



Myrtle's battle against climate change

By Mariana Fuentes
Illustrated by Fernando Pinillos

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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.

