

Project Update: January 2015

So far I have conducted more than 50 interviews with five basic types of conservation actors: the Forest Department, NGOs and individuals who are part of an informal network (the Odisha Marine Resources Conservation Consortium), activists – wildlife and fisheries, artisanal and trawl fishers and researchers. Some of the topics explored were what people identified as major threats to turtles, what conservation practices they follow, their yardsticks for success, challenges faced and future plans. I have also been documenting social consequences of protectionism in the Gahirmatha area by interviewing residents of adjoining villages. I used this data to provide input during a public hearing on the proposal to declare an ecosensitive zone around the sanctuary. In addition, along with researchers from the Dakshin Foundation, I served as a resource person for two community-training workshops on turtle monitoring organised by APOWA (also a Rufford grantee) and the Forest Department.

