

The solution sea turtles need

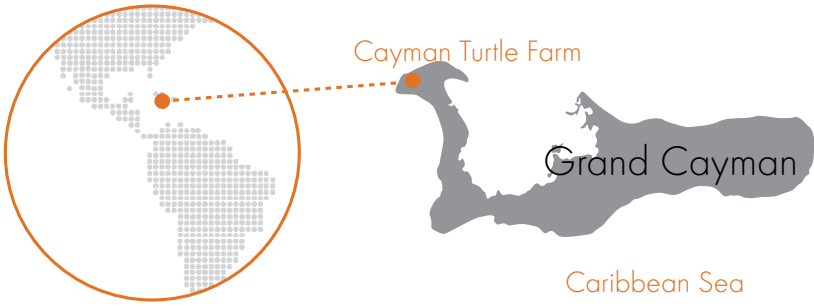


The practices of the Cayman Turtle Farm are devastating to the sea turtles being housed there and to the wild turtles in the sea.

World Animal Protection's solution is for the farm to be turned into a sea turtle rehabilitation and education facility like the Kélonia Observatory for Marine Turtles refuge on the island of Réunion. This center mirrors the conditions of a turtle's natural habitat and promotes eco-tourism.

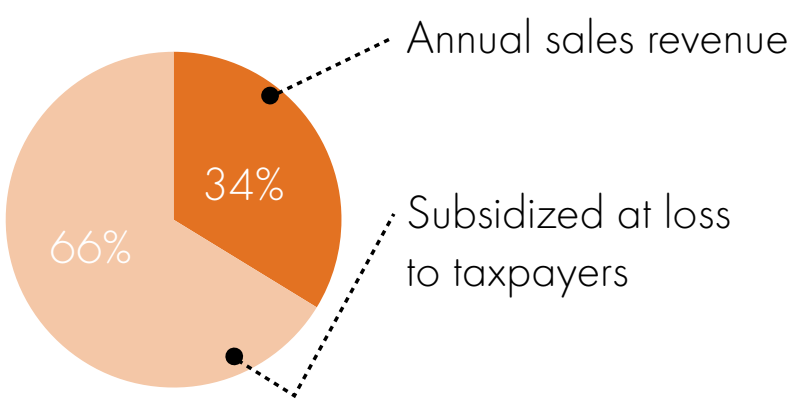
Cayman Turtle Farm

A losing proposition



The number of annual visitors is only half of what the Cayman Turtle Farm needs to break even.

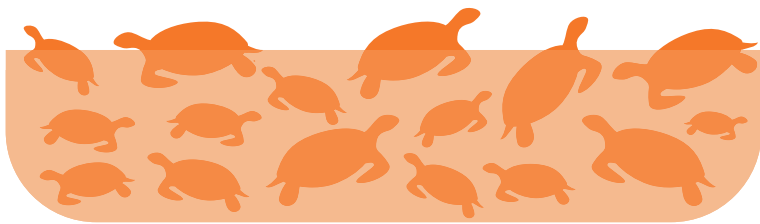
Revenue



Animal welfare

Habitat

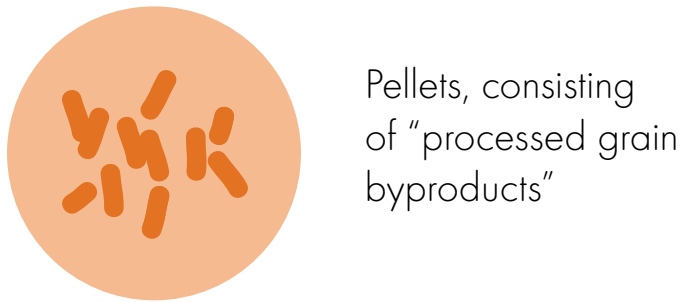
From small, cramped tanks to vast, enriched spaces



Thousands of sea turtles are packed into tiny enclosures with insufficient depth for diving. The overcrowding leads to fighting, injuries and cannibalism.

9,500+ Turtle population

Diet



Handling

Tourists are encouraged to touch and even pick up juvenile green sea turtles as part of the "interactive" experience, posing risks to the turtles and the tourists:

Injury

Panicking turtles can break or dislocate a flipper, or develop a lung infection.

Transfer of pathogens

By crowding the turtles in small tanks, pathogens such as E. coli and salmonella are much more likely to multiply. These pathogens can be easily spread from turtles to humans.



Conservation

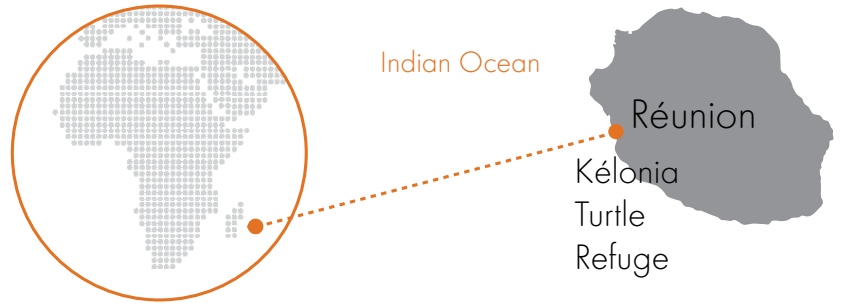
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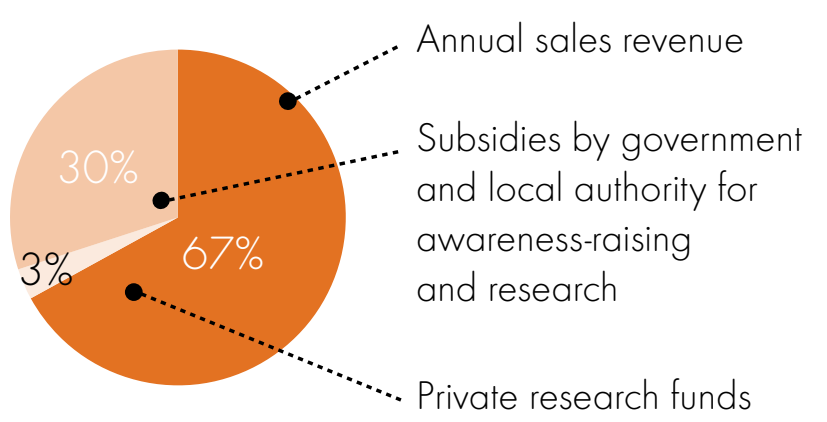
13 Farm-bred sea turtles that have returned to nest on local beaches since 1980s.

Kélonia Observatory for Marine Turtles

A model for success

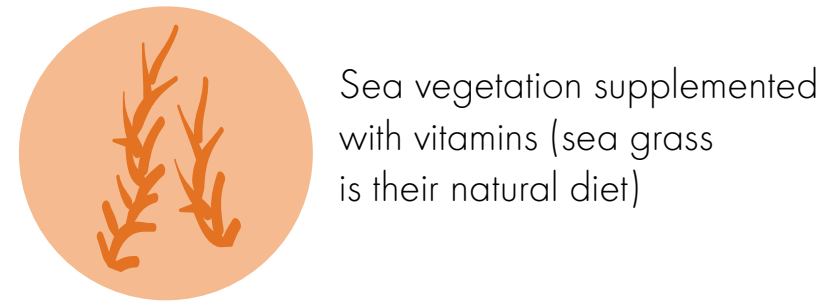


The number of annual visitors since converting from a farm to a rehabilitation center has increased by 28%.



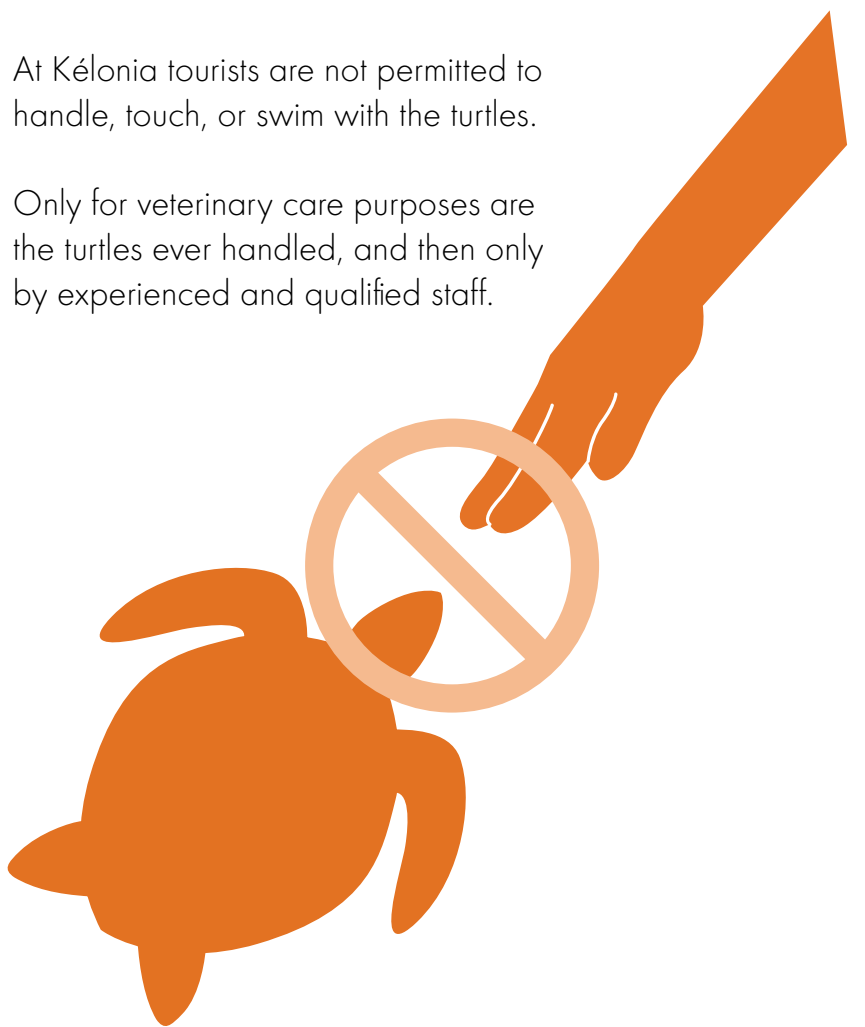
Tanks are deep enough for the turtles to dive, environmentally enriched and encompass multiple species, mimicking the wild as much as possible.

40 Turtle population with 4 or fewer per enclosure



At Kélonia tourists are not permitted to handle, touch, or swim with the turtles.

Only for veterinary care purposes are the turtles ever handled, and then only by experienced and qualified staff.



320 Sea turtles rehabilitated and returned to the wild since 2006.

Help make this solution a reality for sea turtles. Find out more:

▶ stopseaturtlefarm.org