



Turtle protection awareness

Pacific BioScapes Programme - Papua New Guinea

The Pacific BioScapes Programme is supporting public awareness for sea turtle protection in Papua New Guinea. The protection of sea turtles in Papua New Guinea (PNG) is an ongoing issue. Under the current legislation, only **leatherback turtles are fully protected**, while other species can be caught through traditional methods but only for household consumption. However, sea turtles commonly including the **green, hawksbill and leatherback turtle and their eggs continue to be killed and collected**, consumed, or sold domestically at marketplaces.

The PNG **Conservation and Environment Protection Authority** will be assisted to raise awareness of the threats to sea turtle species in Papua New Guinea through a **major turtle protection public awareness campaign** in districts where illegal or excessive turtle take is occurring. The campaign will include new educational resources, media campaigns and activities aimed at marketplaces.

Direct consultation and collaboration will take place with national and provincial governments in priority provinces (Central Province, National Capital District, Western, Milne Bay and Manus) and in specifically targeted communities where illegal or excessive harvest has been identified.

CENTRAL ISSUES:



Several turtle species are increasingly being caught and sold in marketplaces



Enforcement of legal protection for sea turtles is lacking



Beyond specific project sites, education and awareness of sea turtles is lacking throughout PNG

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY SUMMARY:



Develop public awareness campaign in collaboration with PNG National and Provincial governments



Engage directly with communities where excessive harvest takes place



Explore potential marketplace bans on sale of turtles and eggs



Green Turtle



Hawksbill Turtle

Leatherback Turtle



The Pacific BioScapes Programme is a European Union (EU) funded action, managed and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) www.sprep.org/bioscapes

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