Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
Mexico
2007 Annual Report

Third Annual Report Form [Translation]

Directory

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Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
Mexico
2007 Annual Report

1. Biological Information

1.1. Species present

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

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

1.2. Important sites for sea turtle conservation

Nesting Site: The beaches listed below are considered priorities due to the number of nests recorded for the different species and their role in protection activities.

Name of Site	Spp	Season	Geographic Location (Lat/Long)	Area (km or hectares, if applicable)	Protection Category	Observations* (see comment below)	Source
Agua Blanca, B.C.S.	Lo	jun-mar	nd	nd	No	Nests – 10 - 100; Hatchlings – 101 – 500	*1
El Suspiro B.C.S.	Lo	jun-mar	nd	nd	No	Nests – 100 - 500; Hatchlings – 10,000 – 100,000	*1
Chenkan, Cam.	Ei	apr-sept	19° 13' 30" & 19° 04' 12" N 90° 50' 36" & 91° 13' 05" W	20 Km.	No	Nests – 101 - 500; Hatchlings – 10,001 – 100,000	*37
Isla Aguada, Cam.	Ei Cm	apr-sept jun-oct	18° 57' & 18° 47' N 91° 18' & 91° 28' W	27.7 Km	Flora & Fauna Protected Area "Laguna de Términos"	Nests – 101 - 500; Hatchlings – 10,001 – 100,000 Nests – 101 – 500; Hatchlings - 10,001 – 100,000	*37
Punta Xen,Cam.	Ei	apr-sept	19° 30' & 19° 13' 30" N 90° 45' & 90° 50' 36" W	30 Km	No	Nests – 101 - 500; Hatchlings – 10,001 – 100,000	*37
Tierra Colorada, Gro.*	Lo Dc	jun-jan oct-mar	16° 30' 03" & 16° 19' 36" N 98° 43' 40" & 98° 34' 05" W	25.8 Km.	Tierra Colorada Sanctuary	Nests – 101 - 500; Hatchlings – 10,000 - 50,000 Nests – 101 - 500; Hatchlings – 1,001-10,000	*37
Colola, Mich.	Cm Lo	sept-jan jun-jan	18° 18.153' N 103° 25.481' W	4.8 Km	Colola Sanctuary	nd	
Maruata, Mich.	Cm Lo	sept-jan jun-jan	18° 16.304' N 103° 20.503' W	4.8 Km	Maruata Sanctuary	nd	

Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
Mexico
2007 Annual Report

Mexiquillo, Mich. *	Lo Dc	jun-jan oct-mar	18° 10' 25" & 18° 05' 34" N 102° 58' 25" & 102° 48' 31" W	19.6 Km.	Mexiquillo Sanctuary	Nests – 101 - 500; Hatchlings – 10,000 - 50,000 Nests – 11 - 100; Hatchlings – 0 – 1,000	*37
Ixtapilla, Mich.	Lo	jun-jan	18° 24.996' N 103° 32.093' W	5 Km.	No	nd	
Morro Ayuta, Oax.	Lo	jun-jan	15° 52' 23" & 15° 54' 20" N 95° 46' 36" & 95° 42' 42" W	8.3 Km.	Sanctuary "Morro Ayuta"	Nests - 100,001 – 500,000; Hatchlings - >5,000,000	*37
Barra de la Cruz, Oax.*	Lo Dc	jun-jan oct-mar	15° 49.322' & 15° 50.345' N, 95° 58.019' & 95° 53.385' W	8.6 Km.	No	Nests – 101-500; Hatchlings -1,001-10,000 Nests – 101-500; Hatchlings – 1,001-10,000	*37
La Escobilla, Oax.	Lo	jun-jan	15° 43' 35" & 15° 40' 50" N 96° 45' 46" & 96° 37' 02" W	8.9 Km.	Sanctuary "La Escobilla"	Nests - > 500,000;; Hatchlings - >5,000,000	*37
Chacahua, Oax.	Lo Dc	jun-jan oct-mar	15° 58' 45" & 15° 57' 55" N 97° 46' 41" & 97° 34' 05" W	23.22 Km.	Chacahua Lagoons	Nd	
Cahuitán, Oax.*	Lo Dc	jun-jan oct-mar	16° 18' 42" & 16° 16' 58" N 98° 32' 64" & 98° 27' 48" W	12 Km.	No	Nests – 101-500; Hatchlings - 10,001-50,000 Nests – 11-100; Hatchlings – 0-1,000	*37
Wetlands Network Oaxaca Coast,Oax	Lo Dc	jun-mar oct-mar	nd	nd	No	Nests – 101 - 1000; Hatchlings – 10,000 – 100,000 Nests – 1 - 100; Hatchlings – 101 – 500	*1
Xcacel-Xcacelito, Qroo.	Cm Cc	jun-oct apr-sept	20° 17' 30" & 20° 21' N 87° 21' 30" & 87° 26' W	3.5 Km	State Reserve	Nests – 101 - 1000; Hatchlings – 10,001 – 100,000 Nests – 101 – 500; Hatchlings - 10,001 – 100,000	*1
Isla Mujeres, Q.Roo	Cm Cc	jun-oct apr-sept	nd	nd	No	Nests – 100 – 1,00; Hatchlings – 10,000 – 100,000 Nests – 10 – 100; Hatchlings – 1,000 – 10,000	*1
Punta sur, Q. Roo.	Cm Cc	jun-oct apr-sept	20° 17' 57.5" & 20° 17' 25.6" N 87° 00' 43.3" & 86° 57' 39.4" W	8 Km	Flora and Fauna State Refuge Laguna Colombia	nd	
El Verde, Sin	Lo	Jan-dec	23° 27' 14" N 106° 35' 46" W , 23° 18' 30" N 106° 29' 04" W	28 Km	No	nd	
Rancho Nuevo, Tamps.	Lk Cm	mar-aug jul-oct	23° 19' 58.6" & 23° 03' 30.1" N 97° 46' 13.5" & 97° 45' 42.2" W	22 Km	Rancho Nuevo Sanctuary	Nests – 5,000->10,000; Hatchlings – > 500,000 nd	*37
Lechuguillas , Ver.	Lk Cm	mar-aug jun-oct	20° 00' 53.7" N 96° 35' 07.7" W	17 Km	No	Nests – 11-100; Hatchlings - 1,001 – 10,000 Nests – 101 -500; Hatchlings - 10,001 – 50,000	*37
El Cuyo, Yuc.	Ei Cm	apr-sept jun-oct	21° 29' & 21° 32' 45" N 87° 29' 30" & 87° 48' W	31 Km	Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve	nd	
Las Coloradas, Yuc.	Ei Cm	apr-sept jun-oct	21°36' 40" & 21° 32' 30" N 88° 10' 00" & 87° 47' 30" W	21.5 Km	Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve	Nests – 101 - 500; Hatchlings – 10,001 – 100,000 Nests–101– 500;Hatchlings-10,001–100,000	*37

* Advancement on the 2006-2007 seasons' results. 2005-2006 season reports are attached.

Other Sites

Name of Site	Spp	Season	Geographic Location (Lat/Long)	Area (km or hectares, if applicable)	Protection Category	Observations* (see comment below)	Source
El Chupa-dero Col.	Lo, Dc	Jun-jan Oct-mar	nd	25 Km		Nests – 1,001 – 10,000; Hatchlings 100,001 – 1,000,000; Nests – 10 – 100; Hatchlings -100-1,000	*37
Barra de Coyuca, Gro.	Lo	Jun-mar	nd	nd	No	Nests – 101 – 500; Hatchlings – 1,000 – 10,000	*1
Dejame llegar al mar, Gro.	Lo Dc	Jun-mar Oct-mar	nd	nd	No	Nests – 101 – 1000; Hatchlings – 1,000 10,000 Nests - 0 – 10; Hatchlings - 10 - 100	*1
Mayan Palace, Gro	Lo	Jun.mar	nd	nd	No	Nests – 100 – 1,000; Hatchlings – 10 000 – 100, 000	*1
Cruz de Mitla, Gro	Lo	Jun-mar	nd	nd	No	Nests – 100 – 1,000; Hatchlings - 10,000- 100 000	*1
Playa San Valentin, Gro	Lo	Jun-mar	nd	nd	No	Nests – 1,000- 10,000; Hatchlings – 10,000 – 100,000	*1
Llano Real, Gro	Lo	Jun-mar	nd	nd	No	Nests – 100 – 1,000; Hatchlings – 10,000 – 100,000	*1
La Tortuga Feliz, Gro.	Lo Dc	Jun-mar Oct-mar	nd	nd	No	Nests – 1,000 – 10,000; Hatchlings – 100,000 – 1,000,000 Nests– 10 – 100; Hatchlings – 100 – 1,000	*1
Cuixmala, Jal.	Lo	Jun-Jan	nd	nd		nd	*1
Platanitos, Nay.	Lo, Dc, Ei	jun-jan	nd	17 Km	No	Nests – 1,001 – 5,000, Hatchlings -100,001 – 500,000; nd; nd	*37
Nuevo Vallarta, Nay.	Lo	jun-jan	nd	14.5 Km	No	Nests – 1,001 – 5,000, Hatchlings -100,001 – 500,000	*37
Cahpechen, Q. Roo	Cc Cm	May-jun Jul-aug	nd	nd	No	Nests – 0 - 100; Hatchlings – 1,001-10,000 Nests – 100-1,000; Hatchlings – 10,001-100,000	*1
San Martín, Q.Roo	Cc Cm	May-jun Jul-aug	nd	nd	No	Nests – 100 – 1000; Hatchlings – 10,000 – 100,000; Nests – 1,000 – 10,000; Hatchlings – 100,000 – 1,000 000	*1
Kanzul, Q.Roo	Cc Cm	May-jul Jul-aug	nd	nd	No	Nests – 0 - 100; Hatchlings – 5,001-10,000 Nests – 100-1,000; Hatchlings – 10,001-50,000	*1
Aventuras-DIF, Q.Roo	Cc Cm	May-jul Jul-Aug	nd	nd	No	Nests – 10-100; Hatchlings – 10,001-50,000 Nests – 10 - 100; Hatchlings – 10,001-50,000	*1
Tamul, Q. Roo	Cc Cm	May-jun Jul-aug	nd	nd	No	Nests – 10 – 100; Hatchlings – 1,000 – 10,000 Nests – 100 – 1,000; Hatchlings – 1,000 – 100,000	*1
Holbox, Q.Roo.	Ei Cm Cc	apr-oct	nd	24 Km	Yum Balam Flora and Fauna Protected Area	Nests - 501 – 1,000; Hatchlings – 50,001 – 100,000 Nests – 101 – 500, Hatchlings 10,001 – 50,000 Nests – 11 – 50; , Hatchlings – 1,001 – 10,000	*37
El Verde Camacho, Sin.	Lo	Jun-jan	18º 45' 15'' & 23° 28' 30'' N 106° 29' 04'' & 106° 39' 08'' W	30 Km	El Verde Camacho Sanctuary	Nests - 1,001 – 5,000; Hatchlings - >50,000	*37

Playa Ceuta, Sin.	Lo	jun-jan	23°57'29.11" N 107°01'04.97"W 23° 50'55.63" N 106°54'00.65"W	20 Km	Sanctuary	Nests - 501 – 1,000; Hatchlings 10,001 – 50,000	*37
La Pesca, Tamps	Lk	Mar-aug	nd	nd		Nests – 100 – 1,000; Hatchlings – 10,000 – 100,000	*37
Playa Dos-Barra del Tordo, Tamps.	Lk	Mar-aug	nd	42 Km	No	Nests - 501 – 1,000; Hatchlings 10,001 – 50,000	*37
Tepehuajes, Tamps.	Lk	mar-aug	nd	47.1	No	Nests – 1,001 – 5,000; Hatchlings > 50,000	*37
Tecolutla, Ver.	Lk, Cm Ei	apr- sept	20° 28.87' N 97° 0.52' W 20° 33.91' N 97° 05.91' W	37 Km	No	Nests – 101 – 500, Hatchlings - 5,001 – 10,000 Nests – 0 – 10, Hatchlings - 0 – 1,000 Nests – 0 – 10, Hatchlings - 0 – 1,000	*37
Papantla, Ver	Lk, Cm, Ei	apr- sept	20° 33.79' N 97° 06.02' W 20° 36.77' N 97° 08.62' W	8 Km	No	nd	
Cazones, Ver.	Lk, Cm, Ei	apr.- sept	20° 40.72' N 97° 11.00' W 20° 40.76' N 97° 08.62' W	18	No	nd	
Arrecifes Alacranes, Yuc.	Cm	jul-oct	22°21´45" & 22°34´55"N 89°36´47" & 89°47´53" W	nd	Arrecifes Alacranes National Park	Nests – 1,001 – 5,000, Hatchlings – 1,001 – 10,000	*37
Celestún, Yuc.	Ei	apr-oct	nd	24 Km	Ría Celestún Yuc. Biosphere Reserve	Nests – 101 – 500, Hatchlings – 1,001 – 10,000	*37

Note: The total nests are given by beach for each species for the last nesting season finished 2006, thus the species of the Atlantic and Caribbean Sea (kemp's ridley, green, loggerhead, hawksbill) include March to December 06, while the species of the Pacific (leatherback, olive ridley and black turtle) include June 06 to February 07. It is important to mention that some camps still have a few nests left to hatch and therefore, although they are missing some hatchlings and need to adjust the data accordingly, this will be done when writing the final report. On a separate page, some digital files with some final reports are attached.

Foraging Site

Name of Site	Spp	Season	Geographic Location (Lat/Long)	Area (km or hectares, if applicable)	Protection Category	Observations*
In front of the coast of Southern Baja California	Cc		28°40 N, 114°14 W			3,7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16
Pt. Adolfo López Mateos	Cc	All year, especially in summer			none	Majority of strandings due to incidental capture are seen from June - Sep.
Bahía de los Ángeles, BCN	Cm		28.9686° N 113.53351° W			4, 6, 8
Canal de Infiernillo, Son.	Cm		29.00730° N 112.18281° W			5

Bahía de Loreto, BCS	Cm		26.02392° N 111.32195° W		Marine Park	37
Bahía Concepción-Mulege, BCS	Cm		27.00267° N 111.95494° W			6, 8
Laguna Ojo de Liebre, BC	Cm, Ei		27.68303° N 114.12368°W		El Vizcaíno Biosphere Reserve	6, 8, 12
Laguna San Ignacio, BCS	Cm, Ei		27.78887° N 114.23765° W			6, 8, 12
Bahía Magdalena-Almejas	Cm, Ei		24.59167° N 111.97701° W			6, 8, 9, 12
Pacific Coast, Istmo de Tehuantepec, Oax.	Lo		16.1515° N 94.51298 W			36
Coast of Yucatán and Quintana Roo	Ei, Cm, Cc		22.18311° N 88.84683° W		Coral Reef Biosphere Reserves: Sian'Kaán and Banco Chinchorro, Rá Celestún and rá Lagartos, National Parks: Coral reefs of Cozumel and Puerto Morelos, Western coast of Isla Mujeres and Puerto Morelos, Punta Cancún, Punta Nizuc, Isla Contoy, Tulúm, Coral Reefs of Xcalak and Alacranes Reef.	

* The numbers correspond to the literature included in the sources of information section.

Migratory Routes

Name of Site	Specie(s)	Season	Geographic Location (Lat/Long)	Area (km or hectares, if applicable)	Protection Category	Observations*
Mexican Pacific Ocean	Dc		Once female leatherbacks have finished laying (on average 5 times, maximum up to 13) they head South, arriving in Chilean waters, according to the data published by Eckert and Sarti, 1997			19
Mexican Pacific Ocean	Lo		Olive ridley turtles nest in abundance along the entire Pacific coast of Mexico; however, there are three beaches of global importance due to the massive nesting that occurs. These beaches are: La Escobilla and Morro Ayuta in the State of Oaxaca. Olive ridleys shown movements along the entire coast of the western Pacific			17
Mexican Pacific Ocean	Cm		The black turtles that nest in Michoacán, head towards the Gulf of California, moving between 1,211 Km to 2,027 km. Inside the Gulf of California, the turtles move throughout the Gulf. The black turtles of Revillagigedo move between the Archipelago islands and the San Diego bay in CA.		The Archipelago Revillagigedo is a Biosphere Reserve.	6 Dutton *et.al*. unpublished data.
Mexican Pacific Ocean	Cc		28°40 N, 114°14 W	Loggerhead turtles that hatch in Japan mainly travel towards the western coast of the Baja California Peninsula , covering a total of approximately 11,500 km.		7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16
Atlantic (Gulf of Mexico) and	Cm		Two turtles tagged at Isla Mujeres, Q. Roo, one male and one female, left there and headed towards the coast of			18

Caribbean Sea			Florida, traveling along the coast between the States of Yucatán, Campeche and then crossing the Gulf of Mexico, each sex, however, displayed distinct behaviors.			
Atlantic (Gulf of Mexico)	Cm	Sep-Nov	Attached Map (Rafael Bravo)	900-1,500 ha	Endangered	Information provided by Rafael Bravo
Caribbean Sea	Ei		Hawksbill movements are observed along the Yucatán Peninsula, between the states that comprise it		In the region there are some natural protected areas such as Contoy Island and Ría Lagartos among others (see above)	

* The numbers correspond to the literature included in the sources of information section.

2. Information regarding the use derived from sea turtles

Consumptive Use

Types of use	Specie	Products	Ocean Basin	Origin*		Estimated annual quantity	Information Source	Actions
				L	I			
Domestic/ commercial	Cm, Cc, Ei, Lo, Lk, Dc	Eggs, meat	Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean Sea		Illegal according to the permanent closure decree in 1990.	nd (eggs are most desired; however, with inspection, patrolling and protection activities, the number of eggs poached has been reduced to less than 20% at the majority of the beaches, specifically on priority beaches).	Internal Reports	Operatives are carried out by the Mexican Navy and PROFEPA inspectors by performing nightly nesting beach patrols, arresting all individuals on the beach with eggs or any other sea turtle product in their possession. Additionally, they set up road blocks, during which all vehicles are searched.
Commercial / artisenal	Ei	carapace	Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean Sea		Illegal according to the permanent closure decree in 1990.	Nd		
medicinal	Dc, Lo	blood, oil	Pacific		Illegal according to the permanent closure decree in 1990.	nd (less than 10 animals per season on some beaches)	Personal observations LS	
scientific	Cm, Cc, Ei, Lo, Lk, Dc	skins, eggs, embryos, etcetera	Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean Sea	Requires permit explicitly for the scientific collection		Varies. Normally they are adjusted to use minimum sample sizes as specified in the research protocol.		Applicants are required to fill out an application and have a research protocol endorsed by a research institution. Anyone who collects for

				issued by DGVS of SEMARNAT at the same time justifying the research objectives				scientific purpose and does not have permission to do so faces legal sanctions. Based on NOM-126.
cultural	Cm-Pacific	meat	Pacific	Requires permit explicitly for their capture		2 to 4 turtles in the community of Seri	DGVS	A written request is required, and the minimum number possible is authorized. PROFEPA inspectors are present in order to assure the number and species captured. Based on the Constitution of the United Mexican States, which establishes the obligation of the government to promote uses and customs of the indigenous people.

Non-Consumptive Use

Types of use	Specie	Products	Ocean Basin	Origin*		Estimated annual quantity	Information Source	Actions
				L	I			
Education	Cm, Cc, Lo, Dc, Lk, Ei.		Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean Sea	If the research Project requires handling animals, it needs to have a permit.		In the majority of the turtle centers, lectures are given to visitors. Within the framework of the National Program, and with the goal of standardizing methods, techniques and terms used, training courses are given. Numerous individuals from local communities currently participate in the Leatherback Project; therefore, two training courses have been given since 2004 and they are now thinking of holding at least 1 every year for the next 5 years.		Summer courses, student groups

Scientific	Cm, Cc, Lk, Ei, Lo, Dc		Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean Sea	A permit for scientific collection is required even though it does not involve the collection of animals or their parts (live or dead)				tagging, migration, evaluation of nest abundance, management
Conservation/Protection	Cm, Cc, Lk, Ei, Lo, Dc		Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean Sea	Must be registered by DGVS-SEMARNAT		144 turtle centers are registered with DGVS, and are operated by the federal government, state government and private institutions.	DGVS-SEMARNAT	Protect females, their eggs and hatchlings
Tourism	Cm, Cc, Lk, Ei, Dc, Lo		Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean Sea	Must be registered by DGVS-SEMARNAT		The majority of the turtle centers receive tourists and volunteers that participate in protection activities.		Guided visits, hatchling release, exhibits, aquariums

3. Main threats

3.1 Habitat and other threats

Threats	Specie(s) Affected	Size of Impact	Geographic Region(s) Affected	Information Source	Actions
Habitat alteration (alteration of coral reefs).	Cm, Cc, Ei	moderate	Tourist corridor Cancún-Tulúm Quintana Roo coast	internal	All construction occurring within the coastal zone requires a declaration of environmental impact based on the General Law of Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection (LEGEEPA) and according to the Regulation on environmental impact matters. SEMARNAT dictates mitigation measures concerning such constructions or development. Nests in El Verde are relocated to incubation rooms where they are placed in Styrofoam boxes.
Habitat alteration (beach erosion from constructing on sand dunes)	Cm, Cc	moderate	Tourist corridor Cancún-Tulúm Quintana Roo coast	internal	
Coastal development (tourism, vehicles on the beach, lights, visitation traffic).	Cm, Cc, Lo, Dc, Lk	Moderate. On El Verde Beach an estimated 400 females (85,000 eggs may be affected by vehicle traffic)	Tourist corridor Cancún-Tulúm Quintana Roo coast, Gulf of México, Pacific.	internal	
Coastal development (change of land use to construct rural housing)	Lo, Dc, Cm	Nd	Pacific	Internal. (Mexican Turtle Center)	Patrolling is done in the area. Environmental education, Community organization.
Damage to coral reef communities by development of	Ei	Nd	Campeche Coast	Conanp Internal Reports	Projects being carried out that study the degree to which populations along the Campeche coast have

offshore activities and contamination					been affected.
Egg poaching during vacations with highest visitation to beaches	Lk Cm	Nd	Veracruz Coast	Conanp Internal Reports	Inspection and patrolling activities and special operations to protect the nesting of these species.
Beach obstruction from human wastes on land or dumped at sea	Lk, Cm, Cc, Dc	Nd	Gulf of Mexico (Jurisdiction of "Lechuguillas, Ver")	Internal	During the patrols, these obstacles are removed to allow the turtles free access
Hurricanes (beach erosion).	Cm, Cc	Generally low. In 2005 it was determined that 196 nests from at least 2 species (Lk, Cm) were lost in the area of "Lechuguillas, Ver" due to natural phenomena	Coast of México (Pacific, Caribbean and Gulf of México) is exposed every year to hurricane activity, however, they occur infrequently.	Internal (Executive Report, 2005)	Implement management strategies to avoid loss of nests.
Hydrocarbon contamination (oil spills)	Lk, Cm, Ei	Moderate	Gulf of México, Sonda de Campeche, (Atlantic)	Meeting with those involved and interested in the Kemp's Ridley Recovery Plan	
Lights on the beach, vehicle traffic	Lo, Dc	low	Pacific. Incipient. Some beaches are experiencing the beginning of urban development which exposes the nesting beach to light, others, with important tourism development, have resulted in vehicle traffic on beaches.		

3.2 Capture (Intentional/incidental)

Threats	Specie(s) Affected	Size of Impact	Geographic Region(s) Affected	Information Source	Actions
Incidental fishing at loggerhead sea turtle feeding grounds in Baja California	Cc	In 2006 an alarm was sounded regarding the number of stranded turtles found, more than 800 dead turtles in only 3 months (August, September and October)	Baja California	Informes internos Conanp	Strategies for alternative activities were offered to the fishermen involved such as non-extractive use of turtles in ecotourism activities, a pilot Project for spotting turtles in this marine area was initiated.

Direct take at sea	Dc, Lo, Cm Lk, Cc, Ei	Moderate for some species, low for others	Pacific (mainly coasts of Sinaloa and Oaxaca) and Gulf of Mexico	Internal	In Mexico, consumptive use of sea turtles, their products and sub-products is prohibited by law; however, despite these efforts, some direct take still exists, especially in certain regions of the country like Baja California, Sonora, Sinaloa and Oaxaca. Therefore, the Mexican Navy carries out patrols by boat to detect boats that are fishing illegally. PROFEPA inspectors develop these same types of activities accompanied by the Marina Secretary.
Predation of eggs and neonates by domestic or wild animals.	Lo	Nd	Morro Ayuta and Escobilla in Oaxaca	PROFEPA	Project in conjunction with the Secretary of Health to carry out a sterilization and scarification program for wild dogs.
Egg poaching and killing of females on the beaches.	Lo, Dc, Cm, Lk, Cc, Ei	Nd. It is estimated that in the area of "Lechuguillas, Ver" various adults are captured per season. The number per species is undetermined.	Pacific (focusing specifically on the coast of Oaxaca, mainly on the beaches of Morro Ayuta and Escobilla), Gulf of Mexico	PROFEPA. Internal Reports from Conanp	Carry out inspections, patrols and special operatives to protect the species while nesting. Inspections and patrols are also performed throughout the country in establishments selling fish and seafood in order to detect illegal commercialization.
Longlines and drift nets					Since 1993 in the Gulf of México and 1996 in the Mexican Pacific, the use of turtle excluder devises is mandatory for shrimp trawlers with the objective of allowing incidentally trapped turtles to free themselves of the net. The Federal Attorney of Environmental Protection is the entity in charge of verifying their use and installation in both the ports and high seas, as well as certifying TEDs each year in accordance to NOM-061-PESC/SEMARNAT-2006. Although beach seines, gillnets and longlines interact with sea turtles, there are no specific studies on incidental capture that allows us to understand both spatially and temporally, the size of the problem. In the case of shark fisheries, which use drift nets and longlines, the official Mexican normative NOM-029-PESC-2006 was published, that include dispositions protecting sea turtles and other species captured incidentally. The NOM prohibits fishing within a 5 killometer
Gillnets					
Beach seine					
Trawl nets					

					marine belt in front of the main sea turtle nesting beaches; it establishes characteristics in longlines to mitigate incidental capture of sea turtles, among them, the use of circular hooks in more superficial lines; turtles must be freed and measures taken onboard to resuscitate them. Up to date, the few specific studies done on incidental capture indicate a low impact on sea turtles. These studies, carried out in the Pacific Ocean of Central Mexico, indicate very low levels of capture per unit effort if they are compared to other registers and the fact that they are operating medium sized longline fleets in oceanic waters outside the continental platform where sea turtles are not as prevalent. Fishing with drift nests is also prohibited, reducing the possibility of incidental capture of sea turtles and other species. Beach seines are no longer used in Mexico and only form part of some isolated fishing practices where they free sea turtles. Other fisheries with recurrently less efforts, such as scale and swordfish fishing, may interact with sea turtles; however, there are no exact figures on their impact. Under these circumstances, onboard observer programs are created to measure incidental capture and generate information to support an appropriate decision making process. In addition, workshops with fishermen are being held to inform them on fisheries policies and natural resource protection. There is a great awareness among the coastal fisheries sector to collaborate with sea turtle conservation programs and to adopt more selective fishing techniques and gear to save turtles and help recover their populations. Similarly, onboard observer programs for shrimp and shark fleets are being developed that allow for a pertinent evaluation of fishing operations and to obtain the necessary elements for fisheries integration and analysis as well as decision making.

4. Legal Framework

4.1. International instruments

Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding	Year signed and/or ratification
Convention on Wetlands of International Important especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)	1986
Seven sea turtle nesting beaches are inscribed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Ramsar Convention.	Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas November 27th, 2003 Tierra Colorada, Guerrero November 27th, 2003 Mexiquillo, Michoacán. February 2nd, 2004 El Verde, Sinaloa. February 2nd, 2004 Cahuitán, Oaxaca. February 2nd, 2004 Chenkan, Campeche. February 2nd, 2004 Xcacel-Xcacelito, Quintana Roo. February 2nd, 2004
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, CITES	1992
Memorandum of Understanding, Program of Cooperation MexUs-Gulf, MexUs-Pacific	1992
Convention on Biological Diversity	1993
Memorandum of Understanding-Trilateral Committee-México-United States of America-Canada for Wildlife and Ecosystems Conservation and Management	1996
Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles	1999
Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries FAO, 1995	
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Montego Bay, 1982	1983

4.2. National legislation

Type and name of legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanction(s) Imposed
General Law of Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection	No change	No change
General Wildlife Law	Article 60 was added, prohibiting the consumptive use of sea turtles, no matter the species, whether for subsistence or commercial use, including its products and sub products.	No change
Fisheries Law	No change	No change
Penal Code (twenty-fifth title) for the Federal District in Common Matters and for the Entire Republic in Federal Matters	No change	No change
Agreement on closed season (31st of May, 1990)	No change	No change
Refuge zone decree (29th of October, 1986)	No change	No change

Agreement for those areas determined to be natural protected areas, under the category of sanctuary. (16th of July, 2002)	No change	No change
Official Mexican Regulation NOM-002-PESC-1993	No change	No change
Modification of the Official Mexican Regulation NOM-002-PESC-1993 (30th of July, 1997)	Dispositions referring to sea turtle specifications were abolished so that the contents of NOM-061-PESC-2006 could replace them. Only the mandatory use of rigid TEDs in trawl nets and the mandatory release of sea turtles and prohibition of holding whole turtles or their parts prevailed.	No change
NOM-061-PESC-2006, "Technical Specifications for Turtle Excluder Devises used by shrimp trawl fleets in waters under federal jurisdiction of the United States of Mexico", Published in the Official Diary of the Federation, January 22nd, 2007.	Establishes the technical specifications that rigid Turtle Excluder Devises (TED) should comply with, which are installed in the trawl nets used in commercial fisheries operations and directed at shrimp, carried out in federal waters, for the purpose of contributing to the protection of sea turtle populations and decreasing their incidental capture. In order to determine the level of compliance with this regulation, *in situ* verification will be done by the Federal Fisheries Officials of CONAPESCA, PROFEPA inspectors and/or accredited third parties in sites where they gather or disembark, in ships dedicated to shrimp fishing using the fishing gear subject to this current regulation; during fishing operation or navigation of ships.	Those in violation of this Regulation will be sanctioned as stated in the Fisheries Law and its Regulation, the General Law of Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection and any other applicable legal disposition. It was established that before the fishing season begins, accredited PROFEPA personnel will review the turtle excluder devices and will provide a records of Certification if they comply with the requirements described in the NOM. The act of being certified is an invaluable requirement to allow the shrimp fleets to fish and the certification should be carried onboard. Such document is valid for one year from the date it was issued.
Official Mexican Emergency Regulation NOM-EM-007-PESC-2004	No change	No change
"*Notice of the establishment of the geographic boundaries of Bahía de La Paz, Southern Baja California, to be used in the Official Mexican Regulation NOM-002-PESC-1993.* (30th of October of 2002)	No change	No change
Official Mexican Regulation NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2001 (6th of March, 2002)	No change	No change
Official Mexican Regulation NOM-126-SEMARNAT-2000	No change	No change
Regulation of Environmental Impact	No change	No change
Prohibits the possession or consumption of eggs, 1927	No change	No change
The management plan for non consumptive use to register nesting beach protection activities	Instrument regulating sea turtle protection and conservation activities.	Administrative

Agreement between the Federal Attorney of Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) and the National Cooperative Fisheries Confederation , 2004	Establishes the base for harmonizing sea turtle protection and conservation activities and the recovery of Mexico's nesting population, as well as preserve its nesting and feeding grounds.	

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

Official Mexican Law PROJECT PROY-NOM-061-PESC-2005, stating the technical specifications for turtle excluder devices used by the shrimp trawling fleets in waters under jurisdiction of United States of Mexico.

4.4. Public and private institutions involved in sea turtle conservation

Institution/ Entity	Responsibilities
Secretary of Natural Resources and the Environment	
CONANP. National Commission on Natural Protected Areas	On November 30th of 2006, revisions to the internal Regulations of Semarnat were published in the Official Diary that establish Conanp, by way of the General Direction of Regional Operation, as the entity in charge of the National Program for the Protection, Conservation, Research and Management of Sea Turtles, which coordinates the 26 Sea Turtle Protection and Conservation Centers and the Mexican Turtle Center, in 15 coastal states within the country.
PROFEPA. Federal Attorney General of Environmental Protection	
DGVS. General Wildlife Direction	Carry out inspection and patrolling operations in fisheries collection centers, *peleterias*, restaurants, highways, bus terminals and patrols on nesting beaches. Verify and certify the use of turtle excluder devises.
ZOFEMAT. General Direction of the Federal Land Maritime Zone and Coastal Environments	Application of the policy to conserve and protect marine chelonid species and regulate the operation of 144 turtle camps managed by non-governmental organizations, universities, groups of fishermen and individuals (DGVS). Regulate the use of the federal land maritime zone of nesting beaches (ZOFEMAT).
Navy Secretary	Assist in carrying out inspection and patrolling activities on the coasts and nesting beaches.
Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fishing and Nourishment CONAPESCA. National Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission INP. National Fisheries Institute	Promote and verify the use of turtle excluder devises. Advise and provide permanent training courses to naval fleets and fishermen in using and installing TEDs. Technological research on matters pertaining to the use of TEDs, in longline fisheries and other types of gear.
Attorney General of the Republic	To enforce the application of the law in sea turtle matters.
Northern Biological Research Center (CIBNOR) of La Paz	Research
Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur (UABCS)	Research
Escuela de Campo Puerto. San Carlos, BCS	Training, Research
Kutzari Association for the Study and Conservation of Sea Turtles, A. C.	Conservation, Training, Research, Dissemination

Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez de Oaxaca	Research, Human Resources Training
Sudcalifornian Association for the Protection of Sea Turtles and the Environment (ASUPMATOMA)	Conservation, Environmental Education, Research
Government of the Sate of Veracruz	Nest, female and hatchling protection activities on Nautla Beach, Ver.
Veracruz Aquarium, A. C.	Protection activities on the beach of Isla Sacrificios, Ver.
National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Communities (CONADEPI)	Protection activities on the beaches in the southern region of the State of Veracruz
Tampico el Alto Municipality (Gov. of the State of Veracruz)	Protection activities on the beach of Paraíso Escondido, Ver.
Tamiahua Municipality (Gov. of the State of Veracruz)	Protection activities in Tamiahua, Ver.
Tuxpan Municipality (Gov. of the State of Veracruz)	Protection activities on the beaches "Barra de Galindo and Bahía de Cochinos", Ver.
Cazones Municipality (Gov. of the State of Veracruz)	Protection activities on the beach El Farallón, Ver.
Ursulo Galván Municipality (Gov. of the State of Veracruz)	Protection activities in Chachalacas, Ver.
Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología, UNAM	Research, training and dissemination
Coordination of States for the Environment of the Veracruz Government (CEMA)	Protection activities on a beach in the State of Veracruz,
National Counsel on Environmental Protection of the State of Veracruz (COEPA)	Support training, materials and establishing agreements in the State of Veracruz.
Flora, Fauna y Cultura, A. C.	Protection activities on the beaches in the Sate of Quintana Roo, including Xcacel-Xcacelito Beach.
PRONATURA, Yucatán Peninsula	Protection activities on the beaches in the State of Yucatán and Quintana Roo.

5. Exceptions

In Mexico, the use or possession of sea turtles is prohibited and there are no programs that allow for their regular extractive use. All other extraction must have justified objectives and a permit *ex professo*.
The Seri or Conca'ac indigenous groups have occupied the central coast of Sonora, Tiburón island and other islands like San Esteban since archaic times. They currently inhabit the dessert coast of Sonora, and because of their uses and customs, the law protects and authorizes the use of 2 or 3 green turtles of the pacific (*Chelonia mydas*) each year in their new year celebration.

6. Conservation Efforts

The 2005 year was especially difficult for Mexican turtle camps due to adverse conditions as a result of the hurricanes that touched Mexican coasts, some camps were destroyed and are currently under reconstruction (Yucatán, Quintana Roo, Chiapas, Oaxaca and Guerrero), and therefore, the data submitted are not complete.

The annex includes historical and background information on some nesting beaches and conservation actions.

6.1 General description of the sea turtle protection and conservation program

The National Sea Turtle Program is run by the Environmental Sector. The General Wildlife Direction establishes the measures and policies regarding the management, conservation, protection, use and research of sea turtles in Mexico.

Their main objectives are to analyze the population status of the different species that are found throughout the country, embark on current legislation, coordinate the various sectors that participate in protection and conservation activities, and to establish the instruments that will allow for implementation of protection strategies. Additionally, they carry out activities on nesting beaches such as protecting nesting females and their eggs in order to produce the greatest number of hatchlings.

26 federal centers are operated by the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (Conap) whose mission is to protect and recover the populations of sea turtle species found in Mexico in their natural surroundings. Currently, there are 17 reserve and refuge sites for the reproduction of sea turtles, 16 of which are sanctuaries. The Mexican Turtle Center has the main purpose of disseminating awareness on sea turtle biology as well as the current state of these populations, in Mexico as well as in throughout the world.
In addition to these, over 150 centers are operated on all the country's beaches by universities, NGO's and communities.

All together, the Mexican coasts have more than 200 turtle camps, supported by federal and state governments, middle and superior educational institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sector, fishermen and individuals.

By means of the National Fisheries Institute, a variety of technological research activities are carried out, from matters regarding the use of TEDs to longline fishing.

6.2 Relevant Projects and Activities

Project/Activities	General Objectives	Results Obtained	Duration	
			From	Until
National Program for the Protection, Conservation Research, and Management of Sea Turtles	Dictate the policies and guidelines for the development of sea turtle protection and conservation activities. Protect the nesting areas of the diverse species of sea turtles found throughout Mexico. Encourage the development of specie specific projects. Coordinate the activities being carried out by various actors involved in sea turtle conservation.	Activities along both coasts of the country which protect a great number of females, their eggs and hatchlings. Currently, there are 144 registered centers carrying out these activities. In 2006, 1,490,167 nests from the six species of nesting turtles in our country were protected and 49,461,305 hatchlings released in official camps operated by Conanp.	1973	present
Consequent Recovery Plan for the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea*	To achieve the recovery of the leatherback turtle in the Pacific of Mexico through activities that protect the females, their eggs and hatchlings on the main nesting beaches in Mexico, as well as maintaining the knowledge of their population trend. Propose activities to be developed over the next ten years, and encourage necessary actions to decrease their incidental capture in both national and international longline and drift nest fisheries.	1. Protecting females, eggs and hatchlings on the priority and secondary beaches (95%), 2. Monitoring the population using standardized methods. Attached is a synthesis of the status of the leatherback in Mexico. 3. Provide training to students and professionals on this topic as well as to the habitants of the coastal towns. 4. Continuity of leatherback Conservation Program in the Pacific of Mexico that has been carried out for two decades. 5. Held community workshop for the recovery of the leatherback turtle and its habitat. 6. Provided equipment (trucks, motorcycles, computer, ect.) to strengthen protection activities carried out in Conservation Centers.	Since the early 80's	Present

		7. Final Report done on leatherback activities involving the country's index beaches and providing more historical information (Annex).		
Consequent Conservation Plan for the sea turtles of the Gulf of California.	To achieve the conservation of sea turtle populations present in the coastal and marine zones of the Baja California Peninsula and propose creating specific actions for their protection.	Protecting the most northern nesting areas of the country and development zones and foraging grounds in this region.	From 2003	Present
Kemp's Ridley, *Lepidochelys kempii,* Protection Conservation and Recovery Project (Binational).	To achieve the conservation and recovery of the kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii)* populations present in the coastal and marine zones of the Gulf of México. Propose eleven strategies to strengthen the actions that have been developed up to this day.	1. Protecting the main kemp's ridley nesting area. 2. Last year, 12,419 nests were protected and 799,575 hatchlings released. 3. The population shows a trend towards its recovery. The Kemp's Ridley Recovery Plan is currently being created by the USFWS and SEMARNAT as an agreement for bilateral actions with the participation of all those involved and interested in the conservation of this species.	From 1966	Present
Hawksbill, *Eretmochelys imbricata,* Protection, Conservation and Recovery Project	To achieve the conservation and recovery of hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata)* populations	1. Project carried out to identify critical points in sea turtle consumption, focusing on acknowledging the challenges of direct and indirect capture and consumption. 2. Study on juveniles in feeding grounds in the State of Campeche. 3. Satellite telemetry project to identify the movements of nesting females after nesting. 4. Continue to work in areas of distribution of this species in the Mexican Gulf and Caribbean. 5. Provided equipment to carry out protection activities in the Conservation Centers.	From 1984	Present
Setting up Environmental Watch Committees and accreditation of community guards	Get the communities surrounding nesting beaches involved in sea turtle protection and conservation.	Created 21 community environmental watch committees	Annex II	
Other Projects:				
Sea Turtle Conservation Project on the Oaxaqueña Coast (Oaxaqueña Coast Wetland Network)	Help with the recovery of sea turtles and their habitat through community projects to protect eggs, hatchlings and adults.	Form Wildlife Committee	Since 2003	Present
Community network protecting the leatherback in the States of Michoacán, Guerrero and Oaxaca	Assist in the recovery of the leatherback turtle in the States of Michoacán, Guerrero and Oaxaca	Four work meetings in at least 15 communities of the states with the highest abundance of nesting to share results and experiences, as well as to receive training by experts in leatherback projects.	Since 2004	Present

7. International Cooperation

1.- Leatherback Project.- Under the Mex-US Pacific Agreement. Main activities- to protect the eggs of 100% of the clutches on primary and secondary beaches, evaluate the number of nests along the length of the Pacific coast of Mexico by air surveys and tagging females on main beaches, participation of local communities and training them on conservation matters. Genetic population studies.
2.- Kemp's Ridley Project.- Activities coordinated with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Main activities- to protect 100% of the clutches on the most important nesting beaches for this species and monitor the number of nests in order to determine population trends. Promote economic alternatives for the inhabitants of the region, environmental education activities and tourism.
3.- Black turtle project (Chelonia mydas of the Pacific).- Under the Mex-Us Agreement. Main activities- promote actions that protect the majority of the clutches on the main nesting beaches and minimize illegal fishing in Baja California. Estimate their abundance and migrations within the Revillagigedo Archipelago. Determine feeding areas along the southern Pacific coast of Mexico.
4.- Diverse non-governmental international organizations like WWF, Conservation International, Wildlife Defenders, and IFAW, support projects protecting sea turtles in Mexico as well as on responsible fisheries relevant to sea turtle conservation and mitigating incidental capture.

8. National Directory

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10. Annexes (In Spanish)

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