



Helping turtles

Background reading for teachers

This reading gives you the background for each slide, with sources you can check.

The law

All sea turtle species in the Philippines are protected and classified as endangered under Republic Act 9147, the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.¹ Collecting, hunting or possessing wildlife and their by-products is prohibited, and penalties include prison terms and fines.²

The Turtle Islands

The Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary in Tawi-Tawi is the country's most important green turtle nesting area. It is part of the Philippine-Sabah Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area, jointly managed by the Philippines and Malaysia under an agreement signed in 1996, and produces 1 to 2 million eggs a year.¹

Communities as protectors

DENR has highlighted communities that once collected eggs for income and now guard nests and help hatchlings reach the sea. Illegal egg collection, habitat loss, fishing, pollution and climate change remain the main threats.³

Beach rules

The beach rules follow standard guidance for nesting beaches: keep distance, avoid lights, never handle nesting turtles, eggs or hatchlings, and report sightings to local authorities or the DENR.

Sources

1. CMS IOSEA (2011). Philippines national report on marine turtles. iosea-turtles.cms.int
2. Philippine Information Agency (2024). DENR marks Pawikan Day by releasing 800 sea turtles in Zambales. pia.gov.ph
3. Daily Tribune (2026). From poachers to protectors. tribune.net.ph

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