



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

Argentina

## Annual Report 2020

### IAC Annual Report General Instructions

Annex IV of the Convention text states that each Contracting Party shall submit an Annual Report each year. To complete this Annual Report, Focal Points should consult with appropriate stakeholders involved in sea turtle issues. If you have any questions regarding this Annual Report, please contact the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* at [secretario@iacseaturtle.org](mailto:secretario@iacseaturtle.org)

The submission deadline for this Annual Report is **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020**.

### Part I (General Information)

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

#### a.\_ Focal Point

Institution	Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto
Name	Directora Dra. Silvia Beatriz Vázquez (Punto Focal Político)
Institution	Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible de la Nación (MAyDS)
Name	Mg. Jorgelina del Pilar Oddi: (Punto Focal Técnico)
Submission Date	June 30, 2020

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

Name of Agency or Institution	Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible de la Nación (MAyDS)
Name of the person preparing this report	Lic. Débora Jessica Winter
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Telephone(s)	4348-8357 / 8325
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### c.\_ Others who participated in the preparation of this report

Name	Agency or Institution	E-mail
Karina Cecilia Álvarez	Departamento de Conservación - Fundación Mundo Marino	cecikaru@hotmail.com
Ignacio Bruno	Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP)	ignacio.m.bruno@gmail.com
Victoria González Carman	Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (IIMyC) (CONICET - UNMdP); Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP)	<a href="mailto:vgcarman@gmail.com">vgcarman@gmail.com</a> vgcarman@inidep.edu.ar
Mariel Labraña	Dirección de Planificación y Gestión de Pesquerías. Subsecretaría de Pesca y Acuicultura de la Nación –	lprosdociami@magyp.gob.ar lprosdo@yahoo.com.ar
Alan Rosenthal	Asociación de Naturalistas Geselinos (ANG)	alanfrosenthal@gmail.com



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### Part II (Policy and Management)

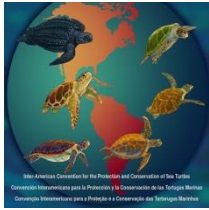
#### *a. General description of activities carried out for the protection and conservation of sea turtles*

*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 related to sea turtles implemented by governmental, non-governmental, and private institutions.*

*In addition to the above, please fill out the following tables and describe progress in the comments column.*

	YES/NO/ In Progress	Comments
Does your country have a national action plan in accordance with Article XVIII?	YES	In September 2015, the Federal Environmental Council (COFEMA) approved through Resolution No. 317/2015 the "National Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Republic of Argentina (PAN TM)" and, the "National Action Program to Reduce the Interaction of Sea Turtles with marine debris in Argentina" within. Likewise, the PAN TM contains the "National Action Program to Reduce the Interaction of Sea Turtles with fisheries in Argentina", which was approved by the Federal Fisheries Council (CFP) through Resolution No. 14/2018.
Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional scales in accordance with Article XVIII?	YES	The "National Action Program to Reduce the Interaction of Sea Turtles with marine debris in Argentina" aims to reduce the interaction between sea turtles and marine debris in areas used by these reptiles for feeding and as migratory corridors. The National Action Program to Reduce the Interaction of Sea



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		Turtles with Fisheries in Argentina" aims to mitigate the impact of fisheries on sea turtles in waters under Argentina's jurisdiction, within the framework of their ecosystem management.
Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?	NO	



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### ***b.\_ National legislation and international instruments related to sea turtles adopted during the preceding year***

*Describe any national regulations, international agreements, and other legal instruments related to sea turtles and/or relevant activities that were adopted during the preceding year (April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020). Please provide a literature 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.*

<b>National Legislation</b>		
Type and name of the legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanctions(s) Imposed
CFP Resolution No. 14/2018	Approves the National Action Program to Reduce the Interaction of Sea Turtles with Fisheries in the Republic of Argentina.	Buenos Aires, November 1st, 2018
<b>International Instruments</b>		
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. For countries that have previously submitted a complete Annual Report, please provide information for any changes that have occurred since the most recent previously submitted Report.*



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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. If a Resolution does not apply to your country, please mark the box as "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				X
IS COMPLIANT WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	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?				
1b) Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?				
2. Have you taken conservation measures to eliminate poaching of leatherback turtles?				
3. If your country has Eastern Pacific leatherback turtle nesting beaches: Have you taken conservation measures to protect the nesting sites and their associated habitats?				
4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of leatherbacks?				

(\*) 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 COMPLIANT 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?				X	
3. Are activities being carried out to stop the illegal trade of hawksbill products?	X		Measures in Law 22.344 enforcement, approve CITES Convention and Fauna National Law (22.421). To export hawksbill products, the exporter should certify that the pieces were obtained before the Convention. This certificate is issued by the Ministry of Culture of the Nation. Regarding trafficking, control measures, are enforced along with Customs and the relevant security authorities. As Hawksbill sea turtles don't occur in the country, records of the trade of hawksbill pieces are scarce.		
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	
	b) Protection of feeding habitats			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:**

RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY				
IS COMPLIANT WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
1. Has your country created national action plans and/or monitoring programs to promote loggerhead sea turtle conservation?	X		In 2015, the Environment Federal Council (COFEMA in Spanish) by Resolution No.317/2015, approved the “National Action Plan for Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Republic of Argentina (PANTM)” and the “National Action Program to Reduce the Sea Turtles Interaction with Marine Debris in Argentina” within. Likewise, the PANTM includes the “National Action Program to Reduce Sea Turtles Interactions with Fisheries in Argentina”, adopted by the Federal Fishing Council (CFP in Spanish) Resolution No 14/2018	
2. State if there are plans or recovery programs, or bilateral or regional cooperation.		X		
3. Are these action plans or monitoring programs being implemented?	X			
4. Is there protection of the species at a state or federal level?	X		Law N° 22.421/1981 Fauna National Law and its Regulatory Decree 666/1997. Law N° 24.922/1997 adopts the Federal Fishing Regime, and Regulatory Decree 748/1999. Resolution S AyDS 513/2007 prohibits hunting, capture, inter-regional traffic, trade on federal jurisdiction, and export of live specimens, products, or sub-products of wildlife, including sea turtles in Annex I.	
5. If your country has loggerhead turtle nesting beaches:				X
5a. Has your country taken conservation actions to protect nesting beaches and their associated habitats?				X





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5b. Are there laws on turtle-friendly lighting in areas impacted by coastal development?				X
5c. Is there a long-term (minimum 10 years) standardized data available for population trend studies?				X
6. Is there exploitation or direct harvest of loggerhead 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-COP9-2019-R2: Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback

*Note from the Secretariat: Except for question 1, this Resolution does not apply to Argentina*

#### ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP9-2019-R2, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

IS COMPLIANT WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	
<b>Note: Question 1 must be answered by all IAC Parties, please skip the other questions if the Resolution is not applicable in your country.</b>				
1. Has reached out to Canada, Guyana, French Guiana, Trinidad & Tobago, and/or Suriname to inform these nations about the critical situation of the population and priority actions for the conservation of leatherbacks in the NW Atlantic?		X		
<b>IS COMPLIANT WITH THE FOLLOWING:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>DESCRIBE ACTION (*)</b>	<b>DOES NOT APPLY</b>
2. Has implemented techniques to reduce leatherback bycatch and mortality in fisheries, following the UN-FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations?				
3. Have fishery observer programs that comply with the minimum standards for scientific observer coverage that have been established by pertinent Regional Fishery Management Organizations?				
4. Has implemented laws and regulations related to Northwest Atlantic leatherback conservation, particularly related to fisheries bycatch and marine protected areas?				
5. If your country has Northwest Atlantic (NWA) leatherback turtle nesting beaches:				
5.1. Has your country implemented conservation measures for the protection of the NWA leatherback nesting beaches and associated habitats?				
5.2. Does your country have a monitoring and tagging program at the NWA leatherback nesting beaches?				
6. Is your country collecting data on interactions of the NWA leatherback with fishing fleets? Report data of interactions of the species with industrial longline vessels in Annex 3 of this report.				

(\*) 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	Although there is not a specific onboard observers program, the sea turtle protocol was updated for the INIDEP (National Institute for Fisheries Development) programs susceptible to interacting with sea turtles. Likewise, identification booklets and work protocols were distributed.		
iii) Research on sea turtle/fishery interactions	X		<p><b>Areas used by the commercial fishing fleet, and their potential interactions with sea turtles.</b> See references: Prosdocimi et al., 2019; Prosdocimi et al. 2020.</p> <p>Within the framework of the stranding monitoring program, the form used to record sea turtle necropsies asks for the description of signs of interactions with fisheries, as well as if the animal recorded was found during the stranding monitoring or was from an entanglement reported by fishermen.</p> <p>The interdisciplinary research project “Towards an interdisciplinary approach to protecting endangered species. The case of marine animals bycatch in coastal fisheries of Buenos Aires province” (Since 2012. Reference: González Carman, V. and Carman. M.A. 2018)</p>		
iv) Information on non-Party vessels		X			



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v) Cooperation with non-Party states to obtain information		X			
B. Mitigation measures for the following fisheries:					
i) Long-line		X			
ii) Gillnets	X		At the beginning of 2018, there was a pilot to assess the effectiveness of LED lights to reduce sea turtle bycatch in artisanal net fisheries at Samborombón Bay (Buenos Aires province). This activity was led by Technician Ignacio Bruno from INIDEP.		
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				
iv) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))	X				
v) Fisher training programs about best practices for safe handling and release of incidentally-caught sea turtles	X				
C. Socio-economic considerations					
i) Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles	X				

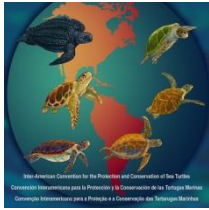
(\*) Specify actions implemented, the name of the project or relevant document, location, objective(s), institutions responsible, contact, financial or other support (optional), results (both positive and negative), and duration.

## 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.



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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 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 type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Research work carried out by NGOs and scientific institutions to understand the problem.
Ei	<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	
Cm	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Research work carried out by NGOs and scientific institutions to understand the problem.  Identification of research priorities in juvenile individuals (see Wildermann et al., 2019 in bibliographic citations).
Cc	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Research work carried out by NGOs and scientific institutions to understand the problem.  Identification of research priorities in juvenile individuals (see Wildermann et al., 2019 in bibliographic citations).



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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.*

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

1. Between 2006 and 2012, satellite monitoring studies were carried out to establish migratory patterns, movement corridors, seasonality and habitat use, placed to this date in 9 specimens of green turtles, and 6 loggerheads.

At the beginning of 2018, satellite monitoring of loggerhead turtles resumed, achieving the monitoring of one individual for a period of approximately 2 months (see Commission Report No. 13/2018 and note from the Clarín newspaper in bibliographical citations).

2. The National Directorate of Biodiversity of the MAYDS carries out the National Marking Plan. Tags are provided by the Cooperative Marine Turtle Tagging Program (CMTTP), Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research, University of Florida (USA) and are strategically distributed in different locations that cover the sea turtles entire range in our country. Each institution receiving tags is responsible for sending the CMTTP the data of the turtles tagged.  
Contact: Tech. Mariel Labraña (mlabrana@ambiente.gob.ar).

3. The interaction of sea turtles with fisheries in Argentina is evaluated mainly for some artisanal fisheries located in the south of Bahía Samborombón and Bahía Blanca (Province of Buenos Aires). They use bottom gillnets as their fishing gear. Regarding other fishing gear, only qualitative diagnostic studies were carried out.



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At the beginning of 2018, a pilot experience was carried out to evaluate the effectiveness of LED lights to reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles in the artisanal gillnet fishery of Samborombón Bay (Buenos Aires province). This activity was guided by Tec. Ignacio Bruno of the National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP) (see INIDEP Commission Report No. 7 and 12 in bibliographical citations).

4. Simultaneously with the monitoring of the artisanal gillnet fisheries, studies are carried out on: sanitary monitoring in order to assess the health status of entangled and stranded turtles, feeding studies through the analysis of stomach contents and continuous analysis of the impact by the ingestion of waste of anthropic origin in the study area. All these studies are complemented by satellite and genetic tracking investigations.

As an approximation to the study of marine debris impact on sea turtle populations in Buenos Aires coast, a descriptive and comparative study of the contamination by debris on different beaches in the southeast of Buenos Aires province was carried out. It was published in 2017 and it describes how different types of waste are distributed according to their origin, type and size (Becherucci et al., 2017) (see bibliographical citations).

In August 2019, within the framework of the Project GCP/ARG/025/GFF "Protecting marine biodiversity: ecosystem approach to fishing and protected areas" (executed by the MArDS and with FAO as the agency for the implementation of GEF funds) a Letter of Agreement (CdA) was signed between FAO and Fundación Mundo Marino, to implement concrete actions for improving the conservation status of sea turtles in the area of greatest importance for their distribution in the Argentinian Sea.

One of the specific objectives of this agreement is to develop and validate a mortality indicator for sea turtles by monitoring and analyzing strandings in the coastal sector of Buenos Aires province, between Punta Rasa and Faro Querandí. In this sense, in December 2019, a workshop was held for the interdisciplinary analysis of sea turtle strandings to obtain a diagnoses of causes of mortality and identifying those of anthropic origin, such as the interaction with the fisheries that operate in the area of interest. On the other hand, within the framework of the same CdA, a Report was prepared on the status of knowledge of the marine debris issue in the coastal environments of Argentina.

5. Studies of diet in all species of sea turtles from surveys of stomach contents and stable isotopes of animals from strandings and bycatch.

During 2018, the results of the analysis of stable isotopes were obtained from tissue samples of sea turtles sent to the Institute of Geochronology and Isotopic Geology.





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6. The systematic monitoring program for sea turtle strandings, started in 2014, continued, covering the coastal sector of Buenos Aires Province, between Punta Rasa and Mar Chiquita, covering 180 km of beach every week, between March and June. This systematic work allows field necropsies to be carried out and the identification and comprehensive analysis of the causes of stranding. The Mundo Marino Foundation, the Geselino Naturalists Association (ANG) and the Buenos Aires Ecopark participate in this program.

The ANG worked, in collaboration with the park rangers of Faro Querandí Municipal Natural Reserve, recording strandings throughout the year within a coastal sector of Buenos Aires province that includes 50 km of beach between the northern limit of the Villa Gesell District and the Mar Chiquita Lagoon

ANG records for the period April 2019 through April 2020 resulted in:

Dc: 1 dead stranding

Cc: 7 dead strandings

Cm: 2 dead strandings

7. Within the framework of the project “Towards an interdisciplinary approach to the protection of endangered species. The case of the incidental capture of marine animals in the coastal fisheries of Buenos Aires province (funded by CONICET)” an article was published in the journal Conservation Biology of the Society for Conservation Biology (see Carman and González Carman 2020 in bibliographic citations).

8. Collaboration with researchers from various countries to identify research priorities focused on immature individuals of sea turtles (see Wildermann et al., 2019 in bibliographic citations). Although the amount of scientific work on the ecology of sea turtles has increased substantially in recent decades, research efforts focused on this ontogenetic stage are still limited. Globally, it is important to reverse this imbalance because immature individuals make up a large proportion of sea turtle populations.

### **Bibliographic citations**

Becherucci, M. E., Rosenthal, A. F. y Seco Pon, J. P. 2017. Marine debris in beaches of the Southwestern Atlantic: An assessment of their abundance and mass at different spatial scales in northern coastal Argentina. Marine Pollution Bulletin. 119 (1): 299 - 306.

Carman, M. y González Carman, V. 2020. Going beyond diverse worldviews for conservation: response to Kohler et al. Conservation Biology 34(1): 286-288.



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González Carman, V., Bruno, I., Flaminio, J. L. y Blanco, G. 2017. Interacción entre tortugas marinas y redes de arrastre en Argentina: recopilación de registros históricos (1934-1985) y actuales (2001- 2017). Presentación de póster en las VI Simposio Regional Sobre Tortugas Marinas en el Pacífico Sud Oriental. Arica, Chile. Diciembre 2017.

González Carman, V., Bruno, I., Alemany, D., Gaitán, E., de Tomaso, D., Flores, C. y Ruarte, C. 2019. Colocación de transmisor satelital en tortuga cabezona (*Caretta caretta*) capturada por el BIP “Eduardo Holmberg”. Informe de Asesoramiento y Transferencia s/n.

Prosdocimi, L. y Teryda, N. 2019. High-use areas, seasonal movements of sea turtle and fisheries interaction in southwestern Atlantic ocean. Presentación de póster 38th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. 2 - 8 de Febrero de 2019, Charleston, South Carolina - EEUU.

Prosdocimi, L., Teryda, N., Navarro, G. y Carthy, R.R. 2020. Use of remote sensing tools to predict focal areas for sea turtle conservation in the Southwestern Atlantic. In Press

Wildermann, N.E., Gredzens, C., Avens, L., Barrios-Garrido, H.A., Bell, I., Blumenthal, J., Bolten, A.B., McNeill, J.B., Casale, P., Di Domenico, M., Domit, C., Epperly, S.P., Godfrey, M.H., Godley, B.J., González Carman, V., Hamann, M., Hart, K.M., Ishihara, T., Mansfield, K.L., Metz, T.L., Miller, J.D., Pilcher, N.J., Read, M.A., Sasso, C., Seminoff, J.A., Seney, E.E., Souhtwood Williard, A.S., Tomás, J., Vélez-Rubio, G.M., Ware, M., Williams, J.L., Wyneken, J. y Fuentes, M.M.P.B. 2019. Research priorities for immature sea turtles. 39th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. Charleston, USA.

#### Broadcast videos

2020. Informative video about the release of a loggerhead turtle equipped with a satellite transmitter.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSZGud-X0Es&feature=youtu.be>

2020. Dissemination of the Workshop "Bases for monitoring sea turtle strandings and their mortality analysis", carried out within the framework of Project GCP/ARG/025/GFF "Protecting marine biodiversity: ecosystem approach to fishing and protected areas".  
<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-realizo-un-taller-de-revision-del-monitoreo-de-varamientos-de-tortugas-marinas-en-las>



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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.*

### **National Action Plan for the Conservation of sea turtles in the Republic of Argentina**

The Action Plan includes two Programs addressing actions on the main threats sea turtles face in our country:

- National Action Program to Reduce the Interaction of Sea Turtles with marine debris in the Republic of Argentina (approved by the Federal Environmental Council - COFEMA, through Resolution No. 317/2015).
- National Action Program to Reduce the Interaction of Sea Turtles with fisheries in the Republic of Argentina (approved by the Federal Fisheries Council - CFP through CFP Act No. 37/2016 and Resolution No. 14/2018).

Within the framework of the Action Plan, on October 9 and 10, 2019, the "First Monitoring Workshop of the National Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles (PAN Tortugas – in Spanish)" was held in Buenos Aires. Its objectives were: a) to evaluate progress of actions in the National Action Plan approved in 2018; b) prepare a Triennial Operational Plan (POT) 2020 – 2022 for each Program; and c) form a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for each Program, to contribute with the implementation of the activities planned for each of its objectives.

The workshop was attended by national, provincial and municipal government institutions, research institutes, universities, the private sector and civil society organizations (CSOs) involved in the development of actions in the PAN Tortugas (Short name in Spanish).

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

At the level of civil society, since 2015, the Mundo Marino Foundation, together with other organizations, has been carrying out an intense agenda of educational and outreach activities related to sea turtles and their different conservation problems, among which the impact of marine litter stands out.

Some of the activities offered by Mundo Marino Foundation from April 2019 to April 2020 were:  
-Guided tours for students from the Partido de La Costa (65 students visited the Rescue and Rehabilitation Center) and families in general (approximately 4,455 people took this tour).

- "Little conservationists" program, which allows children to incorporate concepts to preserve marine fauna and their environment. During the aforementioned period, around 6,161 children



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were declared Conservation Inspectors.

-Development of educational outreach material on sea turtles

-Participation in Science Fairs, Regional and Institutional samples with the assembly of a stand with material and bone samples.

-Clean Beaches Campaign: during the summer and for the fifth consecutive year, recycled and biodegradable paper bags were distributed free of charge to visitors of the Partido de la Costa with to raise awareness regarding waste and its consequences for turtles and other species of marine fauna, where tourists were invited not to leave their waste on the beaches. During January and February 2020, around 1,400 children participated in this activity.

During this year's Clean Beaches Campaign, two specimens of *Chelonias mydas* were released and as a closing activity, a beach cleanup was also carried out.

-In the school year from April to December 2019, the Environmental Education department of the Mundo Marino Foundation provided 31 talks in 18 different institutions of the Partido de La Costa, visiting kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, and special schools. 1194 students participated in them.

-In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, educational videos were developed for the Mundo Marino Foundation's social networks to answer questions from school students about the problems these animals face and the conservation of their environment.

During 2019, ANG participated in Estación Ciencia, the traveling science exhibition of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of the province of Buenos Aires. Skeletons of the different species of sea turtles that inhabit the Argentinian Sea were exhibited, educational videos were shown and educational material was distributed.



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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			
Lk		X	
Dc		X*	
Ei		X	
Cm		X	
Cc		X	

\*Only 2 records



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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 as Table 4. Also available on the [IAC website](#).*
- 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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Spp	Name of Index Nesting Site or Beach	Nesting Season		Monitoring Period		Survey Frequency	Geographic Location (Lat/Lon) 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																
Lk																
Dc																
Ei																
Cm																
Cc																



**Table 3: IAC Form to report interactions of sea turtles with industrial longline fisheries**

a. *This form is intended to report the annual summary of the number of sea turtle incidentally caught by industrial longline vessels (>20 m) during fishing operations in 2019.*

**b. Countries without this type of fishery will mark with X the “does not apply” box.**

**c. Target Species:** *Indicate the target species (scientific and common name) of the industrial longline fisheries during the last year. Indicate if the catch was using shallow or deep sets.*

**Fleet Information** *(Examples are provided in blue in the form)*

**d. Period covered:** *Starting and end date of the fishing operations of the year*

**e. Area fished:** *Indicate the area coordinates where shallow set and deep sets fishing operations were carried out during the last year.*

**f. No. of vessels that fished:** *Indicate the total number of vessels in the fleet in each case (deep set and shallow set), the number of vessels with observers on board, and the corresponding percentage of vessels with observers (% observed)*

**g. No. of trips:** *Indicate the total number of trips in each case (deep set and shallow set), the number of trips with observers on board, and the corresponding percentage of trips with observers onboard (% observed)*

**h. No. of effective fishing days:** *Indicate the total number of fishing days in each case (deep set and shallow set) when fishing took place, the number of fishing days with observers on board, and the corresponding percentage of fishing days with observers onboard (% observed)*

**i. No. of sets:** *Indicate the total annual number of sets in each case (deep set and shallow set), the annual number of sets with observers on board, and the corresponding annual percentage of sets with observers onboard (% observed)*

**j. No. of hooks (in thousands):** *Indicate the total annual number of hooks in each case (deep set and shallow set), the annual number of hooks with observers on board, and the corresponding annual percentage of hooks with observers onboard (% observed). It refers to the number of hooks per basket (HPB) or the number of hooks between floats (HBF). If the number is unknown include an approximate number of hooks/sets, using an asterisk (\*) to indicate that it is an approximation.*

**k. Predominant hook type/size:** *Using the [IATTC codes](#) indicate the most common hooks (> 50%) used throughout the year as a total, and in vessels with onboard observers in each case (deep sets and shallow sets).*

**l. Predominant bait type:** *Indicate the most common bait used throughout the year as a total, and in vessels with observers in each case (deep sets and shallow sets) using the following bait codes: SQ – squid (e.g. Cephalopods), M – mackerel (e.g. Scomber spp.), A – artificial lure (e.g. plastic jig), O-other, and specify.*

**Sea Turtles Species** *(Units expressed in the number of individuals observed)*

**m. Released alive:** *Total number of each sea turtle species released alive in each case (shallow and deep sets)*

**n. Released dead:** *Total number of individuals of each sea turtle species released dead in each case (shallow and deep sets)*

**o. Released condition unknown:** *Total number of each sea turtle species released under unknown conditions as the individual could not be brought onboard or close enough to verify the condition dead or alive.*

**p. Notes:** *Include additional information such as turtles caught that had tags (flipper tags or satellite transmitter), in each case (shallow and deep sets), if applicable.*



Table 3: IAC Form to report interactions of sea turtles with industrial longline fisheries (vessels >20m)			
Member country	Argentina	The form does not apply	
Target Species	e.g. Multiple		

FLEET INFORMATION (vessels >20m)						
	Shallow sets (<15 HPB/HBF <sup>1</sup> or <100m max hook depth)			Deep sets (≥15 HPB/HBF or ≥100m max hook depth)		
	date range mm/dd/yyyy–mm/dd/yyyy			date range mm/dd/yyyy–mm/dd/yyyy		
Period covered						
Area fished	from (XXX)°W to (XXX)°W and from (XXX)°S/N to (XXX)°S/N			from (XXX)°W to (XXX)°W and from (XXX)°S/N to (XXX)°S/N		
	Total Fleet	Observed	% observed	Total Fleet	Observed	% observed
No. of vessels that fished	60	3	5	90	8	8.9
No. of trips	150	15	10	300	10	3.3
No. of effective fishing days	3700	238	6.4	800	22	2.8
No. of sets	4000	800	20	1000	25	2.5
No. of hooks (in thousands) <sup>1</sup> <i>If unknown, approx. no. of hooks/set, using a *</i>	700	120	17	300	12	4
Predominant <sup>2</sup> hook type/size (IATTC code)	C-40	J-02		C-33	C-33	
Predominant bait type <sup>3</sup>	SQ	SQ		M	M	

SEA TURTLE SPECIES (vessels >20m)						
	No. of Individuals Observed					
	Shallow sets (<15 HPB/HBF <sup>4</sup> or <100m max hook depth)			Deep sets (≥15 HPB/HBF or ≥100m max hook depth)		
	Released Alive	Released Dead	Released Condition Unknown	Released Alive	Released Dead	Released Condition Unknown
<b>Taxa - Sea turtles</b>						
Leatherback ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> )						
Loggerhead ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> )						
Green ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> )						
Olive ridley ( <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> )						
Kemp's ridley ( <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> )						
Hawksbill ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> )						
<b>Notes</b> (e.g. Tagged turtles, etc.)						

<sup>1</sup> Hooks per Basket / Hooks Between Float (HPB/HBF)

<sup>2</sup> "Predominant" indicates most common, e.g. >50%

<sup>3</sup> Bait code: SQ – squid (e.g. Cephalopods), M – mackerel (e.g. Scomber spp.), A – artificial lure (e.g. plastic jig)

<sup>4</sup> Hooks per Basket / Hooks Between Float (HPB/HBF)