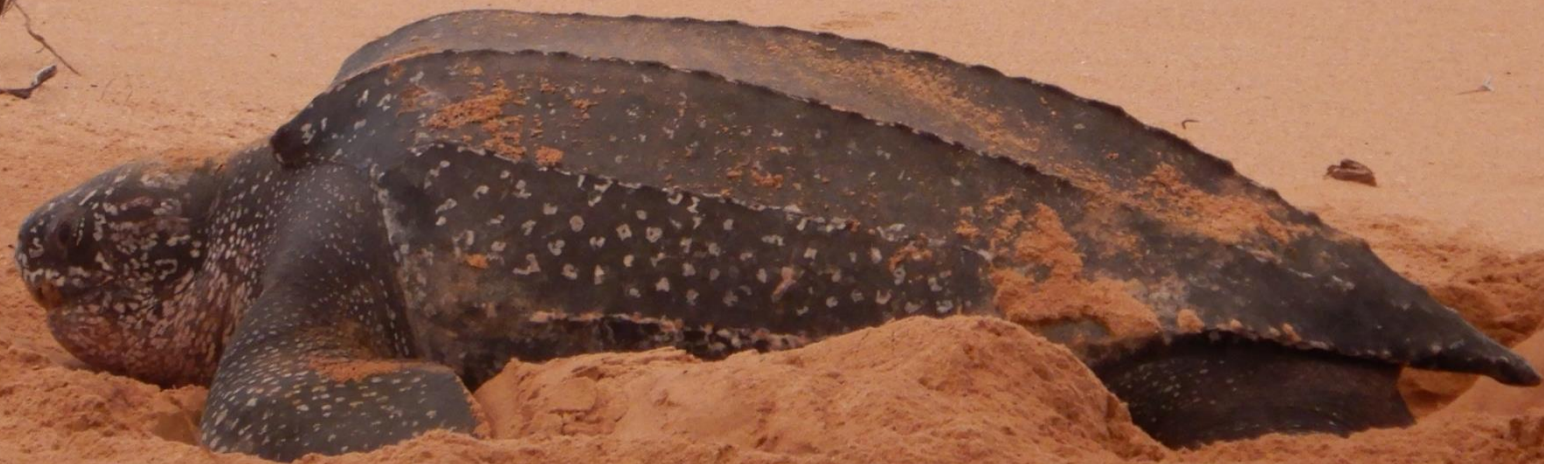


Protecting Sea Turtle Populations in Suriname

2019 WIDECAST AGM

Paramaribo, 19 – 21 March 2019



Hanneke Van Lavieren
WWF Guianas



WWF Guianas Sea Turtle Programme

Monitoring & Enforcement

Threat Reduction

Responsible Tourism

Research

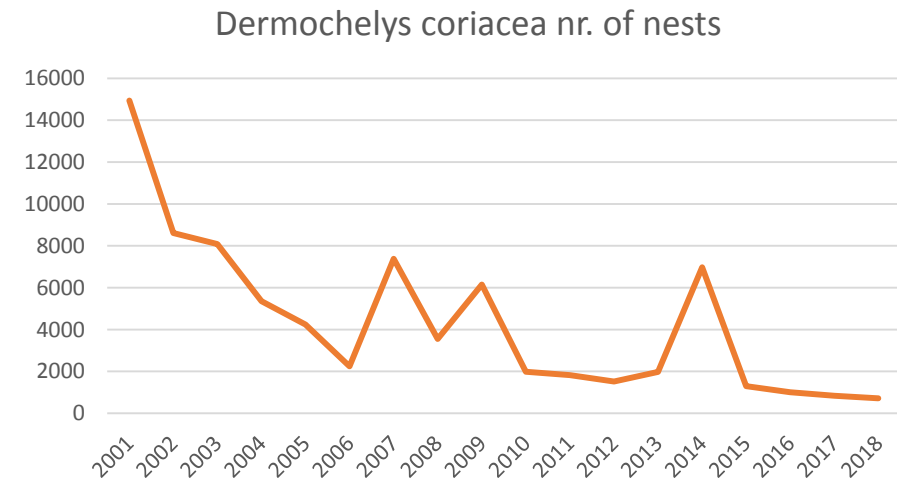
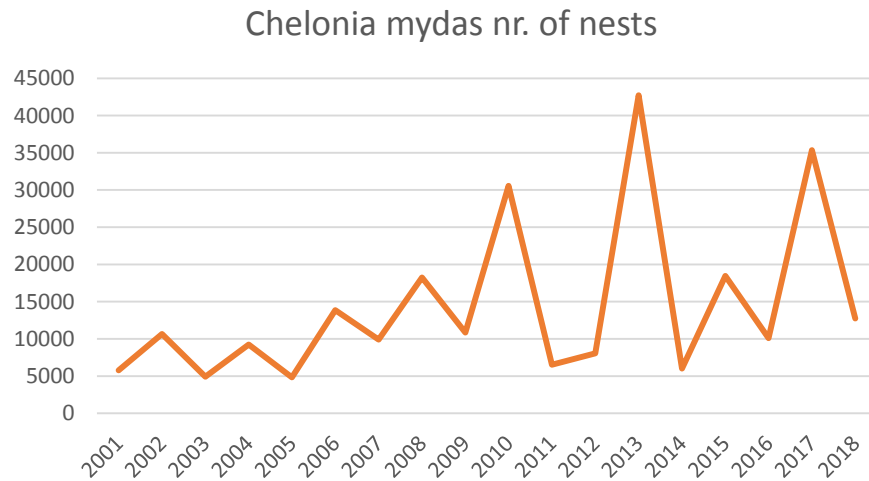
Awareness and Education





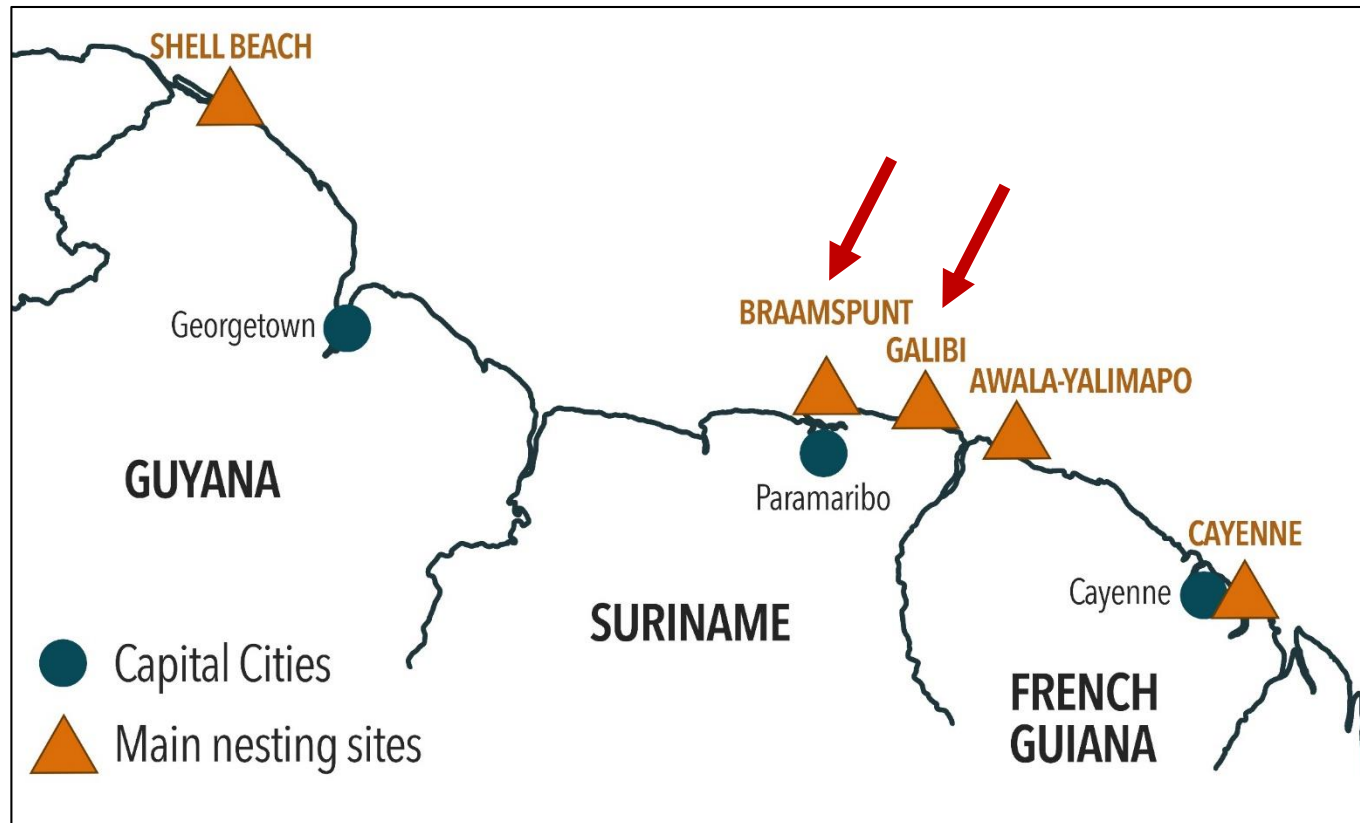
Monitoring & Enforcement

WWF manages a long-term nesting beach monitoring and enforcement (beach patrolling) program together with relevant government agencies – February-July



Data collection on nests, false crawls, dead turtles, threats, illegal practices, beach erosion

Monitoring stations



Babusanti



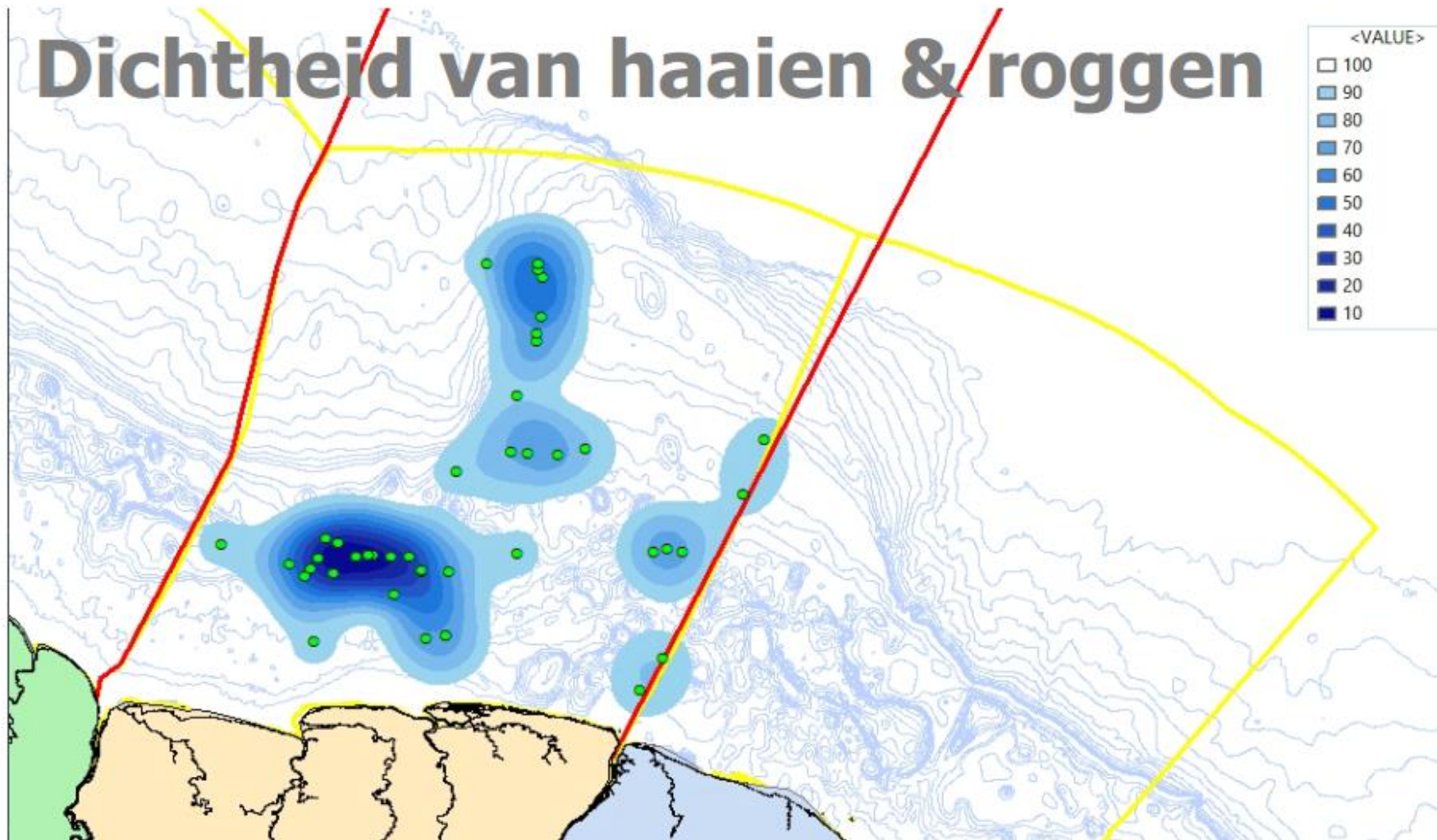
Braamspunt



Sightings offshore

Credit: Marijke de Boer

Dichtheid van haaien & roggen





Annual Overflights (March/April)

Shifting beaches/Erosion

Clean ups

WWF NIMOS SHATA WATERPROOF TOURS SURINAME GREEN HERITAGE FUND SURINAME Stichting SuReSur Suriname Recycling Suriname

ZATERDAG: 28 JULI 2018 VAN 11:00 - 15:00

CLEAN UP LEONSBURG

LOCATIE: DE PIER BIJ LEONSBURG

HOUD SURINAME SCHOON

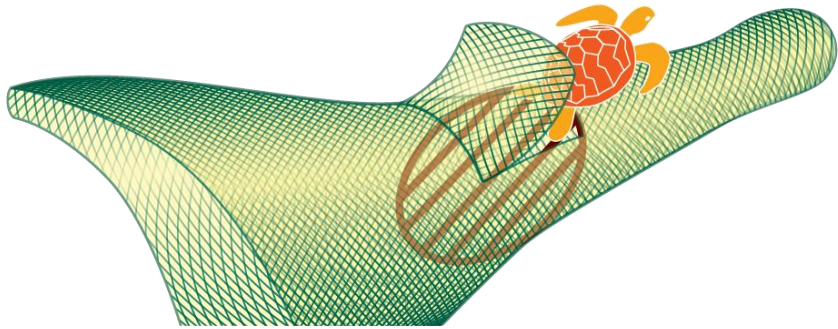
Neem je eigen laarzen handschoenen en schepnet mee

Water aanwezig

Doe jij ook mee?

A green poster for a 'Clean Up Leonsberg' event. It features logos for WWF, NIMOS, SHATA, Waterproof Tours Suriname, Green Heritage Fund Suriname, and Stichting SuReSur. The text indicates the event is on Saturday, July 28, 2018, from 11:00 to 15:00, at the pier near Leonsburg. It encourages participants to bring their own boots, gloves, and a net, and notes that water will be present. A cartoon illustration of a person in boots and gloves using a net to catch plastic bottles is shown on the right.

By Catch Reduction



- Reduce bycatch of ETP Species
- Trash and Turtle Excluding Devices (TTED) in industrial shrimp trawlers
- Develop and adopt Flexible Turtle Excluding Devices in fish trawlers
- Artisanal fisheries by catch

By catch data (interviews)



BYCATCH OF ENDANGERED, THREATENED
AND PROTECTED SPECIES IN THE COASTAL
ARTISANAL FISHERY OF SURINAME

2015-2016

ESTIMATED
TURTLE BY-CATCH BY THE COASTAL FISHING FLEET OF SURINAME

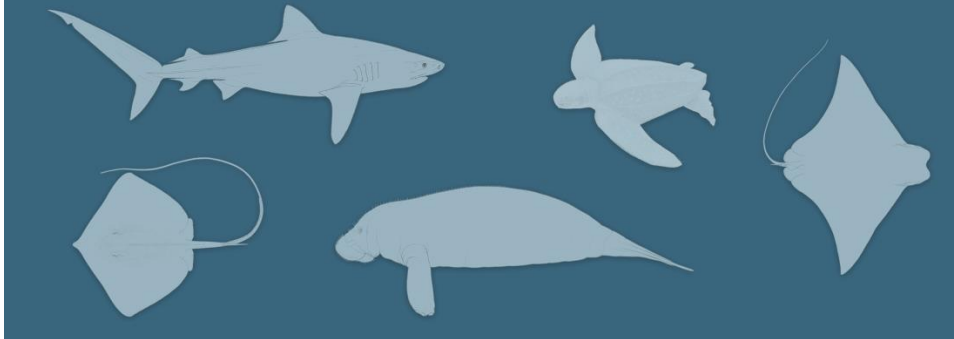
H.M.MADARIE

SEP 2006



ON BOARD GUIDE FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF

MARINE ENDANGERED, THREATENED & PROTECTED (ETP) AND KEY SPECIES OF THE GUIANAS



Koninkrijk der Nederlanden



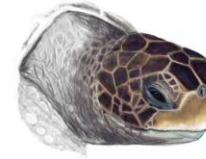
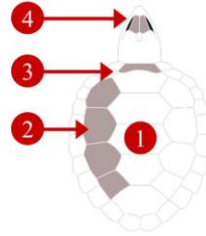
IUCN National Committee of The Netherlands



THE SRIS PROGRAMME IS FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED BY THE DUTCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DGIS)

ETP Species Identification

Green Sea Turtle – *Chelonia mydas*



	CHARACTERISTICS
1	Carapace with thin scutes.
2	4 pairs of lateral scutes.
7	1st lateral scute is not touching precentral scute.
8	1 pair of elongate prefrontal scales between orbits.
COLOUR	Upper side pale to very dark brown varying to brilliant combinations of yellow, brown, and greenish tones, forming radiated stripes, or abundantly splattered with dark blotches.



SIZE carapace length

Mean 100 cm



SEA TURTLE HANDLING PRACTICES

CONSIDER THE SIZE OF THE TURTLE

All turtles should be boated if possible

TOO LARGE TO BOAT



Try to work the turtle free. If necessary, cut all net from the turtle. Cut away from the turtle to prevent any injuries. Do not leave any net on the turtle.

SMALL ENOUGH TO BOAT



*Lift the turtle on board.
DO NOT use a gaff to boat the animal.*

DRIFT NETS & TRAWLING

LONGLINES



Stop the vessel and bring the turtle as close to the boat as possible without putting too much strain on the line. Cut the line as close to the hook as practical.



*Use a dip net to lift the turtle on board.
DO NOT use a gaff and DO NOT pull on the line or grasp the eye sockets to bring the animal on board.*

DE-HOOKING A SEA TURTLE

Place a piece of wood in the turtle's mouth so it cannot bite, then cut the hook or line.



If the hook's barb is visible, use bolt cutters to cut the hook in half, and remove the two parts separately.



If the hook is not visible, remove as much line as possible without pulling too hard on the line, and cut it as close to the turtle as practical.



BYCATCH

FISHERIES OF SURINAME



Suriname is located in the Guianas, South America. It is part of the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem and rich in fishery resources.

FISHING LICENSES



686 VESSELS



MARINE CAPTURE



35 000 TON/YEAR



NUMBER OF ETP SPECIES*

*According to the IUCN Red List Taxonomy version 2017-3

A variety of unique marine species thrive in Surinamese waters and are sometimes accidentally caught by fishermen. Some of them are listed as Endangered, Threatened or Protected species or ETP species.

SEA TURTLES

3



The **HAWKSBILL TURTLE** is critically endangered

SHARKS

15



The **DAGGERNOSE SHARK** is critically endangered

RAY

8



The **CARIBBEAN ELECTRIC RAY** and the **SMALLTOOTH SANFISH** are critically endangered

INDUSTRIAL FLEET

MARINE SHRIMP TRAWL

TARGET CATCH
25%



BYCATCH
75%



20% of the bycatch is **RETAINED**
80% of the bycatch is **DISCARDED**

SEABOB SHRIMP TRAWL

TARGET CATCH
60%



BYCATCH
40%



12% of the bycatch is **RETAINED**
88% of the bycatch is **DISCARDED**

ALL shrimp trawlers must be equipped with **TURTLE EXCLUDER DEVICES (TEDs)**

Experiments with TEDs for the finfish trawl fishery are on-going

FINFISH TRAWL



98 fish species are **CAUGHT**

20 fish species are **RETAINED**

45% of the catch by weight is **DISCARDED**

ARTISANAL FLEET

• DRIFT NETS • LONGLINES



MOSTLY LANDER

identification is sometimes difficult because fishermen



MOSTLY DISCARDED

No take zone

- 2013
- Size 15 – 15 km
- Enforcement: Coast guard









Responsible Tourism

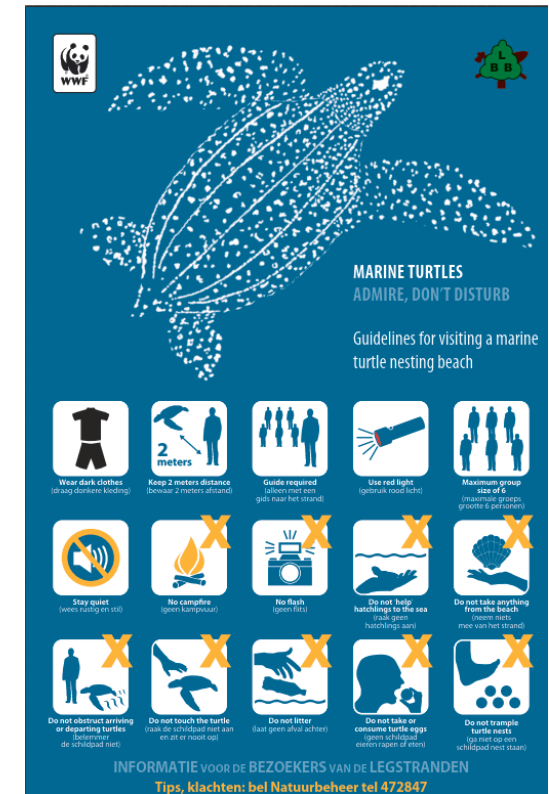
- Annual training of tour operators, tour guides, boat captains on rules and guidelines for responsible sea turtle tourism before season starts
- Need to expand to unlicensed tour guides and boatmen –recent incidents of irresponsible watching practices



WELCOME TO THE MARINE TURTLE NESTING BEACH

Marine Turtles: Admire, don't DISTURB

RULES for visiting a Marine Turtle nesting beach



Visitor Guidelines

WELKOM OP BRAAMSPUNT

LEGSTRAND VOOR ZEESCHILDPADDEN

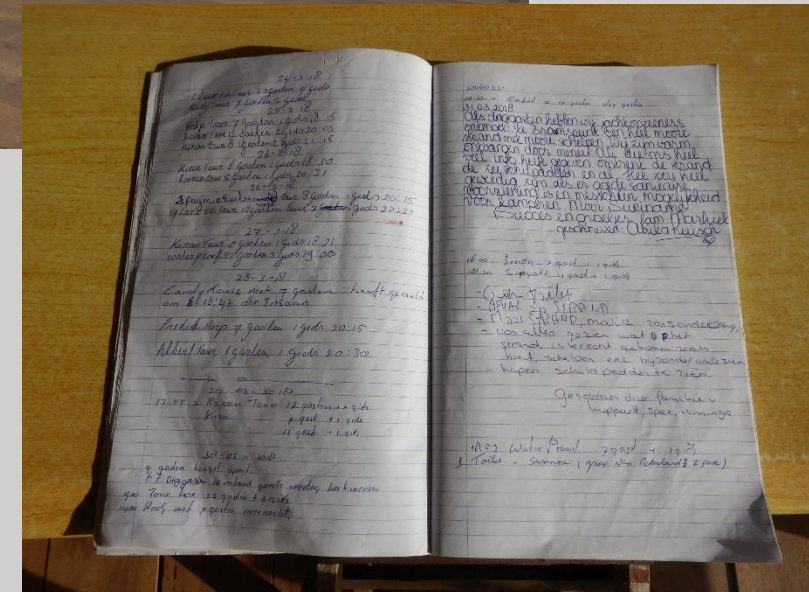


Verplicht aanmelden bij het
VISITORS CENTER



Illustratie zeeschildpad: Van Eyck - C4872, project

Visitor Centre



Research

- Nest temperatures
- Beach profiling and erosion
- Hatching success Galibi and Braamspunt
- Study on visitor numbers and value of sea turtle tourism



Awareness & Education



WORLD WILDLIFE DAY 2019



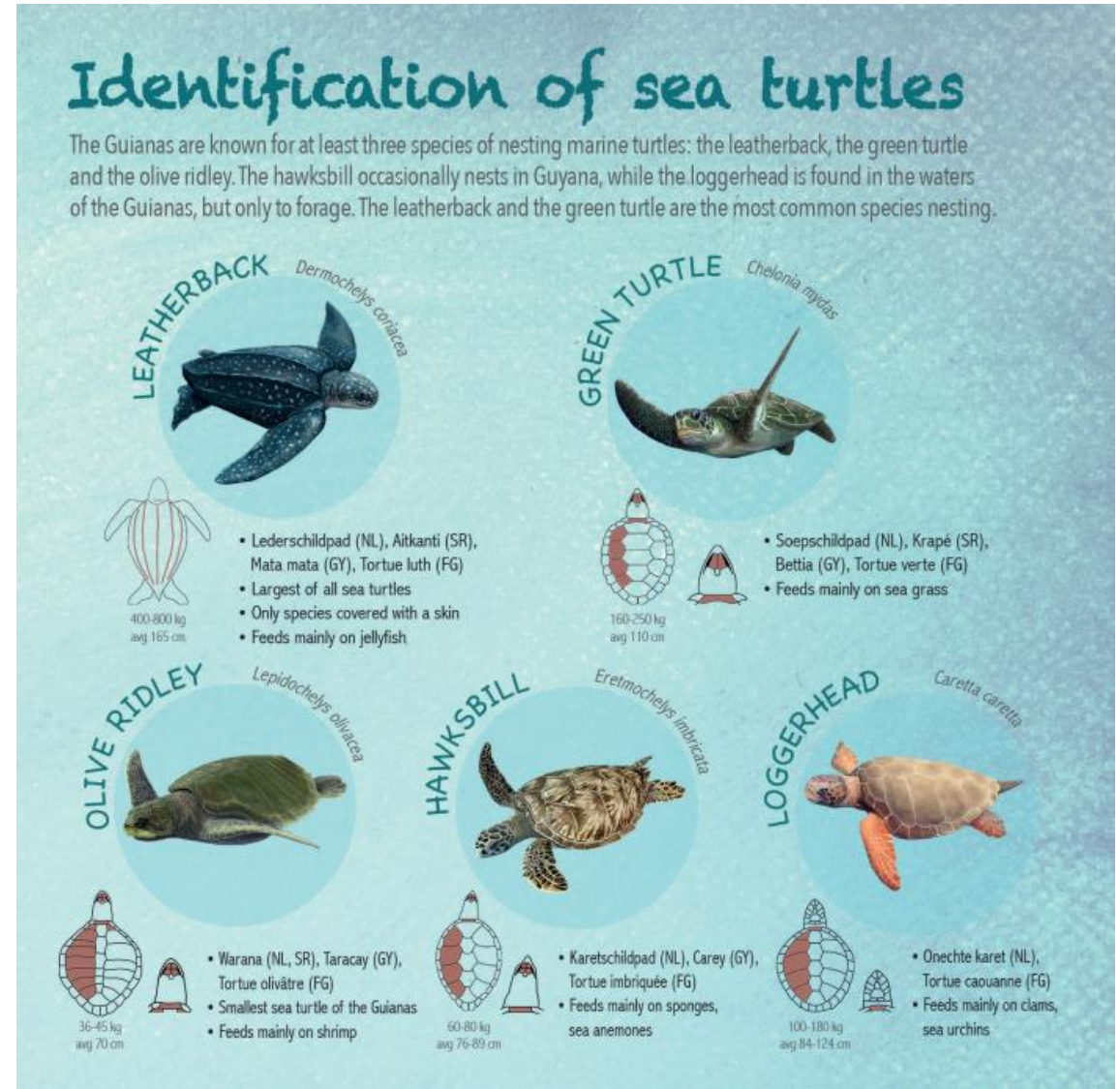
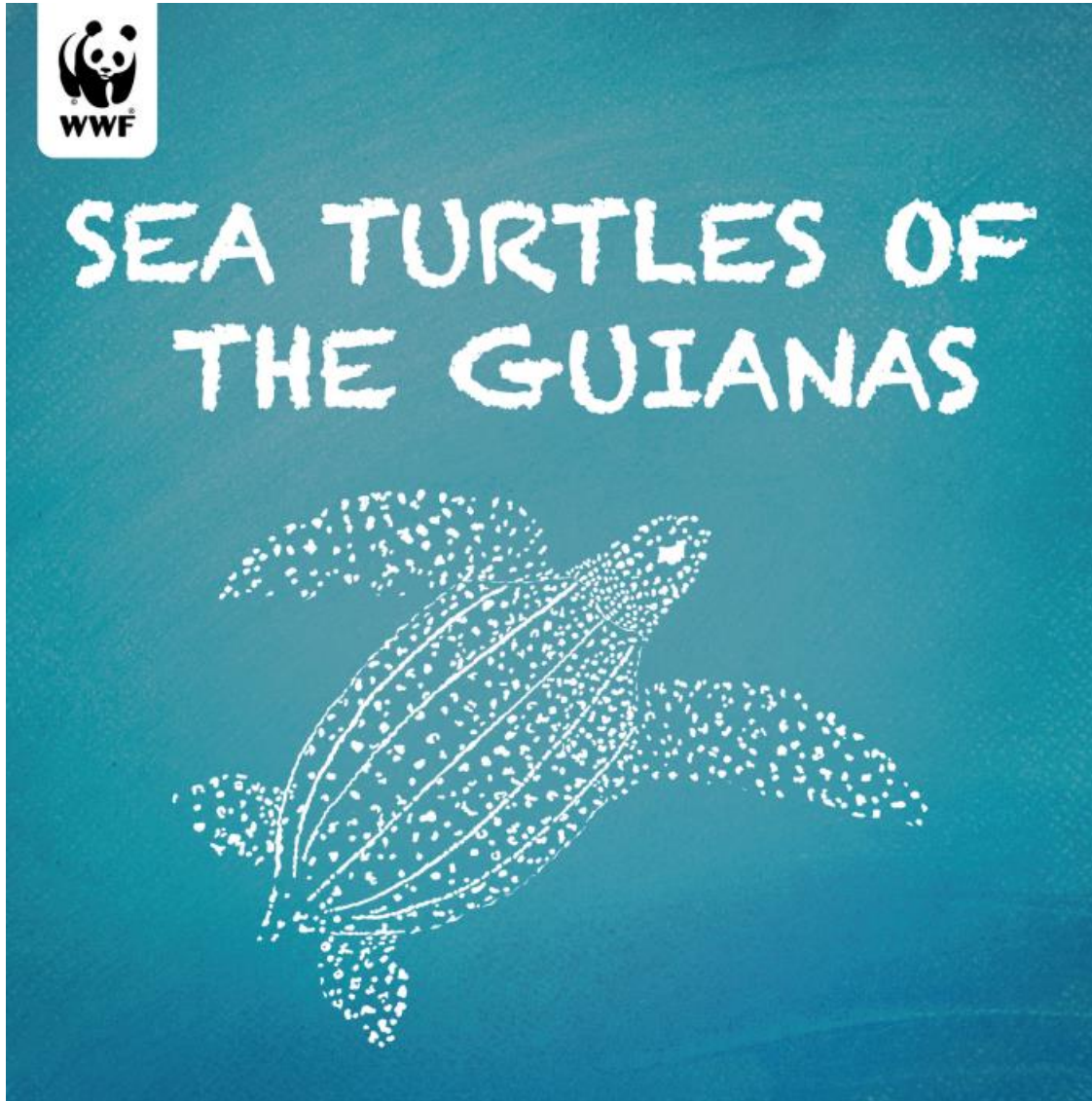
On this World Wildlife Day 2019,
WWF Guianas is focussing on the
sea turtle.

The Guianas are home to five of the seven species of sea turtles worldwide. Despite international protection, some of these are still threatened and endangered.

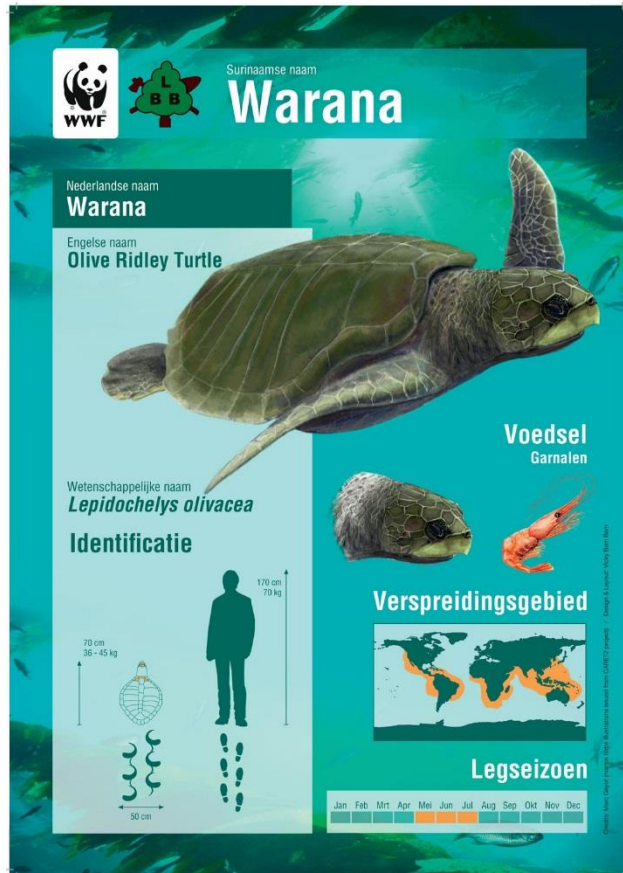
Every year, between February and July, adult females come on land to make their nest on sandy beaches of the Guianas.

It is possible to see these magnificent underwater animals from closeby and witness this spectacular event accompanied by a specialized trained guide.

Brochures



Posters



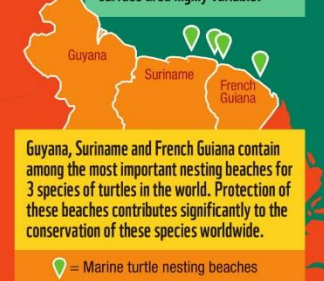


MARINE TURTLES IN THE GUIANAS

When not breeding, leatherbacks from this region migrate to the North Atlantic all the way to Nova Scotia Canada to feed on the abundant jellyfish, covering over 10,000 km.

MAP OF THE GUIANAS

The total length of the Guianas shoreline is 1,145 km. Currently there are 5 main nesting sites along the Guianas shoreline. However, coastal dynamics make the number of beaches and their surface area highly variable.



While Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) have been used by many shrimp trawlers in the Guianas for more than 20 years, bycatch by other fisheries (fish trawlers, tuna longlines, and gillnets) remains the main threat to turtles in this region.



Number of active shrimp trawlers using TEDs

87	46	22
(Guyana)	(Suriname)	(French Guiana)

MIGRATION ROUTE OF LEATHERBACKS



5 Number of marine turtle species that either forage, nest or breed in the Guianas

7 Number of marine turtle species in the world

Unselective fishing gears catch at least **300,000** sea turtles worldwide each year

MARINE TURTLE SPECIES, THEIR OCCURRENCE & PROTECTION STATUS



LEATHERBACK

Dermochelys coriacea
Lederschildpad (NL), Aitkanti (SR), Tortue luth (FG), Mata mata (GY)
Occurrence: most common in French Guiana and Suriname
Status: **LC** LEAST CONCERN



GREEN SEA TURTLE

Chelonia mydas
Soepschildpad (NL), Krapé (SR), Tortue verte (FG), Bettia (GY)
Occurrence: Common
Status: **EN** ENDANGERED



OLIVE RIDLEY

Lepidochelys olivacea
Warana (SR, NL), Tortue olivâtre (FG), Taracay (GY)
Occurrence: rare in Suriname, common in French Guiana, very rare in Guyana
Status: **VU** VULNERABLE



HAWKSBILL

Eretmochelys imbricata
Karetschildpad (NL), Tortue imbriquée (FG), Carey (GY)
Occurrence: very rare (mostly Guyana)
Status: **CR** CRITICALLY ENDANGERED



LOGGERHEAD

Caretta caretta
Oenechte karet (NL), Tortue caouanne (FG)
Occurrence: foraging offshore, very rare (only Guyana)
Status: **EN** ENDANGERED



Reference: Benoit de Thoisy, Kwata and Réserve Naturelle de l'Amana

424 Number of leatherbacks accidentally caught in gillnets in 2012 (SR).

Reference: Madari, H.M. 2012

25% Number of leatherbacks that have marks on flippers and the neck from fishing gear (FG).

Reference: Damien Chevalier, CNRS-IPHC

HUMAN THREATS:

- Illegal consumption of eggs (mostly green turtle eggs)
- Bycatch (fish trawlers, tuna longlines and drifting gillnets)
- Coastal destruction and alteration
- Sandmining
- Off-shore oil and gas development

OTHER THREATS:

- Climate change
- Eroding beaches
- Dog predation
- Jaguar predation

Monitoring of the Guianas nesting beaches dates back to the 1980s providing a valuable long term data set. Because sea turtles are highly migratory, protecting them requires a regional and international approach. WWF Guianas is committed to working with partners in all three countries to ensure the long-term protection of these shared turtle populations.

Anti Egg Poaching Campaign







School children exchange

Thank you

