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Leatherback Turtle — *Dermochelys coriacea*
Reaching a weight of up to 1300 pounds (about 600 kg), the leatherback turtle is the world's largest and most distinctive sea turtle species. Although generally rare, important nesting grounds for this spectacular animal are now known in Malaysia, French Guiana, Mexico and elsewhere.

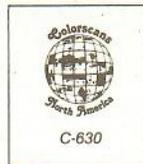
Legando a pesar hasta 1300 libras (como 600 kilogramos), la laúd o tinglada es la mas grande y mas distintiva de las tortugas marinas. Aunque son generalmente raras, zonas de anidacion importantes para este animal espectacular ahora son roconocidas en Malaysia, Mejico, La Guiana Francesa, y en otros lugares.

Photograph by Peter C.H. Pritchard, French Guiana.

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Green Turtle — *Chelonia mydas*

Green turtles are unique among sea turtles in being mainly herbivorous. They make regular long-distance migrations of as much as a thousand miles or more between their nesting beaches and pastures of sea grasses or algae. For centuries, the species has been heavily exploited for its excellent meat, and many colonies have been destroyed.

La tortuga verde es una especie herbívora, que hace largas migraciones entre sus playas de anidación y sus pastos de plantas marinas. Hace siglos ha sido explotado por su excelente carne, y muchas poblaciones han sido completamente destruidas.

Photograph by George H. Balazs, French Frigate Shoals,
Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.
Text by Archie Carr.

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Flatback Turtle — *Chelonia depressa* Garman

The flatback turtle is endemic to the Australian continental shelf. This carnivorous turtle feeds extensively on crustaceans in shallow turbid coastal waters. Low density nesting is widespread on the sandy beaches throughout tropical Australia. Crab Island in north Queensland is the most important of the several large rookeries for the species. The breeding female is intermediate in size to breeding hawksbill and loggerhead turtles. She averages three clutches of about 50 billiard-ball sized eggs per season.

This common north Australian turtle is relatively free from natural predation in its major rookeries. Subsistence level collecting of the adults and eggs by indigenous people occurs in some areas. The flatback is considered to be a secure species at present. However, the high frequency of incidental capture of flatbacks in some trawling grounds could pose future problems.

Photograph by Colin J. Limpus,
Crab Island, Queensland, Australia.

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Hawksbill Turtle — *Eretmochelys imbricata*

The hawksbill is an inhabitant of coral reefs throughout the tropics. With its hawk-like beak it feeds on a variety of reef invertebrates and algae. International trade in "tortoiseshell," derived from this species, has contributed to a worldwide decline in population numbers.

El Carey es habitante de los arrecifes de coral en todas partes de las zonas tropicales. Con su boca de halcon, come una variedad de invertebrados marinos y tambien algas. El comercio internacional en la concha de esta especie ha producido una reduccion mundial de las poblaciones.

Photograph by George H. Balazs,
Namua Island, Western Samoa.
Text by Archie Carr.

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Green Turtle — *Chelonia mydas*
Monk Seal — *Monachus schauinslandi*

Hawaiian green turtle and monk seal sleeping on one of the small uninhabited islands at French Frigate Shoals in the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Both of these native animals have experienced population declines from exploitation, but they are now protected by the U.S. Endangered Species Act and the State of Hawaii.

Photograph by George H. Balazs,
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

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