

Management and conservation of sea turtles in the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area

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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Turtles and Ningaloo



- Foraging, mating and nesting
- Outstanding Universal Value (NCWHA) – nesting marine turtles
- Key performance indicator (KPI) in NMPMP
- Guaranteed crowd pleaser!



Green turtle

ENDANGERED

15,000 – 34,000
breeding females



Hawksbill turtle

**CRITICALLY
ENDANGERED**

350 – 790 breeding
females



Loggerhead turtle

ENDANGERED

990 – 2,760 breeding
females

Our role

Vision Statement

The marine flora and fauna, habitats of the Ningaloo Marine Park will be in the same or better condition and the cultural and Indigenous heritage values will be fully protected from adverse human impacts

- Understand sea turtles
- Understand what they need to survive
- Understand threats and impacts
 - predation by feral animals, boat strikes, entanglement, inappropriate wildlife viewing, ingestion of litter especially plastics, coastal developments, 4WD's, lighting
- Learn how to minimise threats and impacts





Our management strategies

As on-ground (and on-water) managers of the reserves:

- **Research and monitoring**
- **Compliance and enforcement**
- Managing commercial operators
- **Education and interpretation**
- **Community engagement**
- **Direct management intervention**
- Visitor risk management
- Emergency response
- Oiled wildlife response

Research and monitoring



Compliance and enforcement



Education and interpretation; Community engagement

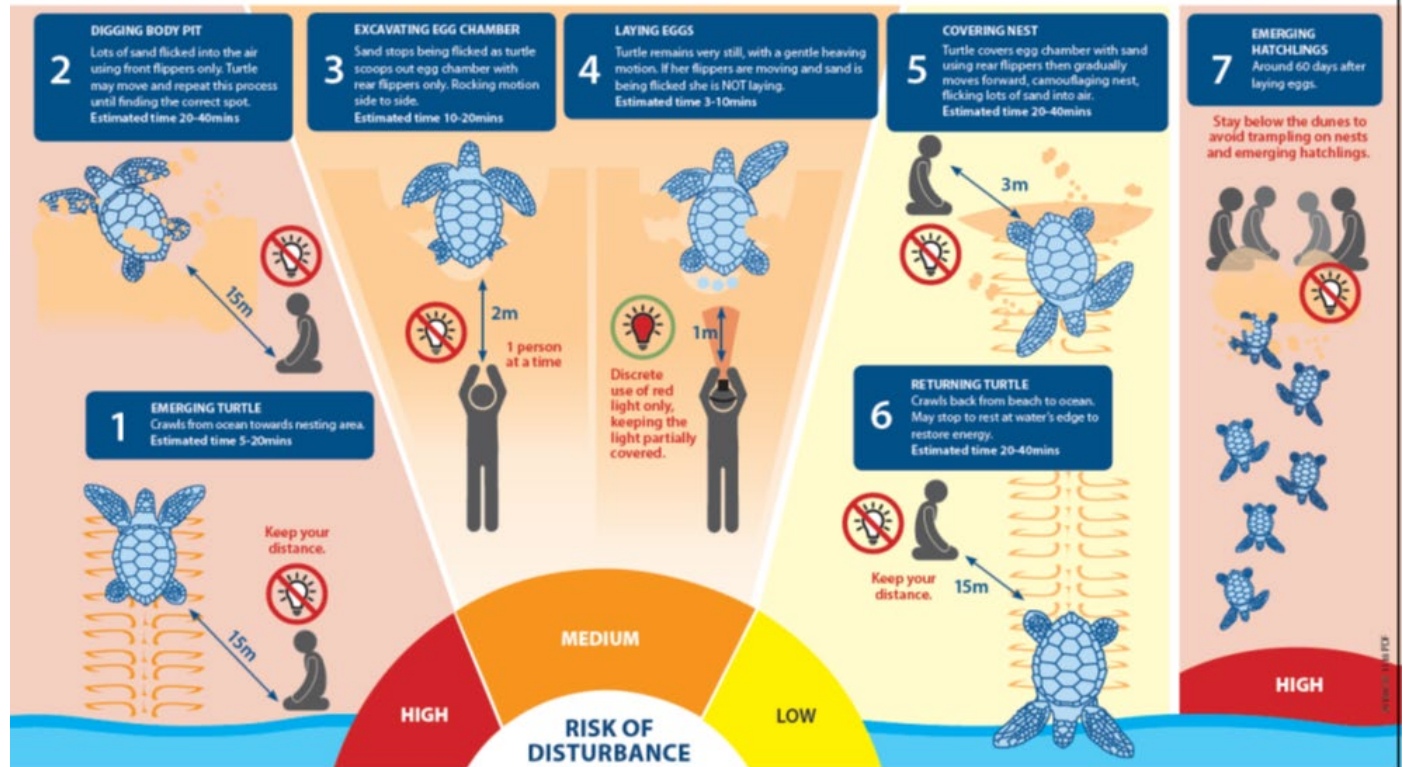




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Turtle Watching Code of Conduct



NO GLOW: Nesting turtles and hatchlings are easily disturbed by lights, use the moon to light your way.

MOVE SLOW: To avoid disturbing turtles, walk along the water's edge.

STAY LOW: Out of sight of nesting turtles – sit, crouch or lie in the sand.

LET THEM FLOW: Let hatchlings make their own way to the ocean, they take an imprint of that beach so they can return to the same area when they are ready to mate and lay eggs. Try not to get between hatchlings and the water's edge.



No flash
photography
at any time



No dogs
on turtle
nesting
beaches

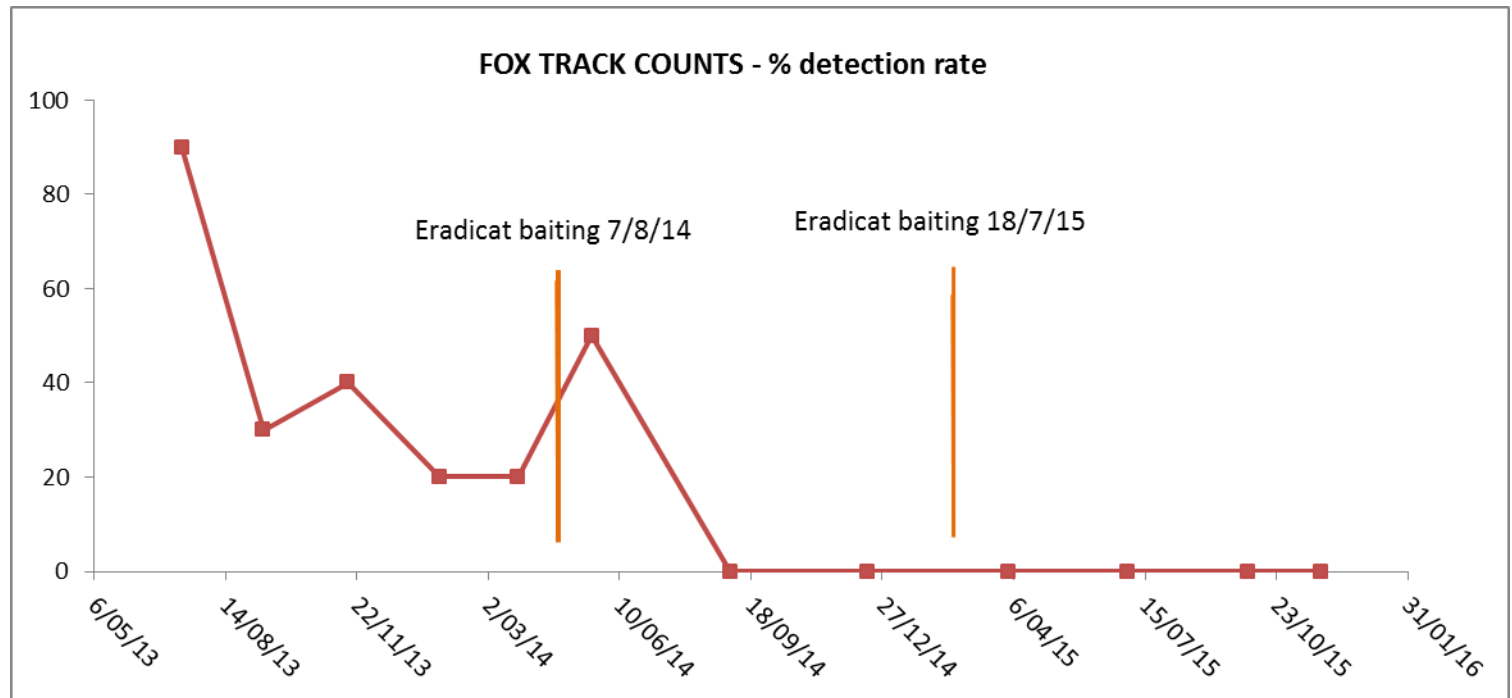


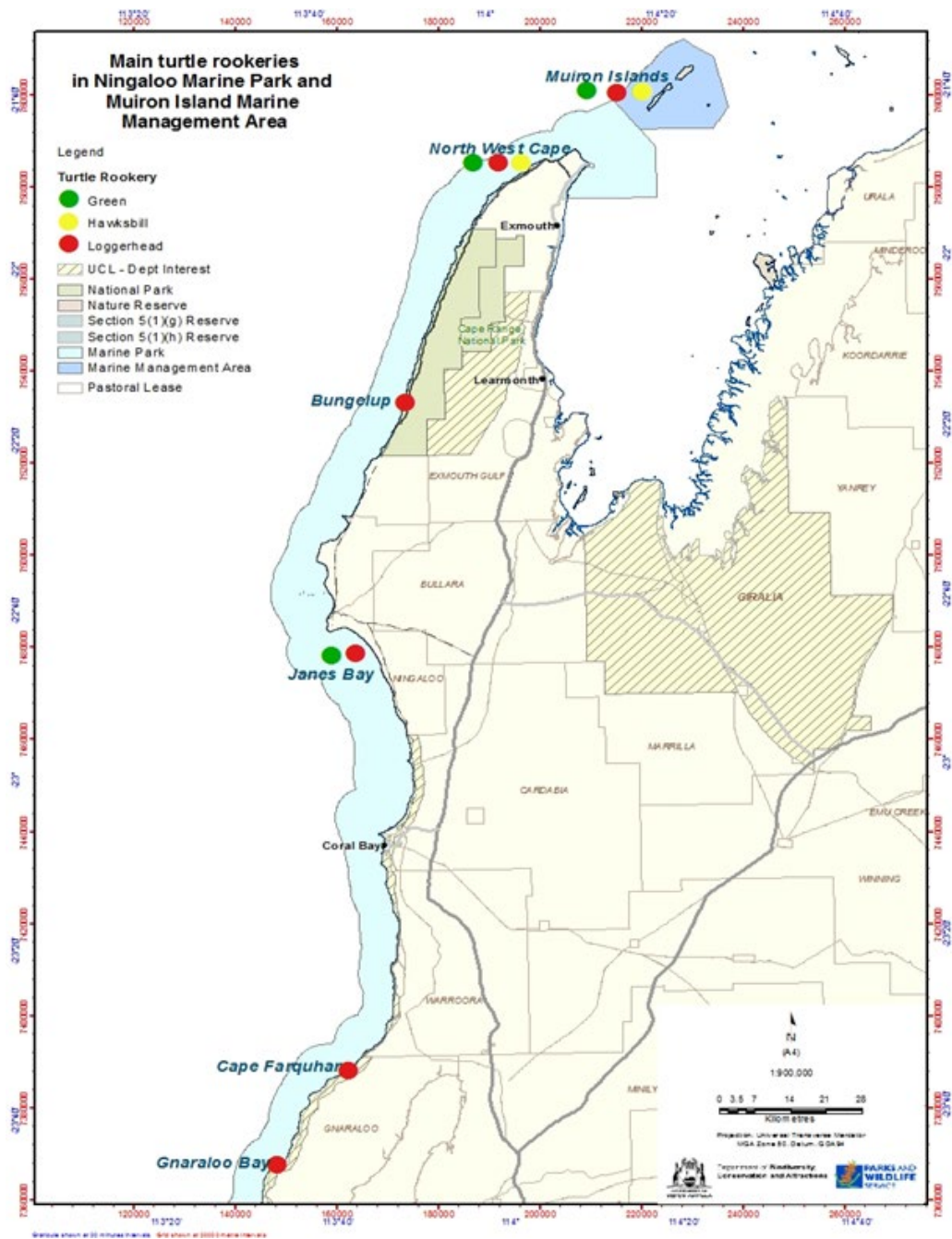
Don't drive
on turtle
nesting
beaches

Direct management intervention



Research informing direct management intervention...



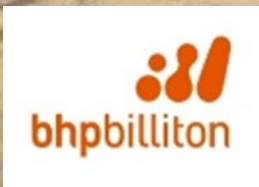




How can research inform conservation and management?

- Be strategic from the start
- Provide a better understanding of ecology and threats
- Provide recommendations for direct management
 - Habitat protection?
 - Other?
- Raise awareness of species
- Provide information for public engagement and direct involvement of community

Thank you



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