



INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES

IAC – ANNUAL REPORT 2021

ARGENTINA

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 at secretario@iacseaturtle.org

The submission deadline for this Annual Report is April 30th, 2020.

Translation by Luz Helena Rodriguez – IAC Secretariat

Part I – General Information

Country

Name of the country reporting

>>> Argentina

Official Note

If required, please attach here the relevant administrative authority **official note** endorsing the annual report submission.

Are you attaching an official note?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[NO-2021-37775855-APN-DAA_MRE.pdf](#)

1) Focal Point

1.1 Name

>>>

1.2 Institution

>>> Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto

1.3 Submission Date

>>>

2) Agency or Institution responsible for preparing this report

2.1 Name of the person preparing this report

2.2 >>> Débora Winter

2.3 Name of Agency or Institution

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3) Others who participated in the preparation of this report

3.1 Others who participated in the preparation of this report

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Part II – Policy and Management

1) General description of activities

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. The Party shall report on the action plans, management plan or other types of instruments.

Please select the options that best apply for your country and provide the link to the corresponding document if available online. If it is in progress add the date is expected to be finalized in the corresponding section.

1.1 The country has a national strategy/plan for the conservation of sea turtles in accordance with Article XVIII.

Please upload the file or attach the links to the corresponding documents using the blue box icons beneath each question
Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 In Progress

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[PAN Sea Turtles for National Report](#) -

You have attached the following links/URL to this answer

[PAN Tortugas Marinas](#) -

Species Management Plan

Only applicable to countries that have developed individual management plans for each species.

1.1.1 The country has a **specific strategy/plan** for the conservation of:

Please upload the file or attach the link to the corresponding document using icons below.

- Lepidochelys olivacea*
 Lepidochelys kempii
 Dermochelys coriacea
 Eretmochelys imbricata
 Caretta caretta
 Chelonia mydas

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

Strategy/plan in progress

Date to be finalized

>>>

Provide details on the progress

>>>

1.2 Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional scales in accordance with Article XVIII?

Please attach the list of policies and programs and other information relevant to their adoption or implementation.

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 In Progress

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[PAN Sea Turtles for National Report](#) -

1.3 Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?

Please attach the list of programs and other information relevant to their adoption or implementation.

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 In Progress

2) 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 (30 April 2020 – 30 April 2021).

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.

First time a country is submitting this information: please include all pertinent national legislation and international instruments currently in force.

Countries that have previously submitted this information; please provide information for any changes that have occurred since your country's last report submission (2020).

National Legislation

Type and name of the legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanctions Imposed

International Instruments

Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding	Year signed and/or ratified

3) Actions to comply with National and International Mandate

List actions that are being carried out to comply with national and international mandates.

(Ex: inspections, confiscations, sanctions, etc.)

>>> The province of Buenos Aires, through Resolution 86/2010 and through the Provincial Organization for Sustainable Development (OPDS), coordinates the Marine Fauna Rescue Network with jurisdiction over the entire Buenos Aires coast. Actions of this network include mechanisms to facilitate referral of sea turtles found stranded, and those that require referral to the nearest authorized rehabilitation center, for recovery and subsequent release.

The two aquariums in the province of Buenos Aires (Aquarium in Mar del Plata and Mundo Marino in San Clemente del Tuyú) are registered under Resolution 231/19, which creates a Single Registry of Wildlife Operators. Currently, inspections of these aquariums are carried out by the Inspections Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS), under Dr. Alejandro Mackielo.

4) Efforts to increase IAC membership

4.1 Has your country encouraged non-member states to join the IAC?

Please select only one option

Yes (list countries below)

No

4.2 Has your country reached out to Canada, Guyana, French Guiana, Trinidad and 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?

Please select only one option

Yes (list countries below)

No

5) Exceptions under the Convention

5.1 Implementation and monitoring of exceptions established in the Convention

Describe the progress in the implementation of the exception correspondent to the current year (800 words) according to the current resolutions on exceptions.

5.2 Has your country presented a 5-year report on the implementation of the Exception Resolution?

Attach the five-year report.

Yes

No

5.3. Does your country have a management plan for the exception?

If yes, attach the exception management plan

Yes

No

In progress

5.4 Submission of new exceptions

Should your country present a new exception, please describe in the box below a brief description in accordance with article IV, item 3(a,b,d) and Annex IV of the text of the Convention, using the procedure established by the IAC COP and attach the full report as requested in Resolution CIT-COP5-2011-R2.

>>>

Part III - Compliance with IAC Resolutions

1) Sea Turtle Species Presence

1.1 Sea Turtle Species Present in the Country

Check the box if the species listed is present in the oceanographic basins of your country as established in Article III of the text of the Convention.

	Atlantic Ocean	Caribbean Sea	Pacific Ocean
<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Notes

Include other information, if required

>>>

2) IAC Resolutions

2.1 The following resolutions apply to this country

- Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle Resolution
- Hawksbill Resolution
- Loggerhead Resolution
- Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Resolution
- Fisheries Resolution

Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R2 - Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

1. Is your country strengthening monitoring of the illegal use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>>

2. Is your country enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>>

3. Are activities being carried out in your country to stop the illegal trade of hawksbill products?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>> 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

4a. Protection of nesting habitats

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>>

4b. Protection of feeding habitats

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>> Two records of the species (hawksbill), both hybrids with *Caretta caretta* –loggerhead turtle.

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

1. Has your country created national action plans and/or monitoring programs to promote loggerhead sea turtle conservation?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>> 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

Within the framework of the ASO-Turtles Regional Network, there was work carried out jointly with researchers from Brazil and Uruguay: López-Mendilaharsu, M., Giffoni B., Monteiro D., Prosdocimi L., Vélez-Rubio G.M., Fallabrino A., Estrades A., Santana dos Santos A., Lara P.H., Pires T., Tiwari M., Bolten A.B. & Marcovaldi M.A. 2020. Multiple-threats analysis for Loggerhead Sea turtles in the southwest Atlantic Ocean. *Endang Species Res.* 41: 183–196. This work assesses the threats that this species faces in the Western South Atlantic region and presents recommendations for its management in the region.

2. State if there are plans or recovery programs, or bilateral or regional cooperation in your country.

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>>

3. Are these action plans or monitoring programs being implemented?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>>

4. Is there protection of the loggerhead turtle at a state or federal level?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>> 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 SAyDS 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. Has your country taken conservation actions to protect nesting beaches and their associated habitats?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 There are no nesting beaches in the country

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>>

6. Are there laws on turtle-friendly lighting in areas impacted by coastal development?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

There are no nesting beaches in the country

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>>

7. Is there long-term (minimum 10 years) standardized data available for population trend studies?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

There are no nesting beaches in the country

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>>

8. Is there exploitation or direct harvest of loggerhead turtles in your country?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>>

Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R2 – Reduce impacts of fisheries on sea turtles

Relating to if your country has 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

1. Does your country collect information by fishery?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>>

2. Does your country have observer programs?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>> Although there is not a specific onboard observers program, INIDEP (National Institute for Fisheries Development) has the Onboard Commercial Vessels Observers Program which protocol to handle sea turtles onboard is updated every year, as well as for all INIDEP programs susceptible to interact with sea turtles. This protocol includes sea turtle identification booklets.

3. Does your country do research on sea turtle/fishery interactions?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>> - Evaluation of areas of use by the commercial fishing fleet and their potential interaction with sea turtles, defining sensitive areas for the management and conservation of sea turtles. Reference: Prosdocimi et al. 2020 (see list of references.)

- Doctoral thesis (in progress): "Evaluation of the impact of fisheries on sea turtles occurring in Argentinian waters" by Sofía Jones in the Vertebrate Zoology Division-Faculty of Natural Sciences and Museum-National University of La Plata - CONICET. It began with interviews with fishermen, the characterization of the different fleets, and their fishing effort.

- Record the presence of fishing gear remains or scars on specimens found in the framework of the stranding monitoring program, indicating a possible interaction with fisheries.

- Record of the fishing gear that caught a specimen released alive or admitted to rehabilitation centers.

- Construction of the sea turtle stranding databases in the northern coastal sector of the Buenos Aires province, to describe their spatial and temporal pattern and evaluate potential causes. Because interaction with fisheries is among these causes, two virtual meetings were held with representatives of the Undersecretary of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Nation and the Directorate of Fisheries of Buenos Aires Province to request information on the coastal fleet fishing effort (VMS data and fishing reports) corresponding to the period of the stranding study.

4. Does your country have information on non-Party vessels and interactions with sea turtles?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>>

5. Does your country cooperate with non-party states to obtain information on interactions with sea turtles?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>>

B. Mitigation measures

6. Does your country implement mitigation measures in long-line fisheries?

If the answer is **NO** please justify

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>>

7. Does your country implement mitigation measures in gillnets fisheries?

If the answer is **NO** please justify

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>> Within the framework of the doctoral thesis (in progress) "Assessment of the impact of fisheries on sea turtles present in Argentine waters" (Sofía Jones), there have been some informal talks with artisanal fishermen from Partido de la Costa, province of Buenos Aires (February 2021). Likewise, workshops have been scheduled to agree on protocols for best fishing practices and to value artisanal fishing.

8. Does your country implement mitigation measures in trawl fisheries (e.g. TEDs)?

If the answer is **NO** please justify

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

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; or attach any relevant documents

>>>

9. Does your country implement mitigation measure in other fishing gears?

If the answer is **NO** please justify

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Does not apply

If yes, please indicate which fishing gears

>>>

10. List the fisher training programs about best practices for safe handling and release of incidentally-caught sea turtles carried out by your country during the last year
>>> No

C. Socio-economic considerations

11. Does your country support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles?
Please select only one option

- Yes
- No
- Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

>>>

Part IV – Research Information

Indicate threats (Coastal development, incidental capture, direct use, contamination, pathogens, and climate change) by species

1) Threats

1.1 Indicate threats

Indicate threats (**Coastal development, incidental capture, direct use, contamination, pathogens, and climate change**) by species

Lo = *Lepidochelys olivacea*

Lk = *Lepidochelys kempii*

Dc = *Dermochelys coriacea*

Ei = *Eretmochelys imbricate*

Cc = *Caretta caretta*

Cm = *Chelonia mydas*.

	<i>Lo</i>	<i>Lk</i>	<i>Dc</i>	<i>Ei</i>	<i>Cc</i>	<i>Cm</i>
Contamination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pathogens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate Change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Incidental Capture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Direct Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coastal development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2) Indicate the mitigation actions that apply for each species

2.1 Habitat loss mitigation actions (i.e. coastal development, pollution, climate change)

	<i>Lo</i>	<i>Lk</i>	<i>Dc</i>	<i>Ei</i>	<i>Cc</i>	<i>Cm</i>
Predator's removal/control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beach Cleanups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Permits required for recreational activities near nesting sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Permits required for scientific research on feeding/nesting grounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Permits required for construction near nesting sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lighting regulations in place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of sea turtle friendly lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Establishment of Marine Protected Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.2 Bycatch mitigation actions (i.e. Incidental Capture)

	<i>Lo</i>	<i>Lk</i>	<i>Dc</i>	<i>Ei</i>	<i>Cc</i>	<i>Cm</i>
Time/space closures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sea Turtle Excluder Devices (TED)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nets illumination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trawling is banned	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nets are banned	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of circle hooks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observers program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishers trained on sea turtle safe handling and release	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marking of fishing gear in commercial vessels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vessel monitoring using VMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Research on new fishing gear technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.2 Direct use mitigation actions

	<i>Lo</i>	<i>Lk</i>	<i>Dc</i>	<i>Ei</i>	<i>Cc</i>	<i>Cm</i>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exception management plan (if applies)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Permits required for scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Livelihood alternatives for local communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seizure of sea turtle products	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental education for local communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poaching regulations in place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Satellite Tracking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flipper Tagging	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Day Patrols	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Night Patrols	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nests relocation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3) Research

3.1 Types of research

Please fill out the following table on the types of research being carried out in the country related to each species.

	<i>Lo</i>	<i>Lk</i>	<i>Dc</i>	<i>Ei</i>	<i>Cc</i>	<i>Cm</i>
Disease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fisheries interactions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Habitat monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tagging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.2 Describe scientific research

In addition to the above, please 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.

To report each project, please use the following structure:

- 1) Name of the project
- 2) Objective
- 3) E-mail of the organization/responsible
- 4) Summary (5 lines)
- 5) Annex Number (Use the blue buttons to attach photos and/or the full report, if available)

Describe the file with the same Annex number referenced in the text.

»» The Regional Program for Research and Conservation of Sea Turtles in Argentina (PRICTMA) brings together several institutions distributed throughout the entire distribution area of the four species of turtles identified in our waters. All the institutions part of PRICTMA have been jointly carrying out different lines of research since 2003, forming an inter and multidisciplinary work team.

This work strategy allows for a standard sampling and monitoring throughout the distribution area for the following lines of research:

- 1- Diet studies in all species of sea turtles from strandings and bycatch.
- 2- Obtaining other tissue samples (skin, muscle, blood, bone, scutes) for stable isotopes analyzes and samples of the digestive content
- 3- Continuation of the systematic monitoring program for sea turtle strandings, started in 2014, covering the coastal sector of the Province of Buenos Aires, between Punta Rasa and Mar Chiquita, covering 180 km of beach weekly between March and June. This systematic work allows for necropsies in the field and the identification and comprehensive analysis of the causes of strandings. The Mundo Marino Foundation, the Geselino Naturalists Association (ANG) and the Buenos Aires Ecopark are part of this program.

Accordingly, Fundación Mundo Marino Rehabilitation Center records for the period from 4/16/2020 to 4/10/2021 were:

Dc: 18 total strandings (17 dead strandings and 1 live stranding)

Cc: 10 in total (9 dead strandings and 1 live gill)

Cm: 2 total (1 dead stranding; 1 dead gill; 1 live gill)

During December 2020, and January and February 2021, ANG developed a voluntary reporting program with Villa Gesell guards, who were instructed to correctly identify the species. Likewise, identification cards and colorimetric scales were distributed for the corresponding photographic reports.

ANG records from June 30, 2020 to March 2021 were:

Dc: 3 dead strandings

Cc: 7 dead strandings

Cm: 5 dead strandings

- 4- Research on the potential effect of the warming of the Southwestern Atlantic waters on the distribution of sea turtles (see Franco et al. in bibliographical citations)

5- Study of sea turtles and other megafauna species as indicators of plastic pollution in Rio de la Plata. In preparation.

6- Ongoing research projects:

a-Evaluation of the impact of fisheries on sea turtles found in Argentinian waters.

Doctoral thesis, Vertebrate Zoology Division-Faculty of Natural Sciences and Museum-National University of La Plata- CONICET.

Goals

GENERAL OBJECTIVE To determine the scope of sea turtles incidental captures in different fishing fleets off Buenos Aires coast, their impact on populations, and possible mitigation measures to reduce this effect.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES O1. Evaluate the impact of sea turtle incidental capture in Río de la Plata Maritime Front (FMRP) and "El Rincón" estuary, quantifying the catch per unit effort (CPUE) and the direct mortality rate depending on the type of fleet and fishing gear. O2. Identify areas sensitive to incidental capture of *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas* and *Dermochelys coriacea* by artisanal fishing activity in the waters of the FMRP and "El Rincón"; and validate the precision in the delimitation of those sensitive areas previously identified for the commercial fleet. O3. Identify environmental (sea surface temperature, chlorophyll concentration, salinity) and operational parameters of the fleets (type and size of fishing gear, depth of setting, immersion time of fishing gear, operating area, target species, crew) influencing CPUEs and direct mortality rates. O4. Develop and implement collaborative solutions to prevent the incidental capture and live release of sea turtles, with the participation of the stakeholders involved.

E-mail of the person in charge: Sofia Jones chofijones@gmail.com

Summary: This project will develop a regional review to determine the scope of incidental captures of sea turtles in five sites with a higher overlapping between operating zones and areas identified as key for the three species found in Argentina; Simultaneously, participatory conservation programs will be developed, involving the fishing community, to benefit the long-term conservation of these animals, minimizing not only bycatch but also the negative economic impacts that other mitigation efforts may generate in fishing communities. It should be noted that the objectives proposed in this research are aligned with the goals proposed in one of the programs of the National Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles (PAN - TM).

b- Identifying strategies for sea turtle conservation in Argentina and Uruguay, South America.

PhD thesis, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Florida.

Objectives: The objective is to develop and consolidate a holistic approach for the conservation of sea turtles and their coastal habitats. Efforts will be directed to research on two endangered species with the application of new technologies, the strengthening of regional conservation and management networks, and the integration of these components with the development of community capacities. Simultaneously, the goal is to test the use and efficiency of UAS in new areas where these technologies have not been used before, and to develop useful protocols for future deployment around the world.

E-mail of the person in charge: Natalia S. Terydanteryda@ufl.edu

Summary: The project will focus on research on two species of sea turtles in danger of extinction, the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), with the application of new remote research technologies, the reinforcement of regional networks of conservation and management, and the integration of these components with community training. Simultaneously, the objective is to test the use and efficiency of drones (or UAS for its acronym in English) in new areas in which these technologies have not been used before and to develop useful protocols for their future implementation in similar regions of the world. In particular, during the development of this project, the efficiency of drones for monitoring marine species will be evaluated and tested, while standardizing the protocols for future implementation in long-term sea turtle research in the water, in conditions such as bad visibility, low lighting and hard-to-reach coastal areas. In turn, it is expected to estimate the preliminary abundance of leatherback turtles and their habitat distribution in the Río de La Plata Estuary, Argentina, which can be used as a tool to design efficient monitoring campaigns that can be integrated into the distribution of the fishing fleet for management and conservation efforts. Alongside, the research will estimate the abundance of green turtles in the Marine Protected Area of Cerro Verde and Islas de La Coronilla, Uruguay, using the same protocols and to assess the anthropogenic threats faced by these species by examining the strandings in Uruguay applying UAS as substitutes for the efficient management efforts of marine protected areas and the reinforcement of regional conservation and management networks.

Products generated to date: Teryda et al. 2020; Prosdocimi et al. 2020b

c- Evaluation of sensitive areas for the conservation of Sea Turtles.

Objectives: From the evaluation of areas of use by the commercial fishing fleet and sea turtles found in Argentina, potential interaction with Sea Turtles was assessed, defining sensitive areas for management and conservation.

E-mail of the person in charge: Laura Prosdocimi prosdoci@yahoo.com.ar.

Summary: High priority areas for intervention, conservation, and management were identified based on available published information on fishing operations and sea turtle habitat use. The distribution of bottom trawling within the Río de la Plata Maritime Front (RLPMF) and its adjacent international waters is analyzed. This area is an important fishing ground in the South Western Atlantic, as well as a feeding and development area for sea turtles. Using the information available from the Vessel Satellite Monitoring System (VMS) implemented to monitor commercial fleets, the areas of greatest use by the fleet were defined. Currently, there are not many studies that use VMS data to identify key conservation areas within fishing grounds, making this study an innovative analysis for endangered species conservation studies. Our results identified areas of high susceptibility to incidental capture of sea turtles by the commercial trawler fleet along the RLPMF. The implementation of bycatch mitigation measures by the Argentinian and Uruguayan fisheries management agencies has the potential to benefit both fisheries and marine megafauna. In addition, more research is needed on the impact that this fleet may have on sea turtles present in the area.

Products generated to date: Prosdocimi et al. 2020th

IAC – Annual Report 2021 [Gabriela Gonzalez Trilla, Argentina]

Bibliographic citations:

Franco, B.C., Combes, V., and González Carman, V. (2020). Subsurface Ocean Warming Hotspots and Potential Impacts on Marine Species: The Southwest South Atlantic Ocean Case Study. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 7, 824

López-Mendilaharsu, M., Giffoni B., Monteiro D., Prosdocimi L., Vélez-Rubio G.M., Fallabrino A., Estrades A., Santana dos Santos A., Lara P.H., Pires T., Tiwari M., Bolten A.B. & Marcovaldi M.A. 2020. Multiple-threats analysis for Loggerhead Sea turtles in the southwest Atlantic Ocean. *EndangSpecies Res.* 41: 183–196 Prosdocimi L, Teryda NS, Navarro GS, Carthy RR. 2020th. Use of remote sensing tools to predict focal areas for sea turtle conservation in the south-western Atlantic. *Aquatic Conserv: Mar Freshw Ecosyst.* 2020;1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aqc.3478>

Prosdocimi, L.; Teryda N.; Velez-Rubio G.M. 2020b. Unmanned aerial vehicles: assessing use for surveys of sea turtle populations in feeding areas. 40th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Cartagena, Colombia (March 14-20th, 2020). Poster Presentation, Accepted. Postponed.

Teryda N.; Prosdocimi, L.; Velez-Rubio G.M.; Carthy, R. 2020. Unmanned aircraft system surveys target leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) conservation in the Rio de la Plata Estuary, Argentina. 40th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Cartagena, Colombia (March 14-20th, 2020). Poster Presentation, Accepted. postponed

4) Other activities

In the case of projects, please include the name of the project, organizations involved, a five lines summary, current status, and contact person.

4.1 Other activities

Include a 500 words summary of information on environmental education activities, programs to establish and manage protected areas, and cooperative activities with other Party countries.

Please attach any other relevant documents using the blue boxes below.

>>> Some of the activities offered by Fundación Mundo Marino carried out during the reporting period were:

- Since December 2020, guided tours with educational talks have been given to 2,293 visitors.
- Dissemination of educational material on sea turtles through the networks - Clean Beaches Campaign: Suspended due to the pandemic, it is adapted to social networks, inviting people to carry out actions for plastic-free beach. In this sense, an agreement is made with the cooperative recycling lives of Santa Teresita for the final disposal of waste for recycling and a compactor is donated to them to be able to increase the volume of recycled material in the coastal district. These activities are broadcasted live on social networks, discussing the interaction of turtles and other marine animals with marine litter.
- Within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, educational videos were made for the Mundo Marino Foundation's social networks to answer questions from school students about the issues faced by these animals and the conservation of their environment.
- In August 2020, Fundación Vida Silvestre organized a workshop with the participating organizations of the Provincial Census of Coastal Garbage, which could not be carried out due to the pandemic.
- During the pandemic, webinars were held where the Mundo Marino Foundation was invited and the topic of sea turtles and their problems in Argentina were discussed.
- Participates as a speaker in the virtual course "ODS. Its implementation in cities and Metropolitan Regions" dealing with SDG 14 of underwater life where the problem of sea turtles in Argentina and the efforts in their conservation are exposed and disseminated (organized by the Legislature of the City of Buenos Aires, the Inst: Legislative Department of Permanent Training, the General Directorate of Modernization and Sustainability and the General Directorate of Metropolitan Affairs,
- Participates as a teacher in the SDG 14 underwater life module of the following virtual course: "Extension Course: Dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals", organized by the MAyDS, the National University of Quilmes and the National University of Jujuy.
- After virtual work meetings between the Municipal Environment Secretariat and environmental groups, where the problem of garbage and its effects on marine fauna, mainly sea turtles, was discussed with the group of coastal environmentalists Beach cleaning on Saturday 9/19 in different locations and the forms were delivered to the participants to be able to incorporate this garbage information into the statistics that the FMM has been collecting. The analysis of the data was carried out, an infographic was made with the results that was uploaded to the networks. It had a very good journalistic impact.
- From the coastal town of Villa del Mar, Coronel Rosales Party, Buenos Aires province, the Marine Animal Reception and Assistance Foundation (FRAAM), during January and February, beach campaigns were carried out to raise awareness about the value of wetlands, and highlighting the coastal estuarine ecosystem as an important feeding site for sea turtles in their juvenile stages.
- During the celebration of the traditional Festival of Los Humedales in No. 12 edition, together with the collaboration of the staff of the Bahía Blanca-OPDS Natural Reserve, illustrated educational talks were offered on the biology, ecology and conservation of sea turtles found in our coasts during the summer. In addition, during that day, guided tours were offered through the FRAAM theme walk, and through the Interpretive Trail of the Marine Coastal Wetland, highlighting the collaboration provided by artisanal fishermen, explaining the rescue maneuvers and sometimes resuscitation that they carry out before veterinary assistance.
- Within the Environmental Education Program that FRAAM has been carrying out since 2012, contact with teachers and students of all educational levels continued through different conversations and recreational-educational activities were offered for the youngest.
- At the Science Museum of the city of Bahía Blanca, a discussion was held to commemorate the World Day of Sea Turtles.
- At the NGO JOCA-PA, a discussion was held on the coastal estuarine wetlands of Villa del Mar, on the seasonal presence of sea turtles, the threats they face and how to collaborate for their conservation.

- Interviews were conducted on radio programs in the region, pondering wetlands, biodiversity in general and particularly the presence of sea turtles, unknown to most listeners. Among other relevant points, the joint work carried out inter-institutionally between municipalities, province and Nation for its conservation was highlighted.
- In October, the "Villa del Mar Recycles" Project began, which purpose is to reduce solid urban waste on the beach, avoiding damage not only to the landscape, wasting resources, but especially aimed at minimizing the impact on fauna marine, particularly sea turtles.
- Conversations were held with students from the UPSO Tourism and Tourism Guides careers, to publicize the existence of wetlands and their valuable biodiversity and to raise awareness about the seasonal presence of sea turtles.
- In December 2020, the 5th Provincial Coastal Census was carried out in Villa del Mar, in which representatives of the Environment, Tourism, Civil Defense and Delegation of the municipality of Coronel Rosales participated.
- In the month of December, an open-air conference was held with the JOCA-PA Group "Jóvenes Por El Clima Punta Alta", to address the problem of urban solid waste, the impact on sea turtles and other forms of life and how to reverse the problem.
- During the summer, telephone contact was maintained with artisanal fishermen, regarding reports of incidental entanglements of sea turtles, and communication with the Municipal Delegation of Pehuén Co y Monte Hermoso lifeguards on possible entanglements in artisanal fishing nets.

Media references

- <https://prensa.mundomarino.com.ar/se-llevo-a-cabo-un-censo-y-limpieza-de-playas-en-el-partido-de-la-costael-86-de-los-residuos-encontrados-fueron-plasticos>
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- <https://www.entrelneas.info/articulo/1066/28707/la-costa-el-86%25-de-los-residuos-encontrados-en-un-censo-y-limpieza-de-playas-fueron-plasticos>
- <https://www.eldia.com/nota/2020-9-29-23-14-0-detectan-un-86-de-residuos-plasticos-en-playas-del-partidode-la-costa-informacion-general>
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Bibliographic citation

Massola V., Prosdocimi L., Suldrup C. and Sosa JF. 2021. The Bahía Blanca Estuary and importance of the wetlands for the conservation of sea turtles. In: Fiori SM and Pratolongo PD (Eds) The Bahía Blanca Estuary. Springer (in press) DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-66486-2

Part V – Nesting Information

Index nesting sites or beaches for sea turtle conservation

Use the following drop down menu to select the index sites which you would like to report information for the latest season corresponding to the year of this report

Index Nesting Sites

Attach here other files relevant to this section, if required

Please describe the content of the attachment in the box below and use the blue button to attach the file.

>>>

Part VI – Fisheries Information

If your country does not have data available to fill out the information on longline fisheries, please contact the IAC Secretariat secretario@iacseaturtle.org

Longline Fisheries (Vessels >20m)

Does your country have industrial longline fisheries with vessels over 20m?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

Thank you!

Thank you, you have completed the IAC Online Report questionnaire.

We are very appreciative of the time you have taken to answer all of the questions. The PDF of this document will be published on the Annual Reports section of the IAC

website <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/informes-eng.htm>