

**Ecuador** 

### **Annual Report 2017**

### **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 30, 2017.

### Part I (General Information)

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

#### a.\_ Focal Point

Institution	Ministry of Environment – Galapagos National Park Direction
Name	Eduardo Espinoza
Date Annual Report submitted	May 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2017

### b.\_ Agency or Institution responsible for preparing this report

Name of Agency or Institution	Ministry of Environment – Galapagos National Park Direction
Name of the person responsible for completing this report	Eduardo Espinoza
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Ecuador

## **Annual Report 2017**

### c.\_ Others who participated in the preparation of this report

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Ecuador

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**Ecuador** 

### **Annual Report 2017**

### 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	So far this action plan is being implemented by the SGMC
Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional levels in accordance with Article XVIII?	Yes	
Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?	Yes	



**Ecuador** 

### **Annual Report 2017**

## 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.

	National Legislation						
Type and name of legal	Description (Range of	Sanction(s) Imposed					
instrument (No.)	application)						
Ministerial Agreement	Protection and	According to each					
067-2016	conservation measures of	institution competencies,					
	Ecuador's reefs and coral	up to developing strategies					
	communities.	and action plans.					
Environmental Organic	Regulates the rights,	Administrative and					
Code. Official Record	warranties, and principles	criminal sanctions are					
983-2017	related to a healthy	imposed.					
	environment and nature,	For administrative					
	provided in the	sanctions, the impact and					
	Constitution and the	seriousness of the					
	international instruments	infringement, the offender					
	ratified by the	economic capacity, and					
	Government.	existing mitigating and					
		aggravating factors.					
		Criminal sanctions are					
		according to the COIP.					
		Terms of imprisonment are					
		in its article 247, from one					
Official Record 694-	Amendment to fisheries	to three years.					
February 2016.	Law and fishing						
rebluary 2010.	regulations						
Ministerial Agreement	Regulations on the purse	Ministerial agreements to					
No. 019, Ministerial	seine fleet	regulate the purse seine					
Agreement No. 114	Some neet	fleet. Established in 2010,					
11510011101111101111		the onboard fisheries					
		observers program was					
		implemented in 2016 in the					
		purse seine fleet.					
	International Instruments						
***							



**Ecuador** 

### **Annual Report 2017**

Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of	Year signed/or ratified
Understanding	
Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the	December 2016
IAC and ACAP.	

**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.



**Ecuador** 

### **Annual Report 2017**

### 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:

		RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY		
IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPL Y
1a) Have you created conservation plans and long-term programs that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback turtle in the Eastern Pacific?	X		The Sea Turtle Conservation National Plan was developed and endorsed through Ministerial Agreement 234 October 6th, 2014.	
1b) Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?	X		A priority nesting beaches national inventory for conservation at mainland and in Galapagos is currently in preparation	
2. Have you taken conservation measures to eliminate poaching of leatherback turtles?	X		*Environmental Education Program *Control and Enforcement *Biodiversity Management	
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?	X		During season 2016-2017 there were records of two strandings in San Pablo beach – Santa Elena – San Vicente Manabí (Puente Alcatraz). There are no reproductive records of this specimen.	
4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?	X		SRP – Implementation of the Fisheries Observer Program on board longline, trawl, and purse seine fleets. Implementation of DETs in 40 trawl fishing vessels and multipurpose fishing. Implementation of the program to exchange "J" hooks for circular hooks.  DIGEM – MAE: training for the community and control institutions on the handling of sea turtles stranded. Bay of Caráques and San Vicente.	



**Ecuador** 

### **Annual Report 2017**

Resolution CIT-COP3-2006 R-1: Hawksbill turtle conservation

(Eretmochelys imbricata)

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

			RESO	LUTION DOES NOT APPLY	
IS COMPLYING FOLLOW		YE S	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPL Y
1. Are you strengthen monitoring of the illeg trade of hawksbill turn products?	al use and	X		In some coastal provinces through control and surveillance of protected areas, and the Ministry of Environment Province Directions wildlife units. Illegal trade and hawksbill illegal use are inspected in crafts stores. The program of honorific inspectors was implemented, they collaborate with monitoring of sea turtles and hawksbill products trafficking.	
2. Are you enforcing hawksbill legislation?		X			
3. Are activities being order to stop the illegate hawksbill products?		X			
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	X		Machalilla National Park in Manabí, "La Playita" area is protected. Equilibrio Azul and PNM.  Nests monitoring and protection continue in "Playa Rosada" within the Marine Reserve El Pelado, with the group Ecuador Mundo Ecológico in Santa Elena Province. The Marine and Coastal Management Undersecretary requested the IAC Pro Tempore Secretary collaboration to be part of the scientific committee that will assess the project "Artisanal Fishing Facilities Creation in Puerto Lopez, Manabí". This technical group will provide its knowledge on sea turtle conservation when required.	
	b) Protection of feeding habitats	X		Feeding grounds in Galapagos are monitored to study site fidelity and residence of specific individuals for several years. Data is collected to start management actions for their protection through the DPNG.	

<sup>(\*)</sup> Specify actions implemented, the 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.



**Ecuador** 

### **Annual Report 2017**

**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		
	Reduce S	ea Turtl	e Mortality induced by fisheries operations", of the United			
	Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), including:					
			act of fisheries on sea turtles	II.		
Collect information	X		Through the Fishing Resources Undersecretary, an			
by fishery			institution related to MAGAP, there is information on the			
			interaction of sea turtles with the longline, trawl, and			
			purse seine fleets.			
<ul> <li>Observer programs</li> </ul>	X		There are three observer programs regulated by the SRP			
Research on sea			It is unknown if there is research on this subject,			
turtle/fishery			however, the Fishing Resources Undersecretary deals			
interactions			with data on interactions with fisheries which are not			
			official, therefore not available to be shared.			
			The Marine and Coastal Management Undersecretary			
			and CI are implementing fisheries management with the			
			project of integrated coastal management and			
			conservation of biodiversity.			
<ul> <li>Information on non-</li> </ul>				X		
Party vessels						
<ul> <li>Cooperation with</li> </ul>				X		
non-Party states to						
obtain • information						
B. Mitigation measures f	for the fe	llowin	g ficharias:			
i. Long-line	X	JIIOWIII;	American BirdLife is socializing a technique called			
i. Long-inic	Λ		NISURI, in the communities of Santa Rosa. Santa Elena			
			province.			
			The Fishing Resources Undersecretary has a permanent			
			exchange of hooks, from "J" to circular, to reduce sea			
			turtles by catch in longline fisheries. The activity is			
			developed within the framework of eco-certification and			
			compliance with the Dorado ( <i>Coryphaena</i> hippurus)			
			Action Plan.			
ii. Gillnets		X				
111. Trawling (e.g.,	X		Training lectures are conducted through the MAE			
1.TEDs:			Manabí at coastal fishing grounds. Since 2014, Fishing			
specify legally			Resources Undersecretary implemented the observer's			
. approved			program on board trawl, hake, and multipurpose fleets. It			
iv. TEDs, their			is mandatory for these vessels to use TEDs, in			
dimensions,			accordance with the Ministerial Agreement No. 018 and			
material, and			Ministerial Agreement No. 180.			
target species						
for that fishery,						
2. time-area						
closures:						
specify						
geographical						
area, time of						
closure and						



**Ecuador** 

### **Annual Report 2017**

target species for that fishery., 3.tow times and/or 4. other measures)		
V. Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))		Since May 2016, the fisheries observers program was implemented on board purse seine vessels, establishing a compliance with 20% of their fishing journeys.  Currently, there are 21 fisheries observers, who collect fish's biologic information and record bycatch.
vi. Training programs for fishermen about best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught.	X	The Ministry of Environment protected areas Isla Corazón Wildlife Refuge and Pacoche Wildlife Refuge, carried out training for civilians and governmental institutions about handling and release of terrestrial and marine fauna along with the General Direction of Maritime Interests. The SRP has a permanent training program through fisheries observers on handling and release of sea turtle for the crew on trawl, purse seine, and longline vessels.
C. Socio-economic consi	derations	
Support socio- economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles	X	Awareness campaigns at an institutional level including MAE and the SRP, with the local community

(\*) Specify actions implemented, the 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 with the procedure established by the COP (Doc. CIT-COP5-2011-R2). Attach management program.



**Ecuador** 

### **Annual Report 2017**

### **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.

Lo ⊠Coastal de ⊠Incidental □Direct use	Conservation



Ecuador

<b>-</b>			<del>_</del>
			nesting beaches in Las
			Palmas, Galerita, and
			Portete.
			Protected Area: Isla
			Corazón and Fragatas
			RVS does control patrols
			in Cantón Sucre, beach
			from Bahía to Punta
			Gorda. Cantón San
			Vicente, from Punta Nato
			to Canoa.
			SRP continues the
			fisheries observer
			program in trawl, purse
			seine, and longline fleet.
			SRP continues the
			exchange of "J" hooks
			for circular hooks in the
			longline fleet. It is
			compulsory to use DETs
			in the trawl fleet.
	☐Coastal development	□ Contamination	
Lk	☐Incidental capture	□ Pathogens	
	☐Direct use	☐Climate change	
			(Coastal development,
			Contamination, Climate
			Change) Research jointly
			with the PNG to
			understand and be able to
			mitigate these threats.
			Protected Areas: Muisne
			River, Esmeraldas River,
			and Galera San Francisco:
	☐Coastal development	□ Contamination	Control and monitoring of
Dc	✓ Incidental capture	□Pathogens	nesting beaches in Las
DC	Direct use	⊠Climate change	Palmas, Galerita, and
		Dennate change	Portete.
			Protected Area: Isla
			Corazón and Fragatas
			RVS does control patrols
			in Cantón Sucre, beach
			from Bahía to Punta
			Gorda. Cantón San
			Vicente, from Punta Nato
			Vicente, from Punta Nato to Canoa.



Ecuador

			fisheries observer
			program in trawl, purse
			seine, and longline fleet.
			SRP continues the
			exchange of "J" hooks
			for circular hooks in the
			longline fleet. It is
			compulsory to use DETs
			in the trawl fleet.
			(Coastal development,
			Contamination, Climate
			Change) Research jointly
			with the PNG to
			understand and be able to
			mitigate these threats.
Ei			Within protected areas,
			there is a record of
			strandings and their
	⊠Coastal development	□Contamination	respective causes
	✓ Incidental capture	Pathogens	analysis.
	⊠Direct use	⊠Climate change	SRP continues the
	Zionect use	Definiate change	
			program in trawl, purse
			seine, and longline fleet.
			SRP continues the
			exchange of "J" hooks
			for circular hooks in the
			longline fleet. It is
			compulsory to use DETs
			in the trawl fleet.
			(Coastal development,
			Contamination, Climate
			Change) Research jointly
			with the PNG to
			understand and be able to
			mitigate these threats.
	⊠Coastal development	☐Contamination	
Cm	⊠Incidental capture	Pathogens	• Sea turtle nesting
	Direct use	⊠Climate change	beaches control to reduce
			threats from tourism and
			coastal development in
			Pacoche.
			• Sea Turtles Awareness
			and Conservation program
			CEPA at Pacoche Protected



Ecuador

	T		T
			Area and its area of
			influence.
			Program for monitoring
			beaches profile and climate
			change, to generate
			information for the nesting
			beaches management at
			Pacoche Protected Area and
			its area of influence
			SRP continues the
			fisheries observer
			program in trawl, purse
			seine, and longline fleet.
			SRP continues the
			exchange of "J" hooks
			for circular hooks in the
			longline fleet. It is
			compulsory to use DETs
			in the trawl fleet.
			SRP continues the
			fisheries observer
			program in trawl, purse
Cc	☐Coastal development	□Contamination □	seine, and longline fleet.
	✓ Incidental capture	□Pathogens	SRP continues the
CC	Direct use	☐Climate change	exchange of "J" hooks
		_emmate emange	for circular hooks in the
			longline fleet. It is
			compulsory to use DETs
			in the trawl fleet.



**Ecuador** 

### **Annual Report 2017**

#### 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).

Research	Species (Lo, Lk, Cm, Ei, Cc, Dc)
Sea turtle (C. mydas) nesting	
monitoring in Galapagos	Ст
Habitats characterization in	
Galapagos. USFQ-GSC-PNG	Cm, Ei
Nesting monitoring and nests	
protection on the Ecuadorian	
coast (MAE)	Cm, Ei, Lo
Disease and health condition of	
sea turtles in Galapagos. USFQ –	
GSC-PNG	Cm, Ei
Hawksbill nesting monitoring at	
Playa Rosada, Santa Elena	Ei
Migration and movements	
(satellite tags) USFQ-GSC-PNG	
and Equilibrio Azul	Cm, Ei
Genetics analysis – Black Turtle	
Project USFQ-GSC-PNG and	
Equilibrio Azul	Cm, Ei
Diet analysis with stable isotopes	
in foraging grounds USFQ-GSC-	
PNG	Cm, Ei
Photo-identification (individuals	
residence and sites philopatry)	
USFQ-GSC-PNG	Cm, Ei
Interaction with pollutants	
analysis and impact of marine	
debris Black Turtle Project	
USFQ-GSC-PNG	Cm, Ei
Sex radio studies, climate change	
indicator in foraging grounds	
USFQ-GSC-PNG	Cm



**Ecuador** 

### **Annual Report 2017**

Beach profile and climate change	
monitoring in the nesting beaches	
San Lorenzo and La Botada	Lo, Cm

### c.\_ Other activities

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



**Ecuador** 

### **Annual Report 2017**

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		
Lk			
Dc	X		
Ei	X		
Cm	X		
Cc	X		

#### 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.



**Ecuador** 

- 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.
- 1. When inserting new rows, please copy and paste the drop-down menus when applicable.



**Ecuador** 

Cnn	Name of Index	Nesting	Season	Monitoring period		Survey	Geographic Location (Lat/Lon)		monito	red	Declared	Annual Nesting Abundance			Tagging	Tissue	Organization or
Spp	Nesting Site or Beach	Start	Finish	Start	Finish	Frequency	Latitude	Longitude	mor	<u> </u>	Protected Area (Yes/No)		Females Clutches Number of Exact Count Exact Count Nests		Program (FS, ST, PIT)	Sampling (Yes/No)	entity providing data
	San Lorenzo		30/11/2015		31/05/2016	Daily	-1.068554	-80.907768	° 2,	,40	Yes			170	4 (FS)	No	RVSMC-Pacoche
Lo	La Botada	01/09/2015	30/11/2015	01/06/2015	31/05/2016	Daily	-1.050000	-80.904193	° 1,	,00	Yes			120	1(FS)	No	RVSMC-Pacoche
	Sta. Marianita	01/09/2015	30/09/2016	01/06/2015	31/05/2016	Weekly	-0.962986	-80.832935	° 2,	,00	No			28	0	No	RVSMC-Pacoche
	Liguiqui	01/09/2015	30/10/2015	01/06/2015	31/05/2016	Daily	-1.027514	-80.883110	° 0,	,80	Yes			5	0	No	RVSMC-Pacoche
	El Murcielago	01/11/2015	/12/2015	01/06/2015	31/05/2016	Monthly	-0.940283	-80.733805	° 1,	,00	No			2	0	No	RVSMC-Pacoche
	Caña River	01/09/2015	30/09/2016	01/06/2015	31/05/2016	Daily	-1.085000	-80.900531	° 0,	,50	Yes			1	0	No	RVSMC-Pacoche
	La Playita	11/16	04/17	Throughout the year	Throughout the year	Daily	1°33'53.8"S	° 80°50'09.9"W	° 0.8	800	Yes	8		33	FS and PIT	Yes	Equilibrio Azul
	Puerto Lopez	11/16	04/17	Throughout the year	Throughout the year	Daily					No	2		3	FS and PIT	Yes	Equilibrio Azul
	Salango	11/16	04/17	Throughout the year	Throughout the year	Once a week	1°34'38.3"S	° 80°50'25.8"W			Yes			2	None	No	Equilibrio Azul
	Los Frailes	11/16	04/17	Throughout the year	Throughout the year	Once a week	-1.49534,	-80.7938	0		Yes			1	None	No	Equilibrio Azul
Ei	Playa de Oro and Playa Punta Carola					Daily	-0.899364 -0.890529	-89.609461 -89.612071	K O K N	0,2 Km 0,1 Km lo->				1			Black Turtle Project USFQ-GSC-PNG
	Floreana and Española, Manzanillo Beach					Monthly	-1.352136 -1.232737	-89.703617 -90.438257	, ,	O,2 Km Si -> 'NG							Black Turtle Project USFQ-GSC-PNG



**Ecuador** 

	San Lorenzo	01/10/20153	1/12/2015	01/06/2015	31/05/2016	Daily	-1.068554	-80.907768		2,40	Yes			3	0	No	RVSMC - Pacoche
Cm	La Playita			Throughout the year	Throughout the year	Daily	1°33'53.8"S	° 80°50'09.9"W	0	0.80	Yes	1	6	4	FS	Yes	Equilibrio Azul
	La Botada	01/10/20153	1/12/2015	01/06/2015	31/05/2016	Daily	-1.050000	-80.904193		1,00	Yes			3	0	No	RVSMC - Pacoche



**Ecuador** 

### **Annual Report 2017**

### Table 3. Important foraging sites for sea turtle conservation

**NOTE:** This section of the report has been removed by the decision of the IAC Scientific Committee during its 13th meeting. Instead, the information about foraging sites will become part of a technical document, making the information easier to access for the users. The document will include the following:

a) List of foraging sites per Party, b) People working in the corresponding foraging areas, c) Threats in foraging areas, among others. This document will be updated every 5 years.

NOTE: ATTACHED TO THE SPANISH VERSION OF THIS REPORT IS THE ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIONS FOR SEA TURTLES CONSERVATION IN ECUADOR.