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**Title of presentation:** [Marine Turtle Illegal Trade in the Southwest Coastal part of Bangladesh](#)

**Abstract:**

There are eight species of Marine turtle in the world. Five species are nesting in Bangladesh of which Olive Ridley (OR) (*Lepidochelys olivacea* – Jolpai kochhop) and Green Turtle (GT) – (*Chelonia mydas*) are the two species found in Sundarbans aquatic ecosystems. All marine turtle species are Critically Endangered and Endangered (IUCN Red Data Book) due to illegal trade, do not use TED by the fishermen, no effective implementation of the government regulation, no clear conception about the potential of turtle among fishermen, local people, government officials. Olive Ridley turtle is a common species in the southwest coastal part of Bangladesh. Olive Ridley turtle has various local names such as brojobashi, goj-kata, pankha kasim, shagorer-kata. Every year thousand and thousand fishermen from Chittagong, Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira with Boat License Certificate (BLC) from the Forest Department are engaged in fishing and fish-drying at dubla, alorkol and other fishing islands of the Sundarbans during winter season in the months of November-February. Marine turtle particularly Olive Ridley Turtle are caught by fishing net because fishermen don't use TED in their fishing net because they are not familiar about TEDs and plight of marine turtles and their conservation need. As a result most of the marine turtle (55 to 60%) die into the fishing net due to the water current. On the other hand the rest of the turtles sell in the coastal markets. Some time Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and River terrapin (*Batagur baska*) are caught their fishing net. So this is common scenery to openly sell critically endangered Olive Ridley turtle meats in the public place at coastal area of Bangladesh during December to March every year. They collected the marine turtle average weight 12-14 kg Tk 1000-1100/turtle from the fishermen of Bay of Bengal and they sold meat Tk 120-130/kg in the different coastal markets. One's upon a time when the fishermen caught the marine turtle then they killed it or rescue it because marine turtle could not sell but now a days the marine turtles to sell due to minimization of freshwater turtles. The turtle trader, consumer informed us that they are not aware the Govt rules and regulation for marine turtle trading. It is to be mentioned that marine turtle are protected under the Bangladesh Wildlife Preservation Act. Bangladesh being a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Memorandum on the Indian Ocean Sea Turtle Conservation need to take appropriate measures for the conservation and management of marine turtles. All marine turtles are globally endangered. The female marine turtles travel more than thousand of kilometers to come to nest on the beaches of Bangladesh but unfortunately get caught in the fishermen's nets when they are either killed or drowned. So we can easily say that the marine turtle business is continuing this system the turtle population will be decrease. Global aquatic ecosystem/biodiversity will be endangered.