

Narrator: Turtles have lived in our oceans for over 100 million years. But today, sea turtle populations are decreasing. We'll join Jess and Stephen...

Stephen: Good morning everybody and welcome back to the Maldives...

Narrator: ...who are helping at a turtle conservation centre.

Jess: It's currently feeding time and cleaning time. So we just put them in here while we clean and feed them and then they go back into their little boxes.

Narrator: Each turtle must get the right amount of food.

Jess: They're so hungry.

Stephen: Feeding time! We need it to grow big and strong.

Narrator: The turtles have to reach a certain size so that they are strong and healthy before they are ready to return to the ocean.

Stephen: And now we're just trying to grow them up to be about 28, 30 centimetres?

Jess: And then once they're that size we can then release them...

Stephen: ...into stage two which we'll show you later on today.

Narrator: Some of these turtles were kept as pets, but their owners did not keep them in seawater. Now they have been rescued, they have to go through a long process to get used to seawater again.

Jess: We've collected them and we're currently getting them used to salt water, before we release them back into the ocean.

Narrator: Stephen and Jess also help turtles who were injured by fishing equipment. These turtles each lost a flipper when they got stuck in a net. They need to learn to swim with only three flippers before going back into the sea. Today, Stephen and Jess will take two strong and healthy turtles out to sea.

Jess: So this is Roshi...

Stephen: He is ready to go into the next phase of the rehabilitation. So stage two of the rehabilitation, is we actually have a sea enclosure and they put them out there for about three to four weeks and then they're ready to be released back in the wild!

Narrator: After a few weeks here the turtles will be ready for life in the open ocean. Every job at the centre, big or small, is important. Hopefully one day turtles will be able to live in the ocean without needing extra help from us.