



**Inter-American Convention for the  
Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles  
Second Conference of the Parties**

*November, 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela*

**First Annual Report Form [Translation]**

**Directory**

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**Focal Point**

Institution: Foreign Affairs Secretary

Name: Mrs. Olmeda Rivera

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: April 27th, 2005



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## 1. Biological Information

### 1.1. Species present

Species	Pacific Ocean	Atlantic Ocean	Caribbean Sea
	Phase(s)	Phase(s)	Phase(s)
<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	R		
<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>			
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>			R,M
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>			R,F
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>			
<i>Caretta caretta</i>			

Phases: R = Reproduction; F = Foraging; M = Migration; D = Phase Unknown

### 1.2. Important sites for sea turtle conservation

	Name of Site	Species (s)	Season	Geographic Location (Lat/Long)	Area (km or hectares, if applicable)	Protection Category	Observations*
<b>Nesting Site</b>	Punta Ratón	Olivacea	August-October	Marcovia, Choluteca	27 Km.	Appendix I	
	Plaplaya	Coriacea	April-June	Brus Laguna Gracias a Dios	10 Km.	Appendix I	
	Cayo mayor & cayo menor	Eretmochelys imbricata	June to September			Seasonal	
<b>Foraging Site</b>	Pelican point, varios cayos	Eretmochelys imbricata	June to September			Permanent	
<b>Migratory Routes</b>	Mariposal	Eretmochelys				Permanent	

\* include a brief and concise summary of relevant information regarding the population status on a separate page (for further information see the instructions)



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### 2. Information regarding the use derived from sea turtles

	Types of use	Specie	Products	Ocean Basin	Origin*		Estimated annual quantity	Information source	Actions
					L	I			
<b>Consumptive Use</b>	Commercialization	Olivacea	Eggs	Pacific		x	Not Estimated	DIGEPESCA	Sanctions & Fines
	Commercialization	Imbricata	Eggs, Meat & Scutes	Caribbean		x	Not Estimated	DIGEPESCA	Sanctions & Fines
	Commercialization	Coriacea	Eggs	Caribbean		x	Not Estimated	DIGEPESCA	Sanctions & Fines
	Commercialization	Hawksbill	Eggs	Caribbean		x	Not Estimated	Cochinos Keys	Sanctions & Fines
<b>Non-consumptive</b>									

\* L = legal, I = illegal

### 3. Main threats

#### 3.1 Habitat and other threats

Threats	Specie(s) Affected	Size of Impact	Geographic Region(s) Affected	Information Source	Actions
Destruction of nesting habitat and egg poaching	Olivacea	Large	Punta Raton, Cedeño	DIGEPESCA	Regulations (Closures, Agreements, Prohibitions, Sanctions & Fines)
Destruction of nesting habitat and poaching of eggs, meat and scutes	Imbricata	Large	Tomacho and Punta Patuca	DIGEPESCA	Regulations (Closures, Agreements, Prohibitions, Sanctions & Fines)
Destruction of nesting habitat and poaching of meat and eggs.	Coriacea	Large	Plaplaya, Piñales & Barra del Motagua	DIGEPESCA	Regulations (Closures, Agreements, Prohibitions, Sanctions & Fines)
Capture and Tourism Development	Hawksbill	Medium	Cohinos Keys	Cohinos Keys	Patrols and Environmental Education



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### 3.2 Capture (Intentional/incidental)

Threats	Specie(s) Affected	Size of Impact	Geographic Region(s) Affected	Information Source	Actions
Lack of use of TEDs in industrial shrimpers	Imbricata	Large	Caribbean Sea	DIGEPESCA	Establish Regulations (sanctions, fines and agreements)
Lack of use of TEDs in industrial shrimpers	coriacea	Large	Caribbean Sea	DIGEPESCA	Establish Regulations (sanctions, fines and agreements)

## 4. Legal Framework

### 4.1. International instruments

Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding	Year signed and/or ratification
CITES	Decree # 771-78 year 1979-1985
CIT	Decree # 101-99

### 4.2. National legislation

Type and name of legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanction(s) Imposed
Fisheries Law, Decree # 154-59 article 49 and 53	National Regulations, Resolutions, Agreements	Article # 70 (reformed)
General Law of the Environment Decree # 104-93	National Regulations, Resolutions, Agreements	Article 86 through 91

### 4.3. Indicate any legal instruments that are currently in the process of being approved.

Only the Fisheries Law is currently in the process of being approved.



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#### 4.4. Public and private institutions involved in sea turtle conservation

Institution/ Entity	Responsibilities
World Food Programme (WFP)	Economic & Logistical Support
Peace Corps	Building of Infrastructure & Technical Support
Naval force and preventive Police	Logistical support: boats and patrolling nesting beaches
National Aquiculture Association of Honduras (ANDAH)	Economic & Logistical Support

#### 5. Exceptions

Programs involving extractive use (include Management Plan)

Presently, there are no management plans for the extractive use of these species of sea turtles in Honduras. What does exist are zoning plans that form part of the general plan of activities of DIGEPESA.

#### 6. Conservation Efforts

##### 6.1 General description of the sea turtle protection and conservation program

Based on the responsibility granted by the Fisheries Law, effective 1975, the General Direction of Natural Renewable Resources, now called the General Direction of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DIGEPESCA), in collaboration with the Peace Corps and other state, autonomous, and private institutions, initiated a sea turtle protection program in the Gulf of Fonseca. According to these regulations, the first closures were ordered and the capture of all species of sea turtles was prohibited; eventually the "Nesting Sea Turtle Project", mainly for olive ridleys (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), was initiated.

Presently, this project is managed by the Verification and Environmental Control Commission of the Gulf of Fonseca (CVC-GOLF) by the Ministerial Agreement #796-03, published in the Official Diary "La Gaceta" on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

Taking into consideration the observations throughout the 1980's, the Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock declared the first sea turtle closure in the Caribbean between the months of April and May of 1995; and DIGEPESCA, in coordination with MOPAWI (NGOs), organized the first



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“Semi-artificial Sea Turtle Nesting Project of the Caribbean”, especially for the leatherback turtle. This project is currently being coordinated and managed by MOPAWI.

With the declaration of the Cochinis Keys Archipelago as a Natural Protected Area (1993); “Hawksbill Research and Conservation Activities”, including natural and semi-artificial nests and hatchling release, was initiated in 1998-2000 by the Foundation. Currently, this project is managed by the Cochinis Keys Foundation. DIGEPESCA only acts as a regulatory and legal entity regarding the establishment and creation of ministerial agreements (closures, prohibition of capture and commercialization of eggs and sub-products of sea turtles).

### 6.2 Relevant Projects and Activities

Project/Activities	General objective	Results obtained	Duration	
			From	Until
Olive Ridley ( <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> ) Protection Project in the Gulf of Fonseca	To conserve sea turtle nesting populations in the area by protecting their nests	The project results for the 2002 season are among the highest since its beginning in 1975 with 318 nests and a total of 28,962 eggs, of which 66.2% hatched.	Sept. 1 - Nov. 12, 2002	
Hawksbill Turtle Protection Project in Cochinis Keys	Conserve Hawksbill Sea Turtles	Important survival rate for the species	1997 -2004	

### 7. International Cooperation

R/= World Food Programme (WFP)



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**8. National Directory**

Name	Institutional affiliation	Line of work / Specialty	Telephone	Fax	E-mail	Website
Javier Rodríguez Martínez	DIGEPESCA	Biologist	239-1982			
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Luis Turcios	PROGOLFO		782-7009		<a href="mailto:Progolfo504@yahoo.com">Progolfo504@yahoo.com</a>	
Betty Donaire	DiBio/SERNA	Biologist	235-4895	232-5241	<a href="mailto:bettydonaire@yahoo.com">bettydonaire@yahoo.com</a>	

**9. Sources of Information (In Spanish)**

1. Morales, L. (2001). Situación de la Tortuga Carey (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) en Honduras
2. Morales, L, Rodríguez *et, al.* (2002). Proyecto protección de la Tortuga Golfaina (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), en el Golfo de Fonseca,
3. Pineda, G. (1996). Informe “Tortugas Marinas del Caribe Hondureño”
4. Aronne, MM. (2000). Observaciones preliminares de las poblaciones anidadora de tortuga marina Carey (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), en la Reserva Biológica de Cayos Cochinos.

**10. Annexes**