



OLIVE RIDLEY PROJECT

Protecting Sea Turtles and Their Habitats



**NEWS FROM THE FIELD:
JULY-SEPTEMBER 2021**

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ABOUT THE OLIVE RIDLEY PROJECT



The Olive Ridley Project (ORP) is a UK registered charity established in 2013. Our mission is to protect sea turtles and their habitats.

ORP operates in several regions of the Indian Ocean including the Maldives, Kenya, Oman and Pakistan. We focus on rescue and rehabilitation, scientific research, and education and outreach to achieve our mission. We run a Marine Turtle Rescue Centre and a Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Centre in the Maldives.

We are a team of turtle biologists, veterinarians and conservationists that use our knowledge to safeguard sea turtles and their habitats.

OUR RESEARCH

We have one of the largest sea turtle-ID and ghost net databases in the Indian Ocean.

Our research areas include:

- Biogeography (population dynamics)
 - Reproductive biology
 - Population ecology
 - Threats to sea turtles
 - Sea turtle conservation
- Sea turtle veterinary science



OUR PARTNERS



We have partnered with resorts, organisations and local NGOs to host our rescue and rehabilitation centres and research teams, and to maximise the effectiveness of our reach in local communities. We would like to extend our gratitude for their backing, help, and support.



OLIVE RIDLEY PROJECT

Registered Charity in the UK #1165905





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The third quarter of 2021 was a busy one for all ORP teams in the Maldives, Kenya and Pakistan. In the Maldives, we continued our work with different government parties on the first ever National Red List Assessment of Marine Reptiles. ORP members are spearheading the assessment teams for green turtles and olive ridleys. Our campaign to protect the turtle nesting beach on Gaadhoo Island in Laamu Atoll continued and we are looking forward to further cooperation with all stakeholders. A visit of Lead Veterinarian Dr. Claire Petros to the Rescue Centre came with new equipment and improved treatment options for our turtle patients. Our team in Kenya took a break during August, but have been back in the field since September sighting turtles and preparing for new collaborations.

In Q3 we recorded seven injured turtles in the Maldives (six olive ridleys and one hawksbills) and six ghost nets were also reported. This is a slightly lower number of olive ridleys than is average for this time of the year. In previous years we have recorded an average of 13.1 olive ridley turtles rescued in Q3. We also recorded fewer rescues in July to September than the previous quarter – as expected because of wind and current direction – and we admitted fewer patients to our Rescue Centre. However, the Rescue Centre was still busy with previously admitted patients.

Our Sea Turtle Photo-ID project research is

progressing nicely. We recorded a total of 138 new individuals in the Maldives (92 hawksbill and 46 green turtles). No in-water surveys were conducted in Oman due to our partner resort being closed. In Kenya, 116 sightings were recorded, with 21 new green turtles and 3 new hawksbills being added to the database.

We recorded a total of 25 nests laid in the Maldives, including six in Lhaviyani and 17 in Laamu. Two nests hatched in Laamu and seven in Lhaviyani with 572 hatchlings counted and released to the ocean. Motion sensor cameras, donated to us by [Reolink](#), alert us to any nest activity at night and continue to be a great help - particularly in Laamu and Lhaviyani where we frequently have many nests to monitor at the same time!

In Pakistan, we recovered 50 kg of ghost gear. Ghost leash and ghost net bracelet production also resumed.

Our e-learning platform continues to do well with 118 new students enrolled in Q3. In total we now have 59 e-Turtle School graduates and 40 Sea Turtle Science and Conservation graduates. A total of 555 students have signed up for our online courses.

We are also very happy to announce the publication of two scientific research papers written by ORP scientists and researchers. Both are available as [open access publications online](#).

- Dr. Stephanie Köhnk, Senior Scientist



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MALDIVES

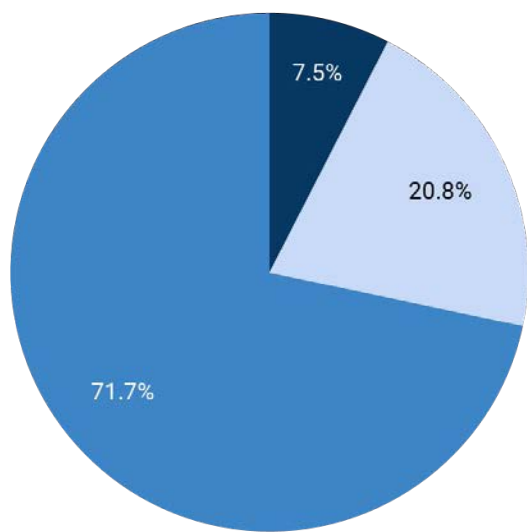


Ghost gear victim Azura, adult female olive ridley

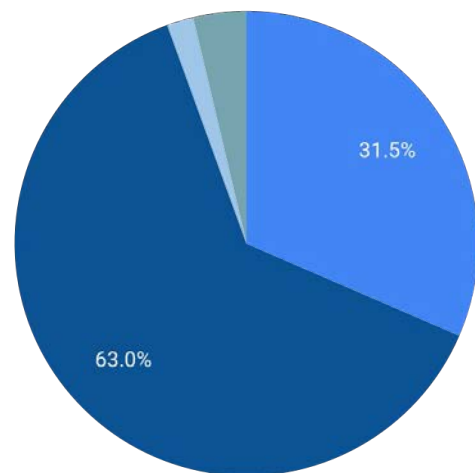


STRANDED TURTLES REPORTED - MALDIVES

Found Dead Released immediately Transferred to rescue centres



Floating Entangled Boat Strike Stranded

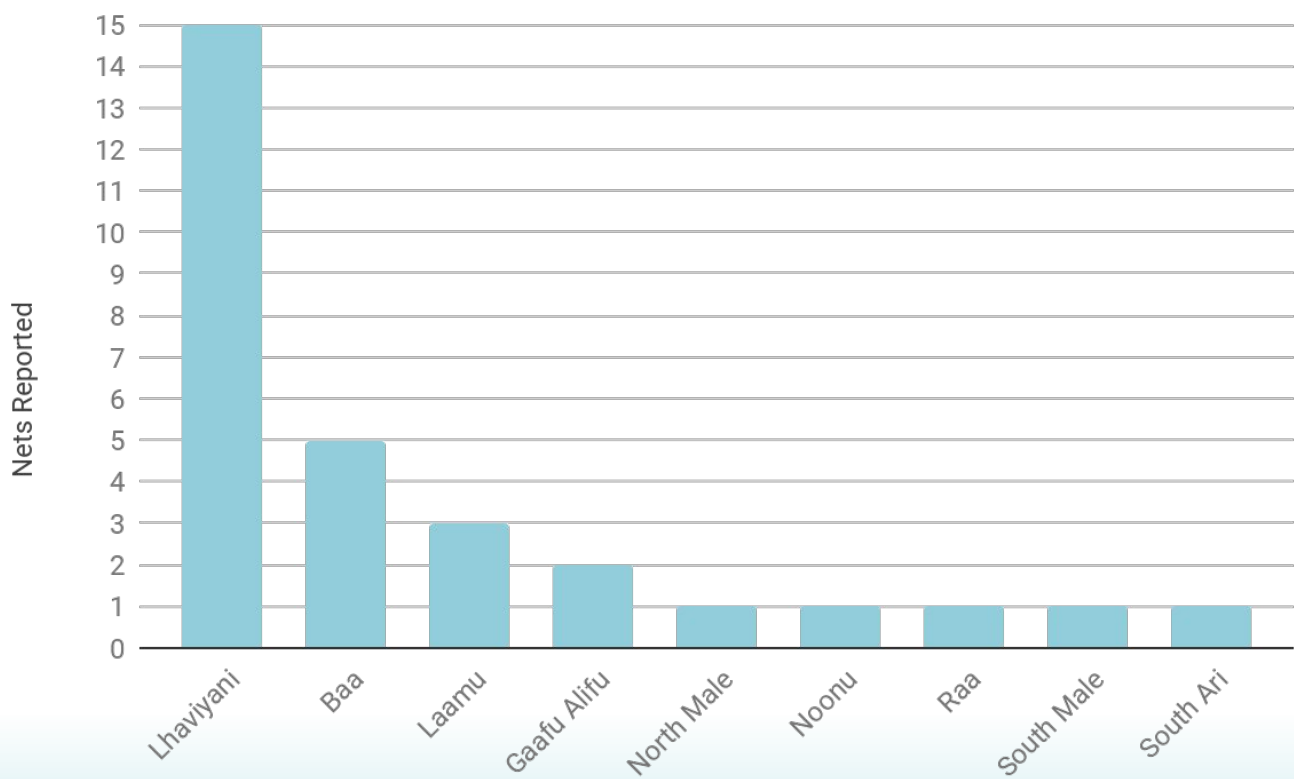


Species	This Quarter	This Year	Since Project Began
Olive Ridley	6	42	901
Green	0	1	31
Hawksbill	1	9	91
Unknown	0	1	3
Total	7	53	1026

A ghost net recovered in September 2021 in North Male Atoll



GHOST NET REPORTS



GHOST NETS REMOVED - MALDIVES

	This Quarter	This Year	Since Project Began
Ghost Net Conglomerates Removed	6	31	919



TURTLE RESCUE & REHABILITATION

This quarter has remained steady at the Rescue Centre, with 6 new patient admissions. We have also enjoyed the highs of 6 releases (Thari, Sunan, Jude, Dinah, Owen and Jannicke) and the lows of 2 deaths (Jum and Moana). For most of the year we have not dropped below 7 resident patients, hovering around 8 or 9. However, we were recently able to send two patients (Amber and Bruce) to our Rehabilitation Centre at One&Only Reethi Rah in North Malé Atoll, after securing a direct boat transfer. We their recoveries will speed up with more space to practice their diving and swimming, under the care of Joe, our sea turtle biologist in North Malé Atoll.

Dr Claire took on the running of the Centre from the end of August for a month to allow Dr Minnie to take a break. She brought with her our new endoscope, our most advanced piece of equipment yet. We are very grateful to our supporters who donated to make this possible, and specifically to OceanCare and Birgit Kos,

who donated after visiting our Rescue Centre earlier in the year. We hope to be able to make a difference to many more of our patients recoveries and obtain important insights into the challenging condition of buoyancy syndrome with our new endoscope.

Surgeries and procedures performed this quarter include abscess removals, flipper amputations and extensive daily wound care.

Our team continue to live-stream feeding of our patients every Sunday to growing success and engagement; a lot of former guests and volunteers really enjoy the chance to revisit the Rescue Centre and join in once more.

We have also started an [ORP TikTok account](#) where we hope to post short but fun and engaging content to reach new audiences and raise further awareness.

-Dr Minnie Liddell, Resident Veterinarian

Bruce, a current Olive Ridley patient



TURTLE PATIENTS

	This Quarter	This Year	Since Project Began
New Patients Admitted	6	26	157
Patients Treated	13	30	157
Turtles Released	6	15	89
Turtles Deceased	2	9	55
Patients Still in Care (ORP only)	7		

TURTLE ADOPTIONS

	This Quarter	This Year	Since Project Began
Patient Adoptions	78	257	691
Maldives Adoptions*	35	99	411
Kenya Adoptions	6	10	100
Famous Turtle Adoptions	9	22	67

**Does not include 70 turtles adopted by Patina in 2021*

Dinah, a juvenile hawksbill patient



CURRENT TURTLE PATIENTS REASON FOR ADMITTANCE

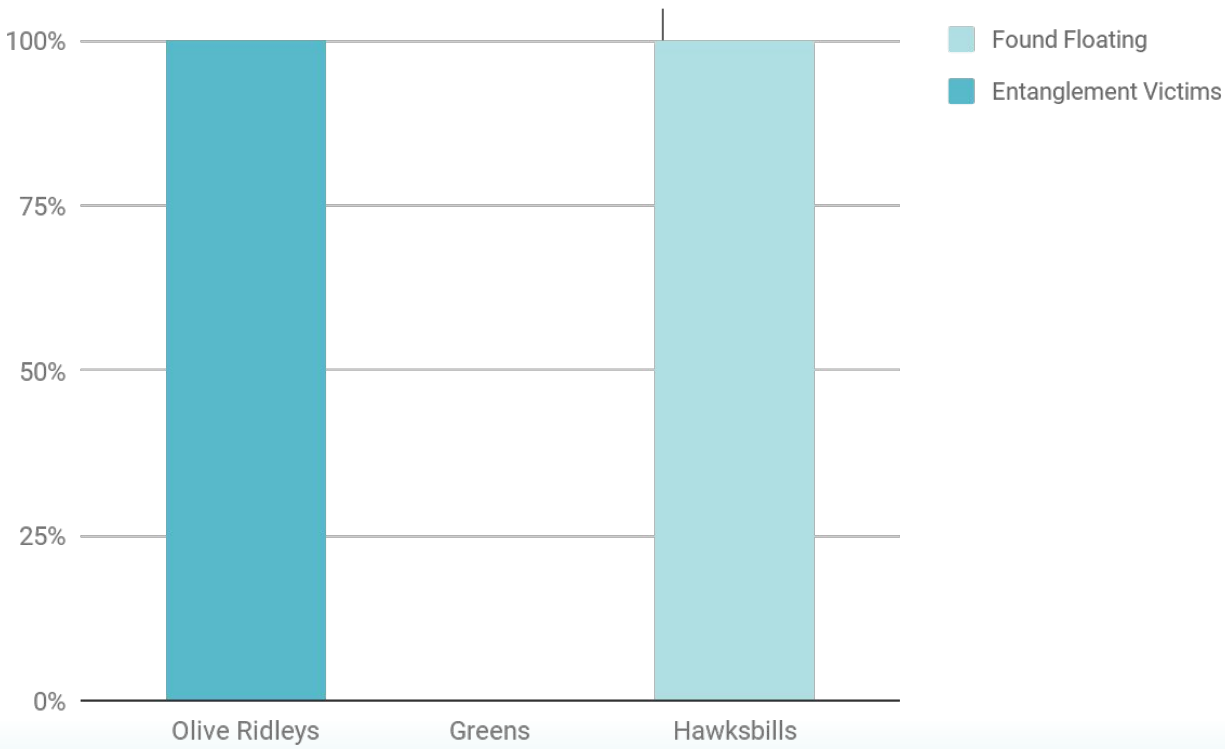


Figure 1. Reason for admittance by species



Olive ridley turtles made up 83% of patients
Patients requiring flipper amputation: 1
Average length of stay: 234 Days

CURRENT TURTLE PATIENTS



Heidi



Azura



Discovery



Xena



Tibby



Amber



Bruce

New Patient MTRCs: Jum, Bruce, Tibby, Jude, Dinah and Moana
Released: Thari, Sunan, Jude, Dinah, Owen and Jannicke
Transferred to rehabilitation (One&Only): Amber, Bruce
Transferred from rehabilitation to MTRC: Xena
Deceased: Jum, Moana

INTERNSHIPS, VOLUNTEERS, AND VISITING VETS

ORP's internship program for Maldivian nationals at the Rescue Centre is an important aspect of our mission to build local capacity to care for injured sea turtles. The program is paid and open to anyone above 18 with an interest in sea turtle conservation and husbandry, with a typical duration of three months.

Shah has had a very successful internship with us since starting in June. He is an excellent guest educator and presenter and has shared his new found sea turtle conservation knowledge with hundreds of interested guests. We hope he goes on to engage many hundreds more!

Since 2017 we have hosted a total of 14 interns, many of whom have continued on in the marine conservation field. This includes within the Environmental Protection Agency working on governmental policy and as marine biologists and educators across resorts and beyond. We are also working on getting the

internship accredited so that our interns can leave not only with a wealth of experience, but also a formal qualification to assist them in their future careers.

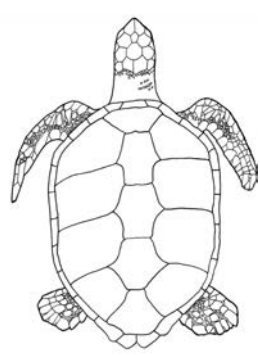
We restarted the [Rescue Centre Volunteer Program](#) in January this year after an 8 month hiatus due to the pandemic. The volunteers are incredibly helpful in running the Rescue Centre and always bring with them their own set of unique skills and attributes to support our work. This quarter we have hosted 5 volunteers hailing from France, USA, UK and Germany,

We have also resumed our [Visiting Veterinarian Program](#) but due to ongoing travel restrictions, the majority of our visiting vets postponed until next year. We have a very busy next year lined up with vet visiting from all around the world!

*-Dr Claire Petros, Lead Veterinarian &
Dr Minnie Liddell, ORP Resident Veterinarian*

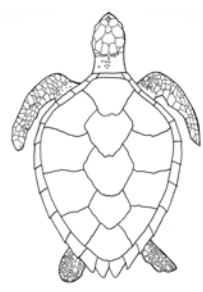


TURTLE SIGHTINGS & NEW INDIVIDUALS MALDIVES



GREENS

Total Sightings: 8,868
Total Individuals: 1,153



HAWKSBILLS

Total Sightings: 19,794
Total Individuals: 3,972

	This Quarter	This Year	Since Project Began
Total Number of Turtle Sightings	1,022	2,471	28,662
Total Number of New Individuals	138	337	5,137
Overall Growth in Sightings	3.6%	8.6%	N/A

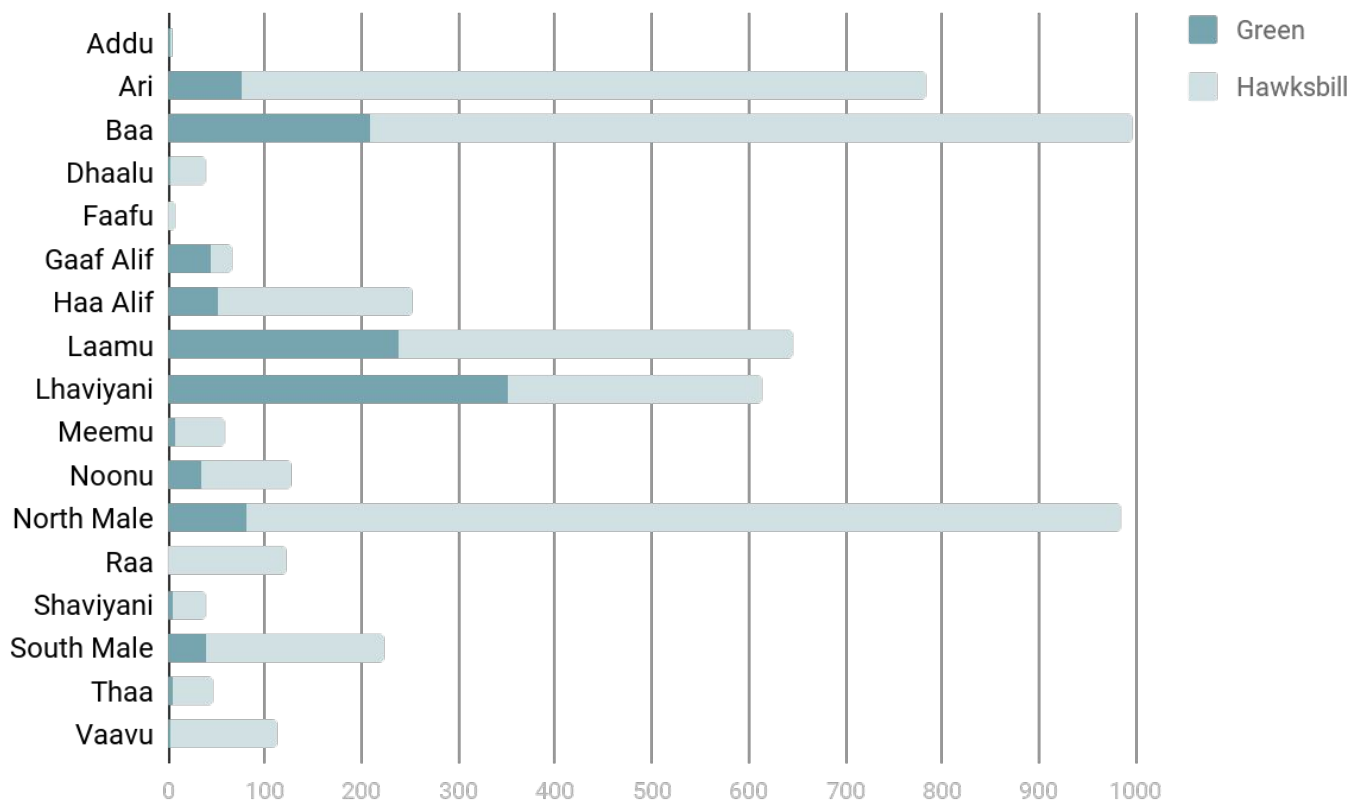


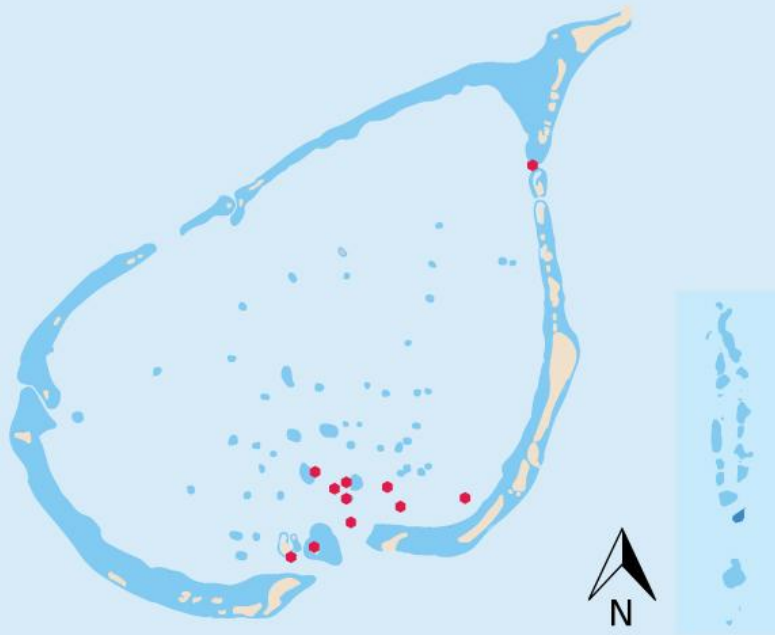
GR1085, Hithadhoo West in Laamu Atoll

TURTLES IN MALDIVES

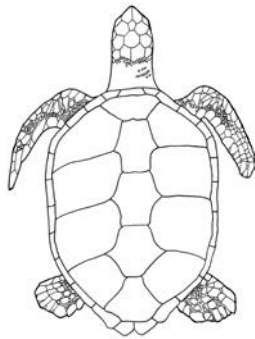
Baa Atoll is home to the largest identified turtle population overall in the Maldives. North Mal  is home to the largest population of hawksbills with 893 identified individuals, followed by Baa and Ari atolls (788 and 709). Lhaviyani is home to the largest population of green turtles with 351 identified individuals, followed by Laamu and Baa Atoll (239 and 209).

The large number of resorts in the central atolls (North Mal , Ari, Baa, South Mal ) as well as a relatively consistent effort by our team members in Haa Alif, Laamu, Lhaviyani, and North Mal  has resulted in much better data coverage from these atolls. The northern and southern atolls, with relatively fewer resorts, still have few turtles photographed and we greatly appreciate all submissions from citizen scientists.



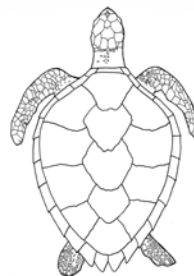


LAAMU ATOLL, MALDIVES



GREENS

Total Sightings: 2,752
Total Individuals: 241



HAWKSBILLS

Total Sightings: 2,040
Total Individuals: 411

	This Quarter	This Year	Since Project Began
Total Number of Turtle Sightings	375	805	5597
Total Number of New Individuals	47	105	651
Overall Growth in Sightings	12.8%	16.7%	N/A



LAAMU ATOLL

In Laamu we revamped our efforts for sea turtle sightings data collection with the Maldives Underwater Initiative (MUI) and started recording more behavioral and biological data. The increased effort by the MUI team has led to 63 new individuals being identified across different sites in Laamu in the last three months.

Nesting turtles returned to Laamu to lay another five nests this quarter. The nests are currently under monitoring for hatching activity. Additional training sessions were conducted for the security team for nesting and hatching protocols to help us monitor nesting and hatching activity on the island.

We continued our efforts to protect the nesting beach of Gaadhoo by working with local stakeholders, including AgroNat which now oversees the island. We met with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology's Director, General Dr Abdulla Naseer, to further discuss the importance of

protection the nesting area on the island.

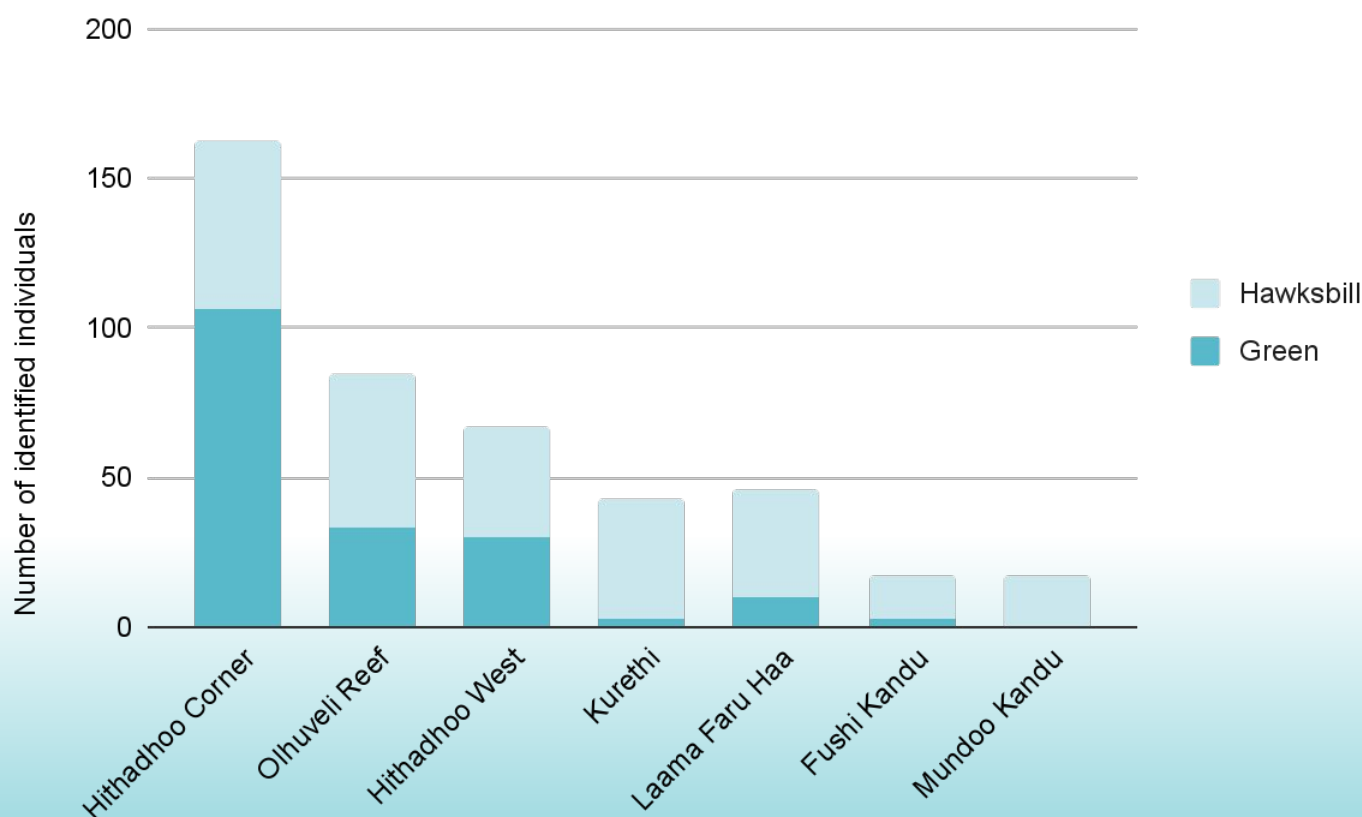
We also assisted with the Environmental Protection Agency's new Rangers Programme in R. Vandhoo, training students of R. Innamaadhoo to do nesting beach surveys. We continue to provide technical assistance for these young rangers as they do weekly surveys.

ORP co-hosted the 'Creatives for Conservation' workshop with MUI aimed at artists and conservationists in the local community - bringing together key creatives in the country to share their methods of impactful storytelling. The workshop was attended by 20 members of community. We also participated in Manta Trust's webinar about marine research organizations in the Maldives, presenting our work and highlighting the ways marine biologists and citizen scientists across the country can contribute to our database.

*-Isha Afeef, ORP Sea Turtle Biologist,
Laamu Atoll*



TURTLE SIGHTINGS & NEW INDIVIDUALS: LAAMU ATOLL





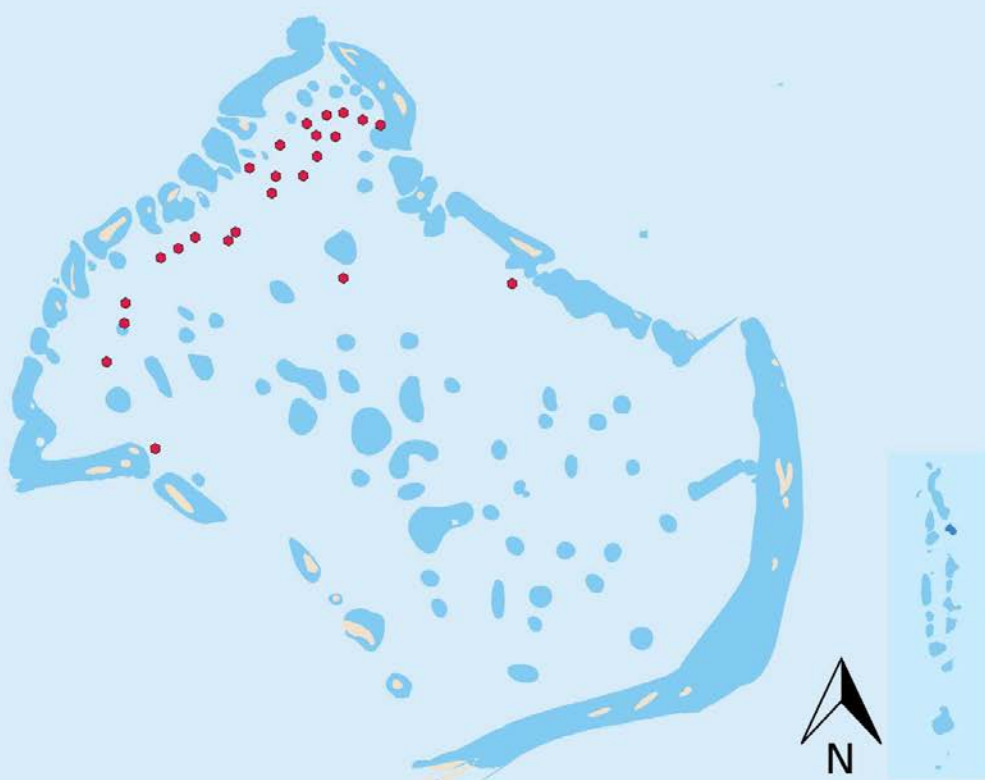
(Left) Technical training for R. Innamaadhoo Rangers, organized by the Environment Protection Agency and supported by the Maldives Clean Environment Project (MCEP). Our turtle biologist and Risha, ORP’s Project & Volunteer Coordinator, provided information on the work we does in the Maldives, as well as information on behavior and nesting habits of turtles.

(Right) The gardening team at Six Senses Laamu help us to locate the nests whenever there’s a turtle track! Their local expertise and knowledge helps our efforts as they are able to easily find where the nests are. It ensures we are able to mark and protect the nests on the island and monitor it for hatching with the camera 50 days after it’s been laid.

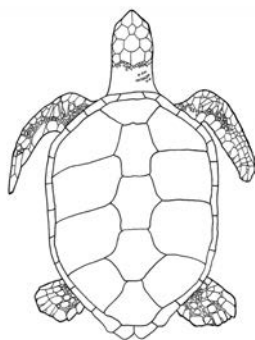


ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

	This Quarter	This Year
Hours Spent Surveying	186.77	406.15
Sites Surveyed	21	23
Nests Laid	5	18
Nests Hatched	2	14
Hatchlings Counted	192	1233
Ghost Nets Removed	0	3

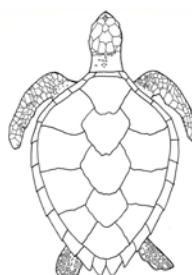


LHAVIYANI ATOLL, MALDIVES



GREENS

Total Sightings: 4,513
Total Individuals: 349



HAWKSBILLS

Total Sightings: 904
Total Individuals: 262

	This Quarter	This Year	Since Project Began
Total Number of Turtle Sightings	583	1,286	5,439
Total Number of New Individuals	31	87	612
Overall Growth in Sightings	12%	31%	NA



LHAVIYANI ATOLL

Since starting data collection in Lhaviyani Atoll in 2017 the green sea turtle nesting season has been known to peak between November and February every year. This year, however, there have been 9 nests laid after this period, 6 of which were laid between July and September.

The south west monsoon from May to October brings high winds and heavy rains to Lhaviyani. The rough weather caused some beach erosion to take place near four of the incubating nests on Kuredu south beach, so sandbags were used to protect them from salt water inundation. Three nests laid last quarter and four of the nests laid this quarter all hatched. The average hatching success for the seven nests is 76%, ranging from 20% for the first nest that hatched in August, to 97% for two of the nests that hatched in September.

Nest monitoring was greatly aided with the arrival of the outdoor night vision security camera, kindly donated by Reolink.

This quarter no ghost nets were found, however, three drifting fish aggregating

devices (dFADs) were recovered. One was found washed up on Kuredu's north beach while the other two were retrieved from a reef north of the island. All three were made from the same material with the same floats attached, and all measured 155 cm x 155 cm. Unfortunately, none were found with the tracking device attached.

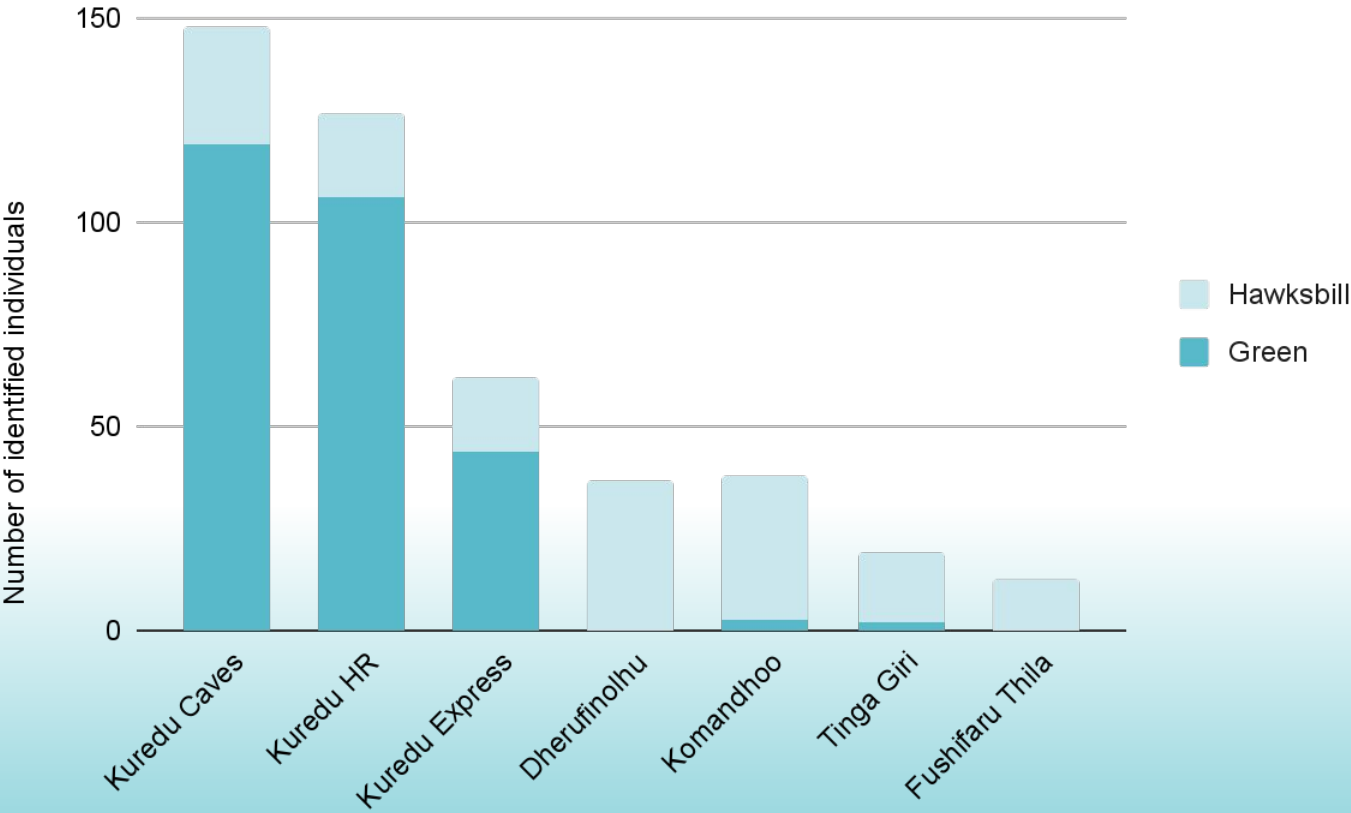
In the last three months we surveyed 24 sites across the atoll. With our partner ProDivers' assistance, we recorded 146 wild turtle sightings and identified 9 new individuals. Our Educational Turtle Searches in Kuredu lagoon continue to yield the highest number of green sea turtle sightings, the maximum being 19 in a one hour survey in September!

Between July and September, 17 wild turtles were named and adopted from Lhaviyani Atoll – we would like to thank everyone who generously supported our work.

*-Emily Mundy, ORP Sea Turtle Biologist,
Lhaviyani Atoll*



TURTLE SIGHTINGS & NEW INDIVIDUALS: LHAVIYANI ATOLL



(Right) Reolink, a British home security company, kindly donated a solar panel powered night vision camera which arrived on Kuredu in July. It has been used on five nests so far with good results. The camera allows the nest to be checked on far more frequently and video clips of the hatchlings emerging can be recorded.

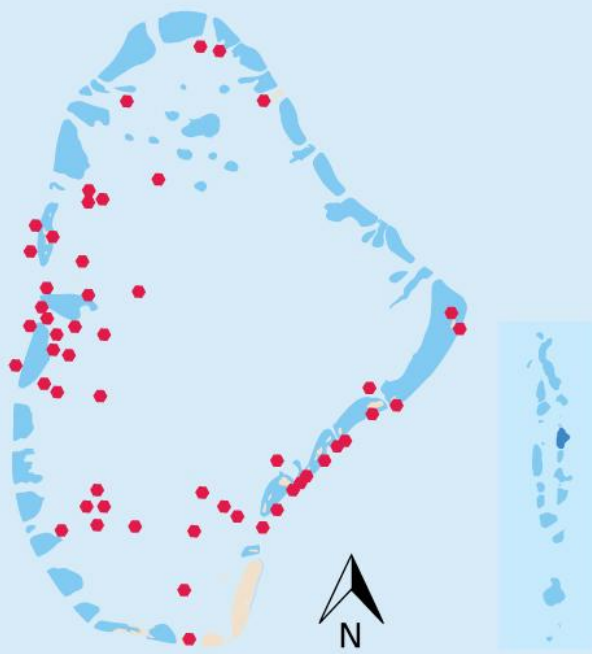


(Left) On the 19th of September Kuredu Island Resort and ProDivers celebrated World Cleanup Day by inviting guests to join us snorkelling or diving in the lagoon to collect debris.

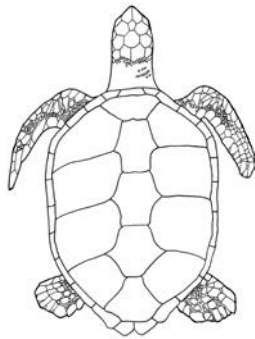
The morning of the lagoon cleanup a boat captain alerted us to the presence of ghost gear on Kuredu’s north reef. We were able to retrieve it and discovered it to be a dFAD, the third one recovered this quarter.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

	This Quarter	This Year
Hours Spent Surveying	80.9	207
Sites Surveyed	24	38
Nests Laid	6	19
Nests Hatched	7	16
Hatchlings Counted	466	1,190
Ghost Nets Removed	3	12

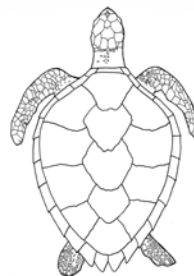


NORTH MALÉ ATOLL, MALDIVES



GREENS

Total Sightings: 88
Total Individuals: 82



HAWKSBILLS

Total Sightings: 9,912
Total Individuals: 893

	This Quarter	This Year	Since Project Began
Total Number of Turtle Sightings	201	787	9,982
Total Number of New Individuals	19	60	982
Overall Growth in Sightings	2.0%	7.8%	N/A



Moana, a ghost gear victim

NORTH MALÉ ATOLL

North Malé experienced a lot of rough weather and heavy storms in July and early August, meaning a drop in sightings. However, as August got into full swing, the weather improved and Makunudhoo reef was filled with hawksbill sea turtles.

We added a total of 93 sightings to our database this quarter. In Q3 we conducted surveys in seven different areas, spending around 80 hours in the water. All of the sightings recorded were hawksbill sea turtles with 19 new turtles being identified, most of which were found on Makunudhoo, Makunudhoo West and Bandos House Reef.

We have seen a number of patients come through our Rehabilitation Centre, including our usual sea turtles, an injured Makannas and even a brown Skua!

Xena improved slowly through July and August, putting weight on and attempting to dive more. However, we moved her to the Rescue Centre at Coco Palm on 9th September to run

some tests. Jude joined us on 1st August after being found floating near Malé. After just ten days she was ready to go and was released from Sunrise Beach on One&Only Reethi Rah.

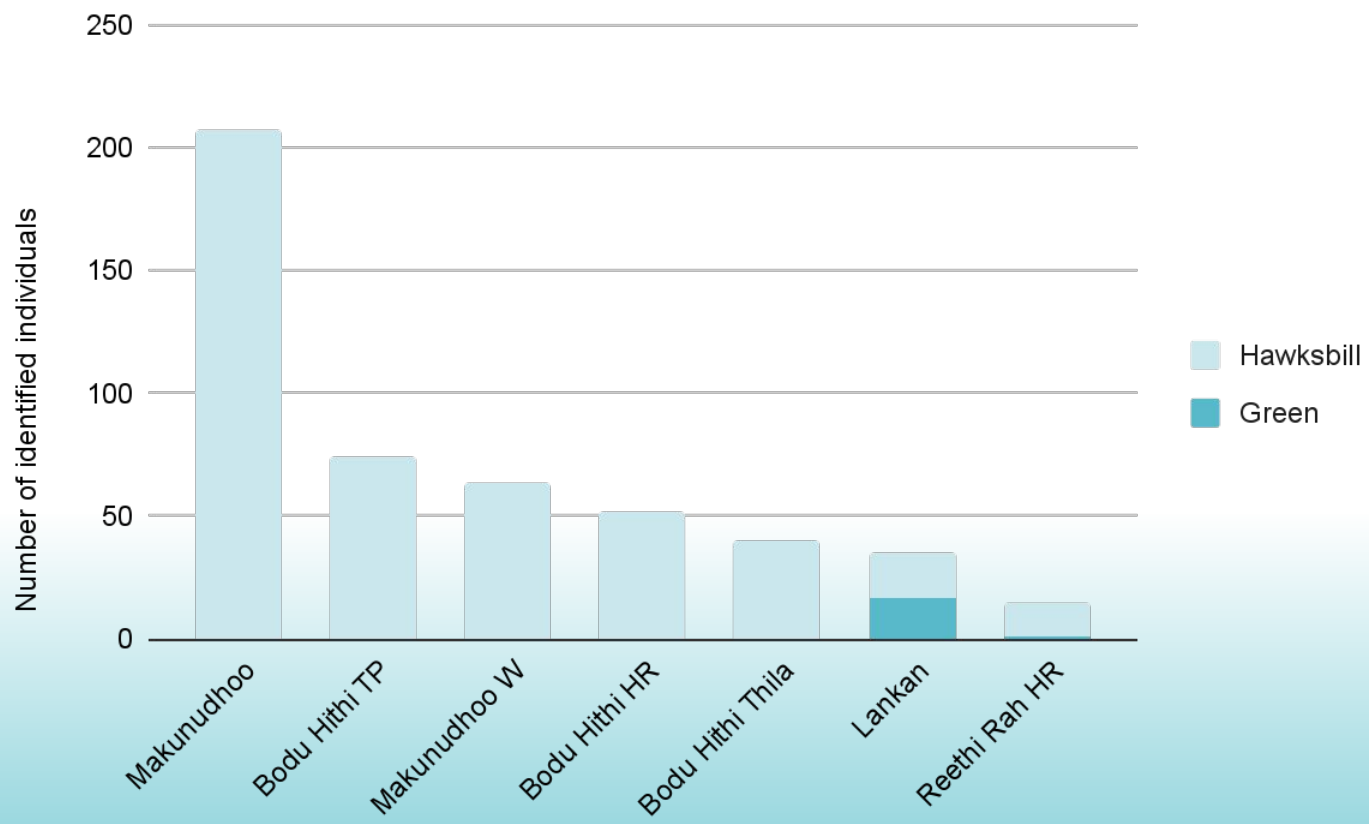
Amber and Bruce were transferred to the Rehabilitation Centre in September to receive one-on-one support up until they are ready to be released.

On 3rd September a very small olive ridley was found trapped in a ghost net by Coco Bodu Hithi boat crew. The juvenile, later named Moana, only weighed 5kg. She had very deep cuts on both front flippers and the back left flipper. She also had shark attack marks all over the body. Dr. Claire examined the injuries via video and appropriate care was given. Unfortunately, just 5 days later, Moana succumbed to her wounds and passed away. She is another reminder to us all of the devastation caused by ghost nets.

*-Joe Rigby, ORP Sea Turtle Biologist,
North Malé Atoll*



TURTLE SIGHTINGS & NEW INDIVIDUALS: NORTH MALÉ ATOLL



NORTH MALÉ



(Left) Bruce moved to the Rehabilitation Centre with Amber on 13th September to make use of a larger tank space to practice his diving. Bruce has made great progress since arriving; he has been attempting to dive more and more, and he even managed to get his entire shell underneath the water when catching food. This is a very good sign for his progress and we hope over the next few months he will continue to regain control of his buoyancy and be ready for release!

(Right) Amber came to the Rehabilitation Centre already able to dive and rest on the bottom of the tank. She now spends most of her time on the bottom of the tank and only comes up to breath or to bask in the sun. Her surgery site has healed nicely and has almost fully closed up. Unfortunately, Amber’s eye infection returned but with a treatment of antibiotic eye drops it cleared up in just over a week. She is now ready for release and will be leaving us back into the open ocean in early October!







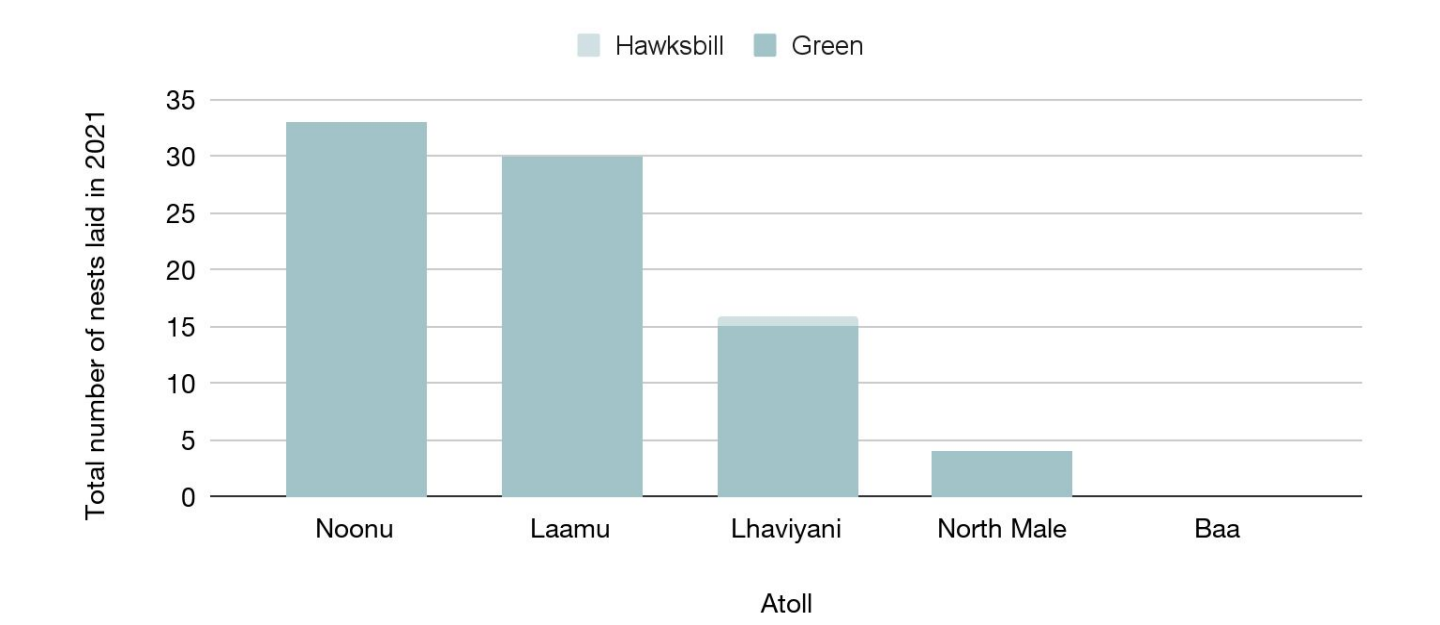
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

	This Quarter	This Year
Hours Spent Surveying	80	260
Sites Surveyed	7	11
Nests Laid	0	4
Nests Hatched	0	4
Hatchlings Counted	0	395
Ghost Nets Removed	4	8



RECORDED SEA TURTLE NESTING ACTIVITY

	This Quarter	This Year
 True Nests Laid	25	84
  False Crawls	18	52
 Nests Hatched	9	27
Live Hatchlings Counted	572	1,881
Average Hatching Success	74%	73%
Average Incubation Time	57.4 days	57 days



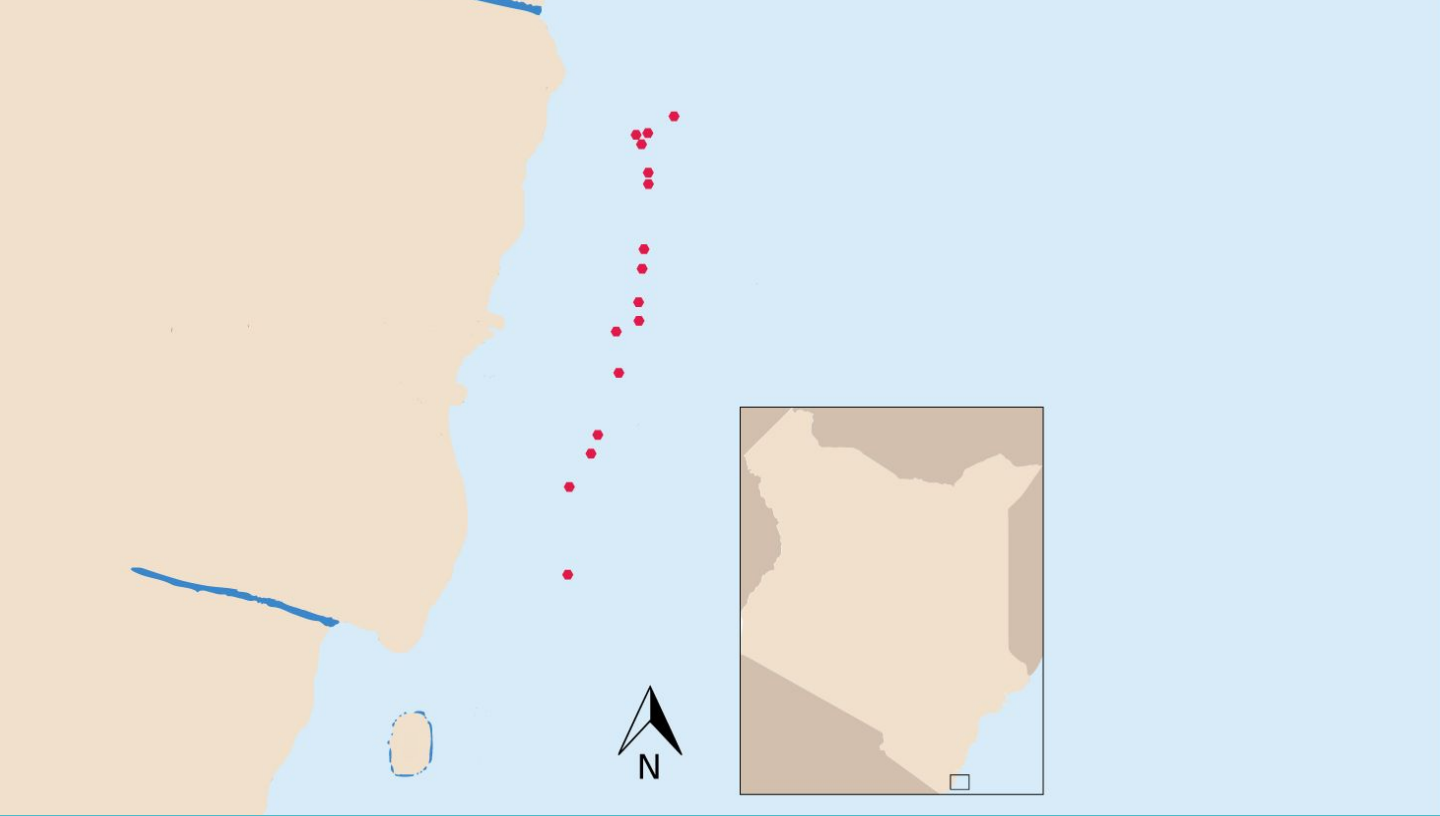


**OLIVE RIDLEY
PROJECT**

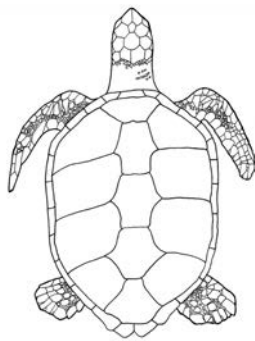
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KENYA



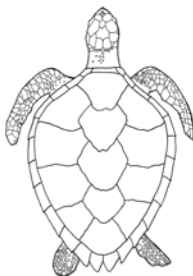


DIANI BEACH, KENYA



GREENS

Total Sightings: 2,373
Total Individuals: 546



HAWKSBILLS

Total Sightings: 316
Total Individuals: 71

	This Quarter	This Year	Since Project Began
Total Number of Turtle Sightings	116	400	2,665
Total Number of New Individuals	24	94	669
Overall Growth in Sightings	0%	0%	N/A



G005, green turtle from Galu

DIANI BEACH

Summer months in Kenya mean very unstable weather and poor diving conditions and we therefore take a month's break from underwater activities. Still, we managed to survey eight of the thirteen dive sites we normally monitor. The surveys yielded a total of 102 green and 14 hawksbill turtle sightings for the reporting period; these included 24 new turtles added to the database (21 greens and three hawksbills).

During this period of less underwater activity we focused our time on various education and outreach initiatives. We met with several collaborators to discuss ways to promote engagement, education and awareness programs on sea turtle conservation in the area and form new areas of collaboration. Among these:

- A public consultation meeting with local stakeholders about a project to restore a self-sustaining and functioning coral reef ecosystem with involvement of the local communities along Diani Beach. The project was presented by Reefolution Foundation-Swahili Beach Hotel.

- A training workshop organised by Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) in collaboration with local conservation teams about data analysis and report writing towards the compilation of the National Wildlife Census report in Kenya.

- A meeting organised by the African Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW-Kenya), Shimoni Turtle Watch, KWS, Msambweni Turtle Group and other local Turtle Conservation Groups to discuss sea turtle conservation on the south coast.

In addition, we held an online meeting ANAW-Kenya to discuss their veterinarian visiting the Marine Turtle Rescue Centre in the Maldives for advanced training.

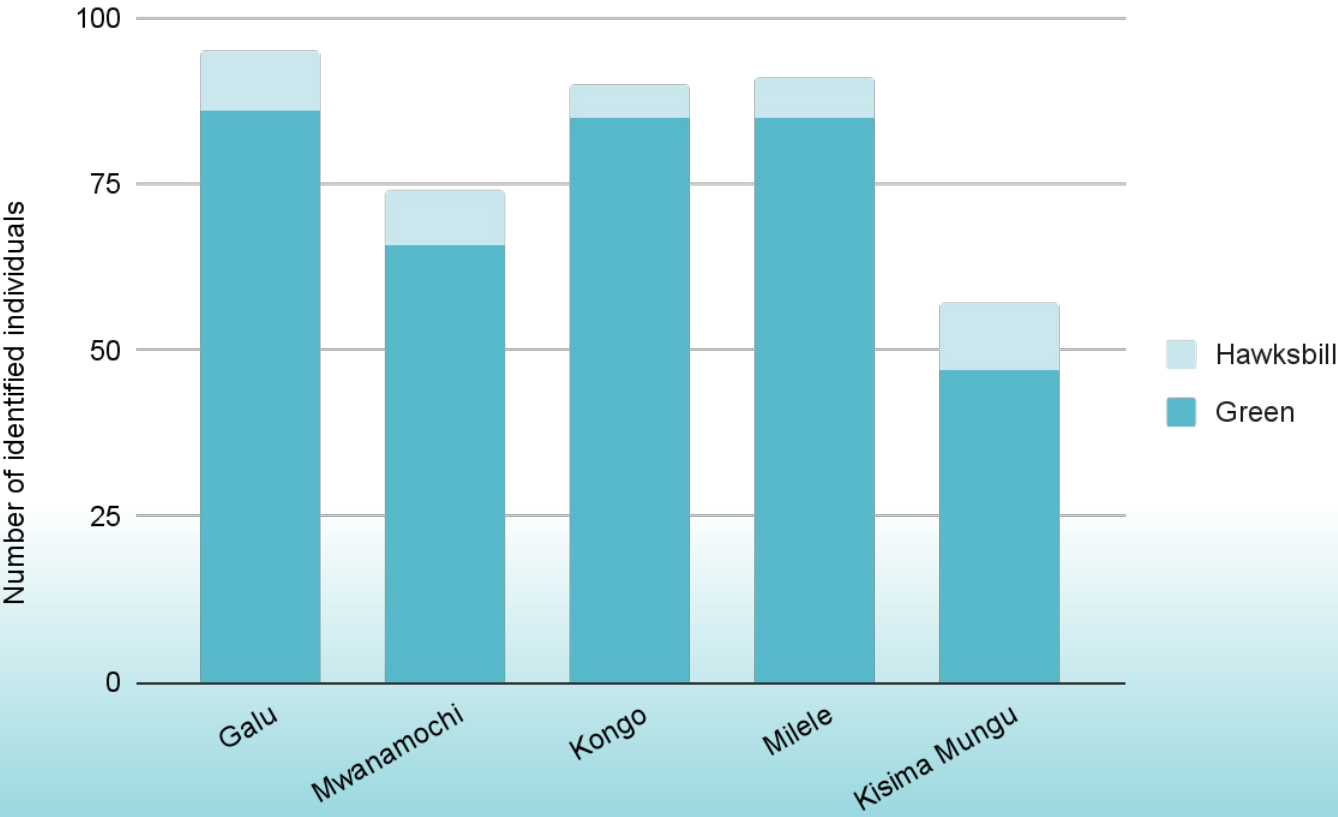
We continued taking part in various community meetings organised by local groups and BMU's to collect information on the fishermen's understanding of sea turtle foraging sites and in exchange we aimed to spread awareness on sea turtle conservation in the area.

*-Leah Mainye, ORP Project Coordinator,
Kenya*



(G225) was one of the most sighted turtle in Diani this quarter. Sighted 2 times.

TURTLE SIGHTINGS & NEW INDIVIDUALS: KENYA





(Left) H028. This female hawksbill was first photographed in October 2019, in Mwanyaza, and in September it was photographed by Denis Mosier, who is a great contributor to our work. We hope to see more of you, Mama!



(Right) This green turtle is G228 from Milele reef. The turtle was last sighted in May of 2019. After 2 years this beautiful turtle was captured again by our team. What a great comeback!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

	This Quarter	This Year
Hours Spent Surveying	20.7	68.25
Sites Surveyed	8	13



PAKISTAN



PAKISTAN

From July through September 2021 ORP's team in Pakistan recovered 50 kg of ghost gear from the beach. As the scuba diving season began, our first dive was on 26th September. The water was calm but visibility was extremely low. We will assess conditions again in mid-October before beginning ghost net recoveries from the ocean.

In August 2021, our ghost gear removal efforts were also affected by several lockdowns in the region due to Covid-19; we were unable to access the beach for a considerable duration of time.

When we could not go to the beach we spent time producing 40 new ghost leashes for our [online shop](#). The women of Abdul Rehman Goth fishing village also produced 100 ghost net bracelets. We currently have 10 women and 2 men involved in the production of ghost net bracelets and it takes approximately an hour to make one bracelet.

All profits from the sales of ghost net leashes and bracelets go back to the community. We sold 10 ghost leashes and 8 ghost net bracelets in the third quarter of 2021.

The football shirts we assisted the Abdul Rehman Goth football team to raise funds for arrived and the team played their first match in them and won 5-3!

There were a couple of storms which reduced access to the beach and the sea at the end of August and the middle of September. We hope to have more access once these storms pass the region.

*-Usman Iqbal, Project Manager,
Pakistan*



(Left) A dead crab was found stuck in this ghost net which was recovered from Abdul Rehman Goth beach. The net weighed 15 kgs

(Right) This ghost net was recovered from Manjhar village; it weighed 35 kg.



	This Quarter	This Year	Since Project Began
Ghost Nets Recovered (kg)	50 kg	331 kg	5108 kg
Overall Growth Ghost Net Recovery	15%	6.4%	N/A
Ghost Leashes Made/Sold	0/8	97/64	545/474
Ghost Net Jewellery Made/Sold	100/0	100/45	565/410



(Left) In August and September, our Lead veterinarian, Dr Claire Petros, visited two of our partner resorts, Soneva Jani and One&Only Reethi Rah, for some staff training and guest lectures. Dr Claire previously visited both resorts in 2019.

Unfortunately, most training had to be put on hold during Covid-times. After such a long time there are many new faces and it is important to continue our outreach for resort staff as turtles frequently get lost at Soneva Jani in Noonu Atoll when nesting and are often found entangled in the waters near One&Only Reethi Rah in North Malé Atoll.

(Right) The training gives an overview of the work carried out by our charity but is also resort specific due to the different challenges that turtles face at each location. For example, in Soneva Jani gardening staff are taught specifically on what to do when encountering a nesting turtle and how to help if she gets lost on her way back to the sea. One&Only Reethi Rah's boat crew, on the other hand, often find entangled turtles and so they are trained on how to safely rescue a sea turtle and the information required by the veterinary team to triage their injuries in real time.



In September we launched a training program with Kuredu Island Resort on sea turtle awareness, which all staff are required to attend. The training covers:

- Sea turtle biology
- Threats to sea turtles
- The importance of Kuredu island to sea turtles and sea turtles to tourism
- [ORP's sea turtle code of conduct for nesting and hatching sea turtles](#), which is part of Kuredu's Standard Operating Procedures.



VIRTUAL AWARENESS AND OUTREACH



(Left) Dr Claire, Emily and Isha were all involved in August's [Maldives Marine Biologist Webinar](#) hosted by Jess Haines from the Manta Trust. The webinar consisted of 20 minute talks from the Maldives Whale Shark Research Project, the Maldives Marine Research Institute, Manta Trust and the Olive Ridley Project and ran for just over two hours. It was attended by 259 individuals, the majority of which were from the Maldives. The talks provided a really useful insight into the work of the NGOs that are working in the field in the country.

(Right) The Olive Ridley Project participated in Sea Turtle Talks, a 3-day twitter conference for individuals and organisations to showcase their sea turtle research, conservation, management and outreach efforts. Our talk was well received and we had several engaged viewers. The series of tweets are available on our twitter page https://twitter.com/ORP_INDIANOCEAN and you can still view the other talks on <https://twitter.com/seaturtletalks?lang=en>



(Left) We partnered with national award- winning outdoor education provider The Great Out-tours to produce an activity filled range of curriculum-linked and risk-assessed educational resources inspired by sea turtles. [The Sea Turtles Activity Bundle](#) is a great addition to our online learning platform and will help ORP further our goal of using education as a tool in sea turtle conservation.

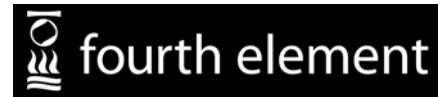
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Stelfox M, Martin-Cerceda M, Vahed K, Hudgins J, Köhnk S, Iqbal U, Shameel I, Hancock JM and Sweet M 2021. The Olive Ridley Project (ORP): [A successful example of how to engage researchers, conservation practitioners and civil society](#). Research for All 5(2): 448–73.

Köhnk S, Liddell A and Brown R 2021. [Finding of a two-headed green turtle embryo during nest monitoring in Baa Atoll, Maldives](#). Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research 88(1): a1940.



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We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our partners, supporters, fundraisers, donors, adoptive parents, and volunteers! We are only able to do this work thanks to your generosity and support.

Thank you!