

Sea turtles in the North Atlantic & Wider Caribbean Region

2021 Marine Turtle Specialist Group regional report

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IUCN-SSC Marine Turtle
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Bahamas

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1. RMU: Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) – Northwest Atlantic

1.1. Distribution, abundance, trends.

1.1.1. Nesting sites

There is no formal nesting observation program for turtles in The Bahamas and the country is not currently a major nesting ground for turtles. Loggerhead turtles are observed mating during the spring and summer months and nests have been recorded in areas including the Cay Sal Bank and Great Bahama Bank (30,40,52). More recently, any observations reported by the public, including residents and tourists, to various in-country NGO's (including the Bahamas National Trust (BNT), Friends of the Environment (FotE), Cape Eleuthera Institute (CEI)) and between 2016 -2020 the Bahamas Sea Turtle Network (BSTN) documented these reports. Details include date, location, and species if identifiable from photos of the track. Loggerhead nests have been the most common reported across several islands.

1.1.2. Marine areas

Loggerhead turtles are the second most abundant species of turtle found across The Bahamas. Juveniles to sub-adults can be found in shallow nearshore habitats throughout the archipelago at low densities (2). Adult female loggerheads from nesting beaches (25,64,68,69) and males from neritic waters (70) in the southern United States have been satellite-tracked migrating to residence and foraging areas in The Bahamas.

1.2. Other biological data

Please see Table 1.

1.3. Threats

There are considerable threats to sea turtle nesting throughout The Bahamas. They differ depending on location. In developed areas such as Grand Bahama and Abaco, house and street lights near the beaches can distract the nesting females and hatchlings. In remote or uninhabited islands, the principal problems are marine debris and illegal harvest. Some members of the older generations still eat turtle eggs.

1.3.1. Nesting sites

The principal threats to nesting and successful emergence:

- Houses built too close to the beach (there are laws against this which are sometimes disregarded).
- Construction of sea walls.
- Street and house lighting.
- Illegal harvest of eggs.
- Illegal harvest of mature and nesting females.
- Degradation of dunes and beaches by hurricanes and building construction.
- Plastics and other marine debris on many ocean beaches.
- Climate change impacts including increased sand temperature.

1.3.2. Marine areas

Threats to turtles in foraging habitats seem to be increasing. There are significantly more fast outboard boats, habitat degradation caused by hurricanes, construction and refuse.

The principal threats to turtles in foraging areas:

- Continued illegal harvest.
- Increased traffic of fast boats in critical areas causing boat strikes, noise disturbance, and scarring of seagrass beds.
- Bycatch in hook and line fishing and entanglement in discarded fishing line.
- Increased plastic in the sea.

1.4. Conservation

Loggerhead turtles are protected in The Bahamas by the Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation) Act 1977, since 2009 (37). Enforcement of fisheries regulations however are a challenge with inadequate resources to cover such a large marine area and so many islands. A conservation priority should be implementing regulations on boating speeds, both for pleasure craft and

commercial traffic. In offshore environments in the summer months mating turtle pairs are vulnerable, but also close to shore and in harbours where turtles may be foraging.

The BSTN was established in 2016, in collaboration with the Bahamas Department of Marine Resources, ACCSTR, FIRE, CEI, FotE, Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF) and the BNT. The network's aim was to create a place to report turtle nesting, illegal take, injuries, stranding, fibropapilloma disease, and observations of sea turtles in The Bahamas. FotE and the BNT have been essential in documenting turtle nesting observations in the Abacos and Grand Bahama, and communicating with local communities, increasing hatchling survival, and installing nesting season signs. This group and initiative were terminated in 2021 upon the request of the Department of Environmental Protection and Planning and all further reports should be referred to the Department of Marine Resources.

All groups and projects mentioned in other RMU's record data on any loggerheads captured in their tagging efforts. See Table 3.

1.5. Research

Nesting observations compiled from reports to the BSTN once published will provide an updated description of known nesting distribution of loggerhead turtles across the archipelago. A knowledge gap exists on juvenile loggerheads that recruit onto the shallow banks of certain islands and research efforts should be focused here. See Table 4.

2. RMU: Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) – Northwest Atlantic

2.1. Distribution, abundance, trends

2.1.1. Nesting sites

There is no formal nesting observation program for turtles in The Bahamas and the country is not a major nesting ground for turtles. Green turtle nests, however, have been recorded (31,40). More recently, any observations reported by the public, including residents and tourists, to various in-country NGO's (including the Bahamas National Trust (BNT), Friends of the Environment (FotE), Cape Eleuthera Institute (CEI)) and between 2016 -2020 the Bahamas Sea Turtle Network (BSTN) documented these reports. Details include date, location, and species if identifiable from photos of the track. Green turtle nests are the second most common observed after loggerheads but make up a much smaller portion.

2.1.2. Marine areas

Green turtles are the most abundant sea turtle species in The Bahamas. Juveniles forage in coastal seagrass meadows throughout the archipelago. Tagging efforts for capture-mark-recapture started as early as 1970 and provide robust estimates of growth rates (2,6,13,14,20,35,46) and survival probabilities (1) of the local population. Research off Abaco found that juvenile green turtles are most abundant in tidal creeks despite abundant forage (seagrass) in more open areas (33). This distribution may be driven by high nutrient content found in the seagrasses growing in the tidal creeks and the risk of predation by tiger sharks in open areas. Other previous and on-going areas of study include diet/foraging (4,11,18,22,24,33,56), grazing impacts (5,16,28), distribution (33,21,60), genetics (3,17,44), stable isotopes (12,19,55), and blood chemistry (23,61).

2.2. Other biological data

Please see Table 1.

2.3. Threats

There are considerable threats to sea turtle nesting throughout The Bahamas. They differ depending on location. In developed areas such as Grand Bahama and Abaco, house and street lights near the beaches can distract the nesting females and hatchlings. In remote or uninhabited islands, the principal problems are marine debris and illegal harvest. Some members of the older generations still eat turtle eggs.

2.3.1. Nesting sites

The principal threats to nesting and successful emergence:

- Houses built too close to the beach (there are laws against this which are sometimes disregarded).
- Construction of sea walls.
- Street and house lighting.
- Illegal harvest of eggs.
- Illegal harvest of mature and nesting females.
- Degradation of dunes and beaches by hurricanes and building construction.
- Plastics and other marine debris on many ocean beaches.
- Climate change impacts including increased sand temperature.

2.3.2. Marine areas

Threats to turtles in foraging habitats seem to be increasing. There are significantly more fast outboard boats, and Fibropapilloma disease seems to be spreading.

There is habitat degradation caused by hurricanes, boat traffic, construction and refuse.

The principal threats to turtles in foraging areas:

- Continued illegal harvest.
- Increased traffic of fast boats in critical areas causing boat strikes, noise disturbance, and scarring of seagrass beds.
- FP ise spreading in some areas.
- Bycatch in hook and line fishing and entanglement in discarded fishing line.
- Increased plastic in the sea.

2.4. Conservation

Green turtles are protected in The Bahamas by the Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation) Act 1977, since 2009 (37). Enforcement of fisheries regulations however are a challenge with inadequate resources to cover such a large marine area and so many islands. A conservation priority should be implementing regulations on boating speeds, both for pleasure craft and commercial traffic. In offshore environments in the summer months mating turtle pairs are vulnerable, but also close to shore and in harbours where turtles may be foraging.

Following the creation of the BNT in 1959, concern began to be expressed for sea turtles. Dr. Archie Carr had initiated a program for sea turtle research, the protection of their nesting grounds and their reintroduction to former nesting grounds. One of the regions where this research was being conducted was at Union Creek, north of the Inagua National Park, The Bahamas. Three hundred turtles were sent to Union Creek in 1959 in an effort to restore the area. Dr. G. Carleton Ray approached the Trust's Executive Committee with the idea of the Union Creek Reserve being a part of the BNT, the result of which was the establishment of the Union Creek Reserve in 1963.

Dr. Archie Carr was a mentor to Dr. Karen Bjorndal and Dr. Alan Bolten, Special Advisors to the Trust's Council. Dr. Bjorndal has been studying sea turtles at Union Creek since 1974 while pursuing her Ph.D. and returned every year with her partner Dr. Alan Bolten. Now Directors of the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research (ACCSTR) at the University of Florida, they have assessed a wide range of topics including digestion, nutritional ecology, foraging behaviour, growth rates, survival and emigration probabilities, source rookeries, and genetic diversity. This study has been very productive, yielding many "firsts" in building our understanding of sea turtle biology over their foraging grounds and away from the nesting beach.

Family Island Research and Education (FIRE) has been operating since 2006. Working in close cooperation with the ACCSTR and the BNT, the program studies turtles in their foraging areas throughout the Bahamas archipelago using visual surveys and tag/recapture to study growth rates, site fidelity, and movements. Fibropapilloma disease is also documented and has led to serious concern about the spread of the FP virus. Representing the BNT, FIRE conducts outreach in Family Island (out-island) schools, giving presentations about sea turtles and marine conservation, and taking local students out on the water whenever school schedules permit. The program also carries selected students on several 1-3 week research cruises each year. FIRE has also worked with The Bahamas Department of Marine Resources to conduct a series of fisheries enforcement workshops for enforcement personnel in the Family Islands. These workshops are designed to inform enforcement personnel from a variety of agencies such as Fisheries, Police, Customs, Immigration, Defense Force, and Local Government and to promote greater cooperation amongst these agencies.

In 2012 CEI established its Sea Turtle Research and Conservation program, with the goal of investigating juvenile green sea turtle foraging ground ecology. It's long-term mark-recapture program in local tidal mangrove creeks is in its tenth year, facilitating studies on growth rates, residency period, grazing behaviour, movements, energetics, and photo-identification amongst others. The program has also facilitated community outreach initiatives including school-visits, field research experiences, and turtle-focused summer camps.

From 2014 to 2018, FotE offered a sea turtle field course to Bahamians and visitors led by Florida International University researchers. The course consisted of classroom instruction on sea turtle biology, species identification, threats, conservation, and current research followed by field time where participants assisted with sea turtle capture and tagging. During the same time, researchers often gave presentations at local primary schools and summer camps.

The BSTN was established in 2016, in collaboration with the Bahamas Department of Marine Resources, ACCSTR, FIRE, CEI, Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation, FotE, and the BNT. The network's aim was to create a place to report turtle nesting, illegal take, injuries, stranding, fibropapilloma and observations of sea turtles in The Bahamas. FotE and the BNT have been essential in documenting turtle nesting observations in the Abacos and Grand Bahama, and communicating with local communities, increasing hatchling survival, and installing nesting season signs. This group and initiative were terminated in 2021 upon the request of the Department of Environmental Protection and Planning and all further reports should be referred to the Department of Marine Resources. See Table 3.

2.5. Research

The green turtle is the most studied turtle in The Bahamas with most of the research focused on in-water distribution and habitat use through long-term capture-mark-recapture studies. Recent data on population abundance is needed to determine population trends, as well as studies investigating the spread of the fibropapilloma disease and its impact on green turtles in The Bahamas. Studies on the grazing impacts of an increasing green turtle foraging population are needed especially in light of seagrass ecosystem services, local priorities (e.g., fish and conch habitat), and disturbance by major hurricanes. Nesting observations compiled from reports to the BSTN once published will provide an updated description of known nesting distribution of green turtles across the archipelago. See Table 4.

3. RMU: Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) – Northwest Atlantic

3.1. Distribution, abundance, trends

3.1.1. Nesting sites

There is no formal nesting observation program for turtles in The Bahamas and the area is not a significant nesting ground for Hawksbills. Any observations reported by the public, including residents and tourists, to various in-country NGO's (including the Bahamas National Trust (BNT), Friends of the Environment (FotE), Cape Eleuthera Institute (CEI)) and between 2016 -2020 the Bahamas Sea Turtle Network (BSTN) documented these reports. Details include date, location, and species if identifiable from photos of the track. No Hawksbill turtle nests have been reported during this period to the Bahamas Sea Turtle Network, however there have been reports previously (40).

3.1.2. Marine areas

Hawksbills are found in hard-bottomed habitats and seagrass pastures across the archipelago (2,10). Since little hawksbill nesting is occurring in The Bahamas, it follows that recruitment to local foraging areas is also low (32,57).

3.2. Other biological data

Please see Table 1.

3.3. Threats

There are considerable threats to sea turtle nesting throughout The Bahamas. They differ depending on location. In developed areas such as Grand Bahama and Abaco, house and street lights near the beaches can distract the nesting females and hatchlings. In remote or uninhabited islands, the principal problems are marine

debris and illegal harvest. Some members of the older generations still eat turtle eggs.

3.3.1. Nesting sites

The principal threats to nesting and successful emergence:

- Houses built too close to the beach (there are laws against this which are sometimes disregarded).
- Construction of sea walls.
- Street and house lighting.
- Illegal harvest of eggs.
- Illegal harvest of mature and nesting females.
- Degradation of dunes and beaches by hurricanes and building construction.
- Plastics and other marine debris on many ocean beaches.
- Climate change impacts including increased sand temperature.

3.3.2. Marine areas

Threats to turtles in foraging habitats seem to be increasing. There is habitat degradation caused by hurricanes, boat traffic, construction and refuse.

The principal threats to turtles in foraging areas:

- Continued illegal harvest.
- Increased traffic of fast boats in critical areas causing boat strikes, noise disturbance, and scarring of seagrass beds.
- Bycatch in hook and line fishing and entanglement in discarded fishing line.
- Increased plastic in the sea.

3.4. Conservation

Hawksbills were the first species of sea turtle to be protected in The Bahamas in 1986, including their eggs by the Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation) Act 1977 (37). Enforcement of fisheries regulations, however, are a challenge with inadequate resources to cover such a large marine area and so many islands. A conservation priority should be implementing regulations on boating speeds, both for pleasure craft and commercial traffic. In offshore environments in the summer months mating turtle pairs are vulnerable, but also close to shore and in harbours where turtles may be foraging.

The Bahama Sea Turtle Network was established in 2016, in collaboration with the Bahamas Department of Marine Resources, ACCSTR, FIRE, CEI, Bahamas Reef

Environment Educational Foundation, FotE, and the BNT. The network's aim was to create a place to report turtle nesting, illegal take, injuries, stranding, fibropapilloma and observations of sea turtles in The Bahamas. This group and initiative were terminated in 2021 upon the request of the Department of Environmental Protection and Planning and all further reports should be referred to the Department of Marine Resources.

All groups and projects mentioned in other RMU's record data on any hawksbills captured in their tagging efforts. See Table 3.

3.5. Research

Because hawksbill turtles are less abundant than green turtles, they have not been the focus of many studies. Concerted efforts to estimate population size and distribution are costly but needed to accurately assess their status. Remote nesting grounds should be revisited and more frequently surveyed during nesting season. See Table 4.

4. RMU: Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) – Northwest Atlantic

4.1. Distribution, abundance, trends

4.1.1. Nesting sites

There is no formal nesting observation program for turtles in The Bahamas and the country is not a major nesting ground for turtles. Leatherback nests, however, have been recorded (31,40). More recently, any observations reported by the public, including residents and tourists, to various in-country NGO's (including the Bahamas National Trust (BNT), Friends of the Environment (FotE), Cape Eleuthera Institute (CEI)) and between 2016 -2020 the Bahamas Sea Turtle Network (BSTN) documented these reports. Details include date, location, and species if identifiable from photos of the track. No leatherback nests have been reported during this period.

4.1.2. Marine areas

Out of 20 leatherbacks fitted with satellite tags off Massachusetts, USA (~41°N, 70°W) from August 2007 to September 2009, one was tracked close to land in The Bahamas during its southern migration (67).

4.2. Other biological data

n/a

4.3. Threats

There are considerable threats to sea turtle nesting throughout The Bahamas. They differ depending on location. In developed areas such as Grand Bahama and Abaco, house and street lights near the beaches can distract the nesting females and hatchlings. In remote or uninhabited islands, the principal problems are marine debris and illegal harvest. Some members of the older generations still eat turtle eggs.

4.3.1. Nesting sites

The principal threats to nesting and successful emergence:

- Houses built too close to the beach (there are laws against this which are sometimes disregarded).
- Construction of sea walls.
- Street and house lighting.
- Illegal harvest of eggs.
- Illegal harvest of mature and nesting females.
- Degradation of dunes and beaches by hurricanes and building construction.
- Plastics and other marine debris on many ocean beaches.
- Climate change impacts including increased sand temperature.

4.3.2. Marine areas

Threats to turtles in foraging habitats seem to be increasing. There is habitat degradation caused by hurricanes, boat traffic, construction and refuse.

The principal threats to turtles in foraging areas:

- Continued illegal harvest.
- Increased traffic of fast boats in critical areas causing boat strikes, noise disturbance.
- Bycatch in hook and line fishing and entanglement in discarded fishing line.
- Increased plastic in the sea.

4.4. Conservation

Leatherback turtles are protected in The Bahamas by the Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation) Act 1977, since 2009 (37). Enforcement of fisheries regulations however are a challenge with inadequate resources to cover such a large marine area and so many islands. A conservation priority should be implementing regulations on boating speeds, both for pleasure craft and commercial traffic. In offshore environments in the summer months mating turtle

pairs are vulnerable, but also close to shore and in harbours where turtles may be foraging.

The BSTN was established in 2016, in collaboration with the Bahamas Department of Marine Resources, ACCSTR, FIRE, CEI, BREEF, FotE, and the BNT. The network's aim was to create a place to report turtle nesting, illegal take, injuries, stranding, fibropapilloma and observations of sea turtles in The Bahamas. This group and initiative were terminated in 2021 upon the request of the Department of Environmental Protection and Planning and all further reports should be referred to the Department of Marine Resources. See Table 3.

4.5. Research

n/a

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Table 1. Biological and conservation information about sea turtle Regional Management Units in The Bahamas.

RMU	<i>C. caretta</i>	Ref #	<i>C. mydas</i>	Ref #	<i>E. imbricata</i>	Ref #	<i>D. coriacea</i>	Ref #
Occurrence								
Nesting sites	Y	30,52, 40	Y	40,31	Y	40	Y	40,31
Oceanic foraging areas	U		Y	48,53	U		Y	67
Neritic foraging areas	Y	2,25,64,68, 69, 70	Y	1,2,7,22,23, 33,34	Y	2,10,32,57	N	
Key biological data								
Nests/yr: recent average (range of years)	n/a	40	n/a	40	U	40	U	40
Nests/yr: recent order of magnitude	n/a		n/a		U		U	
Number of "major" sites (>20 nests/yr AND >10 nests/km yr)	n/a		n/a		U		U	
Number of "minor" sites (>20 nests/yr OR >10 nests/km yr)	n/a		n/a		U		U	
Nests/yr at "major" sites: recent average (range of years)	n/a		n/a		U		U	
Nests/yr at "minor" sites: recent average (range of years)	n/a		n/a		U		U	
Total length of nesting sites (km)	n/a		n/a		U		U	
Nesting females / yr	U		U		U		U	
Nests / female season (N)	U		U		U		U	

Female remigration interval (yrs) (N)	U		U		U		U	
Sex ratio: Hatchlings (F / Tot) (N)	U		U		U		U	
Sex ratio: Immatures (F / Tot) (N)	U		65/111	6	U		U	
Sex ratio: Adults (F / Tot) (N)	U		U		U		U	
Min adult size, CCL or SCL (cm)	U		U		U		U	
Age at maturity (yrs)	U		U		U		U	
Clutch size (n eggs) (N)	131 (2)	52						
Emergence success (hatchlings/egg) (N)	93% (7)	52						
Nesting success (Nests/ Tot emergence tracks) (N)	21/79	52						
Trends								
Recent trends (last 20 yrs) at nesting sites (range of years)	U		U		U		U	
Recent trends (last 20 yrs) at foraging grounds (range of years)	U		Stable	7	U		n/r	
Oldest documented abundance: nests/yr (range of years)	Y	30, 31	Y	31	Y	31	Y	31
Published studies								
Growth rates	Y	15,20,46	Y	2,6,13,14,20,35,41,42	Y	10,20,49	N	
Genetics (KB)	N		Y	3,17,43,44	N		N	
Stocks defined by genetic markers	Y	8,47	Y	44	Y	32,57	N	

Remote tracking (satellite or other)	Y	25,29,54,55, 58,62,64,65, 66,68,69, 70	Y	12,21	Y	63	Y	67
Survival rates	N		Y	1	N		N	
Population dynamics	Y	39	Y	6,7	N		N	
Foraging ecology	Y	31,40,62,65	Y	4,5,11,12,16, 18,19,21,28, 33,40,45,50, 56,61	Y	10,31,32, 40	N	
Capture-Mark-Recapture	Y	58	Y	7,9,13,35,58, 59	Y	10,38,51	N	
Threats								
Bycatch: presence of small scale / artisanal fisheries?	N		N		N		N	
Bycatch: presence of industrial fisheries?	N		N		N		N	
Bycatch: quantified?	N		N		N		N	
Intentional killing of turtles	Y	31	Y	31	Y	31	N	
Take. Illegal take of turtles	Y	26,31	Y	26,31	Y	26,31	N	
Take. Permitted/legal take of turtles	N		N		N		N	
Take. Illegal take of eggs	N		N		N		N	
Take. Permitted/legal take of eggs	N		N		N		N	
Coastal Development. Nesting habitat degradation	Y	31	Y	31	Y	31	N	

Coastal Development. Photopollution	N		N		N		N	
Coastal Development. Boat strikes	Y		Y		N		N	
Egg predation	N		N		N		N	
Pollution (debris, chemical)	N		N		N		N	
Pathogens	N		Y	PS	N		N	
Climate change	Y	20	Y	20,50	Y	20	N	
Foraging habitat degradation	N		N		N		N	
Other	Y	31	Y	24,31	Y	31	Y	31
Long-term projects (>5yrs)								
Monitoring at nesting sites (period: range of years)	N		N		N		N	
Number of index nesting sites	N		N		N		N	
Monitoring at foraging sites (period: range of years)	N		45 yrs: 1974-2020		N		N	
Conservation								
Protection under national law	Y	27,36,37	Y	27,36,37	Y	27,36,37	Y	27,36,37
Number of protected nesting sites (habitat preservation) (% nests)	U		U		U		U	
Number of Marine Areas with mitigation of threats	U		U		U		U	

N of long-term conservation projects (period: range of years)	N		4: 1974-2021		N		N	
In-situ nest protection (eg cages)	N		N		N		N	
Hatcheries	N		N		N		N	
Head-starting	N		N		N		N	
By-catch: fishing gear modifications (eg, TED, circle hooks)	N		N		N		N	
By-catch: onboard best practices	N		N		N		N	
By-catch: spatio-temporal closures/reduction	N		N		N		N	
Other	N		N		N		N	

Table 2. Sea turtle nesting beaches in The Bahamas. (Blank).

There are no published nesting beaches at this time.

Table 3. International conventions protecting sea turtles and signed by The Bahamas.

International Conventions	Signed	Binding	Compliance measured and reported	Species	Conservation actions	Relevance to sea turtles
Convention on Biological Diversity	Y			All	To conserve the biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding.	Articles 7 through 11 describe how biodiversity should be conserved and include: identification and monitoring, in-situ monitoring, ex-situ monitoring, sustainable use of components of biological diversity, incentive measures, research and training, public education and awareness, and impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts.
Wildlife Conservation and Trade Act, CITES	Y			All	This Act allows the Department of Agriculture (the managing authority) to assume responsibility for implementing CITES in The Bahamas. Included among the implementation duties are: the coordination of implementation and enforcement legislation relating to conservation of species, the establishment of a scientific authority to advise on the import and monitor the export of species and the appointment of a national advisory committee to advise the Minister responsible for agriculture on matters relating to the Act and the implementation of CITES.	In December 2004, the Wildlife Conservation and Trade Act (2004) was passed by Parliament to implement CITES in The Bahamas. CITES permits are required to transport turtle specimens, or parts of turtles. The listing in CITES also is attached to a species, and if listed on Appendix I, as are sea turtles, warrant additional protection and monitoring.

Ramsar Convention	Y		Last report in 2015	All	The Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.	The convention entered into force in The Bahamas on 7 June 1997 and has developed a draft policy on wetlands that seeks to balance conservation and development efforts and promote greater public awareness. The Bahamas currently has 1 site (The Inagua National Park, Ramsar Site No 892) which hosts foraging grounds for a significant population of juvenile green sea turtles.
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Table 4. Projects and databases on sea turtles in The Bahamas.

#	RMU	Country	Region / Location	Project Name or descriptive title	Key words	Start date	End date	Leading organisation	Public/Private	Collaboration with	Reports / Information material	Current Sponsors	Primary Contact (name and Email)	Other Contacts (name and Email)
T4.1	CM-NW ATL, CC-NW ATL, EI-NW ATL	The Bahamas	Wider Caribbean	Cape Eleuthera Institute Sea Turtle Ecology and Conservation Program	Tracking; juveniles; tagging; rates	2012	Ongoing	Y	Private	ACCSTR		Cape Eleuthera Foundation, Earthwatch Institute	Annabelle Brooks, annabellebrooks@ceibahamas.org	Nick Higgs, nickhiggs@ceibahamas.org
T4.2	CM-NW ATL, CC-	The Bahamas	Wider Caribbean	Factors Affecting Green Turtle Foraging Ecology Across Multiple	Foraging; Habitat use; tagging	2013	Ongoing	Y	Public		https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/c		Elizabeth Whitman, ewhitman@f	

	NW ATL, EI-NW ATL			Spatial Scales							gi/viewcontent.cgi?article=5210&context=etd		iu.edu	
T4.3	CM- NW ATL, CC- NW ATL, EI-NW ATL	The Bahamas	Wider Caribbean	Family Island Research & Education	Tracking; juveniles; tagging	2006	Ongoing	N	Private	ACCSTR			Stephen Connett, lonetagger@ outlook.com	
T4.4	CM- NW ATL, CC- NW ATL, EI-NW ATL	The Bahamas	Wider Caribbean	ACCSTR	Tracking; juveniles; tagging; rates	1974	Ongoing	Y	Private				Karen Bjorndal, bjorndal@ufl.edu	

Database available	Name of Database	Names of sites included (matching Table B, if appropriate)	Beginning of the time series	End of the time series	Track informati on	Nest informatio n	Flipper tagging	Tags in STTI- ACCSTR?	PIT taggi ng	Remot e trackin g	Ref #
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N		Eleuthera	2012	Ongoing	n/a	n/a	Y	Y	N	N	T4.1
N		Abaco	2013	Ongoing	n/a	n/a	Y	Y	N	N	T4.2
N		The Bahamas	2001	Ongoing	n/a	n/a	Y	Y	N	N	T4.3
N		The Bahamas	1974	Ongoing	n/a	n/a	Y	Y	N	N	T4.4