# **NESTING SEA TURTLES OF MASIRAH**

Four sea turtle species nest on the shores of Masirah Island: loggerheads, greens, olive ridleys and hawksbills. The local community and authorities are working hard to conserve these species. This infographic presents an overview of these threatened species, the threats they face, and what you can do to help.



# **Produced by:**

### In collaboration with:



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**Research has detected a serious decline in nesting loggerhead turtles** on Masirah since monitoring work began in 1977. All sea turtles and their nesting habitat urgently require greater protection and consideration.



THREATS AND WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Action: Do not drive on the beach. Park your car at least 100 m back from the high tide.



Poaching and human consumption of turtle meat and eggs. Action: Do not touch, disturb, poach or consume adult turtles, hatchlings and

Light pollution deters nesting females and misdirects hatchlings away from the sea, reducing their chances of survival.

Action: Keep nesting beaches dark and safe for sea turtles. Turn off, shield, or redirect lights visible from beaches. Use red headlights for turtle-watching.

Fisheries interactions, harm turtles through entanglement, bycatch and ghost fishing.

**Action:** Store and dispose of fishing gear on land responsibly. Do not throw used and damaged fishing gear at sea. Rescue tangled turtles.

Plastic pollution and ingestion of marine debris. **Action:** Do not pollute the sea, the beaches and advocate sustainable fishing and gear disposal practices.

Boat and shipping traffic can injure and may kill turtles. Action: Slow the boat speed in sensitive turtle areas.

# Other threats affecting sea turtles

Climate change can negatively influence sea turtles at various stages of their life cycle (feeding, breeding, migration, hatching success rates, and hatchling sex ratios). Sea level rise can also reduce nesting habitat suitability through increasing beach erosion and higher chances of nest flooding.

Habitat modification and destruction through coastal development and encroachment.

**Predation** by natural predators (such as feral cats, ghost crabs, seagulls, sharks and others).

# Other ways you can help

Report wildlife violations and injured, stranded or dead turtles (Environment Authority hotline: 80071999).

Follow national laws and regulations.

Support scientific research and ESO.

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\*IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature +CCL: Curved Carapace Length