



## Asian Turtle Conservation Network

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### Conservation Action Template

The following guidelines were established by the ATCN for guiding development of species-focused conservation initiatives

These guidelines are intended to help project designers ensure that conservation outcomes are linked to initial survey and research efforts wherever possible in order to ensure that our efforts have the most positive and practical impacts on turtles.

### Species-directed Conservation Program Development Template

#### Identify the Location

Identify the location(s) of wild populations of the turtle species. Gather information about these areas including maps and historical survey data.

#### Determine the Population Status

Determine the current status of wild populations at the site(s). This determination can be relative in nature, as it is not necessary to know exactly how many turtles exist within an area. More importantly, you need to acquire a rough idea which will allow you to balance the extent of investment in conserving/protecting the population when compared with other possible investments in time and energy.

This may be done through mark and recapture studies utilizing trapping, field surveys or other means. As collecting quantitative data on population status can be extremely difficult and time consuming, other less quantitative approaches may be used to get an idea about the current state of wild populations. These include interview-based surveys and assessing reported hunting and collection levels.

#### Assess the Key Threat

Carry out a threat assessment to identify all of the threats to the turtle population. This assessment is usually done through meetings with local people, officials, and other relevant stakeholders that might provide valuable information about the key threats. Based upon research, evaluate the threats to prioritize those that in your judgment have the greatest impact upon turtles. Be as specific and detailed as you can because the assessment forms the basis for all conservation measures that might follow.

#### Initiate Action

Initiate action in response to key threats identified during the assessment. Action might include a variety of approaches, the suitability of each dependent entirely upon the given situation and conditions that may be endemic to the particular site.

Some examples of conservation measures include:

- Training for enforcement officers
- Producing educational materials
- Initiating an education or public awareness program
- Helping draft new laws or regulations
- Establishing a protected area
- Developing a community patrol group
- Demarcating borders
- Establishing a monitoring program (if take is to be controlled rather than stopped)

It is essential that conservation efforts not end with a series of recommendations after the survey work is complete, but rather, are strongly linked to actions that address threats and conserve/protect turtles.