# Annual Report General Instructions

Following the provisions laid down in annex IV of the Convention text, each Contracting Party shall hand in an Annual Report. This format will be reviewed and adapted to the needs that arise to be used in the future writing of the annual reports; therefore, we request that your comments on ways to improve this form are attached as an annex in order to improve it year after year. To complete this Report, it is important that the Focal Points make the necessary consultations to the various stakeholders involved in sea turtle issues. If you have any questions or problems with this form, please write to Belinda Dick at [leatherbacks@aol.com](mailto:leatherbacks@aol.com) or [belinda@iacseaturtle.org](mailto:belinda@iacseaturtle.org).

We remind you that the date to hand in this information is April 30th of 2008.

General Instructions:

1. Double click on the sea turtle icons to open the data tables of the report.
2. Do not modify the original tables of the Report; they have been locked to prevent accidental modifications.
3. Please include a glossary of acronyms used for official institutions, NGOs, etc.
4. Use the following codes to list the different species: Cc = *Caretta caretta*; Cm = *Chelonia mydas*; Dc = *Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei = *Eretmochelys imbricata*; Lk = *Lepidochelys kempii*; Lo = *Lepidochelys olivacea*.
5. For information on nesting, fill in the form using the latest nesting season. For other information, fill in the form according to the information of the latest calendar year.
6. Please complete all tables. Indicate if information exists, but it is not available or unknown (NA) or if no information exists (None).
7. Fill in the blanks using the best information available.
8. Add more lines if necessary.
9. Click the red question marks for additional help.
10. Please read the instructions carefully for each section before answering the questions.
11. We recommend that you print off the instructions to use as a reference while filling out the form.

# General Information

# Please fill out all of the following. Double click on the turtle icons to open the respective spreadsheet

## Directory



Others who participated in the preparation of this Annual Report



Focal Point



1. Biological Information

### Species present

Fill in the respective blanks depending on the oceanographic basin (according to the provisions in Art. III of the Convention) for each species, using the following codes for the different phases: R = reproduction; F = foraging; M = migration; D= phase unknown.

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### Important sites for sea turtle conservation

1. For each phase, indicate the names of priority sites mentioning the species present in each site and its season. Confirmed migratory routes should be integrated as a separate worksheet where relevant data can be added, for example, beginning and ending point (LAT/LON), tag/recovery. If migratory route maps already exist as well as their course in LAT/LON, please add them as an annex so that this information may be included in the GIS of the IAC.
   1. b. Geographic location: Specify latitude and longitude in degrees, minutes and seconds - provide one or two points for nesting places (if available). For migratory routes, please describe them briefly in the observations column.
   2. c. Extension:
   3. - Nesting sites - provide the total length in Kilometers of the beach used by the turtles.
   4. - Foraging sites (or feeding areas) provide the extension in Hectares (if available).
   5. - Migratory Routes: not applicable
   6. d. Category of protection: Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area, the name of the Management Category, briefly describe in terms of use or protection offered.

e. Estimations: Select an estimate of the number of clutches and hatchlings per year. The ranges for clutches are: unknown, unavailable, 0-10, 11-100, 101-500, 501-1000, 1001-5000, 5001-10000, 10001-100000, 100001-500000, >500000. The ranges for hatchlings are: unknown, not available, 0-1000, 1001-10000, 10001-50000, 50001-100000, 100001-500000, 500001-1000000, 1000001-1000000, 1000001-5000000, >5000000. On a separate sheet, provide a brief description/justification on why each site that was mentioned is considered important (sites with greater abundance, endemism, genetic, others). Include historical information (graphic and/or tables) showing the population status of each species present in the site. If available, provide information on the species for a wider region than the specific nesting place.



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

* 1. a. The types of use (non consumptive/consumptive) may be, among others:

Domestic (for subsistence), cultural, commercial, medicinal, tourism, scientific.

b. Products or parts used: eggs, skin, carapace, meat, oil, craftsmanship, etc.

c. Ocean Basin: Pacific, Atlantic or Caribbean

d. Origin: make reference to the law that forbids/allows it from section 4 (Juridical framework) of this form.

e. Estimated annual quantity:

* 1. - Legal: refer to section 5 (Exceptions) of this form
  2. - Illegal: total amount of eggs or clutches, total animals (per sex, per stage)
  3. f. Actions: refer to section 6 (Actions for conservation) of this form



#### 3. Main threats

Add sheets with additional observations whenever necessary.

3.1 Habitat and other threats

* 1. a. Using the following list, select the main threats and list the species affected, considering reproduction and foraging sites and migratory routes.
  2. - Accumulation of sand or presence of contention structures (please indicate)
  3. - Sand mining
  4. - Beach Erosion
  5. - Construction and infrastructure on the beach
  6. - Inadequate management of tourism
  7. - Other human activities
  8. - Beach driving
  9. - Noise pollution (explain)
  10. - Artificial light
  11. - Depredation of eggs and hatchlings by domestic or feral animals
  12. - Agricultural, industrial waste and residual/sewage waters
  13. - Oil pollution
  14. - Obstacles on the beach (logs, plastic, etc.)
  15. - Impact on other associated habitats (reefs, mangroves, etc.)
  16. - Waste in the ocean (ropes, fishing gear, bags, etc.)
  17. - Diseases
  18. - Natural phenomena (indicate types)
  19. - Other (indicate)
  20. b. Size of impact: use the same as in the section above: total number of eggs, total animals (per sex, per stage)
  21. c. Geographic region(s) affected: make the most accurate reference, if possible use lat/long of the affected area.
  22. d. Make reference to the full quote in section 9 (Source of information) of this form
  23. e. Actions: briefly explain the threat and mention the actions that are under way to prevent the threat or minimize its effect; if relevant, refer to section 6 (Actions for conservation) of this form.



### 3.2 Capture (Intentional/incidental)

* 1. a. Using the following list, pick the main threats and list the affected species
  2. - Capture of sea turtles in the ocean
  3. - Capture of sea turtles on the beach
  4. - Egg collection
  5. - Purse sein fisheries
  6. - Gill net fisheries
  7. - Longline artisanal fisheries
  8. - Longline commercial fisheries
  9. - Bottom Trawling
  10. - Pelagic Trawling
  11. - Fishing nets
  12. b. Size of impact: whenever possible provide Capture values per Unit of Effort (CPUE) making reference to the unit of effort (number of boats, lances, man hours, etc), or the total amount of animals or eggs captured/collected.
  13. c. Geographic region(s) affected: make reference as accurate as possible, if possible use lat/long of the affected area.
  14. d. Refer to the full citation as in Section 9 (Source of information) of this form.
  15. e. Actions: briefly describe the threat and mention the actions that are under way to prevent the threat or minimize its effect; if relevant, refer to section 6 (Actions for conservation) of this form.

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### 4. Legal Framework

4.1. International instruments

List international instruments related to sea turtles and their habitat signed or ratified by your country.



4.2. National legislation

List the national legislation in force related to the protection, conservation and use of sea turtles and the habitats on which they depend. Provide a brief description including the sanctions faced when violated



4.3. Indicate any legal instruments that are currently in the process of being approved. (Insert Text here) The Revision of the Fisheries Act to accommodate commitments under conventions, agreements and other legally binding Government of Belize resolutions.

4.4. Public and private institutions involved in sea turtle conservation

Based on the national juridical framework, list any public or private institutions with responsibilities and actions in the conservation and protection of sea turtles and their habitat. Briefly describe the responsibilities of each of them.



5. Exceptions

Attach the management plan including limits on the levels of intentional capture and include information regarding such program based on article IV, item 3(a,b,d) of the text of the Convention. According to the provisions in Annex 4, the reports of the exceptions shall include follow up and mitigation measures, specifically relevant information on the number of turtles, nests and eggs affected and on the habitat areas affected by the implementation of this action.

Under the present regulations extraction can only occur with a permit from the Fisheries Administrator for traditional and cultural use. However since 2002 no permit has been issued even though various applications have been received. A management plan has not been elaborated as yet for the sea turtle fishery thus none is legally occurring. A fishery management plan is presently in the process of elaboration for the fishing industry in general whereby it will incorporate the sea turtle as a sub section.

### 6. Conservation Efforts

6.1 General description of the sea turtle protection and conservation program

Make a brief general description of the national plan for the protection and conservation of sea turtles and of their habitat.

A Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for Belize was prepared by WIDECAST in 1992 and plans are underway for possible funding for its updating. This plan list the actions needed in the stress reduction of our sea turtle population and is the document used by the Fisheries Department in the management of the resource. Many sea turtle conservation programs are complimentary of other projects geared towards the sustainable management of our tourism and fishing industries. In its effort to control the illicit fishing of the lobster and conch fishery, the Fisheries Department embarks in consistently monitoring the activities within the territorial waters of Belize. These Conservation Compliance Unit patrols thus gear efforts in minimizing illegal sea turtle captures.

The Fisheries Department also declared 8 marine reserves which have as objective the conservation and protection of the areas biodiversity which incorporates the sea turtles. All programs under this component involve sea turtles. Programs under this component are but not limited to enforcement of reserve and Fisheries regulations, monitoring of the biodiversity and environmental education to local communities and stakeholders. These areas are strategically all along the Belize Barrier Reef, 185 miles long, creating an enforcement presence throughout the Belize territorial waters and atolls.

A working group named the Sea turtle Conservation Network meets every two months to discuss issues in regards to the reptile and recommends actions to the Fisheries Department. Also it updates all members on the recent developments in the effort to conserve and protect the sea turtles.

Local NGOs approached the Fisheries Department to help in the monitoring and conservation of the sea turtles habitat and nesting beaches. This is reflected in the community participation of Gales Point Manatee Bar, one of the most important nesting areas for the hawksbill in Belize. Another example is the Belize Audubon Society who posses responsibility for the monitoring of a nesting beach at one of the atolls.

(Insert text here)

6.2 Relevant Projects and Activities

List the most relevant public or private projects/activities for the conservation of sea turtles in your country; please include general objective or objectives, and the results obtained and the duration of each. Including projects/activities like the enhancement and development of new fisheries to reduce incidental capture and mortality of sea turtles, scientific research, environmental education actions, creation of databases, national plan, management plan, community participation or other kind of planning for the conservation and protection of sea turtles. Add more rows if necessary.



7. International Cooperation

Describe the programs or projects involving cooperation of other states or international bodies, among others, within the area of the Convention.

Describe the programs or projects involving cooperation of other states or international bodies, among others, within the area of the Convention. (Insert text here

Wildlife Conservation Society

Collaboration in staff training and technical support has listed the *Eretmochelys imbricata* ( Hawksbill Turtle) as an indicator species in a project to be implemented at the Glovers Reef Atoll in the Glovers reef Marine Reserve.

El Colegio de la Frontera Sur ECOSUR

Quintana Roo, Mexico based academic institution support with technical advice to the agencies involved in sea turtle conservation.

WIDECAST

Updated information as to opportunities and technical assistance available

(Insert text here)

##### 8. National Directory

List the contacts (persons and/or institutions, public or private) related to the objectives of this Convention (specialists in fisheries, economy, statistic or others). Include at least name, specialty, telephone number, fax and e-mail address. Add more rows to accommodate all relevant personal.



9. Sources of Information

Include all the references used to fill in this form. In Annex 10. 1 you will find examples as to how the citations should be referenced.

Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve Annual Report 2009

Sapodilla Caye Marine Reserve Annual Report 2009

South Water Caye Marine Reserve Annual Report 2009

Gales Point Sea turtle data 2009

CITES web page

Convention on Biodiversity web page

Fishermen Anecdotal information

WWF Belize

WCS Belize

Smith, Gregory W.,Karen L. Eckert , and Janet P Gibson. 1992. WIDECAST Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for Belize 1992 ( Karen L Eckert, Editor). CEP Technical report 18. UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme, Kingston Jamaica. 86p.)

10. Annexes

Annex I

Information on citing sources

Text adapted from: How to Prepare Manuscripts of the Journal of Tropical Biology (http://rbt.ots.ac.cr/prepare.pdf)

References are ordered alphabetically and strictly follow this format, including details such as spacing, commas, underlining, capitals, etc. (Note: examples are from real references, modified for brevity):

1. Article (Author. Year. Title. Journal volume: pages.)

Bückle R., L.F., F. Díaz H. & S. Espina. 1996. Thermoregulatory behavior and culture of *Procambarus clarkii* (Decapoda: Cambaridae). Rev. Biol. Trop. 44: 123-126.

2. Book, report or proceedings (Author. Year. Title. Organization or publisher, City, State or Province. pages).

Vásquez-Yeomans, L. & A. González. 1991. Ichthyoplankton of two bays in Mexico. 15 th. Larval Fish Conference, Los Angeles, California. 15 p.

3. Chapter in multiauthored book (Author. Year. Chapter title, pages of chapter. In Editor (ed.) Book title. Publisher, City, State or Province.)

Donnelly, T.W. 1992. Geological setting and tectonic history of Mesoamerica, p. 1-24. *In* D. Quinteno & A. Aiello (eds.). Insects of Panama and Mesoamerica. Oxford University, Oxford.

4. Thesis (Author. Year. Thesis type, University, City).

Hedström, I. 1991. The guava fruit fly, *Anastrepha striata* University, Uppsala, Sweden. 43 p.

NOTE: mention country when city is not widely known, shorten printer’s name (*e.g.*write Wiley instead of Wiley and Sons Publications, Inc., do not write “Press”, “Verlag” and equivalent words). When the author is an institution, cite the author as Anonymous. Do not state edition number.

Annex II

Follow-up on Resolution CIT-COP2-2004 R1

Resolution for the conservation of leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Indicate the activities and results most relevant for each one of the resolution points noted, quantifying when necessary.

Elaborate and/or implement conservation plans and long-term programs that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback sea turtle in the Eastern Pacific. (Insert text here)

Acquire and evaluate pertinent conservation measures to significantly reduce the use and consumption of leatherback sea turtle products and by-products. (Insert text here)

Parties with leatherback sea turtle nesting beaches in the Eastern Pacific: acquire and evaluate pertinent conservation measures for the protection of nesting sites and habitats, in accordance with Articles IV and Annex II of the Convention. (Insert text here)

Collect and facilitate information to the Convention regarding the incidental capture of the leatherback sea turtle in long-lines, gillnets, and other fishing gear used by the artisanal as well as industrial fisheries, in order to evaluate and adopt fishing techniques that reduce their impact on this species. (Insert text here)

Establish agreements and/or understandings with countries fishing within international waters, so that they receive the initiative of this Convention to adopt fishing techniques that reduce the incidental capture of leatherback sea turtles. (Insert text here)

Establish and strengthen cooperative agreements and alliances with pertinent organizations that help in the conservation of the leatherback sea turtle, in accordance with Articles XII and XX of the Convention. (Insert text here)

Annex III

Follow-up on Resolution CIT-COP3-2006 R-1

Conservation of the hawksbill turtle *(Eretmochelys imbricata)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| RECOMENDATIONS PUT FORTH IN Resolution CIT/COP3/2006/R-1 | Specific recommendation to be implemented | Name of project or relevant document | Location | Objective(s) | Responsible institution/s | Contact | Financial and other support (optional) | Significant Results (both positive and negative) | Duration\* |
| EXHORT the Parties to promote synergies between the IAC and CITES, the SPAW Protocol, CMS, WHMSI, FAO, other pertinent treaties and international organizations, and regional fisheries bodies in order to facilitate regional dialogue on management and conservation of the hawksbill turtle and its habitats; | CITES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SPAW |  |  |  |  |  |  | Belize ratified the SPAW Protocol which shall create a link |  |
| CMS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| WHMSI |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| FAO |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other treaties (specify) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Regional fisheries bodies (specify) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| URGE the Parties to strengthen monitoring of the use and illegal trade of hawksbill turtles and their products, to enforce pertinent legislation and to stop illegal trade; |  | Conservation Compliance Unit Annual Work Plan | Belize Territory | Enforce all Fisheries Regulations | Fisheries Department | Hampton Gamboa | Government Of Belize | 4 arrest | Year long |
| EXHORT the Parties to support and strengthen the research and monitoring activities required to improve the scientific basis of conservation measures for the hawksbill turtle, particularly in genetics, migratory behavior, location and conservation status of foraging habitats and food prey, population dynamics in feeding sites, interactions with fisheries, social and economic impacts of conservation measures, and integrity of its nesting beaches; | Genetics | In water Monitoring at Glovers | Glovers Reef Marine Reserve | Population Status | WCS/Fisheries Department | Robin Coleman/Alicia Eck |  |  |  |
| Migratory behavior |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Location and conservation status of foraging habitats and food prey | In water Monitoring at Glovers | Glovers Reef Marine Reserve | Population Status | WCS/Fisheries Department | Robin Coleman/Alicia Eck |  |  | Attached reports |
| Population dynamicas in feeding sites | In water Monitoring at Glovers | Glovers Reef Marine Reserve | Population Status | WCS/Fisheries Department | Robin Coleman/Alicia Eck |  |  | Attached reports |
| Interaction with fisheries |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Social and economic impacts of conservation and protection measures | Socioeconomic Analysis of MPAs | Gladden Spit Silk Cayes Marine Reserve | Economic Value of marine resource | Friends of Nature/Fisheries Department | Lyndsay Garbutt/  James Azueta |  |  | Report in preparation |
| Stability of nesting beaches | Monitoring Plan for Sea turtle at Glovers Reef Marine Reserve | Glovers Reef Marine Reserve | Nesting Population | WCS/Fisheries Department | Robin Coleman/Roberto Carballo |  |  | Attached Reports |
| Other (specify) | Beach Monitoring | Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary | Nesting population |  | Lincoln McSweeney |  |  | Draft report |
| URGE the Parties to evaluate and mitigate incidental capture of hawksbill turtles in their jurisdictional waters in accordance with recommendations emanating from FAO’s Technical Meeting on the conservation of marine turtles held in Bangkok 2004 and adopted by the 26th Session of Fisheries Committee of FAO (COFI). Also review the application of IAC guidelines for mitigating fisheries interactions |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| URGE the Parties to strengthen protection of important hawksbill nesting and foraging habitats by declaration of protected areas and the regulation of anthropogenic activities adversely impacting these habitats | nesting habitats |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| marine habitats (feeding, inter-nesting, resting …) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SUPPORT a working group within the Scientific Committee to keep the Conference of the Parties informed on the status of the species and its habitats in the Area of the Convention; |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PROMOTE the exchange of technical capacity and collaborative research on the hawksbill turtle on their habitats among Parties as well as non Parties and other involved organizations in the Area of the Convention |  | WCS/Fisheries Department/Wildlife Trust biologist and community training | Gales Point Community | Exchange of technical capacity by WCS seaturtle expert to local biologist ad community | WCS/Fisheries Department/Wildlife Trust | Robin coleman/isaias Majil/Nicole Auil |  |  | Attached Report |
| SUPPORT the organization of a workshop with recognized experts to evaluate the current condition of hawksbill populations in the Greater Caribbean and Western Atlantic, and present the best available methods of research and conservation for the species in its marine habitats. |  | Supported and Belize attended the workshop |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Annex VI

Follow-up on Resolution CIT-COP3-2006 R-2

Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles

Please indicate any measures taken in your country regarding the following:

1. Research and follow-up on fisheries aspects:

• What kind of data or information is your country collecting to try and quantify sea turtle interactions with fisheries? (Cerco, longline, enmalle, etc.)? The Belize High Seas Fishing Fleet has adopted the use of circular hooks on 10% of the Fishing Fleet. All vessels are required to report incidental catches and release all live turtles caught by seines or long lines. The Fishing vessels are regulated by the High Seas Fishing Act which requires that the vessels comply with international fishing regulation, convention ratified by Belize and resolution of Regional Fisheries management Organization (RFMOs) of the area authorized to fish.

• Indicate in which types of fisheries on board observer programs have been implemented.

Belize does not have on board observers program and is in the process of implementing one shortly.

• Specify the name of any research projects associated with interactions between fisheries and sea turtles being developed in your country. Presently a survey as to the use of gill nets in the coast is being undertaken. Objectives is to quantify number of fishers that depend solely on gill net fishing and to map areas targeted by these individuals. At the end of the day the real objective is to phase out the use of gill nets in Belize.

• Report on whether vessels of non Party States that fish in jurisdictional waters, have provided information on the capture and mortality of sea turtles. If yes, was this information included in Table 3.2? Belize has no non Party States fishing in our jurisdictional waters.

• Inform on whether cooperation mechanisms have been established with non Party states to obtain information on sea turtle capture and mortality in areas of interest of the Convention. NONE

Belize submits its catch data to RFMOs such as International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), and Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) among other RFMOs.

1. Mitigation measures

Indicate any measures your country is taking to reduce interactions between fisheries and sea turtles in the following fisheries: Long line-use of circular hook

Trawling- use of turtle excluder device

* Pesca de arrastre costera
* Redes de cerco
* Palangre
* Redes de enmalle

1. Training, education and divulgation

Indicate training, education and divulgation activities that have been organized in your country regarding the topic of reducing incidental captures of sea turtles in fisheries.

Belize has continuously worked Non Governmental Organization (NGO) on educational programs such as radio shows and school talks to increase awareness for the protection of marine turtles. We also promote turtle conservation through our annual exposition where over 5000 visitors pass through our booth. The National Sea Turtle Conservation Network held another Sea Turtle Expo that travelled to 7 coastal communities. Over 1500 students participated.

4. Harmonization of policies and legislation

Indicate if any national legal instruments have been modified in order to harmonize them with the IAC and its resolutions.

Belize has amended its national legislation since 2000 in accordance to IAC resolution

5. Capacity building

Did your country create a National Sea Turtle Committee?

What networks have been organized to achieve better interaction between interested groups in sea turtles and fisheries?

Belize has a Turtle Working Group which is comprised of Government Representatives, Tour Operators, local and International NGOs, Coastal member. Meetings are held quarterly to discuss ongoing projects and review coastal development that may impact marine turtle habitant and threaten their survival.

6. Financing

Specify the type of financing or support obtained to implement the guidelines of resolution CIT COP3/2006/R-2.

Support from partners such as WCS, ECOMAR in targeted research to assist in fulfilling research commitments.

7. Socio-economic issues

Indicate socio-economic activities that have been implemented in your country regarding interactions between sea turtles and fisheries.

Little has been done in this area, in the Gales Point Community the sea turtle nesting project hires community member for the monitoring

8. Other aspects

Indicate if your country considers the potential effects of mari culture projects on sea turtle populations in critical areas within environmental impact studies.

Yes it does, we stress on the proper containment and treatment of aquaculture waters and effluents to avoid the introduction of new species and disease on the marine environment that may threaten the survival of marine turtle and their habitat. All mariculture project must develop an Environmental Impact Assessment that takes into consideration all possible impacts on all ecosystems. This plan is reviewed by a National technical team for clearance and approval.