



One of the important nesting beaches of hawksbill turtle nearby Nias island and a small shop in Gunung sitoli, Nias where tortoiseshell souvenirs are sold.



The other photo from the shop in Nias. Similarly as in other areas the tortoiseshell is present in small shops. It is usually not a substantial part of income of local people. These souvenirs are usually together with other gifts and clothes.



Since we have visited especially island areas, the most important type of transport was by boats and ferries. We had to spend many nights on the ferries during our field work.



The hawksbill turtle in her natural habitat - coral reef. Hawksbill turtles have important role in the coral reef ecosystems since they maintain its balance by removing sponges from corals.



The habitat of hawksbill turtle from the boat. When mature they inhabit mainly shallow tropical waters that are abundant on coral reefs.



Photos from a shop in Medan. The range of products was similar as in other areas - mainly bracelets and rings.



Green turtle - another species of sea turtle in Indonesia. Both green turtle and hawksbill turtle nest in many island areas in Sumatra. Green turtle the second largest sea turtle - its carapace has more than 1 meter in length while hawksbill's turtle carapace has 70 centimeter maximum length of carapace.



Local fishermen were the most important informants regarding tortoiseshell trade. They are also often main sellers of raw tortoiseshell to craftsmen and vendors.