

Sea Turtle Fact Sheet

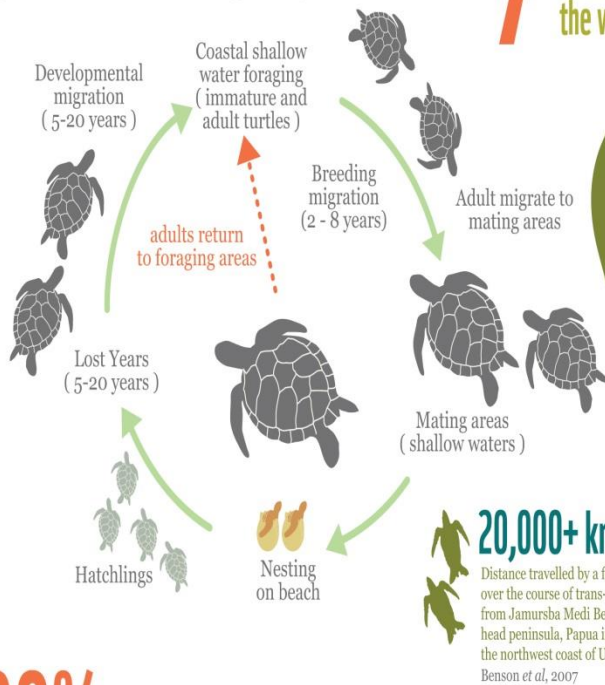


TURTLES IN THE CORAL TRIANGLE

Long before humans appeared in the Coral Triangle, marine turtles were already swimming the region's seas and laying eggs on its beaches. These iconic species are not only crucial links in the Coral Triangle's ecosystems, they also attract visitors from all around the world.

MARINE TURTLE LIFE-CYCLE

This life cycle is based on a green turtle life-cycle. Leatherback adults forage in open seas as well as coastal areas, and some loggerheads may too.



7 Number of marine turtle species in the world

6 Number of marine turtle species that either forage, breed or nest in the Coral Triangle

OVER 3000
Number of leatherbacks nesting per year in the late 1960s in Terengganu, Malaysia

0
Number of leatherbacks nesting in the same location in 2000

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Specialist Area from
the Department
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Deadly threats at every life stage

- Illegal trade and direct consumption (meat, eggs, shell, leather, curios)
- Bycatch (trawlers, longlines, gill nets)
- Habitat destruction and alteration (coastal tourism, industrial development)
- Pollution
- Disease
- Climate change

90%
Percentage of hatchlings that do not survive for more than a year.



Eggs incubated above about 30° C tend to develop into females, and those incubated below about 28° C develop into males. Global warming could skew sex ratios, resulting in more females.
Hawkes *et al*, 2007

Warming regional ocean temperatures could lead to long-term decreased food supply and reduced loggerhead turtle nesting.
Chaloupka *et al*, 2008

4,950 Number of turtles caught each year as bycatch by Indonesian longline vessels only
Research Centre For Capture Fisheries Indonesia Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (PRPT)

CORAL TRIANGLE MARINE TURTLES & THEIR PROTECTION STATUS

Hawksbill
Eretmochelys imbricata
CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Leatherback
Dermochelys coriacea
CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Loggerhead
Caretta caretta
ENDANGERED

Green turtle
Chelonia mydas
ENDANGERED

Olive ridley
Lepidochelys olivacea
VULNERABLE

Flatback
Natator depressus
DATA DEFICIENT

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The Coral Triangle - the nursery of the seas - is the most diverse marine region on the planet, covering some 6 million km² of ocean across 6 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. This ecological wonder is home to 76% of the world's reef-building coral species and 6 out the 7 known species of marine turtles.