

the Green turtle

Chelonia mydas

A marine icon of West Africa

Green turtles are a key element of West Africa's biodiversity and contribute to the conservation and health of ecosystems.

An initiative



rampao

Data and technical expertise



in partnership with



MAURITANIA

Banc d'Arguin National Park

With its vast sea grass beds, the Banc d'Arguin is estimated to host more than 100,000 green turtles (adults and juveniles), mainly from Guinea-Bissau, but also some immatures from the American continent.

AFRICA

A treasure of biodiversity connecting the different countries of the sub-region

In West Africa, large wild animals have almost disappeared, but at least one species is still abundant: the green turtle! This is a migratory species. The hatchlings leave their nests on the beaches, enter the sea and soon disappear from sight, moving to the open ocean. After 3 to 5 years, they approach the coast and settle in areas rich in food. As adults (20-30 years old) the turtles return to the beaches where they were born to breed.

SATELLITE TRACKING has shown that, through their migrations, the adult green turtles from Guinea-Bissau connect many marine protected areas of the RAMPAO (Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa).

SENEGAL

Joal-Fadiouth

The Marine Protected Area of Joal-Fadiouth is an important feeding ground for male and female green turtles that breed in the Bijagós archipelago.

SENEGAL

Saloum Delta

In the heart of the delta, in the Saloum Delta National Park, there is an exceptional feeding area for green turtles, with thousands of turtles coming from the Bijagós.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Bijagós Archipelago

Green turtles nest everywhere, but the highest concentration is on Poilão Island (João Vieira and Poilão Marine National Park), where up to 10,000 females may come ashore to nest in some years. In the Bijagós, there are also important feeding areas for juveniles and adults.

THREATS



Bycatch in fisheries



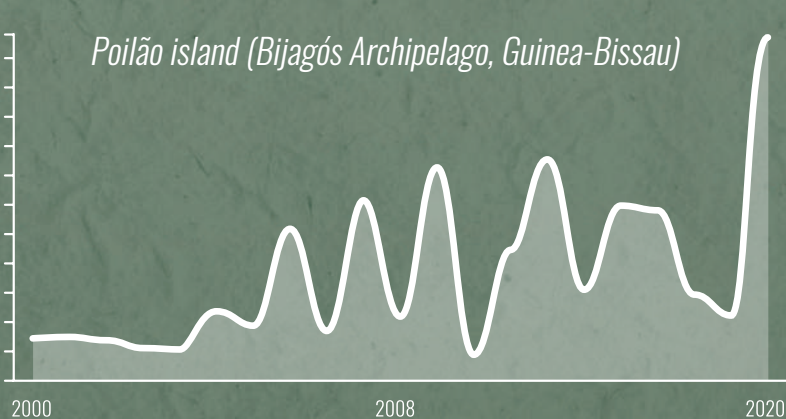
Intentional capture for consumption



Pollution



Climate change



NUMBER OF NESTS PER YEAR FROM 2000 TO 2020

The good protection offered by the RAMPAO has contributed to the growth of this population of green turtles. Poilão hosts the largest green turtle rookery in Africa, and the second largest in the Atlantic.

INTERCONTINENTAL CONNECTIVITY

Genetic studies have further shown that juvenile green turtles from the Bijagós can also grow in places not used by adults, such as **South America** and the islands of **Cabo Verde**. On the other hand, some juvenile green turtles born in the American continent are present in the **Banc d'Arguin** and in the **Bijagós**.

GREEN TURTLE CHARACTERISTICS



Up to 130 cm



Up to 200 kg



ENDANGERED



Sexual maturity 20-30 years

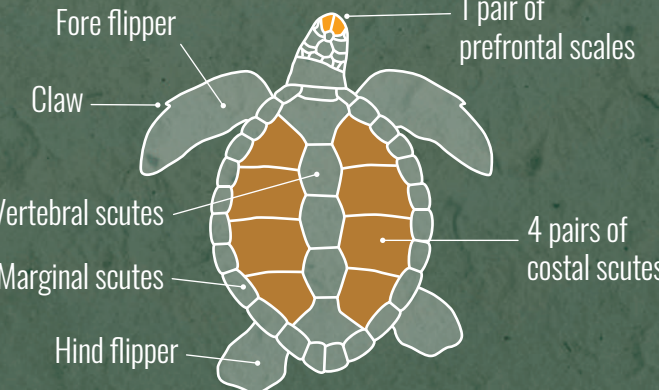


Longevity unknown

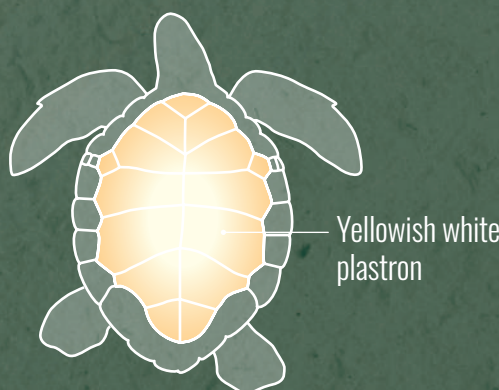


Main diet seagrass and algae

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERISTICS



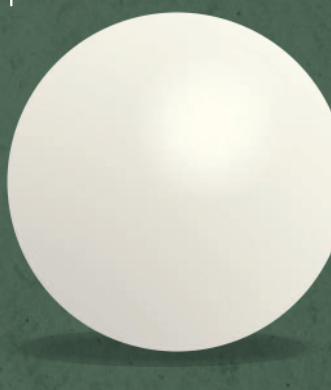
CARAPACE



PLASTRON

Green turtle egg

45 mm - 6gr



Average number of eggs per nest 80 to 200

Poilão

= THE MOST IMPORTANT ROOKERY OF GREEN TURTLES IN AFRICA AND THE 2ND OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

0 100 km