



## Sea Turtles Species and Conservation

### Flatback Turtle *Natator depressus*

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Reptiles



WWF Ecoregion  
+ Tropical upwellings

CARN  
Foodweb Role

Carapace Length	76-96 cm
Adult Weight	70 - 100 kg
Lifespan	100 years (high)
Clutch Size	50 eggs (avg)
Nest Type	Pit in sand

DD  
IUCN Redlist™

**Geographic Range & Nesting Habitat**  
Range: Native to Australia  
Nesting Area: Australia  
Nesting Season: November - December  
Image: Lyndie Malan CC-BY-SA

This deck contains the ranges, nesting habitats, and seasons for the seven sea turtle species of the world. All seven species are vulnerable or endangered.

Find this card deck and more at:  
[education.eol.org/species\\_cards](http://education.eol.org/species_cards)

Title Image Credit: Jeroen Looye CC-BY-SA

### Project Description

### Green Sea Turtle *Chelonia mydas*

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Reptiles



WWF Ecoregion  
+ Tropical upwellings

HERB  
Foodweb Role

Carapace Length	71-153 cm
Adult Weight	135-150 kg
Lifespan	80-100 years
Clutch Size	100-200 eggs
Nest Type	Pit in sand

EN  
IUCN Redlist™

**Geographic Range & Nesting Habitat**  
Range: Atlantic, Pacific, Indian Oceans; Med. Sea  
Nesting Area: Over 80 temperate & tropical countries  
Nesting Season: Throughout the year  
Image: Brocken Inaglory CC-BY-SA

### Common Name Scientific Name

Taxon Group

#### Food Web Roles

DECO	Decomposer: Energy from dead material
AUTO	Autotroph: Energy from sun, water, CO <sub>2</sub>
HERB	Herbivore: Energy from plants
OMNI	Omnivore: Energy from plants, animals
CARN	Carnivore: Energy from animals
APEX	Apex Predator: Top predator
DETR	Detritivore: Energy from dead vegetation
SANG	Sanguinivore: Energy from blood
MULT	Multiple: Energy from multiple sources



Habitat (where species is found)  
+ (indicates species is also found in other habitats)

#### Species Conservation Status

##### IUCN Redlist™

International Union for  
Conservation of Nature

LC	Least Concern
DD	Data Deficient
NT	Near Threatened
EN	Endangered

NE Not Evaluated

VU	Vulnerable
CR	Critically Endangered
EW	Extinct in Wild
EX	Extinct

### Hawksbill Sea Turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*

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Reptiles



WWF Ecoregion  
+ Tropical upwellings

OMNI  
Foodweb Role

Carapace Length	65-90 cm
Adult Weight	45-70 kg
Lifespan	30-50 years
Clutch Size	130-140 eggs
Nest Type	Pit in sand

CR  
IUCN Redlist™

**Geographic Range & Nesting Habitat**  
Range: Atlantic, Pacific, Indian Oceans; Med. Sea  
Nesting Area: Caribbean, Africa, Indonesia, Australia  
Nesting Season: July - October  
Image: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Region CC-BY



**Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle**  
*Lepidochelys kempii*

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Reptiles



**Trop Upw** WWF Ecoregion + Tropical upwellings **OMNI**  
Foodweb Role

**Carapace Length** 60-70 cm **Adult Weight** 30-50 kg **Lifespan** 30-50 years **Clutch Size** 100 eggs (avg) **Nest Type** Pit in sand

**CR** IUCN Redlist™

**Geographic Range & Nesting Habitat**  
Range: Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean  
Nesting Area: Tamaulipas - Padre Island Ntl. Seashore  
Nesting Season: April - July

Image: Terry Ross CC-BY-SA

**Leatherback Sea Turtle**  
*Dermochelys coriacea*

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Reptiles



**Trop Upw** WWF Ecoregion + Tropical upwellings **CARN**  
Foodweb Role

**Carapace Length** 145-160 cm **Adult Weight** 250-900 kg **Lifespan** 30 years **Clutch Size** 50-100 eggs **Nest Type** Pit in sand

**VU** IUCN Redlist™

**Geographic Range & Nesting Habitat**  
Range: Global - prefers the open ocean  
Nesting Area: Americas, Africa, Oceania  
Nesting Season: April - November

Image: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Region CC-BY

**Loggerhead Sea Turtle**  
*Caretta caretta*

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Reptiles



**Trop Upw** WWF Ecoregion + Tropical upwellings **OMNI**  
Foodweb Role

**Carapace Length** 85-100 cm **Adult Weight** 77-545 kg **Lifespan** 30-62 years **Clutch Size** 110-130 eggs **Nest Type** Pit in sand

**VU** IUCN Redlist™

**Geographic Range & Nesting Habitat**  
Range: Atlantic, Pacific, Indian Oceans; Med. Sea  
Nesting Area: United States, Australia and Oman  
Nesting Season: April - September

Image: Strobilomyces CC-BY-SA

**Olive Ridley Sea Turtle**  
*Lepidochelys olivacea*

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Reptiles



**Trop Upw** WWF Ecoregion + Tropical upwellings **OMNI**  
Foodweb Role

**Carapace Length** 55-80 cm **Adult Weight** 35-45 kg **Lifespan** 50 years (avg) **Clutch Size** 107 eggs (avg) **Nest Type** Pit in sand

**VU** IUCN Redlist™

**Geographic Range & Nesting Habitat**  
Range: Atlantic, Pacific & Indian Oceans  
Nesting Area: Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama & India  
Nesting Season: June - December

Image: 2008 William Flaxington CC-BY-NC

**Conservation of sea turtles**



Sea Turtle caught in net Doug Helton, Public Domain

What are the main threats to sea turtles?

- Bycatch
- Light pollution: confuses hatchlings
- Overharvesting of eggs
- Habitat loss

What is being done to help them?

- Turtle monitoring teams, citizen science
- Turtle Exclusion Devices (TEDs)
- Reducing habitat disturbance

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**Fun Facts about sea turtles**



Leatherback Sea Turtle Al Woodson CC-BY

- Sea Turtles have been around for more than 110 million years!
- The Leatherback Sea Turtle is the largest of all the species. An adult can grow more than 6 feet in length and weigh over a ton!

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Fun Facts about sea turtles



Hawksbill Sea Turtle Caroline S. Rogers, Public Domain

- A Sea Turtle cannot pull its head or legs inside of its shell
- The Hawksbill Sea Turtle has an elongated head with a pointed beak, giving it its name

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**Average:** Sum of numbers divided by the total numbers in the group

**Beak:** Mouth of a turtle

**Bycatch:** Fish or other marine species caught unintentionally in fishing nets

**Carapace:** Hard upper shell of a turtle, crustacean, or arachnid

**Clutch size:** Number of eggs laid in a nest at one time

**Habitat:** Area an organism lives and can find its resources

**Median:** Middle value of a list of numbers

Vocabulary

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**Nesting area:** Geographic area where a species builds its nest

**Nesting season:** Time of year during which a species produces offspring

Vocabulary

