



GREEN TURTLE, *Chelonia mydas*

Green turtle nesting sites are confined to the Eastern Mediterranean.

Mediterranean green turtle populations are largely genetically isolated although there may be some connectivity with other populations through the movement of males. Juveniles are known to use coastal waters during development (see map on the cover page).

Estimation of total population ranges from 262,727 to 1,252,283 individuals. Available data shows a positive trend of number of green turtle nests.

Most nests occur in Cyprus, Syria and Turkey, with smaller numbers in Egypt, Israel and Lebanon and sporadic nesting on Crete. There are no recent quantified data from Egypt or Lebanon. A single site at Akyatan in Turkey supports approximately 20% of the total number of nests in the Mediterranean and is the largest known nesting beach in the region. Exceptionally nesting events are also recorded, with the example of Rethymno and Messara Bay in Crete (Greece). An additional developmental habitat for green turtles has been identified in Lakonikos Bay (Greece). Current knowledge estimates that 1,164 - 2,674 egg clutches are laid annually in 12 major and 53 minor nesting sites in Cyprus, Syria and Turkey. Mediterranean green turtle populations are thought to have dramatically declined