



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Caribbean Netherlands Annual Report 2012

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 **June 1, 2013**

Part I (General Information)

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

a. Focal Point

Institution	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture & Innovation (EL&I) National Office for the Caribbean Netherlands
Name	Paul Hoetjes
Date Annual Report submitted	

b. Agency or Institution responsible for preparing this report

Name of Agency or Institution	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture & Innovation (EL&I), National Office for the Caribbean Netherlands
Name of the person responsible for completing this report	Paul Hoetjes
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c. Others who participated in the preparation of this report

Name	Agency or Institution	E-mail
Mabel Nava	Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire	stcb@bonaireturtles.org
Jessica Berkel	St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation	Research@statiapark.org



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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.

	YES/NO/ In Progress	Comments
Does your country have a national plan of action in accordance with Article XVIII?	<i>In progress</i>	<i>With the Nature Policy Plan for the Caribbean Netherlands completed in 2013, work is starting on a sea turtle action plan</i>
Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional levels in accordance with Article XVIII?	<i>YES</i>	<i>Nature Policy Plan for the Caribbean Netherlands now completed. Island nature plans are still under development</i>
Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?	<i>Yes</i>	<i>STCB: Bonaire Stenapa: St. Eustatius</i>

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, 2010-April 30, 2011) related to sea turtles and/or relevant activities. Provide a reference and attach the digital file



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for the legislation and its corresponding number. The laws adopting the international legislation should be included, when they exist.

National Legislation		
Type and name of legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanctions(s) Imposed
Nature Conservation Law BES 2011	Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba)	Max. 4 years prison or \$560,000 fine, or both
International Instruments		
Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding		Year signed and/or ratified

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*)

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

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:			RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY	DOES NOT APPLY
	YES	NO	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NA



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1b) Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?				NA
2a) Have you taken conservation measures to significantly reduce the use of leatherback turtle products and by-products?				NA
2b) Do you evaluate these conservation measures?				NA
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?				NA
3b) Do you evaluate the conservation measures taken to protect those nesting sites and their associated habitats?				NA
4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?	NO			
5a) Is your country collecting information on incidental capture of leatherbacks in the following fisheries:				
Artisanal fisheries				
i) Long-line			Not practiced	NA
ii) Gillnets			Not practiced	NA
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))			No bycatch of leatherback turtles	NA
Industrial fisheries				
i) Long-line			Not practiced	NA
ii) Gillnets			Not practiced	NA
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))			Not practiced	NA
5b) Have you provided the IAC with information on incidental capture of leatherbacks in the following fisheries:				
Artisanal fishing				
i) Long-line				NA
ii) Gillnets				NA
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))				NA
Industrial fisheries				
i) Long-line				NA
ii) Gillnets				NA
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))				NA
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:		NO		



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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?		NO		
8. Have any cooperative agreements or alliances been established with pertinent organizations? List:		NO		

(*) 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			
		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).		Y		SPAW protocol	
2 a) Are you strengthening monitoring of the illegal use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products?					NA
2 b) Are you enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation?		Y		Ongoing enforcement of existing laws to protect sea turtles in general	
2 c) Are activities being carried out in order to stop illegal trade of hawksbill products?					NA
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	Y		Collecting samples for DNA analysis of Loggerhead, Green and Hawksbill turtles on Bonaire	
	Migratory behavior	Y		Ongoing tagging program, incl. Satellite tagging	
	Location and conservation status of foraging habitats.	Y		Ongoing monitoring program	
	Location and conservation status of prey species.		N		
	Population dynamics at foraging sites	Y			
	Integrity of nesting habitats	Y		Ongoing monitoring program	
	Others (specify)				



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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.				NA
	b) Actions to mitigate incidental capture of hawksbill turtles in their jurisdictional waters.				NA
5. Does your country apply the precautionary approach when considering proposals for seismic exploration on priority marine habitats of the hawksbill turtle?					NA
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	Y		All nesting beaches protected	
	b) Protection of feeding habitats	Y		Marine protected areas fully surround each of the three islands	
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?		N			

(*). 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:				NA
A. Research and monitoring of adverse impact of fisheries on sea turtles				
• Collect information by fishery				NA
• Observer programs				NA
• Research on sea turtle/fishery				NA



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interactions				
• Information on non-Party vessels				NA
• Cooperation with non-Party states to obtain information				NA
B. Mitigation measures for the following fisheries:				
i) Long-line				NA
ii) Gillnets				NA
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)				NA
iv) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))	Y		Introduction of circle hooks for artisanal/recreational pelagic trolling fishery on Bonaire	
C. Training, education and dissemination				
• Training, education and dissemination activities				NA
D. Harmonization of policies and legislation				
• Modifications to instruments				NA
E. Capacity building				
• Creation of a national sea turtle committee/network				NA
F. Financing				
• Financial support obtained to implement guidelines in this resolution				NA
G. Socio-economic considerations				
• Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles				NA
H. Other aspects				
• Environmental impact studies for mariculture projects				NA
2. Sent information and documents on sea turtles created by your country to the Secretariat of the Convention? List documents.				NA
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?				NA
4. Supports the Convention Secretariat, through established mechanisms, to commence discussions with regional fishery management organizations in order to develop				NA



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Memorandum of Understandings.					
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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-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		N		
1 b) Are these plans for adaptation to climate change being implemented?				NA
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?		N		
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?		N		
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.	Y		Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire	
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?	Y		Ongoing monitoring program	
5. Has your country hosted capacity building workshops for monitoring techniques and/or adaptation to climate change?		N		
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.		N		

(*). 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.)



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No specific actions other than general enforcement of existing legislation fully protecting sea turtles. Transgressions are sporadic and do not merit specific programs

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.

No exceptions allowed

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*.*

Species	Threat(s)	Actions
Lo		
Lk		
Dc	Possible contamination from landfill on St. Eustatius; coastal development (sand mining); climate change	Monitoring of nests; nesting beach protected
Ei	Coastal development, climate change	main nesting beaches protected
Cm	Coastal development, climate change, by catch of green turtles by local artisanal fisheries and poaching from foraging area specifically Lac Bay	main nesting beaches and foraging areas protected
Cc	Coastal development, climate change	main nesting beaches and foraging areas protected

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,



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etc. Provide a list of references for the information used in this report and note how to obtain them when needed.

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) is engaged in a long term monitoring program of sea turtles on Bonaire, including a tagging program, tissue sampling, satellite tracking program, in-water surveying of green and hawksbill turtles, including mark and recapture and growth studies, and a nesting beach monitoring program

Reference: STCB, research and monitoring report, 2012. (Attached in annex)

<http://www.bonaireturtles.org/explore/publications/>

St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation has a long term nesting beach monitoring program, noting nesting activity and hatching success; (year report 2012 attached in annex).

c. Other activities

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

- *Environmental education programs on Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire by the respective protected area management organizations.*
- *Teaching modules for Dutch language classes in secondary education developed by STCB, based on information about sea turtles, now accepted for official curriculum.*
- *Sea grass protection activities in main foraging area on Bonaire*
- *Ongoing management of marine parks comprising all coastal waters of all three islands*

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 (incidental)
Lk			
Dc			X
Ei			X
Cm			X



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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 is 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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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				
	Foraging Sites				
Ei	In water Occurrence	Coral reefs surrounding the island of Bonaire	MPA, Ramsar Site Klein Bonaire	Yes	Y
	Foraging Sites	Ibid.			
Cm	In water Occurrence	Coral reefs surrounding the island of Bonaire	MPA, Ramsar Site Klein Bonaire	Yes	Y
	Foraging Sites	Lac Bonaire:	MPA,	Yes	Y



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		2° 6' 2.88" N; 68° 14' 27" W to 12° 5' 51.5" N; 68° 13' 21.11" W	Ramsar site Lac		
Cc	In water Occurrence				
	Foraging Sites				



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Annex 1.



Research and Monitoring Report 2012

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STCB is a member of



Wide-Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network



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Annex 2:

**St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation
Sea Turtle Conservation Program
Annual Report 2012**



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