



# **Myrtle's battle against climate change**

By Mariana Fuentes  
Illustrated by Fernando Pinillos

© Copyright Mariana Fuentes, 2010

The Copyright Act 1968 permits fair dealing for study, research, information or educational purposes subject to the inclusion of a sufficient acknowledgement of the source.

Fuentes, M. (2010) *Myrtle's battle against climate change*. Reef & Rainforest Research Centre Limited, Cairns, Australia (22pp.).

ISBN 978-1-921359-42-2 (pbk.)

Published by the Reef & Rainforest Research Centre Limited  
PO Box 1762, Cairns QLD 4870, Australia  
<http://www.rrrc.org.au/>

The Reef & Rainforest Research Centre Limited (RRRC) manages and delivers one of the world's most comprehensive tropical environment research portfolios. Through a consortium of fifteen research agencies involving the work of more than three hundred leading tropical scientists, the RRRC aims to deliver useful and timely solution-based science to address the management and needs of North Queensland's key environmental assets – the Great Barrier Reef and its catchments, tropical rainforests including the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, and the Torres Strait.

Book design and layout by Shannon Hogan, Reef & Rainforest Research Centre Limited  
Illustrations by Fernando Pinillos, <http://www.bichosdepapel.blogspot.com/>  
Printed and bound in Australia by Lotsa Printing, <http://www.lotsaprinting.com.au/>

### Acknowledgements

Funding to support book design and print production was provided by the Reef & Rainforest Research Centre Limited, the Torres Strait Regional Authority and the Norman Wettenhall Foundation. The author is grateful for the editorial and technical help and support provided by Shannon Hogan.

Mariana Fuentes' PhD research was supported by James Cook University, the Australian Government's Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF), implemented in North Queensland by the Reef & Rainforest Research Centre Limited, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, National Geographic, the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) Foundation, Torres Strait Regional Authority and the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists.



## Introduction

This book is based on findings from the PhD research conducted by Mariana Fuentes on the impacts of climate change on the northern Great Barrier Reef green sea turtle population. The main character of the book, 'Myrtle', is based on a real turtle that was satellite-tagged in 2008 at Mer Island, Torres Strait. Myrtle was named by students from the local Tagai State College. This book is dedicated to the children of the Torres Strait islands with the hope that they learn about the effects of climate change on sea turtles and find a way to make a difference.

## About the Author

Originally from Brazil, Mariana Fuentes moved to Australia almost a decade ago to become a marine biologist. She has been working on sea turtle conservation and management programs for the last eight years and has conducted research on many aspects of sea turtle biology and ecology. In addition to Australia, Mariana's work has taken her to Madagascar, Vanuatu, Kenya, the United States and Barbados, and more recently to the unique tropical islands of the Torres Strait where she has been studying the impacts of climate change on the northern Great Barrier Reef sea turtle population. Sea turtles have an important role to play both ecologically and, for the people of Torres Strait, culturally. Mariana's commitment to building the capacity of local communities to address the impacts of climate change led to the development of this book, which aims to educate Torres Strait children about the perils faced by sea turtles in the face of climate change, and what these challenges mean to the Torres Strait communities.

