

SEA TURTLES

PLAY A KEY ROLE MAINTAINING THE HEALTH OF THE MESOAMERICAN REEF

SEA TURTLE ECOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS

- Maintain healthy and productive habitats (sea grass beds, coral reefs and coastal dunes)
- Provide key habitat for other marine life
- Help balancing marine food webs
- Transport essential nutrients from oceans to beaches

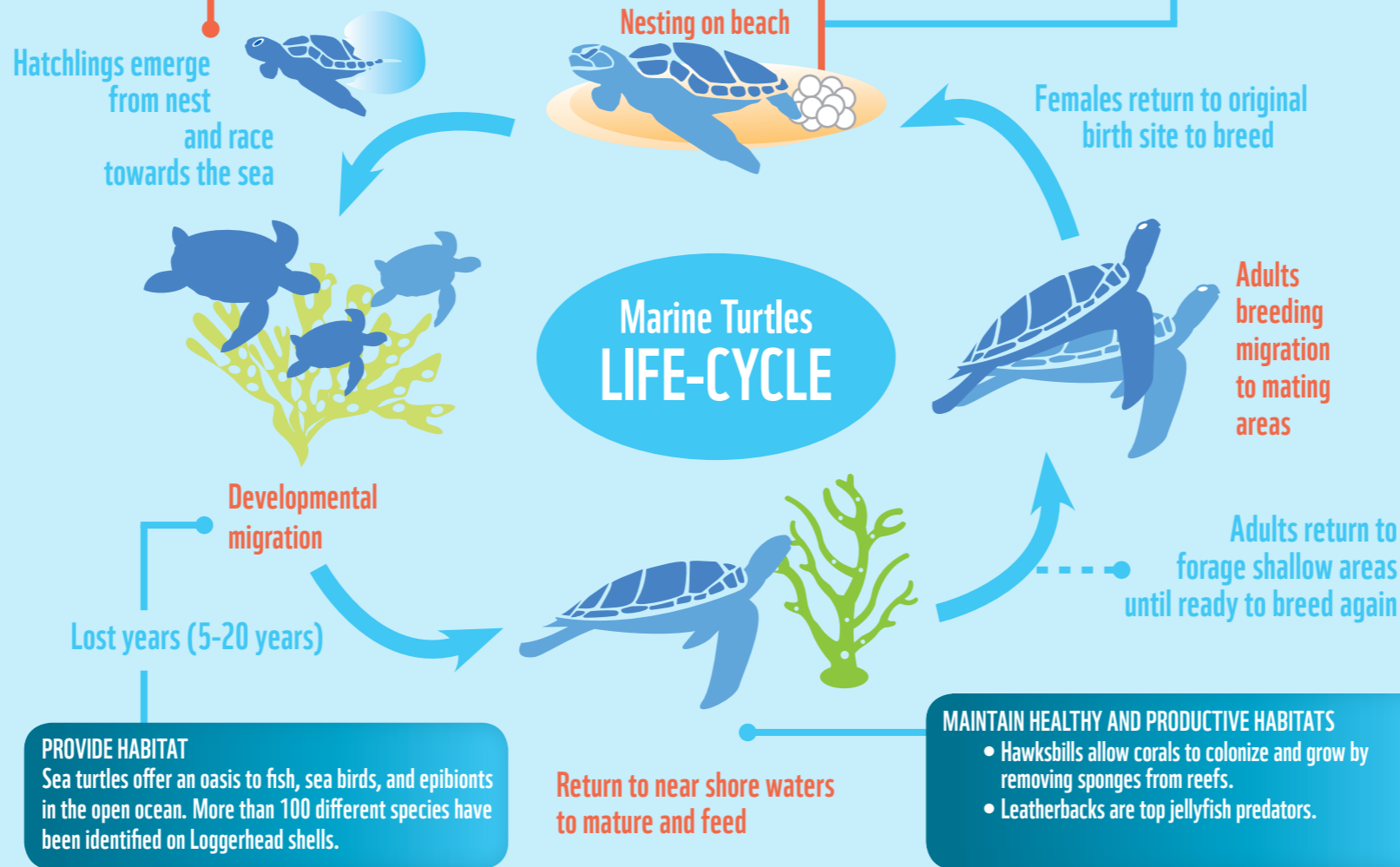
THREATS

- Egg poaching
- Direct consumption and illegal trade
- Fisheries bycatch and entanglement (trawlers, longlines, gill nets)
- Pets and invasive species
- Predation
- Pollution
- Coastal development and loss of nesting and foraging habitats
- Climate change (beach erosion, sea level rise, increase in sand temperature)

LOW SURVIVORSHIP
90% of hatchlings do not survive for more than a year. Many become prey providing food for other animals on shore and at sea.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS
Increase in sand temperature could skew sex ratios, resulting in more females.

NUTRIENT CYCLING FROM WATER TO LAND
Sea turtles improve their nesting beaches by supplying a concentrated source of high-quality nutrients.



Understanding marine turtle CONNECTIVITY FOR BETTER CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT IN THE MESOAMERICAN REEF

Sea turtles are highly migratory species depending on different habitats throughout their life-cycle. Understanding their use of key nesting and feeding habitats is vital for improving conservation and management efforts across the Mesoamerican Reef.

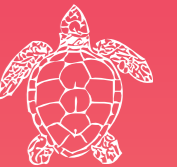
MARINE TURTLES IN THE MESOAMERICAN REEF

CONSERVATION STATUS (CITES)



Hawksbill Turtle
Eretmochelys imbricata
CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Loggerhead Turtle
Caretta caretta
ENDANGERED



Leatherback Turtle
Dermochelys coriacea

VULNERABLE
(average global status)
LEAST CONCERN (Northwest Atlantic Ocean subpopulation)

