Green Turtles are part of the region’s shared heritage. In this part of the world, they have coexisted with people for millennia proving their cultural significance to local communities. But the future of Green Turtles is in doubt.

Since 1900 Green Turtle populations have decreased by 50-70%. In the region they are extremely vulnerable due to increasing:

- Incidental capture in fishing nets
- Coastal development impacting habitat
- Marine pollution, including plastics
- Climate change

Green Turtles feed on seagrass leaves, sustaining healthy seagrass meadows. These coastal ecosystems are nursing grounds for fish, shrimp, and pearl oysters among other valuable commercial species. This is how Green Turtles contribute to food security and support local economies throughout the region.

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**GUARDIANS OF THE ARABIAN SEAS**

**WHY PROTECT TURTLES?**
Protecting turtles safeguards many other species, supports fisheries, and sustains tourism.

**WHAT IS NEEDED?**
To enhance regional management plans and synergies among government, the development and the fisheries sectors.

**WHAT WE ARE DOING AT EMIRATES NATURE-WWF**
Providing the robust scientific information to support key local and global strategy plans and agreements.

**KEY RESEARCH PRIORITIES**

- Identifying critical areas used by Green Turtles as they are highly migratory species
- Determining population boundaries as Green Turtles occupy broad geographic ranges
- Better understanding of behaviour at sea including feeding grounds where Green Turtles spend most of their lives