

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Eretmochelys imbricata* in Appendix I

B. PROPONENT

Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING DATA

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Reptilia

1.2 Testudines

1.3 Cheloniidae

1.4 *Eretmochelys imbricata* (Linnaeus, 1766)

1.5 Common names: Hawksbill turtle (English)

Echte Karettschildkröte (German)

Tartue hawksbill (French)

Penyu sisik (Indonesian)

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution: Occurs in the tropical, less frequently in the subtropical zone of the earth (Pacific, Atlantic, Indian Oceans); its large range is, however, only thinly populated; only few scattered breeding populations living far from each other are known to exist.

2.2 Population: The main populations of the Hawksbill turtle occur on the beaches of the Indian Ocean, less frequently in the Carribean, rarely in the eastern Pacific. Global figures are not known; the species is described as being rare in most large-scale zones; the population is declining or regionally extinct (for details see Groombridge 1982: 182-189).

2.3 Habitat: The Hawksbill turtle is primarily an inhabitant of shallow tropical waters over rock and coral substrates, especially coral reefs, where immature and adult animals are most frequently seen. Its breeding places mostly lie on small islands. The species feeds on (benthic) invertebrates, but partly also takes in vegetable food.

2.4 Migrations: As to the migrations of this species, there are only few studies available. Former affirmations that it was resident and dependent on larger feeding grounds were refuted. Some marked animals were sighted up to 3,600 km from their breeding beaches within few months (Groombridge 1982: 190-191). It is possible that only part of this population migrates and that the remainder is resident.

3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threat to the population: The same as in the case of Chelonia mydas; the shell of Eretmochelys imbricata is a particularly attractive material, which is sold to tourists in various forms; this stimulates the intensive use of the population (also see Groombridge 1982: 191-193).

3.2 Habitat destruction: Similar as in the case of Chelonia mydas.

3.3 Indirect threat: Similar as in the case of Chelonia mydas.

3.4 Threat especially connected with migrations: Similar as in the case of Chelonia mydas.

4. Protection status and needs

4.1 National protection status: Similar to that of Chelonia mydas.

4.2 International protection status: Appendix I of the Washington Convention, but with reservations on the part of Japan and France.

4.3 Additional protection needs: Similar to those of Chelonia mydas (also cf. Groombridge (1982: 193-195)).

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5. Range states

Angola, Australia, Bahamas, Belize, Benin, Burma, Cameroon, Cape Verde Is., Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador (including Galapagos Is.), El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, France (French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Martinique, New Caledonia, Reunion, French Guiana), Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India (including the Andaman Is., Lakshadweeps and Nicobar Is.), Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherland Leeward Is., New Zealand (Cook Is. and Tokelau Is.), Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Pacific Trust Territories, Panama, Malaysia, Peru, Philippines, Portugal (Azores, Madeira), Puerto Rico, Qatar, Sao Tome, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Is., Somalia, South Africa, South Yemen, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Sudan, Suriname, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, U.K. (Antigua, Accension Is., British Indian Ocean Territory, Cayman Is., Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Is.), U.S.A. (including American Smoa, Guam, the Hawaiian Is., U.S. Virgin Is.), Vanuatu, Venezuela, Western Sahara, Western Samoa, Zaire and international waters.

6. Comments from range states

None

7. Additional remarks

Eretmochelys imbricata is listed as being "endangered" in the IUCN Red Data Book of 1982.

8. References

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Carr, A., H. Hirth and L. Ogren (1966): The ecology and migrations of sea turtles, 6. The Hawksbill Turtle in the Caribbean Sea. - *Amer. Mus. Novitates*, 2248: 1-29

Carr, A. and Anne B. Meyland (1980): Extinction or rescue for the Hawksbill? - *Oryx* 15 (5): 449-450

Carr, A. and S. Stancyk (1975): Observations on the ecology and survival outlook of the Hawksbill Turtle. - *Biol. Conserv.* 8: 161-172

Diamond, A.W. (1976): Breeding biology and conservation of Hawksbill Turtles, *Eretmochelys imbricata* L., on Cousin Island, Seychelles. - *Biol. Conserv.* 9: 199-215

Hirth, H.F. and E.M. Abdel Latif (1980): A nesting colony of the Hawksbill Turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata* on Seil Ada Kebir Island, Suakin Archipelago Sudan. - *Biol. Conserv.* 17: 125-130

Hughes, G.R. (1973): The survival situation of the Hawksbill Sea-turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in Madagascar. - *Biol. Conserv.* 5 (2): 114-118

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Also cf. the publications listed under *Chelonia mydas*.