



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

Ecuador

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IAC Annual Report General Instructions

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

Please note that the date to submit this Annual Report is **April 30, 2016**.

Part I (General Information)

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

a._ Focal Point

Institution	Ministry of Environment – Galapagos National Park Direction
Name	Eduardo Espinoza
Date Annual Report submitted	August 1st, 2016

b._ Agency or Institution responsible for preparing this report

Name of Agency or Institution	Ministry of Environment – Galapagos National Park Direction
Name of the person responsible for completing this report	Eduardo Espinoza
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c. _ Others who participated in the preparation of this report

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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	Comments
	In Progress	
Does your country have a national plan of action in accordance with Article XVIII?	Yes	So far this action plan is being implemented by the SGMC
Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional levels in accordance with Article XVIII?	Yes	
Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?	Yes	



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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, 2015-April 30, 2016) related to sea turtles and/or relevant activities. Provide a reference and attach the digital file for the legislation and its corresponding number. The laws adopting the international legislation should be included, when they exist.

National Legislation		
Type and name of legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanction(s) Imposed
Ministerial agreement No. 212 1990-SRP	Sea turtles indefinite closure as these species occur in Ecuadorian waters protected by the state, therefore prohibiting captures, processing, and internal and external characterization.	
Ministerial Agreement No.121 April 1996-SRP	Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) are compulsory for shrimp trawl fishing vessels.	Fishing permits suspension, fine or prison (According to the fisheries law)
Ministerial Agreement No. August 2002, 047-SRP	Regulation for the use of TEDs	
Executive Decree 3045, 2002	According to the fisheries law, it is compulsory that all shrimp trawl fishing boats have installed TEDs in their nets permanently and properly.	
Ministerial Agreement No. 020, 2012-SRP	Prohibits fishing activities of bio-aquatic resources using industrial prawn trawl fishing gears.	
Art. 73 Ecuador National Constitution	The State will implement precautionary measures for activities that could lead to the extinction of species, destruction of ecosystems,	



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	or permanent alteration of natural cycles.	
Ministerial Agreement No. Dorado National Plan	Dorado (i.e. Dolphin fish) National Plan (Promotes the use of circle hooks instead of the traditional “J” type) reducing sea turtles incidental catches.	
Ministerial Agreement No. 070, 2011-SRP	Dorado fishery closure from July 1 st to October 7 th . Use of fine or durable longline is banned.	
Sea Turtle Conservation National Plan	Implementation of this plan will contribute effectively to the protection of this flagship reptiles threatened worldwide.	
Ministerial Agreement 084 July 19 th , 2015		
International Instruments		
Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding		Year signed/or ratified
Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) Regional Action Plan for Sea Turtles Protection		Approved on 2012, implemented since 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-COP7-2015- R2: Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP7-2015-R2, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING	RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY		DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
	YES	NO		
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		The Sea Turtle Conservation National Plan was developed and endorsed through Ministerial Agreement 234 October 6th, 2014.	
1b) Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?	X		A priority nesting beaches national inventory for conservation at mainland and in Galapagos is currently in preparation	
2. Have you taken conservation measures to eliminate poaching of leatherback turtles?	X		*Environmental Education Program *Control and Enforcement *Biodiversity Management	
3. 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		During season 2015-2016 nests were identified and monitored in Manabí (Santa Marianita at Manta and Puerto Cabuyal in San Vicente)	
4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?			SRP	

(*) Specify actions implemented, the 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.



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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	RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY		DOES NOT APPLY
			NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	
1. Are you strengthening monitoring of the illegal use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products?		X		In some coastal provinces through control and surveillance of protected areas, and the Ministry of Environment Province Directions wildlife units. Illegal trade and hawksbill illegal use are inspected in crafts stores.	
2. Are you enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation?		X			
3. Are activities being carried out in order to stop the illegal trade of hawksbill products?		X			
4. 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		Machalilla National Park in Manabí, “La Playita” area is protected. Equilibrio Azul and PNM. Nests monitoring and protection are being carried out in a new nesting beach found recently “Playa Rosada” within the Marine Reserve El Pelado, Santa Elena Province. Hawksbill hatchlings have been found in San Cristobal (Galápagos).	
	b) Protection of feeding habitats	X		Feeding grounds in Galapagos are monitored to study site fidelity and residence of specific individuals for several years. Data is collected to start management actions for their protection through the DPNG.	

(*) Specify actions implemented, the 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.



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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
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		Through the Fishing Resources Secretary, entity related to MAGAP, there is information on the interaction of sea turtles with the longline, shrimp and hake fleets.	
• Observer programs	X		There are three observer programs regulated by the SRP	
• Research on sea turtle/fishery interactions			It is unknown if there is research on this subject. It is known that there is a study by Flora and Fauna International on the impact of the trawling fleet, however, the information is private.	
• 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	X		Training lectures are conducted through the MAE Manabí at coastal fishing grounds.	
iv. 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)				
v. Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))				
vi. Training programs for fishermen about best practices for safe handling	X			



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and release of sea turtles incidentally caught.				
C. Socio-economic considerations				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles 			Awareness campaigns at an institutional level including MAE and the SRP, with the local community	

(* Specify actions implemented, the 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 with the procedure established by the COP (Doc. CIT-COP5-2011-R2). Attach management program.



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Part III (Research information)

a. Threats

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 = *Dermodochelys coriacea*; Ei = *Eretmochelys imbricata*; Cc = *Caretta caretta*; Cm = *Chelonia mydas*.

Species	Threat (s)	Action(s)
Lo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use <input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	<p>(Coastal development, Contamination, Climate Change) Research jointly with the PNG to understand and be able to mitigate these threats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sea turtle nesting beaches control to reduce threats from tourism and coastal development in Pacoche. Sea Turtles Awareness and Conservation program CEPA at Pacoche Protected Area and its area of influence. Program for monitoring beaches profile and climate change, to generate information for the nesting beaches management at Pacoche Protected Area and its area of influence
Lk	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Contamination	(Coastal development,



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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	<i>Contamination, Climate Change) Research jointly with the PNG to understand and be able to mitigate these threats.</i>
Ei	<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"/> Climate change	<i>(Coastal development, Contamination, Climate Change) Research jointly with the PNG to understand and be able to mitigate these threats.</i>
Cm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	<i>(Coastal development, Contamination, Climate Change) Research jointly with the PNG to understand and be able to mitigate these threats.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea turtle nesting beaches control to reduce threats from tourism and coastal development in Pacoche. • Sea Turtles Awareness and Conservation program CEPA at Pacoche Protected Area and its area of influence. • Program for monitoring beaches profile and climate change, to generate information for the nesting beaches management at Pacoche Protected Area and its area of influence
Cc	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	



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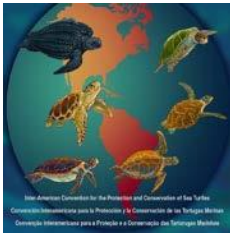
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b._ Research

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).

Research	Species (Lo, Lk, Cm, Ei, Cc, Dc)
<i>Sea turtle (C. mydas) nesting monitoring in Galapagos</i>	<i>Cm</i>
<i>Habitats characterization in Galapagos. USFQ-GSC-PNG</i>	<i>Cm, Ei</i>
<i>Nesting monitoring and nests protection in the Ecuadorian coast (MAE)</i>	<i>Cm, Ei, Lo</i>
<i>Disease and health condition of sea turtles in Galapagos. USFQ – GSC-PNG</i>	<i>Cm, Ei</i>
<i>Hawksbill nesting monitoring at Playa Rosada, Santa Elena</i>	<i>Ei</i>
<i>Migration and movements (satellite tags) USFQ-GSC-PNG and Equilibrio Azul</i>	<i>Cm, Ei</i>
<i>Genetics analysis – Black Turtle Project USFQ-GSC-PNG and Equilibrio Azul</i>	<i>Cm, Ei</i>
<i>Diet analysis with stable isotops in foraging grounds USFQ-GSC-PNG</i>	<i>Cm, Ei</i>
<i>Photo-identification (individuals residence and sites philopatry) USFQ-GSC-PNG</i>	<i>Cm, Ei</i>
<i>Interaction with pollutants analysis and impact of marine debris Black Turtle Project USFQ-GSC-PNG</i>	<i>Cm, Ei</i>
<i>Sex radio studies, climate change indicator in foraging grounds USFQ-GSC-PNG</i>	<i>Cm</i>
<i>Beach profile and climate change</i>	<i>Lo, Cm</i>



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<i>monitoring in the nesting beaches San Lorenzo and La Botada</i>	
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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.

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		
Cm	X		
Cc	X		

Table 2: Index nesting sites or beaches for sea turtle conservation

- a. This table is intended to report information on index nesting sites or beaches 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 site or beaches, information is to be entered for each species independently. Indicate the names of index nesting sites. On a separate sheet of paper, indicate the selection criteria used for identifying the index beach, for example, because it hosts a significant proportion of the overall nesting population within a region or other defined unit or genetic importance.*
- b. Nesting season: Indicate the starting and finishing date of the nesting season.*
- c. Monitoring period: Indicate the starting and finishing date of monitoring efforts.*
- d. Survey frequency: Indicate the frequency with which the surveys are done (daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, among others).*
- e. Geographic location: Specify latitude and longitude in decimal degrees.*
- f. Extension of beach monitored: Provide the total length (in Kilometers) of the*



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- nesting beach.*
- g. Declared protection area: Indicate (yes or no) if the area is declared as some type of protected area.*
 - h. Annual nesting abundance: Provide information on the total number of females and/or clutches or nests deposited at the nesting site or beach in real numbers. Provide the exact count of females based on tagged or uniquely identified individuals. If the exact number of clutches is unknown provide total number of nests.*
 - i. 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.*
 - j. 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?*
 - k. Indicate what organization or entity is providing the data.*
 - l. When inserting new rows, please copy and paste the drop down menus when applicable.*



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Spp	Name of Index Nesting Site or Beach	Nesting Season		Monitoring period		Survey Frequency	Geographic Location (Lat/Lon)		monitore	Declared Protected Area (Yes/No)	Annual Nesting Abundance			Tagging Program (FS, ST, PIT)	Tissue Sampling (Yes/No)	Organization or entity providing data
		Start	Finish	Start	Finish		Latitude	Longitude			Females Exact Count	Clutches Exact Count	Number of Nests			
Lo	San Lorenzo	01/09/2015	30/11/2015	01/06/2015	31/05/2016	Daily	-1.068554°	-80.907768°	2,40	Yes			170	4 (FS)	No	RVSMC-Pacoche
	La Botada	01/09/2015	30/11/2015	01/06/2015	31/05/2016	Daily	-1.050000°	-80.904193°	1,00	Yes			120	1(FS)	No	RVSMC-Pacoche
	Sta. Marianita	01/09/2015	30/09/2016	01/06/2015	31/05/2016	Weekly	-0.962986°	-80.832935°	2,00	No			28	0	No	RVSMC-Pacoche
	Liguiqui	01/09/2015	30/10/2015	01/06/2015	31/05/2016	Daily	-1.027514°	-80.883110°	0,80	Yes			5	0	No	RVSMC-Pacoche
	El Murciélagos	01/11/2015	30/12/2015	01/06/2015	31/05/2016	Monthly	-0.940283°	-80.733805°	1,00	No			2	0	No	RVSMC-Pacoche
	Caña River	01/09/2015	30/09/2016	01/06/2015	31/05/2016	Daily	-1.085000°	-80.900531°	0,50	Yes			1	0	No	RVSMC-Pacoche
Lk																
Dc																
Ei	Playa de Oro and Playa Punta Carola					Daily	-0.899364° -0.890529°	-89.609461° -89.612071°	0,2 Km 0,1 Km No->				1			Black Turtle Project USFQ-GSC-PNG
	Floreana and Española, Manzanillo Beach					Monthly	-1.352136° -1.232737°	-89.703617° -90.438257°	0,2 Km Si -> PNG							Black Turtle Project USFQ-GSC-PNG
Cm	San Lorenzo	01/10/2015	31/12/2015	01/06/2015	31/05/2016	Daily	-1.068554°	-80.907768°	2,40	Yes			3	0	No	RVSMC - Pacoche
	La Botada	01/10/2015	31/12/2015	01/06/2015	31/05/2016	Daily	-1.050000°	-80.904193°	1,00	Yes			3	0	No	RVSMC - Pacoche



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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 decimal degrees in Lat/Long (one reference point).*
- c. *Area: Indicate the size of the study site (in Kilometers²).*
- d. *Declared protection area: Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area.*
- e. *Life stage: Indicate the life stage or stages found in the study area (juvenile, sub adult or adult).*
- f. *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.*
- g. *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?*
- h. *Indicate the organization or entity providing the data.*
- i. *When adding new rows, please copy and paste the drop down menus when applicable.*



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Species	Name of the Study Site	Geographic Location (Lat/Long) in Decimal Degrees			Area (Km ²)	Declared Protection Area (Yes/No)	Life Stages (Juvenile, Sub-adult, Adult)	Tagging Program (FT, ST, PIT)	Tissue Sampling (Yes/No)	Organization or entity providing data
		Latitude	Longitude							
Lo										
Lk										
Dc										
Ei	Galapagos Islands	-0,984569	-89,708071		Yes	Juveniles, sub-adults and adults	ST	Yes	Black Turtle Project USFQ-GSC-PNG	
	La Poza	1.55	80,822	0,6		Juveniles, sub-adults and adults	ST	No	Equilibrio Azul	
	Palo Santo	1.56	80,857		Yes	Juveniles, sub-adults and adults	ST	No	Equilibrio Azul	
	Roca Caída	1.56	80,83		Yes	Juveniles, sub-adults and adults	ST	No	Equilibrio Azul	
	Punta Piquero	1.56	80,8325		Yes	Juveniles, sub-adults, and adults	ST	No	Equilibrio Azul	
	Punta Gruesa	1.56	80,835		Yes	Juveniles, sub-adults and adults	ST	No	Equilibrio Azul	
	La Playita	1.56	80,840		Yes	Juveniles, sub-adults and adults	ST	No	Equilibrio Azul	



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	Punta Mala	1.56	°	80,8425		Yes	Juveniles, sub-adults, and adults	ST	No	Equilibrio Azul
	La Tortuga de Roca	1.56	°	80,8425		Yes	Juveniles, sub-adults, and adults	ST	No	Equilibrio Azul
Cm	Islas Galápagos	-0,984569	°	-89,708071	°					Black Turtle Project USFQ-GSC-PNG
			°		°					
Cc			°		°					
			°		°					



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NOTE: ATTACHED TO THE SPANISH VERSION OF THIS REPORT IS THE ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIONS FOR SEA TURTLES CONSERVATION IN ECUADOR.