

Green sea turtle

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The **green sea turtle** (*Chelonia mydas*), also known as the **green turtle**, **black (sea) turtle**, or **Pacific green turtle**,^[3] is a large sea turtle of the family Cheloniidae. It is the only species in the genus *Chelonia*.^[4] Its range extends throughout tropical and subtropical seas around the world, with two distinct populations in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.^[5] The common name comes from the usually green fat found beneath its carapace.

This sea turtle's dorsoventrally flattened body is covered by a large, teardrop-shaped carapace; it has a pair of large, paddle-like flippers. It is usually lightly colored, although in the eastern Pacific populations parts of the carapace can be almost black. Unlike other members of its family, such as the hawksbill sea turtle, *C. mydas* is mostly herbivorous. The adults usually inhabit shallow lagoons, feeding mostly on various species of seagrasses.^[6]

Like other sea turtles, green sea turtles migrate long distances between feeding grounds and hatching beaches. Many islands worldwide are known as Turtle Island due to green sea turtles nesting on their beaches. Females crawl out on beaches, dig nests and lay eggs during the night. Later, hatchlings emerge and scramble into the water. Those that reach maturity may live to eighty years in the wild.^[5]

C. mydas is listed as endangered by the IUCN and CITES and is protected from exploitation in most countries.^[7] It is illegal to collect, harm or kill them. In addition, many countries have laws and ordinances to protect nesting areas. However, turtles are still in danger due to human activity. In some countries, turtles and their eggs are hunted for food. Pollution indirectly harms turtles at both population and individual scales. Many turtles die caught in fishing nets. Also, real estate development often causes habitat loss by eliminating nesting beaches.

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Green sea turtle



Chelonia mydas swimming above a Hawaiian coral reef

Conservation status



Endangered (IUCN 3.1)^[1]

Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Reptilia
Order:	Testudines
Suborder:	Cryptodira
Family:	Cheloniidae
Genus:	<i>Chelonia</i>
	Brongniart, 1800
Species:	<i>C. mydas</i>

Binomial name

Chelonia mydas

(Linnaeus, 1758 [originally *Testudo*])

Synonyms^[2]

Species synonymy

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Taxonomy

The green sea turtle is a member of the tribe Chelonini. A 1993 study clarified the status of genus *Chelonia* with respect to the other marine turtles. The carnivorous *Eretmochelys* (hawksbill), *Caretta* (loggerhead) and *Lepidochelys* (Ridley) were assigned to the tribe Caretteni. Herbivorous *Chelonia* warranted their status as a genus, while *Natator* (flatback) was further removed from the other genera than previously believed.^[8]

The species was originally described by Linnaeus in 1758 as *Testudo mydas*.^[9] In 1868, Marie Firmin Bocourt named a particular species of sea turtle *Chelonia agassizii*.^{[10][11]} This "species" was referred to as the "black sea turtle".^[12] Later research determined Bocourt's "black sea turtle" was not genetically distinct from *C. mydas*, and thus taxonomically not a separate species.^[13] These two "species" were then united as *Chelonia mydas* and populations were given subspecies status: *C. mydas mydas* referred to the originally described population, while *C. mydas agassizi* referred only to the Pacific population known as the Galápagos green turtle.^{[14][15]} This subdivision was later determined to be invalid and all species members were then designated *Chelonia mydas*.^[4] The oft-mentioned name *C. agassizi* remains an invalid junior synonym of *C. mydas*.

The species' common name does not derive from any particular green external coloration of the turtle. Its name comes from the greenish color of the turtles' fat, which is only found in a layer between their inner organs and their shell.^[16] As a species found worldwide, the green turtle is called differently in some languages and dialects. In the Hawaiian language, *honu* is used to refer to this species.^[17]



Female returning to the sea after nesting in Redang Island, Malaysia



Immature Hawaiian *C. mydas*



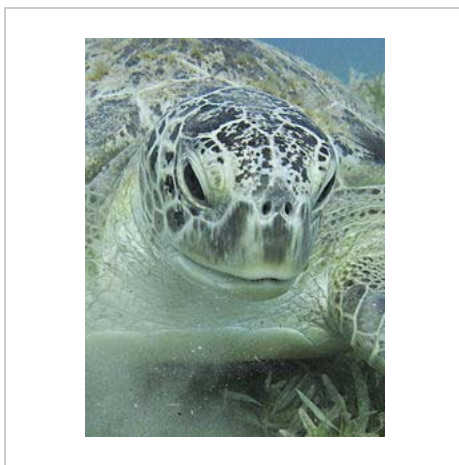
Swimming in a Mexican coral reef



Heading for the ocean on a beach at the Pu'uuhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park



Green sea turtle near Marsa Alam, Egypt



Green sea turtle near Marsa Alam, Egypt



Green sea turtle, image showing total internal reflection

Diet

Adult green sea turtles mostly eat marine plant life such as kelp and algae, while juveniles have a more

carnivorous diet.

Description

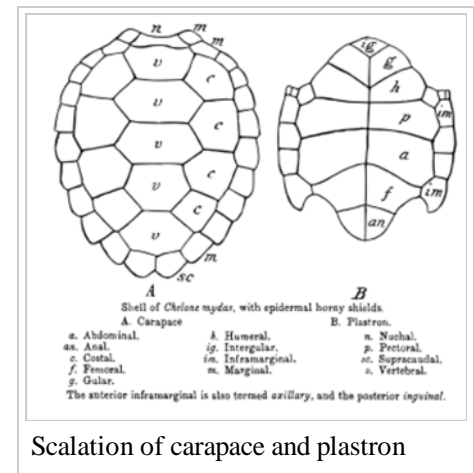
Its appearance is that of a typical sea turtle. *C. mydas* has a dorsoventrally flattened body, a beaked head at the end of a short neck, and paddle-like arms well-adapted for swimming.^[18] Adult green turtles grow to 1.5 metres (5 ft) long.^[19] The average weight of mature individuals is 68–190 kg (150–419 lb) and the average carapace length is 78–112 cm (31–44 in).^[20] Exceptional specimens can weigh 315 kg (694 lb) or even more, with the largest known *C. mydas* having weighed 395 kg (871 lb) and measured 153 cm (60 in) in carapace length.^[21]

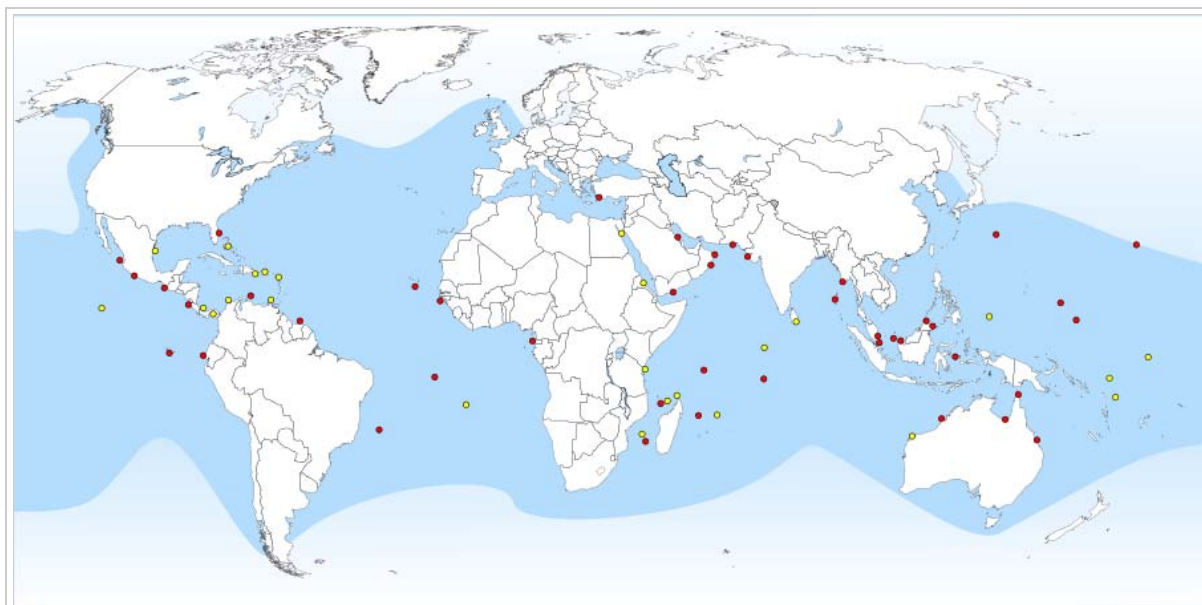
Anatomically, a few characteristics distinguish the green turtle from the other members of its family. Unlike the closely related hawksbill turtle, the green turtle's snout is very short and its beak is unhooked. The sheath of the turtle's upper jaw possesses a denticulated edge, while its lower jaw has stronger, serrated, more defined denticulation. The dorsal surface of the turtle's head has a single pair of prefrontal scales. Its carapace is composed of five central scutes flanked by four pairs of lateral scutes. Underneath, the green turtle has four pairs of inframarginal scutes covering the area between the turtle's plastron and its shell. Mature *C. mydas* front appendages have only a single claw (as opposed to the hawksbill's two), although a second claw is sometimes prominent in young specimens.^[22]

The carapace of the turtle has various color patterns that change over time. Hatchlings of *Chelonia mydas*, like those of other marine turtles, have mostly black carapaces and light-colored plastrons. Carapaces of juveniles turn dark brown to olive, while those of mature adults are either entirely brown, spotted or marbled with variegated rays. Underneath, the turtle's plastron is hued yellow. *C. mydas* limbs are dark-colored and lined with yellow, and are usually marked with a large dark brown spot in the center of each appendage.^{[5][23]}

Distribution

The range of *C. mydas* extends throughout tropical and subtropical oceans worldwide. There are two major subpopulations, the Atlantic and the eastern Pacific subpopulations. Each population is genetically distinct, with their own set of nesting and feeding grounds within the population's known range.^[5]





C. mydas distribution, the red circles are known major nesting sites. Yellow circles represent minor nesting locations.

Atlantic subpopulation

Chelonia mydas can generally be found throughout the Atlantic Ocean. Individuals have been spotted as far north as Canada in the western Atlantic, and the British Isles in the east. The subpopulation's southern range is known until past the southern tip of Africa in the east and Argentina in the western Atlantic. The major nesting sites can be found on various islands in the Caribbean, along the eastern shores of the continental United States, the eastern coast of the South American continent and most notably, on isolated North Atlantic islands.

In the Caribbean, major nesting sites have been identified on Aves Island, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Costa Rica. In recent years there are signs of increased nesting in the Cayman Islands.^[24] One of the region's most important nesting grounds is in Tortuguero in Costa Rica.^[25] In fact, the majority of the Caribbean region's *C. mydas* population hails from a few beaches in Tortuguero.^[26] Within United States waters, minor nesting sites have been noted in the states of Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and all along the east coast of Florida. Hutchinson Island in particular is a major nesting area in Florida waters. Notable locations in South America include secluded beaches in Suriname and French Guiana.^[27] In the Southern Atlantic Ocean, the most notable nesting grounds for *Chelonia mydas* are found on the island of Ascension,^[18] hosts 6,000–13,000 turtle nests.^{[28][29][30]}

In contrast with the sporadic distribution of nesting sites, feeding grounds are much more widely distributed throughout the region. Important feeding grounds in Florida include Indian River Lagoon, the Florida Keys, Florida Bay, Homosassa, Crystal River, and Cedar Key.^{[18][31]}

Indo-Pacific subpopulation

In the Pacific, its range reaches as far north as the southern coast of Alaska and as far south as Chile in the east. The turtle's distribution in the western Pacific reaches north to Japan and southern parts of Russia's Pacific coast, and as far south as the northern tip of New Zealand and a few islands south of Tasmania. The turtles can be found throughout the Indian Ocean.^[32]

Significant nesting grounds are scattered throughout the entire Pacific region, including Mexico, the Hawaiian Islands, the South Pacific, the northern coast of Australia, and Southeast Asia. Major Indian Ocean nesting colonies include India, Pakistan, and other coastal countries. The east coast of the African continent



About to break the surface for air at Kona, Hawaii

hosts a few nesting grounds, including islands in the waters around Madagascar.^[32]

Nesting grounds are found all along the Mexican coast. These turtles feed in seagrass pastures in the Gulf of California.^[33] Green turtles belonging to the distinct Hawaiian subpopulation nest at the protected French Frigate Shoals some 800 kilometers (500 mi) west of the Hawaiian Islands.^[17] In the Philippines, green turtles nest in the Turtle Islands along with closely related hawksbill turtles.^[34] Indonesia has a few nesting beaches, one in the Meru Betiri National Reserve in East Java.^[35] The Coral Sea has nesting areas of world significance.^[36] The Great Barrier Reef has two genetically distinct populations; one north and one south. Within the reef, twenty separate locations

consisting of small islands and cays were identified as nesting sites for either population of *C. mydas*. Of these, the most important is on Raine Island.^{[37][38]} Major nesting sites are common on either side of the Arabian Sea, both in Ash Sharqiyah, Oman, and along the coast of Karachi, Pakistan. Some specific beaches there, such as Hawke's Bay and Sandspit, are common to both *C. mydas* and *L. olivacea* subpopulation. Sandy beaches along Sindh and Balochistan are nesting sites. Some 25 kilometers (16 mi) off the Pakistani coast, Astola island is another nesting beach.^{[6][39][40]}

On 30 December 2007, fishermen using a *hulbot-hulbot* (a type of fishnet) accidentally caught an 80 kg (180 lb), 93 cm (37 in) and 82 cm (32 in) wide, turtle off Barangay Bolong, Zamboanga City, Philippines. December is breeding season near the Bolong beach.^[41]

Ecology and behavior



Swimming, Hawaii

As one of the first sea turtle species studied, much of what is known of sea turtle ecology comes from studies of green turtles. The ecology of *C. mydas* changes drastically with each stage of its life history. Newly emerged hatchlings are carnivorous, pelagic organisms, part of the open ocean mininekton. In contrast, immature juveniles and adults are commonly found in seagrass meadows closer inshore as herbivorous grazers.

Habitat

Green sea turtles move across three habitat types, depending on their life stage. They lay eggs on beaches. Mature turtles spend most of their time in shallow, coastal waters with lush seagrass beds. Adults frequent inshore bays, lagoons and shoals with lush seagrass meadows. Entire generations often migrate between one pair of feeding and nesting areas.^[18]



Green Sea Turtle grazing on seagrass

Turtles spend most of their first five years in convergence zones within the bare open ocean that surround them.^{[6][42]} These young turtles are rarely seen as they swim in deep, pelagic waters.^{[43][44]} Green sea turtles typically swim at 2.5–3 km/h (1.6–1.9 mph).^[45]

Predators

Only human beings and the larger sharks feed on *C. mydas* adults. Specifically, tiger sharks (*Galeocerdo cuvier*) hunt adults in Hawaiian waters.^[46] Juveniles and new hatchlings have significantly more predators,

including crabs, small marine mammals and shorebirds.^[5] In Turkey, their eggs are vulnerable to predation by red foxes and golden jackals.^[47]

Life cycle

Green sea turtles migrate long distances between feeding sites and nesting sites; some swim more than 2,600 kilometres (1,600 mi) to reach their spawning grounds. Mature turtles often return to the exact beach from which they hatched. Females usually mate every two to four years. Males, on the other hand, visit the breeding areas every year, attempting to mate.^[48] Mating seasons vary between populations. For most *C. mydas* in the Caribbean, mating season is from June to September.^[18] The French Guiana nesting subpopulation nests from March to June.^[27] In the tropics, green turtles nest throughout the year, although some subpopulations prefer particular times of the year. In Pakistan, Indian Ocean turtles nest year-round, but prefer the months of July to December.^[39]



Hatchling

Green sea turtles mating is similar to other marine turtles. Female turtles control the process. A few populations practice polyandry, although this does not seem to benefit hatchlings.^[49] After mating in the water, the female moves above the beach's high tide line, where she digs a hole with her hind flippers and deposits her eggs. Clutch size depends on the age of the female and species, but can range between 100 and 200. She then covers the nest with sand and returns to the sea.^[5]

At around 100 to 150 days, the eggs hatch during the night, and the hatchlings instinctively head directly into the water. This is the most dangerous time in a turtle's life. As they walk, predators, such as gulls and crabs, feed on them. A significant percentage never make it to the ocean. Little is known of the initial life history of newly hatched sea turtles.^[18] Juveniles spend three to five years in the open ocean before they settle as still-immature juveniles into their permanent shallow-water lifestyle.^{[43][44]} It is speculated that they take twenty to fifty years to reach sexual maturity. Individuals live up to eighty years in the wild.^[5] It is estimated that only 1% of hatchlings reach sexual maturity.^[50]

Each year on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic, *C. mydas* females create 6,000 to 25,000 nests. They are among the largest green turtles in the world; many are more than a metre in length and weigh up to 300 kilograms (660 lb).^[51]

Breathing and sleep

Sea turtles spend almost all their lives submerged, but must breathe air for the oxygen needed to meet the demands of vigorous activity. With a single explosive exhalation and rapid inhalation, sea turtles can quickly replace the air in their lungs. The lungs permit a rapid exchange of oxygen and prevent gases from being trapped during deep dives. Sea turtle blood can deliver oxygen efficiently to body tissues even at the pressures encountered during diving. During routine activity, green and loggerhead turtles dive for about four to five minutes, and surface to breathe for one to three seconds.

Turtles can rest or sleep underwater for several hours at a time, but submergence time is much shorter while diving for food or to escape predators. Breath-holding ability is affected by activity and stress, which is why turtles quickly drown in shrimp trawlers and other fishing gear.^[22]

Importance to humans

Historically, the turtles' skin was tanned and used to make handbags, especially in Hawaii.^[17] Ancient



Harvested green turtles on a wharf at Key West, Florida

Chinese considered the flesh of sea turtles a culinary delicacy, including and especially *C. mydas*.^[52] Particularly for this species, the turtle's calipee, fat and cartilage are sought as ingredients for making turtle soup, a popular 19th century American dish.^[16]

In Java, Indonesia, sea turtle eggs were a popular delicacy. However, the turtle's flesh is regarded as *ḥarām* or "unclean" under Islamic law (Islam is Java's primary religion). In Bali, turtle meat was a prominent feature at ceremonial and religious feasts. Turtles were harvested in the remotest parts of the Indonesian archipelago.^[53] Bali has been importing sea turtles since the 1950s, as its own turtle supplies became depleted.^[54] The mostly Hindu Balinese do not eat the eggs, but sell them instead to local Muslims.

Commercial farms, such as the Cayman Turtle Farm in the West Indies, once bred them for commercial sale of turtle meat, turtle oil (rendered from the fat), turtle shell, and turtle leather made from the skin. The farm's initial stock was in large part from "doomed" eggs removed from nests threatened by erosion, flooding, or in chemically hostile soil.^[55] The farms held as many as 100,000 turtles at any one time. When the international markets were closed by regulations that did not allow even farm-bred turtle products to be exported internationally, the surviving farm became primarily a tourist attraction, supporting 11,000 turtles.^[56] Initially started as Mariculture Ltd., then Cayman Turtle Farm Ltd and subsequently branded Boatswain's Beach, in 2010 the farm's brandname was changed to Cayman Turtle Farm: Island Wildlife Encounter.^[57]

Sea turtles are integral to the history and culture of the Cayman Islands. When the islands were first discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1503, he named them "Las Tortugas" because of the abundance of sea turtles in the waters around the islands.^[58] Many of the earliest visitors came to the Cayman Islands to capture the turtles as a source of fresh meat during long voyages. The Green Turtle is a national symbol displayed as part of the Coat of Arms of the Cayman Islands, which also forms part of the national flag of the Cayman Islands. The country's currency uses a turtle as the watermark in its banknotes.^[59] A stylised sea turtle nicknamed "Sir Turtle" is the mascot of the national airline Cayman Airways^[60] and is part of the livery of its aircraft.

A *ki' pohaku* (petroglyph) of a turtle (or *honu*) can be found on The Big Island of Hawaii in the Pu'u Loa lava fields. The green sea turtle (called *Honu*) has always held a special meaning for Hawaiians and this petroglyph shows its importance dating to possibly when the islands first became populated. The turtle symbolizes a navigator that can find his way home time after time. This symbol mirrors the real life of the green Hawaiian turtle as it will swim hundreds of miles to lay its eggs at its own place of birth. Though there are other myths as well, some Hawaiian legends say the *honu* were the first to guide the Polynesians to the Hawaiian Islands. Hawaiians revere the turtle and the legend of Kailua, a turtle who could take the form of a girl at will. In human form, she looked after the children playing on Punalu'u beach.^[61]

Conservation



In a public aquarium

In recent decades, sea turtles have moved from unrestricted exploitation to global protection, with individual countries providing additional protection, although serious threats remain unabated.

Threats

Human action presents both intentional and unintentional threats to the species' survival. Intentional threats include continued hunting, poaching and egg harvesting. More dangerous are unintentional

threats, including boat strikes, fishermen's nets that lack turtle excluder devices, pollution and habitat destruction. Chemical pollution may create tumors;^[62] effluent from harbors near nesting sites may create disturbances; and light pollution may disorient hatchlings. Habitat loss usually occurs due to human development of nesting areas. Beach-front construction, land "reclamation" and increased tourism are examples of such development.^{[5][6]} An infectious tumor-causing disease, fibropapillomatosis, is also a problem in some populations. The disease kills a sizeable fraction of those it infects, though some individuals seem to resist the disease.^{[17][63][64]} Because of these threats, many populations are in a vulnerable state.

Pacific green turtles' foraging habitats are poorly understood and mostly unknown.^[65] These foraging grounds are most likely along the coast of Baja California, Mexico and southern California,^[66] in which these turtles have a high risk of incidental capture by coastal fisheries. The main mortality factor for these turtles is the shrimp trawlers in Mexico, in which many of these turtles go undocumented.^[66] The only foraging area that has been identified is the San Diego Bay, but it is heavily polluted with metals and PCBs.^[66] These contaminants have a negative effect on the ocean environment, and have been shown to cause lesions and sometimes mortality.^[66] Green turtles also are threatened by entanglement and ingestion of plastic.^[66] In San Diego Bay, an adult green turtle was found dead with monofilament netting tightly packed in its esophagus.^[66]



A poached green turtle in Costa Rica

Global initiatives

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has repeatedly listed green sea turtles in its Red List under differing criteria. In 1982, they officially classified it as an endangered species.^[67] The 1986,^[68] 1988,^[69] 1990,^[70] 1994,^[71] and the landmark 1996 edition of the IUCN Red List, retained the listing.^[72]

In 2001, Nicholas Mrosovsky filed a delisting petition, claiming some green turtle populations were large, stable and in some cases, increasing. At the time, the species was listed under the strict EN A1abd criteria. The IUCN Standards and Petitions Subcommittee ruled that visual counts of nesting females could not be considered "direct observation" and thus downgraded the species' status to EN A1bd—retaining the turtle's endangered status.^[73]

In 2004, the IUCN reclassified *C. mydas* as endangered under the EN A2bd criteria, which essentially states the wild populations face a high risk of extinction because of several factors. These factors include a probable population reduction of more than 50% over the past decade as estimated from abundance indices and by projecting exploitation levels.^[74]

On 3 May 2007, *C. mydas* was listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) as a member of the family Cheloniidae.^[75] The species was originally listed on Appendix II in 1975. The entire family was moved to Appendix I in 1977, with the exception of the Australian population of *C. mydas*. In 1981, the Australian population joined the rest. It is therefore illegal to import, export, kill, capture or harass green turtles.^[76]

The Mediterranean population is listed as critically endangered.^{[5][16]} The eastern Pacific, Hawaiian and Southern California subpopulations are designated threatened. Specific Mexican subpopulations are listed as endangered. The Florida population is listed as endangered. The World Wide Fund for Nature has labeled populations in Pakistan as "rare and declining".^[40]

It should be noted that in the State of Hawaii, specifically on the Island of Hawaii (Hawaii County), state

representative Faye Hanohano, a Native Hawaiian rights activist, is pressing for a measure to delist *C. mydas* from protected status so that Native Hawaiians can legally harvest the turtles and possibly their eggs as well. This has been largely overlooked by the media since, at this point, it is only a local issue. The bill is HCR14.

Country-specific initiatives



At the Osaka Aquarium, profile photo of turtle resting on bottom

In addition to management by global entities such as the IUCN and CITES, specific countries around the world have undertaken conservation efforts.

The traditional uses of turtle on Bali were once deemed sustainable, but have been questioned considering greater demand from the larger and wealthier human population. The harvest was the most intensive in the world.^[53] In 1999, Indonesia restricted turtle trade and consumption because of the decreasing population and threat of a tourist boycott. It rejected a request made by Bali Governor I Made Mangku Pastika in November 2009 to set a quota of 1,000 turtles to be killed in Hindu religious ceremonies. While conservationists

respect the need for turtles in rituals, they wanted a smaller quota.^[77]

Ecotourism is one initiative in Sabah, Malaysia. The island of Pulau Selingan is home to a turtle hatchery. Staff people place some of the eggs laid each night in a hatchery to protect them from predators. Incubation takes around sixty days. When the eggs hatch, tourists assist in the release of the baby turtles into the sea.^[78] In the United States, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and National Marine Fisheries Service classify *C. mydas* as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act,^[79] rendering it a federal offense for unauthorized personnel to come within 10 feet of, molest, capture or kill an individual turtle. Because of this law, the Hawaiian subpopulation has made a remarkable comeback and is now one focus of ecotourism and has become something of a state mascot. Students of Hawaii Preparatory Academy on the Big Island have tagged thousands of specimens since the early 1990s.^[17] In the United Kingdom the species is protected by a Biodiversity Action Plan, due to excess harvesting and marine pollution.^[80] The Pakistani-branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature has been initiating projects for secure turtle hatching since the 1980s. However, the population has continued to decline.^[6]

In the Atlantic, conservation initiatives have centered around Caribbean nesting sites. The Tortuguero nesting beaches in Costa Rica have been the subject of egg-collection limits since the 1950s. The Tortuguero National Park was formally established in 1976, in part, to protect that region's nesting grounds.^[25] On Ascension Island, which contains some of the most important nesting beaches, an active conservation program has been implemented.,^[81] Karumbé has been monitoring foraging and developmental areas of juvenile green turtles in Uruguay since 1999.^[82]

Cayman Turtle Farm located in Grand Cayman in the northwest Caribbean Sea is the first farm to have achieved the second generation of Green Sea turtles bred, laid, hatched, and raised in captivity.^[83] Since its beginning in 1968, the farm has released over 31,000 turtles into the wild,^[58] and each year more captive-bred turtles are released into the Caribbean Sea from beaches around the island of Grand Cayman.^[84] Captive-bred turtles released from the farm as hatchlings or yearlings with "living tags," have now begun to return to nest on Grand Cayman as adults.^{[85][86]} On February 19, 2012 the farm released the first 2nd-generation captive-bred Green Sea turtle equipped with a Position Tracking (http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/index.shtml?tag_id=112227&full=1) Transponder – PTT (also known as a satellite tag).^[87] In addition, the farm provides turtle meat products to the local population for whom turtle has been part of the traditional cuisine for centuries. In so doing, the farm curtails the incentive to take turtles from the wild,^[88] which over the years in addition to the Cayman Turtle Farm's release of captive-bred turtles has enabled an increase in the number of turtles sighted in the waters around the island of Grand Cayman and

nesting on its beaches.^[89]

In the Pacific, green sea turtles nest on the *motu* (islets) in the Funafuti Conservation Area, a marine conservation area covering 33 square kilometers (12.74 square miles) of reef, lagoon and *motu* on the western side of Funafuti atoll in Tuvalu.^[90]

Genetics

The genome of *Chelonia mydas* was sequenced in 2013 to examine the development and evolution of the turtle body plan.^[91]

See also

- Chelonioidea – the sea turtle superfamily.
- Galápagos green turtle
- Sea Turtle Association of Japan, Kuroshima Research Station
- T.K. Bellis The "Turtle King".

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External links

- Images and movies (*Chelonia mydas*) (http://www.arkive.org/species/GES/reptiles/Chelonia_mydas/)—ARKive
- US National Marine Fisheries Service green sea turtle page (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/turtles/green.htm>)
- Floridian and Mexican populations (<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/turtles/green.html>)—US Fish and Wildlife Service
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