



# Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Guatemala Annual Report 2016 - 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](mailto: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	National Council of Protected Areas
Name	Ing. Elder Manrique Figueroa Rodríguez
Date Annual Report submitted	December 2017

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

Name of Agency or Institution	National Council of Protected Areas
Name of the person responsible for completing this report	Airam Andrea López Roulet
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#### c.\_ Others who participated in the preparation of this report

Name	Agency or Institution	E-mail
Julio Interiano	CONAP Regional Costa Sur	<a href="mailto:julio.interiano@conap.gob.gt">julio.interiano@conap.gob.gt</a>
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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?	<i>SI</i>	<i>National Strategy for Management and Conservation of Sea Turtle 2014-2024 –ENTM-. Regulation on management and conservation of sea turtles</i>
Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional levels in accordance with Article XVIII?	<i>SI</i>	<i>National Strategy for Management and Conservation of Sea Turtle 2014-2024 –ENTM-. Regulation on management and conservation of sea turtles</i>
Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?	<i>SI</i>	<i>The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Direction of Fisheries and Aquaculture Regulations –MAGA- inspect the use of fishing gears in compliance with the regulation to protect sea turtles. Training Technicians in charge of control and management of sea turtle hatcheries and hatchling release.</i>



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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.*

<b>National Legislation</b>		
Type and name of legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanction(s) Imposed
Regulation on Management and Conservation of Sea Turtles	<b>Article 3. SCOPE.</b> The current regulation is applicable throughout the Republic of Guatemala regarding management and conservation of sea turtles in hatcheries, studies, projects or other involving any of the species of sea turtles.	<b>Article 46. SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS.</b> Without prejudice to the arrangements laid down in the International Treaties ratified by Guatemala, Protected Areas Law and its Regulations as well as the other civil and criminal actions against the offender, the Regional headquarters could impose the following administrative measures:  <b>a)</b> If the hatchery's manager does not comply with the arrangements of this Regulation or other applicable legislation, a and Technical and Legal concept will be issued to determine the source of the offense, and through a Resolution issued by the Regional Headquarter, the hatchery operation will be temporarily suspended between six and 12 months.



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		<p><b>b)</b> If there is recidivism or omission in the practices originating the sanction, or in the case of not starting operations with the year after operating resolution has been issued, the Regional Headquarter will apply a definitive suspension of the hatchery, after a technical and legal concept as well as the final resolution properly notified.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 41. CONTRAVENTIONS AND OFFENCES.</b> Contraventions and offenses regarding wildlife are punished according to the sentences and procedures established in the national current legislation, independent from the resulting civil and administrative responsibilities.</p>
<b>International Instruments</b>		
Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding	Year signed/or ratified	
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals - CMS	2017	

*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.*



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## c.\_ Actions for compliance with national and international legislation

### c.1 IAC Resolutions

Fill in the following tables for each of the IAC Resolutions listed below. In the case that a Resolution does not apply to your country, please mark the box **RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY**, and if a specific question does not apply, please mark the column **DOES NOT APPLY**. If you need more space to describe these actions, please attach additional pages and note the resolution and question number to which you are responding.

**Resolution CIT-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		National moratorium of leatherback turtle eggs trade	
1b) Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?	x		Collection of leatherback nests and relocation in authorized hatcheries	
2. Have you taken conservation measures to eliminate poaching of leatherback turtles?	x		Awareness talks with sea turtle eggs collectors	
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?			There are no natural leatherback nesting beaches. They arrive at a 100 km coastal area between the border with El Salvador and the center of Guatemala's Pacific Coast.	x
4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?	x		Sea Turtle Excluder Devices (TED)	

(\*) 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			
		YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
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		Moratorium of hawksbill eggs trade	
3. Are activities being carried out in order to stop the illegal trade of hawksbill products?		x		Inspection of roads and sale points	
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		Nesting and foraging sites of hawksbill in Guatemala are protected	
	b) Protection of feeding habitats	x		Nesting and foraging sites of hawksbill in Guatemala are protected	

**(\*) 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.**

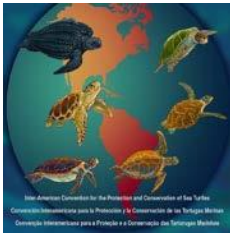


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**Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R2:** Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles

**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:				
<b>A. Research and monitoring of adverse impact of fisheries on sea turtles</b>				
• Collect information by fishery		x		
• Observer programs	x		Observers pilot program on board the shrimp trawling fleet (However, it is not permanent)	
• Research on sea turtle/fishery interactions		x		
• Information on non-Party vessels		x		
• Cooperation with non-Party states to obtain information		x		
<b>B. Mitigation measures for the following fisheries:</b>				
i. Long-line	x		The Direction on Fisheries and Aquaculture Regulations are in charge of control and monitoring of appropriate fishing gears.	
ii. Gillnets	x		The Direction on Fisheries and Aquaculture Regulations are in charge of control and monitoring of appropriate fishing gears	
iii. Trawling (e.g., 1. TEDs: specify legally approved	x		The Direction on Fisheries and Aquaculture Regulations are in charge of control and monitoring of appropriate fishing gears.	
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))	x		The Direction on Fisheries and Aquaculture Regulations are in charge of control and monitoring of appropriate fishing gears	
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			
• 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.)

### 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.

Resolution 01-21-2012 presented by the National Council of Protected Areas – CONAP-, September 19, 2012, prohibits the collection and harvesting of eggs of the species *Dermochelys coriacea*, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, *Chelonia mydas*, *Chelonia mydas agassizzii* and *Caretta caretta*. It authorizes the collection of eggs of *Lepidochelys olivacea*, as long as 20% of eggs collected is delivered to a CONAP registered hatchery as a conservation quota between October 15, 2012, and October 15, 2017.

Due to the expiration of the Resolution, its implementation was requested and approved again as number 01-21-2017, however financial support is being requested for its publication in the official Gazette and therefore entering into effect.





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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Conservation quota
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 type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Harvest of eggs and use are not allowed
Ei	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Harvest of eggs and use are not allowed
Cm	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Harvest of eggs and use are not allowed
Cc	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	Harvest of eggs and use are not allowed

### 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.

The National Council of Protected Areas –CONAP- has knowledge of the following research ongoing in 2017:

- a. “Assessment of sea turtles conservation: an approach to their local and socio-environmental nesting biology” Ph.D. Thesis



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- b. “Comprehensive management of harvesting activities and management effectiveness of olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) eggs, in the Guatemalan Pacific” Master Thesis.
- c. “Correlation between the size of the nesting female and the number of eggs laid per nest by olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) in the Multiple Uses Area Hawaii – AUMH, Santa Rosa, Guatemala” Study for the EDC-Biology Sub-program

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

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

### *c.\_ Other activities*

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



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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	x		
Lk			
Dc	x		x
Ei	x		x
Cm	x		x
Cc			x

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

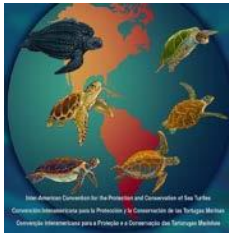
- a. This table is intended to report information on index nesting sites or beaches for each species. For beaches that have multiple species nesting, enter that beach under the list for the primary nesting species. When entering information on nesting site or beaches, information is to be entered for 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.
- 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.



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- 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.*





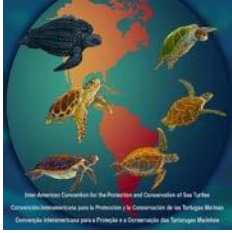
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**Totals corresponding to each hatchery operating in Guatemala's Pacific Coast**

Hatcheries	Eggs buried	Hatchlings Released	% Hatching Success	Clutches	% Clutches Hatching Success
Tilapa	346	310	89.60	4	77.50
El Chico	129	109	84.50	5	21.80
Tres Cruces	90	73	81.11	1	73.00
Garitón	5549	4067	73.29	62	65.60
El Banco	128941	124035	96.20	1433	86.56
Monterrico	45462	43477	95.63	505	86.09
Hawaii	37166	30435	81.89	413	73.69
Las Mañanitas	336	329	97.92	4	82.25
El Rosario	10998	9940	90.38	122	81.48
Las Lisas	21251	19909	93.69	236	84.36
Chapetón	12154	11887	97.80	135	88.05
Barra del Jiote	4619	4523	97.92	51	88.69
La Barrona	8455	7289	86.21	94	77.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>275,496</b>	<b>256,383</b>	<b>93.06</b>	<b>3065</b>	<b>83.65</b>

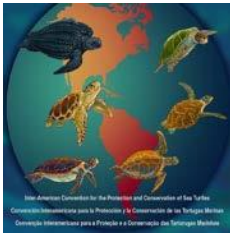


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## Table 3: Important foraging sites for sea turtle conservation

**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.



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***Annex I***

*“Normativo sobre Manejo y Conservación de Tortugas Marinas” Resolución 03-17- 2017”*  
Regulation on Management and Conservation of Sea Turtles

***Annex II***

*Ampliación de la Resolución 01-21-2012 “Cuota de Conservación”, actualmente 01- 21-2017*  
Extension of Resolution 01-21-2012 “Conservation Quota”, currently 01-21-2017

***Annex III***

*Decreto 21/2017 Conservación de las Especies Migratorias de Animales Silvestres - CMS-*  
Decree 21/2017 – Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals - CMS