

The
ENDANGERED
SPECIES



Six of the seven species of marine turtles are listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered, and the outlook is increasingly grim.

All seven species of marine turtles are listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), thus international trade is prohibited amongst the 166 CITES member nations. Three of them are classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN RedList

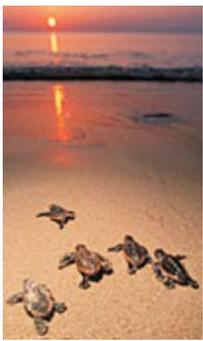


SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER



Many offspring, few survivors
Marine turtles appear to have the potential to reproduce abundantly: females can lay hundreds of eggs in one nesting season.

But even under "natural" conditions, relatively few young turtles survive their first year of life



Predators such as crabs, foxes, and birds often kill the hatchlings as they

make their way from the nest to the sea, and when they reach the shallows, many more small turtles are taken by fish. When humans harvest turtle eggs, disturb or degrade nesting beaches, the

scales become tipped even more heavily against young turtles.

DECADES TO REACH MATURITY

It takes decades for surviving juveniles to reach maturity and start to breed, and adult turtles must live to reproduce over many years if the population is to thrive. But escalating mortality on the high seas, in the trawl nets and long-lines of fishing fleets, and from pollution and disease, means fewer and fewer turtles are living long enough to reproduce

