

Two remnant populations of the roofed turtle *Kachuga trivittata* in the upper Ayeyarwady River system, Myanmar

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Appendix

Standard questions asked during interviews:

- 1) Name of the river/ tributary/ lake. Is the water permanent/ semipermanent/ ephemeral? How do water levels change seasonally? Are there communications between lakes and rivers? Are they permanent or only during high water levels?
- 2) Name of the village; age-class of the informant (young, middle aged, old); for how many years does he/ she know the waters and fish (e.g. born in the village or moved to this place)?
- 3) Which turtle/tortoise species live in the area (according to photos of the different species)? Which species are most common in the river/ lake?
- 4) What are the local names for particular turtle species?
- 5) The informant is asked to show the size of the turtle species in question (with the hands or as a sketch in the sand), then the size of the largest of these turtles which he/ she ever saw.
- 6) Are turtles, and which species, being captured and consumed by local people? How many turtles (per species or group, e.g. soft shelled, hard shelled) are captured per day/ week/ month/ year by the informant, and by the whole fishing community? When was the last one caught?
- 7) How many fishermen live in the area? How many families altogether? How many nets exist? What other fishing techniques are used? Are fish only locally consumed, or freshly marketed in cities, or dried, smoked or salted?
- 8) Are all sizes of turtles consumed or only larger ones? Are large turtles (of a particular species) caught frequently, and when was the last really large one caught (e.g. how many years back)? Are medium size ranges common?
- 9) Are eggs collected and eaten? How many eggs are found per nest? During which months or season? Describe size and texture of eggs. Where do the turtles nest (sand bank, forest)?
- 10) What are the common methods used to catch turtles (seine nets, baited hoop nets or traps, lance, line and hook, diving, etc)?
- 11) In the opinion of the informant, is the population of a particular turtle species stable, increasing or declining? Was the species more common in former times? Is the number of animals caught per year constant, increasing or declining? In the case of a decreasing population, since when (a few years, several decades) is it declining?
- 12) Over the last years or decades, were there long-term changes in water level, turbidity and vegetation?
- 13) Is the number of fishermen in the area stable or increasing? If increasing, since when and at what rate? Are most fishermen local people, and do they fish as their sole occupation or only occasionally? Are fishermen coming into the area from outside, and is their technology and approach to fishing different?
- 14) Are there traditional customs, taboos, or prohibitions concerning the river/ lake, concerning fishing or concerning turtles?
- 15) Are turtles only consumed by the family/ village or also sold at markets, and where? Are live turtles sold or also dry shells? Are there collection points (traders) for turtles in the area? If yes, where and since when?