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# The Reptiles

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Ten threatened or endangered reptiles occur in South Florida. Of these, only the blue-tailed mole skink is endemic to this region. The sand skink is predominantly found in South Florida, but also occurs just north of this Ecosystem boundary. South Florida represents the northernmost range for the American crocodile, and may represent the southernmost range for the Atlantic salt-marsh snake. The Eastern indigo snake occurs throughout South Florida but is also more widely distributed throughout the southeastern United States. Four of the five species of sea turtles are globally-distributed, but at least three of them nest regularly in South Florida.

This section of the Multi-Species Recovery Plan contains accounts of the threatened and endangered reptile species of South Florida. These accounts detail the biology, ecology, status and trends, and management for each of these species. Each account is followed by the recovery needs of the species which outline the recovery objective, criteria that will be used to determine when the objective has been achieved (called recovery criteria), and the tasks that will be necessary to achieve the objective (called recovery actions). The recovery tasks are divided into species-level recovery actions that address species-specific conservation and biology, and habitat-level recovery actions that address habitat management, conservation, and restoration needs for the species. The habitat-level recovery actions form the basis for the multi-species/community-level restoration actions that are provided in the community accounts. For species that have distributions outside of South Florida, there are two sections to the recovery objective; the first is the recovery objective for the species throughout its range; the second section identifies how South Florida will contribute to the species' recovery throughout its range.

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<b>Contents</b>		<b>Page</b>
1.	American crocodile <i>Crocodylus acutus</i>	4-505
2.	Bluetail mole skink <i>Eumeces egregius lividus</i>	4-529
3.	Sand skink <i>Neoseps reynoldsi</i>	4-541
4.	Atlantic salt marsh snake <i>Nerodia clarkii taeniata</i>	4-553
5.	Eastern indigo snake <i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	4-567
6.	Green sea turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i>	4-583
7.	Hawksbill sea turtle <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	4-615
8.	Kemp's ridley sea turtle <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	4-649
9.	Leatherback sea turtle <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	4-665
10.	Loggerhead sea turtle <i>Caretta caretta</i>	4-705

