



# Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Second Conference of the Parties

*November, 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela*

## First Annual Report Form

### Directory

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### Focal Point

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Date: 25/04/2005



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## 1. Biological Information

### 1.1. Species present

Species	Pacific Ocean	Atlantic Ocean	Caribbean Sea
	Phase(s)	Phase(s)	Phase(s)
<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>			M?
<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>			
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>			R
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>			R,F
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>			R,F
<i>Caretta caretta</i>			R,F

Phases: R = Reproduction; F = Foraging; M = Migration; D = Phase Unknown



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### 1.2. Important sites for sea turtle conservation

	Name of Site	Species (s)	Season	Geographic Location (Lat/Long)	Area (km or hectares, if applicable)	Protection Category	Observations*
<b>Nesting Site</b>	Klein Bonaire	Ei, Cm, Cc	April-Nov	12' 09"/68' 18"	2 km	Full	Part of the Bonaire National Marine Park. Complete protection of sea turtles,
	Bonaire, various beaches	Cc, Cm, Ei, Dc		12'00"-12'19"/68'12"-68'25"	1 km		Part of the Bonaire National Marine Park. Complete protection of sea turtles
	Zeelandia Beach, St. Eustatius	Dc	April-Nov	17' 30" 380/62' 58" 853	1.5 km	Full	Part of Statia Marine Park to HWL. Beach protected, sand mining and driving prohibited
	St. Maarten various beaches	Dc, Ei	April-Nov	18'01"-18'02"/63'00"-63' 08"	2 km	Full	Island wide legal protection
	Shete Boka, Curaçao	Cc, Ei, Cm	April-Nov	12' 22"/69' 07"	500 m	Full	Protected Area, restricted access, no sand mining
<b>Foraging Site</b>	Lac Bay, Bonaire	Cm, Ei	all year	12' 06"/68' 14"	appr. 600 ha	full	protected area, complete protection of sea turtles
	Bonaire National Marine Park	Cm, Ei	all year	12'00"-12'19"/68'12"-68'25"	2600 ha	full	Protected area, complete protection of sea turtles
	Awa di Oostpunt, Curacao	Cm	all year	12' 01"/68' 44"	28 ha	full	In addition to island wide legal protection, this is private property with restricted access.
	Ascension Bay, Curaçao	Cm	all year	12' 16"/69' 04"	2.5 ha	semi	Island wide legal protection, but there is insufficient control and occasional illegal catch in this remote area
	St. Maarten Marine Park	Cm, Ei	all year	18'01"-18'02"/63'00"-63' 08"	N.A.	Full	Island wide legal protection
	St. Eustatius Marine Park	Ei, Cm	all year	17'28"-17'32"/62'56"-63'00"	N.A.	Full	Protected area, complete protection of sea turtles
<b>Migratory Routes</b>							



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### Summary of relevant information regarding the population status

Name of Site	Description/justification
Klein Bonaire	Major nesting area of Bonaire, around 50-75 nest/year, two thirds by <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> , the rest by <i>Caretta caretta</i> and <i>Chelonia mydas</i> together.
Bonaire, various beaches	A small number of nests are still found on the beaches of the main island (9 reported in 2004; to prevent the complete disappearance of nesting on the main island these sites are important to
Lac Bay, Bonaire	Major foraging area for <i>Chelonia mydas</i> in Bonaire, extensive sea grass beds. See also Bonaire National Marine Park, below.
Bonaire National Marine Park	The Bonaire National Marine Park, including Klein Bonaire and Lac Bay, is a foraging area for <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> and <i>Chelonia mydas</i> . During the nesting season it is also the resting place for nesting or mating turtles in between nests. From preliminary survey data Robert van Dam doing research for the STCB, estimates that Bonaire is home to a foraging population of about 100-300 immature <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> and some 300-500 immature <i>Chelonia mydas</i> .
Zeelandia Beach, St. Eustatius	The main sea turtle nesting beach of the island, about 10-15 nests annually, most by <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> , a few also by <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> and <i>Chelonia mydas</i> .
St. Eustatius Marine Park	The St. Eustatius Marine Park includes well developed reefs that are most likely important foraging area for <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>
St. Maarten, various beaches	Notwithstanding extensive coastal development there are still a few remaining nesting beaches in St. Maarten, which, as the last nesting beaches, need extra protection; these beaches are: Guana Bay: Lat. 18' 01" 900, Long. 63' 01" 200 Dawn Beach: Lat. 18' 01" 900, Long. 63' 00" 800 Gibbs Bay: Lat. 18' 02" 500, Long. 63' 01" 175 Mullet Bay: Lat. 18' 02"750, Long. 63' 07" 800
St. Maarten Marine Park	The St. Maarten Marine Park includes large expanses of sea grass and is most likely an important foraging site for <i>Chelonia mydas</i> and on the reef areas for <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> . No data on numbers of turtles are available, however.
Shete Boka, Curaçao	Major nesting area of Curaçao. In 1993, 9 nest were documented, no subsequent data are available for the area.
Eastpoint Bay, Curacao	Eastpoint Bay (Awa di Oostpunt) and Ascension Bay (Boka Ascension) both with extensive sea grass beds, are the two most important <i>Chelonia mydas</i> foraging areas in Curaçao, with turtles always visible. No data on numbers are unavailable.
Ascension Bay, Curaçao	Eastpoint Bay (Awa di Oostpunt) and Ascension Bay (Boka Ascension) both with extensive sea grass beds, are the two most important <i>Chelonia mydas</i> foraging areas in Curaçao, with turtles always visible. No data on numbers are unavailable.



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### 2. Information regarding the use derived from sea turtles

	Types of use	Specie	Products	Ocean Basin	Origin*		Estimated annual quantity	Information source	Actions
					L	I			
<b>Consumptive Use</b>	Domestic	Cm	meat	Caribbean		I	5-10 individuals	anecdotal	outreach campaign
<b>Non-consumptive</b>	Tourism	Cm, Ei		Caribbean	L				

\* L = legal, I = illegal

### 3. Main threats

#### 3.1 Habitat and other threats

Threats	Specie(s) Affected	Size of Impact	Geographic Region(s) Affected	Information Source	Actions
sand mining	Cc, Cm, Dc, Ei	NA	Caribbean	Report from Bonaire national Marine Park	outreach campaign
sand mining	Dc, Cm	NA	Caribbean	Report from St. Eustatius National Parks	outreach campaign
Beach driving	Dc, Cm	NA	Caribbean	Report from St. Eustatius National Parks	outreach campaign



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**3.2 Capture (Intentional/incidental)**

<b>Threats</b>	<b>Specie(s) Affected</b>	<b>Size of Impact</b>	<b>Geographic Region(s) Affected</b>	<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Illegal/incidental capture using beach seines, Bonaire and Curaçao	Cm	5-10 individuals/yr	Caribbean	Report from Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, and anecdotal from Curaçao	outreach campaign
incidental capture on commercial swordfish longlines	Dc	3 individuals in 2004	Caribbean	Pers. comm. Agriculture and Fisheries Service (LVV) Curaçao	

**4. Legal Framework**

**4.1. International instruments**

<b>Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding</b>	<b>Year signed and/or ratification</b>
Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Protocol of the Cartagena Convention	ratified 1999
Inter-American Convention for the protection of Sea Turtles (IAC)	ratified 2001
Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)	ratified 1983
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	ratified 1999
Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES)	ratified 1999



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### 4.2. National legislation

Type and name of legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanction(s) Imposed
National Nature Conservation Ordinance (PB1998/49) and changed as per PB2001/41	Prohibits catch, trade, and possession, of all sea turtles and their products, as well as disturbance of sea turtles or their nests in the Netherlands Antilles. Supercedes island ordinances	maximum fine of \$550,000 or 4 years imprisonment
National Fishery Ordinance (PB1991/74) and Decree (PB1992/108)	prohibits fishing for sea turtles in the Exclusive Fishery Zone of the Netherlands Antilles	maximum fine of \$280,000 or 3 months imprisonment
Island Marine Environment Ordinance of Bonaire (AB2001/13)	Prohibits catch, trade, and possession, of all sea turtles and their products, as well as disturbance of sea turtles or their nests on the island of Bonaire	maximum fine of \$2700
Island Marine Environment Ordinance of St. Eustatius (AB1996/3).	Sets maximum allowable catch of 2 sea turtles per person (Note: this is now superceded by the National Nature Ordinance), and prohibits catch of female sea turtles during the nesting season of Apr 1- Nov 30, on the island St. Eustatius.	maximum fine of \$2700 or 1 month imprisonment
Island Marine Environment Ordinances of Saba (AB1987/10)	Same as above, but for the island of Saba	maximum fine of \$2700
Island Fishery Ordinance of Saba (1996)	Prohibits all fishing for sea turtles in the territorial waters of Saba.	maximum of 1 month imprisonment
Reef Management Ordinance of Curaçao AB1998/8, and Island Decree AB1998/8	prohibits catch, trade, possession, of all sea turtles and their products, and disturbance of sea turtles or their nests	maximum fine of \$2700
Island nature conservation ordinance of St. Maarten, AB2003/25	prohibits catch and possession of all sea turtles and their products, and disturbance of sea turtles or their nests	maximum fine of \$550,000 or 4 years imprisonment



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**4.3. Indicate any legal instruments that are currently in the process of being approved.**

In process: new island nature ordinance for Bonaire which will prohibit catch and possession of all sea turtles and their products, and disturbance of sea turtles or their nests, punishable by a maximum fine of \$ 550,000 or 4 years imprisonment. Expected to pass end of 2005.

**4.4. Public and private institutions involved in sea turtle conservation**

Institution/ Entity	Responsibilities
Marine Park management organisations on each of the islands	patrolling of the marine park and enforcement of the rules and regulations
Coast Guard of the Netherlands Antilles & Aruba	enforcement of national and island legislation in the territorial waters of the islands, and the Economic Fishery Zone
Customs	enforcement of the CITES regulations
Foundation Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)	NGO working to increase public awareness and on monitoring of sea turtle nesting and tagging of sea turtles.
St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation	Aside from management of marine park, also working on increase of public awareness and on monitoring of nesting.

**5. Exceptions**

Programs involving extractive use (include Management Plan)  
None

**6. Conservation Efforts**

**6.1 General description of the sea turtle protection and conservation program**

The Netherlands Antilles was one of the first states in the Wider Caribbean area to produce a Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP), in 1992, in close collaboration with the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle (WIDECASST) network under the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol of the Cartagena Convention for the protection and development of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean. However, this has not yet been updated and evaluated since its publication, and there is no current overarching policy plan for all the islands. Constitutionally,





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executive responsibility for the protection of sea turtles lies with the individual island governments, which do not have specific sea turtle protection and conservation programs, except through government-subsidized NGOs that manage the island's marine protected areas, which in St. Eustatius and in Curaçao include nesting beaches. The national government actively enforces sea turtle protection regulations through the Coastguard of the Netherlands Antilles & Aruba. In addition the National Government subsidizes two sea turtle monitoring and tagging programs, one in St. Eustatius and one in Bonaire.

### 6.2 Relevant Projects and Activities

Project/Activities	General objective	Results obtained	Duration	
			From	Until
Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) Sattelite tracking program	Monitoring and research of Sea Turtles on Bonaire	6 turtles (4 Ei, 2 Cm) fitted with sattelite transmitters	2003	ongoing
STCB in-water survey: tagging, measuring, and weighing of sea turtles captured in the water.	Monitoring and research of Sea Turtles on Bonaire	Various foraging and adult male turtles have been tagged, measured and weighed	2003	ongoing
Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance Sea Turtle Outreach Program: Joint information, education and outreach program of the islands Bonaire, St. Maarten, St. Eustatius and Saba	Educate, change attitudes and build grass level support for sea turtle conservation	Posters, button and brochures produced and distributed. School visists by educational officers on the islands	2004	2005
St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation (STENAPA) sea turtle conservation and monitoring programme: nesting beach monitoring and tagging.	Collecting information throughout the years, protecting main nesting beach, and increased public awareness.	Detailed records of nesting sea turtles in 2004 (Dc, Cm, and Ei). Protection of beach against sand mining. Increased support for sea turtle conservation	2003	ongoing



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### 7. International Cooperation

The Netherlands Antilles is party to the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean (Cartagena Convention). The collaborative program of SPAW and WIDECAS has been instrumental in preparing numerous Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plans (STRAPs) for countries in the Wider Caribbean, among which the STRAP for the Netherlands Antilles.

### 8. National Directory

Name	Institutional affiliation	Line of work / Specialty	Telephone	Fax	E-mail	Website
Buurt, G. van	Agriculture & Fisheries Service, Curaçao	Fisheries	(599 9) 7370288		gvbuurt@dlvv34.gobiernu.com	
Caballero, A.	St. Maarten Nature Foundation	Marine Park Manager, coordinator sea turtle monitoring program	(599 5) 420267		naturesxm@megatropic.com	<a href="http://www.naturefoundationsxm.org/">http://www.naturefoundationsxm.org/</a>
De Meyer, K	Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA)	Executive Director	(599 7) 860675		kdm@telbonet.an	<a href="http://www.dcnanature.org/">www.dcnanature.org/</a>
Debrot, A.O.	Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity (Carmabi)	Scientific Director	(599 9) 4624242		adebrot@cura.net	<a href="http://www.carmabi.org">www.carmabi.org</a>
Esteban, N	St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation (STENAPA)	Park Manager and Sea Turtle Project director	(599 3) 182884	(599 3) 182884	manager@statiapark.org	<a href="http://www.statiapark.org/">www.statiapark.org/</a>
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Nava, M.	Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire	Sea turtle monitoring Project Director	(599 7) 900433		stcb@bonaireturtles.org	<a href="http://www.bonairenature.com/turtles/">www.bonairenature.com/turtles/</a>



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### **9. Sources of Information**

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Sea Turtle Nesting Activity on Northeast Coast Beaches of Curacao, 1993. Caribbean Journal of Science, Vol. 31, No. 3-4, 333-338.
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### **10. Annexes**