

Appendix 1. Legislation related to sea turtle conservation in Malaysia

There have been calls to ban the commercial sale of sea turtle eggs in Malaysia (NPOA 2008). However, this remains a challenge as many locals depend on sea turtles for their livelihood (Mohd Jani et al. 2020). Additionally, the legislation is complex and differs at federal and state levels. Malaysia is a federation of 13 states and the federal territory is divided into two regions, i.e. Peninsular Malaysia (with 11 states) and East Malaysia (with 2 states – Sabah and Sarawak). In Malaysia, the authority to enact law is separated between the federal and state governments through Acts of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies respectively (Zulkifli and Sankar 2011). The Federal government does not have complete jurisdiction over matters related to sea turtles. All matters related to the regulation and monitoring of sea turtles are listed in the State Legislature (Zulkifli and Sankar 2011).

Table A1.1: In Malaysia, sea turtle related legislation operates under the international, federal and state levels. (Own synthesis based on Tan 2004, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia 2009, Zulkifli and Sankar 2011, Abd Mutalib et al. 2013).

Level	Legislation	Aspects that are prohibited
International	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 1973 - Sea turtles are listed in Appendix I of CITES	International trade of sea turtles and their products
Federal	Fisheries Act (1985)	Illegal trade, capture, killing of sea turtles
	Customs (Prohibition of Imports) Order (1988) and the Customs (Prohibition of Exports) Order (1988)	Nesting disturbance or physical injuries inflicted Bans the import and export of sea turtles
State (E.g. Terengganu State)	Enact the rules of Fisheries Act (1985) Terengganu Turtles Enactment 1951 (Amended 1989)	Killing of sea turtles Removing or destroying eggs without a licence – Penalties of up to 3000 MYR and imprisonment