

**CHALLENGES FOR SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION:
A PRELIMINARY STUDY FROM COASTAL NORTHERN MINAHASA
PENINSULA, INDONESIA**

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ABSTRACT: The past success of sea turtles surviving long periods of environmental changes does not guarantee their continued survival today. This study documents the sea turtle nesting locations in the northern region of Minahasa Peninsula, Sulawesi, Indonesia. The opinions of coastal residents highlight impediments to sea turtle conservation. Interviews and questionnaires from fishing communities in coastal villages supplied the present data set. GPS receivers recorded the geographic positions revealed by the interviews. The data set identified 47 sea turtle nesting sites, some of which are threatened by expanding developments along the coast. The residents knew the breeding areas as they were close to residential communities and easily accessible. Sea turtle nesting grounds should be designated as marine and coastal protected areas by village decrees and conservation regulations enforced. Even though they are aware of the protection granted to sea turtles, coastal villagers knowingly consume turtle meat and eggs. Education, community involvement and law enforcement are needed for proper conservation of sea turtles.

Keywords: sea turtles, nesting sites, regulations, community-based conservation, awareness
