

PROJECT GREEN CHALLENGE DAY 12: OCEAN (greener)

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Challenge:

One endangered species and a video link

Endangered species: Hawksbill Turtle



Hawksbill Turtle is important in our ecosystem as they help maintaining the health of the coral reefs. This is because they can remove preys from the reefs' surfaces such as sponges. By removing the preys, it allows better access for reef fish to feed. Not only beneficial for the ecosystem, this species also has a major value for tourism as it is a major attraction for tourists. Tourism can help boost a country's economy, hence improving the local community's financial and economic status. This species also has a cultural significance as they are only available in certain countries, hence making them a vital source of income and attraction.

However, hawksbill turtle is now facing many **major threats** from humanity and are now critically endangered. First, they are being threatened by loss of nesting and feeding habitats due to the plastics cluttered in the ocean. This cause them to lose a place to lay eggs and disrupt their reproduction. This is also one of the reason why it's now an endangered species as they can no longer lay eggs as easy as it used to be.

Secondly, they are also a huge victim to illegal wildlife trade, in which humans poach this species for their eggs, shells and even meat. These parts are usually being sold with a high price for quick cash by irresponsible people, especially the shells which tend to be used as decorations by human. This is due to the beautiful brown and yellow carapace plates of their shells that can be decorated into many jewellerys and ornaments.

Last but not least, they are threatened by death due to metal and plastic clatters getting caught at their respiratory system, throats, nose and even hooking their necks. This can cause severe injure to the turtle, and can even lead to death. This risk the species to extinction as the thrash under the ocean only been increasing as time goes.

In order for the species to survive, it needs more protection by the human. First, we can change the types of fishing hooks used by the fisherman to be more turtle-friendly and use special turtle

excluder devices in nets. This will prevent turtles from being caught, and only target fishes will be affected. Secondly, we can establish more marine-protected areas (MPA) to provide the turtles safe and comfortable areas to lay eggs without risk of being caught by humans nor being killed by metal and plastic wastes under the ocean. Thirdly, satellite tracking is also efficient as we can track sea turtles by time. So when someone tried to do anything illegal on these turtles the authorities will be notified and they can take immediate action to protect the species.

Link to video: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/CjpwjX9B51d/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

Instagram post:

