



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

November, 16th – 18th, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

First Annual Report Form **[Translation]**

Directory

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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>		F,M	F,M
<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>			
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>		R,F	R,F,M
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>		F,R,M	R,F,M
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>		F,R,M	R,F,M
<i>Caretta caretta</i>		F,M	R,F,M

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

1.2. Important sites for sea turtle conservation

(The Table below indicates important nesting and foraging sites consisting of areas under Special Administrative Regimen)

	Name of Site	Specie(s)	Season	Geographic Location (Lat/Long)	Area (km or ha, if applicable)	Protection Category	Observations*
Nesting Sites	R.F.S. Isla de Aves **	<i>Cm</i>	Feb-Oct	W 63 N 15	< 1Ha	Wildlife Refuge	
	P.N. Archip. de Los Roques **	<i>Cm, Ei, Cc, Dc</i>	<i>Ei</i> Sept-Oct <i>Cm</i> Apr-Oct	W 66 N 11	225.193 Ha	National Park	
	P.N. Morrocoy	<i>Dc</i>	April August	W 68 N 10	22.600 Ha	National Park	
	P:N. Restinga Lagoon	<i>Cm, Ei, Cc, Dc</i>	March August	W 64 N 11	27 Km	National Park	
	P.N. Mochima	<i>Cm, Ei</i>	March August	W 64 N 10	50.000 Ha	National Park	
	PN. Paria Peninsula	<i>Dc, Ei</i>	March August	W 62 N 10	5.000 Ha	National Park	
	P.N. Tacarigua Lagoon	<i>Ei, Dc, Cc</i>	March August	W 65 N 10	28 Km	National Park	
	P.N San Esteban	<i>Dc, Cc</i>	April August	W 67,50 N 10, 12	3.425 Ha	National Park	
	P.N Henry Pittier	<i>Dc, Cc, Ei</i>	April August	W 67, 24 N 10, 14	8.000 Ha	National Park	



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Foraging Sites	P.N San Esteban	<i>Cm, Ei, Cc,</i>	January - December	W 67,50 N 10, 12	3,425 Ha	National Park	
	P.N. Archip. de Los Roques	<i>Cm, Ei, Cc</i>		W 66 N 11	225,193 Ha	National Park	
	P.N. Morrocoy	<i>Cm, Cc, Ei</i>		W 68 N 10	22,600 Ha	National Park	
	P.N. Mochima	<i>Cm, Cc</i>		W 64 N 10	50,000 Ha	National Park	
	R.F.S. Cuare	<i>Cm</i>		W 68 N 11	68 Ha	Wildlife Refuge	
	RFS Ciénaga de los Olivitos *	<i>Cm</i>					
Migratory Routes							

* Provided by H. Guada

1.2 Important sites for sea turtle conservation (Continued)

(The Table below indicates important nesting and foraging sites not under Special Administrative Regimen)

	Name of Site	Specie(s)	Season	Geographic Location (Lat/Long)	Area (km or ha, if applicable)	Protection Category	Observations*
Nesting Sites	East coast of Edo. Vargas and west coast of Edo. Miranda	<i>Cc, Dc, Ei, Cm</i>	March-October	W66°2' N10°33'	13 Km	None	35 beaches
	Paraguáná Peninsula	<i>Cc, Ei, Cm</i>	March – October				
	Northern Slope of Paria Peninsula	<i>Cm, Dc, Cc, Ei,</i>	March – October				
	Southern slope of Paria Peninsula	<i>Dc, Ei, Cc, Cm</i>	March – October				
	Edo Nueva Esparta	<i>Cm, Dc, Cc, Ei</i>	March – October				
	La Blanquilla	<i>Cc, Dc, Ei</i>	March – October				



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	La Tortuga	<i>Ei</i>	March – October				
	Los Testigos	<i>Dc, Cc</i>	March – October				
	Archipelago Las Aves	<i>Ei</i>	Presumably March – October				
	Gulf of Venezuela	<i>Dc, Cm</i>					
Foraging Sites	Gulf of Venezuela	<i>Dc, Cm, Cc, Ei</i>	All year				
	Paraguaná Peninsula	<i>Dc, Cm, Ei</i>	All year				
	Isla de Margarita	<i>Cm, Lo, E, Dci</i>	All year				
	La Blanquilla	<i>Cm, Ei</i>	All year				
	La Tortuga	<i>Cm Ei</i>	All year				
	Los Testigos	<i>Cm, Ei</i>	All year				
	Gulf of Paria	<i>Cm, Cc, Ei</i>	All year				
	East coast of Edo. Vargas and west coast of Edo. Miranda	<i>Cc, Ei, Cm</i>	All year	W66°2' N10°33'	Km	None	Coral flats and patches of marine Phanerogams
	Aragua	<i>Cc, Ei, Cm, Dc</i>	All year		Km	None	Flats and fringing coral communities, patches of marine Phanerogams
	Archipelago Las Aves	<i>Ei, Cm</i>	All year				
	La Orchila	<i>Ei, Cm</i>	All year				

Includes information supplied by H. Guada



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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			
Consumptive Use	Domestic	<i>Cm, Ei, Dc, Cc</i>	<i>Cm</i> , Meat and eggs <i>Ei</i> , Meat, eggs and carapace <i>Dc</i> , Eggs <i>Cc</i> , Meat and Eggs <i>Lo</i> , Meat, carapace	Caribbean Sea		I	ND ▶	-Action Plan for the Recuperation of Sea Turtles in Venezuela -Sea turtles of Venezuela/ Actions for their Conservation	Regulations, Environmental education and Community Participation -Policing and control - Product confiscation
	Commercial *	<i>Cm, Ei, Dc, Cc</i>	<i>Cm</i> , Meat and Eggs <i>Ei</i> , Meat, eggs and carapace <i>Dc</i> , Eggs <i>Cc</i> , Meat and eggs <i>Lo</i> , Meat, carapace	Caribbean Sea		I	ND ▶		Regulations, Environmental education and Community Participation -Policing and control - Product confiscation
	Research and/or repopulation, education, tourism		Eggs	Caribbean Sea					Regulations, Environmental education and Community Participation -Policing and control - Product confiscation
Non-Consumptive Use	Research and/or repopulation, tourism	<i>Cm, Ei, Dc, Cc, Lo</i>		Caribbean Sea					Regulations, Environmental education and Community Participation -Policing and control - Product confiscation



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*L = Legal, I = Illegal

* Information included because it is known to exist, however, there is controversy amongst those making the Report

► NOT DETERMINED

3. Main threats

3.1 Habitat and other threats

Threats	Specie(s) Affected	Size of Impact	Geographic Region(s) Affected	Information Source	Actions
Buildings on nesting beaches	<i>Dc, Ei Cc, Cm</i>	Not determined	Tourist, residential and industrial beaches	Sea turtles of Venezuela/ Actions for their Conservation	Regulations Coastal Zone Law (EIS) 1257, Territorial Plan
Vehicle traffic on beach	<i>Dc, Ei Cc, Cm</i>	Not determined	Tourist, residential and industrial beaches	Sea turtles of Venezuela/ Actions for their Conservation	Regulations Coastal Zone Law (EIS)
Behavior affected by beach lighting	<i>Dc, Ei Cc, Cm</i>	Not determined	Tourist, residential and industrial beaches	Sea turtles of Venezuela/ Actions for their Conservation	Regulations (EIS)
Predation of eggs and neonates by domestic and wild animals	<i>Dc, Ei Cc, Cm</i>	Not determined	Entire coast	Action Plan for the Recuperation of Sea Turtles in Venezuela Sea turtles of Venezuela/ Actions for their Conservation	Nest protection and relocation in Paria peninsula and coasts of the state of Miranda
Obstacles on the beach (Logs, organic waste)	<i>Dc, Ei Cc, Cm,</i>	Not determined	- Paria Peninsula (NE of Country) .- Coasts along the State of Miranda	Sea turtles of Venezuela/ Actions for their Conservation*	World Beach cleaning Day (Fudena) and Beach cleaning expeditions in Macuro, Edo. Sucre
Associated habitats affected (Coral reefs, Marine Phanerogam walls)	<i>Ei</i>	Not determined	P.N Morrocoy	Sea turtles of Venezuela/ Actions for their Conservation	



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Non biodegradable solid waste in ocean	<i>Dc, Ei Cc, Cm</i>	Not determined	Some areas close to urban, turistic and industrial zones	- . Action Plan for the Recuperation of Sea Turtles in Venezuela	
Sicknesses: fibropapillomas	<i>Cm, Lo</i>	Not determined	Paraguaná Peninsula, RFS Isla de Aves, Gulf of Paria	- . Action Plan for the Recuperation of Sea Turtles in Venezuela	
Presence of hydrocarbons on nesting beaches	<i>Dc, Ei, Cc, Cm</i>	Not determined	Gulf of Paria	- . Action Plan for the Recuperation of Sea Turtles in Venezuela	
Regulation mechanisms are not very effective	<i>Dc, Ei, Cc, Cm, Lo</i>	Not determined	Entire marine sector	- . Action Plan for the Recuperation of Sea Turtles in Venezuela	

3.2 Capture (Intentional/incidental)

Threats	Specie(s) Affected	Size of Impact	Geographic Region(s) Affected	Information Source	Actions
Incidental capture in trawl nets	<i>Dc, Cm, Cc, Ei, Lo</i>		East coast of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Sea turtles of Venezuela/ Actions for their Conservation Alió <i>et al</i> (in revision) Action Plan for the Recuperation of Sea Turtles in Venezuela	Mandatory use of TEDs
Incidental capture in longlines	<i>Dc, Cm, Cc, Ei</i>		Eastern and central coast of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Sea turtles of Venezuela/ Actions for their Conservation	Evaluation of fisheries impact Establish technical mitigation, Create awareness in fisheries community
Incidental Capture in Gillnets	<i>Dc, Cm, Cc, Ei, Lo</i>		Coasts along the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Action Plan for the Recuperation of Sea Turtles in Venezuela Fishermen reports, strandings	Regulations Evaluation of Fisheries Impact, Establish technical mitigation, Create awareness in fisheries community



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4. Legal Framework

4.1. International instruments

Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding	Year signed and/or ratification
Convention for the Protection of Flora, Fauna and Scenic Beauties of the Americas	1941
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)	1977
International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)	1985
Convention for the protection and development of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean / Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife	1986 / 1990
The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (RAMSAR)	1988
Convention on Biological Diversity	1994
Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles	1998

4.2. National legislation

Type and name of legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanction(s) Imposed
Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (G.O.R.B.V. N° 5453 Extraordinary on 24/03/2000)	Protect biological diversity, genetic resources, ecological processes, national parks, natural monuments and other ecologically important areas.	
Organic Law of the Environment (G.O.R.V. N° 18/06/1976)	Conservation, defend and improve the environment	
Organic Law of Aquatic and Insular Spaces (G.O.R.B.V. N° 37.330 on 22/11/2001)	Guarantee better use of aquatic and insular spaces, aiming to ensure the conservation of natural aquatic resources, among others	
Wildlife Protection Law and its Regulation (G.O.R.V. N° 29.289 on 11/08/1970, G.O.R.V. N° 5.302 Extraordinary on 29/01/1999)	Prohibit hunting with the exception of hunting for scientific purposes	Product confiscation and administrative sanctions



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Penal Law of the Environment (G.O.R.V. N° 4.358 Extraordinary on 03/01/1992)	Establishes the capture of sea turtles and the degradation of their habitat as a crime because they are species in danger of extinction	Penal Sanctions
Law of Biological Diversity (G.O.R.B.V. N° 5.468 Extraordinary on 24/05/2000)	Article 22 specifies that animal species in danger of extinction will be priority <i>in situ</i> conservation objects	
Fisheries and Aquiculture Law (G.O.R.B.V. N° 37.727 of 08/07/2003)	Defines “responsible fishing” as the sustainable use of the fisheries resources in harmony with the environment and the use of capture methods that do not harm the ecosystems, the resources nor their quality	
Coastal Zone Law (G.O.R.B.V. N° 37.349 of 19/12/2001)	Article 7 specifies that conservation and sustainable harvesting in coastal zones includes the protection of biological diversity, punishment control and mitigating the causes generating contamination, as well as the policing and controlling of those activities capable of degrading the environment.	
Decree declaring closure on those species in danger of extinction (N° 1.485, G.O.R.V. N° 36.059 of 11/09/1996) *	Completely prohibits hunting sea turtles, with the exception of hunting for scientific purposes.	
Decree that declares Species in Danger of Extinction (N° 1.486, G.O.R.V. N° 36.062 of 11/09/1996) *	Includes all species of sea turtles present in the country	

* Establishes complementary dispositions required by the Penal Law of the Environment for the exact determination of punishable conduct.

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

Organic Law of the Conservation of the Environment

4.4. Public and private institutions involved in sea turtle conservation

Institution/ Entity	Responsibilities
Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources	In charge of coordinating and executing biological diversity conservation plans and the integration of social and economic development within the country, emphasizing endangered species.
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands / INAPESCA	Encourage, promote, develop and regulate fisheries activities, based on the governing principles that ensure the production, conservation, control, administration,



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	promotion, research and responsible and sustainable harvesting of hydrobiological resources, taking into consideration biological, technological, economic, food security, social, cultural, environmental and relevant commercial aspects.
Ministry of Science and Technology / INIA	The executive body of the Ministry of Science and Technology is in charge of researching and providing specialized services to generate and validate knowledge and technologies needed by the priority agricultural feed chains for the Venezuelan State and its objective is scientific research, technological development, consulting, and to offer specialized services in the area, contributing to sustainable development and a competitive agriculture, cattle, forestry, fisheries and middle rural sectors.
Defense Ministry / National Navy, National Guard (Environmental Guard)	To carry out policing work and control in coastal marine areas, support in fulfilling ecological activities for the conservation of the marine environment and coordinate research and administrative procedures when in violation of environmental legislation.
CICTMAR	To contribute to the research and conservation of sea turtles and their habitats, with the goal of providing scientific information to make appropriate public and private decisions. Promote and strengthen networks, specialist groups at national and international levels, and residents through training and information sharing.
PROVITA	PROJECT PROCOSTA has the objective of conserving sea turtles in the state of Miranda, where 4 out of the 6 of these endangered species are found.
FUNDATUN	Design and implement Onboard Observer Programs
Foundation La Salle	Teaching, research
Sea Turtle Working Group of the State of Nueva Esparta	Carry out activities to protect sea turtles and their nests Coordinate the “Opportune Sighting Network” program
Scientific Foundation Los Roques	Improve sea turtle conservation programs in the National Park Archipelago Los Roques *

* Although it does not have a permit from MARN (In progress)

5. Exceptions

Programs involving extractive use (include Management Plan)



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6. Conservation Efforts

6.1 General description of the sea turtle protection and conservation program

In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, various projects related to sea turtle conservation are being carried out, each including the research and management activities which are described below and are detailed in the book “Sea Turtles of Venezuela / Actions for their Conservation” which is provided [in Spanish] as an annex to this report.

- Sea Turtle Conservation in the Gulf of Paria

General Objective:

To conserve the sea turtle populations of the Gulf of Paria.

▪ Specific Objectives:

- Encourage an integrated study program and the protection and sea turtles and their nests in the areas surrounding Macuro (Municipality of Valdez) in the Gulf of Paria.
- Promote beach cleaning prior to the sea turtle nesting season in order to facilitate this natural activity as well as for hatchlings to make their way to the ocean.
- To implement an environmental education program directed towards the communities established in the study area with the goal of promoting awareness and introducing them to proactive behavior in favor of the conservation of this fauna.
- Achieve community participation.

Study Area:

Los Garzos, Macurito, Yacua, Cerezo and Obispo Beaches, the Gulf of Paria, Municipality of Valdez, State of Sucre.

Fieldwork

During 2001, 2002, 2003 and, daily and nightly visits and observations have been carried out between the months of May and September, for a period of one week per month. At night, direct observations of sea turtles are carried out during a fixed schedule between the hours of 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. These observations are done applying the following protocol:

Due to the small lengths of beach to study, extended patrols are unnecessary; one arrives directly by boat and sets up an observation camp.

Every half hour, between 8 pm and 4 am, one performs short patrols waiting for the sea turtles to nest. Once a turtle is found, she is observed in order to determine the stage at which she is at.



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From the initial stage when the turtle is coming out of the water until the moment she begins to dig her nest chamber, the turtle is left alone, if she is between the stages of egg laying and covering or camouflaging her nest, one waits until she has finished and then proceeds to measure and tag her.

For each turtle, the following data are recorded: species, morphometrics (curved and strength carapace length), presence of Fibropapillomas; as well as the location of the nest on the beach.

When possible, the entire nesting process of one turtle per night is observed and photographed and her eggs counted by using a surgical glove to receive the eggs directly from the oviduct, then they are left to drop naturally into the nest chamber, the count is carried out by a hand counter. Once she has finished nesting, the nest is marked using physical environmental references (shrubs, palms, etc.) and its progress is monitored.

During the day, marked nests and tracks from the previous night are observed and counted; nests marked on previous nights are also monitored. When possible, physical data (temperature, precipitation and water table levels) are recorded.

Community Work

Because both capture and illegal commercialization of sea turtles occurs in the Paria region, promoting awareness within the community regarding the importance of these species is crucial. In order to do this, a series of informal talks in schools and community centers was initiated in those areas visited throughout the year.

- Monitoring and Conservation Project for the Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) Population in the Isla Aves Wildlife Refuge (Federal Dependencies)

Study Area:

The Isla Aves Wildlife Refuge is under the jurisdiction of the Federal Dependencies and is located 650 kilometers northeast of the port of La Guaira, in the Caribbean Sea (see Map 1). This natural protected area was created in 1972 (Official Gazette N° 29888 dated 24-08-72) and includes the island proper (580 meters long and varying width between 30 and 120 meters) and the corresponding territorial sea with an approximate area of 158.000 hectares.

Fieldwork:

In order to monitor nesting females, the island was divided into three sectors (north, central and south). These sectors were adopted by the NGO FUDENA, which had previously worked in the area, in order to have a reference point for the location of the nests layed by these animals. This information is recorded in the field book and later added to the database.



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Nightly patrols are carried out throughout the sectors of beach on the island approximately every 30 min., between 8 pm and 3 am.

When a sea turtle is found in the process of nesting, the curved carapace measurements are taken. The standard width is measure at the widest part, as there are no anatomical references for this procedure. The standard length is measured from the extreme anterior point at the nuchal scute to the extreme posterior tip of the supracaudals.

At the same time, or afterwards, the turtle is tagged in the front left flipper. The tag is placed in the second or third scale of the flipper using a pair of pliers especially designed for this purpose and Monel steel metal tags. During this process, any existing injuries or lesions on the animal are noted, as well as the presence of barnacles, fibropapillomas and any other important information for their individual description.

- PROCOSTA Program – Project PICD Costa Barlovento – PROVITA

Started in 1999, the general objective of the Project PICD Costa Barlovento is to contribute to the conservation of nesting sea turtles along the western coast of the State of Miranda, through monitoring and nest protection, promoting awareness among the population and establishing strategic alliances with private and public institutions and organizations.

Activities:

Monitoring and protection activities consist of carrying out morning patrols during the months of March and September at selected beaches with sea turtles activities and nests. The sector, date, climatic data, and specimen (whether the turtle was seen, or tracks or nest was found) are recorded in field data sheets, designed by WIDECAS and modified to suit Venezuela by Hedelvy Guada. In order to protect nests, a hatchery is located in the Banquito sector with a capacity of around 25 nests at a time; each nest is separated by about one meter. With the goal of avoiding, whenever possible, any unnecessary manipulation of the eggs, relocation only occurs when the location of the nest does not guarantee a high hatching success. After all the hatchlings have left the nest, it is dug up to count the shells, infertile eggs, dead hatchlings and to determine the hatching success. In addition to monitoring activities, environmental awareness programs are carried out with the local school kids, offering recreational and cultural activities and creating environmental sergeants. Through strategic alliances, an Opportune Advice Network (Institutional) in the state of Miranda was established (started by the GTTM-Nueva Esparta), in order to provide attention and follow-up to different levels of state institutions on sea turtle sightings.

- 1 Proyecto de Investigación y Conservación de Tortugas Marinas en la Península de Paria – CICTMAR-WIDECAS PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE PROJECT NAME

This Project is directed at researching and protecting sea turtles in the two most important mainland nesting sites in Venezuela. One component of the project is awareness and the



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other is directed at identifying, promoting and implementing initiatives aiming to promote sustainable development of the coastal communities in the Paria peninsula where it is also being carried out, using the presence of sea turtles in the area as the center focal point.

The activities include monitoring the reproductive period of the sea turtles in Cipara (62°42'O, 10°45'N) and Querepare (62°52'O, 10°42'N), where 80 to 100 females are tagged, 8,000 to 10,000 hatchlings are released, and between 4-6 research assistants are trained per year. Both localities are under the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Arismendi in the State of Sucre. Up to date, more than 300 females have been tagged and more than 30,000 hatchlings have been released since 1999.

- **Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles Courses – CICTMAR-WIDECAS**

The objective of these courses is to provide scientific information on the biology of sea turtles. Through these courses, more than 250 students and professionals, mainly from Venezuela and Latin America, have been trained.

- **General and Scientific Information Sharing – CICTMAR-WIDECAS**

This is accomplished through use of a web site (www.geocities.com/cardonrace) and through the production of informational materials (posters, brochures).

- **Strengthen national and international networks – CICTMAR-WIDECAS**
- **Promote the growth of the Sea Turtles of Venezuela Working Group (GTTM) and the participation of international networks such as WIDECAS y el MTSG.**
- **Geographic Information System of the sea turtles of Venezuela – FLASA**
- **Observer Program aboard fishing vessels- FUNDATUN**



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6.2 Relevant Projects and Activities

Project/Activities	General objective	Results obtained	Duration	
			From	Until
Sea turtle conservation in the Gulf of Paria	To conserve sea turtle populations in the Gulf of Paria.	26 marked nests 20 tagged turtles	2003	2004
Beach cleaning outings near Macuro, Paria Peninsula, Edo. Sucre	To facilitate the nesting process, hatching neonates and their journey to the sea	Collected 1 ton of solid and organic (tree trunks and branches) waste	2004	2004
Monitoring and Conservation of the Green Turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>) Population in the Isla Aves Wildlife Refuge		Some 5000 turtles were previously tagged during this project from the early 70's until 1997. 243 green turtles, <i>Chelonia mydas</i> were tagged during partial cover of the mentioned sea turtle nesting seasons	1997	2002
Proyecto de Investigación y Conservación de Tortugas Marinas en la Península de Paria (Cipara, Querepare and Puy Puy), northern slope of the Paria Peninsula		More than 300 nesting females tagged, mainly <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> , but also <i>C. mydas</i> , <i>C. caretta</i> and <i>E. imbricata</i> More than 30,000 hatchlings released	1999	2004



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<p>Integrated Conservation and Development Program – Costa Barlovento, Program ProCosta, Provita</p>	<p>To contribute to the conservation of the 4 sea turtle populations along the west coast of the State of Miranda, by way of monitoring efforts, protection and environmental awareness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Description and monitoring of the 4 sea turtle populations along the west coast of Miranda (<i>Ei, Dc, Cm and Cc</i>). .- Protected more than 7,000 hatchlings and 200 nests from poachers, floods and predators. .-Created the Sea Turtle Conservation Network: Red de Aviso Oportuno (Tip Hotline Network) – Miranda: R.A.O. – Created the young conservation sergeants “Tortugas Marinas Chirimena” .-Created an Ecological Bulletin – Cultural “Chirimena in Action”. .-Annual environmental awareness trips to the local student population. .-Created environmental murals in the area .-Annual Sea Turtle Conservation Festival. .-Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation courses given to organizations such as: Inparques, Marine police, Coast Guard, Firemen and Institution Universitario Barlovento. .-Community sea turtle nesting beach cleaning outings 	<p>1999</p>	<p>Actual</p>
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7. International Cooperation

INIA among others Development

WIDECAST was founded in 1981 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and is dedicated to increasing the level of public awareness regarding sea turtles and their status in the Caribbean region. All species of sea turtles in the Caribbean are internationally recognized as “Endangered” or “Critically Endangered” on the Red List of Threatened Species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). Many populations are diminishing and some have completely disappeared. Those that are actually increasing have benefited from effective and long term conservation actions. Due to the fact



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that the majority of the threats to sea turtle survival are local, it is our option that the best way to ensure their survival is by promoting a conglomeration of informed citizens.

WIDECAST includes volunteer National Coordinators in more than 30 Caribbean states and territories. Because the Coordinator works closely with a national coalition of all governmental and non-governmental actors, WIDECAST consists of a variety of hundreds of scientists, conservationists, resource managers, politicians, educators and others. The shared objective is to visualize a future in which all the habitants of the Wider Caribbean Region, humans and turtles alike, can live together in harmony. WIDECAST has a National Coordinator in Venezuela and their national partner is CICTMAR. WIDECAST has helped in the preparation of the “Action Plan for the Recuperation of Sea Turtles in Venezuela”, the strengthening of the STWG, training students and professionals through "Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation Courses" and other activities such as workshops and symposium that have been ongoing since 1992. In the Wider Caribbean Region, WIDECAST has greatly supported the Cartagena Convention and the SPAW Protocol and there are members of this NGO on the Scientific and Consultative Committees of the Inter-American Convention.

8. National Directory

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9. Sources of Information

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Draft Revision by Hedelvy Guada

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10. Annexes