



**Inter-American Convention for the Protection and  
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**CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.4**

**Matrix to Evaluate the Management Plan for Exceptions to Implement the Measures of  
Article IV (3a & b) regarding Exceptions for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys  
olivacea* eggs in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panamá.**

*Prepared by the IAC Exceptions Working Group members of the IAC Scientific Committee and  
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This matrix of indicators to evaluate the Management Plans for Exceptions in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panamá was created by the IAC Exceptions Working Group (IAC Scientific Committee (SC) and Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE)). The matrix was discussed at 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee in 2022, and at the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee in 2023. The matrix with edits from the SC and the CCE was approved by correspondence on June 8<sup>th</sup> 2023.

The evaluation matrix with indicators was done in response to the mandate given to the Consultative and Scientific Committees in the Resolution of Exceptions for each country [CIT-COP10-2022-R3](#), [CIT-COP10-2022-R4](#), and [CIT-COP10-2022-R5](#) that states “*The IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts will develop a form with the contents and minimum data to be included in the Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan*”.

This evaluation matrix was transmitted to the IAC Focal Points from Panamá, Guatemala and Costa Rica in August 2023 as a guidance to prepare their “Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan” every five years to be presented by each country to the IAC SC and CCE for their evaluation as indicated in their Resolutions above. The first report with this matrix is expected from Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala no later than 2030.

**Matrix to Evaluate the Management Plan for Exceptions to Implement the Measures of Article IV (3a & b) regarding Exceptions for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panamá.**

Costa Rica ([Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R5](#)), Guatemala ([Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R4](#)) and Panamá ([Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R3](#)) have Exceptions to satisfy economic subsistence needs of traditional communities of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs. The Exceptions are contingent on the establishments of an Exception Management Program as required in Article IV (3) of the Convention with actions outlined in Exception Management Plans (EMPs). Since these Exceptions are for harvesting of a sea turtle species in particular, each country must regularly report on their Exception, providing information that will allow assessment of the levels of intentional take and that the Exceptions do not undermine efforts to achieve the objectives of the Convention.

Exceptions Management Plans (EMPs) are developed based on recommendations provided by the Scientific Committee and the Consultative Committee of Experts ([CCE Meeting Report CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.9](#)), together with recommendations of each Party's Resolution and its Annexes. EMPs are expected to be evaluated and updated every five years. The following Matrix to Evaluate the EMP lists 29 indicators to guide the development of EMPs for Panamá and Guatemala and/or to monitor compliance with an existing EMP in Costa Rica. The indicators are divided into Biological / Population indicators, Management protection in situ and ex situ, management subsistence harvest indicators, and socio-economic indicators. Their purpose is to guide the development of protocols and methodologies to ensure the collection of relevant data required for reporting on the impacts of exceptions on *Lepidochelys olivacea* populations in each country.

Note that not all indicators may be applicable to each country, because the Exception related activities are different and in agreement with the regulations, geographical area of application, social characteristics and methodology applied in each country. Respondents responsible for preparing the report for each country are requested to indicate Yes, No or N/A (not applicable) next to each indicator.

This first version of the matrix only requires YES/NO, N/A answers to determine if the Management Plan for the Exception has the indicators included. The IAC Exceptions Working Group recommends using this matrix the first occasion countries are asked to report in the first 5 years. After the first reporting cycle, the Exceptions Working Group recommends including the percentage of annual compliance for each indicator each year as applicable. This will allow in the future, for a more informed evaluation of the implementation of the EMP for each country.

## Matrix to Evaluate the Management Plan for Exceptions to Implement the Measures of Article IV (3a & b) regarding Exceptions for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Report submission date: \_\_\_\_\_ Timeframe of Report: \_\_\_\_\_

IAC Resolution (number) that applies: \_\_\_\_\_ Governmental Agency responsible: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: Place an (x) in the column that applies for your country (YES,NO,N/A (non applicable))

INDICATOR ANUAL COMPLIANCE		COSTA RICA			GUATEMALA			PANAMÁ		
		YES	NO	N/A	YES	NO	N/A	YES	NO	N/A
Biological and population	1) The Exception Management Plan (EMP) includes a rigorous method or scientific protocol for counting or estimating total annual or seasonal nestings (with a 95% confidence level) at the beach(es) of the Exception, like counts of female tracks, transects, others.									
	2) The EMP reports the total nesting activity estimated or counted by above mentioned protocol.									
	3) The EMP includes data on predation (human, domestic and wild animals (native and non-native) at the beach(es) in the Exception area.									
	4) The EMP includes information and/or data on number of nests destroyed by another nesting female.									
	5) The EMP includes data and/or estimates on total annual numbers of nesting females at the beach(es) in the Exception area.									
	6) The EMP includes counts or estimates of the number of nests protected <i>ex situ</i> or <i>in situ</i> by any method.  Protection by any method also includes nests not exposed to additional anthropogenic threats (e.g., driving on the beach, predation by domestic animals) or at an increased risk to natural threats (e.g., lethal temperatures, erosion, tidal flooding) that affect survival.									

Management: Protection <i>In situ</i>	7) The EMP includes the total nests (counted or estimated) protected <i>in situ</i> .  Protected <i>in situ</i> : Nests that remain were the turtle laid them during the entire incubation period in the Exception area.									
	8) The EMP includes the total eggs (counted or estimated) protected <i>in situ</i> .  Protected <i>in situ</i> : Eggs that remain were the turtle laid them during the entire incubation period in the exception area.									
	9) The EMP includes counts or estimates of the number of hatchlings from the <i>in situ</i> protected nests at the beach(es) of the Exception.									
	10) The EMP includes results on hatching success as it is defined in the technical document <a href="#">CIT-CC8-2011-Tec.2</a>									
	11) The EMP includes activities that benefit the structure, function and composition of the nesting beach(es) or area of action of the EMP (e.g., beach cleanups, predation control, artificial lighting reduction, regulation of tourism, signage within the area, coastal resilience, among others.									
Management: Protection <i>Ex situ</i>	12) The EMP includes information on the number of protected nests <i>ex situ</i> (in hatcheries or other similar approved technique).									
	13) The EMP includes information on the number of protected eggs <i>ex situ</i> (in hatcheries or other similar approved technique).									
	14) The EMP includes data on hatching success for nests in hatcheries or any other method described in the technical document CIT-CC8-2011-Tec. 2									
	15) The EMP include a count or estimate of the number of hatchlings released back into the ocean from the total nests registered.									
	16) The EMP includes a count or estimate of the number of hatchlings released back into the ocean from the percentage given to hatcheries to be incubated, under the mechanism of “conservation quota” established by the EMP. – Only for Guatemala this is applicable.									
	17) The EMP provides data on the maintenance of hatcheries, including but not limited to: enlargements, use of technology to monitor temperature, sanitary management measures, security measures, sand replacement, etc.									
	18) The EMP includes a protocol for egg management (i.e., collection, transport and re-burial at the hatchery).									

Management: subsistence harvest	19) The EMP includes counts or estimates of the number of nests (clutches) harvested under the approved harvesting model for each country.									
	20) The EMP includes annual data trends on the number of <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> (olive ridley) eggs extracted, traded (i.e., numbers of eggs legally traded as a result of the Exception), and of protected eggs.									
	21) The EMP establishes and defines sustainability indicators for the harvesting/consumption/trade model.									
	22) The EMP includes the approved legal framework and regulations in force for the country.									
	23) The EMP implements a harvesting protocol included within the framework of the EMP itself.									
	24) The EMP includes procedures or measures for control and surveillance on the nesting beach or hatchery.									
	25) The EMP includes a protocol for commercialization that includes copies of existing laws or regulations (legal trade within the Exception).									
	26) The EMP includes a traceability protocol.									
Socioeconomic	27) The EMP includes socio-economic information on, for example: the number of beneficiaries from the trade, the income per capita from consumption/use of eggs, total estimate of the monetary value from egg extraction, comparative analysis of the trends of monthly and annual consumption rates, <i>inter alia</i> .									
	28) The EMP includes a list of alternative economic activities other than egg trade/consumption (e.g., tourism, crafts, etc.).									
	29) The EMP includes rules for tourist visitation and activities that might disrupt nesting in the area where harvesting under the Exception takes place.									