

IUCN SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group

2018 Report



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Co-Chairs

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

301

Social networks

Website:
<http://iucn-mtsg.org>

IUCN-SSC MARINE TURTLE
SPECIALIST GROUP



Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG) is to develop and support strategies, set priorities, and provide tools that promote and guide the conservation of marine turtles, and their ecological roles and habitats.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By 2020, we envision vastly improved global and first-ever subpopulation Red List assessments being completed for six of the seven sea turtle species, providing greater focus and clarity to conservation planning for marine turtles.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: (1) complete global Red List assessments of the Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), and Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) turtles; (2) complete 11 subpopulation assessments of the Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*).

Research activities: ten Regional Reports (at least partially completed) covering >50% countries where sea turtles occur.

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Red List

- i. Kemp's Ridley assessment was completed in 2018; Northwest Atlantic Ocean Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) subpopulation assessment was also updated in 2018. Both assessments will be submitted to IUCN in January 2019. (KSR #1)
- ii. Three subpopulation assessments (South Atlantic, North Indian Ocean, Central North Pacific) completed in 2018. They will be submitted to IUCN in January 2019. (KSR #1)

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 1/5

Assess **2** **||**

Main KSRs addressed: 1

KSR: Key Species Result

Hatchlings of Critically Endangered hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in a nesting beach at Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands
Photo: Bruce Hood



Hatchling of Critically Endangered hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) about to enter sea water for the first time at Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands
Photo: Bruce Hood