

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

## Argentina 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	Ministry of Foreign and Religious Affairs
Name	Minister María Fabiana Loguzzo: 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 2013

##### 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
Address	San Martín 451 – office 264 - CABA
Telephone(s)	4348 – 8325/ 8357
Fax	
E-mail	<a href="mailto:dwinter@ambiente.gob.ar">dwinter@ambiente.gob.ar</a>



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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
Walter Prado	National Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development	wprado@ambiente.gob.ar
Eduardo Álvarez	National Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development	ealvarez@ambiente.gob.ar
Guillermo Lingua	National Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development	glingua@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, 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>		
<b>Because Argentina is a Federal Country that has both national and local legislation only those regulations for the Provinces of Buenos Aires and Río Negro are mentioned because sea turtles are found in these areas.</b>		
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 specimens, products and subproducts of wildlife, which includes sea turtles in its Annex I.	Year 2007



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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
<b>International Instruments</b>		
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*)

**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 (*)	
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



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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		
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		



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

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

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

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

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY			X
	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	
1. Has your country promoted synergies with other Conventions, treaties, international organizations, and/or regional fisheries bodies on the management and conservation of hawksbill turtles and their habitats? Indicate which one(s).				
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?	X		Measures are laid out under the implementation of Law 22.344 approved by the CITES Convention and the National Wildlife Law (22.421). In order to export hawksbill products, the exporter must present a certification that the pieces to be exported were acquired prior the Convention. This certification is granted by the country's Ministry of Culture. To control trade, joint measures are taken by Customs and appropriate police forces. Because Argentina is not a country where this species is found, registered trade of hawksbill pieces is rare.	
3. Does your country support and strengthen the research and monitoring activities required to improve the scientific basis of conservation measures	Genetics			
	Migratory behavior			
	Location and conservation status of foraging habitats.			
	Location and conservation status			



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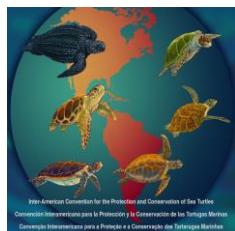
for the hawksbill turtle? Especially in:	of prey species.			
	Population dynamics at foraging sites			
	Integrity of nesting habitats			
	Others (specify)			
4. As indicated in the recommendations from FAO's Technical Meeting on the conservation of marine turtles and fisheries that was held in Bangkok 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
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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		Survey and bycatch studies (Work done by González Carman <i>et al.</i> 2011) ( <b>See Part III, point b</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 ( <b>See Part III, point b</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) ( <b>See course details Part III, point c</b> ).	
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D. Harmonization of policies and legislation

• Modifications to instruments		X		
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E. Capacity building

• Creation of a national sea turtle committee/network		X		
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F. Financing

• Financial support obtained to implement guidelines in this resolution		X		
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G. Socio-economic considerations

• Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles		X		
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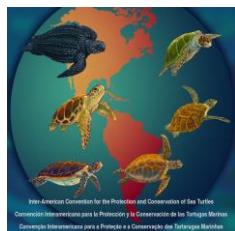
H. Other aspects			
• Environmental impact studies for mariculture projects			
2. Sent information and documents on sea turtles created by your country to the Secretariat of the Convention? List documents.	X	No, given the recent ratification of the Convention	
3. Initiated activities that assist the 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			<p>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.</p> <p>In November of 2012 a document assigning specific national bodies with the responsibility of carrying out each strategic action was finished.</p> <p>In reference to adaptation to climate change we are working on implementing the methodology</p>	



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		established in the Vulnerability and Climate Change Manual for Local Management and Planning. This manual proposes a participatory methodology to identify vulnerabilities, threats and risk. In addition to this manual, a Climate Change Atlas was created, with maps showing extreme climate indicators and climate change scenarios at a local level. Both the Atlas and the Manual are essential tools for planning 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 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.)*

Inspections are done at two aquariums 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



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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 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 type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	
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 type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Research studies carried out NGOs and scientific institutions understand the problem.
Ei	<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	
Cm	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Research studies carried out NGOs and scientific institutions understand the problem.
Cc	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Research studies carried out NGOs and scientific institutions understand the problem.

**Actions done to overcome these challenges:**



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#### 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 blainvilliei*) 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 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 contaminates 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.*

*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).*



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Research	Specie(s)(Lo, Lk, Cm, Ei, Cc, Dc)
Tagging, Satellite tagging, genetics, habitat monitoring, health monitoring, feeding studies, fisheries interactions	<i>Dc</i>
Tagging, Satellite tagging, genetics, habitat monitoring, health monitoring, feeding studies, fisheries interactions	<i>Cm</i>
Tagging, Satellite tagging, genetics, habitat monitoring, health monitoring, feeding studies, fisheries interactions	<i>Cc</i>

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

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



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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 Samborombón 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 PRICITMA, 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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González Carman V. Seguimiento satelital de la tortuga verde en Argentina: implicancias para su conservación. 2012. VIII Congreso Argentino de Herpetología. Mar del Plata, Argentina. In Spanish.

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González Carman V., Prosdocimi L. & Albareda D. A. 2012. Programa Regional de Investigación y Conservación de Tortugas Marinas de Argentina - PRICTMA (Regional Program for Sea Turtle Research and Conservation of Argentina - PRICTMA). In: Manejo de Fauna Silvestre de Argentina. Programas de conservación de especies amenazadas.

González Carman V., Machain N., Albareda D. A., Mianzan H. & Campagna C. 2012. Legal and institutional tools to mitigate marine turtle bycatch: Argentina as a case study. *Marine Policy* 36: 1265 - 1274.

Prado W.S., Waller T., Albareda D. A., Cabrera M. R., Etchepare E., Giraudo A. R., González Carman V., Prosdocimi L. & Richard E. 2012. Categorización del estado de conservación de las tortugas de la República Argentina. *Cuadernos de Herpetología* 26 (Supl. 1): 375 – 388.

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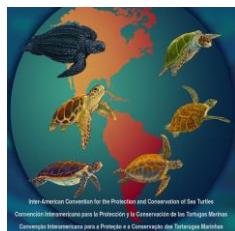


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#### **c.\_ Other activities**

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

#### **COURSES**



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**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.

**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



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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**

Manual on recommendations for bird, turtle, and marine mammal rescue. Secretary of the Environment and Sustainable Development. Aquatic Resources Working Group, 2nd Edition, 2006. Buenos Aires.

Argentina's coastal – marine fauna and its conservation: Birds, Mammals, Sharks and Turtles. Secretary of the Environment and Sustainable Development. Aquatic Resources Working Group June 2008. Buenos Aires, Argentina.



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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.
- 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										Extensio n (km)	Declared Protected Area (Yes/No)	Annual Nesting Abundance		Tagging Program (FT, ST, PT)	Tissue Sampling (Yes/No)
				°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W					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.
				°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W				Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.
Ei				°	'	"	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.
Cm				°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W				Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.
				°	'	"	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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**Table 3: Important foraging sites for sea turtle conservation**

- a. This table is intended to contain information for foraging sites being studied 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.
- b. Name and geographic location: Provide the name of the site and geographic location in Lat/Long coordinates (one reference point).
- c. Declared protection area: Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area.
- d. Area: Indicate the size of the study site (en Kilometers<sup>2</sup>).
- e. 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.
- f. 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?
- g. When adding new rows, please copy and paste the drop down menus when applicable.



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Spp	Name of the Study Site	Geographic Location (Lat/Long) in Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds												Area (Km <sup>2</sup> )	Declared Protection Area (Yes/No)	Life Stages (Juvenile, Sub-adult, Adult)	Tagging Program (FT, ST, PIT)	Tissue Sampling (Yes/No)	
Lo		°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
		°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Lk		°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
		°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Dc	Bahía Samborombón (**)	35	°	27	,	"	S	56	°	45	,	"	W	2439,65 (*)	Yes	Sub-adult and adult	FT & ST	Yes	
	Cabo San Antonio	36	°	22	,	"	S	56	°	35	,	"	W		No	Sub-adult and adult	FT & ST	Yes	
	Bahía San Blas y Bahía Anegada	40	°	33	,	8	"	S	62	°	14	,	4	"	W	3150 (*)	Yes	Sub-adult and adult	FT & ST
Ei	Bahía Samborombón (in water)	35	°	27	,	"	N	56	°	45	,	"	W	2439,65 (*)	Yes	Choose an item.	FT	Yes	
		°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Cm	Bahía Samborombón	35	°	27	,	"	N	56	°	45	,	"	W	2439,65 (*)	Yes	Juvenile	FT & ST	Yes	
	Cabo San Antonio	36	°	22	,	"	S	56	°	35	,	"	W		No	Juvenile	FT & ST	Yes	
	El Rincón (Bahía Blanca) (***)	39	°	30	,	"	S	62	°	00	,	"	W	2100,39 (*)	Yes	Juvenile	FT & ST	Yes	
Cc	Bahía Samborombón	35	°	27	,	"	N	56	°	45	,	"	W	2439,65 (*)	Yes	Juvenile, sub-adult and adult.	FT & ST	Yes	
	Cabo San Antonio	36	°	22	,	"	S	56	°	35	,	"	W		No	Juvenile, sub-adult and adult.	FT & ST	Yes	
	El Rincón (Bahía Blanca)	39	°	30	,	"	S	62	°	00	,	"	W	2100,39 (*)	Yes	Juvenile, sub-adult and adult.	FT & ST	Yes	



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- (\*) The length corresponds to the total Protected Area, including both land and water.  
(\*\*) The area of Samborombón Bay overlaps with the Parque Costero del Sur Biosphere Reserve.  
(\*\*\*) The Protected Area corresponds to the Blanca, Falsa and Verde Bay.

#### **Table 3 Point f)**

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](http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/index.shtml?project_id=520): tracking of *Dermochelys coriacea* species.
- [http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/?tag\\_id=103157](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 k)**

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

- health 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 complement satellite tagging and genetic research.



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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).