



Summary of IUCN - DPCL Phase II Partnership

IUCN and The Dhamra Port Company Limited (DPCL), a joint venture of Tata Steel and Larsen & Toubro signed an agreement in 2007 with the aim of:

- (a) Avoiding, minimizing and mitigating the impacts of Dhamra Port development on turtles; and compensating or off-setting any residual impact that cannot be avoided or reasonably mitigated;
- (b) Improving the project's performance in other aspects of environment, e.g. terrestrial environment as affected by the access roads, railway lines and other secondary developments; and
- (c) Contributing to raising national and global standards for environmentally responsible development of mega projects.

These options were developed through the results of an immediate-needs assessment carried out by IUCN and DPCL officials in December 2006. Phase 1 of the project has now been successfully concluded and its results can be viewed at www.iucn.org/india/dhamra.

Phase II of the engagement builds on previous work. Specifically, Phase II will address two main issues:

- (a) The development of a sound Environmental Management Plan which will address direct and indirect impacts of the port development on the surrounding environment; and,
- (b) Continued conservation of olive ridley turtles through research and conservation actions, including addressing fishery by-catch.

Apart from turtle research and conservation, IUCN believes that DPCL, being a catalyst for future developments in the area, could spearhead a number of initiatives to address issues concerning local communities and habitats as part of its corporate social and environmental responsibility. In all cases, IUCN will attempt to work with it's network of commissions and members.

1. IUCN will field an expert team to explore possibilities of using renewable sources of energy in the port township as well as in the peripheral villages around the port area.
2. IUCN will field an expert team to suggest ways of improving the mangrove vegetation on the mainland, south and north of the port area as well as on some of the islands where mangroves have traditionally existed.