



Myanmar Turtle Conservation Program
August 26, 2005

Terms of Reference for Patrol Team

Chindwin River Conservation Project

Patrol Team

During normal operations, the patrol team will consist of three persons; two forest rangers and a boat driver. The WCS project team-leader may accompany the patrol team if desired. A minimum of two persons will be required to carry out a patrol.

Basic Duties of Patrol Team

- (1) Carry out boat patrols, beach inspections, and village visits within the project area. Patrols will focus on:
 - Inspection and enforcement
 - Information gathering
 - Community relations
 - Deterring illegal activities
- (2) Observe and report all activities relevant to protection of *Kachuga trivittata* on the Chindwin River

Specific duties

- (1) **Maintain high visibility:** Maintain a highly visible presence on the river and within local communities. Part of our efforts to protect *Kachuga trivittata* involve establishing a presence on the river that will deter illegal or undesired activities that may be harmful to the species. This presence will be manifested on the river, through inspections of nesting beaches, and visits to villages and encampments.
- (2) **Inspect fishing boats:** Inspect fishing vessels and other boats on the river. The patrol team will make contact with fishermen and others on the river to acquire information and unobtrusively monitor their activities. Any *Kachuga trivittata* that are observed in captivity will be immediately confiscated. It is essential that monitoring be carried out in an appropriate and friendly way as most fishermen are not involved in illegal hunting or trade, and the fishermen are potentially a strong ally in efforts to conserve the species.
- (3) **Inspect nesting beaches:** Check nesting beaches for encampments and other human-related activities. Routinely inspect beaches along the river for human activity, with particular focus upon the critical beaches and "track" beaches. Unless restrictions are in effect, the patrol team will only record activity on the beaches and report back to the conservation team leader.
- (4) **Build community relations and information networks:** Meet with village leaders/counterparts to obtain information and build relationships. The patrol team will routinely visit villages and settlements along the patrol route to check in with village leaders and others within the community. Community visits are an important way to learn new information that may

be important to protection efforts, and build alliances and support within the community for our efforts.

(5) Conduct field investigations: Investigate and respond to reports or information relating to *Kachuga t.* The patrol team will investigate any information that they receive about *Kachuga trivittata*, including if necessary delaying or altering patrol routes in order to follow up on “hot” leads such as reports of a nesting on a certain beach or a turtle that has been caught by a fisherman.

(6) Monitor fishing practices: Record the number and location of “set nets” along patrol routes. The patrol team will routinely record the location of “set nets” along the patrol route. Unless restrictions are in effect for a particular area, the patrol will only record the information. Including net lengths, positioning, and net types would be useful additional information. A specific survey form may be generated and used for this purpose by the project team leader.

(7) Record contacts: Record contacts with fishermen and others along the river. The patrol team will record on the patrol log contacts with fishermen, local residents, and others during the course of their patrols, including annotating any important information that they may provide. The contact entries in the log will help project managers evaluate the impacts of patrol efforts.

(8) Complete patrol reports: The patrol team will complete a patrol report and patrol log for each patrol on the river. Reports will be complete and clearly document any important observation or information learned by the team, as well as a chronological record of activities carried out by the team (including departure and arrival times at locations along the patrol route).

Safety

A life vest will be carried in the boat for each person present. Persons that are not good swimmers will be required to wear their life vest at all times while in the boat on the river. The patrol team leader will be responsible for enforcing this safety requirement.

Schedule

The patrol schedule will be produced two months in advance and identify specific patrol routes (there are four set patrols; PS1, PS2, PS3, PS4) for the team, and the dates that the patrols are to be carried out. The patrols will be staggered to avoid setting routines that could become familiar to residents and fishermen along the river.

Associated documents

Patrol schedule
Patrol Routes Index
Patrol Report and Duty Log

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