

Mariana Fruit Bat (*Pteropus mariannus mariannus*)

Chamorro Name: Fanihi



Mariana fruit bats live in forests throughout the Mariana Islands, where they have long been a traditional delicacy. Despite protection by the U.S. and CNMI governments, poaching continues to diminish their population. Another threat is habitat loss due to land conversion for agriculture, military, commercial, and residential development.

**Endangered Species Act (ESA) Designation:** Threatened

**Threatened Species:** A species that is likely to become endangered in the near future if no action is taken (*see endangered species below*).

Nightingale Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus luscinia*)

Chamorro Name: Ga'ga Karisu



The Nightingale reed-warbler was once found on five islands. By 1995, it disappeared from all but two islands (Saipan and Alamagan) due largely to loss and degradation of its habitat and predation by feral animals such as goats.

**ESA Designation:** Endangered

**Endangered Species:** A species that is likely to become extinct in the near future if no action is taken.

*Ecologists determine if a species is endangered or threatened by examining the pressures acting upon that species, such as hunting, predation, or habitat destruction.*

## Threatened and Endangered Species in the CNMI

### Mariana Swiftlet (*Aerodramus bartschi*)

Chamorro Name: Chachaguak



The Mariana swiftlet is a cave-dwelling bird that was extirpated from two of its original five native islands. In the CNMI, swiftlet populations are known to occur on the islands of Aguiguan and Saipan. Swiftlets are vulnerable to disturbances in their nesting caves by cockroaches, rats, other feral animals, and humans who visit the caves.

**ESA Designation:** Endangered

### Mariana Crow (*Corvus kubaryi*)

Chamorro Name: Aga



The Mariana crow is found in the limestone forests of Rota, where its population has been declining since 1982. The population continues to decline due to destruction or modification of its habitat, and due to introduced predators.

**ESA Designation:** Endangered

## Threatened and Endangered Species in the CNMI

Mariana Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus guami*)  
Chamorro Name: Pulattat



The Mariana common moorhen can be found primarily in freshwater wetlands on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Its population has been declining due to wetland habitat loss, and invasive species like the Brown Tree Snake.

**ESA Designation:** Endangered

Micronesian Megapode (*Megapodius laperouse*)  
Chamorro Name: Sasangat



The Micronesian megapode, a bird of the forest, was once widespread throughout the Marianas, but sharply declined or extirpated in areas with large human settlements. It now remains on the smaller, mostly uninhabited northern islands, many of which have been declared wildlife sanctuaries. Threats to the bird include habitat loss and degradation.

**ESA Designation:** Endangered

## Threatened and Endangered Species in the CNMI

### Rota Bridled White-eye (*Zosterops rotensis*)

Chamorro Name: Nosa Luta



The Rota bridled white-eye bird is found only in the native forests of Rota. It suffered an estimated 89% drop in population from 1982 to 1996. Their sudden decline is attributed to habitat loss and degradation from development and extensive typhoon damage.

**ESA Designation:** Endangered

### Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

Chamorro Name: Haggan



Green sea turtles feed and nest on the beaches of several islands in the CNMI. Traditionally harvested for their eggs and meat, such practices are presently banned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the CNMI government. Other threats include incidental capture in commercial fisheries, and entanglement in marine debris.

**ESA Designation:** Threatened

## Threatened and Endangered Species in the CNMI

### Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

Chamorro Name: Haggan Karai



The hawksbill turtle is smaller than the green sea turtle, and has a characteristic shell and beak. It is found in warm tropical waters such as in the CNMI. Since 1970, more than one million hawksbill turtles have been killed worldwide for their shells. These shells are often used as jewelry and hair ornaments.

**ESA Designation:** Endangered

### Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)

Chamorro Name: Bayena



The Western North Pacific stock of humpback whales is known to winter around the Mariana Islands. Noise from military airplanes and other exercises are a cause of disturbance for the humpback whales. In particular, Farallon de Medinilla, a military ordnance range, is in a humpback wintering area.

**ESA Designation:** Endangered

## Threatened and Endangered Species in the CNMI

### Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

Chamorro Name: Haggan Tasi



Loggerhead sea turtles migrate throughout a vast region including the Indian, Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans. One of the greatest threats to many sea turtles is from bycatches in commercial fisheries. Using turtle exclusion devices like the one at left, the risk can be minimized.

**ESA Designation:** Threatened

### Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)

Chamorro Name: Haggan



The olive ridley sea turtle exhibits an extraordinary nesting habit. Every year, hundreds come ashore together in a synchronized nesting behavior known as the *arribada*. This creature's Pacific migratory range takes it through our waters, but there are no recorded observations of an *arribada* in the CNMI. Natural disasters and entanglement by marine debris threaten the turtles.

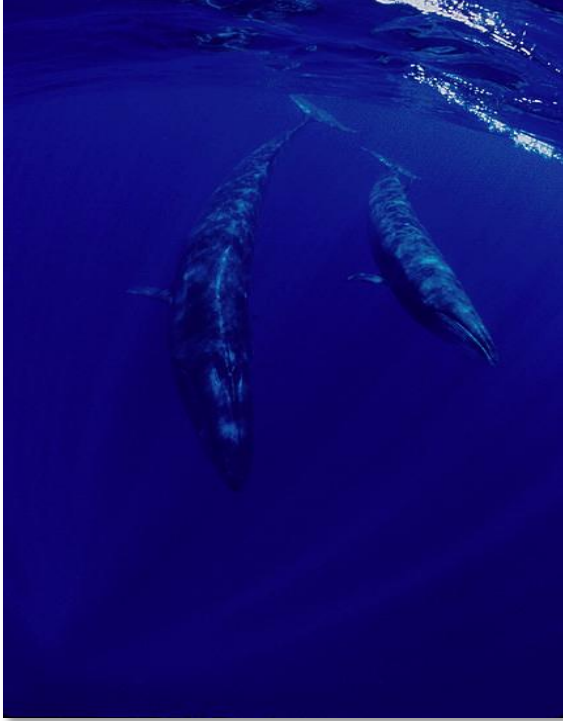
**ESA Designation:** Threatened

**Arribada:** Spanish- "arrival". Refers to the mass nesting behavior depicted here of olive ridley and kemp's ridley sea turtles.

## Threatened and Endangered Species in the CNMI

### Sei Whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*)

Chamorro Name: Bayena



Two sei whales have been sighted and tagged in the vicinity of the Mariana Islands. Worldwide, sei whales were severely impacted by commercial whaling activities. Other threats include fishing gear entanglement and ship strikes.

**ESA Designation:** Endangered

## Threatened and Endangered Species in the CNMI

### **Photography Credits:**

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Mariana Crow:	Mariana Islands Nature Alliance
Mariana Moorhen:	Keven Law
Micronesian Megapode:	Rob Davis
Rota White-Eye:	Lainie Berry and ARKive
Green Sea Turtle:	Virginia Herpetological Society
Hawksbill Turtle:	Florida Atlantic University
Humpback Whale:	NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources
Loggerhead Sea Turtle:	NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources
Olive Ridley Sea Turtle:	NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources
Sei Whale:	EarthAmbassadors.org

For more information, please visit:

- NOAA Fisheries: Office of Protected Resources  
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/>
- USFWS Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office's  
Endangered Species List:  
<http://www.fws.gov/pacificislands/teslist.html>