

WHY DEFEND SEA TURTLES?



Sea Shepherd Conservation Society has launched **Operation Jairo** to defend endangered populations of green, leatherback, hawksbill and loggerhead turtles in Florida, Costa Rica and Honduras. These icons of the oceans face many threats to their lives including poaching, fishing net entanglement, trash & light pollution, and destruction of their habitat.



TURTLE FAST FACTS

Animal Type: Reptile
Habitat: Oceans & beaches
Diet: Seagrasses, fish, crustaceans, sponges, jellyfish

- ▲ CRITICALLY ENDANGERED
- ▲ ENDANGERED
- ▲ VULNERABLE

SIZE COMPARISON TO A 6FT MAN ⁶



GREEN SEA:
1.5 metres (5 ft) long

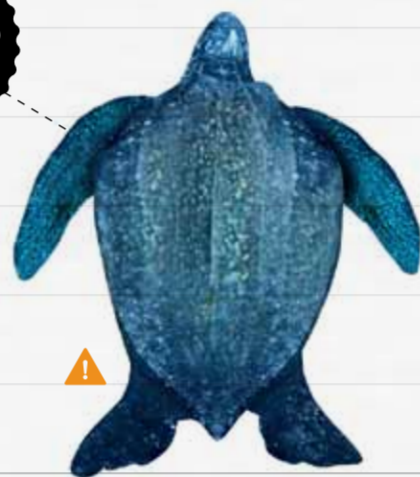


HAWKSBILL:
1 m (3 ft) long



LOGGERHEAD:
90 cm (35 in) long

BIGGEST:
weighs up to 900kg!



LEATHERBACK:
1.55 m (5.1 ft) long

SPECIES IN DECLINE

Due to a number of threats, there has been an alarming decline in the population of sea turtles around the world. All 7 species of marine turtles are currently listed as threatened or endangered. Here's a look at some of the data.



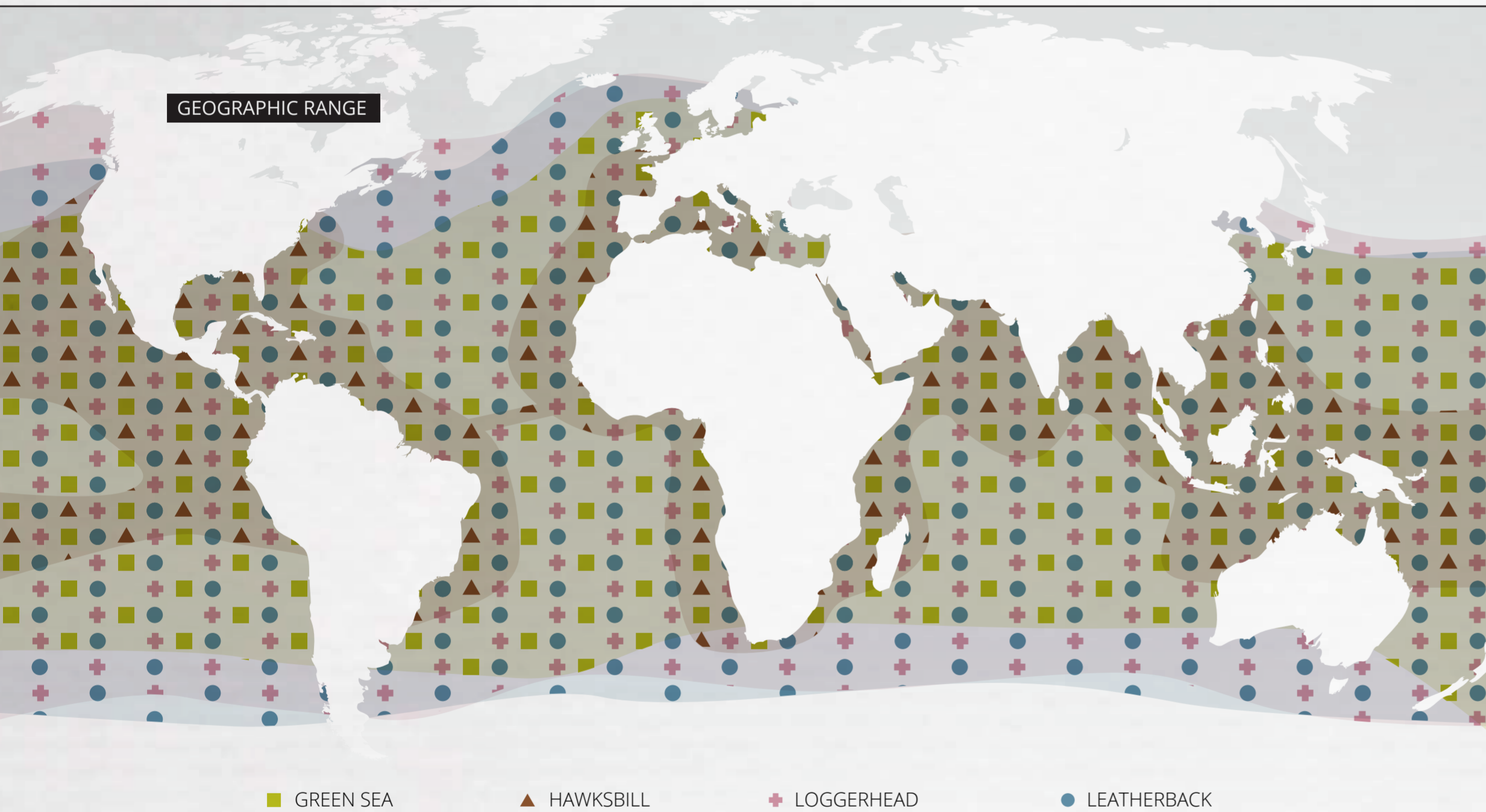
GREEN SEA TURTLE
67% DECLINE in the number of mature females nesting annually over the last 3 generations. ¹



HAWKSBILL TURTLE
80% OVERALL DECLINE of the species over the last 3 generations. ²

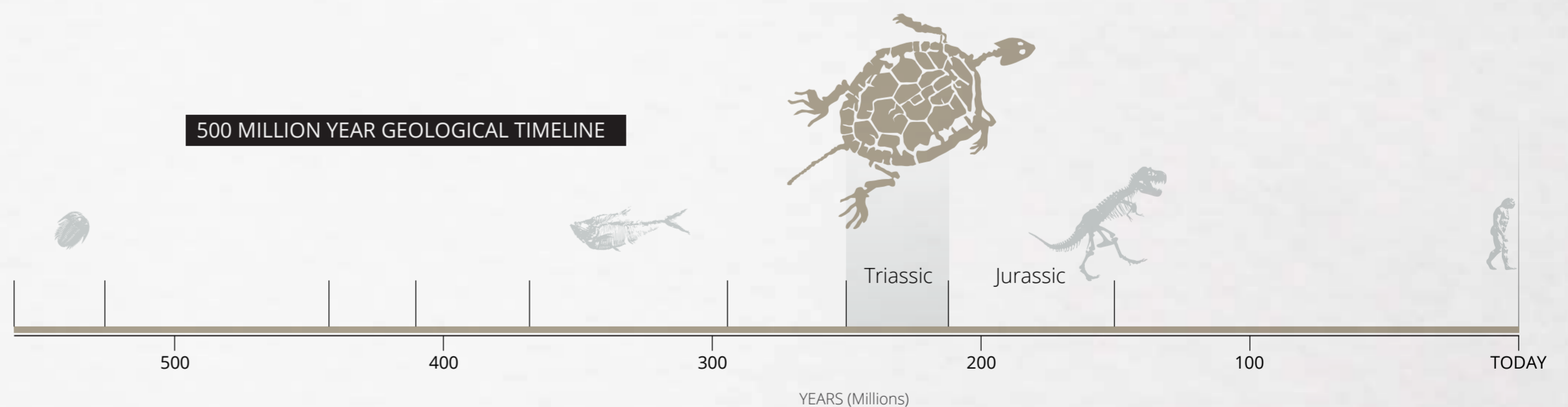


LEATHERBACK TURTLE
40% OVERALL DECLINE in the global population over the last 3 generations. ³



NUMBER OF YEARS ON EARTH

Turtles are truly ancient creatures. Fossil records show that turtles appeared during the Triassic period and rubbed shoulders with dinosaurs in the Jurassic period. The first sea turtles would have appeared late in this period. ⁴



REFERENCES:

1. <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/4615/0>
2. <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/8005/0>
3. <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/6494/0>
4. <http://www.actionbioscience.org/biodiversity/mansfield.html>
5. <http://www.livescience.com/21080-loggerhead-turtle-migration.html>
6. <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/reptiles/kemps-ridley-sea-turtle/?source=A-to-Z>



LEARN MORE ABOUT SEA TURTLES AND OPERATION JAIRO, INCLUDING HOW TO JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN ON THE GROUND, AT

WWW.SEASHEPHERD.ORG/JAIRO