



42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium

Workshop Proposal for ISTS42

Title of Proposed Workshop:

Overcoming barriers to knowledge: Sea turtle movement and habitat connectivity in Southeast Asia

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Names of All Organisers:

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Preferred Date for the Workshop: Monday 25th March 2024

Suggested Duration of Workshop: Half Day (4 hours) in AM

Description and Justification of the Workshop:

The Southeast Asia region encompasses a range of countries where their national languages or publications are non-English, making the accessibility of information challenging for international conservation efforts. Sea turtles are highly mobile species that utilize and connect habitats across national boundaries and jurisdictions. Therefore, understanding where and how sea turtles move is crucial to ensure adequate biological protection and habitat conservation.

There have been successful regional collaborative research and governance initiatives in this region. However, sea turtles are commonly monitored within local beaches or sea areas by researchers, environmental organizations, or government units. Consequently, information such as tag recoveries and photo IDs is often recorded on individual datasheets in their own languages. As a result, these records are not promptly transferable and are underutilized by a limited number of communities and managers. Therefore, there is a need to enhance knowledge-sharing facilities for in-country and region-wide purposes to ensure that all knowledge can equally reach managers, policymakers, and industries.



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This workshop aims to invite researchers, conservationists, and government officers from each country in the Southeast Asia region to learn about centralized data repositories for regional access and innovative tools for long-term monitoring objectives. The workshop also aims to facilitate discussions in identifying geographic and research gaps in understanding sea turtle movement and habitat connectivity. This effort builds upon a regional literature review that is currently underway and focuses on overcoming the existing barriers to actionable information.

Expected Outcomes of the Workshop:

It is expected that this workshop will:

- Provide an overview on the current understanding of sea turtle movement in Southeast Asia
- Align data management and sharing strategies that expand the existing boundary of knowledge dissemination
- Highlight tools and products that enhance the efficiency in transferring knowledge, i.e., transforming raw data into usable information
- Establish a regional collaborative network that facilitates the consolidation and delivery of usable information for regional conservation efforts
- Identify research priorities and key focus areas by addressing gaps and challenges in understanding sea turtle movement and habitat connectivity