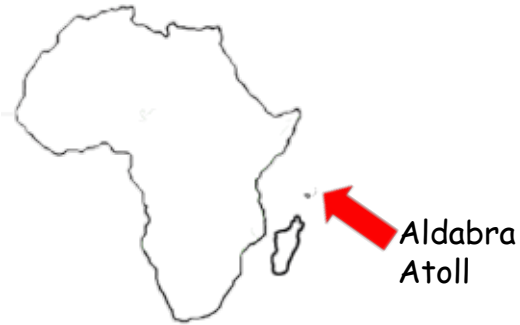


# ALDABRA GIANT TORTOISE

*Geochelone gigantea*

## DISTRIBUTION



Aldabra tortoises eat mainly vegetation and small invertebrates. Seeds pass through the tortoise's digestive tract and eventually become food for many other species.

The Aldabra tortoise fills a similar role to the one occupied by elephants in Africa and Asia. As with elephants, they are the main consumers of vegetation and have been known to knock over small trees and shrubs to obtain nutritious leaves. This makes pathways and clearings within the forest for other animals.



It is believed that tortoises are the longest lived of all animals.

You may have heard that you can tell the age of a tortoise by counting the number of rings on its shell, this is not true, the only way you can tell how old a tortoise really is, is if you were there when it hatched.

## FACTS & FIGURES

Where found	Aldabra Atoll (group of islands in the Indian Ocean)
Habitat	Scrub, mangrove swamp, coastal dune, & grasslands
Diet	Primarily vegetarian, but also small invertebrates.
Maximum weight	250kg
Number of eggs	9-25
Incubation	About 8 months
Lifespan	150+ years

International Union for Conservation of Nature RED LIST for the Aldabra Giant Tortoise



**THE RISK OF EXTINCTION FOR THIS SPECIES HAS CURRENTLY BEEN ASSESSED AS *VULNERABLE* IUCN RED LIST**