



# Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Honduras Annual Report 2013

## 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 **April 30<sup>th</sup> of 2013**.

### Part I (General Information)

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

#### a.\_ Focal Point

Institution	Secretary of Natural Resources (SERNA)
Name	Rafael Amaro García
Date Annual Report submitted	April 2013

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

Name of Agency or Institution	Department of Biodiversity (DiBio)
Name of the person responsible for completing this report	Carolina Montalván
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#### c.\_ Others who participated in the preparation of this report

Name	Agency or Institution	E-mail
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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?	In Progress	We have recently finalized the national sea turtle diagnosis of Honduras, which is projected to continue with the development of the National Action Plan, counting on support from USAID/MAREA for both.
Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional levels in accordance with Article XVIII?	In Progress	Activities to protect the <i>Lepidochelys olicacea</i> turtle nesting in the Gulf of Fonseca (southern part of the country) have been established, however, with the information provided by the diagnostic, the need to protect the other species was observed.



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Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?	No	Joint projects exist between governmental institutions and NGOs located at nesting sites, but they are not being carried out continuously.
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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, 2012-April 30, 2013) 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.*

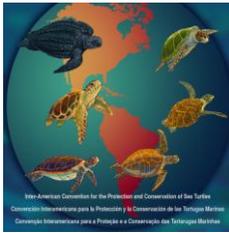
<b>National Legislation</b>		
Type and name of legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanctions(s) Imposed
Process to legalize the National Sea Turtle Committee (COTTOM)	Regulatory body which monitors compliance with the Inter-American Convention on Sea Turtles (IAC) and Art. 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).	
<b>International Instruments</b>		
Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding		Year signed and/or ratified
Declaration of new RAMSAR sites. Cuyamel-Omoa Wetlands (2133) and Utila Island Wetlands (2134)		02 February 2013

**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	X
				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	We only have leatherbacks nesting in the Caribbean Sea	
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	We only have nesting beaches, but only in the Caribbean	
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))					
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			X		



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one(s))				
Industrial fisheries				
i) Long-line		X		
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*)**

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

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY	
			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).		X		
2 a) Are you strengthening monitoring of the illegal use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products?		X		
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		
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	X	Blood and tissue samples are taken.	
	Migratory behavior	X		
	Location and conservation status of foraging habitats.			
	Location and conservation status of prey species.			



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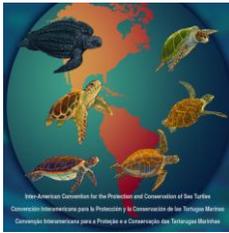
	Population dynamics at foraging sites				
	Integrity of nesting habitats	X			
	Others (specify)				
4. As indicated in the recommendations from FAO's Technical Meeting on the conservation of marine turtles and fisheries that was held in Bangkok in 2004 and adopted by the 26th Session of FAO's Fisheries 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			
	b) Actions to mitigate incidental capture of hawksbill turtles in their jurisdictional waters.	X			
5. Does your country apply the precautionary approach when considering proposals for seismic exploration on priority marine habitats of the hawksbill turtle?			X		
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	X		Two new RAMSAR sites declared	
	b) Protection of feeding habitats	X		Two new RAMSAR sites declared	
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		

(\*) 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
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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		Yes, however, it is only mandatory for the industrial shrimp fisheries in their use of TEDs on all of their fleets
• 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	
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	
D. Harmonization of policies and legislation			
• Modifications to instruments		X	
E. Capacity building			
• Creation of a national sea turtle committee/network	X		Its legislation is currently being formalized.
F. Financing			
• Financial support obtained to implement guidelines in this resolution	X		Support from USAID through their MAREA program to work on the National Strategy for Sea Turtles in Honduras.
G. Socio-economic considerations			
• Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles	X		
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			
		X	



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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?				
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 National Strategy for Climate Change has identified coastal marine systems as one of their priority sectors and established the following within its strategic adaptation guidelines: a) Sustain national efforts to conserve and restore mangroves in bays, estuaries and islands, b ) strengthen the socio-economic sustainability of human populations that live and depend on coastal marine ecosystems c) Establish frameworks for action to prevent and reduce damage to coral reef ecosystems, promoting their restoration and conservation, considering climate change, for which each guideline proposes adaptation measures.	
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		
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	X		Biodiversity Department of SERNA	



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climate change? Please list.				
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.)

### 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.

### Part III (Research information)

Indicate 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change Closure period consisting of 25 da in September
Lk	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change
Dc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> change No actions are being carried out
Ei	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination No actions are being carried out



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	<input type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	
Cm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	No actions are being carried out
Cc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	No actions are being carried out

### ***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.*

*In addition to the above, please fill out the following table on the types of research being carried out in the country and with what specie(s).*

<b>Research</b>	<b>Specie(s)(Lo, Lk, Cm, Ei, Cc, Dc)</b>
Satellite tagging studies	<i>Ei</i>
Sex ratios in hatchlings	<i>Lo and Ei</i>
Studies on the conformation and vegetation of nesting beaches	<i>Lo and Ei</i>
Return of individuals with flipper tags	<i>Lo</i>
Hatchling predation at Punta Raton beaches	<i>Lo</i>
Foraging sites	<i>Ei</i>

### **Reference information**

**Dunbar, S. G. and Salinas, L.** 2013. Activities of the Protective Turtle Ecology Center for Training, Outreach, and Research, Inc (ProTECTOR) in Honduras; Annual Report of the 2011 and 2012 Seasons.

**Dunbar, S. G., Randazzo, A., Salinas, L., and Luque J.** 2013. Final Report of the Community-Directed Capacity Building for Hawksbill Conservation and Population Recovery in Caribbean Honduras. Final Report 2013, United States Fish and Wildlife Services 2013

**Berube, M. D., Dunbar, S. G., Rützler, K., and Hayes, W. K.** 2012. Home range and foraging ecology of juvenile hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) on inshore reefs of Honduras. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*. 11(1): 33 - 43

*Sitio web donde se pueden encontrar:*



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<http://www.turtleprotector.org/Publications.htm>

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

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

#### **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			
Dc			X
Ei	X		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.*
- b. *Monitoring period: Indicate the starting and finishing date of monitoring efforts.*
- c. *Survey frequency: Indicate the frequency with which the surveys are done (daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, among others).*
- d. *Geographic location: Specify latitude and longitude in degrees, minutes and seconds - provide one point for each nesting sites.*
- e. *Extension: Provide the total length (in Kilometers) of the nesting beach.*
- f. *Declared protection area: Indicate (yes or no) if the area is declared as some type of protected area.*
- g. *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.*
- h. *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.*
- i. *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?*
- j. *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)	Monitoring period	Survey Frequency	Geographic Location (Lat/Long) in Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds											Extension (km)	Declared Protected Area (Yes/No)	Annual Nesting Abundance		Tagging Program (FT, ST, PIT)	Tissue Sampling (Yes/No)
				Females	Clutches															
Lo				°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.			
				°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.			
				°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.			
Lk				°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.			
				°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.			
Dc				°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.			
				°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.			
Ei	Pumpkin hill, Utila	5 months	Not at constant intervals	07°	36'	09"	N	08°	53'	12"	W	Unidentified	Yes	23	8	Choose an item.	No			
	South west cay, Utila	3 months	Not at constant intervals	16°	06'	06"	N	08°	01'	07"	W	Unidentified	Yes	8	6	Choose an item.	No			
Cm	South West cay, Utila	3 months	Not at constant intervals	16°	06'	09"	N	08°	01'	14"	W	Unidentified	Yes	1	0	Choose an item.	No			
				°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.			
Cc				°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.			
				°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W		Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.			



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