



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Argentina Annual Report 2017

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, 2017**.

Part I (General Information)

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

a._ Focal Point

Institution	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship
Name	Minister Marcia Levaggi: Political Focal Point
Institution	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS)
Name	Mg. Jorgelina del Pilar Oddi: Technical Focal Point
Date Annual Report Submitted	April 30th, 2017

b._ Agency or Institution responsible for preparing this report

Name of Agency or Institution	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
Name of the person responsible for completing this report	Ms. Débora Jessica Winter
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c. _ Others who participated in the preparation of this report

Name	Agency or Institution	E-mail
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Part II (Policy and Management)

a. General description of activities carried out for the protection and conservation of sea turtles

In accordance with Articles IX and XVIII of the text of the Convention, each Party shall establish monitoring programs, policies and plans for implementation at a national level for the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitat.

As a result, the Party shall report on the action plans, management plan or other types of instruments, describing their location, the species considered and the actions implemented by governmental, non-governmental and private institutions related to sea turtles.

In addition to the above, please fill out the following tables and explain the level of progress in the comments column.

	YES/NO	Comments
	In Progress	
Does your country have a national plan of action in accordance with Article XVIII?	YES	In September 2015, the Environment Federal Council (COFEMA in Spanish) by Resolution No.317/2015, approved the “National Action Plan for Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Argentine Republic (PANTM)” and the “National Action Program to Reduce the Sea Turtles Interaction with Marine Debris in Argentina” within. Likewise, the PANTM includes the “National Action Program to Reduce Sea Turtles Interactions with Fisheries in Argentina”, adopted by the Federal Fishing Council (CFP in Spanish) Act CFP No. 37/2016.
Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional levels in accordance with Article XVIII?	YES	The objective of the “National Action Program to Reduce the Sea Turtles Interaction with Marine Debris in Argentina” is to reduce the interaction of sea turtles and marine debris found in foraging areas and these reptiles’



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		migratory corridors. The “National Action Program to Reduce Sea Turtles Interactions with Fisheries in Argentina” aims to reduce the impacts of fisheries on sea turtles in Argentinian waters using an ecosystem approach.
Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?	NO	

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
Resolution 1055/2013	Resolution on the categorization of amphibians and reptiles in Argentina	2013
Resolution COFEMA N° 317/2015	Approves the “National Action Plan for Conservation of Sea Turtles in The Argentine Republic (PANTM)” including the “National Action Program to Reduce the Sea Turtles Interaction with Marine Debris in Argentina”	2015
Act CFP No.37/2016	Approves the “National Action Program to Reduce Sea Turtles Interactions with Fisheries in Argentina”	2016

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



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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			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
1b) Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?				X
2. Have you taken conservation measures to eliminate poaching of leatherback turtles?				X
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
4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce Incidental capture and mortality of this species?				X

(*) 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		RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY			DOES NOT APPLY
		YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	
1. Are you strengthening monitoring of the illegal use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products?					X
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		Measures forming part of the Law 22.344 enforcement, approved by CITES Convention and Fauna National Law (22.421). To export hawksbill products the exporter should certify that the pieces were obtained prior the Convention. This certificate is issued by the Ministry of Culture of the Nation. Regarding trafficking, control measures are enforced along with Customs and the relevant authorities. As Hawksbill sea turtles don't occur in the country, recorded trade is scarce.	
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
	b) Protection of feeding habitats		X		

(*) **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		Research on censuses and incidental catches. Crosschecking of satellite information with fisheries effort. (Prosdocimi <i>et al.</i> 2016; Fossette <i>et al.</i> 2014; Prosdocimi <i>et al.</i> 2014) Assessment of the coastal fleet incidental catches of large marine vertebrates. Using surveys the interaction with all the species in the Action Plans is being assessed.	
• Observer programs	X		There is a National Observers Program and Provincial Programs in certain fisheries. However, this program doesn't cover all the fleets impacting sea turtles (artisanal and coastal trawling).	
• Research on sea turtle/fishery interactions	X		Crosschecking of satellite information with fisheries effort. (Prosdocimi <i>et al.</i> 2016; Fossette <i>et al.</i> 2014; Prosdocimi <i>et al.</i> 2014)	
• 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			The following resolutions are not specific to sea turtles but would benefit them: Bottom trawling areas in Argentina-Uruguay common zone: -Resolutions CTMFM: Hake movable closure prohibits the use of bottom trawling in areas defined according to seasons (fall, winter, spring, and summer) at the CTMFM. (http://ctmfm.org/resoluciones/a_rea-veda-merluza) Res 01/2017 Art. 1° - Fall closure Res 04/2016 Art. 1° - Winter closure Res 11/2016 Art. 1° - Spring closure Res 15/2016 Art 1° - Summer closure -Resolution CTMFM 12/2016: Regulation for the protection of cartilaginous fish establishing a prohibited area for bottom trawling at the ZCP. -Resolution CTMFM No 10/2000: Demersal species closed area for vessels with a total length larger than 28 m.	
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)				



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		<p>Closed areas Buenos Aires Province:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Resolution 7/2016: adds the CTMFM Resolution 11/15 in the Province jurisdictional waters which prohibits bottom trawls in the ZCP. Amended by Resolution 9/2016, which excludes the fishing fleet permanently registered in General Lavalle and San Clemente del Tuyú ports. -Provision DPP 60/2015: Establishes, that from November 4th, 2016, a temporary closure to harvest the hardhead (<i>Micropogonias furnieri</i>) and bycatch, in the area between the external edge and internal edges of <i>Río de la Plata</i>, under this act considerations. -Resolution SSAP 694/2001: Allows artisanal fishermen from Mar del Plata to operate with bottom trawling nets to catch prawn and shrimp within three miles of the area between 37° 28' and 38° 11' LS except for the area between 37°43' and 37°45'. -Resolution SSAP491/2002: Bans fishing and exploitation of marine resource in commercial vessels within the first five nautical miles from Claromecó to San Blas Bay. - Resolution SSAP9 and 11/2005: bans fishing of demersal fishes to for vessels with a length longer than 27 m. -Resolution SSAP 15/2006: establishes management, control and implementation procedures for fishing activities in Provincial waters. -Resolution SSAP 18/2006: establishes the full and exclusive use of the first five nautical miles of the provincial marine area between Punta Rasa and 37°LS for all the artisanal fishing vessels using passive fishing gears. -Resolution SSAP23/2006: Bans trawl fishing in the area between 35°27'LS y 35°31'LS and four nautical miles far. This is a permanent closure between 35°46'LS and 35°51' and four nautical miles far. -Resolution SSAP32/2006: allows trawl fishing for multi-specific demersal fishes (Variado Costero) between April 1 and October 31 every year in the area between 37°20'LS and 37°42.5'LS and between 37°46'LS and 38° 18'LS. -Resolution SAPyDD 16/2007: Bans fishing within this area, to vessels with a length longer than 28m. -Resolution SAPyDD 49/2007: Bans fishing within the provincial administration waters, between Punta Piedras and Punta Yeguas and Punta Lara and Colonia del Sacramento, using bottom trawling. From 1/10 to 31/03 every year. <p>Closed areas for bottom trawling in the Argentinian Economic Exclusive Zone:</p>	
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		<p>-Resolution CFP 26/2009: Article 8, establishes a total and permanent area closed to all types of vessels with trawling gears, for the conservation of juveniles of <i>Merluccius hubbsi</i>. Throughout the years, the closure suffered changes and now it covers a total of 179.000 Km². Current amendments: Resolution CFP No. 9/2014.</p> <p>-Article 11 of Resolution 26/2009 CFP is a fishing restriction according to the vessel; in this case, freezer vessels cannot work within the five nautical miles following the total and permanent closure area defined in Resolution 265/2000 and subsequent. This regulation aims to remove fishing effort of vessels with more autonomy in the area next to the closure. Current amendments: Resolution CFP No.9/2014</p> <p>Particular fishing areas:</p> <p>-Resolution 12/2001 SAGPyA defines the creation of a special fishing area of 30 nautical miles west to the limit of 200 marine miles. Established south by the parallel 47°40' and north by the ZCP limit. This area is exclusive for bottoms trawling freezer vessels allowed to fish all the species included in their permits, except for the common-hake.</p> <p>-Resolution SAGPyA 12/2001: Atlantic Ocean special fishing area of "170 miles" for freezer vessels.</p> <p>-Resolution SAGPyA No.265/2000: Art 1° and subsequent modifications. Permanent closure area for bottom trawling fisheries.</p> <p>-Resolution CFP N° 2/2010: Area "El Rincón" to manage different coastal species. Restricted fishing effort area and reproductive closure area between October 1st and March every year.</p> <p>-Resolution CFP N° 90/2005: Art. 28. Interjurisdictional Area of Restricted Fishing Effort.</p> <p>-Resolution CARP N° 9/2009: Closure area for boats with a total length larger than 21.99 fishing croaker.</p> <p>-Resolution CTMFM 13/2014: Prohibits bottom trawling between November 1st, 2014 and, included, March 31st, 2015, in the area defined by the following geographic references:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) North, parallel 36°S and its intersection with the outer limit of <i>Río de la Plata</i>; b) South, parallel 37°S; c) West, by the outer limit of Argentina's Territorial Sea d) East, by meridian 56°00'W. <p>Buenos Aires Province Official Regulations 59/14 and 63/14: Prohibits bottom trawling between 5 and 12 nautical miles, except for vessels operating in San Clemente y Gral. Lavalle. These regulations are valid between January 1st, 2015 and, including, March 31st, 2015.</p>
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v.	Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))		X	
vi.	Training programs for fishermen about best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught.		X	
C. Socio-economic considerations				
	• Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles		X	

(* 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.)

Inspections are carried out in two marine parks of Buenos Aires Province and one park in Buenos Aires: *Mundo Marino* at *San Clemente del Tuyú*, and *El Aquarium de Mar del Plata* and *Ecoparques de Buenos Aires* at the Federal Capital (Fauna National Law 22.421 and its Regulatory Decree 666/97 and Resolution 86/2010 at Buenos Aires Province). Buenos Aires Province by Resolution No. 86/2010, and via the Sustainable Developments Provincial Organism (OPDS), coordinates the Marine Fauna Rescue Network with jurisdiction in all Buenos Aires coast. This network system includes mechanisms to transfer stranded sea turtles requiring going to the closest rehabilitation center, for recovery and subsequent release.

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.

NOT APPLICABLE FOR ARGENTINA



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

Species	Threat (s)	Action(s)	
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 by NGOs and scientific organizations to understand the issue.
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 by NGOs and scientific organizations to understand the issue.
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 by NGOs and scientific organizations to understand the issue.

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	Species (Lo, Lk, Cm, Ei, Cc, Dc)
<i>Tagging</i>	<i>Cm, Cc y Dc</i>
<i>Migration</i>	<i>Cm, Cc y Dc</i>
<i>Genetics</i>	<i>Cm, Cc y Dc</i>
<i>Habitat monitoring</i>	<i>Cm, Cc y Dc</i>
<i>Interactions with fisheries</i>	<i>Cm, Cc y Dc</i>
<i>Disease</i>	<i>Cm, Cc y Dc</i>

The Regional Program for Research and Conservation of Sea Turtle in Argentina (PRICTMA) involves several organizations along the geographic range of the four sea turtle species identified in our waters. Since 2003, all the organizations part of PRICTMA are working together on different research lines, comprising a uniform interdisciplinary working group in all the distribution area, for the following research areas:

1. Population genetics studies on green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) (only two individuals are available therefore it was not included in the Table). **See references 8, 9, 23, 25, 26, 29 y 32.**
2. Between 2006 and 2012 satellite tracking studies were carried out aiming to establish migratory patterns, movement corridors, seasonality and habitat use. To date nine (9) green turtles, six (6) loggerhead turtles and three (3) leatherback turtles have been equipped with trackers. **See references 1, 11, 12, 13 y 14.**

Satellite tracking was supported by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the marine program of *Vida Silvestre* Foundation. Therefore between 2006 and 2012, PRICTMA had three devices for satellite tracking of leatherback turtles. This activity is framed within the Transatlantic Initiative for the Conservation of Leatherback Turtles (TALCIN), which we are part of along with other South American and African countries.

(http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/suriname/index.cfm?uProjectID=9Z1395). **See references 1, 11, 13, 14, 21 y 24.**

3. Under the supervision of the Nation's MArDS Wildlife Direction, PRICTMA coordinates the National Tagging Plan. Tags are provided by the Cooperative Marine Turtle Tagging Program, and Florida University Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research (USA) distributed strategically in different locations covering all of the sea turtles range in our country. **DFS Contact and database – Ms. Mariel Labraña (mlabrana@ambiente.gob.ar).**
4. Sea Turtles interaction with fisheries in Argentina is assessed mainly for some artisanal fisheries in the south of *Bahía Samborombón* and *Bahía Blanca* (Buenos Aires Province). These fisheries use bottom gillnets. In regards to other fishing gears, there were only qualitative diagnoses. Currently, the Sub-secretary of Fisheries and Aquaculture coordinates the survey “Assessment of



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the coastal fleet incidental catches of large marine vertebrates” within the framework of the Action Plans for the conservation of chondrichthyans, birds, marine mammals and sea turtles. See references **11, 18, 21, 22, 24 y 27.**

5. Along with gillnet fisheries monitoring, there is research on: health monitoring to evaluate the health of the sea turtles entangled and stranded; foraging studies analyzing stomach content, and a continuous analysis in the study area on the impact of human-made marine debris ingestion. These studies are complemented by satellite tracking and genetics research. **See references 1, 2, 3, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 27, 28, 30, 33 y 34.**
6. All species of sea turtle diet studies on stomach content relieve and stable isotopes in animals incidentally captured and stranded. **See references 17 y 33.**
7. The systematic monitoring of the sea turtles stranding program started in 2014 continued in 2016, encompassing the coastal sector of Buenos Aires Province. Monitoring covers from *Punta Rasa* and *Mar Chiquita*, 180 km of beach every week between March and June. This systematic work allows necropsies in the field, and the identification and comprehensive analysis of the causes of stranding. Participants of this program are Foundation Mundo Marino, the Association of Gesellin Naturalists and the Ecopark of Buenos Aires. **See reference 28.**
8. Since 2013, a multidisciplinary research is being carried out with the collaboration of the Anthropology, City, and Nature Institute “Gino Germani” aiming to analyze the conservation of endangered marine species. The analyses are carried out by a series of experts on management and conservation along with artisanal fishermen, who interact in an area of interest for the conservation of endangered species as well as for the exploitation of fishing resources. Initially, the research proposes to explore the complexity of the artisanal fishermen relationship human –environment, whose profession leads them to incidentally catch sea turtles and marine mammals in their nets. Likewise, the research intends to address the interaction between a fishing community and a group of scientists and conservationist wanting to protect these species, through a change in the way fishermen work. **See references 6 and 7.**



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3. Bruno, I.M., González Carman, V., Maxwell, S., Álvarez, K., Albareda, D. y Acha E.M. 2016. Habitat use, Site Fidelity and Conservation Opportunities for Juvenile Loggerhead Sea Turtles in the Río de la Plata, Argentina. 36th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. 29 Febrero - 5 de Marzo de 2016, Lima - Perú. Presentación: Póster
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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.

ACTIONS AT A GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL

National Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Argentinian Republic

On November 26 and 27, 2014, the “Workshop to Develop the National Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in The Argentine Republic” was carried out at the Environment and Sustainable Development Secretary headquarters.

The event’s agenda focused on the two main threats impacting sea turtles in our country: incidental catches in fisheries and waste ingestion. The collective work, outputs, and conclusions served as based information to move forward in the National Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles.

This workshop was funded by the IAC, with the participation of national and provincial organisms, NGOs, universities and research institutes such as INIDEP.

The Action Plan includes two Programs addressing actions on the main threats to sea turtles in our country:

- National Action Program to Reduce Sea Turtles Interaction with Marine Debris in the Argentine Republic.
- National Action Program to Reduce Sea Turtles Interaction with Fisheries in the Argentine Republic.

On September 2015, the Environment Federal Council (COFEMA) approved by Resolution N° 317/2015 the document “National Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Argentinian Republic (PANTM)” and the “National Action Plan to Reduce the Interaction of Sea Turtles with Marine Debris”. This program main objective is to reduce the interaction of sea turtles with marine debris found in these reptiles foraging areas and migration corridors. The National Action Program to Reduce the Interaction of Sea Turtles with Fisheries was approved by the Federal Fishing Council by Act CFP No.37/2016. The objective is to reduce the impact of fisheries on sea turtles in Argentinian waters using an ecosystem approach. **See reference 19.**



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Workshop “Identification of sustainable fishing practices: Reduction of Franciscana interaction with artisanal fisheries”

On November 10th and 11th, 2015 the workshop on Identification of sustainable fishing practices: “Reduction of Franciscana interaction with artisanal fisheries” took place at the Environment and Sustainable Development Secretary headquarters. The workshop entailed the National Action Plan to Reduce the Interaction of Marine Mammals with Fisheries in the Argentinian Republic (PAN Marine Mammals) recently approved by the Fisheries Federal Council by Resolution 11/2015.

The activity objective was to identify appropriate measures that can be adopted and implemented towards reducing Franciscana dolphin’s mortality, and potentially other species such as sea turtles, in the artisanal fisheries at *Bahía Samborombón* and *Cabo San Antonio*.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION WITH OTHER IAC PARTIES

Since 2014, Dr. Laura Prosdocimi collaborated with the *Universidade Federal do Paraná* Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles Lab (Brazil). The results of this collaboration were presented at the 36th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. In March 2017, this information was published (**See references 8 and 9**). There was a participation in the thesis dissertation “Análise genética e determinação da origem das tartarugas verdes (*Chelonia mydas*) (Linnaeus, 1785) (Testudines: Cheloniidae) presentes no litoral do Paraná” of the Universidad Estatal de Londrina Genetics and Molecular biology post-graduate program in Brazil. The corresponding publication of this work is being developed.

Since 2015, Dr. Laura Prosdocimi collaborates with project Karumbe and NOAA-National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Science Center to analyze and assess the where *Dermochelys coriacea* in Uruguayan waters come from. Results of this collaboration were presented during the 37th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation (**see reference 32**).

In October 2015, Argentina took part in the 3rd South Atlantic Sea Turtle Workshop (SASTN) within the framework of the RED ASO turtle network, developed in the national headquarters of Projeto TAMAR in Praia do Forte, Bahia – Brazil. The purpose of this workshop was to develop an analysis of threats for the species *Dermochelys coriacea* in the South West Atlantic. Results were published as a poster during the 36th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation (**See reference 22**). During August 2016, there was a participation in the 4th South Atlantic Sea Turtle Workshop (SASTN) developed at Projeto TAMAR headquarters. This workshop aimed to develop an analysis of threats for the species *Caretta caretta* in the South West Atlantic. Results were presented in the 37th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation (**See reference 18**)



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In April 2017, there was a participation in the 5th South Atlantic Sea Turtle Workshop (SASTN). The objective of the workshop was to collaborate with researchers of the South Atlantic to identify regional gaps and move forward with the risk analysis of threats for the species *Caretta caretta* and *Dermochelys coriacea*.

During 2016 and 2017, Dr. Laura Prosdocimi coordinates and participates in the Research Project of the South Atlantic Genetics Group (GAS), which main objective is to describe and analyze the population dynamics and genetic diversity in the region. Researchers from Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and the United States are part of this project. An oral presentation was presented during the 36th ISTS (see reference 29) and a joint publication is being prepared.

Several studies in collaboration with professionals from Brazil and Uruguay were presented as activities of the RED ASO network at the 36th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation (see references 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 20, 22, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33 and 34).

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

At the level of the civil society, during 2015 Mundo Marino Foundation implemented an intense agenda of education and outreach activities regarding sea turtles and conservation issues, focusing on impacts of marine debris. The activities were framed within the Educational Program of this organization, with educational activities in the classrooms, and in the Marine Park Mundo Marino and Mundo Marino Foundation facilities, as well as beach clean-ups. On the other hand, FRAAM Foundation and the Gasellin Naturalists Association are also conducting education and outreach activities on sea turtles conservation issues. During 2015, Buenos Aires City Zoo Garden continued with outreach talks on sea turtles and marine pollution with plastics directed to the community (“Our litter: impact in the coastal landscape and marine fauna”) (see reference 10)

In May 2016, the workshop “Educational and outreach strategies for the reduction of marine litter within the scope of Rio de la Playa and Buenos Aires coast” took place in the Oceanarium Mundo Marino, organized by the Buenos Aires City Zoo Garden now Ecopark, Foundation Mundo Marino, Houston Zoo (USA) and University of California Davis (USA). This workshop was developed within the framework of the “National Action Program to Reduce the Interaction of Sea Turtles with Marine Litter in Argentina” with the objective of addressing the issue from an educational and outreach perspective, seeking agreements for the development of a common and effective strategy that contributes to reduce the amount of trash in rivers, seas and coasts.

Outreach documents/publications

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL MEETINGS AT A LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS (See the list in the Spanish version of this document)



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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	

***Two records only**



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Table 2: Index nesting sites or beaches for sea turtle conservation – NOT APPLICABLE FOR ARGENTINA

- 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.*
- 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 a 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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Table 3. Important foraging sites for sea turtle conservation

NOTE: This section of the report has been removed by the decision of the IAC Scientific Committee during its 13th meeting. Instead, the information about foraging sites will become part of a technical document, making the information easier to access for the users. The document will include the following:

- a) List of foraging sites per Party, b) People working in the corresponding foraging areas, c) Threats in foraging areas, among others. This document will be updated every 5 years.