

ELONGATED TORTOISE



What do they look like?

The elongated tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*) has a rather long, narrow carapace (shell), which is usually caramel coloured, with black blotches. The head is pale yellow, but turns pinkish around the eyes and nostrils during the breeding season. Males are usually narrower, with shorter tails. Females have longer hind claws. Adults can grow to over 30 cm and weigh up to 3.5 kg.

Where do they live?

This species occurs in north-east India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia.

How do they live?

The elongated tortoise is terrestrial, and prefers humid forests, although it sometimes basks in the open. It is most active at dawn and dusk, its large eyes enabling it to feed in poor light.

What do they eat?

Elongated tortoises are omnivorous, feeding on slugs and worms as well as vegetation and fruit.

Why are they in danger?

The elongated tortoise is Endangered (IUCN Red List) and protected by Vietnamese law under Decree 32, but continues to be illegally harvested and sold in Asian food markets. The international pet trade and habitat destruction pose serious threats too.

How can we save them?

Wildlife At Risk (WAR) and other organisations like the Asian Turtle Conservation Network are fighting to stop the illegal trade by helping local authorities to enforce the law, protect turtles in the wild and confiscate them from traders. You can help us by NOT eating tortoises, NOT keeping them as pets, and NOT buying products made from tortoiseshell.