



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

Caribbean Netherlands

Annual Report 2016

IAC Annual Report General Instructions

Annex IV of the Convention text states that each Contracting Party shall hand in an Annual Report. To complete this Annual Report, Focal Points should consult with various stakeholders involved in sea turtle issues. If you have any questions regarding this Annual Report, please write to the PT Secretariat at secretario@iacseaturtle.org

Please note that the date to submit this Annual Report is **April 2016**.

Part I (General Information)

Please fill out the following tables. Add additional rows if necessary.

a._ Focal Point

Institution	Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ) National Office for the Caribbean Netherlands
Name	Paul Hoetjes
Date Annual Report submitted	31 May 2016

b._ Agency or Institution responsible for preparing this report

Name of Agency or Institution	Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ) National Office for the Caribbean Netherlands
Name of the person responsible for completing this report	Paul Hoetjes
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c._ Others who participated in the preparation of this report

Name	Agency or Institution	E-mail
Mabel Nava	Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire	stcb@bonaireturtles.org
Jessica Berkel	St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation	research@statiapark.org



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Caribbean Netherlands Annual Report 2016

Part II (Policy and Management)

a. General description of activities carried out for the protection and conservation of sea turtles

In accordance with Articles IX and XVIII of the text of the Convention, each Party shall establish monitoring programs, policies and plans for implementation at a national level for the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitat.

As a result, the Party shall report on the action plans, management plan or other types of instruments, describing their location, the species considered and the actions implemented by governmental, non-governmental and private institutions related to sea turtles.

In addition to the above, please fill out the following tables and explain the level of progress in the comments column.

	YES/NO/ In Progress	Comments
Does your country have a national plan of action in accordance with Article XVIII?	yes	<i>Nature Policy Plan 2013-2017</i>
Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional levels in accordance with Article XVIII?	yes	<i>Nature Policy Plan 2013-2017</i>
Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?	yes	<i>STCB STENAPA</i>

b. National legislation and international instruments related to sea turtles adopted in the preceding year

Describe any national regulations, international agreements and other legal instruments adopted during the preceding year (April 30, 2015-April 30, 2016) related to sea turtles and/or relevant activities. Provide a reference and attach the digital file for the legislation and its corresponding number. The laws adopting the international legislation should be included, when they exist.

No new legislation, policy or IEAs



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Caribbean Netherlands Annual Report 2016

Note: If this is the first time a country is submitting this information, please include all pertinent national legislation and international instruments currently in force.

c. Actions for compliance with national and international legislation

c.1 IAC Resolutions

Fill in the following tables for each of the IAC Resolutions listed below. In the case that a Resolution does not apply to your country, please mark the box RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY, and if a specific question does not apply, please mark the column DOES NOT APPLY. If you need more space to describe these actions, please attach additional pages and note the resolution and question number to which you are responding.

Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2: Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP7-2015-R2, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY	
			DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
1a) Have you created conservation plans and long-term programs that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback turtle in the Eastern Pacific?				NA
1b) Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?				NA
2. Have you taken conservation measures to eliminate poaching of leatherback turtles?				NA
3. If your country has leatherback turtle nesting beaches in the Eastern Pacific: Have you taken conservation measures to protect the nesting sites and their associated habitats?				NA
4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?				NA

(*) Specify actions implemented, name of the project or relevant document, location, objective(s), institutions responsible, contact, financial or other support (optional), results (both positive and negative) and duration.



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Caribbean Netherlands Annual Report 2016

Resolution CIT-COP3-2006 R-1: Hawksbill turtle conservation (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP3-2006-R1, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY		DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
	YES	NO		
1. Are you strengthening monitoring of the illegal use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products?				NA
2. Are you enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation?	Y		Ongoing enforcement of existing laws to protect sea turtles in general	
3. Are activities being carried out in order to stop illegal trade of hawksbill products?				NA
4. Indicate if your country is strengthening the protection of important nesting and foraging habitats by declaring protected areas and regulating anthropogenic activities that adversely impact these habitats.	a) Protection of nesting habitats	Y	All nesting beaches protected	
	b) Protection of feeding habitats	Y	Marine protected areas fully surround each of three islands	

(*) Specify actions implemented, name of the project or relevant document, location, objective(s), institutions responsible, contact, financial or other support (optional), results (both positive and negative) and duration.

Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R2: Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles

ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP3-2006-R2, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
Adopted the "Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality induced by fisheries operations", of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), including:				
A. Research and monitoring of adverse impact of fisheries on sea turtles				
• Collect information by fishery	Y		Fisheries monitoring in place on all islands	
• Observer programs			Only artisanal trap and handline fisheries, small boats, practically no interaction with sea turtles	NA
• Research on sea turtle/fishery interactions			Only artisanal fisheries, practically no interaction with sea turtles	NA
• Information on non-Party vessels				NA



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Caribbean Netherlands Annual Report 2016

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperation with non-Party states to obtain information 				NA
B. Mitigation measures for the following fisheries:				
i. Long-line			No long line fisheries	NA
ii. Gillnets			No Gillnet fisheries	NA
iii. Trawling (e.g., 1. TEDs: specify legally approved TEDs, their dimensions, material, and target species for that fishery, 2. time-area closures: specify geographical area, time of closure and target species for that fishery, 3. tow times and/or 4. other measures)			No trawling fisheries, Trawling prohibited	NA
iv. Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))				NA
v. Training programs for fisherman about best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught		N		
C. Socio-economic considerations				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles 				NA

(*) Specify actions implemented, name of the project or relevant document, location, objective(s), institutions responsible, contact, financial or other support (optional), results (both positive and negative) and duration.

c.2 National and International Mandates

List actions that are being carried out to comply with national and international mandates (Ex: inspections, confiscations, sanctions, etc.)

d. Application[submission] of exceptions established in the Convention

Describe in detail the exceptions allowed in accordance with article IV, item 3(a,b,d) and Annex IV of the text of the Convention, in accordance to the procedure established by the COP (Doc. CIT-COP5-2011-R2). Attach management program.



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Caribbean Netherlands Annual Report 2016

Part III (Research information)

a. Threats

Indicate threats (*Coastal development, incidental capture, direct use, contamination and pathogens, and climate change*) by species, with information on the area and activities taken to control them in the following table. Lo = *Lepidochelys olivacea*; Lk = *Lepidochelys kempii*; Dc = *Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei = *Eretmochelys imbricata*; Cc = *Caretta caretta*; Cm = *Chelonia mydas*.

Species	Threat(s)		Actions
Lo	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	
Lk	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	
Dc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Monitoring of nests, nesting beaches protected
Ei	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Main nesting beaches protected Ongoing monitoring of foraging sites, foraging areas protected
Cm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Main nesting beaches protected Ongoing monitoring of foraging sites, foraging areas protected
Cc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Main nesting beaches protected

b. Research

Describe scientific research that is being carried out in the country relating to sea turtle population assessments including tagging, migration, and genetic studies, as well as those relating to conservation issues including habitat monitoring, fisheries interactions, disease, etc. Provide a list of references for the information used in this report and note how to obtain them when needed.

In addition to the above, please fill out the following table on the types of research being carried out in the country and with what specie(s).



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Caribbean Netherlands Annual Report 2016

Research		Specie(s)(Lo, Lk, Cm, Ei, Cc, Dc)
Choose an item.	<i>Tagging</i>	<i>Cm, Ei, Cc, Dc</i>
Choose an item.	<i>Migration</i>	<i>Cm, Ei, Cc</i>
Choose an item.	<i>Genetics</i>	<i>Cm, Ei, Cc</i>
Choose an item.	<i>Habitat Monitoring</i>	<i>Cm, Ei, Cc, Dc</i>
Choose an item.	<i>Disease</i>	<i>Cm</i>
Choose an item.	<i>Fisheries interactions</i>	<i>Cm, Ei, Cc</i>

c. _ Other activities

Include information on: environmental education activities, programs to establish and manage protected areas, and cooperative activities with other Party countries.

- Environmental education programs on Bonaire by STCB and in Saba, St. Eustatius by the respective Marine Protected Area management organizations.
- Sea grass protection activities in main foraging area on Bonaire by STCB
- Ongoing management of marine parks comprising all coastal waters of all three islands.

Part IV: Annexes

Table 1: Species Present

*Place an X in the box when the species listed is present in the oceanographic basins of your country as established in Article III of the text of the Convention. Lo = *Lepidochelys olivacea*; Lk = *Lepidochelys kempii*; Dc = *Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei = *Eretmochelys imbricata*; Cm = *Chelonia mydas*; Cc = *Caretta caretta*.*

Species	Pacific Ocean	Atlantic Ocean	Caribbean Sea
Lo			X Incidental
Lk			
Dc			X
Ei			X
Cm			X
Cc			X



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Caribbean Netherlands Annual Report 2016

Table 2: Index nesting sites or beaches for sea turtle conservation

- a. *This table is intended to report information on index nesting sites or beaches for each species. For beaches that have multiple species nesting, enter that beach under the list for the primary nesting species. When entering information on nesting site or beaches, information is to be entered for each species independently. Indicate the names of index nesting sites. On a separate sheet of paper, indicate the selection criteria used for identifying the index beach, for example, because it hosts a significant proportion of the overall nesting population within a region or other defined unit or genetic importance.*
- b. *Nesting season: Indicate the starting and finishing date of the nesting season.*
- c. *Monitoring period: Indicate the starting and finishing date of monitoring efforts.*
- d. *Survey frequency: Indicate the frequency with which the surveys are done (daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, among others).*
- e. *Geographic location: Specify latitude and longitude in decimal degrees.*
- f. *Extension of beach monitored: Provide the total length (in Kilometers) of the nesting beach.*
- g. *Declared protection area: Indicate (yes or no) if the area is declared as some type of protected area.*
- h. *Annual nesting abundance: Provide information on the total number of females and/or clutches or nests deposited at the nesting site or beach in real numbers. Provide the exact count of females based on tagged or uniquely identified individuals. If the exact number of clutches is unknown provide total number of nests.*
- i. *Information from tagging program: Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the nesting beach by using the letters of the type of tagging being done: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) programs. If possible, on a separate sheet or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available.*
- j. *Tissue sampling: Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, or as attached references, describe these tissue sampling programs in greater detail. For example, were samples collected for genetic, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies?*
- k. *Indicate what organization or entity is providing the data.*
- l. *When inserting new rows, please copy and paste the drop down menus when applicable.*



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Caribbean Netherlands Annual Report 2016

Spp	Name of Index Nesting Site or Beach	Nesting season		Monitoring period		Survey Frequency	Geographic Location (Lat/Long) in Decimal Degrees				Extension of beach monitored (km)	Declared Protected Area (Yes/No)	Annual Nesting Abundance			Tagging Program (FT, ST, PIT)	Tissue Sampling (Yes/No)	Organization or entity providing data
		Start	Finish	Start	Finish		Latitude	Longitude	Females Exact Count	Clutches Exact Count			Number of Nests					
Lo								°		°		Choose an item.				Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Lk								°		°		Choose an item.				Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Dc								°		°		Choose an item.				Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
	Zeelandia	Mar	Jul	Mar	Jul	Daily	17.508	°	-62.981	°	1.4	yes			1	FT & PIT	No	STENAPA
Ei	Klein Bonaire	April	Jan	April	Nov	3 times per week	10.552	°	18.381	°	2	Yes			45	None	Yes	STCB*
	Zeelandia	Jul	Dec	Jul	Dec	Daily	17.508	°	-62.981	°	1.4	Yes			4	FT	No	STENAPA
	Klein Bonaire	April	Jan	Apr	Nov	3 times per week	17.508	°	18.381	°	2	Yes			6	None	Yes	STCB*
Cm	Playa Chikitu	June	Nov	June	Nov	3 times per week	16.814	°	20.919	°		Yes			3	None	Yes	STCB*
	Zeelandia	Jun	Dec	June	Dec	Daily	17.508	°	-62.981	°	1.4	yes			15	FT	No	STENAPA
Cc								°		°		Choose an item.				Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
	Klein Bonaire	May	Oct.	April	Nov	3 times per week	10.552	°	18.381	°	2K	yes			12	none	yes	STCB

*) Skin samples were collected of hatchlings for genetic analysis



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Caribbean Netherlands Annual Report 2016

Table 3: Important foraging sites for sea turtle conservation

- a. *This table is intended to contain information for foraging sites being studied for each species. For marine habitats that have multiple species present, enter the specific site under the heading for the priority species at that site.*
- b. *Name and geographic location: Provide the name of the site and geographic location in decimal degrees in Lat/Long (one reference point).*
- c. *Area: Indicate the size of the study site (en Kilometers²).*
- d. *Declared protection area: Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area.*
- e. *Life stage: Indicate the life stage or stages found in the study area (juvenile, subadult or adult).*
- f. *Information from tagging program: Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the in-water site by using the letters of the type of tagging being done: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) programs. If possible, on a separate sheet, or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available.*
- g. *Tissue sampling: Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, or as attached references describe these tissue sampling programs in greater detail. For example, were samples collected for genetic, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies?*
- h. *Indicate the organization or entity providing the data.*
- i. *When adding new rows, please copy and paste the drop down menus when applicable.*



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Caribbean Netherlands Annual Report 2016

Species	Name of the Study Site	Geographic Location (Lat/Long) in Decimal Degrees			Area (Km ²)	Declared Protection Area (Yes/No)	Life Stages (Juvenile, Sub-adult, Adult)	Tagging Program (FT, ST, PIT)	Tissue Sampling (Yes/No)	Organization or entity providing data	
		Latitude	Longitude								
Lo			°			Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.		
			°			Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.		
Lk			°			Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.		
			°			Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.		
Dc			°			Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.		
			°			Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.		
Ei	Bonaire National Marine Park	13.449	°	28.005	°	27	Yes	All of above	All of above	Yes	STCB*
	Statia Nationaal Marine Park	17.481	°	-62.995	°	27.5	Yes	Sub-adult & adult	None	No	STENAPA
Cm	Bonaire National Marine Park	13.449	°	28.005	°	27	Yes	All of above	All of above	Yes	STCB*
	Statia Nationaal Marine Park	17.481	°	-62.995	°	27.5	Yes	Sub-adult & adult	None	No	STENAPA
Cc	Bonaire National Marine Park	13.449	°	28.005	°	27	yes	Sub-adult & adult	All of above	yes	STCB*
			°	-	°		Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	

*) Skin samples were collected of juveniles and sub-adults for genetic analysis



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

Caribbean Netherlands

Annual Report 2016

Attached to this report

ANNEX 1: Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB), research and monitoring report 2015 (not ready, until June 2016)

ANNEX 2: St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation (Stenapa) Sea Turtle Conservation Program Annual Report 2015