



# Asian Turtle News

## News from the Front lines of Conservation

The Asian Turtle Conservation Network (ATCN)

### Bintan Laguna Resort to Conserve Local Turtles with Help from the ATP

In October 2007 the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) has undertaken training on Bintan Island Indonesia to help develop a local turtle conservation team at the Bintan Laguna Resort, approximately 42km southeast of Singapore. The resort runs a conservation lab tasked with learning more about wildlife that occurs on the island and developing ways to integrate species conservation into the resort development and management

From the 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2007. Tim McCormack, ATP field program coordinator, worked with Mirza Pedju, Fassa Faisal and Abdul Halik of the resort's "conservation lab", reviewing basic field research and conservation methods relating to turtles, including trapping method, interview techniques, and species identification.

An assessment was also completed of the resort grounds and surrounding area to help guide the resort in developing a strategy for conserving local turtles. Prior to the training mission staff of the conservation lab had also found a number of *Cuora amboinensis* within the resort, during this visit the field team was able to find two wild *Cuora amboinensis*, one within the resort golf course and a second in a neighbouring village area. A further seven *Cuora amboinensis* were observed in captivity near the resort area.

A neighboring resort to had an adult male spiny turtle, *Heosemys spinosa*, which they were keeping in a small enclosure. Unfortunately, the field team was unable to acquire clear information as to where the *Heosemys spinosa* had come from (whether it was native to the island or brought over from the mainland). Interviews suggested that at least one species of soft-shell turtle may also occur in the resort area. Since the ATP training and assessment mission, the Bintan Laguna team have also confirmed the presence of a second species, *Cyclemys dentata* within the resort and are hoping to start radio tracking a number of *Cuora amboinensis* in 2008 as part of their investment in conserving local fauna.



Fassa Faisal and team of the Butan Laguna Conservation Lab survey stream habitat



A population of *Cuora amboinensis* resides on the ground of the resort



One of many ponds and wetlands at the Bintan Laguna resort

#### For further information please contact:

Asian Turtle Program  
PO Box 222  
Hanoi, Vietnam  
Tele. 84 (0)4-514-8850  
Email: [ATCNnetwork@fpt.vn](mailto:ATCNnetwork@fpt.vn)