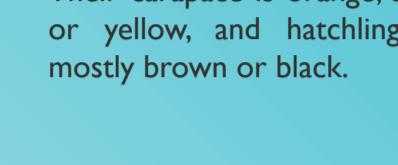
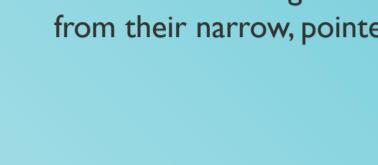
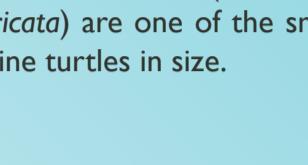


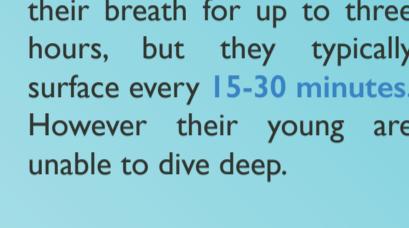
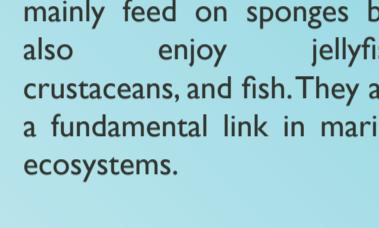
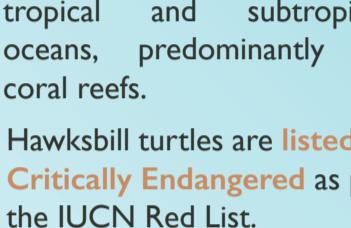
HAWKSBILL TURTLE

MARINE TURTLES FACTSHEET

I. GENERAL INFORMATION



- Hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) are one of the smaller marine turtles in size.
- Hawksbill turtles get their name from their narrow, pointed beak.
- Their carapace is orange, brown, or yellow, and hatchlings are mostly brown or black.

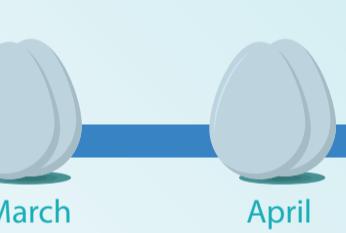


- They are found mainly in tropical and subtropical oceans, predominantly in coral reefs.
- Hawksbill turtles are listed as **Critically Endangered** as per the IUCN Red List.

- They are omnivorous and mainly feed on sponges but also enjoy jellyfish, crustaceans, and fish. They are a fundamental link in marine ecosystems.

- Adult hawksbills can hold their breath for up to three hours, but they typically surface every **15-30 minutes**. However their young are unable to dive deep.

2. HAWKSBILL TURTLES IN ABU DHABI



1500 Turtles The population of hawksbill turtles in Abu Dhabi.



Studies showed that the adult female turtles found in the Arabian Gulf are the smallest in size globally.



Globally, they are a highly migratory species however, the Arabian Gulf hawksbill turtles remain within the region.

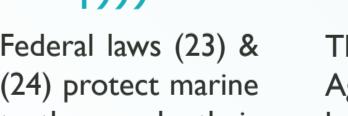


More than 200 nests per year in Abu Dhabi

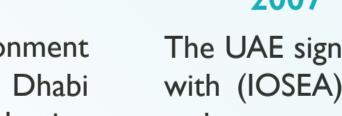
An average of **94** eggs per nest

The average duration it takes to hatch **56 days**

3. THREATS



Entanglement in fishing gear, vessel strike and marine debris.



Human activities on coastal areas drive the turtles away from nesting areas.



Climate change

4. CONSERVATION EFFORT

1999
Federal laws (23) & (24) protect marine turtles and their associated habitats in the UAE.

2000
The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi has been conducting annual surveys on hawksbill turtles.

2007
The UAE signed agreement with (IOSEA) to conserve and manage marine turtles and their habitats.

2021 - 2019
National Plan of Action for the Conservation of Marine Turtles has been developed with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment.

5. RESPONSE



Land-based surveys and aerial surveys are ongoing, to collect long-term data, to identify any trends and mitigation measures needed to implement.



We have a research projects in place that target conservation of marine turtles and understanding the impact of climate change.



Beach and sea clean-up campaigns.