

Project Update: February 2011

The following activities have been accomplished or are in progress:

1. The first round of training was held. Fishermen and game guards from Dezful city and also the Department of Environment of Khuzestan province attended the workshop. Participants learned about *Rafetus euphraticus*, its habitats and how they can get directly involved to help protect this endangered turtle.
2. Six training courses were held between August 2010 and February 2011 on "Euphrates softshell turtle conservation" and 272 students in villages of Dezful city, where the turtle exist, attended.
3. The Euphrates softshell turtle brochure and painting exhibition announcement were distributed in Dezful city schools during February 2011.
4. We have purchased radio telemetry equipment and our activity season for tagging turtles begins at the end of March 2011. A vet professor will help our research team to attach transmitters to the carapace and also to x-ray turtles with portable equipment to detect gravid females during the nesting season.

