

# Pro Wildlife

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## Indopacific softshell turtles

(formerly most species of this group were defined as *Trionyx* spp.)

Species	Countries of Origin	Biological Data	Extent of Trade	Population Trends
<i>Amydsa cartilaginea</i> (1770) Asiatic softshell turtle	Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapour, Indonesia, Brunei	6 to 30 eggs per nest ; up to 4 times a year; hatching after 135 to 140 days	High level of exploitation for national and international trade	Declining populations in all countries of origin (Jenkins, 1995; Thirakhupt & van Dijk, 1997; Lehr, 1997; van Dijk, 1997); IUCN (1996): " <b>vulnerable</b> "
<i>Aspiderete leithii</i> (1972) Leith's softshell turtle	India, Pakistan	Nest size unknown, probably 2 nests per year	Exploitation for national markets No data on international trade	IUCN (1996): "near threatened"
<i>Chitra chitra</i> (1990) Kanburi narrow-headed softshell turtle	Thailand (point-endemic for the Mae Klong Basin)	no data on breeding and population size	National trade as pets; No data on international trade	There is only one population of about 16 animals (Das, 1997). This is one of the world's most threatened turtles; IUCN: " <b>critically endangered</b> "
<i>Chitra indica</i> (1831) Narrow-headed softshell turtle	Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand	67 to 187 eggs/nest; incubation period: 40 to 70 days; no data on the population size	High level of exploitation for national and international trade; Offered in decreasing numbers	Populations declining (Rashid & Swingland, 1997; Shrestha, 1997); IUCN (1996): " <b>vulnerable</b> "
<i>Dogania subplana</i> (1809) Malayan softshell turtle	Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapour, Thailand, Brunei	no data	High level of exploitation for national and international trade	Declining populations in Thailand (Thirakhupt & van Dijk, 1997);
<i>Nilssonina formosa</i> (1869) Burmese peacock softshell turtle	Myanmar (Irawaddy-Salween), eventually also in Thailand and China	no data	Used for TCM in Myanmar; No data on international trade	Obviously declining populations (van Dijk, 1997); IUCN (1996): " <b>vulnerable</b> "
<i>Palea steindachneri</i> (1906) Wattle-necked softshell turtle	Southern China (also at Hainan), Vietnam; Introduced into Hawaii and Mauritius	3 to 28 eggs/nest, once a year no data on population size	Offered in decreasing numbers in national trade, illegal exports to Chinese food markets	Obviously declining populations (Yiming & Dianmo, 1998), almost disappeared from the markets (Lehr, 1996); "very rare" in China (Nat. Environm. Protect. Agency of China, 1998); IUCN (1996): " <b>near threatened</b> "
<i>Pelochelys bibroni</i> (1993) Giant softshell turtle	Papua New Guinea	17 to 28 eggs/nest, no data on population size	Offered in decreasing numbers in Vietnam's and China's markets	Obviously declining populations (Rhodin et al., 1993; Behler, 1997); rare; IUCN (1996): "vulnerable"
<i>Pelochelys cantorii</i> (1864) Asian giant softshell turtle	India, Malaysia, Laos, S-China, Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar, New Guinea, Bangladesh, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapour	20 to 28 eggs/nest no data on population size	Offered in decreasing numbers at the Vietnamese and Chinese markets	Obviously declining populations (Jenkins, 1995; Thirakhupt & van Dijk, 1997); IUCN (1996): " <b>vulnerable</b> " Red data book Vietnam (1992): " <b>vulnerable</b> "
<i>Pelodiscus sinensis</i> (1835) Chinese softshell turtle	N-Vietnam, S-China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Singapour, Philippines	7 to 28 eggs, 2 to 4 times a year, no data on population size	Extensive trade within China, mainly for TCM	Obviously declining populations (Jenkins, 1995; Lehr, 1996; Yiming & Dianmo, 1998)

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