



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

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

IAC Annual Report General Instructions

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

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

Part I (General Information)

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

a._ Focal Point

Institution	Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-socialism and Waters
Name	Edis Solórzano
Date Annual Report submitted	April 2016

b._ Agency or Institution responsible for preparing this report

Name of Agency or Institution	Biological Diversity General Direction
Name of the person responsible for completing this report	Edis Solórzano Rosario Madríz Liliana Suárez
Address	Centro Simón Bolívar, Torre Sur, Piso 9, El Silencio, Caracas 1010
Telephone(s)	+58 212 4084757 +58 212 4082135/2123
Fax	+58 212 4084756
E-mail	edissolorzano@hotmail.com esolorzano@MPPEA.gob.ve theb4by@gmail.com lsuarez@MPPEA.gob.ve



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

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

c. _ Others who participated in the preparation of this report

Name	Agency or Institution	E-mail
Rommel Deutsch	Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-socialism and Waters (Biological Diversity General Direction)	rommeldeutsch@gmail.com
Luis Rodríguez	Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-socialism and Waters (Biological Diversity General Direction)	rodriguezluis1325@gmail.com
Marvin Jiménez	Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-socialism and Waters (Biological Diversity General Direction)	manatusmarvin@gmail.com
Clemente Balladares	Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-socialism and Waters (Biological Diversity General Direction)	cballadares86@gmail.com
Yolimar Rodríguez	Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-socialism and Waters (Capital District Biological Diversity Eco-socialism State Direction)	tortugasdevargas@hotmail.com
Luis Bermúdez	Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-socialism and Waters (Eco-socialism and Waters State Direction)	Diversidad_biologica@yahoo.com

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.



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

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

	YES/NO	Comments
	In Progress	
Does your country have a national plan of action in accordance with Article XVIII?	In progress	<p>The National Strategy for Conservation of Biological Diversity 2010-2020 (ENCDB) and its National Action Plan includes the guidelines for biological diversity conservation during 10 years. The ENCDB includes seven strategic lines, as technical elements to face the current situation regarding Biological Diversity loss and four cross-cutting axes as a political and social element required to guarantee conservation with a social commitment. These guidelines include a general objective and several specific objectives, comprised of general actions. To implement the Strategy specific actions, indicators, and goals are carried out through National Projects allowing the application of the ENCDS at local, regional and national scales.</p> <p>Sea turtle conservation is not isolated, but as part of the ENCDS through the guidelines established in the strategic lines: L1-Biological Diversity Information Management; L2-Endangered Species Conservation; L3-Strategic Areas for Conservation; and L7-Prevention and Management of Species Trafficking and Illegal Trade; and through the cross-cutting axes: E1-Education for conservation, E2-Environmental Regulations, E3-Conservation Management and E4-International Management and Policy. This comprehensive view of conservation planning Policies guarantees success for Conservation Projects and Programs. The “Endangered Species Conservation Program” includes the “National Project for Endangered Species Recovery” and the “Sea Turtle Conservation Project” involving all local actions and projects for sea turtle conservation with the participation of governmental agencies, researchers, academy, private companies, non-governmental organizations and organized community.</p> <p>Among the environmental policies is the “Integrated Planning and Management of Coastal Zones (POGIZC) Plan”. The plan aims to establish a temporal and spatial framework guaranteeing the conservation</p>

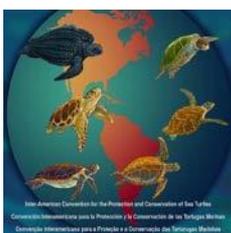


Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

		<p>and sustainable use of the coastal zone improving the communities' life quality. This plan is implemented in 14 coastal states: Anzoátegui, Aragua, Carabobo, Delta Amacuro, Falcón, Miranda, Mérida, Monagas, Nueva Esparta, Sucre, Vargas, Yaracuy and Zulia and all federal agencies. The plan guidelines are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conserve natural, landscape, historical, archeological, and socio-cultural resources. 2. Strengthening environmental planning and management of coastal zones. 3. Prevent, control, correct and mitigate sources of pollution. 4. Guarantee the public usefulness coastal zones through integrated management of public areas. 5. Reduce population vulnerability to natural or socio-natural phenomena in coastal zones. 6. Strengthening administrative procedures and establish coordination, monitoring and control mechanisms for public agencies. 7. Strengthening environmental education and local communities' participation. 8. Guide and promote scientific and technological research in coastal zones. 9. Reinforce permanent environmental control and enforcement. <p>Planning has been scheduled for 20 years, until 2030, however, this is a permanent process with actions at a national, state and local level are carried out in the short, medium and long-term, aiming to produce results contributing to environmental management.</p> <p>For instance, the assessment of building sites at Vargas State coast was carried out during 2011, aiming to reduce impacts, plan the sewage system, build collectors and protect associated ecosystems, with the participation of the Ministry of Popular Power for the Environment (currently</p>
--	--	---



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

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

		<p>Ministry of Eco-socialism and waters), through Capital District State Direction of Eco-socialism and waters, the Ministry of Popular Power for Tourism, Vargas State Government and Bahía de los Niños community.</p>
<p>Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional levels in accordance with Article XVIII?</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The National Project Sea Turtle Conservation is progressing encompassing all marine, coastal and island regions in Venezuela's Bolivarian Republic. This project is based on the implementation of the ENCDB 2012-2020 and its Action Plan including the strategic lines and cross-cutting axes in sea turtle conservation and as a response to the several threat, sea turtle populations are facing. Similarly, local sea turtle conservation actions and projects are included, with the participation of governmental agencies, researchers, academy, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and the organized community. Four (4) projects have been established so far in Sucre State, one (1) in Vargas State, one (1) in Carabobo, one (1) in Nueva Esparta and one (1) in Isla de Aves, Federal Dependencies. A series of protocols for biologic data gathering and species habitats management have been designed, such as clutches relocation, collection of hatchlings, and tagging of nesting females. Also, coordination is in progress to develop a tagging national system for monitoring sea turtles.</p> <p>Local projects are the planning tool at a local level, implementing the ENCDB 2012-2020 and its Action Plan in specific areas managed by one or several communities (such as small communities, community councils, student councils, fishermen councils, university communities, agencies, among other) or by governmental or non-governmental bodies. These projects area based on a real and structural diagnosis of issues linked to each line and axes of the strategy, addressing local biodiversity loss issues in a global and structural way. This tool enables collectives to decide the implementation of the ENCDB in their locality, from their own local knowledge. This way, the National Strategy becomes a tool for debate with a global and</p>



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

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

		comprehensive view of problems and solutions, generating a different reality for men and women committed to environmental conservation.
Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?	<i>Yes</i>	The National Program for Endangered Species Conservation and the Sea Turtle Conservation Project, include monitoring the actions developed.

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
Environmental Criminal Law	It aims to typify as crimes events against natural resources and the environment and to impose criminal penalties. It also determines precautionary measures of restitution and reparation required, and procedural provisions according to environmental issues.	
Resolution No 0000043-A, Ministry of Popular Power for the Environment	Resolution defining the Ministry of Popular Power for the Environment officials powers, regarding administrative acts of control, including processing, decisions, granting contracts, concessions, assignments, authorizations, approvals, permits, records, and licenses.	
Ministry of Popular Power for the Environment regulating RAMSAR National Committee No. 0000049	An update of wetlands management legal framework was required to include it in the new Country model defined by the Simon Bolivar National Project, First Socialist National Plan 2007-20012 and the Nation Plan Law, Second Economic and	



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

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

	<p>Social Development Socialist Plan 2013-2019, articulated with the ENCDB 2012-2020 and its Action Plan as guarantee of a real sustainable and participative management of wetland, not only as strategic areas for conservation, but as an integral part of the current management system of water and human settlements. Resolution N° 000049 establishes the regulations for RAMSAR National Committee. As an advisory body this Committee contributes technically defining the policies of the Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-socialism and Waters for the RAMSAR Convention implementation, at Venezuela Bolivarian Republic RAMSAR site such as: Cuare Wildlife Refuge (Falcon State), Los Olivitos Swamo Wildlife Refuge (Zulia State), Tacarigua Lagoon National Park (Miranda State), La Restinga Lagoon National Park (Nueva Esparta State), Los Roques Archipelago National Park (Federal Dependences).</p>	
International Instruments		
Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding	Year signed/or ratified	
WITHOUT CHANGES		

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



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

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

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-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
1b) Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?				X
2. Have you taken conservation measures to eliminate poaching of leatherback turtles?	X		At the Venezuela Bolivarian Republic, there are actions to control the illegal harvest of sea turtle populations in transit through the Caribbean and the Atlantic Ocean. The Ministry of Popular Power and Eco-socialism and Waters Biological Diversity Department created the Biological Diversity Threats Prevention and Control Direction to strengthen mechanisms to prevent illegal trafficking and trade of biological components diversity, as well as to implement rapid response actions and promote wildlife and botanic material rehabilitation. Actions to support leatherbacks conservation include beach surveillance to reduce catches of nesting females and poaching, have been implemented through the Sea Turtle National Project. Advisory, educational activities and workshops are developed to increase awareness and to prevent sea turtle products and sub-products illegal trafficking and trade.	
3. If your country has leatherback turtle nesting beaches in the				X



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

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

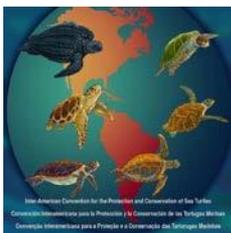
Eastern Pacific: Have you taken conservation measures to protect the nesting sites and their associated habitats?				
4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?	X		Since 2009, trawl fishing was banned in all Venezuelan territorial sea and the Economic Exclusive Zone (Extraordinary Official Journal No. 5877 11/03/2009), which has brought benefits for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainability of the ecosystem in 562000 square kilometers in the Caribbean Sea.	

(* 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		DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
	YES	NO		
1. Are you strengthening monitoring of the illegal use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products?	X		Through the Biological Diversity Threats Control and Prevention Direction of the General Biological Diversity Direction in coordination with the State control bodies, inspections in different areas of the country have allowed the confiscation of hawksbill products. Also, since mid-2013, the Public Ministry started a campaign called “Expose Illegal Wildlife Trafficking”, aiming to control wildlife and its products trafficking through ports, and national and international airports.	
2. Are you enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation?	X		CIT and CITE Resolutions related to this species are applied, as well as national regulations supporting biological diversity conservation and in some cases specifically sea turtle conservation, such as the Environment Organic Law, the Biological Diversity Management Law, Wildlife Protection Law and its Regulation and Decrees No. 1485 and 1486, including hawksbills among the species banned for extraction, and threatened to extinction respectively. Also, within a polytechnic framework (Nation Plan Law 2013-2019 and the ENCDB 2010-2020 and its Action Plan) guidelines for biological conservation are established in Venezuela.	



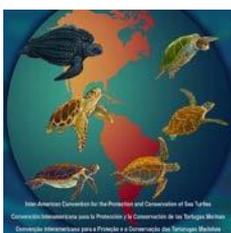
Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

3. Are activities being carried out in order to stop the illegal trade of hawksbill products?	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent operations for the detection of illegal trade are carried out in coordination with the Bolivarian National Guard and the Public Ministry. • Consultancy and workshops are developed to increase awareness and prevent the trade and illegal trafficking of sea turtles and their products. • There are actions to training public officers in charge of Environmental Surveillance, aiming to identify products made with sea turtle shells as well as to identify dissected sea turtle species. • There are campaigns to control wildlife illegal trafficking through the Public Ministry. 		
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		<p>Integrated planning and management of coastal zones connect environmental, social, cultural and economic issues describing a dynamic and wide process, allowing to understand the interrelation of the spatial and temporal systems, as well as the definition of conservation and sustainability policies of coastal ecosystems.</p> <p>There is surveillance in beaches to guarantee compliance with the Decree with force of law in Coastal Zone, protecting an 80 m strip from the high tide line.</p>	
	b) Protection of feeding habitats	X		Same as previous	

(*) 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.



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

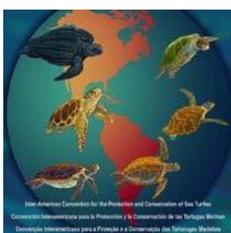
República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

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	There is no specific project to assess this item, however the ENCDB 2010-2020 and its National Action Plan strategic line 1 establishes the “Information Management on Biological Diversity” with the objectives of “Establishing mechanisms, tools, and procedures to promote research and ensuring access to knowledge to implement and monitor the National Strategy for Biological Diversity Conservation”. Therefore, this line promotes the production of new information required to accomplish this objective. Within the Sea Turtle Conservation Framework, there are forms and protocols to report basic data, which includes monitoring impacts of fisheries on sea turtles. There are also forms to report strandings, including sea turtles incidental catches as a probable cause of the stranding.	
• 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		The ENCDB 2010-20020 and its National Action Plan includes the development of the regional needs diagnosis to implement wildlife rescue, recovery, and rehabilitation centers. In Zulia State, the Gulf of Venezuela Sea Turtle Work Group conducts the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of sea turtles rescued in the Gulf of Venezuela. The Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-socialism and Waters State Direction also has a sea turtles rescue and rehabilitation area.	
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		Since 2009, Industrial trawl fishing is banned in all the Territorial Sea and The Economic Exclusive Zone of the Venezuelan Bolivarian Republic.	
iv. Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))			Fishing and Aquaculture Decree with Rank, Value, and Force of Law, establishes in Article 26 that fishing gears and technology available will be studied and analyzed, or developed	



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

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

			to reduce impacts on other living resources different to fishing targets.	
v. Training programs for fishermen about best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught.	X		<p>The ENCDB 2010-2020 and its National Action Plan, recognizes in its cross-cutting axis No.1 “Education for Conservation” the need to promote the development of critical awareness on Biological Diversity through outreach and creation of more space to debate its social value as a natural patrimony and a primer resource for the Nation development, threats and management policies for conservation. Similarly, the Strategic Line No.1 “Management of Information” ensures access to biological diversity information to promote the implementation of strategic lines and transversal axes.</p> <p>In July 2011, sea turtle posters were presented at the II National Conference on Biological Diversity, showing conservation actions results and progress and attention on contingencies. Also, during the Symposium “Scientific Expedition of Birds” during the IX Venezuelan Ecology Conference, there were presentations on sea turtle conservation research, as well as during the Symposium “Sea Turtle and Cetaceans Veterinary Aspects” there were presentations about tools for sea turtles monitoring, rescue, and rehabilitation.</p> <p>There was a workshop-training about Sea Turtles in Venezuela providing information on the biology, ecology, population status, conservation category and conservation techniques. Thirty (30) people attended this workshop (tourist operators, fishermen, coastal zones communal council members and students from universities).</p> <p>The “Sea Turtle Conservation Workshop” took place in May 2012, at the III National Conference on Biological Diversity with the presentation of posters and discussions on sea turtles, showing the progress and results from conservation and research actions.</p> <p>The “Sea Turtle Conservation Workshop” took place in June 2013, at the IV National Conference on Biological Diversity, aiming to review standardized sea turtle population management and monitoring protocols for the populations inhabiting or nesting in Venezuelan coasts.</p> <p>During the V National Conference on Biological Diversity in June 2014, national universities students and officers from the Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-Socialism and Waters presented posters on research and conservation of sea turtles.</p> <p>During the VI Venezuelan Conference on Biological Diversity, national universities students and officers from the Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-Socialism and Waters presented posters on research and conservation of sea turtles.</p>	
C. Socio-economic considerations				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles 	X		<p>The Bolivarian Missions are a management strategy implemented by the Bolivarian government since 2003 to attend social issues and guarantee social safety to people from Venezuela. These missions have become the key strategy to reach expedite massive social inclusion to overcome social inequality and poverty, which is a challenge in the conservation Biological Diversity, as well as promoting the sustainable use of ecosystems satisfying social needs, as the only way for conservation of ecosystems and species.</p> <p>Also within the ENCDB 2010-2020 and its Action Plan, it was discussed that biological diversity use is an important link between humans and the rest of nature and that when this happens in sustainable ways it is a base for sovereignty and the development of present and future generations. In this sense,</p>	



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

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

			<p>the Country Policy connects biological conservation with food sovereignty, territorial sovereignty, and agroecology.</p> <p>For the Bolivarian government eradication of poverty without sovereignty on natural resource, political autonomy and new schemes of neocolonialism is not viable. Gathering rents benefiting small groups and expanding exclusion is intolerable and undermines sovereignty principles. From this principle all the strategies, plans and projects are framed within a development proposal that “support the roots in the fusion of the most advanced values and principles of socialism human currents and Simon Bolivar’s historical thoughts” to achieve an inclusive social structure and a new social, productive, humanist and endogenic model” there is the First National Economic and Social Development Socialist Plan 2007-2013 and along with the Nation Plan Law, and the Second National Economic and Social Development Socialist Plan 2013-2019.</p> <p>These plans include guidelines towards eradication of poverty, social inclusion and protection of nature: posing a new relationship between human beings and Mother Earth leading to the development of low environmental impact productive models, a territorial reorganization responding to environmental, historical and cultural realities.</p>
--	--	--	--

(* 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.)

Actions implemented in our Country to counteract this scourge, translate in the implementation of the National Strategy for Conservation of Biological Diversity 2010-2020 and its National Action Plan through the strategic line “Prevention and Management of Species Illegal Trafficking and Trade”, additionally there are administrative and criminal penalties established in the environmental regulations such as the Biological Diversity Management, the Wildlife Protection Law and its Regulation and the Environmental Criminal Law, which jointly provide for the protection and conservation of the species to mitigate biological diversity loss.

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.

The Venezuela Bolivarian Republic does not develop any program involving sea



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

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

turtles extractive use as current legal regulations do not allow consumption of these species as Decree No.1485 banned sea turtle hunts in our territory and Decree 1486 declared them as species threatened to extinction. Both Decrees have been published in the Republic Official Journal N° 36059 of 07/10/1996 and 36062 of 10/10/1996, respectively.

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 = *Eretmodochelys imbricata*; Cc = *Caretta caretta*; Cm = *Chelonia mydas*.*

The following table shows the main threats to the different sea turtle species populations in the Venezuelan Bolivarian Republic.

Species	Threat (s)	Action(s)	
Lo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Local conservation projects within the National Strategy for Biological Diversity Conservation Sea turtle National Conservation Project, including conservation and management actions, nesting females protection, clutches and hatchlings, beach surveillance and environmental education, involving local communities in the development of these actions.
Dc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	
Ei	<input 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	
Cm	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	



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

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

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).

Sea Turtle conservation and management project including basic data gathering are being carried out nationally, implemented by governmental and non-governmental institutions, involving local communities. On the other hand, national universities and research centers are conducting a great amount of bachelor and postgraduate research about sea turtles, especially regarding reproduction and population genetics. The species involved are as follow:

Research	Species (Lo, Lk, Cm, Ei, Cc, Dc)
<i>Genetics</i>	<i>Cm</i>
<i>Tagging</i>	<i>Dc, Cm,</i>
<i>Migration</i>	<i>Cm</i>
<i>Habitat monitoring</i>	<i>Cm, Ei, Cc, Dc</i>
<i>Fisheries interactions</i>	<i>Dc, Ei, Cc, Cm</i>
<i>Disease</i>	<i>Dc, Ei</i>

c. Other activities

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

Following there is a list of sea turtle conservation projects and activities in the Venezuelan Bolivarian Republic, including research and environmental education, and surveillance in nesting beaches. Details of each project are found in the Spanish version of this document.

1. Isla Aves Wildlife Refuge (Federal Dependences) Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) Population Monitoring and Conservation.

Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-socialism and Waters (Biological Diversity General Direction). Coordinator: Luis Rodríguez Rojas



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

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

lrodriguez@minamb.gob.ve

2. **Sea Turtle Conservation at *Golfo de Paria***

Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-socialism and Waters (Biological Diversity General Direction). Coordinator: Clemente Balladares
cballadares@minamb.gob.ve

3. **Sea Turtle Conservation Project at *San Juan de las Galdonas, Sucre State*.**

Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-socialism and Waters (Biological Diversity General Direction). Coordinator: San Juan de las Galdonas community; Juan Carlos Figuera and the Ministry of Popular Power for the Environment; Romnel Deutsch Funez (DGDB) and Gleiber Viña (Sucre State Direction of Eco-socialism and Waters).

4. **Sea Turtle Conservation Project at *Morro de Puerto Santo, Sucre State***

Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-socialism and Waters (Biological Diversity General Direction and State Direction for Eco-socialism and Waters) and El Morro de Puerto Santo Community. Coordinator: El Morro de Puerto Santo community; Emeterio Gutierrez and the Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-socialism and Waters; Romnel Deutsch Funez (DGDB) and Gleiber Viña (Sucre State Direction of Eco-socialism and Waters).

5. **Sea Turtle Conservation Project at *Vargas State***

Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-socialism and Waters (Biological Diversity General Direction; Capital District and Vargas). Coordinator: La Sabana community; Luis Pérez Izaguirre and the Ministry of Popular Power for the Environment; Marvin Jiménez (DGDB) and Yolimar Rodríguez (Capital District and Vargas State Direction of Eco-socialism and Waters)
mjimenez@minamb.gob.ve

6. **Sea Turtle Conservation Pilot Program at *Parguito Beach and Other Beaches of Antolín del Campo Municipality, Nueva Esparta State*.**

Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-socialism and Waters (Biological Diversity General Direction and State Direction for Eco-Socialism and Waters, and Parguito Beach Community, Nueva Esparta State. Coordinator: Playa Parguito community: Tortuga en Resistencia Group.

7. **Towards a socially integrated ecosystem between *La Sabana Parroquia***



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

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

Caruao citizens and their sea turtles

Marina de Jesús Blanco; Yolimar Rodríguez; La Sabana Environmental
Conservation Brigade olyca@hotmail.com

8. Sea Turtle Management, Conservation and Monitoring at the Petrochemical Complex Morón, Carabobo State.

Coordinator: Arelis Quintero. Participants: Pedro David Vernet Paravisini y
GTTM-NE pedrovernet@gmail.com

9. Peninsula de Paria (Ciparia and Querepare) Sea Turtle Research and Conservation, Sucre State

Coordinator: Hedelvy Guada – Sea Turtle Research and Conservation Center
(CICTMAR). hjguada@gmail.com

10. Aragua Coast Sea Turtle Monitoring and Conservation Project

Participants: Ernesto Pulgar Hahn (INPARQUE, Las Delicias Zoo), Hedelvy
Guada (CICTMAR), Maria Fernanda Gonzáles Rivero (El Pinar Zoo) and Cesar
Fischer (Puerto Escondido Dive Center). Sponsors: PROVITA and Puerto
Escondido Dive Center

11. National Park Morrocoy Nesting Sea Turtles Monitoring Project – Season 2012

12. II Venezuelan Conference on Biological Diversity

13. III Venezuelan Conference on Biological Diversity

14. IV Venezuelan Conference on Biological Diversity

15. V Venezuelan Conference on Biological Diversity

16. VI Venezuelan Conference on Biological Diversity

17. “Sea Turtles and Cetaceans Veterinarian Aspects” Symposium

18. Awareness and community involvement activities in La Sabana, Vargas Municipality, Vargas State.

19. Environmental Education and Community Involvement Activities –



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

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

CICTMAR, 2010

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 nesting beach.*
- g. *Declared protection area: Indicate (yes or no) if the area is declared as some type of protected area.*

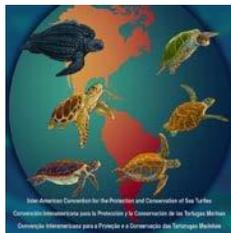


Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

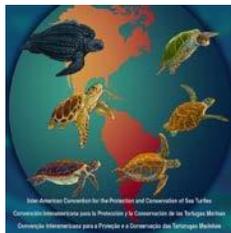
Annual Report 2016

- 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.*



**Inter-American Convention for the
Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles**
República Bolivariana de Venezuela
Annual Report 2016

Spp	Name of Index Nesting Site or Beach	Nesting Season		Monitoring period		Survey Frequency	Geographic Location (Lat/Lon)				Extension of monitored beach (km)	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				
Dc	Macuro	03/2015	05/2015	03/2015	06/2015	3 diurnal or nocturnal patrols per week	10°41'25"	N	61°53'23"	O	2,5 (7 beaches)	1,5 Km of beach insider Peninsula de Paria National Park		18		No		Ministry of Popular Power for Eco-socialism and Waters (MPPEA)	
	Parguito Beach				2015	Daily	11°4'4,3"	N	63°50'46"	O	0,5	No		63		No	No	MPPEA	
	El Agua Beach				2015	Daily	11°0,8'57"	N	63°52'20"	O	3	No		42		No			
	San Juan De las Galdonas				2015	Daily	10°42'41"	N	62°50'45"	O		No		23		No			
	El Morro de Puerto Santo				2015	Daily	10°72'50,94"	N	63°16'64,40"	O		No		5		No			
	Beaches between Moron River mouth and Yaracuy River	03/2015	09/2015	03/2015	09/2015	3 diurnal or nocturnal patrols per week	10°34'57,31"	N	68°14'38"	O	11	No							PEQUIVEN
							10°30'49"		68°10'50,8"										
	Querepare	15/03/2015	30/06/2015	15/03/2015	31/08/2015	Daily	10°42'	N	65°52'	O	1,8	No		195		FT	No	CICTMAR	
Cipara	15/03/2015	30/06/2015	15/03/2015	31/08/2015	Daily	10°45'	N	62°42'	O	2,06	No		175		FT		CICTMAR		



**Inter-American Convention for the
Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles**
República Bolivariana de Venezuela
Annual Report 2016

Ei	Macuro	06/2015	09/2015	06/2015	11/2015	3 diurnal or nocturnal patrols per week	10°41' 25"	N	61°53' 23"	O	2,5 (7 beaches)	1,5 Km of beach inside Peninsula de Paria National Park	197	No	No	MPPEA
	Beaches between Moron river mouth and Yaracuy river	03/2015	09/2015	03/2015	09/2015	3 diurnal or nocturnal patrols per week	10°34' 57,31"	N	68°14' 38"	O	11	No				PEQUIVEN
	Querepare	15/03/2015	30/06/2015	15/03/2015	31/08/2015	Daily	10°42'	N	62°52'	O	1,8	No		FT	No	CICTMAR
Cm	RFS Isla de las Aves	Feb 2015	Nov 2015	Feb 2015	Nov 2015	Daily in February, August, September. Daily during 12 days in November	15°40' 4,3"	N	63°36' 59,9"	O		Yes (Wildlife Refuge)	169	FT		MPPEA
	Parguito Beach			2015		Daily	11°7,4' 23,7"	N	63°50' 46"	O	0,5	No		No		MPPEA
	San Juan de las Galdonas			2015		Daily	10°42' 41"	N	62°50' 45"	O		No				
	El Morro de Puerto Santo			2015		Daily	10°72' 50,94"	N	63°16' 64,40"	O		No				
	Querepare	15/03/2015	30/06/2015	15/03/2015	31/08/2015	Daily	10°42'	N	62°52"	O		No		FT		CICTMAR



**Inter-American Convention for the
Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles**
República Bolivariana de Venezuela
Annual Report 2016

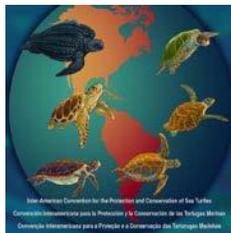
Cc	Parguito Beach			2015	Daily	11°7,4' 23,7"	N	63°50' 46"	O	0,5	No				No		MPPEA
	San Juan de las Galdonas			2015	Daily	10°42' 41"	N	62°50' 45"	O		No						
	El Morro de Puerto Santo			2015	Daily	10°72' 50,94"	N	63°16' 64,40"	O		No		1				
Beaches between Moron river mouth and Yaracuy river		03/2015	09/2015	03/2015	09/2015	3 diurnal or nocturnal patrols per week	10°34' 57,31"	N	68°14' 38"	O	11	No		2	FT		
	Querepare	15/03/2015	30/06/2015	15/03/2015	31/08/2015	Daily	10°42'	N	62°52'	O		No		2	FT		CICTMAR
	Cipara	15/03/2015	30/06/2015	15/03/2015	31/08/2015	Daily	10°45'	N	62°42'	O		No		1	FT		CICTMAR



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles República Bolivariana de Venezuela Annual Report 2016

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, subadult 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.*



**Inter-American Convention for the
Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles**
República Bolivariana de Venezuela
Annual Report 2016

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	Golfo de Venezuela	11°42'	N	71°31'	O		No	Sub-adult	None	No	GTMM-CV (Willdermann & Barrios, 2012)
Dc	Golfo de Venezuela	11°42'	N	71°31'	O		No	Adult	None	No	GTMM-CV (Willdermann & Barrios, 2012)
	La Blanquilla Island	11° 50'	N	64° 35'	O		No	All of the above	None	No	MPPEA
Ei	Golfo de Venezuela	11°42'	N	71°31'	O		No	All of the above	None	No	GTMM-CV (Willdermann & Barrios, 2012)
	Morrocoy NP	10° 49'	N	68° 16'	O		SI	All of the above	None	No	MPPEA
	Los Roques NP	11° 46'	N	66° 36'	O		SI	All of the above	None	No	MPPEA
Cm	Golfo de Venezuela	11°42'	N	71°31'	O		No	All of the above	None	No	GTMM-CV (Willdermann & Barrios, 2012)
	PN Morrocoy	10° 49'	N	68° 16'	O		Yes	All of the above	None	No	MPPEA
	PN Los Roques	11° 46'	N	66° 36'	O		Yes	All of the above	None	No	MPPEA
Cc	RFS Isla de Aves	15° 40'	N	63° 36'	O		Yes	All of the above	FT	No	MPPEA
	Golfo de Venezuela	11°42'	N	71°31'	O		No	All of the above	None	No	GTMM-CV (Willdermann & Barrios, 2012)
	PN Morrocoy	10° 49'	N	68° 16'	O		Yes	All of the above	None	No	MPPEA



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

República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Annual Report 2016

REFERENCES

Horrocks, J.A., S. Stapleton, H.J. Guada, C. Lloyd, E. Harris, M. Fastigi, J. Berkel, K. Stewart, J. Gumbs and K.L. Eckert. 2016. International movements of adult female leatherbacks turtles in the Caribbean: results from WIDECAST Marine Turtle Tagging Centre. *Endangered Species Research* 29:279-287

González-Rivero, M.F., H.J. Guada, M.Á. Rondón y L.G. Morales. “2015”. (2013). Anidación de tortugas marinas en el sector noroccidental del Parque Nacional Morrocoy, Estado Falcón. *Anartia* (25):17-31.