



The Walk for Turtles is one of the main projects for Help Our Penyu (HOPE), a Malaysian registered society (2103-10-WKL). The collection of nesting sea turtle data is vital for their conservation, until HOPE initiated the Walk for Turtles project in 2010 not all the beaches in Terengganu were assessed. The project provides important data which decision makers would otherwise not have. The Walk for Turtles main event is an 18 day walk starting annually, on World Sea Turtle Day (16<sup>th</sup> June), [visiting every beach in the state of Terengganu](#) (mainland and islands). In 2011 the team will collect [invaluable sea turtle data](#) from 300km of beach, conduct turtle awareness sessions at [8 primary schools](#), visiting 6 turtle conservation projects and 2 community groups. The data from the 2010 [survey identified a significant mainland population](#) in Setiu which has led to extra surveys being conducted to assisting WWF-Malaysia whom run a sea turtle hatchery in the area. The walk not only collects turtle nesting data and spreads turtle conservation awareness but it is UNIFYING sea turtle conservation in Terengganu.

#### Aim

To collect accurate turtle nesting data from all beaches in Terengganu.

#### Objectives

1. Turtle track survey,
2. Raise awareness amongst the Malaysian people, regarding turtle and marine conservation.



## Sponsorship

**Cost** RM40,000

**Duration** 1 year

**Extra staff** RM150 per person per day

The Walk for Turtles is a unique conservation initiative providing significant awareness and collecting vital scientific data which is then used to further the conservation of sea turtles in Malaysia. The event is novel in Malaysia and is the first state-wide turtle track survey to be conducted in Terengganu. The Walk starts at Cherating on 16<sup>th</sup> June and ends at Pulau Perhentian on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July. The main addition to the walk in 2011 is the inclusion of awareness events at 8 individual primary schools. The awareness events seek to educate the school children about sea turtles through art and storytelling by Dungun-born artist and conservation activist Anuar Abdullah. The walk in 2011 has also been extended going from the southern border of Terengganu to the states northern border.

Staff from the main sponsor will be invited along to our first awareness event at SMK Kerteh and the community-group MEKAR. In addition celebrities and the general public will be invited to join the walk for a total of 10 days. The Walk for Turtles will be followed on a daily basis by national Malaysian newspapers, national Malaysian radio and through Help Our Penyu's social media network.

Sponsoring the Walk for Turtles connects your organisation to not only the sea turtles of Terengganu but the people of Malaysia.

#### How your donation will be spent

<b>RM10,000</b>	Main event logistics;	<b>RM10,000</b>	Insurance;
<b>RM6,000</b>	School awareness events;	<b>RM6,000</b>	T-shirts
<b>RM5,000</b>	Mini-van rental		

## Data Collection

Currently the only sea turtle data collected in Terengganu is that of nesting and is being submitted to official hatcheries. This method however is clinically flawed as the egg collectors, as quoted from the Department of Fisheries, 'would rather sell the turtle eggs they have collected to the market for human consumption than be incubated at official hatcheries causing significantly inaccurate population data to be collected'. It has been suggested by some that over 50% of the nests are being sold to the market and thus not counted in the annual census.

Turtle track surveys are the number one globally accepted tool for the large-scale collection of sea turtle nesting data. The methodology is relatively simple: When a turtle nests on a beach they leave a very distinguishable track in the sand. It is estimated that the track lasts for 7 days however the longevity of the track is dependent on the weather. The track width is a good indication of the turtle's width and can be used to assess tracks made by the same individual turtle and also the species of turtle. When a turtle nests it digs a large pit, we can tell whether the turtle has laid eggs or not from the shape and features of the pit. For example, the only time we record that there is a nest is when we see signs of a turtle covering over the nest. If she did not lay any eggs she would not attempt to cover the nest. We collect this data along with the GPS co-ordinates of the location. The data is used to assess the turtle nesting population in the region surveyed. For the 2010 report please visit this website;

<http://www.helpourpenyu.com/walkforturtles/walkforturtles/2010-report>.

The report is shared with other organisations related to sea turtles in Malaysia and made available online to the general public. One of the main findings from 2010 was the high number of turtle nestings in the Setiu district. As a result of the survey Help Our Penyu is now working in partnership with WWF-Malaysia. Help Our Penyu will be surveying the area four times in 2011 collecting a more thorough population census for the Setiu District helping WWF-Malaysia assess the percentage of nests which are being submitted to their hatchery in Kampong Mangkok. The collaboration between Help Our Penyu and WWF-Malaysia demonstrates the potential that the walk has not only for collecting valuable data but for unifying sea turtle conservation in Terengganu.

## Why sponsor

- Brand an event which not only is providing awareness about sea turtles BUT is actually collecting vital data, adding meaning to your CSR.
- 20 staff members at one of our awareness events (main sponsor only).
- Brand of the event (main sponsor only).
- 2 talks given to your staff at your head quarters – before and after the event.
- Logo on all products, bunting, website, all videos and final report associated to the Walk For Turtles.



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## Impact of Walk for Turtles 2010

### Data Collection

A total of 106 nests, 40 false nests and 60 false crawls were recorded in 2010. Using nesting data from beaches where intensive turtle conservation is conducted, annual numbers of turtle nests from the surveyed area were estimated to be in excess of 3095 with over 3795 nests for the whole of Terengganu. Unfortunately the nesting numbers in 2010 are expected to be high, due to a natural cycle in sea turtle nesting, where some years turtles nest in high numbers and others in low numbers due to the length of migration (1-5 years) by sea turtles.

The distribution of the nests suggests the basic infrastructure for sea turtle conservation is adequate with hatcheries being present at the majority of the top 20 nesting sites. However efforts must be focused on increasing egg deposition by egg collectors. One area of concern is the 40km stretch from Merang to Bukit Keluang. WWF-Malaysia run a sea turtle hatchery in the area but numbers of nests being incubated are far lower than expected. Furthermore the highest density of turtle nests surveyed was just 4.6nests/km/week. A medium density of turtle nests is considered to be above 7 nests/km/week (Canbolat, 2004), therefore it is clear to see that the nesting population of Terengganu is severely impoverished and conservation efforts must be increased before all four species go extinct.

### Awareness

In 2010 we ran the following awareness events

1. A 2 day awareness event at One Utama;
2. Talks at Nottingham University, ISKL, Green Drinks and Aquaria KLCC;
3. A stall and an interactive quiz at the Eco Film festival;

We were also followed by 8TV Quickie for 2 days and gained coverage in many newspapers including the New Straits Times, The Star, China Press and the Utusan. Hitz read out turtle facts before our main event as well.

Our best outlet for awareness was through our social media, videos and live tweets which kept our 4,000 followers in contact with our progress as it happened.

In 2011 our awareness campaign will be focused on the local communities of coastal Terengganu through our school sessions and by allowing the general public to join our walk. We will continue our live tweet and video uploads to our social media network and ask radio stations and newspapers give daily updates of our progress.

## Awareness

Teaching the children to respect sea turtles and how they can help is vital to our work. Sea turtle hatchlings do not lay eggs until they are at least 25 years old meaning the children we are educating at these events will be adults by the time the hatchlings released in 2011 come back to nest.

The main topics we will focus on are; turtle egg consumption, the dangers of litter and how to behave around a nesting turtle.

Anuar Abdullah, a Dungun-born artist and marine conservationist is joining the entire walk and will lead the awareness sessions. He will use story telling whilst drawing as the main tool to educate the children in an interactive way:

15 mins	Story telling
30 mins	Playing educational games
15 mins	Refreshments
15 mins	Dangers of litter
45 mins	Beach clean
30 min to 1 hour	Rubbish art
15 mins	Prize giving

The sessions last for approximately 3 hours and will engage the children in fun activities whilst helping them to learn about sea turtles.



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## Itinerary

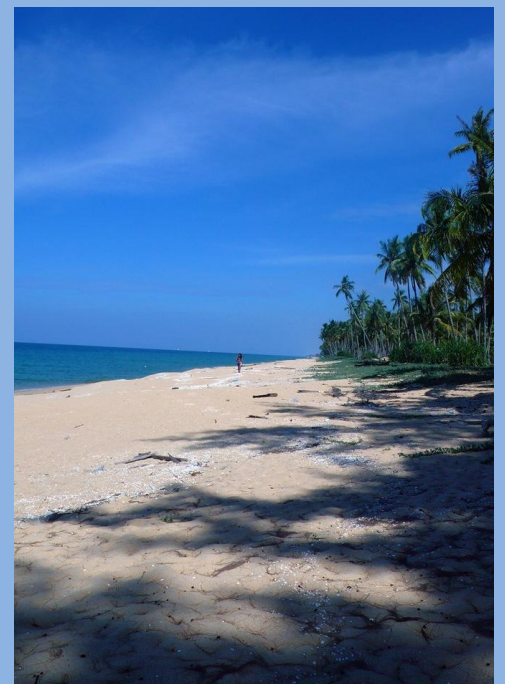
- 15<sup>th</sup> June** Arrive at Cherating, conduct a beach clean with Penyu INC and assist the DoF with turtle watch duties.
- 16<sup>th</sup> June** Start our walk, before lunch we cover the beaches between Cherating and Cukai. After lunch we survey the beaches upto Kijal.
- 17<sup>th</sup> June** From Kijal we stop for lunch near the Awana Genting Hotel, give a talk and then head off to Kemesarek.
- 18<sup>th</sup> June** From Kemesarek we make our way to Ma Daerah in Kerteh. We will meet the community group called MEKAR and host a Turtles Need Trees awareness event in conjunction with MEAKAR and SMK Kerteh. We will assist the WWF-Malaysia team with turtle watch duties.
- 19<sup>th</sup> June** We carry on our survey up to Paka and stopping over night in Dungun.
- 20<sup>th</sup> June** Today we head off to Pulau Tenggol and come back to host an awareness talk at a local resort. In the afternoon we finish our survey at the famed Rantau Abang.
- 21<sup>st</sup> June** Today is our first day open to tourists. In the morning we go to turtle rock and visit the Turtle Information Centre. In the afternoon we conduct our awareness session at SMK Rantau Abang including a beach clean.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> June** We survey the beach between Rantau Abang and Jambo Bongkok and finish the day at Gong Balai.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> June** We walk for the morning and take our lunch at Taman Pulau Kerengga. In the afternoon we visit SMK Pulau Kerengga to conduct our 3<sup>rd</sup> awareness session.
- 24<sup>th</sup> June** Today we end our walk in Marang where we welcome more tourists to our team and host our 4<sup>th</sup> awareness session in conjunction with SMK Marang.
- 25<sup>th</sup> June** In the morning we head off to Kapas and Gemia Islands, we visit Gem Island Resort who are conducting a turtle conservation program. At 2pm we head back to the mainland and walk through to Kuala Terengganu.
- 26<sup>th</sup> June** At lunch we reach Universiti Malaysia Terengganu where we will be joined by students to conduct a beach clean. We then say goodbye to the tourists and end our day at Merabang Panjang.
- 27<sup>th</sup> June** In the morning we head off to Merang and take a boat to survey Pulau Bidong, Karah, Yu, Tengorak and Pinang. We will visit the Marine park turtle project at Pulau Pinang.
- 28<sup>th</sup> June** Today we head up the east coast of Redang, visiting Chagar Hutang, a turtle conservation project by Unversiti Malaysia Terengganu and take lunch in the village. In the afternoon we host an awareness session at SMK Redang.
- 29<sup>th</sup> June** In the morning we survey the west coast of Redang Island and head over to Lang Tengah before we go back to Merang. In the afternoon we survey the beach between Merang and Bari Kecil.
- 30<sup>th</sup> June** We walk to the small village of Mangkok where we host our last turtle awareness program.
- 1<sup>st</sup> July** We meet the ladies of PEWANIS and we join them to replant mangrove trees and cook banana chips. In the evening we also get the chance to visit the Turtle Conservation Centre and WWF-Malaysia's hatchery.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> July** We cross the Setiu River and can see our finish line. We spend the night at a small bay overlooking the Perhentian Islands.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> July** We walk to Kuala Besut and across the river to the northern most border of Terengganu before we head off to the Perhentian islands which are our finish line.

## Contact Us

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