

# EWS-WWF'S BEGINNERS GUIDE TO MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION

Marine turtles are the ambassadors of our seas; they act as an indicator of the health of our marine environment. By learning about marine turtles, we understand more about the status of our seas and can better protect them for all.

- Conservation fieldtrips usually last a few days, the exact duration depends on the weather and how many turtles are caught each day.
- Green turtles are found in popular foraging areas.
- From a boat, the marine researchers locate and catch adult sized turtles which are then taken to the beach. The turtles are not harmed in this process.
- Once the turtles are secured in open wooden boxes, the researchers evaluate each turtle to ensure it is healthy and suitable.
- The turtles are measured and DNA samples taken, these provide information on the linkages between nesting and foraging populations in the region.
- The turtles are fitted with satellite tracking devices; the transmitter is secured to the turtle's shell in a painless process with a harmless adhesive.
- The turtles are also tagged on their front flippers to ensure they can be identified in the future.
- A laparoscopy (small surgical procedure) may also be performed. This provides groundbreaking data on turtle populations dynamics and the potential impact of climate change on green turtles.
- The turtles are then released and reenter the sea.

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Established in 2001 under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in the Western Region, EWS-WWF's mission is to conserve nature and reduce the most pressing threats to the environment by working with people and institutions in the UAE and region to implement conservation solutions through science, research, policy, education and awareness.

For more information about EWS-WWF please visit: [uae.panda.org](http://uae.panda.org)