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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

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 **July 30, 2018.**

Part I (General Information)

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

a._ Focal Point

Institution	Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE). Conservation Areas National System (SINAC)
Name	Rotney Piedra Chacón
Date Annual Report submitted	October 19, 2018

b._ Agency or Institution responsible for preparing this report

Name of Agency or Institution	Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE). Conservation Areas
Name of the person responsible for completing this report	Rotney Piedra Chacón
Address	Parque Nacional Marino Las Baulas, Playa Grande, Santa Cruz, Guanacaste.
Telephone(s)	(506) 2653 0470
E-mail	rotney.piedra@sinac.go.cr

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

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

Name	Agency or Institution	E-mail
Marco Solano	MINAE	
Luis Fonseca López	Latin American Sea Turtles (LAST)	luisfonsecalopez@gmail.com
Didiher Chacón Chaverri	LAST/WIDECAST	dchacon@widecast.org
Elizabeth Vélez Carballo	Asociación Kuemar	evelez@kuemar.org
María del Pilar Santidrian	The Leatherback Trust	bibi@leatherback.org
Oscar Brenes	Reserva Playa Tortuga	rptojochal@gmail.com
Carlos Mario Orrego	MINAE	corrego@minae.go.cr
Norma Rodríguez	MINAE/SINAC/ACT	norma.rodriguez@sinac.go.cr
Sebastián Bonilla	MINAE/SINAC/ACTo	sebastian.bonilla@sinac.go.cr
Roberto Zúñiga	MINAE/SINAC/ACT	roberto.zuniga@sinac.go.cr
Yeimy Cedeño	MINAE/SINAC/ACT	yeimy.cedeno@sinac.go.cr
Roldan Valverde	Sea Turtle Conservancy	roldan.valverde@southeastern.edu
Maike Heidemeyer	Universidad de Costa Rica	maike.heidemeyer@ucr.ac.cr
Moises Mug	Presidencia Ejecutiva INCOPESCA	mmug@incopesca.go.cr
Melania Muñoz	CONAGEBIO	melania.munoz@conagebio.go.cr
Geiner Golfín Duarte	SINAC-Área Marina Montes Submarinos	geiner.golfin@sinac.go.cr
Lilliana Rubí Jiménez	MINAE/SINAC/ACOPAC	lilliana.rubi@sinac.go.cr
Jenny Asch	MINAE/SINAC	jenny.asch@sinac.go.cr

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

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.

Costa Rica´s National Council on Conservation Areas (CONAC) in ordinary session N^{0} 08-2018, adopted under agreement No.10, on August 13, 2018, National Strategy for the Conservation and Protection of Sea Turles nesting and breeding in the country, or using foraging areas, found in several stages of their lifecycle in the Caribbean and Pacific coasts: leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and the loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) in less numbers. The process to build this strategy began in 2015 as a response to the need for an instrument to manage sea turtle issues, defining strategic actions and national articulation; and contributing to the current efforts. The strategy integrates several sectors such as the academy, non-governmental organizations, communities, and governmental agencies, among others.

The objective of the Strategy is to "*Manage in a comprehensive manner Costa Rica´s government actions, with the active participation of several actors involved in the conservation, protection, management and recovery of sea turtle population and their critical habitats*." Its vision focuses on a "*Costa Rican society that recognizes the ecological, social and economic importance of sea turtles and their critical habitats; keeping them healthy and in recovery. They are efficiently managed inside and outside protected areas under alternative models of governance for the wellbeing, based on management, research, education and ecotourism programs, with the participation of the State, the civil society, non-governmental organizations, the academy, and the private sector."*

The activities defined for its implementation have been organized in six strategic areas:

1. Protection, Control and Institutional Management of the State in sea turtle conservation.
2. Nesting sites and marine habitats

3. Sea turtle research and monitoring
4. Climate change, mitigation measures, and adaptation
5. Information, Environmental Education and Awareness for Conservation
6. Participation of the civil society

A 10-year action plan has been structured to comply with the implementation of the activities defined within these areas. Efforts will focus on seven of the 11 Conservation Areas (CA) in which the country is distributed, which include habitats associated with sea turtles (*Annex I. Figure. Nesting sites important for sea turtle conservation*). Currently, information on nesting, clutches and the number of females is being gathered, per species and number of sites.

The Ministry of Environment and Energy National System for Conservation Areas (SINAC) is the agency in charge of managing Protected Areas including sea turtle nesting sites. It is also in charge of the protection, management, and conservation of wildlife and responsible for implementing the National Strategy. Protected Areas have their own management plans and at least 80% of those where sea turtles are conservation objects have monitoring, research, conservation and management programs for these species. Most of the sites outside Protected Areas also have their monitoring and research programs and take actions such as night monitoring and nest relocation to protect them.

These programs facilitate, promote and implement sea turtle protection, conservation, research, and environmental education activities. Current management involves several stakeholders in their participation in the conservation of the resources. Monitoring and research programs have consolidated or are in progress in the seven conservation areas. Local community participation has strengthened mainly through tourist sea turtle sighting activities. However, this activity requires more attention outside the protected areas and control mechanisms are pending.

The activities aforementioned are carried out by SINA, non-governmental organization, academic institutions, local guides associations, communal development associations, researchers, and other governmental organizations such as the National Institute for Fisheries and Aquaculture (INCOPESCA in Spanish) and the National Coastguard Service (SNG in Spanish), inside and outside Protected Areas.

Research, hatcheries management, tourism, and volunteering activities must follow the necessary procedures and have the licenses issued by MINAE through SINAC if they are in protected areas. Outside protected areas, the first two are also managed by SINAC following the Wildlife Protection Law, however, until some issues about procedures and research licenses outside protected areas are not clarified,

INCOPESCA processes user's requests as well. Activities involving tourism are managed by the Costa Rican Tourism Institute (ICT in Spanish) and Municipalities.

All research involving genetic or biochemical access is addressed to the National Council for Biodiversity Management (CONAGEBIO), and INCOPESCA issues research permits for scientific fisheries.

One last element to highlight is the recent establishment of two Marine Managed Areas:

1. On June 8, 2017, within the framework of the World´s Oceans Day, Cabo Blanco Marine Managed Area was established in the south of Nicoya Peninsula encompassing a great area of the peninsular district of *Cobano* coastline, Puntarenas province, from *Punta Cocobolo* to *Manzanillo* Beach. Its 82093 marine hectares will protect sea turtles, coral formations, transient dolphins and whales, and the reproduction of snappers, groupers and other commercial fish.

2. Santa Elena Bay receives several species that come to reproduce including dolphins, whales, sea turtles and other pelagic species such as the threatened whale shark and several species of rays, making it a resource that neighbors don´t want to lose. Aware of its importance, the National System for Conservation Areas jointly with the communities of *El Jobo* and *Puerto Soley*, in Cruz de Guanacaste; transformed 732,1 hectares forming Santa Elena in a Marine Managed Area.

Additional to allowing information management, comprehensive management also strengthens citizen's participation as contributors to achieve the goals and commitments established in national and international regulations.

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

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

	YES/NO In Progress	Comments
Does your country have a national plan of action in accordance with Article XVIII?	Yes	In the Conservation Areas National Council (CONAC) regular meeting No. 08-2018 on August 13th, 2018 following agreement No. 10, the National Strategy for the Conservation and Protection of Sea Turtles in Costa Rica was made official, including the Action Plan.
Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional levels in accordance with Article XVIII?	Yes	Additional to the statement above, protected areas that have included sea turtles as conservation targets have defined in their management and annual plans, activities for the protection and conservation of these species and their habitats. Monitoring programs outside wildlife protected areas involve activities to protect females, nests and to the extent of their jurisdiction and possibilities, to protect habitats. There is still a need for particular measures focusing on sea turtle populations outside protected areas, although the laws are in place.
Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?	Yes	Those responsible for research and management projects approved by SINAC, INCOPESCA, and CONAGEBIO according to the date in the research permit resolution, must present the corresponding report and recommendations. In the case of protected areas, there are specific plans (control and surveillance; research; ecologic monitoring; environmental education and communication) which are assessed every year. This allows assess management and consider the implementation of measures to improve management effectiveness. Reports of monitoring and research projects carried out by the Protected Areas staff or private researchers include relevant recommendations which most of the time are analyzed and implemented by the same team conducting the research project. If possible, SINAC also analyzes and implements these recommendations in their protected areas, through their specific plans or research.

		Currently, we are still working on the implementation of marine ecologic monitoring in seven Wildlife Protected Areas. In four of them, sea turtles are conservation targets and there is specific monitoring. As reported in the previous report, Costa Rica has an official protocol for Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches to be used in all the country´s Wildlife Protected Areas

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

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 international legislation should be included when they exist.

National Legislation		
Type and name of legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanction(s) Imposed
Wildlife Conservation Law (Law No. 7317 of October 21st, 1992) its Regulation and reforms according to Executive Decree No. 40548-MINAE, August 9th, 2017.	Regulation of wildlife conservation law No. 7317, October 30, 1992, executive decree reform No. 36515 o January 28th, 2011 and Executive Decree No. 32633-MINAE of March 10th, 2005. Derogatory of Executive Decrees No. 10 MIRENEM of April 16th, 1993 and No. 35463-MINAE-MEP, June 04th, 2009.	
Agreement of INCOPESCA Board of Directors AJDIP No. 158-2017.	Regulation establishing the removal of the semi-industrial shrimp trawling fishing fleet in the Pacific Ocean and for marine areas for shrimp sustainable use by the small scale commercial fishing fleet in the Caribbean sea to fish according to the participative zoning map developed by the research group, within the framework of the shrimp fisheries management conversation table.	
Agreement of INCOPESCA Board of Directors AJDIP No. 474-2017.	Common regulations for all commercial fisheries license for the sustainable use of shrimp. a) Marine Spatial Planning: zoning and satellite tracking.	
Executive Decree No. 40244-MINAE-MIDEPLAN	Officialization of Wetlands National Policy published in Gazette 78, April 5, 2017, *Alcance* 076. Areas with coral reeds and nesting beaches are considered wetlands.	

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

Resolution ACT-OR-DR-049-2017	Approval of the 5-year Plan for the Conservation of the Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) in the Mix Wildlife National Refuge Ostional developed by the organizations of the Conservation Areas National System, INCOPESCA, Costa Rica University Biology School, Ostional Comprehensive Development Association, and the Coastguard National Service, and Animal Health National Service as institutions governing commercialization, health and conservation respectively. The plan would be implemented from May 15th, 2017 to May 15th, 2021.	
Legislative Decree No. 9581 (2018)	Authorization by the Conservation Areas National system to receive, through collaboration agreement, supporting staff hired by non-lucrative conservation organizations to carry out different tasks regarding the Conservation Areas National System and Wildlife Protected Areas.	
Agreement Conservation Areas National Council CONAC No. 10-2018 (Regular meeting No. 08-2018)	Made official the National Strategy for the Conservation and Protection of Sea Turtle	
Guidelines SINAC-DE-1438 (2018)	Guidelines for the authorization of Sea Turtle hatcheries.	
International Instruments		
Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding		Year signed/or ratified

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.*

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

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.

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

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:

		RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY		
IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING	**YES**	**NO**	**DESCRIBE ACTION (*)**	**DOES NOT APPLY**
1a) Have you created conservation plans and long-term programs that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback turtle in the Eastern Pacific?	Yes		Nesting beaches in protected areas have a Management Plan with an ecosystem approach where nesting beaches and sea turtles are focal elements for management. There is regular and permanent monitoring in each of the nesting beaches allowing assessing their status. In nesting beaches outside protected areas, there are local and non-governmental organizations implementing monitoring and conservation actions to protect the species in the Costa Rican Pacific. These programs are made official through research permits by SINAC or INCOPESCA. EP Leatherback index and secondary beaches have a permanent monitoring program and activities aiming to reverse the current status. Efforts are sustained with national and international support. A new Management Plan for las Baulas National Marine Park was made official in November 2017. Implementation of INCOPESCA board agreements: AJDIP No.158-2017 and AJDIP No. 474-2017 regarding fisheries management and for the reduction of bycatch impacts of Leatherbacks. The Marine Management Area of Santa Elena Bay was created recently a few kilometers from Las Baulas National Park encompassing 732, 1 hectare. This is a decision relevant to the efforts for the conservation of this species as it frequently moves around this area during interesting periods. The implementation of olive ridley eggs Traceability Plan from the Mix Wildlife National Refuge Ostional also reduces the impact on other sea turtle eggs such as the Leatherbacks.	
1b) Are you Implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?	Yes		In protected areas implementation is done through Specific Annual Plans including Environmental Education, Research, Volunteering, Protection, Control, Ecologic Monitoring and Eco-tourism, as well as through research permits for researchers to continue monitoring and research programs. Follow up and monitoring is also done using the tool to Asses Wildlife Areas Management Effectiveness is used. Outside these areas, NGOs, academy or organized community groups, are in charge of implementing research, monitoring, nests protection, environmental education and volunteering activities approved by SINAC or INCOPESCA through the projects. At the end of each season, a report must be handed to the area´s research coordinator.	

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

2. Have you taken conservation measures to eliminate poaching of leatherback turtles?	Yes		In most of the leatherback nesting beaches (Pacific and The Caribbean) inside and outside protected areas, there are permanent patrols during nesting season. Females and nest's information are recorded during these patrols while poaching is reduced. In some cases, nests are relocated or hatcheries are used for the same purpose. Research results and permanent monitoring annual reports must be considered in each protected area annual planning. Once a year, the protected areas should assess their management effectiveness and consider the corrections required. Each research and monitoring project inside or outside these protected areas should present a report with results and basic information such as the number of nests, the number of females, hatching success, emerging success, and respective recommendations which should be included in future proposals or work plans accordingly.	
3. If your country has leatherback turtle nesting beaches in the Eastern Pacific: Have you taken conservation	Yes		The consolidation process and monitoring programs of the National Marine Park Las Baulas is ongoing with the support of organizations such as TLT and Kuemar-Fundecodes, as well as SINAC. Monitoring programs continue strengthening in secondary sites inside and outside protected areas where leatherbacks nest sporadically, such as RNVS Camaronal (SINAC), RNVS Ostional (SINAC), and beaches known as Jesus-Zapotillal (by KUEMAR), Junquillal (Verdiazul), Unta Pargos (by Sea Turtle Forever), Cabuyal by TLT, Santa Rosa National Park Naranjo beach (by LAST). There is an important effort to protect leatherback nests inside or near the beach, as much as possible in all these places. Each nest found inside or near beaches with monitoring (if possible) is protected and monitored. At the end of each nesting season, responsible for each monitoring or research with a permit by SINAC should hand out the corresponding reports which should be considered in the development of the annual work plan and in future monitoring and research. Also, researchers from organizations and SINAC, responsible for coordinating monitoring in specific sites should assess the results and make relevant recommendations, which should be analyzed and considered in the following monitoring. Nesting sites outside protected areas require attention involving civil society. Management and conservation of these places are associated with the implementation of a governance model that allows us to go further than the efforts done at the level of NGOs, Researchers and the state, involving all key stakeholders. Within this approach, during October and November 2017, SINAC and KUEMAR, along with other collaborators, developed a workshop with the participation of the local community to address management of the nesting site *¨Nombre de Jesus Zapotillal¨* which is outside a protected area. The document "Initiative for management and development of best practices for sea turtle sighting outside Wildlife Protected Areas with community participation and strengthening" was a product of these workshops including its own action plan (Annex 2, Document Initiative)	

measures to protect the nesting sites and their associated habitats?			We continued with the second year of the project: "Recovery of the Critically Endangered Leatherback Turtle population in the Eastern Pacific Ocean by enhancing hatchling recruitment and protecting index and secondary nesting beaches in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica." presented by Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and members of LaudOPO. This project includes secondary beaches of Costa Rica North Pacific and focuses on the following activities: 1. Increase the protection of secondary beaches in Mexico, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. 2. Coordinate opportunities and strategies to improve the protection of females, nests and hatchlings in index and secondary beaches. 3. Implement nests management measures in index beaches to increase hatchlings production. 4. Implement education and extension activities.	
4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?	Yes		INCOPESCA management board Agreement AJDIP No. 474-2017: Common regulations for all commercial fishing licenses for sustainable use of shrimp. a) Marine Spatial Management: zoning and satellite tracking.	

(*) 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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

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

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

		RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY		
IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING	**YES**	**NO**	**DESCRIBE ACTION (*)**	**DOES NOT APPLY**
1. Are you strengthening monitoring of the illegal use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products?	Yes		Each conservation area is responsible for reporting about inspections in markets, therefore, hawksbill products can be confiscated. Monitoring carried out by NGOs is also important. Association LAST, for example, carried out surveys in Puntarenas, Quepos, Limón, Paquera y Manuel Antonio, showing hawksbill illegal trafficking is still ongoing. The case was addressed by SINAC, represented by different Conservation Areas, and an operation to find hawksbill products was carried out. As a result, more than 800 pieces were seized, mainly including rings, bracelets, and earrings commercialized in *Paseo de los Turistas, Puntarenas* (Anexo 3, Press Release, document ACOPAC-PPC-097-17).	
2. Are you enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation?	Yes		According to national legislation, hawksbill products and sub-products commercialization are illegal. In case of events against the law, complaints are presented to the corresponding authorities. Current legislation supported the aforementioned operation (document ACOPAC-PPC-097-17).	
3. Are activities being carried out in order to stop the illegal trade of hawksbill products?	Yes		A workshop on legal and illegal trade was led by LAST and SINAC in 2017. Customs and border police personnel have been trained on the matter. INCOPESCA; the Coastguard National Service; the Public Force PF; MINAE; SINAC; SENASA; the Republic General Attorneys, PGR; and the officers from Judicial Research Organization, OIJ, have worked on the **Protocol for Joint Response,** an interinstitutional effort to achieve better coordination among those who investigate, process and charge crimes or administrative faults in Law No. 8436, Fishing and Aquaculture Law (Annex 4 – Response Protocol). A more constant effort is required, which will be addressed in the implementation of the National Strategy.	

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

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**		Particularly at Cahuita National Park. If nests are found on beaches where there is monitoring or research, hawksbill nests are highly protected.	
	b) Protection of feeding habitats	**x**		Costa Rica has declared protected areas which are important for hawksbill turtles and have been assigned with personnel such as Cahuita National Park (Caribe), Camaronal Wildlife National Refuge (Pacific), Caletas-Ario Playa Caleta Wildlife National Refuge (Pacific), the Marine Protected Area of Conservation Area Guanacaste (Pacific), and the Submarine Hills Area and Coco Island. There are conservation efforts in Bahia Santa Elena, Cabo Blanco, the South Pacific, and the Caribbean. At least twice a week, the Association LAST patrols Golfo Dulce (South Pacific) and rescue mainly hawksbills affected by the interaction with fisheries. Also, these organizations have carried out research and protection actions in this feeding area, which is a Responsible Fishing area. Two new management areas have been established: 1. Cabo Blanco Marine Management Area, south of Peninsula Nicoya in the marine area encompassing part of the coastline of Cobano peninsular district in Puntarenas province, from Punta Cocobolo to Manzanillo Beach. Its 82,093 marine hectares will protect sea turtle nesting, coral formation, transient whales and dolphins, and the reproduction of groupers, snappers and other commercial fish. 2. The community from Cuajiniquil, El Jobo, and Puerto Soley at La Cruz de Guanacaste; transformed the 732.1 hectares of Santa Elena Bay into a Marine Management Area. Santa Elena Bay receives several marine species that arrive for reproduction, including dolphins, whales, sea turtles and other pelagic species such as the endangered whale shark and several species of rays, making the Bay a natural resource that communities don´t want to lose.	

(*) 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.

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R3: Resolution on the Conservation of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP7-2015-R3, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

			RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY	X
IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	**YES**	**NO**	**DESCRIBE ACTION (*)**	**DOES NOT APPLY**
1. Has your country created national action plans or monitoring programs to promote loggerhead sea turtle conservation?				
2. State if there are plans or recovery programs, or bilateral or regional cooperation.				
3. Are these action plans or monitoring programs being implemented?				
4. Is there protection of the species at a state or federal level?				
5. If your country has loggerhead turtles nesting beaches:				
5a. Has your country taken conservation actions to protect nesting beaches and their associated habitats?				
5b. Are there laws on turtle-friendly lighting in areas impacted by coastal development?				
5c. Is there long-term (minimum 10 years) standardized data available for population trend studies?				
6. Is there exploitation or direct harvest of loggerhead sea turtles in your country?				

(*) 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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

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 (*)	SPECIES	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 the adverse impact of fisheries on sea turtles					
• Collect information by fishery	x		Landing control	Cm, Lo, Dc, Cc, Ei	
• 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		Fishermen training	Cm, Lo, Dc, Cc, Ei	
ii. Gillnets		x			
iii. Trawling (e.g., 1.TEDs: specify legally approved iv. TEDs, their dimensions, material, and target species for that fishery, 2. time-area closures: specify the geographical area, time of closure and target species for that fishery., 3.tow times and/or 4. other measures)	x		Use of sea turtle excluder devices, see AJDIP/151-2009 for construction technical specifications.	Cm, Lo, Dc, Cc, Ei	

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

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**		Through INCOPESCA Department for Development and Research, and in coordination with INA a national program is being developed and will be implemented to provide training on sea turtles handling and release. Contact Berny Marin, e-mail:bmarin@incopesca.go.cr.	Cm, Lo, Dc, Cc, Ei	
C. Socio-economic considerations						
•	Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles	x		Commercialization of olive ridley *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs from Ostional National Wildlife Refuge is allowed by INCOPESCA, as long as ADIO presents and annual plan for use that is approved by this institution authorities.	Lo	

(*) 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.)

SINAC, jointly with the National Coastguard Service, the Public Force, and Tourist Police take part in the protection and compliance with the national environmental law. Marine patrols inside and outside protected areas, night and day journeys on land, inspections, and confiscation of sea turtle products and byproducts are carried out. Complaints are presented to the Public Ministry. INCOPESCA's responsibility is to authorize, regulate and control fishing gears.

Annex 1, Figure, shows the country nesting sites, a large majority are outside Wild Protected Areas due to a lack of personnel that does not allow to cover them at an institutional level, therefore the NGOs work in coastal zones is determining to carry ecologic monitoring and implement Law No. 8325 (Law for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles) as it compensates for the governmental surveillance. However, we are aware of the urgent need for institutional attention mainly to counteract eggs poaching.

d ._ Application [presentation] 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.

The following elements are highlighted regarding the exception in Ostional:

1. SINAC, through the Management of the Mix National Wildlife Refuge Ostional, plans the attention and follow up of each *arribada*. Once each finished, management prepares a report summarizing each activity carried out from the *arribada* alert to the results and recommendations to be considered by key holders (Annex 5. *Arribada* report May 2018). The Ostional Comprehensive Development Association (ADIO), also develops a report on the *arribada* used that month (Annex 6. Report May 2018) including the destination of the eggs according to the following categories:

   (1) Local sells
   (2) 200 eggs bags for sale
   (3) Partners courtesies
   (4) Neighbors permits
   (5) Special permits
   (6) Donations
   (7) Eggs in bad condition

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

2. The Ostional Comprehensive Development Association (ADIO) regency develops and presents an annual report on the achievements of the egg use, control, and management of the olive ridley (*L. olivacea*) population nesting in Playa Ostional (Annex 7. ADIO Annual Report). The document details information regarding ADIO activities of the year:

   (a) Eggs harvest and commercialization
   (b) Surveillance and control of illegal extraction
   (c) Habitat maintenance and management
   (d) Release and protection of hatchlings
   (e) Contributions from the members of ADIO Local Tourist Guides to the project
   (f) Social aspects (investment and infrastructure) of the project.
   (g) Conclusions
   (h) 2018 Recommendations

3. Ostional National Wildlife Refuge as an Interinstitutional Advisory Council (CIMACO) formed by a representative of the academy, Municipalities, INCOPESCA, SINAC, and the Fishermen Association of each Comprehensive Development Association in the Refuge. This Council meets monthly with the purpose of discussing situations in the Protected Wildlife Area. Each session has its respective memoirs, which contribute to the follow-up and compliance with the agreements.

4. Progress in the implementation of the Traceability Plan: on January 19. 2018, INCOPESCA regional direction presented to CIMACO the First Traceability Valuation of olive ridley turtle eggs from Ostional. The conclusion is that implementation is not consolidated yet due to the management skills of ADIO. (Annex 8. First Assesment on Traceability). The Association recognizes the issue of a lack of financial resources, but visualizes options to improve, and commits to manage the situations gradually addressing deficiencies found in the first valuation, for instance, packaging, invoices and donations. (Annex 9. ADIO Traceability Report). It has been proposed that the plan is assessed every two months or after two *arribadas.*

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

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	☒Coastal development ☒Incidental capture ☒Direct use	☒Contamination ☒Pathogens ☒Climate change	***Coastal Development:*** In some of the protected areas buffer zones there is more control on homing projects in terms of lighting, noise, tourism, activities on the beach, among others. For instance, there are instruments that if used properly should help reduce the impact of threats to sea turtles nesting habitat, such as environmental feasible from SETENA and coastal regulation plans consider sea turtles and their habitats. Management of RNVS Camaronal and RNVS Ostional have developed and share recommendations with their neighbors. *Incidental Capture*: MINAE and MAG have legal mechanisms to regulate incidental capture through the tuna zoning decree (No. 38681-MAG-MINAE). Additionally, marine protected areas have measures in their management plans and regulations; additional to marine patrols within their protected boundaries. The new Marine Areas of Cabo Blanco and Santa Elena are working on the implementation of actions for its conservation and sustainable use. Five responsible fishing areas have been established in the Pacific. Plans for the use of fishing resources have been developed for RNVS Ostional and Camaronal.

			Direct use: There is Egg poaching, mainly outside the protected areas, therefore diurnal and nocturnal patrols take place, as well as other protection activities (hatcheries). There are institutional regulations in place for hatcheries (*Directive SINAC-DE-1438 (2018).* Regarding the exception in RNVS Ostional, control patrolling is carried out along with other police aid institutions to reduce poaching impact. *Contamination*: Most of the pollution comes from river mouths, as natural debris or littering and organic trash. Beach cleanups are organized and there are waste management programs in different places. Some of the beaches have been nominated for the Blue Flag Program. *Pathogens*: In natural conditions, nests are exposed to pathogens. When needed, hatcheries are built and nest relocation is done respecting best practices. More information and research are required. *Climate Change*: Change in the river mouths dynamics, erosion and higher temperatures on the beach are associated with climate change affecting nesting and nests survival. When required, hatcheries are used to avoid these impacts, as well as nest relocation to shaded areas, respecting appropriate temperatures for the development of eggs.
Lk	☐Coastal development ☐Incidental capture ☐Direct use	☐Contamination ☐Pathogens ☐Climate change	

Dc	☒Coastal development ☒Incidental capture ☒Direct use	☒Contamination ☒Pathogens ☒Climate change	***Pacific and Caribbean*** *Coastal Development:* In some of the protected areas buffer zones there is more control on homing projects in terms of lighting, noise, tourism, activities on the beach, among others. For instance, there are instruments of the Environmental Secretariat, such as environmental viability, that must consider sea turtles. More incidence in this matter is required. Also, it is necessary that Coastal Regulation Plans consider these species and their critical habitats. In the case of Las Baulas, the National Technical Environmental Secretariat management resolutions regarding guidelines to build are still in place. Likewise, there is a series of recommendations provided by Camaronal and Ostional RNVS Administration to its neighbors. Control outside the protected area is more complicated, however, groups responsible for biologic monitoring make conservation efforts. In some sites, such as *Nombre de Jesus – Zapotillal* area, SINAC, through Las Baulas National Marine Park administration, has stated the need that future property development considers proper use of lighting and establishes protection areas and control in visiting areas regarding noise, nesting, among other. *Incidental Capture:* MINAE and MAG have legal mechanisms to regulate incidental catches through tuna zoning decree (No. 38681-MAG-MINAE). Additionally, some marine protected area has measures within their management plans and regulations. Five responsible fishing areas have been established along the Pacific coast. INCOPESCA has established one responsible fishing area in the Caribbean.

		Direct use: Permanent patrols for control and nest protection during nesting season. Regular and permanent monitoring of nests. Outside the protected areas activities reduced poaching, but more institutional support is required, affected by the lack of personnel. There are institutional guidelines for hatcheries (*Directive SINAC-DE-*1438 (2018). ***Contamination*:** Beach cleaning takes place, and some places have solid waste management programs. Some beaches are Blue Flag Program award winners. *Pathogens*: Best practices to work with sea turtles and their nests. More information and research are required. *Climate Change*: Temperature monitoring. Nesting is affected by changes in the rivers' mouths dynamics, erosion and increased temperature in beaches impacted by climate change. When necessary, hatcheries or relation to shaded areas is used to reduce the impacts and keep proper development temperatures.

Ei	☒Coastal development ☒Incidental capture ☒Direct use	☒Contamination ☒Pathogens ☒Climate change	*Coastal Development:* In some of the protected areas buffer zones there is more control on homing projects in terms of lighting, noise, tourism, activities on the beach, among others. For instance, there are legal instruments that used properly help to reduce the impacts of threats to sea turtles nesting habitat, such as environmental feasibility from SETENA and coastal regulation plans considering sea turtles and their critical habitats. ***Incidental Capture:*** MINAE and MAG have a legal mechanism to regulate incidental catches through tuna zoning decree (No. 38681-MAG-MINAE). Additionally, some marine protected areas have measures within their management plans and regulations, as well as marine patrols within their protected boundaries. The new Marine Areas of Cabo Blanco and Santa Elena are working in the implementation to help conservation and sustainable use. Five responsible fishing areas have been established along the Pacific coast. Fisheries use plans have been developed in Camaronal and Ostional National Wildlife Refuges. ***Direct use:*** There is poaching outside the protected areas, therefore day and night patrols are carried out additional to other protection activities (hatcheries). Institutional guidelines for hatcheries are in place (*Directive SINAC-DE-1438,2018)*. Organizations concerned about illegal trafficking and SINAC, organize inspections in markets and places selling hawksbill products to control the trade.

			Contamination*:** A large proportion of pollution comes from rivers, as natural debris or synthetic and organic waste. Beach cleanup takes places and some sites have solid waste management programs. ***Pathogens: Nests are exposed to pathogens, in natural conditions. When needed, hatcheries are build and relocation under best practices is done. More research and studies on the matter are needed. ***Climate Change*** Nesting is affected by changes in the rivers' mouths dynamics, erosion and increased temperature in beaches impacted by climate change. When necessary, hatcheries or relation to shaded areas is used to reduce the impacts and keep proper development temperatures.
Cm	☒Coastal development ☒Incidental capture ☒Direct use	☒Contamination ☒Pathogens ☒Climate change	***Coastal Development:*** On the Pacific coast, the most important sites are outside protected areas, this requires defining, formalizing, and implementing an instrument for better control of threats coming from homing projects, such as buildings, condos, and hotels. These threats can come from lighting, noise, tourism, activities with several people on the beach, among others. Some individuals show injuries indicating interaction with boats, there are no actions to deal with this issue. There is work in better control of tourist activities in beaches without a management category, such as good practices implementation for sighting sea turtles as is the case (see Annex 2).

			Incidental Capture: MINAE and MAG have legal mechanisms to regulate incidental catches through a tuna zoning decree (No. 38681-MAG-MINAE). Additionally, some marine protected areas have measures within their management plans and regulations, as well as marine patrols within their protected boundaries. The new Marine Areas of Cabo Blanco and Santa Elena are working in the implementation to help conservation and sustainable use. Five responsible fishing areas have been established in the Pacific and one in the Caribbean. ***Direct use*:** Permanent patrols for control and nest protection during nesting season. Regular and permanent monitoring of nests. Outside the protected areas activities reduced poaching, but more institutional support is required, affected by the lack of personnel. There are institutional guidelines for hatcheries (*Directive SINAC-DE-*1438 (2018). ***Contamination*:** Beach cleaning takes place, and some places have solid waste management programs. Some beaches are Blue Flag Program award winners. ***Pathogens*:** Nests are exposed to pathogens, in natural conditions. When needed, hatcheries are build and relocation under best practices is done. More research and studies on the matter are needed. ***Climate Change*** Nesting is affected by changes in the rivers' mouths dynamics, erosion and increased temperature in beaches impacted by climate change. When necessary, hatcheries or relation to shaded areas is used to reduce the impacts and keep proper development temperatures.
Cc	☐Coastal development ☐Incidental capture ☐Direct use	☐Contamination ☐Pathogens ☐Climate change	

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

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.

Overall, governmental, academic and non-governmental institutions, as well as the State, are investing time and resources in research, monitoring, and protection of the sea turtles nesting and using their habitat in Costa Rica. These organizations are:

Caribbean: Asociación Latin American Sea Turtles (LAST); Sea Turtle Conservancy; EPI; Centro Científico Tropical; ASTOP; COTERC; Estación Las Tortugas.

Pacfic: Red de Conservación de Tortugas Marinas del Pacífico Sur; CREMA; Turtle Trax; Sea Turtle Forever; Asociación Verdiazul; Asociación Latin American Sea Turtles (LAST); Biocenosis Marina; CIMAR-UCR; TLT; KUEMAR.

The list of investigations and monitoring programs for the 2018 period is included in the Spanish version of this report.

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

Research	**Species (Lo, Lk, Cm, Ei, Cc, Dc)**
Genetics	Cm
Tagging	Lo, Cm, Ei, Dc, Cc
Migration	Ei
Habitat monitoring	Lo, Cm, Ei, Dc
Fisheries interactions	Cm, Lo, Dc, Ei
Disease	

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

c._ Other activities

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

Environmental education is a strong component of the Protected Areas Management Plans and other key stakeholders' sea turtle conservation programs. There are talks, field tours, booklets delivery, and activities such as the Leatherback Festival. Recently, Tempisque Conservation Area recently developed a communication strategy including sea turtles as a key element (Annex 10. Brochure ACT).

By request of the Tropical Scientific Center and APM Terminals, LAST Association has developed an intensive environmental education program in coastal schools from Limon Central District and adjacent areas, bringing more than 5,000 to sea turtle release and covering more than 1000 students per year.

As mentioned before, this was the second consecutive year of the project "Recovery of the Critically Endangered Leatherback Turtle population in the Eastern Pacific Ocean by enhancing hatchling recruitment and protecting index and secondary nesting beaches in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica" presented by Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and members of the LaudOPO network. This project includes secondary beaches in Costa Rica North Pacific.

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

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 sites 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.

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

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 genetics, 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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

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			
Lo	Nancite	Throughout the year	Throughout the year			Daily	10.804811	85.669346	1.05	Yes	41356	86847		FS	No	Biocenosis Marina
	Naranjo										No data	587				Biocenosis Marina
	Ostional	Jan 2017	Dec 2017	Jan 2017	Dec 2017	During *arribadas*	9.993913 °	85.700403	7.00	Yes	112551 6	112551 6	112551 6	FS	No	SINAC
	Hermosa										No data	No data	No data			
Dc	Playa Grande (PNM Las Baulas)	Oct 2017	Mar 2017	Oct 2017	Mar 2017	Daily	10.334675	85.847822	3.6	Yes	15		75	PIT	No	TLT KUEMAR
	Tortuguero	Mar 2017	Jul 2017	Mar 2017	Jul 2017	Daily	10.586 675[9]	83.522 247	29	Yes			127			Sea Turtle Conservancy
	Pacuare Norte	Mar 2017	Jul 2017	Mar 2017	Jul 2017	Daily	10.24481 3	83.299166	7.1	No	No data		279	FS	No	LAST
	Playa Mondonguillo	Mar 2017	Jul 2017	Mar 2017	Jul 2017	Daily	10.182438	83.245296	8.8		No data		536	FS	No	Reserva Pacuare and Estación Las Tortugas (addition of both sites)
Ei	Cahuita						9.4527	82.5179	10.45	Yes	No data	No data	No data			

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

Costa Rica

Annual Report 2018

Cm	Murciélagos Island	Throughout the year	Throughout the year	Oct 2017	Mar 2018		10,85579 2		85,911412		0.35	Yes	No data	No data	No data			Biocenosis Marina
	Naranjo					Daily	10.77513 8		84.971067		4.00	Yes	7	9		FS	No	Biocenosis Marina
	Playa Cabuyal	Oct 2017	Mar 2018	Oct 2017	Mar 2018	Daily	10.6738815		85.6542719		1.4	No	20	142		FS and PIT	No	TLT
	Nombre de Jesús - Zapotillal	Jan 2017	Dec 2017	Jan 2017	Dec 2017	Daily	10.3942333		85.8359831		0.9	No	111		322	FS	No	KUEMAR
	Punta Pargos												No data	No data	No data			
	Tortuguero	Apr 2017	Nov 2017			Daily	10.58667 5		83.522247		29	Yes			50172			Sea Turtle Conservancy
Cc																		

INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES - IAC

List of index sites for each sea turtle species for each IAC country within which sea turtle nesting occurs.

Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsible
Belize (2)		**(1)**	**(1)**	**(1)**			
Gales Point			X				
Bacalar Chico Marine		X		X			
Brazil (18)	**(2)**	**(1)**	**(7)**	**(12)**	**(3)**		
Comboios	X			X			
Povoação	X			X			
Busca Vida			X	X			
Santa Maria				X			
Barra Jacuipe			X	X			
Guarajuba			X	X			
Itacimirim			X	X			
Praia do Forte			X	X			
Barra do Furado				X			
Farol				X			
Farolzinho				X			
Maria Rosa				X			
Berta			X				
Pipa			X				
Mangue Seco					X		
Coqueiros					X		
Pirambu					X		
Trindade Island		X					

Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsible
Caribbean Netherlands (2)	**(1)**	**(2)**	**(1)**	**(1)**			
Klein Bonaire, Bonaire		X	X	X			Sea Turtle Conservation
Zeelandia, St. Eustatius	X	X					St Eustatius Sea Turtle
Costa Rica /Pacific (9)	**(1)**	**(5)**			**(4)**		
Isla Murcielago		X					
Nancite*					X		
Naranjo		X			X		
Cabuyal		X					
Nombre de Jesús		X					
Punta Pargos		X					
Playa Grande	X						
Ostional*					X		
Hermosa					X		
Costa Rica/Atlantic (4)	**(3)**	**(1)**	**(1)**				
Tortuguero	X	X					
Pacuare Norte	X						
Mondonguillo	X						
Cahuita			X				
Ecuador (9)		**(6)**	**(1)**		**(5)**		
San Lorenzo					X		MAE (Pacoche)
La Botada					X		MAE (Pacoche)
Playa Chocolatera		X			X		MAE (REMACOPSE)
Playa Tres Cruces		X			X		MAE(REMACOPSE)
Playa Mar Bravo		X			X		MAE(REMACOPSE)
Playita (Machalilla)			X				MAE (PNM/ Equilibrio Azul)
Quinta Playa (Galapagos)		X					MAE (DPNG)
Barahona (Galapagos)		X					MAE (DPNG)
Las Bachas (Galapagos)		X					MAE (DPNG)

Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsible
Guatemala (2)	**(1)**				**(2)**		
Hawaii	X				X		ARCAS
La Barrona					X		
Honduras/Atlantic (3)	**(1)**		**(2)**				
Pumkin Hill, Utila			X				
Plaplaya	X						
Cayos Cochinos			X				
Honduras/Pacific (2)					**(2)**		
Punta Ratón					X		
El Venado					X		
México/Atlantic (12)		**(11)**	**(4)**	**(8)**		**(7)**	
Rancho Nuevo, Tamps		X		X		X	CONANP
Barra del Tordo, Tamps		X		X		X	CONANP
Altamira, Tamps		X		X		X	CONANP
Mirama, Tamps						X	CONANP
Lechuguillas, Ver		X	X			X	CONANP
Isla Aguada-Xicalango-Victoria, Camp		X	X			X	CONANP
Chenkán, Camp		X	X			X	CONANP
Las Coloradas/Rio Lagartos, Yuc		X	X	X			CONANP
Xcacel, Q.Roo		X		X			Reserve Estatal
Chemuyil, Q. Roo		X		X			
Xel Ha, Q. Roo		X		X			
Puerto Aventuras, Q. Roo		X		X			
México/Pacific (13)	**(6)**	**(5)**			**(9)**		
El Verde, Sin	X				X		CONANP
Platanitos, Nay					X		CONANP
Nuevo Vallarta, Nay					X		CONANP
Mismaloya, Jal					X		CONANP
Chalacatepec, Jal					X		CONANP
El Chupadero, Col							CONANP

Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsible
Mexiquillo, Mich	X	X			X		CONANP
Tierra Colorada, Gro	X	X			X		CONANP
Cahuitán, Oax	X						CONANP
Escobilla, Oax*	X				X		CONANP
Barra de la Cruz, Oax	X	X			X		CONANP
Maruata, Mich		X					Univ. Michoacana SNH
Colola, Mich		X					Univ. Michoacana SNH
Panamá/Atlantic (3)	**(2)**	**(1)**	**(3)**	**(1)**			
Cayos Zapatillas (B. del			X				
Playa Chiriqui (B. del Toro)	X	X	X	X			
Playa Armita o Pito	X		X				
Panamá/Pacific (2)		**(2)**			**(2)**		
RVS Isla Cañas		X			X		
Playa La Marinera		X			X		
United States/Atlantic (7)	**(5)**	**(4)**	**(3)**	**(4)**		**(1)**	
Culebra Island, Puerto Rico	X						
Vieques Island, Puerto Rico	X	X	X				
Mona Island, Puerto Rico			X				
Buck Island Reef National Monument,	X	X					
Sandy Point NWR, U.S. Virgin Islands	X	X	X				
Florida Index Beaches	X	X		X			
Georgia Index Beaches				X			
North Carolina Index				X			
South Carolina Index				X			
Texas (South Padre Island)						X	
United States/Pacific (2)		(1)	(1)				
French Frigate Shoals (HI)		X					
Hawaii			X				

Name of Beach	DC	CM	EI	CC	LO	LK	Responsible
Venezuela (11)	**(6)**	**(4)**	**(6)**	**(6)**			
Querepare (Edo. Sucre)	X			X			CICTMAR
Cipara (Edo. Sucre)	X			X			CICTMAR
Macuro (varias playas cercanas, Edo. Sucre)	X	X	X				ONDB-MPPA
El Agua - Parguito Beach (Edo. Nueva	X						ONDB-MPPA
Parque Nacional Archipiélago Los Roques			X	X			INPARQUES, Fundación
La Sabana (Edo. Vargas)	X						ONDB-MPPA, Consejo de
Parque Nacional Henri Pittier (Playas Cuyagua, Uricaro y otros)		X	X	X			INPARQUES, Fundación Ecodiversa, Lideres
Playas entre las bocas del Rio Morón Y Rio Yaracuy			X	X			Palmichal S.C.
Parque Nacional Morrocoy (Cayo Borracho, Varadero y		X	X				CICTMAR, INPARQUES
Paraguana Peninsula	X		X	X			UNEFM (Universidad Nacional
RFS Isla de Aves		X					ONDB-MPPA