



Absender:

Her Excellency
The Ambassador of India
Ms. Meera Shankar
Tiergartenstr.17

10785 Berlin

7th April 2006

Protection of the Olive Ridley Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)

Dear Ms. Shankar,

every year in your country, along the beaches of the state Orissa, an astonishing spectacle takes place. Hundred thousands of female Olive Ridley Turtles conquer the three beaches of the Bengalian Gulf. They have come to lay their eggs yet another time. The future of this unique species is increasingly threatened by human activities. When visiting an event hosted by Greenpeace I was given profound information about this wonderful creature. I think that its extinction would mean an irreplaceable loss. Therefore I would like to support the following demands as formulated by Greenpeace:

1. The recommendations of the Central Empowered Committee, established by the Supreme Court of India, be immediately implemented such that:
 - The Forest Department of Orissa is provided with the required resources (personnel, speed boats etc) and directed to protect the Olive Ridley turtles.
 - The no-fishing zones are physically demarcated, so that they are visible to fishermen.
 - Re-examine proposed mega projects such as the Dhamra Port for their impacts on turtles and the rich but fragile coastal ecosystem of Orissa.

2. Effective utilisation of resources to "promote alternative livelihood schemes and community conservation" in consultation with the fishing communities, with the scope to reduce fishing pressure in the area.

I urge you, as a representative of India, to do everything you possibly can in order to save the Olive Ridley Turtle from extinction

Kind regards,