

GREEN TURTLE

(*Chelonia mydas*)

IUCN Red List: **Endangered**

Current Population Trend: **Decreasing**

Estimated Number of Mature Individuals:
Unknown

Protected status in Guinea: **No**



Status of Marine Turtles in Guinea

There is no current estimation of the population (juveniles and adults) of Green turtles in the northwestern coastal regions of Guinea, including those of the Tristao Archipelago. Female turtles nesting on Katrack Island probably belong to the same population as those from Bijagos Archipelago to the north in Guinea-Bissau where some island beaches host up to 29,000 nests annually. Although Green turtles are protected an estimated 1,000 Green turtles are killed per year by local fishermen in the waters and the beaches of Tristao Islands, according to data gathered by our research partner. Bycatch of turtles in nets dragged by trawlers fishing illegally in this protected area is also a significant threat to marine turtles; however, no data are available. Very little data on other species of marine turtle including Hawksbill turtle and Olive ridley turtle are available because these populations have not been studied in the Tristao Archipelago.

Conservation Project Objectives

The project will establish and operate a turtle research and field station that will facilitate the studies of turtle habitat, ecology and conservation of this nesting site. The research team will monitor nests and habitat, conduct regular field surveys and perform genetic analysis. In addition, the project partner will support the management of the marine protected area through the provision of triaging, equipment and manpower. Together, the research team and the rangers will engage the local community and fishers to raise awareness about threats to endangered marine turtles and other species. The project will engage with the local school and medical clinic to help raise the quality of life for the local community and improve relations with local leadership and fishers.

Conservation Partner:

