



IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU
5th Meeting of the Northern Indian Ocean Marine Turtle Task Force
online, 6-8 May 2025

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COUNTRY UPDATE: Bangladesh

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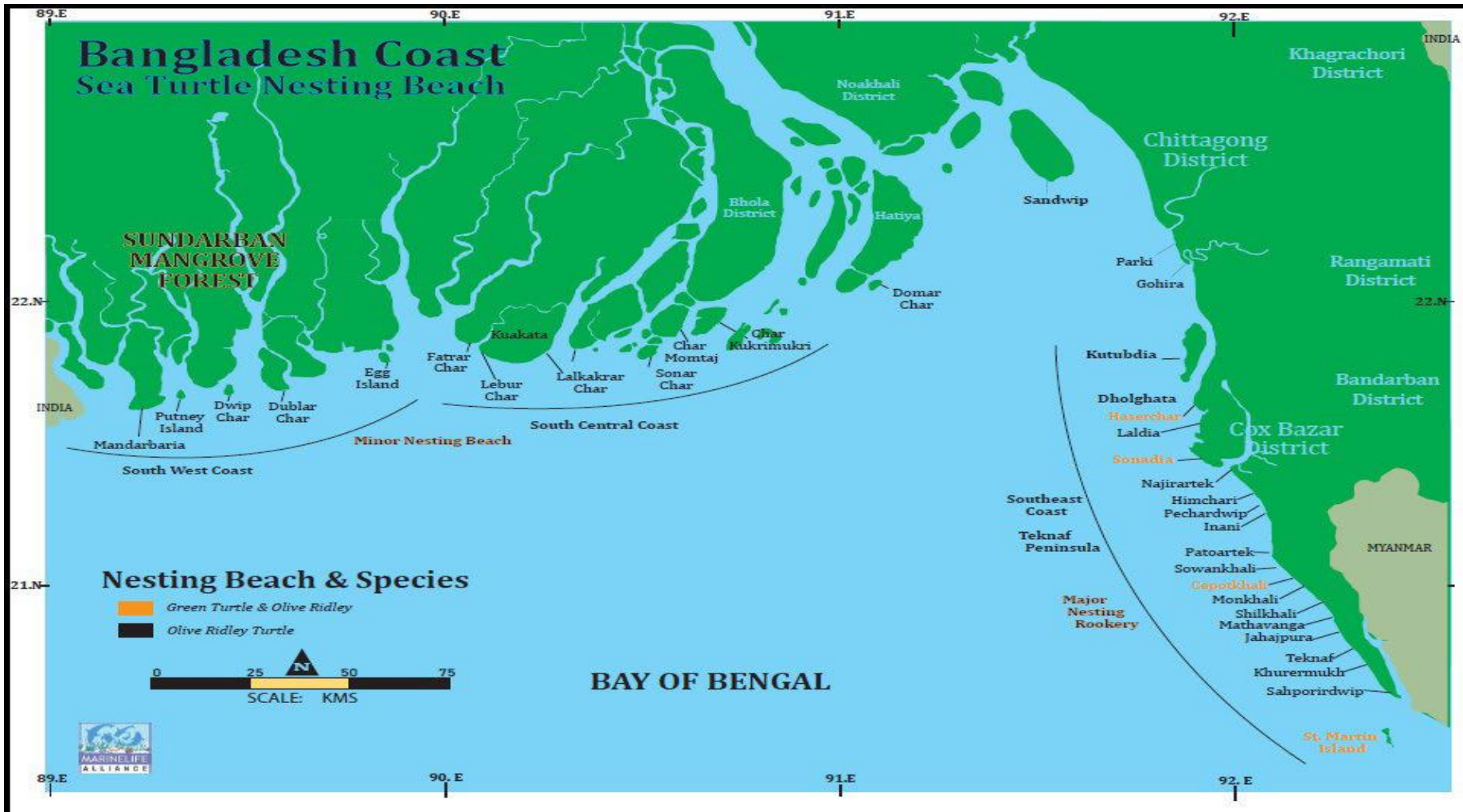


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New research or conservation projects related to marine turtles and/or their habitats.

1. To know about the breeding, foraging locations in the Bay of Bengal focusing on Swatch of no ground MPA under “updating biodiversity data on SoNG MPA for knowledge-based decision making” total 5 of marine turtles were satellite tagged by IUCN Bangladesh In collaboration with Bangladesh Forest department, funded by GIZ.
2. Under CODEC (Community Development Centre) by USAID funded 5 hatcheries are running. Now funded by IUCN, Bangladesh & GIZ.



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3. Ecosystem Awareness and Restoration Through Harmony (EARTH), Funded By: UNDP- GEF- Small Grants Programme & Implemented By: Arannayk Foundation, Bangladesh.



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MarineLife Alliance

Sea Turtle Program Activities (2022–2025)

- 🐢 **Monitoring & Protection of Nesting Beaches** (St. Martin, Sonadia, Cox's Bazar)
- 🥚 **Nest Relocation & Hatchery Management** for threatened nests
- 🥚 **Around 25 % nests remain in situ on nesting beach.**
- 🌊 **Release of Hatchlings: naturally, hatchlings emerge, cross the fence, crawl to ocean.**
- 🚑 **Rescue & Rehabilitation of Injured or Stranded Turtles**
- 📡 **Satellite Tracking & Flipper Tagging** to study migration
- ✂️ **Community Engagement to Reduce Bycatch & Fishing Pressure**
- 👥 **School & Community Awareness Campaigns** on sea turtle conservation
- 📊 **Data Collection & Population Assessment** for long-term monitoring
- 🧰 **Training for Local Conservation Teams & Volunteers**



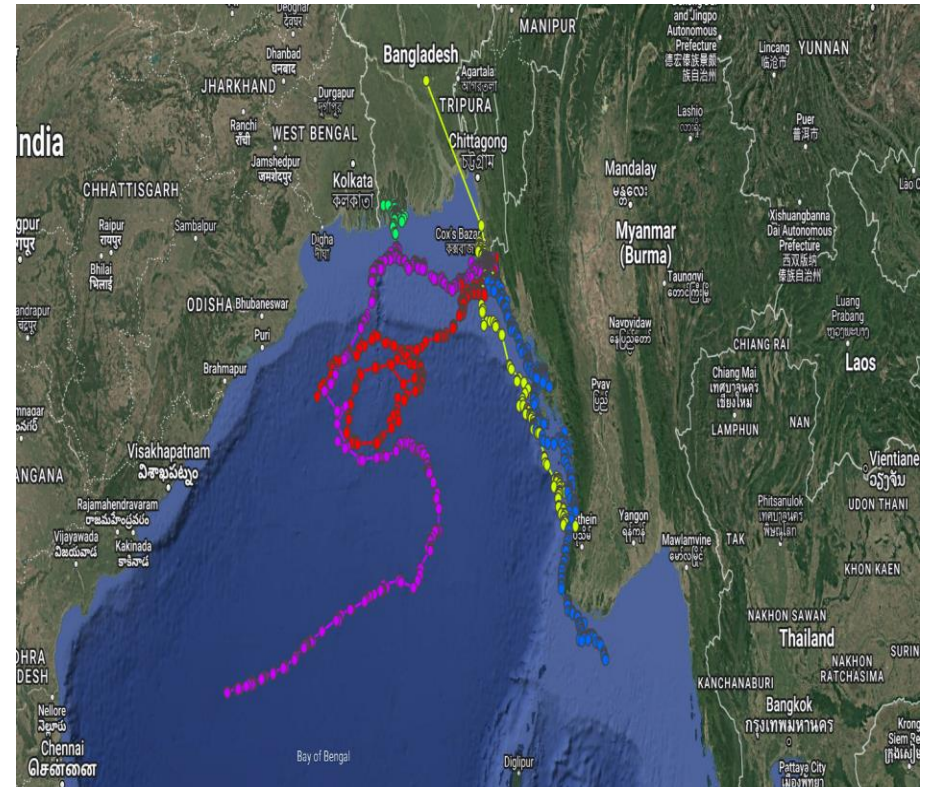
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Satellite Tagging



<https://my.wildlifecomputers.com/data/map/?id=67aaca2c93e7a7eb6a0773bb>



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05 Satellite Tagging





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Large infrastructure developments affecting marine turtles and/or their habitats (proposed or underway)

Several liquefied natural gas(LNG) port terminal and coal-based power generation project have been started by the government at Matarbari and Hase char nesting beaches.

In addition, Sonadia Island has been leased by the Government to Economic Zone Authority (BEZA) for tourism development. Therefore, these nesting hotspots are now under threat.





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Large sand bag, RCC Structure installation on nesting beach along the marine drive.

Almost more than half area already altered through these so-called erosion prevention measures.

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Changes in national policy, laws, or management frameworks affecting marine turtles and/or their habitats

 Marine Turtle Protection in Bangladesh – Key Highlights

Swatch of No Ground MPA (Declared 2014)

- 1,738 sq km – Bangladesh's first Marine Protected Area.
- Protects dolphins, whales, sharks, and marine turtles.

Saint Martin's Island MPA (Declared 2022)

- 1,743 sq km in the Bay of Bengal, including 590 hectares of Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) on the island.
- Aims to safeguard coral reefs, marine biodiversity, and turtle nesting beaches.



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Tourism Ban – Saint Martin’s Island (2025)

- 9-month ban (Feb–Oct) to reduce human impact on fragile ecosystems.

Wildlife (Conservation & Security) Act, 2012

- Marine turtles are listed as protected species
- Amendment upcoming to expand coverage to more marine species and their protection measures.



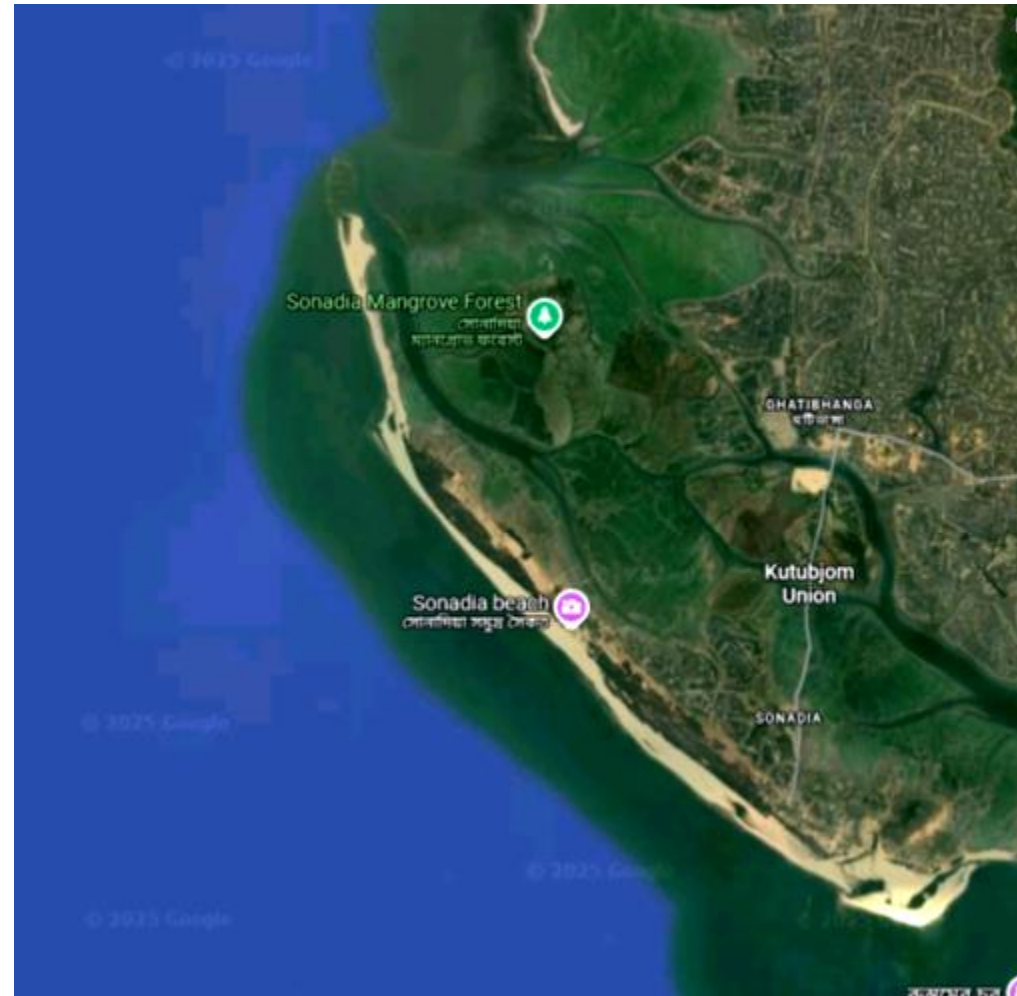
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Sonadia Island has recently been recovered from the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) by the interim government. This positive step offers renewed hope that the Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) will take appropriate conservation measures and prevent the island from being turned into a mass tourism destination, preserving its unique biodiversity and ecological value.





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Emerging threats or challenges

Emerging Threats to Marine Turtle Protection in Bangladesh

1. Coastal Development & Infrastructure

- Expansion of ports, roads, tourism (e.g., Cox's Bazar) threatens nesting beaches.
- Habitat loss, shoreline modification, and light pollution disrupt nesting.

2. Marine Pollution

- Plastic ingestion, entanglement, oil spills, and chemical runoff harm turtles and habitats.

3. Unregulated Tourism

- Overcrowding, littering, night lighting, and infrastructure fragment nesting grounds.



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4. Illegal Exploitation & Bycatch

- Accidental bycatch in nets, illegal egg/turtle harvesting remains a major threat.

5. Climate Change

- Rising sea levels, temperature changes affect hatchling sex ratios and nesting sites.
- Increased storms damage nests and eggs.

6. Weak Enforcement

- Limited monitoring, overlapping jurisdictions hinder effective conservation efforts.
- Need for stronger wildlife law enforcement.











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Current Threats to Sea Turtles – In Bangladesh

-  **Bycatch in Fishing Nets** (gill nets, trawl nets, set bag nets).
-  **Nesting Habitat Loss** due to coastal development and unplanned tourism.
-  **Disturbance from Artificial Lights** near nesting beaches.
-  **Beach Armoring by Sand Bag & Concrete blocks for erosion prevention.**
-  **Marine Debris & Plastic Pollution** causing ingestion and entanglement.
-  **Nest Predation by Jackel at Sonadia Island and Haser char.**
-  **Unregulated Infrastructure** close to critical nesting habitats.
-  **Climate Change Impacts** affecting nesting success and sex ratios.



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Increased Vehicle movement on nesting beach & fishing nets along near shore.



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Achievement/Success story

- By Under CODEC (Community Development Centre)
_Up to May; 14,722 turtle eggs from 129 nests (turtles) were kept in 5 hatcheries, and 8,153 hatchlings have been released into the sea. Hatching rate is 55.38%.
- In 2024, with the collaboration of community residents and local volunteers, ECOFISH II by **WorldFish** established an in-situ sea turtle hatchery in Kutubdia Upazila, Cox's Bazar, successfully releasing 149 hatchlings into the sea.



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- Ecosystem Awareness and Restoration Through Harmony (EARTH), Funded By: UNDP- GEF- Small Grants Programme & Implemented By: Arannayk Foundation

Egg Collection and Hatchling Data 2024 and 2025 at INANI TURTLE HATCHERY

Items	2024	2025 (Ongoing)	Total
Egg collected	5878	3199	9077
Hatchling released	3586	507	4093

Egg collection time: January to April 2024

Hatchling released: March to June 2024

Egg collection and Hatchling released in 2025 from February to till date



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Seasons: 2022-23 to 2024-25

Sea Turtle Conservation Achievements – MarineLife Alliance

-  Monitored 140 km of nesting beaches along southeast coast.
-  Conserved **1,359+ Olive Ridley** inside relocation enclosure(7-9 seasonal enclosure).
-  Conserved **231+ Olive Ridley & 7 Green Turtle nests in situ condition.**
-  Released **142,076+ Olive Ridley hatchlings in the wild from egg hatching ground.**
-  Rescued **47 Olive ridley turtles by community people and offshore fishermen.**
-  Engaged **872+ offshore fishermen in bycatch awareness program.**
-  Carried out **shoreline restoration** activities through Screw pine plantation.
-  Strengthened **community-based marine conservation**



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Thanks

