



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

Guatemala

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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 Secretariat *Pro Tempore* at secretario@iacseaturtle.org

Please note that the date to submit this Annual Report is **April 30th, 2019**.

Part I (General Information)

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

a._ Focal Point

Institution	Protected Areas National Council
Name	Ing. Elder Manrique Figueroa Rodríguez
Date Annual Report submitted	July 2018

b._ Agency or Institution responsible for preparing this report

Name of Agency or Institution	Protected Areas National Council
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c._ Others who participated in the preparation of this report

Name	Agency or Institution	E-mail
Julio Interiano	CONAP Regional Costa Sur	julio.interiano@conap.gob.gt
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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 action plan in accordance with Article XVIII?	Yes	National Strategy for Management and Conservation of Sea Turtle 2014-2024 –ENTM-. Regulation on management and conservation of sea turtles
Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional levels in accordance with Article XVIII?	Yes	National Strategy for Management and Conservation of Sea Turtle 2014-2024 –ENTM-. Regulation on management and conservation of sea turtles
Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?	Yes	Fisheries The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Direction of Fisheries and Aquaculture Regulations –MAGA- inspect the use of fishing gears in compliance with the regulation to protect sea turtles. Management and Conservation Training Technicians in charge of control and management of sea turtle hatcheries and hatchling release.



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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, 2018- April 30, 2019) 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 international legislation should be included when they exist.

National Legislation		
Type and name of the legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanctions(s) Imposed
International Instruments		
Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding		Year signed and/or ratified

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.*



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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:	RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY		DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
	YES	NO		
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		A national moratorium of leatherback turtle eggs trade	
1b) Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?	X		Collection of leatherback nests and relocation in authorized hatcheries	
2. Have you taken conservation measures to eliminate poaching of leatherback turtles?	X		Awareness talks with sea turtle eggs collectors	
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	There are no natural leatherback nesting beaches. They arrive at a 100 km coastal area between the border with El Salvador and the center of Guatemala's Pacific Coast.	
4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?	x		Sea Turtle Excluder Devices (TED). The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Direction of Fisheries and Aquaculture –MAGA reports verification of use to NOAA.	

(*) 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.



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Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R2: Conservation of the Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP8-2017-R2, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY				
IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
1. Are you strengthening monitoring of the illegal use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products		X		
2. Are you enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation?				
3. Are activities being carried out in order to stop the illegal trade of 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		X		
		X		

(*) 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.



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Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R3: Resolution on the Conservation of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP7-2015-R3, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY		DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
	YES	NO		
1. Has your country created national action plans or monitoring programs to promote loggerhead sea turtle conservation?		X		
2. State if there are plans or recovery programs, or bilateral or regional cooperation.				
3. Are these action plans or monitoring programs being implemented?				
4. Is there protection of the species at a state or federal level?	X		General national Sea turtle conservation and management regulations	
5. If your country has loggerhead turtles nesting beaches:		X		
5a. Has your country taken conservation actions to protect nesting beaches and their associated habitats?		X		
5b. Are there laws on turtle-friendly lighting in areas impacted by coastal development?		X		
5c. Is there long-term (minimum 10 years) standardized data available for population trend studies?		X		
6. Is there exploitation or direct harvest of loggerhead sea turtles in your country?		X		

(*) 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



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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:

In the column for “species” please use: Cm (*Chelonia mydas*), Lo (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), Dc (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Cc (*Caretta caretta*), Lk (*Lepidochelys kempii*), Ei (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	SPECIES	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 the adverse impact of fisheries on sea turtles					
i) Collect information by fishery		X			
ii) Observer programs		X			
iii) Research on sea turtle/fishery interactions		X			
iv) Information on non-Party vessels		X			
v) Cooperation with non-Party states to obtain information		X			
B. Mitigation measures for the following fisheries:					
i) Long-line		X			
ii) Gillnets		X			
iii) Trawling (e.g., 1. TEDs: specify legally approved TEDs, their dimensions, material, and target species for that fishery, 2.time-area closures: specify a geographical area, time of closure and target species for that fishery, 3. tow times and/or 4. other measures)	X		The Direction on Fisheries and Aquaculture Regulations are in charge of control and monitoring of appropriate fishing gears.		
iv) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))		X			
v) Training programs for fisherman about best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught	X		Awareness talks to those in charge of hatcheries and <i>parlameros</i> that also develop fishing activities. There is a focus on the negative impacts of fishing gears on sea turtles.		
C. Socio-economic considerations					
i) Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles		X			

(*) 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.



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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.)

- The Direction of Fisheries and Aquaculture Regulations presents annual reports to NOAA on the inspection to vessels to verify the use of TEDs.
- Regular inspections in roads and beach patrols to verify compliance with the Conservation quota in registered hatcheries. Coordinated work with CONAP's local staff and the Civil National Police Division for the Protection of Nature.

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.



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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Advocacy with local municipalities talks to kids and tourists.
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 type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Advocacy with local municipalities talks to kids and tourists.
Ei	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Advocacy with local municipalities talks to kids and tourists.
Cm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Advocacy with local municipalities talks to kids and tourists.
Cc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Advocacy with local municipalities talks to kids and tourists.



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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 species.

Research	Specie(s)(Lo, Lk, Cm, Ei, Cc, Dc)
<i>Tagging</i>	<i>Lo</i>
<i>Migration</i>	
<i>Genetics</i>	
<i>Habitat monitoring</i>	<i>Lo</i>
<i>Fisheries interactions</i>	
<i>Disease</i>	

- i.** “Assessment on sea turtle conservation status: an approach to their local nesting biology” Ongoing Ph.D. Thesis.
- ii.** “Comprehensive management of usage activities and olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) eggs management effectiveness in the Pacific of Guatemala” Master Thesis, official results have not been presented yet.
- iii.** “Determine the spatial ecology of the olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) in Guatemala’s Eastern Pacific, specifically of turtles nesting at the Coastal Multiple Use Area Hawaii”. Ph.D. to be finished in 2019.
- iv.** “Relationship between the nesting female size and the number of eggs per nest of ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) at the Multiple Use Area Hawaii – AUMH, Santa Rosa, Guatemala” Study for the EDC-Biology sub-program. Final report attached as Annex.



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c. _ Other activities

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

With the support of the project “Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs)” implemented directly by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF); the National Council for Protected Areas –CONAP- and the Woods and Wildlife Direction, developed the guidelines for the consultancy: Actions for Capacity Building for Marine Fauna Management in Guatemala’s Pacific Coastal Zona No. 0087534-2017-00; with a focus on defining and implementing the operative framework for strengthening the sustainable development of hatcheries in Guatemala’s Pacific Coast.

This project aims to provide technical training on management, improve data collection and identify the importance of use for local people, therefore to understand the impact on sea turtle populations.



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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	Atlantic	Caribbean Sea
Lo	X		
Dc	X		X
Ei	X		X
Cm	X		X
Cc			X



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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. Please use the index sites that your country has selected included in the document circulated with this report.*
- 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 a 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.*

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List of index sites for each sea turtle species for each IAC country within which sea turtle nesting occurs.

Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsible
Belize (2)		(1)	(1)	(1)			
Gales Point			X				
Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve		X		X			
Brazil (18)	(2)	(1)	(7)	(12)	(3)		
Comboios	X			X			
Povoação	X			X			
Busca Vida			X	X			
Santa Maria				X			
Barra Jacuipe			X	X			
Guarajuba			X	X			
Itacimirim			X	X			
Praia do Forte			X	X			
Barra do Furado				X			
Farol				X			
Farolzinho				X			
Maria Rosa				X			
Berta			X				
Pipa			X				
Mangue Seco					X		
Coqueiros					X		
Pirambu					X		
Trindade Island		X					

Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsible
Caribbean Netherlands (2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(1)			
Klein Bonaire, Bonaire		X	X	X			Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire
Zeelandia, St. Eustatius	X	X					St Eustatius Sea Turtle Conservation
Costa Rica /Pacific (9)	(1)	(5)			(4)		
Isla Murcielago		X					
Nancite*					X		
Naranjo		X			X		
Cabuyal		X					
Nombre de Jesús		X					
Punta Pargos		X					
Playa Grande	X						
Ostional*					X		
Hermosa					X		
Costa Rica/Atlantic (4)	(3)	(1)	(1)				
Tortuguero	X	X					
Pacuare Norte	X						
Mondonguillo	X						
Cahuita			X				
Ecuador (9)		(6)	(1)		(5)		
San Lorenzo					X		MAE (Pacoche)
La Botada					X		MAE (Pacoche)
Playa Chocolatera		X			X		MAE (REMACOPSE)
Playa Tres Cruces		X			X		MAE(REMACOPSE)
PlayaMar Bravo		X			X		MAE(REMACOPSE)
Playita (Machalilla)			X				MAE (PNM/ Equilibrio)
Quinta Playa (Galapagos)		X					MAE (DPNG)
Barahona (Galapagos)		X					MAE (DPNG)
Las Bachas (Galapagos)		X					MAE (DPNG)

Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsible
Mexiquillo, Mich	X	X			X		CONANP
Tierra Colorada, Gro	X	X			X		CONANP
Cahuitán, Oax	X						CONANP
Escobilla, Oax*	X				X		CONANP
Barra de la Cruz, Oax	X	X			X		CONANP
Maruata, Mich		X					Univ. Michoacana SNH
Colola, Mich		X					Univ. Michoacana SNH
Panamá/Atlantic (3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(1)			
Cayos Zapatillas (B. del Toro)			X				
Playa Chiriqui (B. del Toro)	X	X	X	X			
Playa Armita o Pito (GunaYala)	X		X				
Panamá/Pacific (2)		(2)			(2)		
RVS Isla Cañas		X			X		
Playa La Marinera		X			X		
United States/Atlantic (7)	(5)	(4)	(3)	(4)		(1)	
Culebra Island, Puerto Rico	X						
Vieques Island, Puerto Rico	X	X	X				
Mona Island, Puerto Rico			X				
Buck Island Reef National Monument, U.S. Virgin Islands	X	X					
Sandy Point NWR, U.S. Virgin Islands	X	X	X				
Florida Index Beaches	X	X		X			
Georgia Index Beaches				X			
North Carolina Index Beaches				X			
South Carolina Index Beaches				X			
Texas (South Padre Island)						X	
United States/Pacific (2)		(1)	(1)				
French Frigate Shoals (HI)		X					
Hawaii			X				

Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsible
Venezuela (11)	(6)	(4)	(6)	(6)			
Querepare (Edo. Sucre)	X			X			CICTMAR
Cipara (Edo. Sucre)	X			X			CICTMAR
Macuro (varias playas cercanas, Edo. Sucre)	X	X	X				ONDB-MPPA
El Agua - Parguito Beach (Edo. Nueva Esparta)	X						ONDB-MPPA
Parque Nacional Archipiélago Los Roques (varios cayos)			X	X			INPARQUES, Fundación Científica
La Sabana (Edo. Vargas)	X						ONDB-MPPA, Consejo de Pescadores
Parque Nacional Henri Pittier (Playas Cuyagua, Uricaro y otros)		X	X	X			INPARQUES, Fundación Ecodiversa, Lideres de la
Playas entre las bocas del Río Morón Y Río Yaracuy			X	X			Palmichal S.C.
Parque Nacional Morrocoy (Cayo Borracho, Varadero y Playas Mayorquina)		X	X				CICTMAR, INPARQUES
Paraguana Peninsula	X		X	X			UNEFM (Universidad Nacional)
RFS Isla de Aves		X					ONDB-MPPA