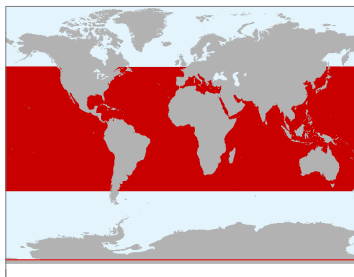




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Geographical range

## Amazing Species: Hawksbill Turtle

The **Hawksbill Turtle**, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Named for its strongly hooked beak, this migratory marine reptile is found worldwide in tropical waters but has declined by as much as 80 percent in the last century.

Hawksbill Turtles face a variety of threats from the tortoiseshell trade (for jewellery and ornaments), egg collection, destruction of nesting habitat for tourism, harvests to support traditional customs, crossbreeding, and entanglement in, and ingestion of, marine debris. However, their main threat is the loss of coral reef communities which act as their feeding sites. Coral reefs are vulnerable to destruction and degradation caused by pollution or toxic spills and vessel groundings. The vulnerability of coral reefs to climate change (increasing sea surface temperatures causing extensive areas of coral bleaching), has also become increasingly well documented.

International trade in the Hawksbill Turtle is banned under its listing on Appendix I of CITES, although illegal trade in tortoiseshell continues. Preventing this black market trade, increasing public awareness, and protecting nesting and foraging areas, are key to protecting Hawksbills.

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