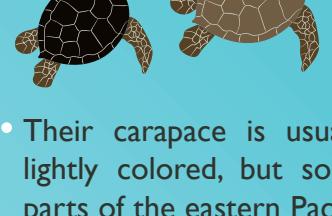
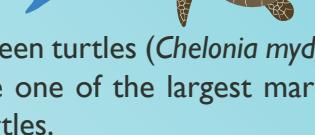


GREEN TURTLE

MARINE TURTLES FACTSHEET 2023

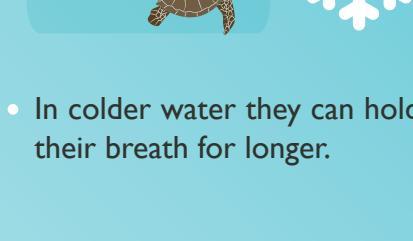
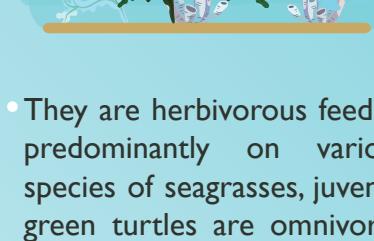
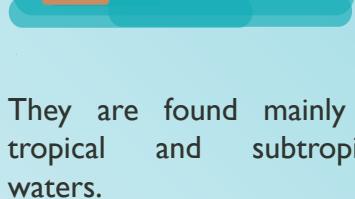
I. GENERAL INFORMATION



- Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) are one of the largest marine turtles.

- They get their name from the greenish color of their fat and not their shells.

- Their carapace is usually lightly colored, but some parts of the eastern Pacific population can have almost black carapaces.



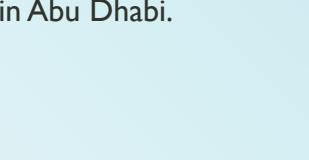
- They are found mainly in tropical and subtropical waters.

- It is also listed as **Critically Endangered** as per the IUCN Red List

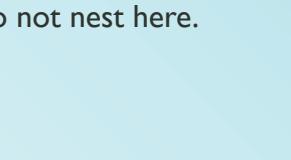
- They are herbivorous feeding predominantly on various species of seagrasses, juvenile green turtles are omnivores, and eat invertebrates like crabs, jellyfish and sponges. They are a fundamental link in marine ecosystems.

- In colder water they can hold their breath for longer.

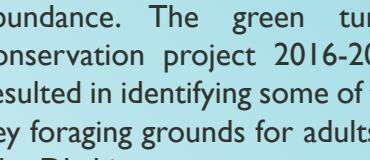
2. GREEN TURTLES IN ABU DHABI



4000 Green Turtles in Abu Dhabi.



They are found foraging in Abu Dhabi waters only and do not nest here.

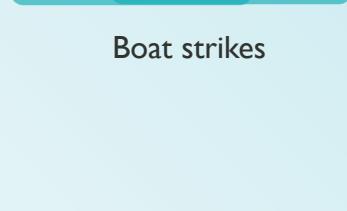


Through aerial surveys there is a noticeable seasonal variation in abundance. The green turtle conservation project 2016-2019 resulted in identifying some of the key foraging grounds for adults in Abu Dhabi.

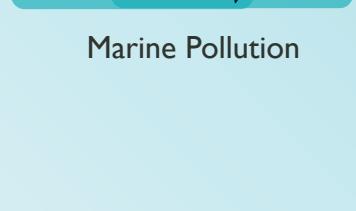
3. THREATS



Fishing gear



Boat strikes



Marine Pollution

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

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

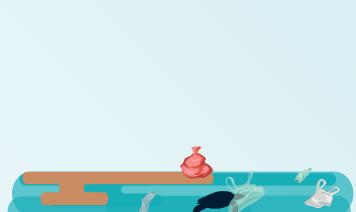
5. RESPONSE



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.



Beach and sea clean-up campaigns.