



# Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Honduras 2006 Annual Report

## Second Annual Report [Translation]

### Directory

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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		R,F
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>			R,F
<i>Caretta caretta</i>			R,F

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*
Nesting Site	Playa 3	E.i.	June - November	Cayos Cochinos	3 Ha	Natural Marine Monument	
	Playa 2	E.i.	June - November	Cayos Cochinos	1 Ha	Natural Marine Monument	
	Plaplaya	D.c C.c C.m E.i	March-October	Plaplaya Municipality of Juan Francisco Bulnes Dept. Gracias a Dios N15 5551 W84 51 06	11 Km.	Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve	Local conservation project
	Brus Laguna	D.c C.c	March-July	Mokobila Municipality of Brus Laguna Gracias a Dios	15 Km.	Appendix I CITES	Individual actions
	Cayos Vivorillos	E.i. C.c.	July-October	N 15 50 30 W 80 20 15	0.7 ha.		
	Cayo Bobel	E.i. C.c.	July-October	N 15 04 52 W 82 40 34	1.68 ha.		
	Cayo Sabana	E.i. C.c.	July-October	N 15 08 24 W 82 35 21	0.7 ha		
	Cayo Port Royal or Tortuga	E.i. C.c.	July-October	N 15 01 15 W 82 35 21	0.35 ha.		



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Cayo Bogas	E.i. C.c.	July- October	N 15 50 30 W 80 34 00	0.35 ha.		
Cayo Sur	E.i. C.c.	July- October	N 15 04 56 W 82 26 38	1.0 ha.		
Tocamach o	E.i.	July- October	N 15 58 43 W 84 59 57			
Batalla	C.c. D.c.	July- October	N 15 57 35 W 84 56 51		RAMSAR Site	
Ibans	C.c. D.c. E.i.	July- October	N 15 58 18 W 84 48 36		Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve	
Barra Catarasca	C.c. D.c. E.i.	July- October	N 15 00 15 W 83 10 12		Wildlife Reserve	
Cocobila	C.c. D.c. E.i.	July- October	N 15 53 59 W 84 47 15		Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve	
Cauquira	C.c. D.c., E.i.	July- October	N 15 17 30 W 15 18 10			
Utila	E.i. C.c.	July- October			National Marine Park & Wildlife Reserve	
Roatan	E.i. C.c.	July- October			National Marine Park & Wildlife Reserve	
Guanaja	E.i. C.c.	July- October	N 16 27 09 W 85 52 43		Wildlife Reserve	
Cayos Cochinos	E.i. C.c.	July- October			National Marine Park	
Amapala	L.o.	August- October	Department of Valle	850mt		
Marcovia	L.o.	August- October	Dept. of Choluteca	5600 mts		
El Carretal	L.o.	August - October	All beaches of Fonseca including insular ones in the municipalities of Marcovia, San Lorenzo and Amapala	Aprox. 14 Km. Of beach, from Punta Ratón to punta Condega, Dept. Valle	DIGEPESC A Annual Resolution during the time of egg collection (closure) Ramsar Site	Their protection is also considered in CITES Appendix I.



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	Las Gaviotas	E.i. L.o.	July- October	437,033 X 1,472.049 and UTM		Ramsar Site	
	Boca Rió Viejo	E. i.	August - October	Few beaches in the Gulf of Fonseca in the same municipalities and where human presence is scarce	A definite nesting area has not been identified	DIGEPESC A Annual Resolution during the time of egg collection (closure)	Their protection is also considered in CITES Appendix I.
	Delgaditos	L. o.	August - October	Marcovia, San Lorenzo			
	Cedeño y Punta Condega	E. i.	August - October				
	Punta Ratón	L.o.	August - October	N13 17 20 W 87 20 31	27 Km.	Ramsar Site	
	Cedeño	L.o.	August - October	N 13 05 57 W 87 29 09		Ramsar Site	
	Boca Rió Viejo	L.o.	August - October			Ramsar Site	
	Punta Condega	L.o.	August - October	N 13 05 57 W 87 29 09 400 meters, Dept. of Choluteca		Ramsar Site	
	La Guayaba	L.o.	July- October			CITES Appendix I	
	Puerto Sierra	L.o.	July- October			CITES Appendix I	
	Playa Blanca	L.o.	July- October			CITES Appendix I	
<b>Foraging Site</b>	Archipiélago o Cayos	E.i.	All year	Cayos Cochinos		Natural Monument	
		E.i.	Specific time frame unknown				There are foraging grounds in the Gulf of Fonseca
Migratory Routes	No information						



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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
					L	I		
Consumptive Use	Collection and sale of eggs in local, national and international markets	L.o. E.i.	Eggs, meat & shell, fat	Gulf of Fonseca, especially in El Salvador		x	There are no statistics on the number illegally extracted	Observations on the street, in restaurants, houses, and at borders.
	Collect eggs for artificial reproduction	L.o.	Eggs	Gulf of Fonseca	L		According to data on collection during closures from 1975 to 2005, 10,000 eggs per year.	Reports from DIGEPESCA, Municipality of Marcovia, CVC-GOLF, CODDEFFA-GOLF, ANDAH, Sea Turtle protection Committees various communities
	Nourishment	E.i	Meat and Eggs	Caribbean		X	Not estimated	Monitoring through control and patrol programs
	Crafts	E.i	Shell	Caribbean		X	Not estimated	
	Commercialization	L.o	Eggs	Pacific		X	Not estimated	Progolfo
	Commercialization	D.c	Eggs	Caribbean		X	Not estimated	DIGEPESCA
	Commercialization	C.c	Eggs and meat	Caribbean		X	Not estimated	DIGEPESCA
	Local and ancestral consumption	D.c	Eggs	Caribbean			Not estimated	MOPAWI
	Local use	C.c	Eggs	Caribbean			Not estimated	MOPAWI
	Local use	C.m.	Eggs and meat	Caribbean			Not estimated	MOPAWI
	Local use	E.i	Eggs , meat and shell	Caribbean			Not estimated	MOPAWI
Non-consumptive Use	Nests are rarely left to hatch naturally	L.o.	Eggs	Nesting areas	L		Does not exist	
	Tourism	D.c	Local Project	Caribbean				Mopawi Río Plátano Biosphere

\* L = legal, I = illegal



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### 3. Main threats

#### Pacific Ocean:

- Beach erosion
- Beaches covered with logs, wood and waste
- Destruction of nesting sites and egg harvesting, vehicular and human traffic
- Tourism development
- Flooding and tides, in areas of semi artificial nesting sites

#### Ocean Basin of Caribbean Sea

- Beaches covered with logs and waste
- Beach erosion
- Destruction of nesting sites and harvesting of eggs, meat and scales, vehicular and human traffic
- Tourism development. Incidental fishing/ Shrimp and lobster fleets.
- Local /Beach use and consumption

#### 3.1 Habitat and other threats

Threats	Specie(s) Affected	Size of Impact	Geographic Region(s) Affected	Information Source	Actions
Alteration of nesting habitat and egg harvesting	D.c. & C.c.	Moderate	Caribbean	MOPAWI	Regulations (closures, agreements, prohibitions, sanctions and fines)
Hunting in reproductive sites at sea	E.i. & C.m.	Moderate	Caribbean	MOPAWI	Regulations (closures, agreements, prohibitions, sanctions and fines)
Natural phenomena (hurricanes, tropical storms). Alteration of coastal zones.	D.c., C.c., E.i. C.m.	Strong	Caribbean	MOPAWI	Regulations (closures, agreements, prohibitions, sanctions and fines)
Destruction of nesting habitat and egg harvesting, vehicular and human traffic, tourism development	L.o.	Not Estimated	Pacific	DIGEPESCA	Regulations, closures, agreements, resolutions, administrative & economic sanctions
Floods and tides at nesting sites and semi artificial nesting projects	L.o.	Not Estimated	Pacific	DIGEPESCA	Preventative actions at semi artificial nesting sites
Overexploitation of local fishing resource	L.o.	Not Estimated	Pacific	DIGEPESCA	Fisheries laws



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### 3.2 Capture (Intentional/incidental)

Threats	Specie(s) Affected	Size of Impact	Geographic Region(s) Affected	Information Source	Actions
Egg harvesting	L. o.	The impact on nests laid is large	Gulf of Fonseca Illegal harvesting occurs in all nesting areas	Fishermen, DIGEPESCA, committees, Environmental Units of the Municipalities CODDEFFAGOLF	Control operatives, awareness, radio programs, bulletins.
Egg harvesting and meat consumption	E. i.	Egg harvesting for consumption is large (compared to the Gulf population) meta consumption is very low amongst fishermen.	Gulf of Fonseca Entire nesting area	Fishermen, DIGEPESCA, UMAS, CODDEFFAGOLF.	Control operatives, awareness, radio programs, bulletins
Incidental capture in fishing gear (gillnets and longlines) and hurt by propellers of marine boat motors.	E.i. and L.o.	Moderate	Entire Gulf of Fonseca	Fishermen, DIGEPESCA, CODDEFFAGOLF.	Awareness on how to free specimens when found alive.
Incidental capture by Salvadorian fishermen.	E.i. and L.o.	Moderate	Entire Gulf of Fonseca	Fishermen, DIGEPESCA, CODDEFFAGOLF.	Salvadorian authorities and fishermen awareness (turtle meat waste has disappeared in the Union, El Salvador,)
Incidental capture by artisanal and industrial fishermen of Misquita ethnicity working in shrimp, lobster and scale fish fisheries	C.c D.c E.i	Insignificant	Caribbean	DIGEPESCA	Regulations, agreements, resolutions, administrative & economic sanctions
Incidental capture in shrimp trawlers	C.c D.c E.i	Insignificant	Caribbean	DIGEPESCA	Regulations, agreements, resolutions, administrative & economic sanctions



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Incidental capture by fishermen of Misquita and Garifuna ethnicities on Caribbean beaches of Honduras	C.c D.c E.i	Insignificant	Caribbean	DIGEPESCA	Regulations, agreements, resolutions, administrative & economic sanctions
Use of DETs on industrial shrimp trawler fleets	E.i	Large	Caribbean Sea	DIGEPESCA	Establish regulations (sanctions, fines, and agreements)
Use of DETs on industrial shrimp trawler fleets	D.c	Large	Caribbean Sea	DIGEPESCA	Establish regulations (sanctions, fines, and agreements)
Destruction of nesting sites and egg harvesting by crew members of fishing fleets disembarking in the keys	E.i. C.c	Significant	Caribbean Sea	DIGEPESCA	Regulations, closures, agreements, resolutions, administrative & economic sanctions
Incidental capture by artisanal and industrial fishermen working in shrimp, lobster and scale fish fisheries	C.c. D.c. E.i.	Significant	Caribbean Sea	DIGEPESCA	Regulations, closures, agreements, resolutions, administrative & economic sanctions
Incidental capture in shrimp trawlers fleets	C.c. D.c. E.i.	Insignificant	Caribbean Sea	DIGEPESCA	Talks and workshops on laws, environmental awareness

## 4. Legal Framework

### 4.1. International instruments

Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding	Year signed and/or ratification
Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles	Decreets 101-99, 1979
Honduras is a member of the CITES Convention	1975-1979
Criteria to evaluate the Sustainability of Trade in Wild Flora and Fauna	1995
Shrimp embargo by USA on countries not complying with avoiding the capture and death of sea turtles by their shrimp fleets	1996
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat RAMSAR	1992
Convention on Biological Diversity CDB	1995
International Convention on the Prevention of Contamination from Vessels	1999
London Convention on Dumping Wastes at Sea	1979
Central American Constitutive Convention for Environmental Protection	1990





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Constitutive Convention of the Central American Environmental and Development Commission	1992
Convention on Biodiversity Conservation and Central American Protocol on Priority Wildlife Areas	1994
Convention on the protection of World Patrimony, Culture and Natural Sites	1978
Constitutive Convention on the Association of Caribbean States	1995
World Patrimony for humanity site / UNESCO-MAB	July of 1982

### 4.2. National legislation

Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding	Year signed and/or ratification
Fisheries Law	Decree 154 of National Congress, the 29th of May, 1959.
General Law of the Environment ( article No. 56 )	Decree 104-93 June 1993
Laws of the Municipalities	Decree 134-90
National System of Protected Areas ( SINAP) Presidential Agreement	Agreement No. 921-97 30th of June, 1997
Forestry Law	Decree No. 85
Declaration of Protected Areas	Decree 5-99-B
Regional Subsystem Counsel of Protected Areas of the South (CORAPSUR)	Agreement 0326-2004 of SERNA. 19 of March, 2004.
Law of the Public Ministry	Legislative Decree No. 228-93 of the 13th of December, 1993.

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

The new fisheries law has been in review and updating for many years.

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

Institución / entidad	Responsabilidades
DIGEPESCA General Direction of Fisheries and Aquiculture	Issue resolutions for temporary closures. Control period of closure and its restrictions on use.
SERNA-DIbiO	Sustainable Protection and Conservation of Biodiversity. Laws.
UNAH-Biology	Training and Research on Turtles
AFE-COHODEFOR-DAPS	Wildlife Protection
MOPAWI	Foundation for wildlife conservation and protection
Secretary of Public Education	Educational sector
Municipal Mayor of Marcovia	Collaborate with infrastructure (camps) and participate in developing closures.
National Aquiculture Association of Honduras (ANDAH)	Participate in developing closures (25 days)



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Committee for the defence and development of fauna and flora en the Gulf of Fonseca (CODDEFFGOLF)	Develop joint conservation activities with fishermen members and the Association of Artisanal Fishermen of the Gulf APAGOLF (currently in Punta Ratón )
101 Marine Squad	Support conservation activities during closures. ( security )
National Police	Support conservation activities during closures. ( security )
National Port Businesses ENP	Economically supports CODDEFFAGOLF and APAGOLF in developing the closure for 3 years ( 2005-2007 )
Amapala Naval Base	Support conservation activities during closures.
Verification and Environmental Control Commission CVC	During its existence, participated in conservation activities.
Bay Islands Conservation Association BICA	Logistical and technical support, Developed turtle protection programs in Utila
Mosquitia Pawisa (MOPAWI)	Logistical and technical support
PROGOLFO	Logistical support
Olive Ridley Turtle Protection Committee of Punta Ratón	Guard and patrols
Cayos Cochinos Foundation	Logistical and economic support. Developed turtle protection programs.
Antonio Nasser Foundation FUNDANASE	Economic, logistical and investigative support
Grupo Terra	Economic, logistical and investigative support

### Exceptions:

Projects and initiatives in sea turtle protection and conservation, involving the participation of various sectors of the country.

The National Sea Turtle Conservation Network was formed from 1997-2003. It is currently being restructured.

### 5. Exceptions (Extractive use programs?)

None of the projects have reported extractive use in any of the previously mentioned areas and, therefore, there is no management plan for such use.

### 6. Conservation Efforts

Project/Activities	General Objective	Results obtained	Duration From - Until
<b>Pacific Ocean</b>			
The CVC usually creates a list of activities to carry out along with their budget.	Achieve an increase in sea turtle populations in the Gulf in order to improve the local life style through tourism and the rational use of the resource for human consumption.	Collect approximately 10,000 eggs and free at least 7,000 hatchlings in only one camp.	September to October, 25 days of closure.
CODDEFFAGOLF and APAGOLF create a Project and present it to the National Port Businesses to obtain necessary funds to develop the conservation activity in only one camp.	SAME AS ABOVE	SAME AS ABOVE	SAME AS ABOVE



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Digepesca creates a similar Project to CODDEFFAGOLF and APAGOLF, lately without participating in developing conservation activities and only issuing the closure resolution			September to October, 25 days of closure.
Semi artificial nesting Project for the Olive Ridley turtle in the Gulf of Fonseca (L.o.)	Conservation of sea turtle populations nesting on beaches in the area.	The results from 2005 are found to be less than expected from previous years.	1975-2005

Since 2003, efforts geared toward the conservation of hawksbill turtles, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, have been carried out jointly with the Bay Island Conservation Association (BICA) Project in Utila Department of the Islands of the bay, which is substantially increasing this species population. Another important event in the context of conservation of the olive ridley turtle is that funded by the Antonio Nasser Foundation, together with the Semi artificial Nesting Project and releasing of juvenile *Lepidochelys olivacea* on the beaches of Zacate Grande Island, on the southern coast of Honduras.

### 6.2 Relevant Projects and Activities

Project/Activities	General Objective	Results obtained	Duration From - Until	
<b>Pacific Ocean</b>			January each year	
Population awareness through a radio program (the voice of CODDEFFAGOLF)	Achieve general awareness on the rational use of turtle resources, their benefits and dangers.	Recovery of turtle populations in the Gulf.	August	December Each Year
Joint work with governmental civil and military authorities and NGOs.	Inter institutional involvement in a common cause.	All are aware of their responsibility in sea turtle conservation.	January each year	October
Organize sea turtle protection committees in each community surrounding the nesting beaches.	Involve the community in protecting and conserving the turtle resource.	Increased turtle populations and benefits to the communities.	1995	December Each Year
Semi artificial nesting Project for the Olive Ridley turtle in the Gulf of Fonseca L.o.	Conserve sea turtle populations nesting in the area by protecting their nests during closures.	Results of the year 2005 were worst than expected, since 1975, climatic phenomena has produced flooding in the Gulf area affecting the nesting.		2005
Nesting, hatching, development and releasing juveniles of approx. 6 months old in the Zacate Grande Is.	Increase olive ridley turtle populations to strive for successful future nesting and hatching.	Released 8,000 juvenile turtles in May of 2005, increasing environmental awareness among kids, teenagers and adults on the island.		2005



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Caribbean Sea Basin			June	
Patrols	Identify and collect nests in vulnerable areas	Relocate nests to incubation corrals	June	October
Environmental Education	Identify and collect nests in vulnerable areas	Improved awareness among kids and teenagers	January	October
Control and enforcement	Enforce compliance with laws and legislation protecting sea turtles in Cayos Cochinos	Better law enforcement	March 1995	December
Sea turtle conservation Project in the Río Plátano Biosphere.	Protection and conservation of sea turtle species that nest in the coastal zone and beaches in the area through focusing on protection and management, environmental education, community development, and local strengthening efforts.	Since 1995, 4 species of sea turtles have been protected that nest in the Río Plátano Biosphere area, with the help of a Community Sea Turtle Conservation Committee in Plaplaya. Up to 2005, 351 turtle nests of 4 species have been protected.	1997	October of 2005
Protection of Hawksbill turtle (E.i.) in cayos Cochinos.	Hawksbill turtle conservation	Important data on the survival of this species		2005
Plaplaya sea turtle project	Conservation of these species	Evaluation of results is in process	2003	2005
Monitoring and conservation of sea turtles on Utila Island (E.i. and C.c.)	Increase hawksbill and loggerhead populations.	Protection and recovery of the populations of these species.		2005
Verification and inspection of Turtle Excluder Devices TEDs in trawl nets of the Honduran Shrimp fleet in the Caribbean Sea.	Protect and conserve sea turtles in the Caribbean of Honduras.	Decrease incidental capture and increase environmental awareness of crewmembers.		

### 7. International Cooperation?

**R/= MOPAWI-** Since the Plaplaya Conservation Project began, a large amount of support for resources, funds and assistance to implement the project was received, the fruits of which have been seen in 11 nesting seasons and the participation of many stakeholders and local collaborators. However, the funds have been limited in order to reach superior results and more effective goals at the regional level and achieve reaching larger expansions of the beaches and coastal sites of the Río Plátano Biosphere, therefore, posing a challenge for the continuity of the impacts and advances of sea turtle conservation in the Mosquitia region of Honduras.

Up to now, the most significant international collaboration has been from: WIDECAS, WWF, TEAR-FUND, TNC, PMA-NU, PPD-PNUD.



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### 8. National Directory

Name	Affiliation	Line of work / Specialty	Telephone	Fax	Email
CODDEFFAGOLF	NGO	SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION	7812016 2380415	same	cgolf@coddeffagolf.net www.coddeffagolf.net
PAGOLF	NGO	FISHERMEN	3515008	X	X
SEA TURTLE PROTECTION COMMITTEE	COMMITTEE	FISHERMEN	3635889	X	X
CAYOS COCHINOS FOUNDATION	NGO	NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION	4422670	4422670	aeoviedo@caribehn www.cayoscochinos.org
DIGEPESCA	SAG- DIGEPESCA	DIRECTOR Italo Tugliany	239-1982		
SERNA	DIBIO- SERNA	DIRECTOR Juan Pablo Suazo	235-4985		juanpablosuazo@yahoo.com
SECRETARY OF FOREIGN MINISTRY	Honduran Foreign Ministry	Lawyer José Ramón Rivera	234-4921 fax 234- 1922		
MOPAWI	Carlos Molinero	Coordinator of the Sea Turtle National Network	235-8659	239-9234	

### 9. Sources of Information?

R/ = DIGEPESCA, CODDEFFAGOLF, CAYOS COCHINOS and MOPAWI.

### 10. Annexes

#### **MOPAWI: Institucional Function**

MOPAWI (Mosquitia Pawisa Apiska / Agency for Mosquitia Development) is a non-profit, civil association, based on Christian principles, dedicated to integrate and sustainable human development and to conserving the nature of North-eastern Honduras, Central America.

MOPAWI has supported the strengthening of various organizations based in Mosquitia, such as indigenous groups, community counsels and boards. The work has been geared mainly towards supporting organizations in attaining their legal status; provide leadership and administrative training, in addition to providing economic support for citizen participation.

Since 1991, activities focused on the management and protection of the Rió Plátano Biosphere Reserve were initiated, improving the local knowledge base primarily in the area of influence of Plaplaya. MOPAWI has developed supplements in: micro business development, Organizational Strengthening and Coastal Marine Resource Management.



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## **CONSERVATION REPORT MOPAWI**

In 1987 a group of professors and biology students from the UNAH, together with the General Direction of Renewable Natural Resources (DIGENARE), carried out research in order to determine sea turtle nesting sites and frequency along the Caribbean coast of Honduras. These studies were also carried out along the coastal beaches of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve.

This research was done during a 2 year period (1987-88) along the coastal zone made up of the geographic area between the Bacalar Lagoon and the Patuca river mouth, an area that consists of approximately 70 km. of beaches. It was determined, or concluded, that these beaches were nesting sites to four species of sea turtles that had used the maritime zone of Honduras for nesting and reproductive activities.

This research project helped determine the different species of sea turtles that come to nest along the beaches within the study area, as well as establish those sites most frequently visited by these species for nesting activities. Therefore, serving as a guide to identify protection activities with local populations and supporting institutions. Some tagging of females as well as semi artificial nesting on the beaches located between the sand bar Brus Laguna and the Río Patuca (Tutsi cocal-Mokobila) river mouth, were also accomplished during these two years.

In 1994, the first activities were carried out to initiate a Project to protect sea turtles nesting on the beaches of the Río Plátano Biosphere through the support of a voluntary Peace Corps established in the area, who identified possible sites as well as human settlements to propose a nesting Project.

In 1995, the first protection activities using the first turtle camp or semi artificial hatchery in the Río Plátano Biosphere reserve were carried out in the Garifuna community of Plaplaya, with the participation of two biologists from the DIGEPESCA Research department who applied the PMA work methodology that was used in the Gulf of Fonseca Sea Turtle project.

This area of research and conservation activities extends along a stretch of approximately 10 Km of beach that includes the maritime coast between the Tinto or Negro river mouth until the area next to the community of Piñales, (close to Plaplaya) corresponding to the territory of the Municipality of Juan Francisco Bulnes (Walumugu) in the department of Gracias a Dios. Plaplaya is an essentially Garifuna, along with some Ladinos and Misquitos inhabiting the area. This same year, two members of the project visited the conservation efforts developed at the Gandoca-manzanillo beach, Costa Rica, where they exchanged information on leatherback management with Association ANAI and the support of WWF.

Mopawi, being a support and associate agency, has developed many procedures for Nature Conservation in alliance with the groups and sectors of the human inhabitants of the Honduran Mosquitia and specifically in the protected area identified as a World Natural Patrimony site like the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve.





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Since 1997, TNC and Mopawi along with the Parks in Peril program have developed an alliance to work towards the conservation of the Río Plátano Biological Reserve (RBRP). Over the past few years, the Planning and Site Conservation (PCS) methodology, developed by TNC to identify threats and management strategies, defined the following conservation targets: Lagoons, coastal zones, forests, rivers, micro basins and the RBRP itself, among others.

Although there is interest from the state, accompanying institutions and community organizations, to develop the Reserve administration, a well-defined and focused structure to create the Global Plan of the RBRP does not exist, which is promoting conflicts for the effective management of the environment, and the resolution of conflicts related to the access, use and control of local natural resources. In the management, experiences such as those of the sea turtle Conservation Committee of Plaplaya are also not recognized, where the community is participating in the management process through the implementation of its activities.

Without a doubt, this distancing of the state administration does not allow the project to reach similar sustainability to that of the project currently in Plaplaya, which shows weakness in its ability to manage and lobby. The main reasons that weaken the management capacity of these organizations are: difficult access to information and its own unwillingness to systematise and document their experiences, lessons learned and monitor impacts.

To help the local communities reach this ideal: MOPAWI, as an institution, is committed to developing and strengthening technical and management capacities in order to efficiently and professionally carry out the objectives of the mission and to maintain transparent institutional relationships with their associates, beneficiaries and donors.

All of this will aid in recognizing the fair and integrated participation of local stakeholders and communities, contributing to the improvement of the performance of the sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity within the RBRP, allowing the inhabitants to develop their own model of protection, conflict resolution and administrative use.

### DATA AND RESULTS OBTAINED DURING THE 1995-2005 NESTING SEASON OF THE PLAPLAYA SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION PROJECT

Goals Reached	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
D.c.	38	5	41	35	50	28	33	21	2	27	19	299
C.c.	5	2	7	10	3	8	2	3	1	3	2	46
C.m.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	3
E.i.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Nests collected	43	7	48	45	53	36	35	25	3	32	24	351