

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

Argentina

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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

Please note that the date to submit this Annual Report is **April 30th of 2012**.

Part I (General Information)

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

a._ Focal Point

Institution	Ministry of Foreign and Religious Affairs
Name	Ambassador Silvia Mérega: Political Focal Point
Institution	National Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development
Name	Mg. María Laura Tombesi: Technical Focal Point
Date Annual Report submitted	April of 2012

b._ Agency or Institution responsible for preparing this report

Name of Agency or Institution	National Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development
Name of the person responsible for completing this report	Débora Jessica Winter
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c._ Others who participated in the preparation of this report

Name	Agency or Institution	E-mail
Jorgelina del Pilar Oddi	National Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development	joddi@ambiente.gob.ar
Diego Albareda	Argentina's Regional Program for Sea Turtle Research and Conservation (PRICTMA)	diego.albareda@gmail.com
Marcelo Silva Croome	National Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development	msilva@ambiente.gob.ar
Ricardo Emanuel Negreira	National Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development	rnegreira@ambiente.gob.ar

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.

	YES/NO/ In Progress	Comments
Does your country have a national plan of action in accordance with Article XVIII?	NO	
Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional levels in accordance with Article XVIII?	NO	
Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?	NO	



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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, 2011-April 30, 2012) 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.

National Legislation		
Because Argentina is a Federal Country that has both national and local legislation only those regulations for the Provinces of Buenos Aires and Rio Negro are mentioned because sea turtles are found in these areas.		
Type and name of legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanctions(s) Imposed
Law 22.421	Wildlife Law for National Territory	Year 1981
Decree 666/97	Regulations for Wildlife Law 22.421	Year 1997
Law 24.922	Federal Fishing Regulations	Year 1997
Decree 748/99	Regulations for Fisheries Law 24.922	Year 1999
Provincial Law 12.558	Adhesion of the Province of Buenos Aires to the Federal Fishing Law 24.922	Year 2000
Provincial Law 3379	Adhesion of the Province of Río Negro to the Fishing Law 24.922	Year 2000
Resolution 3/2001 of the Federal Fisheries Council (CFP)	Entrust the National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP) with the task of quantifying how many reptiles, birds and marine mammals are captured	Year 2001
Resolution SA and DS 513/07	Prohibits hunting, capture, transporting between provinces, trade at the federal jurisdictional level and exporting live	Year 2007



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	specimens, products and subproducts of wildlife, which includes sea turtles in its Annex I.	
Resolution 86/2010	Resolution for the Province of Buenos Aires regarding the wildlife rescue program that includes rescuing sea turtles from fishing activities.	Year 2010
International Instruments		
Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding		Year signed and/or ratified
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES): Law 22.344		1981
Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, 1971): Laws 23.919 and 25.335		1992
Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): Ley 23.918		1992
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): Law 24.375		1994
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (CONVEMAR): Law 24.543		1995
Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC): Law 26.600		2011

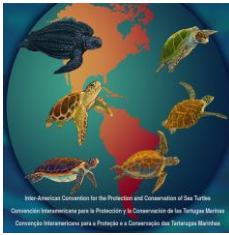
Note: If this is the first time a country is submitting this information, please include all pertinent national legislation and international instruments currently in force.

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.

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



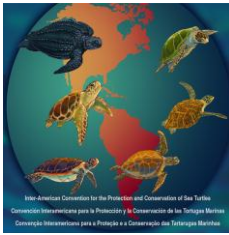
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ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP2-2004-R1, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY	
			DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
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
1b) Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?				X
2a) Have you taken conservation measures to significantly reduce the use of leatherback turtle products and by-products?				X
2b) Do you evaluate these conservation measures?				X
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
4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?		X		
5a) Is your country collecting information on incidental capture of leatherbacks in the following fisheries:				
Artisanal fisheries				
i) Long-line		X		
ii) Gillnets	X			
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))		X		
Industrial fisheries				
i) Long-line		X		
ii) Gillnets		X		
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))	X		Pair trawling	
5b) Have you provided the IAC with information on incidental capture of leatherbacks in the following fisheries:				
Artisanal fishing				
i) Long-line		X		
ii) Gillnets		X		
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))		X		
Industrial fisheries				
i) Long-line		X		



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ii) Gillnets		X		
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))		X		
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:		X		
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*)

Note: Only 2 sporadic registers of hawksbill turtles have been recorded in Argentina since 2004.

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

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY			X
	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
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).				
2 a) Are you strengthening monitoring of the illegal use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products?				
2 b) Are you enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation?				
2 c) Are activities being carried out in order to stop illegal trade of hawksbill 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?	Genetics			
	Migratory behavior			
	Location and conservation status of foraging habitats.			
	Location and conservation status of prey species.			



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Especially in:	Population dynamics at foraging sites				
	Integrity of nesting habitats				
	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.				
	b) Actions to mitigate incidental capture of hawksbill turtles in their jurisdictional waters.				
5. Does your country apply the precautionary approach when considering proposals for seismic exploration on priority marine habitats of the hawksbill turtle?					
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.	a) Protection of nesting habitats				
	b) Protection of feeding habitats				
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?					

(*) **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				

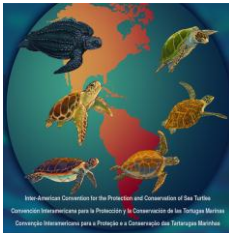


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United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), including:				
A. Research and monitoring of adverse impact of fisheries on sea turtles				
• Collect information by fishery	X		Survey and bycatch studies (Work done by González Carman <i>et al.</i> 2011) (See Part III, point b)	
• Observer programs	X		There is an Onboard Observer Program and Regional Programs directed at specific fisheries	
• Research on sea turtle/fishery interactions	X		Studies by Albareda <i>et al.</i> 2007b, Albareda <i>et al.</i> 2008 and González Carman <i>et al.</i> 2011 (See Part III, point b).	
• 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		
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 closures: specify geographical area, time of closure and target species for that fishery, 3. tow times and/or 4. other measures)		X		
iv) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))		X		
C. Training, education and dissemination				
• Training, education and dissemination activities	X		Technical training for scientific research and management institutions (Alte. Storni Institute, IADO, UNMdP, SAyDS, PNA) and for Onboard Observer Programs (Alte. Storni Institute of the Río Negro Province and INIDEP of the Province of Buenos Aires) (See course details Part III, point c).	
D. Harmonization of policies and legislation				
• Modifications to instruments		X		
E. Capacity building				
• Creation of a national sea turtle committee/network		X		
F. Financing				
• Financial support obtained to implement guidelines in this resolution		X		
G. Socio-economic considerations				
• Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles		X		



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H. Other aspects				
• Environmental impact studies for mariculture projects				
2. Sent information and documents on sea turtles created by your country to the Secretariat of the Convention? List documents.		X	No, given the recent ratification of the Convention	
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	Although Argentina has not specifically been working on adaptation of habitats to climate change, under the framework of the Governmental Committee on Climate Change, it has prepared the first document on the "National Strategy for Climate Change", which was ratified by the hierarchies in November of 2010. This document is currently being reviewed in the second phase of the process, by consulting NGO representatives, the Labor Association, the private sector and academic and scientific backgrounds. This strategy will contemplate questions regarding adaptation and mitigation among different environments.	
1 b) Are these plans for adaptation to climate change being implemented?		X		
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		



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2 b) Are you evaluating the 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		
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		
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		
5. Has your country hosted capacity building workshops for monitoring techniques and/or adaptation to climate change?		X		
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		

(*) **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.)

Two aquariums were inspected in the Province of Buenos Aires and 1 in the City of Buenos Aires: Mundo Marino, located in San Clemente of Tuyú, and the Mar del Plata Aquarium and Buenos Aires Aquarium, located the Federal Capital (National Wildlife Law 22.421 and its Regulatory Decree 666/97 and Resolution 86/2010 of the Province of Buenos Aires).

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. DOES NOT APPLY TO ARGENTINA.

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



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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*.

Species	Threat(s)	Actions
Lo		
Lk		
Dc	Bycatch and marine contamination from waste	Research studies carried out by NGOs and scientific institutions to understand the problem.
Ei		
Cm	Bycatch and marine contamination from waste	Research studies carried out by NGOs and scientific institutions to understand the problem.
Cc	Bycatch and marine contamination from waste	Research studies carried out by NGOs and scientific institutions to understand the problem.

Actions done to overcome these challenges:

Bycatch:

- Diagnostic and evaluation of the different fisheries that incidentally capture sea turtles in the Province of Buenos Aires and north of the Patagonia (Province of Río Negro and north of Chubut).
- Argentina's Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program (PRICTMA) is actively working with different Onboard Observer Programs, at both national (INIDEP) and regional (Alte. Storni Institute – Río Negro) levels by training their observers in different topics related to sea turtles.
- For artisanal fisheries to the north of the Buenos Aires Province (Samborombón Bay), artisanal longlines were tested as alternative fishing gear to gillnets. These bycatch mitigation tests were carried out between the years 2004 and 2006, as a joint activity between the Aquamarina – CECIM's franciscana dolphin (*Pontoporia blainvillei*) conservation project and PRICTMA. These tests produced some positive preliminary results for both the green and loggerhead turtles (*Chelonia mydas* and *Caretta caretta*), as well as the franciscana dolphin.

Pollution:

- Since 2005 researchers from PRICTMA have been monitoring and evaluating the impacts produced by sea turtles ingesting anthropogenic waste along the entire fluvial and maritime coasts of the Province of Buenos Aires. The participation of an inter and



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multidisciplinary team of veterinarians and biologists allows for a much more in depth evaluation of the situation from both a sanitary as well as ecological point of view.

· The main activity being carried out since 2006 by PRICTMA, is performing different types of promotional and educational activities (lectures, courses, brochures, posters, diffusion through mass media, etc.) geared towards the general public. The objective of these activities is to create public awareness on the effect of improper conduct in managing the final destination of non-degradable man-made residues, on both sea turtles as well as the aquatic marine environment.

· In 2013, the first research projects will begin to detect organochlorine contaminants and PCB's in different tissues of green turtles.

b. Research

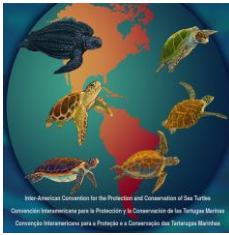
Describe scientific research that is being carried out in the country relating to sea turtle population assessments including tagging, migration, and genetic studies, as well as those relating to conservation issues including habitat monitoring, fisheries interactions, disease, etc. Provide a list of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

Argentina's Regional Sea Turtle Research and Conservation Program (PRICTMA) brings together various institutions found throughout the entire geographic range of the four species of sea turtles found in our waters. Since 2003, all of the institutions that form part of PRICTMA jointly carry out different fields of research, making up an inter and multidisciplinary work team. This type of work strategy allows us to make progress on standardized sampling and monitoring of these species throughout their entire range in the following fields of research:

1. Studies on population genetics of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerheads (*Caretta caretta*), leatherbacks (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). **See bibliographical references 43, 45, 46, 47 and 49.**
2. Since 2006, satellite tracking studies have been done in order to establish migratory patterns, travel routes, seasons and habitat use, including 9 green turtles, 6 loggerheads and 3 leatherback turtles. **See bibliographical reference 32.**

Satellite tracking of the leatherback turtle: with support from World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Marine Program of Argentina's Wildlife Foundation (FVSA), PRICTMA was provided with three satellite tracking devices to track the leatherback turtles since 2006. This activity forms part of the Trans-Atlantic Leatherback Conservation Initiative (TALCIN), of which we form part of together with other South American and African countries.

(http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/suriname/index.cfm?uProjectID=9Z1395)

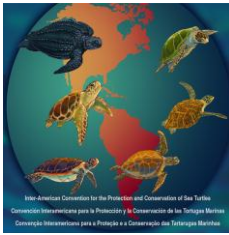


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3. PRICTMA carries out, under the supervision of the National Department of Wildlife of the SAYDS, the coordination of the National Tagging Plan. The tags are provided by the *Cooperative Marine Turtle Tagging Program (CMTTP)*, Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research, of the University of Florida (USA) and are strategically distributed among different locations that cover the entire geographic range of sea turtles in our country.
4. Sea turtle interactions with fisheries in Argentina are mainly evaluated in certain artisanal fisheries located in the southern part of the Samborombon Bay (Buenos Aires Province) and Blanca Bay (Buenos Aires Province). These fisheries use bottom gillnets as their fishing gear. With respect to other types of fishing gear, only qualitative diagnostic studies have been done. **See bibliographical references 1, 7, 10, 16, 21, 22, 31, 34, 38 and 52.**
5. In conjunction with the monitoring of artisanal gillnet fisheries, the following studies are being done: sanitary monitoring in order to evaluate the health status of entangled and stranded sea turtles, feeding studies through the analysis of stomach contents and an ongoing analysis of the impact that ingestion of anthropogenic waste is causing in the study area. All of these studies are being complemented by satellite tracking and genetic research. **See bibliographical references 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 44 and 48.**
6. One of the objectives of PRICTMA, with all of the scientific information being generated in the field, is to provide technical support to national and regional bodies in the field of management, contributing to the conservation of sea turtles and their habitat.

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1. Albareda D.A. & P. Bordino. 2003. Rehabilitación, varamiento e interacción con pesquerías artesanales de *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas* y *Dermochelys coriacea* en sectores ribereños y costeros del norte de la Pcia. De Buenos Aires. – Argentina. Resúmenes de la II Jornada de Conservación y Uso Sustentable de la Fauna Marina. Montevideo, Uruguay.
2. Albareda D.A., L. Prosdocimi, A. Giangioffe, S. Rodríguez-Heredia & V. Massola. 2003. Bases para la creación del Programa Regional de Investigación y Conservación de Tortugas Marinas en la Argentina (PRICTMA). Informe Diagnóstico. Buenos Aires, Argentina.
3. Albareda D., V. Massola & C. Suldrup. 2004. Primera recaptura de un ejemplar de tortuga verde (*Chelonia mydas*) en aguas costeras de la provincia de Buenos Aires-Argentina. Resúmenes de la II Reunión sobre la Investigación y Conservación de



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4. Albareda D. 2004. Rehabilitación de Tortugas Marinas varadas en sectores ribereños del Delta del Río Paraná y Río de La Plata, Buenos Aires- Argentina. Resúmenes de la II Reunión sobre la Investigación y Conservación de Tortugas Marinas del Atlántico Sur Occidental. San Clemente del Tuyú, Buenos Aires, Argentina. 30 de Septiembre, 1 y 2 de Octubre de 2004.

5. Albareda, D.A, Garner M., Prosdocimi L., Rodríguez Heredia S, Di Paola J. L. y Loureriro J. 2007. Pathological studies in green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) from the northern coastal area of Buenos Aires, Argentina. XXVII Simposio Internacional de Especialistas en Tortugas Marinas. 18 al 26 de febrero de 2007. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina – USA.

6. Albareda D., Loureiro J., Rodríguez Heredia S., Uhart M. y Capellino F. 2007. Monitoreo sanitario de tortugas marinas en Argentina: importancia de las necropsias y de la rehabilitación como herramientas diagnósticas. En: Resúm. VII Simposio sobre Medio Ambiente, Estado Actual y Perspectivas de la investigación y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas en las Costas del Pacífico Sur Oriental. 27 al 29 Septiembre 2007. Antofagasta – Chile.

7. Albareda Diego, Laura Prosdocimi, Karina Álvarez, José Luis Di Paola, Victoria Massola, Victoria González Carman, Rubén Dellacasa, Raúl González, Pablo Bordino and Marcela Uhart. 2008. Sea turtle conservation problems in Argentina: by-catch and marine debris ingestion. XXVIII Simposio Internacional de Especialistas en Tortugas Marinas. 18 al 26 de Enero de 2008. Loreto, Baja California Sur- México.

8. Albareda Diego, Karina Álvarez, Marcela Iglesias, Laura Prosdocimi y Victoria González Carman. 2007. ¡¡¡No te comas mi basura!!! Evidencia de ingestión de desechos antrópicos en tortugas verdes (*Chelonia mydas*) del Estuario del Río de la Plata y la Bahía de Samborombón – Pcia. de Buenos Aires - Argentina. III Jornadas de Conservación e investigación de Tortugas Marinas del Atlántico Sur Occidental- 26 al 28 de Octubre, 2007. Piriapolis - Uruguay.

9. Albareda Diego, Félix Capellino, Agustín Venzano, Fernando Delgado y José Luis Di Paola. 2007. Infección por *Mycobacterium* sp en un ejemplar juvenil de tortuga verde (*Chelonia mydas*). III Jornadas de Conservación e investigación de Tortugas Marinas del Atlántico Sur Occidental- 26 al 28 de Octubre, 2007. Piriapolis - Uruguay.

10. Albareda Diego; Bordino Pablo, Prosdocimi Laura, Rodríguez-Heredia Sergio, Zapata María Fernanda y González Carman Victoria. 2007. Captura incidental de tortuga verde (*Chelonia mydas*) en la pesquería artesanal del sur de la Bahía



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Samborombón, Buenos Aires, Argentina. III Jornadas de Conservación e investigación de Tortugas Marinas del Atlántico Sur Occidental- 26 al 28 de Octubre, 2007. Piriapolis - Uruguay.

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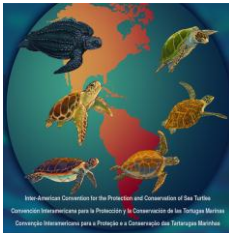
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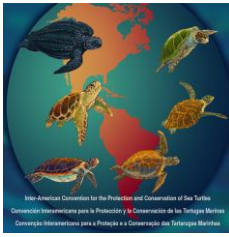
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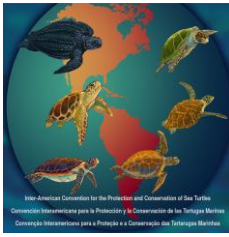
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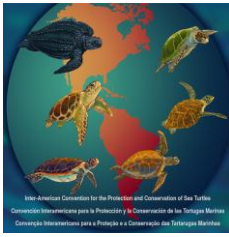
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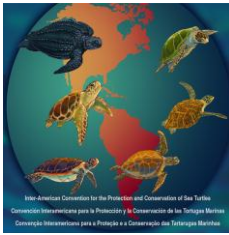
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c. _ Other activities

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

COURSES

Theoretical – Practical Course on Sea Turtles of Argentina. Organized by the Educational Department of the Zoological Garden of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, August 30 of 2003, Buenos Aires.

Workshop Course “Turtles, birds and marine mammals rescue”. Organized by: the Secretary of the Environment and Sustainable Development and the Department of Environmental Protection and Dangerous Goods (Argentina Naval Territory), within the framework of the Prevention of Coastal Contamination and Biological Diversity Management Program (Donation GEF/FMAM 28385 – PNUD ARG 02/018). Held in the City of Buenos Aires from October 6 to 7 and in the City of Rawson (Chubut Province) from November 2 to 3, 2004.

Theoretical – Practical Course “Procedures, necropsy techniques and samples in birds and marine mammals”. Course organized by the Wildlife Department of the Chubut Province, within the framework of the Prevention of Coastal Contamination and Management of Biological Marine Diversity (GEF/PNUD). Held in the city of Trelew (Chubut Province) from June 28 to 30, 2005.

Introductory Course on Sea Turtle Biology and Medicine. Organized by the Wildlife Department of the Province of Río Negro, Argentina’s Wildlife Foundation, Alte. Storni Institute of Marine Biology and Fisheries (SAO) and Argentina’s Sea Turtle Research and Conservation Program (PRICTMA). Held in the City of San Antonio Oeste (Río Negro Province) from September 2 to 3 of 2005.

Marine Wildlife Rescue Workshop. Organized by the Wildlife Department of the Tierra del Fuego Province, Antarctica and the Islands of the South Atlantic, within the framework of the Prevention of Coastal Contamination and Biological Marine Diversity Management Program (GEF/PNUD). Held in the City of Ushuaia (Tierra del Fuego) from June 15 to 17 of 2006.

Workshop Course “Turtles, birds and marine mammals”. Organized by the Department of Flora and Fauna of the Chubut Province and the Subsecretary of the Environment of the Municipality of Comodoro Rivadavia. Held in the City of Comodoro Rivadavia from July 13 to 14, 2006.



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Introductory Course on Sea Turtle Biology and Medicine. Organized by Blanca, Falsa and Verde Multiple Use Nature Reserve (OPDS) and PRICTMA, within the framework of the activities of project (2006-0091-006) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Held in the City of Blanca Bay (Buenos Aires Province) from September 14 to 15, 2007.

Sea Turtle Biology and Medicine Refresher Course. Organized by the Institute of Marine Biology and Fisheries “Alte. Storni” (SAO - RN) and PRICTMA, within the framework of the activities of project (2006-0091-006) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Held in the City of San Antonio Oeste (Río Negro Province) from October 19 to 20, 2007.

Introductory Course on Sea Turtle Biology and Medicine. Organized by the Herpetology Lab of the Mar del Plata National University and PRICTMA, within the framework of the activities of project (2006-0091-006) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Held in the City of Mar del Plata (Buenos Aires Province) from November 22 to 23, 2007.

Sea Turtle Component of the Onboard Observers Course from the National Institute of Research and Fisheries Development. Held in the City of Mar del Plata (Buenos Aires Province) on September 25, 2007.

Introductory Course on Sea Turtle Biology and Medicine. Organized by the Patagonia Nature Foundation, PRICTMA and the FVSA, within the framework of the activities of project (2006-0091-006) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Held in the City of Puerto Madryn (Chubut Province) from November 22 to 23, 2008.

5th Meeting on Research and Conservation of Sea Turtles from the Southwest Atlantic – ASO, from September 30 to October 1 of 2009 in the City of Mar del Plata, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The courses mentioned above are carried out sporadically throughout the entire range of sea turtles.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER PARTY COUNTRIES

Argentina exchanges experiences in regard to research and training with experts from Brazil and Uruguay under the framework of the ASO network (Southwest Atlantic).

DISSEMINATION



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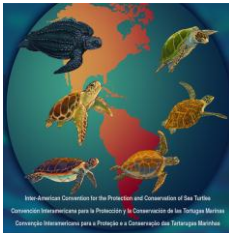
Part IV: Annexes

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			
Lk			
Dc		X	
Ei		X*	
Cm		X	
Cc		X	

*** Only two records.**



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Table 2: Important nesting sites for sea turtle conservation. DOES NOT APPLY TO ARGENTINA

- 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 (yes or no) if the area is declared as some type of protected area.*
- e. *Protection measures: Indicate (yes or no) 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 by using the letters of the type of tagging being done: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) 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?*
- i. *When inserting new rows, please copy and paste the drop down menus when applicable.*



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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 (Yes/No)	Protection Measures (Yes/No)	Annual Nesting Abundance		Tagging Program (FT, ST, PIT)	Tissue Sampling (Yes/No)
			Beginning												Ending															Females	Clutches		
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W										
Lo			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.	Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.							
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.	Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.							
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.	Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.							
Lk			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.	Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.							
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.	Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.							
Dc			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.	Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.							
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.	Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.							
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.	Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.							
Cm			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.	Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.							
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.	Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.							
Cc			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.	Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.							
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.	Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.							



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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 by using the letters of the type of tagging being done: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) 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?*
- f. *When adding new rows, please copy and paste the drop down menus when applicable.*



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Species			Description of geographic location	Declared Protection Area (Yes/No)	Tagging Program (FT, ST, PIT)	Tissue Sampling (Yes/No)
Lo	In water Occurrence	Choose an item.		Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Foraging Sites	Choose an item.		Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
Lk	In water Occurrence	Choose an item.		Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Foraging Sites	Choose an item.		Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
Dc	In water Occurrence	Choose an item.		Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Foraging Sites	Yes	Rio de la Plata Estuary, Samborombon Bay (*), Cabo San Antonio and San Blas Bay (**)	Yes (***)	FT & ST	Yes
Ei	In water Occurrence	Yes	Samborombon Bay (*)	Yes (***)	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Foraging Sites	Choose an item.		Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
Cm	In water Occurrence	Choose an item.		Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Foraging Sites	Yes	Samborombon Bay (*), Cabo San Antonio and El Rincón (Blanca Bay)	Yes(***)	FT & ST	Yes
Cc	In water Occurrence	Choose an item.		Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Foraging Sites	Yes	Samborombon Bay (*), Cabo San Antonio and El Rincón (Blanca Bay)	Choose an item. Yes(***)	FT & ST	Yes



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(*) Samborombon Bay extends from Punta Piedras ($35^{\circ} 27' S$ $56^{\circ} 45' O$) to Punta Rasa ($36^{\circ} 22' S$ $56^{\circ} 35' O$), where Cabo San Antonio begins.

(**) San Blas Bay is located in the southwest extreme of the Province of Buenos Aires ($40^{\circ} 33' 8'' S$ $62^{\circ} 14' 4'' O$).

(***) The Declared Protected Area includes Samborombon Bay and Blanca Bay and encompasses isobaths of up to 2 meters deep; therefore, foraging sites are partially covered.

Table 3 Point d)

Since 2005, approximately 40 sea turtles have been tagged. PRICTMA carries out, under the supervision of the National Department of Wildlife of the SAYDS, the coordination of the National Tagging Plan. The tags are provided by the Cooperative Marine Turtle Tagging Program (CMTTP), Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research, of the University of Florida (USA) and are strategically distributed among different locations that cover the entire geographic range of sea turtles in our country.

To date 5 specimens of *Dermochelys coriacea* have been recaptured, 4 of them coming from Gabón, Africa (bibliographical reference 13) and 1 from Brazil (bibliographical reference 12). As for the *Chelonia mydas* species 4 specimens have been recaptured, 2 belonging to Uruguay and 2 to Argentina (bibliographical references 3 and 12).

Since 2006, satellite tracking studies have been done in order to establish migratory patterns, travel routes, seasons and habitat use, including 9 green turtles, 6 loggerheads and 3 leatherback turtles. Below are the links where you will find the satellite tracking maps for the turtles tagged.

- http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/index.shtml?project_id=520: tracking of *Dermochelys coriacea* species.

- http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/?tag_id=103157: tracking of *Caretta caretta* species.

- <http://www.atlas-marpatagonico.org/especies/39/tortuga-verde.htm>: tracking of *Chelonia mydas* species.

Table 3 Point e)

In conjunction with the monitoring of artisanal gillnet fisheries, the following studies are being done:



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- sanitary monitoring in order to evaluate the health status of entangled and stranded sea turtles.
- feeding studies through the analysis of stomach contents and an ongoing analysis of the impact that ingestion of anthropogenic waste is causing in the study area.

The following tissue samples are being analyzed:

- Skin: for genetic and stable isotopes studies (bibliographical references 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 49)
- Blood: for genetic, stable isotopes and blood hematology and biochemical studies (bibliographical reference 4)
- General tissues (organs): for histopathology (bibliographical references 5, 6 and 9) and contaminates.
- Complete digestive tracks: for feeding studies (bibliographical reference 11) and analysis of contamination from waste (bibliographical references 7 and 8).