

A Turtle's Plea

An activity of "Saving turtles from satay and soup"

"Saving turtles from satay and soup" (page 12-13, *What's Up* August 2019) tells the sad tale of the turtles in the world. Read it individually. To become more aware of the plight of turtles, do the following exercise. Work in pairs.

- The letter below is a plea from a turtle hatched in Singapore to help save its kind. Fill in the gaps with the helping words provided here ↓. Do this by putting the number of the gap beside the correct word in the table — like the one done for you.

indiscriminately	
sponge	
hatchery	
predators	
warming	

monitor	
NParks	2
hatching	
gills	
development	

incubation	
species	
coral	
endangered	
activity	

Hi. I'm a Hawksbill turtle. You can call me Bill. A suitable name, don't you think? I was born in Singapore at the new turtle (1) _____ set up by (2) _____ at Small Sister's Island.

I am one of seven (3) _____ of sea turtles found in the world. There used to be millions of us in the oceans and seas all over the world but today most of the turtle species are critically (4) _____. In a few more years, there may not be any more of us left. Humans are (5) _____ hunting us for our meat and they steal our eggs. We get caught in fishing nets and drown because we cannot get to the surface for air. We do not have (6) _____ to breath like fish. We also need the quiet beaches for nesting but uncontrolled (7) _____, vehicular traffic and human (8) _____ on beaches have upset this. Our feeding grounds like coral reefs and sea grass beds are being destroyed. Global (9) _____ is affecting our reproduction.

At Sisters' Island, NParks is helping us by placing our eggs in (10) _____ sand pits covered by wire nets to protect them from poachers and (11) _____ like monitor lizards. The latest technology is used to (12) _____ the temperature and salinity of the water around the eggs to make sure that they are suitable for (13) _____. My friends and I like the waters around Singapore. It has an abundance of (14) _____ and live rock which we feed on. Unlike other turtles, we do not need to travel thousands of kilometres to find food. All this is helping us to survive. Our survival is important to the planet because we help maintain the health of sea grass beds and (15) _____ reefs that benefit valuable species such as shrimp, lobster, and tuna.

NParks is doing a lot for us but it still needs help from volunteers like you to help us survive. Learn more about us and how you can help. Regards, Bill.