SWD turtle hatchery - two falls in Manor Cantonment and one fall in the jurisdiction of the city government. While the SWD Turtle Conservation Laboratory is under construction in Sandspit, WWF has an office opposite the beach, called the Wetlands Center - a focal point for all its turtles and birds to watch tours and outreach programs. According to experts, turtles eat sea catcher and some species of jelly fish, although no research has been conducted in this area. But the fear is that without these turtles, there could be uncontrolled growth of this and jelly fish, which could eventually threaten more marine life in shallow water. Although SWD works to protect sea turtles because they are an important part of the marine ecosystem, no other department or agency contributes to the rescue of the creatures. Without public support, the survival of sea turtles is questionable. More government support and funding are needed to improve the work of this project. It is because of these reasons that only 5,000 turtles have been tagged during the last 20 years of the project, and dozens of nests go unnoticed each year. As a result, stray dogs eat a lot of eggs, some get disturbed by the movement of humans and do not ripen, while hundreds of cubs die every year after being crushed under the wheels of moving vehicles, as it is their natural instinct to move to light, and in natural conditions, the sea is the brightest object at night.-PPI at night.-PPI

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