Protecting Sea Turtle Populations in Suriname

2019 WIDECAST AGM
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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
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
ETP Species Identification

Green Sea Turtle – *Chelonia mydas*

**Characteristics**

1. Carapace with thin sutures.
2. 4 pairs of lateral sutures.
3. Tip of first lateral suture is not touching precentral suture.
4. 1 pair of elongate prefrontal sutures between wrists.

**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.

**SCL carapace length**

Mean 100 cm
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.

LIFT THE TURTLE ON BOARD.
DO NOT use a gaff to boat the animal.

SMALL ENOUGH TO BOAT

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.

LONGINES
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.
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
Visitor Guidelines
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 focusing 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

SEA TURTLES OF THE GUIANAS

Identification of sea turtles

The Guianas are known for at least three species of nesting marine turtles: the leatherback, the green turtle, and the olive ridley. The hawksbill occasionally nests in Guiana, while the loggerhead is found in the waters of the Guianas, but only to forage. The leatherback and the green turtle are the most common species nesting.

LEATHERBACK
- Lederwalschale (NL), Arca de guano (SR), Meta-mate (DR), Tortue litchi (FG)
- Largest of all sea turtles
- Only species covered with a skin
- Feeds mainly on jellyfish

GREEN TURTLE
- Groene schildpad (NL), Kraal (SR), Sette (DR), Tortue verte (FG)
- Feeds mainly on sea grass

OLIVE RIDLEY
- Olive Ridley (NL), Tartaruga (PT), Tartaruga doce (BG)
- Smallest sea turtle of the Guianas
- Feeds mainly on plants

HAWKSBILL
- Kentish turtle (NL), Caretta (PT), Tortue hachette (FG)
- Feeds mainly on sponges, sea anemones

LOGGERHEAD
- Loggerhead (NL), Tartaruga (PT), Tartaruga caretta (BG)
- Feeds mainly on sponges, sea anemones
Posters
MARINE TURTLES IN THE GUIANAS

MARINE TURTLE SPECIES, THEIR OCCURRENCE & PROTECTION STATUS

LEATHERBACK
 Dermochelys coriacea
Laderochelys (NL), Atkard (SR), Tortue luth (FG), Mata maha (GY)
Occurrence: Most common in French Guiana and Suriname
Status: LD LEAST CONCERN

GREEN SEA TURTLE
 Chelonia mydas
Soepachechoplea (NL), Knecko (SR), Tortue verte (FG), Beteta (GY)
Occurrence: Common
Status: EN ENDANGERED

OLIVE RIDLEY
Lepidochelys olivacea
Warano (SR, NL), Tortue olive (FG), Taracay (GY)
Occurrence: Rare in Suriname, common in French Guiana, very rare in Guyana
Status: VU VULNERABLE

HAWKSBILL
Eretmochelys imbricata
Karestochupin (NL), Tortue imbricata (FG), Carey (GR)
Occurrence: Very rare (most Guyana)
Status: CR CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

LOGGERHEAD
Caretta caretta
Onchita karet (NL), Tortue cacaoanne (FG)
Occurrence: Threatening offshore, very rare (only Guyana)
Status: EN ENDANGERED
Anti Egg Poaching Campaign
A Turtle’s Christmas Wish

KID’S DAY
17 December 2017
From 8:30 - 13:00
• Breakfast @ Oxygen Resort
• A Turtle Story
• Turtle Games
• Craft
• Turtle Watches
• Swimming
• Age 4+

Price: SBD 1000 registration and payment until December 15th
Early bird: SBD 750 registration and payment until November 15th
For registration & information: info@kkew.com
Website: www.kkew.com
School children exchange
Thank you