

Green turtle *Chelonia mydas* (Linnaeus, 1758) washed ashore at Visakhapatnam

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A green turtle, *Chelonia mydas* (Linnaeus, 1758), the largest of the sea turtles, was found dead on the sandy shores of Visakhapatnam on 3rd August 2012. It is probable that it was hit by a boat propeller and washed ashore. It is a matter of concern since green turtles are endangered and are protected as per various international agreements. Green turtles are classified as endangered by the World Conservation Union (Baillie and Groombridge, 1996). They are listed in Annexure II of the SPAW (a Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife), Appendix I of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) and Appendices I and II of the Convention



Green turtle *Chelonia mydas* stranded at Visakhapatnam

on Migratory Species (CMS). The species is also included in the annexures of the Western Hemisphere Convention, intended to convey that their protection is of “special urgency and importance”

(Eckert, 1995). Green turtles are vulnerable to several anthropogenic and environmental threats. Mortality associated with entanglement in marine fisheries is the primary incidental threat.