

TURTLE GUIDELINES

FOR BEACH USERS

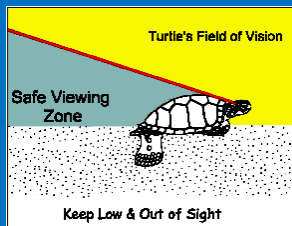
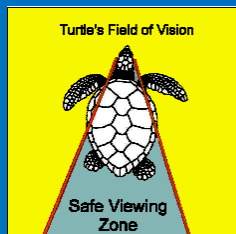
Nesting turtles are an important part of the national heritage and biodiversity of Seychelles and are in need of protection. A good sea turtle nesting beach, however, is a fragile resource.

If you are lucky enough to witness a nesting turtle, be sure not to frighten her. Make sure she does not see you. Turtles are frightened of movements, so stay motionless. Stand very still and she will think you are a tree and walk right past you. Then you can carefully approach her from behind in the "Safe Viewing Zone" (see image below).

The following simple guidelines will help minimise the impacts that you have on nesting or hatching turtles when using the beaches in Seychelles:

- * Remain motionless (Freeze!)
- * Stay behind her in the 'Safe Viewing Zone'
- * Keep a distance of at least 2m
- * Keep away from her face (Do not let her see you!)
- * No loud noises
- * Do not touch the turtle
- * Do not use flash photography
- * Do not block her passage back to the sea

'SAFE VIEWING ZONE' WHERE TURTLE CANNOT SEE YOU



ANY PHOTOGRAPHS SHOULD BE TAKEN AFTER SHE HAS FINISHED LAYING HER EGGS. KEEP AWAY FROM HER FACE!

REPORT ANY TURTLE SIGHTINGS OR ANY INCIDENT OF TURTLE BEING DISTURBED TO GREEN LINE (2722111) OR

**CONSERVATION SECTION ON 4670541,
2722075**

SEA TURTLES OF SEYCHELLES



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

CONSERVATION SECTION

**Botanical Gardens, Mont Fleuri,
P.O. Box 445, Victoria, Mahé
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Tel : (248) 670 500, Fax : 00 (248)
610 648**

**OUR TREASURE TO PRESERVE FOR OUR
FUTURE GENERATIONS**

Seven sea turtle species exist in the world ocean, five of those seven occur in seychelles waters, but only two of those five nest on our beaches.

HOW TO IDENTIFYING THEM

Hawksbill turtle
(*Eretmochelys imbricata*)



Head : curved , pointed
Carapace : overlapping scales
Colorations : yellowish brown
Length ; 60—100cm
Weight : 80—130 KG
Track size : 70cm wide

Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

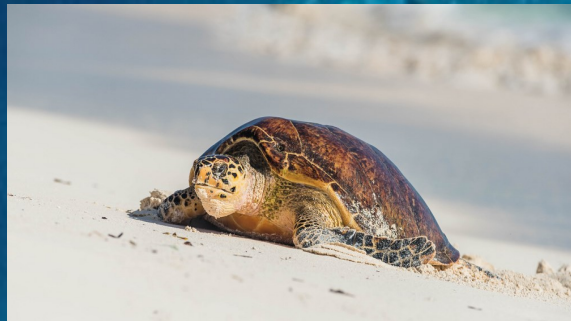


Head : Fairly round
Carapace : Smooth scales
Colorations : olive brown
Length : 120—150 cm
Weight : 130—250 kg
Track size : 100—140 cm wide

TERRESTRIAL ACTIVITIES OF SEA TURTLES

Sea turtles feed and mate in the sea but they need to come ashore on the beach to lay their eggs. They need undisturbed beaches without artificial lighting, so it is our responsibility as humans to make sure the turtles have access to such beaches.

EMERGENCE



During the nesting season female turtles come up the beach to lay their eggs. Hawksbills come in the daytime, usually at high tide; and Green turtles come up at night

NESTING

After laying her eggs (usually around 150-200 eggs) depending on species, she will slowly cover her nest with sand and then make her way back to the sea. Egg laying generally takes around 2 to 3 hours.



HATCHLINGS



The hatchlings will emerge after 8 weeks of incubation. They will usually emerge from the nest at night when most predators are asleep and when it is cool and they can escape the scorching heat of the daytime sun.

A BEAUTY WE MUST TREASURE

Sea turtles in the Seychelles waters enrich our country's biodiversity. Classified as endangered and critically endangered under IUCN, they are an important element of our national and regional biodiversity. Among the greatest threats our sea turtles face are poaching, habitat destruction and climate change. If we want to save our sea turtles we all as Seychellois should play a role and contribute to their conservation and long term protection. If you observe any turtle activity or human disturbance of turtles, kindly call

GREENLINE : 2722111