

2005 Auditor General Report Summary

Title of the Audit

Department of Fisheries Malaysia – Management and Conservation of Turtle Program

Introduction

The Management and Conservation of Turtle Program has been implemented by Malaysia Fishery Department to manage, conserve and protect the population of 4 extinct turtle species in this country, to carry out research and to increase the public involvement. The government has spent RM1.91 million for the period of 2003 to 2005 and this amount is not included the state government budget and contribution from private.

Audit Objectives

The audit objective is to determine whether Management and Conservation of Turtle Program were planned and implemented efficiently, economic and properly in accordance with the objective.

Audit Methodology

- (i) Scrutinise the files, register/records of turtle, report, minutes, financial and other relevant documents for the period of 2003 to 2005 in the Department of Licensing and Source Management, Headquarter, Turtle Marine Ecosystem Centre, Terengganu and 4 State Fishery Departments.
- (ii) Physical visits were conducted to 7 Turtle Management Centre.
- (iii) Discussions were carried out with the officer in charge and Licensed Turtle Egg Collectors.

Audit Findings

Several weaknesses found in the Management and Conservation of Turtle Program were as follows:

- (i) Several aspects on the operations of turtle eggs and the management of Turtle Eggs Hatchery Centre were not carried out in accordance with the accepted guidelines by Fishery Department.
- (ii) Eight suggested areas to be gazetted in Terengganu, all landing beach areas and turtle egg hatchery areas in 4 states have not been gazetted and only administer reserved. It was not prevent the areas from being intruded.
- (iii) Due to financial insufficiency, the department was not afforded to buy all the turtle eggs collected; additional temporary workers could not be hired; could not carry out the supervision on all Turtle Management Centre; educational program and public awareness were also not actively conducted.