



## Academic Field Visit – Kosgoda, Induruwa and Bentota Sea Turtle Conservation Zone

Second-year undergraduates from the Department of Geography participated in an academic field visit to Kosgoda, Induruwa, and Bentota, three prominent coastal sites along the South-Western shoreline of Sri Lanka. Organized as part of the Biogeography (GGY2027) course and guided by Dr. Isthikar Aarif, this field trip aimed to examine the ecological significance of sea turtle nesting habitats and assess conservation practices in these biodiverse coastal regions.

During the visit on 29th April 2025, students investigated the unique nesting behaviors and incubation processes of sea turtles while identifying threats from natural predators, human disturbances, and climate-related events. They toured several leading conservation centers—Marine Conservation Centre, Vector H. Conservation Centre, A & A Conservation Centre, Galbokka Conservation Centre, and Kosgoda Conservation Centre—where they learned about hatchery operations, tank water quality, funding sources, and the collaborative efforts between government bodies and local communities in protecting endangered species.



This field-based learning experience enhanced students' awareness of coastal ecosystem dynamics and strengthened their understanding of biodiversity conservation and environmental management. By connecting classroom theory with hands-on observation, the trip inspired students to engage with real-world ecological challenges.