

OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE

- Olive Ridley Turtles are one of the seven different species of turtles found in India. They get their unique name because of the olive green coloured heart-shaped shell.
- Olive Ridleys have mass nesting, wherein hundreds of females come over to the beach where they were born to lay eggs in a nesting hole. This is known as Aribada in India (Odisha, Tamil Nadu). The hatchlings dig themselves out after 45-60 days.
- India's forest department officials guard turtle eggs from poachers, stray dogs by following a strict guideline to conserve these fantastic reptiles.

DESCRIPTION

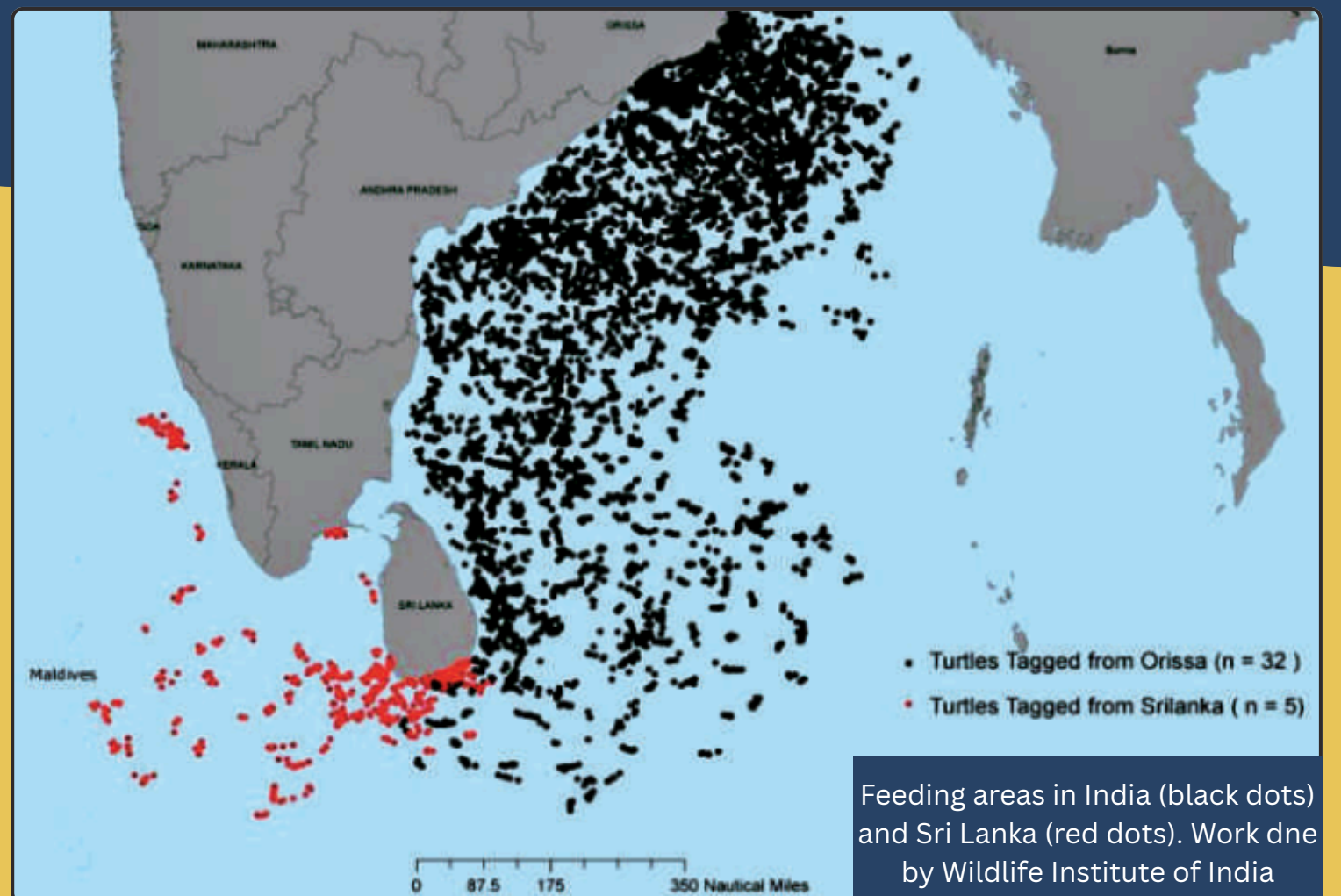
Scientific Name: *Lepidochelys olivacea*

Length: 0.6-0.7 m

Habitat: Marine

Lifespan: Estimated to be 30-50 years

Diet: Omnivorous (Algae, Sea Grass, crustaceans, molluscs, jelly fishes)



IMPORTANCE

- Ecosystem health indicator, as it feeds on many different species.
- An indicator of temperature changes, as most reptiles' offspring male-female ratio is decided by nest temperature.

FUN FACT

Do you know why these turtles cry? They have special glands in the corner of their eyes that separates the salt from the ocean water and this salt gets released with their tears.

THREATS

Bycatch in commercial fishing, poaching of eggs, depleting prey populations, habitat destruction and developmental activities on sea shores.

IUCN STATUS

Vulnerable

