



CAMBODIAN SEA TURTLE SPECIES GUIDE

Sea turtles are **reptiles** - they, like all reptiles and mammals, need to breathe air and not underwater, even though that is where they spend most of their lives. They commonly eat seagrasses, jellyfish, sponges, algae, crustaceans, and mollusks.

They are threatened in Cambodia by fishing impacts, especially bycatch and habitat degradation.



Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

ល្អិត [l'mech]

- green coloured skin with yellowish underside
- wide heart-shaped, smooth, brown shell (carapace) with 5 scutes (scales) down the middle and 4 scutes on each side
- serrated beak on lower jaw
- two large scales between eyes
- 65-185 kg weight; 75-130 cm length
- IUCN Red List status: endangered

Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

ក្រាស់ [kras]

- tapered head ending in sharp point (like a bird's beak)
- mottled colourful shells with serrated edges and overlapping scutes, 4 on each side: heart-shaped when young; elongated when mature
- pair of claws on each flipper
- four scales between eyes
- 40-70 kg weight; 60-115 cm length
- IUCN Red List status: critically endangered



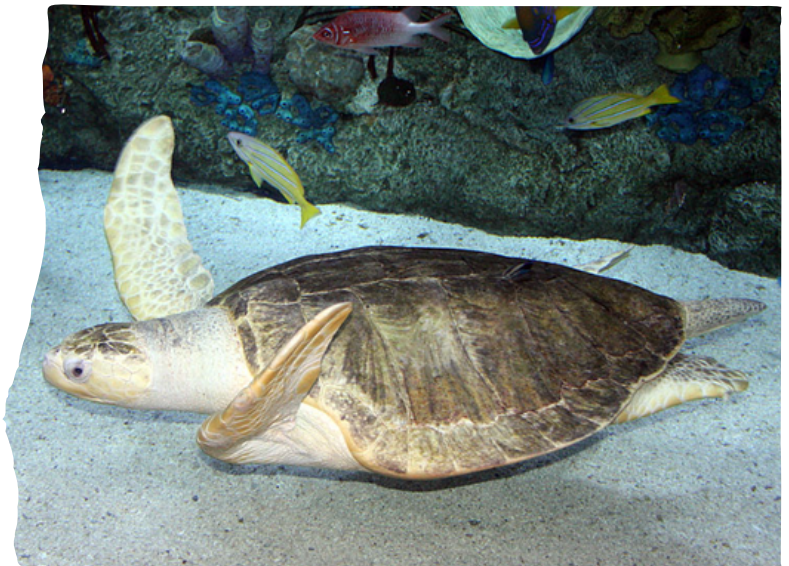


Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*)
ល្អិតក្បាលធំ [l'mech][kbal][tom]

- massive heads to support strong jaw
- slightly heart-shaped, reddish-brown shell
- 75-175 kg weight; 80-125 cm length
- IUCN Red List status: vulnerable

Olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)
ល្អិតប្រផេះ [l'mech][brau][peh]

- olive/grayish-green coloured skin
- olive-green heart-shaped shell with 5 to 9 pairs of scutes (scales)
- each flipper has one or two claws
- 32-50 kg weight; 60-75 cm length
- IUCN Red List status: vulnerable



Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
ល្អិតព្រុយបឺ [l'mech][pruoy][bei]

- softer, leather-like shell with 7 ridges (compared to other sea turtles which have hard shells)
- large paddle-shaped front flippers
- no scales
- 270-900 kg weight; 140-200 cm length
- IUCN Red List status: vulnerable

