

Turtle Conservation In Karachi

In Karachi, Pakistan, there is a very successful programme to protect the Green and Pacific Ridley turtles which nest along the sandy beaches near the city.

Every night, the beach is patrolled by turtle guards. Whenever they find a female digging a nest they wait patiently nearby and, once she has finished laying, collect her eggs. These are taken to enclosures, which are guarded 24 hours a day.

When the tiny turtles hatch, several weeks later, they are carefully placed in a bucket and taken to the sea to be released.

Another of the major aims of Pakistan's turtle programme is to teach people about the value of sea turtles. Guided tours are arranged for visitors to the beaches and parties of school children are taken for exciting night-time visits to watch the animals.

The project is extremely successful: the turtles and their eggs are now well protected, and local people take a real interest in the animals' welfare.