

## **Project Update: August 2021**

At the beginning of July 2021, in cooperation with Andalas University in Padang and Cahaya Maritim NGO, we have conducted 1-week workshop for selected students about sea turtles, sea turtle use and trade, and other threats of sea turtles. Furthermore, we have discussed during the workshop what should be done for sea turtle conservation in West Sumatra. The students received t-shirts and certificates of participation at the end of workshop. We are happy that our cooperation in West Sumatra continues, and we are currently planning activities for the next year.

In the second half of July 2021, we had to slow down with our surveys due to Covid restrictions for almost 3 weeks. During the covid restrictions, we were initiating interviews (10) via Zoom and discussing with NGO stakeholders who focus on sea turtle conservation and work in Indonesia on what are contemporary needs for sea turtle conservation in Sumatra – these interviews were planned to be conducted in person initially.

In August 2021, we were able to continue with our survey activities in Belitung Island where we collected 25 community questionnaires and three market surveys. One of the most important nesting sites of hawksbill turtles is located close to Belitung Island. Tortoiseshell products can be sometimes found on local markets. Local informants told us that after several law enforcement actions, several vendors moved their activities on online platforms. Also, it seems that mainly old stocks are used, and mature hawksbills are in general not hunted to get tortoiseshell, on the other hand, locals continue to collect hawksbill eggs in several locations that are mainly consumed by fishermen.

As part of our activities on promoting sea turtle conservation and raising awareness in Sumatra, we have prepared a roll up that is in the library at Syiah Kuala University (main Indonesian partner) and informs about the project. The project was also presented at Syiah Kuala University to the students.

I was invited to join Global Biodiversity Conservation Conference (<https://gbcc-conference.org/en/home/#speakers>) as a keynote speaker. The conference will be held at 10-12 November in Prague, Czech Republic. The talk with title "*Specifics of sea turtle use and trade in selected areas in Sumatra, Indonesia*" will be presented.

With NGO Cahaya Maritim we are working on sea turtle brochures that will be later distributed in West Sumatra, Mentawai Islands and in Aceh. In these areas our local partners will help with the distribution and also, they will use the brochures in their educational activities at schools.





