

**МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РФ  
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## SAVE TURTLES: THEY SAW DINOSAURS

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U.S. biologist estimate that about 61 per cent, or 217 out of 356 species of turtles on Earth, are endangered or already extinct, and their extinction will have far-reaching consequences for ecosystems that require further study. Turtles affect the health of many different ecosystems.

The leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) is a huge marine animal; about two meters long and weighing 500-600 kg. Although they survived dinosaurs, now, however, leatherback sea turtles, which are considered to be one of the largest, most ancient and widespread species of marine animals, are on their way to nowhere, i.e. extinction.

It is difficult to imagine more defenseless creatures than newborn turtles. To make matters worse, rare animal eggs are considered to be a delicacy, and some people are willing to pay a lot of money to eat them.

A California branch of a group of conservationists has announced a large-scale operation against poachers. Smooth to the touch and perfectly round, these eggs are like millions of real eggs that sea turtles lay and bury on the beaches along the coast each year. But in fact, a GPS / GSM tracker is disguised under the silicone artificial shell of a fake egg. With the help of such devices, conservationists hope to solve the problem of poaching.

On May 23, the planet celebrates the International Day of the Turtle. The holiday was invented to draw public attention to the problem of the death of these animals through human fault.

In conclusion, it should be noted that according to the scientists, it is possible to save the leatherback turtle from extinction within 10 years. Firstly, it is necessary to avoid the death of 200–260 turtles in nets per year; secondly, to promote the appearance of 7000–8000 small ones per year, improving the conditions of the existence of these animals.

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