



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

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#### IAC Annual Report General Instructions

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

Please note that the date to submit this Annual Report is **August 12<sup>th</sup> of 2011**.

#### Part I (General Information)

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

##### a.\_ Focal Point

Institution	Environmental Ministry of Popular Power / National Biological Diversity Office
Name	Dr. Jesús Manzanillo Puppo
Date Annual Report submitted	09/13/2011

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

Name of Agency or Institution	National Biological Diversity Office/ Endangered Species Conservation Unit
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#### Part II (Policy and Management)

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

*In accordance with Articles IX and XVIII of the text of the Convention, each Party shall establish monitoring programs, policies and plans for implementation at a national level for the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitat.*

*As a result, the Party shall report on the action plans, management plan or other types of instruments, describing their location, the species considered and the actions implemented by governmental, non-governmental and private institutions related to sea turtles.*

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

	<b>YES/NO/ In Progress</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Does your country have a national plan of action in accordance with Article XVIII?	<i>In Progress</i>	<p>The 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy (ENCDB) contains the fundamental guidelines that direct conservation actions during the United Nations' decade for Biological Diversity. It includes seven strategic guidelines, which act as technical elements to confront the current situation of the loss of biodiversity, and seven transversal axes encompassing the necessary political and social elements that guarantee conservation with social compromise. These guidelines are comprised of a general objective and various specific objectives and their activities. The latter are the foundation for creating Action Plans, through which specific actions, indicators, goals and stakeholders are defined so that the ENCDB may be applied at a national, regional and local scale. The joint creation of the National Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity is in its final stage.</p> <p>This plan does not deal solely with the conservation of sea turtles, but does so as part of a integrated strategy that sees conservation as an integration of various strategic guidelines (L1 Management of Biological Diversity Information, L2 Endangered Species Conservation, L3 Strategic Conservation Areas and L7 Preventing and Managing Illegal Trafficking and Trade of Species) and all the transversal axes of the National Strategy (E1 Ecosocialist Ethics, E2 Sovereignty, E3 Social Inclusion and Justice, E4 Conservation Education, E5 Environmental Legislation, E6 Conservation Management and E7 International Management and Politics). This integrative vision for the Planning of conservation policies is the only guarantee for the success of conservation plans.</p>



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		<p>The Plan for the Development and Integrated Management of Costal Zones (POGIZC) is also included within the national environmental policies. This plan establishes a spatial and temporal point of reference that guarantees the conservation, sustainable use and exploitation of costal areas and allows for the improvement of the quality of life of the inhabitants. The plan is being carried out in 14 costal States: Anzoátegui, Aragua, Carabobo, Delta Amacuro, Falcón, Miranda, Mérida, Monagas, Nueva Esparta, Sucre, Vargas, Yaracuy and Zulia and the Federal Dependencies.</p> <p>The guidelines followed by the plan are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conserve natural, landscape, historic, archeological and sociocultural resources.</li> <li>2. Strengthen environmental planning and development of costal areas.</li> <li>3. Prevent, control, correct and mitigate the causes that generate pollution in costal areas.</li> <li>4. Guarantee the right to public use of Public Domain of the costal areas through an integrated management.</li> <li>5. Reduce the population's vulnerability against natural or socionatural phenomenon in the costal areas.</li> <li>6. Strengthen the public organizations administrative processes and actions and establish coordination, follow-up and control mechanisms.</li> <li>7. Strengthen environmental education and community participation.</li> <li>8. Guide and promote scientific and technological research in costal areas.</li> <li>9. Permanently reinforce environmental security and control.</li> </ol> <p>The plan has been foreseen to cover a 20 year period, in other words until the year 2030. However, and despite the fact that this coastal planning has a time-frame, it is considered to be an ongoing process and, therefore, it requires a permanent nature, so its actions at a national, state and local level are carried out over the medium and short term in order to obtain long-term results.</p> <p>As an example of one of the activities carried out by the program during the past year is the evaluation of coastal developments with the purpose of correctly using the coastline's construction zone, reorganize the waste water system, build water collectors and protect the associated ecosystems in the Vargas state with the help of the Environmental Ministry of Popular Power, the Capital and Vargas Environmental State Office, the Tourism Ministry, Hydrocapital, the government of the state of Vargas and the community of the Bahía de los Niños.</p>
<p>Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>In progress</i></p>	<p>At a regional scale, the design of the National Project for the Conservation of Sea Turtles has made progrees, encompassing all the marine, costal and insular bioregions of Venezuela. This project seeks to apply the 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy to the conservation of sea turtles, integrating strategic guidelines and transversal axes,</p>



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<p>levels in accordance with Article XVIII?</p>		<p>visualizing a systematic response to the complex problem of the threats to sea turtle populations.</p> <p>The planning tool used at a local level are the Local Action Plans, which constitute the application of the 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy in specific areas, administered by one of more organized communities (for example cooperatives, community councils, student councils, fishermen's councils, university community, institutions, etc.). They are formed on a strong structural foundation and based on a real diagnosis of the problems linked to each of the Strategy's guidelines and axes, thus creating a plan that addresses the local problem of loss of biodiversity in a global and structured manner. This tool allows the communities to decide how the National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy will be applied in their community, utilizing their own local knowledge. In this way, the National Strategy becomes the object of debate that seeks to generate a global and integrated outlook of the problems and solutions, and in the process generating new men and women, and a different reality.</p> <p>Local action plans are currently being created. The Local Action Plan for the Wildlife Refuge and the Laguna de Boca de Caño Fishing Reserve are highlighted here since sea turtle conservation was one of the problems identified and, therefore, a plan is being prepared based on the 7 strategic guidelines and transversal axes of the National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy.</p>
<p>Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?</p>	<p><i>Yes</i></p>	<p>The same National Action Plans, Local Action Plans and National Projects are also considered to be planning and monitoring tools.</p>

In Venezuela, we worked together to create the 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy, within the framework of the National Simon Bolivar Project, the first Socialist Plan for the Nation's Social and Economic Development 2007-2013. This Strategy is based on the humanistic conception that promotes a different kind of relationship between human beings and Mother Earth, in order to encourage an alternative development model based on ecological, cultural, social and political sustainability.

The 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy was created with the simultaneous participation from many of society's sectors (academic, public service workers, aficionados and social organizations) through numerous workshops that took place over the course of 18 months. More than 600 people participated in these workshops nationwide, encouraging its discussion and enriching its diagnosis with different points of view. During the first stage, the main causes of loss of biodiversity were identified on three levels: direct causes (those that directly affect the loss of biodiversity), intermediate causes (those that cause the direct causes) and structural causes (those linked the development model).

As a result of the analysis of the participatory diagnosis of the threats to the Biological Diversity, seven Strategic Guidelines were established, as technical elements to deal with the current situation of the loss of biodiversity and seven transversal axes, which respond to principles established in the Constitution, the



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Laws and the National Simon Bolivar Project 2007-2013 and were identified as necessary political and social elements that guarantee conservation with a social commitment. Of these transversal axes, the first three are characterized as Fundamental Principles in order to guarantee conservation with a social commitment in the framework of building up Socialism in the XXI century.

This powerful method of working together to create the 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy allowed the different stakeholders participating to be involved in developing State policies, generating an emerging conscience while reality is transformed and vice versa, building a successful implementation of the Strategy and guaranteeing *a priori* the compliance of national and international goals for the United Nations' decade of Biological Diversity.

The 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy (ENCDB) contains the fundamental guidelines that direct conservation actions during the United Nations' decade for Biological Diversity. It includes seven strategic guidelines, which act as technical elements to confront the current situation of the loss of biodiversity, and seven transversal axes encompassing the necessary political and social elements that guarantee conservation with social compromise. These guidelines are comprised of a general objective and various specific objectives and their activities. The latter are the foundation for creating Action Plans, through which specific actions, indicators, goals and stakeholders are defined so that the ENCDB may be applied at a national, regional and local scale.

The Action Plans are the result of collaborative efforts using as its foundation, Participative Strategic Planning, a tool that allows the conceptualization, design, execution and evaluation of plans, programs and projects. It is based on two main principles: in the first place: planning in order to ensure that the guidelines of the 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy become a reality, and in second place, the propagandistic participation of various sectors of society. The second principle is accomplished through the *Investigación Acción Participativa (Participative Research Action)*, that gives the same relevance to the scientific and social work that accompanies each process. This method represents an alternative to the current methods of production and information exchange that have become a barrier for the inclusion and expression of societies' transformations. At the same time, it is way to solve problems from the bottom up and for the people, the missing link between human beings and nature. In this way, *Participative Strategic Planning*, as a tool for the creation of Action Plans, joins the State and the people through thinking, reflecting and acting on a way to deal with the threats to Biological Diversity at different levels, promoting a humanistic conception based on equality between humans and Mother Earth.

**Under this scheme, the National Project for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is being collectively built.**

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

*Describe any national regulations, international agreements and other legal instruments adopted during the preceding year (April 30, 20XX-April 30, 20XX) related to sea turtles and/or relevant activities. Provide a 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.*



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<b>National Legislation</b>		
Type and name of legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanctions(s) Imposed
Resolution for restructuring the RAMSAR Committee	An update of the legal framework that accompanies the management of the wetlands was needed in order to keep the management of the wetlands within the new Country model defined by the National Simon Bolivar Project, First Socialist Plan for the Nation 2007-2013 and as expressed in the 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy as a way to guarantee a true sustainable and participative administration of the wetlands not only as strategic areas of conservation, but as an integral part of current water management systems, a place of settlement for many of the county's cultures.	
<b>International Instruments</b>		
Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding		Year signed and/or ratified
NO VARIATIONS		

*Note: If this is the first time a country is submitting this information, please include all pertinent national legislation and international instruments currently in force.*

**c. \_ Actions for compliance with national and international legislation**

**c.1 IAC Resolutions**

*Fill in the following tables for each of the IAC Resolutions listed below. In the case that a Resolution does not apply to your country, please mark the box RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY, and if a specific question does not apply, please mark the column DOES NOT APPLY. If you need more space to describe these actions, please attach additional pages and note the resolution and question number to which you are responding.*



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**Resolution CIT-COP2-2004 R1:** Conservation of leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

**ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP2-2004-R1, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:**

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY	DOES NOT APPLY
			DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	
1a) Have you created conservation plans and long-term programs that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback turtle in the Eastern Pacific?	X		2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy. Line 2: Endangered Species Conservation The National Action Plan is in its final stage of construction. The National Sea Turtle Conservation Project is in the design phase.	
1b) Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?	X		The collective construction of the ENCDB allowed participants to be involved in developing the Strategy, generating an emerging conscience, contributing to the transformation of reality as the individual transforms, and vice versa. The National Action Plan and the Sea Turtle Conservation Project will allow the articulation of actions for the execution and follow-up of the ENCDB.	
2a) Have you taken conservation measures to significantly reduce the use of leatherback turtle products and by-products?	X		The National Biological Diversity Office created the Illegal Trafficking Control and Prevention Unit, which advances actions directed at strengthening the mechanisms for preventing illegal trafficking and trade, implements rapid command actions, promotes the rehabilitation of rescued specimens from illegal trafficking. Conservation initiatives are supported including safe guarding beaches in order to reduce hunting of nesting females and poaching of nests.	
2b) Do you evaluate these conservation measures?	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new Illegal Trafficking Control and Prevention Unit with created with the objective of consolidating a system for the prevention and management of illegal trafficking of this species, based on research, security, rapid command actions and a system</li> </ul>	



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			<p>for rehabilitating live animals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspections are carried out on the beaches and in commercial establishments in order to verify and confirm the illegal sale of sea turtles.</li> <li>• Advice is provided and workshops are given on prevention of trade and illegal trafficking of sea turtles and their products.</li> </ul>	
3a) If your country has leatherback turtle nesting beaches in the Eastern Pacific: Have you taken conservation measures to protect the nesting sites and their associated habitats?				X
3b) Do you evaluate the conservation measures taken to protect those nesting sites and their associated habitats?	X		<p>One of the strategic guidelines of the National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy, is structured around the planning of “Strategic Areas for Conservation,” whose main objective is to preserve and manage spaces of territory that contain natural elements that make them strategic for the Nation due to the social benefits that derive from its conservation and their contribution to the everlasting Supreme Social Happiness. This guideline contains two objectives: 1): Guaranteeing the conservation of habitats and ecosystems and 2) Designing and implementing programs to mitigate impacts and restoration of deteriorated and fragmented ecosystems and strengthen the existing ones. These objectives are articulated into general actions, which are the basis for the Action Plan for the conservation of strategic Areas, which include the primary habitats of endangered species.</p> <p>All the conservation measures within the framework of the National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy are being systemized as part of its follow-up.</p>	
4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?	X		<p>Prohibition of industrial trawling fisheries in all the waters of the Venezuelan territory (Extraordinary Official Gazette N° 5.877, of 03/11/2009), which protects the diversity and the ecosystemic</p>	



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			sustainability in 562,000 square kilometers of the Caribbean Sea.	
5a) Is your country collecting information on incidental capture of leatherbacks in the following fisheries:	X		The Fishing and Aquiculture Socialist Institute (INSOPESCA) has generated a template for observers' reports that is still in a trial phase. The Sea Turtle Registry is used in order to record biological data on the sea turtles observed and/or processed by the observers, and also to register all dead turtles found. This data will be used to determine the number, species, size and condition of the sea turtle populations involved in tuna fisheries in the Caribbean-Atlantic.	
Artisanal fisheries				
i) Long-line				
ii) Gillnets				
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))				
Industrial fisheries				
i) Long-line				
ii) Gillnets				
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))				
5b) Have you provided the IAC with information on incidental capture of leatherbacks in the following fisheries:	X		The 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy considers all information on biological diversity management to be important. Currently, within the framework of the design of the National Sea Turtle Program, a template is being created for reporting basic data, which includes aspects on incidental capture of sea turtles in fisheries.	
Artisanal fishing				
i) Long-line				
ii) Gillnets				
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))				
Industrial fisheries				
i) Long-line				
ii) Gillnets				
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))				
6. Have you established agreements and/or understandings with countries fishing within international waters to adopt fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture of leatherback turtles? List which countries:				



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7. Have you encouraged other non-Party states to the IAC, carrying out activities that affect leatherback turtles, to adopt measures in favor of their conservation, by means of bilateral, multilateral or regional contacts?	X			
8. Have any cooperative agreements or alliances been established with pertinent organizations? List:		X		

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

### Resolution CIT-COP3-2006 R-1: Hawksbill turtle conservation (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

**ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP3-2006-R1, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:**

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY			DOES NOT APPLY
	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	
1. Has your country promoted synergies with other Conventions, treaties, international organizations, and/or regional fisheries bodies on the management and conservation of hawksbill turtles and their habitats? Indicate which one(s).		X		
2 a) Are you strengthening monitoring of the illegal use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products?	X		Meetings are held with the Venezuelan Armed Forces to reinforce security and control activities in order to prevent the transportation and sale of turtle eggs and <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> specimens.	
2 b) Are you enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation?	X			
2 c) Are activities being carried out in order to stop illegal trade of hawksbill products?	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operatives in commercial establishments, in the company of the Bolivarian National Guard, where products made from <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> shell were confiscated, 966 pieces to be sold were confiscated.</li> <li>• Inspections carried out on the beaches and commercial establishments in order to verify and confirm the illegal sale of sea turtles.</li> </ul> Advice is provided and workshops are given on prevention of trade and	



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			illegal trafficking of sea turtles and their products.	
3. Does your country support and strengthen the research and monitoring activities required to improve the scientific basis of conservation measures for the hawksbill turtle? Especially in:	Genetics	<b>X</b>	Identified among one of the research and funding priorities through the National Science and Technology Fund (FONACIT)	
	Migratory behavior	<b>X</b>	Identified among one of the research and funding priorities through the National Science and Technology Fund (FONACIT). Research need: Natural history, status and trends in change of the abundance and distribution of species and priority populations due to their endangered status.	
	Location and conservation status of foraging habitats.	<b>X</b>	Identified among one of the research and funding priorities through the National Science and Technology Fund (FONACIT). Research need: The impact human activities have on biological diversity in the strategic conservation areas, areas under management and sustainable exploitation (forest, agricultural, aquicultural and tourist) and areas not under management.	
	Location and conservation status of prey species.	<b>X</b>	Identified among one of the research and funding priorities through the National Science and Technology Fund (FONACIT). Research need: Natural history, status and trends in change of the abundance and distribution of species and priority populations due to their endangered status.	
	Population dynamics at foraging sites	<b>X</b>	Identified among one of the research and funding priorities through the National Science and Technology Fund (FONACIT). Research need: Natural history, status and trends in change of the abundance and distribution of species and priority populations due to their endangered status.	
	Integrity of nesting habitats	<b>X</b>	Identified among one of the research and funding priorities through the National Science and Technology Fund (FONACIT). Research need: Natural history, status and trends in change of the abundance and distribution of species and priority	



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			populations due to their endangered status.	
	Others (specify)			
4. As indicated in the recommendations from FAO's Technical Meeting on the conservation of marine turtles and fisheries that was held in Bangkok in 2004 and adopted by the 26th Session of FAO's Fisheries Committee (COFI), does your country carry out any activities mentioned in a) and/or b)?	a) Evaluate incidental capture of hawksbill turtles in jurisdictional waters.	X	A template is being designed to report basic data, which includes aspects on incidental capture of sea turtles in fisheries.	
	b) Actions to mitigate incidental capture of hawksbill turtles in their jurisdictional waters.	X	Prohibition of industrial trawl fisheries in all waters of the Venezuelan territory	
5. Does your country apply the precautionary approach when considering proposals for seismic exploration on priority marine habitats of the hawksbill turtle?		X	The Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (National Constituent Assembly of 1999) establishes in Article 129, that "All activities at risk of generating damage to the ecosystems must be previously accompanied by environmental and sociocultural impact studies". For this reason a number of legal instruments are included like the Environmental Organic Law (Official Gazette 5833) that establishes the dispositions and develops the governing principles for environmental management in the framework of a sustainable development as a fundamental right and duty of the State and society in order to contribute to the security of the State and achieve the highest level of well-being for the population and the global sustainability in the interest of humanity. At the same time, it establishes regulations that develop the constitutional guarantees and rights of a safe, healthy, ecologically balanced environment. The procedures established for environmental evaluation are the Regulations for Environmental Evaluation of Activities Susceptible to Deteriorating the Environment (Official Gazette No. 35.946).	



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<p>6. 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.</p>	<p>a) Protection of nesting habitats</p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p>Through the Plan for the Development and Integrated Management of Coastal Zone (POGIZC), the 585 thousand square kilometers of marine areas are systematically studied. The integrative planning and management of the coastal areas linked to environmental, social, cultural and economic aspects that describe a broad and dynamic process, by which the temporal and special interrelations of the systems are understood, as well as the identification of policies for the conservation and sustainability of the coastal ecosystems. In this sense, the implementation of the Venezuela's POGIZC, agrees with the governing principles of the Economic and Social Development Plan for the Nation and the National Territorial Development Plan, especially in regards to the achievement of Supreme Social Happiness and the principles of environmental sustainability, due to the fact that increasing the quality of life within this space is strategically important because it involves 18.20% of the total population and for the fact that it constitutes an important organizational bridge between the aquatic and terrestrial space, as well as containing innumerable and important environmental variables (natural and socioeconomic) of regional, national and international connotation.</p> <p>Surveillance of beaches is carried out with the purpose of guaranteeing the compliance of what is established in the Decree having the equivalent authority of an Organic Law of Coastal Zones, which protects a strip of 80 meters starting from the high-tide line.</p>	
	<p>b) Protection of feeding habitats</p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p>Same as the one before</p>	



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7. Does your country promote exchange of technical capacity and collaborative research on hawksbill habitats among Parties as well as non Parties and other involved organizations in the Area of the Convention?		X		
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(\*) **Specify actions implemented, name of the project or relevant document, location, objective(s), institutions responsible, contact, financial or other support (optional), results (both positive and negative) and duration.**

**Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R2:** Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles

**ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP3-2006-R2, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:**

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
1. 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 adverse impact of fisheries on sea turtles				
• Collect information by fishery		X	The 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy considers the management of information on biological diversity to be very important in the design of the National Sea Turtle Program. A template is being designed to report basic data, which includes aspects of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles.	
• Observer programs		X		
• Research on sea turtle/fishery interactions		X		
• Information on non-Party vessels		X		
• Cooperation with non-Party states to obtain information		X		
B. Mitigation measures for the following fisheries:				
i) Long-line		X	The 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy considers the need to have wildlife rehabilitation centers for their reintroduction to their natural environment later on. In the state of Zulia, the Sea Turtles of the Gulf of Venezuela Working Group carries out rescue, rehabilitation and reintroduction activities with the sea turtles in Gulf of Venezuela.	
ii) Gillnets		X		
iii) Trawling (e.g., 1. TEDs: specify legally approved TEDs, their dimensions, material, and target species for that fishery, 2. time-area	X		Prohibition of Trawl Fisheries	



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closures: specify geographical area, time of closure and target species for that fishery, 3. tow times and/or 4. other measures)			
iv) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))	X		The Decree with Range, Value, and Force of Organic Law of Fisheries and Aquaculture establishes in Article 26 that technologies and fishing gears developed and available will be studied and analyzed in order to reduce the effects on other live resources different from the fishing objective.
<b>C. Training, education and dissemination</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training, education and dissemination activities</li> </ul>	X		<p>The 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy recognizes in its transversal axis conservation education, the need to promote the development of awareness on Biological Diversity through the diffusion and creation of spaces for debate on its social value as national heritage and fundamental resource for the development of the Nation, their threats, and the management policies for their conservation in our country.</p> <p>At the same time, strategic guideline 1 guarantees access to information on biological diversity in order to promote the implementation of the strategic guidelines and transversal axes of the Strategy.</p>
<b>D. Harmonization of policies and legislation</b>			



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modifications to instruments</li> </ul>		X	<p>The 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy recognizes in its transversal axis Environmental Legislation, the need to define and update the Legal Framework that regulates Biological Diversity Management as essential element for the collective and individual sustainable development directed at achieving everlasting Supreme Social Happiness.</p> <p>Currently we are in the final stage of preparing the National Action Plan for Conservation Legislation.</p>	
<b>E. Capacity building</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of a national sea turtle committee/network</li> </ul>		X	<p>The coordination of the National Projects aligned with the 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy is visualized from multidisciplinary work groups with representation from all the sector involved (civil servants, fishermen, students, professors, academics, aficionados, etc.). In this sense, the Sea Turtle Conservation work group will be created in due time.</p>	
<b>F. Financing</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial support obtained to implement guidelines in this resolution</li> </ul>	X		<p>Funding has been obtained from the Environmental Ministry of Popular Power, the Science, Technology and Intermediate Industries Ministry of Popular Power through FONACIT and the Zoo and Aquariums Foundation.</p>	
<b>G. Socio-economic considerations</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles</li> </ul>			<p>The Bolivarian Missions have been constituted as the fundamental strategy to achieve social inclusion in a massive and accelerated manner, with the purpose of surpassing social inequalities and poverty, which is one of the challenges for the conservation of the Biological</p>	



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	X	<p>Diversity, as well as promoting the responsible and rational use of the ecosystems satisfying social needs, as the only way to conserve the ecosystems and the species. Also within the National Food Security Strategy and National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy the exploitation of the diversity was discussed. It is one of the essential links between the human being and the rest of nature and when it this occurs in a sustainable way, it is the basis for sovereignty and collective and individual development of present and futures generations. In this sense, State policies link the topic of biological diversity conservation to food, territorial and agroecological sovereignty. For the Bolivarian Government, the eradication of poverty, without sovereignty over natural resources, without political autonomy and under new schemes of neocolonialism, is unfeasible. The capture of rent that benefits small groups and expands the exclusion to majorities submerged in the web of global regulations is intolerable and threatens the principle of sovereignty. Starting from this premise, the collection of strategies, plans and projects that are being promoted, are framed within a development proposal that “bases its roots in the fusion of the most advanced values and principles of socialism’s humanist trends and the historical heritage of Simon Bolivar’s thoughts” in order to achieve a “inclusive social structure and new social, productive, humanistic, and endogenous model” that is the First Socialist Economic and Social Development Plan of the Nation” for the 2007– 2013</p>
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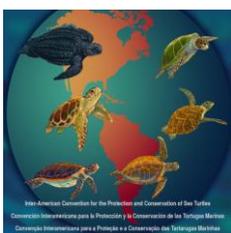
			period. These guidelines combine the eradication of poverty, social inclusion and democratic values with the protection of nature by proposing a new relationship between the human being and Mother Earth, participating in the decisions, productive models with low environmental impact, territorial restructuring so that it responds to the environmental historic and cultural realities, and new international relations where sovereignty becomes an essential value and relationships with other countries are based on mutual respect.	
H. Other aspects				
• Environmental impact studies for mariculture projects		X		
2. Sent information and documents on sea turtles created by your country to the Secretariat of the Convention? List documents.				
3. Initiated activities that assist the Convention Secretariat in contacting non Party States through established mechanisms, especially in the area of the Convention, so that they may provide, in a cooperative spirit, the Secretariat with available data on incidental sea turtle catches in their fisheries?		X		
4. Supports the Convention Secretariat, through established mechanisms, to commence discussions with regional fishery management organizations in order to develop Memorandum of Understandings.		X		

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

**Resolution CIT-COP4-2009-R5: Adaptation of sea turtle habitats to climate change**

**ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP4-2009-R5, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:**

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
1 a) Have marine and coastal habitats on which sea turtles depend been included in national plans and programs for adaptation to climate change? Specify habitats and plans	X		The Environmental Ministry of Popular Power, through the Hydrographic Basins Office, published in 2005 the "First National Communication on Climate Change of Venezuela." This report made	



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			<p>it possible to determine the country's climatic vulnerability, associated impacts and adaptation measures.</p> <p>Currently, the national climate change mitigation program is being constructed, which is meant to be promoted as a collective construction similar to the one done for the current 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy. One of the key programs for the integrated management of the coastal zones is the Adaptation to Climate Change in Coastal Areas.</p> <p>On the other hand, the National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy considers it necessary to generate information on the immediate and future impact of climate change on Biological Diversity, which includes detecting vulnerabilities and the implementation of adaptation and mitigation plans. A convincing step for the adaptation and mitigation in all ecosystems was the one obtained in the climate change negotiations by the ALBA block that was discusses in Cancun 2010, as well as the active participation in the World's People Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of the Mother Earth.</p>	
1 b) Are these plans for adaptation to climate change being implemented?		X	In the planning process	
2 a) Are corrective measures and measures on adaptation to climate change included within management plans and/or protection and conservation programs for sea turtles and their habitats?	X		Yes, the National Plan of Action considers as a specific action the identification of species and ecosystems sensitive to the effects of climate change and mitigation and adaptation measures.	
2 b) Are you evaluating the corrective measures				



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and measures on adaptation to climate change included within management plans and/or protection and conservation programs for sea turtles and their habitats?		X	In the planning process	
3. Have you identified any organizations or pertinent expert groups as possible partners to work on the topic of adaptation by sea turtles to climate change? Please list.	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea Turtles of the Venezuelan Gulf Work Group (GTTM-GV)</li> <li>• Margarita Marine Research Station (EDIMAR)</li> <li>• VIDA Y MAR</li> <li>• SEA VIDA</li> <li>• Social Institute for Fisheries and Aquiculture (INSOPESCA)</li> <li>• Foundation for the Defense of Nature (FUDENA)</li> <li>• BIOCOSTAS</li> <li>• Fish Research Laboratory “Dr. Lino Jesús Hernández Correa” (FEC-LUZ)</li> <li>• Venezuelan Biodiversity Conservation (ConBIVE)</li> <li>• Sea Turtle Research and Conservation Center (CICTMAR)</li> <li>• Los Roques Scientific Foundation (FCLR)</li> <li>• La Tortuga Foundation</li> <li>• National Agricultural Research Institute– Agricultural Research Institute of Sucre and Nueva Esparta (INIA Sucre y Nueva Esparta)</li> <li>• Comité Conservación Tortuga en Resistencia</li> <li>• Oceanographic Institute of Venezuela– Eastern University, Núcleo de Sucre (UDO-IOV)</li> <li>• Venezuelan Scientific Research Institute. Ecological Center. Ecological and Populational Genetics Laboratory (LEGP-CE-IVIC)</li> <li>• National Parks Institute (INPARQUES).</li> <li>• Environmental Ministry of Popular Power (Minamb).</li> <li>• Science, Technology and Intermediate Industries Ministry of Popular Power (MCTI).</li> </ul>	



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Studies Institute (IDEA).</li> <li>• National Universities</li> <li>• Las Delicias Zoo</li> <li>• Sea Turtle Work Group Nueva Esparta (GTTM-NE).</li> <li>• Social Battle Room Josefa Camejo de la Comuna in construction Fuerza Chaquetía Revolucionaria.</li> <li>• La Sabana community, Vargas state.</li> <li>• Macuro community, Sucre state.</li> </ul>	
4. Have you carried out research and monitoring to improve knowledge of the effects on, and vulnerability of sea turtles and their habitats, to climate change?	X	Research has not been performed yet, however, we are searching for funding at a government level as well as non governmental in order to perform studies that will create a base line in order to learn the effects and vulnerabilities of sea turtles against climate change.	
5. Has your country hosted capacity building workshops for monitoring techniques and/or adaptation to climate change?	X	Currently, the national climate change mitigation program is being constructed.	
6. Has your country implemented mitigation measures for non-climatic threats as a way to improve the resilience of populations to the impacts of climate change? Specify which ones.	X	The Coastal Areas Development and Management Plan (OGIZC) contains a Recovery and Sanitation Program for all the coastal areas that seeks to restore the characteristics of the elements of the coastal environment that have been altered or deteriorated by human or natural causes. It also treats coastal erosion in a systematic manner, adopting long term measures with an emphasis on rehabilitating the coastal wetlands and mangroves, and if it is necessary, the establishment of soft protective structures (artificial foraging in beaches, dune management and recovery of the public domain). For the project, 67 coastal localities have been identified where immediate actions will be carried out in	



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

### c.2 National and International Mandates

List actions that are being carried out to comply with national and international mandates (Ex: inspections, confiscations, sanctions, etc.)

### d. Application[submission] of exceptions established in the Convention

Describe in detail the exceptions allowed in accordance with article IV, item 3(a,b,d) and Annex IV of the text of the Convention, in accordance to the procedure established by the COP (Doc. CIT-COP5-2011-R2). Attach management program.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not carry out any program that contemplates the extractive use of sea turtles due to the fact the existing legal regulations do not allow the use of these species.

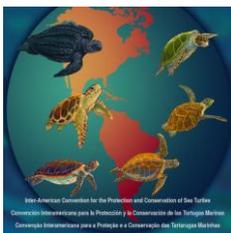
## Part III (Research information)

### a. Threats

Describe threats (**Coastal development, incidental capture, direct use, contamination and pathogens, and climate change**) by species, with information on the area and activities taken to control them in the following table. Lo = *Lepidochelys olivacea*; Lk = *Lepidochelys kempii*; Dc = *Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei = *Eretmochelys imbricata*; Cc = *Caretta caretta*; Cm = *Chelonia mydas*.

These actions and threats were the result of various workshops carried out over the course of 18 months with the participation of 1600 people, where discussion was encouraged and the diagnosis enriched by different points of view. The objective of these workshops was to create the 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy. In this sense, the threats and their correlation with the strategic guidelines and transversal axis of the ENCDB are shown, indicating the conservation actions needed to ensure the conservation of sea turtles.

Species	Threat(s)	Actions
Lo	<b>Direct threats:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction, degradation and fragmentation of ecosystems</li> <li>• Non-sustainable exploitation of Biological Diversity</li> <li>• Illegal trafficking</li> </ul>	<b>Strategic Guidelines:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Conservation Areas</li> <li>• Sustainable Exploitation</li> <li>• Prevention and administration of illegal trafficking and sale of species</li> </ul>



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	<p><b>Intermediary threats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social exclusion and unequal distribution of benefits</li> <li>• Ignorance of the importance of Biological Diversity</li> <li>• Weaknesses in the legal framework of Biological Diversity</li> <li>• Weaknesses in Biological Diversity Conservation Management</li> </ul> <p><b>Structural threats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Model</li> </ul>	<p><b>Transversal Axes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Inclusion and Justice</li> <li>• Conservation Education</li> <li>• Environmental Legislation</li> <li>• Conservation Management</li> <li>• International Management and Politics</li> </ul> <p><b>Principles:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecosocialist ethics</li> <li>• Sovereignty</li> <li>• Social Inclusion and Justice</li> </ul>
Lk	<i>idem</i>	<i>idem</i>
Dc	<i>idem</i>	<i>idem</i>
Ei	<i>idem</i>	<i>idem</i>
Cm	<i>idem</i>	<i>idem</i>
Cc	<i>idem</i>	<i>idem</i>

#### ***b.\_ Research***

*Describe scientific research that is being carried out in the country relating to sea turtle population assessments including tagging, migration, and genetic studies, as well as those relating to conservation issues including habitat monitoring, fisheries interactions, disease, etc. Provide a list of references for the information used in this report and note how to obtain them when needed.*

#### **Monitoring and Conservation of Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) Population in the Aves Island Wildlife Refuge (Federal Dependencies)**

Environmental Ministry of Popular Power/ONDB. The details of this project were presented in the 2010 report.

During 2010, nocturnal patrols were performed through the different sectors of the island, between 8 pm and 3 am between July and November (07/30 to 11/09/2010). 669 females were tagged and 436 recaptured. 1,445 nestings were registered and 110,000 turtles were born.

#### **Sea Turtle Conservation in the Gulf of Paria**

Clemente Balladares Castillo, Nesvic Mata and Eva Dubois  
Environmental Ministry of Popular Power  
[cballadares@minamb.gob.ve](mailto:cballadares@minamb.gob.ve)



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5 species of sea turtles are found in Venezuela: leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), which are cataloged as endangered and of the 5 species, all except the Olive Ridley, nests along our coasts. In framework of the 2010-2020 National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy, specifically the strategic guideline on Conservation of Endangered Species that contemplates the development of specific actions directed at the recovery of their populations, the Sea Turtle Conservation Project has been carried out for the past seven years by the Environmental Ministry of Popular Power in the beaches adjacent to the town of Macuro (Sucre state), where throughout a long nesting season (March – September) three species of chelonians lay eggs: *Dermochelys coriacea*, *Eretmochelys imbricata* and *Chelonia mydas*. The objective of the project is to promote the conservation and management of these species in the Gulf of Paria. 100 females of these three species lay eggs each year on the beaches of Yacua, Cerezo, Obispo, Silvano and Los Garzos, this last one receiving the most nests. The highest number of nesting turtles occurs in July, with an average of 24.6 nests. Nests that are endangered by floods or predators are relocated to a protected area in the town of Macuro. The total number of hatchlings released in 2010 reached 23,498, with an annual average hatching success of 24.31% minimum and 52.07% maximum. The project also includes giving talks on conservation, beach cleanups, training of local assistants and hatchling release activities along with the macureña community. Personnel from other environmental state offices also participate in the development of the project.

#### **Towards a socially integrated ecosystem between the inhabitants of La Sabana Parroquia Caruao, Edo. Vargas and their sea turtles**

Marina de Jesús Blanco; Marina Blanco and Yolimar Rodríguez  
Environmental Conservation Brigade of La Sabana  
[olyca@hotmail.com](mailto:olyca@hotmail.com)

Objective: Incorporate the inhabitants of La Sabana in the construction of a Sea Turtle Management Program. Background: Community organizations from this locality in 2005 formed an Integrated Network for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in order to watch over their habitats due to nest aggressions as well as standings of specimens from different species in the Boca de Santa Clara (Playa Paraíso), La Boca and La Canal Beaches located in La Sabana. Actions carried out by the community: 1) Link with the National Biological Diversity Office of the MINAMB in order to design a Sea Turtle Conservation Program for the sector, 2) Community-Institution Integration meetings on conservation activities for this species in the sectors: Macuro, Isla de Aves, Los Testigos and Edo. Vargas, 3) Presentation of the National Sea Turtle Conservation Plan to the Coastal Area Work Committee of Vargas state and to the Mayor of the Vargas Municipality, 4) “La Primavera” (Spring) Parade, as a traditional activity, highlighting the values for the protection of sea turtles, and the development of murals around this theme, 5) the Turtle Conservation Brigade identifies, guards and transfers embryos in artificial nests until the turtles are released with the support of the Capital and Vargas Environmental State Office. Socioenvironmental importance for the community: Brigades formed by inhabitants promote integration activities directed at the protection of the species and they become permanent guardians of the reproduction conditions of the turtles. Benefits obtained: A community volunteer program has been formed that is articulated in the Environmental Ministry of Popular Power in the variety of actions for the conservation of sea turtles.

#### **Oritapo Project: Community monitoring and conservation of sea turtles**

Draichir A Cabello G; Vanessa Ilukewitsch; Alejandro Moreno; Moisés Gamero; Eliana Blanco; Rafael Escobar and Saúl Gutiérrez

ConBiVe Civil Association – Conservation of Venezuelan Biodiversity



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[rafa.escobar.388@gmail.com](mailto:rafa.escobar.388@gmail.com), [saguti1@gmail.com](mailto:saguti1@gmail.com)

There are currently 7 species of sea turtles worldwide, of which 5 are reported in Venezuela. In the beaches east of Edo. Vargas, the hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) have been reported nesting. The area studied is in the Oritapo locality, Vargas state, where evaluations will be carried out from month of March to October during these species' reproductive season. In Vargas, a very important impact of anthropic origin and other physical and biologic factors has been reported affecting sea turtles, for which a dramatic reduction in the number of turtles laying eggs and the loss of a great number of nests per season has been seen. This leads to the current project proposal for the conservation of sea turtles with the purpose of determining the impact on these species aimed at devising pertinent conservation strategies with the local community support. In order to do this, sea turtle nesting beaches on the coasts of Parroquia Caruao, Edo. Vargas are monitored with the purpose of characterizing these spaces, information that will allow for the systematic evaluation of the reproductive process of these species during nesting season. Along with other biological data of interest, the causes that affect the survival and ecological equilibrium of sea turtles and the ecosystem will be determined. In the same way, environmental education activities will be carried out with the community including talks, workshops, practical courses and work tables, adding to the participation of local inhabitants, professionals, students, institutions and individuals identified with the mission of this conservation initiative. Allowing the communities of the coast of Edo. Vargas to be directly involved in the conservation of an something of incalculable value, like the Venezuelan biodiversity is and the healthy balance of our ecosystems from which important factor depend which have been very affected during the past years like fisheries, our town's sustenance.

#### **Management, conservation and monitoring of the sea turtle populations on the Complejo Petroquímico Morón, Carabobo state coastline.**

Pedro David Vernet Paravisini and Arelis Quintero  
GTTM-NE  
[pedrovernet@gmail.com](mailto:pedrovernet@gmail.com)

Since 2008, Pequiven S.A. and Palmichal S.C., taking into account the importance of these highly endangered species, have implemented a project along 11 km of coast between the mouths of the Morón and Yaracuy rivers with the purpose of carrying out sea turtle conservation and monitoring works including: base line, monitoring populations, activities to mitigate impacts, environmental education and training involving the community. In this way, 4 of the 7 strategic guidelines of the ENCDB are included in an ethical, sovereign and inclusive manner, managing and educating in conservation processes. In order to do this, beach surveys were done through periodically walking the beach and direct observation, as well as training activities and information exchange, and solid waste collection campaigns on nesting beaches. A total of 87 nests were protected in 2008 belonging to 4 species: Leatherback with 21 nests (36,78%), Hawksbill, 48 (55,17%), Green turtle, 3 (3,45%) and Loggerhead, 4 (4,60%). Nesting season is between February and August, with the highest activity between April and with a concentration of 63,21% (n=55) of the nests. The status of the nests were registered, determining that 68,75% of the nests hatched, 3,13% had been poached and 28,13% was undetermined. Four impacts were identified: presence of solid waste, lights, liquid waste discharge and nest poaching. The implementation of mitigation measures will be gradual. It started with the recollection and classification of solid wastes working with the community where 34.2 tons of waste have been collected. In order to spread awareness, 392 school-aged children and 366 adults from the community have been involved and 84 people have been trained in conservation work.



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#### **Sea Turtle research and conservation in the Paria (Cipara and Querepare), Sucre state.**

Hedelvy Guada

Sea Turtle Research and Conservation Center [hjguada@gmail.com](mailto:hjguada@gmail.com)

This project's objectives are: protection of females and their nests, document biological information of nesting females like shell measures, general conditions, reproductive data, identification and tagging of the nesting females, improve public conscience on the endangered condition of sea turtles. Training sessions were carried out with students, teachers and residents for the research and conservation work and promoted economic alternatives to generating income like creating handcrafts and ecotourism. In 2010, new females were tagged (51 Dc, 1Cc and 4 Cm in the beaches of Cipara locality, and 39 Dc and 1 Cc in Querepare). On the other hand, the nestings were taken to protected corral or other safe are in Cipara and Querepare, respectively, in order to protect the nestings from the tides, erosion and poaching. The eggs were collected directly from the cloaca with a plastic bag while the female was laying them, eliminating the possibility of the eggs getting covered in sand. Some nests from turtles that were not observed were extracted in situ and relocated to the hatchery. In total, 2698 Dc and 496 Cc were released in Cipara, while in Querepare 5835 Dc and 165 Cc were released.

#### ***c. \_ Other activities***

*Include information on: environmental education activities, programs to establish and manage protected areas, and cooperative activities with other Party countries.*

During the “International Biological Diversity Year 2010,” the Environmental Ministry of Popular Power and given the importance of the preservation of sea turtles in the state of Vargas, with the participation of the La Sabana organized community, , Parroquia Caruao of the Vargas state, the following activities were carried out:

#### **a.-3 meetings took place in schools and different places in the community**

1. In the educational unit “Liceo Bolivariano Caruao”, with the purpose of exchanging experiences with the Sea Turtle Environmental Education Program that the ONDB carried out in the La Sabana community and the rest of the entities in the State.
2. Meeting with the personnel from the educational unit “Liceo Bolivariano Caruao” la Sabana population, with the purpose of planning activities related to the “Spring Day” (activity that is carried out the first Friday of June and that in 2010, primarily focused on biological diversity and the conservation of sea turtles) and recycling workshops.
3. Meeting with the Oritapo community in order to discuss and plan strategies concerning Surveillance and Control.

#### **b.- Elaboration of Environmental Murals allusive to sea turtles**

**c.-** Execution of the first environmental education workshop and creation of handcrafts with recycled material, sea turtle posters.

**d.-** Participation on the parade along with the La Sabana community, Vargas state, in commemoration of Spring Day, tradition kept by this varguense population.



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e.- A field trip to the La Sabana town and marine coast took place looking for sea turtle nests. This activity was done performing night patrols, where we were able to verify tracks and attempted nestings of sea turtles, as well as detect egg shells already hatched in the days previous to the night patrol.

f.- Thanks to the intervention of the community, a nest of 40 hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) turtle eggs which had been poached by local residents was rescued and 14 hatchlings were saved.

#### Environmental education activities and community outreach

During 2010, CICTMAR emphasized the fact that the “International Biological Diversity Year” was being celebrated worldwide and the importance that in the Arismendi Municipality, sea turtle protection activities have been carried out for many years. 35 activities were carried out in schools from 13 communities, in which 846 students, 61 teachers and 12 Comprehensive Education interns participated.

In 2010, 3 talks were offered to military personnel in San Juan de Las Galdonas and in Río Caribe with a total of 37 participants. On July 7, 2010, the “I Short Course on Sea Turtles for Civil and Military Authorities” was taught with 22 participants in Comando de Guarnición de Carúpano.

In 2010, talks were held with 10 communities with a total of 22 participants where important contacts were established and interest towards sea turtle protection activities was detected.

#### Informative Brochures

PETROLEOS DE VENEZUELA (PDVSA), through Public Affairs Department, prepared an informational brochure about the correct behavior in a sea turtle nesting beach. The brochure was prepared in Spanish and “patois”. The objective of the visit called “Ecological Patrol” was to create environmental awareness in the employees. In 2010, various groups from PDVSA performed a second “Ecological Patrol” day.

#### Courses

Sea turtle biology and conservation course in foraging grounds taught by Zulia University, Experimental Faculty of Science, and Biology Department. Responsible: Héctor Barrios. It was taught in 2010 in Maracaibo, Zulia state.

Sea turtle conservation genetics and medicine course. Course taught by the non-profit civil association VIDA Y MAR. Date: August 20-22, 2010. Place: Zulia state, Maracaibo. Objective: teach basic knowledge about conservation medicine, biology (ecology and genetics applied to sea turtles) and biosecurity.

Venezuelan sea turtle biology and conservation course taught by the Sea turtle Research and Conservation Center (CICTMAR) since 1993 until the present. Responsible: Hedelvy Guada.

#### Informative articles

Articles in magazines: The encounter of a community with Sea Turtles. Magazine: Sala de Espera Venezuela (Waiting Room Venezuela). Date: April 4, 2011. Topic: Tells the story of the beginnings and accomplishments of this sea turtle conservation initiative in Costa del Estado Vargas, primarily the Oritapo population. Project Oritapo. Convive.



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## Television and Radio

Media: Radio y Televisión Española a la carta (rtve.es). Program: Acción directa. Date: April 3, 2011.  
Topic: Tell the story of group of young Venezuelans that have created a sea turtle protection group in the Costa del Estado Vargas, primarily the Oritapo population. Project Oritapo. Convive.

## Publications

**Rondón Médicci, M., J. Buitrago y H. J. Guada.** 2010. Biología reproductiva de la tortuga cardón (*Dermochelys coriacea*) en las playas Cipara y Querepare, Península de Paría, Venezuela, durante las temporadas de anidación 2000-2006. Interciencia, Abril.

**Buitrago, J., H. J. Guada, V. de Los Llanos.** 2010. Efectos del traslado de nidadas a viveros en el éxito reproductivo de tortugas marinas en el Caribe. Pp: 105-112. En: R. De Oliveira-Miranda, J. Lessmann, A. Rodríguez-Ferraro y F. Rojas-Suárez (eds.). Ciencia y conservación de especies amenazadas en Venezuela: Conservación Basada en Evidencias e Intervenciones Estratégicas. Provita, Caracas, Venezuela, 234 pp.



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#### Part IV: Annexes

**Table 1: Species Present**

*Place an X in the box when the species listed is present in the oceanographic basins of your country as established in Article III of the text of the Convention. Lo = *Lepidochelys olivacea*; Lk = *Lepidochelys kempii*; Dc = *Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei = *Eretmochelys imbricata*; Cm = *Chelonia mydas*; Cc = *Caretta caretta*.*

Species	Pacific Ocean	Atlantic Ocean	Caribbean Sea
Lo			X
Lk			X
Dc			X
Ei			X
Cm			X
Cc			X



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**Table 2: Important nesting sites for sea turtle conservation**

- a. *This table is intended to report information on the priority nesting beaches (for example, sites with greater abundance, endemism, genetic importance, others) for each species. For beaches that have multiple species nesting, enter that beach under the list for the primary nesting species. When entering information on nesting beaches, information is to be entered for each species independently. Indicate the names of nesting sites and the nesting season months for each site.*
- b. *Geographic location: Specify latitude and longitude in degrees, minutes and seconds - provide one or two points of reference for nesting sites (if available).*
- c. *Extension: Provide the total length (in Kilometers) of the nesting beach.*
- d. *Declared protection area: Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area.*
- e. *Protection measures: Indicate if any type of protection measures are in place at the nesting site (For example, turtle safe lights).*
- f. *Annual nesting abundance: Where possible, provide information on the total number of females and/or nests deposited at the nesting beach. If a specific value is not available, please provide a range for annual number of nesting females or nests deposited. If data are unavailable, enter 'unknown' or 'unavailable'. The ranges for annual number of females are: 0-10, 11-100, 101-500, 501-1000, 1001-5000, 5001-10000, 10001-50000, 50001-100000, >100000. The ranges for annual number of nests are: 0-10, 11-100, 101-500, 501-1000, 1001-5000, 5001-10000, 10001-100000, 100001-500000, >500000. On a separate sheet, provide a brief description/justification on why each site that was mentioned is considered important (sites with greater abundance, endemism, genetic, others). Include historical information (graphic and/or tables) showing the population status of each species present at the site.*
- g. *Information from tagging program: Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the nesting beach. This includes flipper tagging, passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry programs. If possible, on a separate sheet or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available.*
- h. *Tissue sampling: Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, or as attached references, describe these tissue sampling programs in greater detail. For example, were samples collected for genetic, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies?*



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Spp	Name of Priority Nesting Site (Regular nesting)	Season	Geographic Location (Lat/Long) in Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds																								Extension (km)	Declared Protection Area	Protection Measures	Annual Nesting Abundance		Tagging Program	Tissue Sampling
			Beginning												Ending															Females	Clutches		
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'							
Lo			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N									
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N									
Lk			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N									
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N									
Dc	Querepáre (62°52'O, 10°42'N)	Marzo-Agosto 2010	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	1,8	No	Yes	39*	141	Yes	No		
	Cipara (62°42" O, 10°45'N)	Marzo-Agosto 2010	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	2,06	No	Yes	51*	114	Yes	No		
	Macuro	Marzo-October 2010																							No	Yes		16	None	No			
	Beaches between the the Morón and Yaracuy Rivermou		10°30'51" N 68°10'50" W to 10°35'00" N 68°10'32" W	Aprox. 11	No	Yes		24	None	No																							





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

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**Table 3: Important in-water sites for sea turtle conservation**

- a. *This table is intended to contain information for the priority in-water sites for each species. For marine habitats that have multiple species present, enter the specific site under the heading for the priority species at that site. Indicate whether or not there is in water occurrence and/or foraging sites for that species.*
- b. *Geographic location: Describe the in-water site in general, providing the name of the site and points of reference at sea, when available. If possible add the geographic location in Lat/Long coordinates.*
- c. *Declared protection area: Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area.*
- d. *Information from tagging program: Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the in-water site. This includes flipper tagging, passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry programs. If possible, on a separate sheet, or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available.*
- e. *Tissue sampling: Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, or as attached references describe these tissue sampling programs in greater detail. For example, were samples collected for genetic, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies?*

Species		Description of geographic location	Declared Protection Area	Tagging Program	Tissue Sampling
Lo	In water Occurrence				
	Foraging Sites				
Lk	In water Occurrence				
	Foraging Sites				
Dc	In water Occurrence	Waters of the Gulf of Venezuela and Guajira Peninsula ( Venezuelan Northwest)	No	None	No
	Foraging Sites				
Ei	In water Occurrence	Rocky coasts of the state of Vargas between Los Caracas and Caruao	No	None	No
	Foraging Sites				
Cm	In water Occurrence				
	Foraging Sites				
Cc	In water Occurrence				
	Foraging Sites				