



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

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IAC Annual Report General Instructions

Annex IV of the Convention text states that each Contracting Party shall submit an Annual Report each year. To complete this Annual Report, Focal Points should consult with appropriate stakeholders involved in sea turtle issues. If you have any questions regarding this Annual Report, please contact the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* at secretario@iacseaturtle.org

The submission deadline for this Annual Report is **June 30th, 2020**.

Part I (General Information)

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

a._ Focal Point

Institution	Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía (MINAE), Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación (SINAC)
Name	Rotney Piedra Chacón
Submission Date	July 20, 2020

b._ Agency or Institution responsible for preparing this report

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

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Part II (Policy and Management)

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

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

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

The Conservation Areas National System (SINAC), of the Ministry of Environment and Energy, is the unit responsible for the administration of Protected Wilderness Areas, including sea turtles nesting sites, and for the protection, management and conservation of wildlife, therefore it is responsible for the implementation of the National Strategy for the Conservation and Protection of Sea Turtles. Protected Wilderness Areas have their general management plans, in at least 80% of the sites, and those where sea turtles are conservation targets have a monitoring, research, conservation and management program for these species. Most of the nesting sites outside of protected wild areas also have their respective monitoring and research programs and carry out actions to protect them, such as night patrols and nests relocation.

Costa Rica has approximately 83 sea turtle nesting sites, in both the Caribbean and Pacific coasts. Non-governmental and academic organizations, as well as governmental institutions, investment time and resources to investigate and protect sea turtles nesting on these sites or found in feeding areas. This is how, several monitoring and research programs have consolidated or are being developed in Costa Rica, over the years. Sea Turtles research and conservation has not only increased our knowledge about their biology, but has also provided scientists with important information to assess their populations at a regional level and thus consider and implement the most effective conservation measures.

These programs objectives are facilitating, promoting, and executing protection, conservation, scientific research, and environmental education activities related to sea turtles. Currently, the management of nesting sites and marine-coastal ecosystems involves different actors through their participation in the use and conservation of their resources. Sea Turtle monitoring and research programs are consolidated or developing in 7 of the 11 conservation areas in the country. The participation of communities has been strengthened, especially in the development of tourist activities on sea turtle watching. However, outside of the protected



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areas, this activity requires greater attention and is pending to define and establish control mechanisms.

The aforementioned activities are carried out by SINAC, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, local guide associations, community development associations, researchers, as well as other governmental institutions such as the National Coast Guard Service (SNG), both within Protected areas and outside them. The Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INCOPECSA) manages issues regarding the incidental capture of sea turtles. Additionally, it participates in the process involving the commercialization of eggs harvested in the Ostional National Wildlife Refuge.

Research, management of egg incubation in hatcheries, tourism and volunteer activities must have their respective procedures and permits issued by MINAE through SINAC, when it comes to protected areas. Outside of protected areas, the first two activities also depend on SINAC, according to the Wildlife Law, however, as mentioned in previous reports, the doubt still remains, and until some aspects related to the permit process for research outside protected areas are clarified, INCOPECSA also processes these requests from users. Activities related to tourism are addressed by the Costa Rican Tourism Institute (ICT) and Municipalities. All research related to genetic or biochemical access is the responsibility of the National Council for the Management of Biodiversity (CONAGEBIO). In relation to scientific fishing activities, it is INCOPECSA that issues a research permit.

On the other hand, the Ministry of the Environment and Energy (MINAE) and the Comptroller of the Environment have made available to the public the Integrated System for Processing and Attention of Environmental Complaints (SITADA), Costa Rica official site to submit and consult an environmental claim or complaint.

The SITADA is the result from the joint work of different agencies of the environmental sector, and seeks to establish an information management scheme that serves as support for decision-making, evaluation, and monitoring of compliance with the attention to environmental complaints. It allows to determine, expand, and improve the process of reviewing the information reported by citizens in relation to environmental complaints to the agencies and offices participating in the management of environmental complaints in Costa Rica, which facilitates the maintenance of information allowing to speed up control, attention, and analysis of it.

Finally, the institutional commission for the implementation and monitoring of the National Strategy for the Conservation and Protection of Sea Turtles, mentioned in the previous year national report, continues to work on the strategy implementation process.



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

	YES/NO/ In Progress	Comments
Does your country have a national action plan in accordance with Article XVIII?	YES	The Action Plan of the National Strategy for the Conservation and Protection of Sea Turtles is being addressed by the institutional Commission for the implementation and monitoring of the strategy. Formed in 2019.
Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional scales in accordance with Article XVIII?	YES	All nesting beaches found in PWA have Management Plans and most of them have Public Use Regulations. Some of these are being updated. Outside of PWA, actions are focusing on the search and implementation of governance models with the participation of key stakeholders.
Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?	YES	The instrument known as the Methodology for calculating coverage of Marine Control and Protection actions in SINAC is still being implemented.



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b. National legislation and international instruments related to sea turtles adopted during the preceding year

Describe any national regulations, international agreements, and other legal instruments related to sea turtles and/or relevant activities that were adopted during the preceding year (April 30th, 2019 – June 30th, 2020). Please provide a literature 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 the legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanctions(s) Imposed
International Instruments		
Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding		Year signed and/or ratified
IATTC Resolution C-19-04 Resolution to mitigate the impacts on sea turtles, amends and replaces C-07-03 and C-04-05. IATTC Convention Area in the Eastern Pacific Ocean		2019

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. For countries that have previously submitted a complete Annual Report, please provide information for any changes that have occurred since the most recent previously submitted Report.*



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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. If a Resolution does not apply to your country, please mark the box as “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:

				RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY	
IS COMPLIANT 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?	X		<p>All Wild Protected Areas with sea turtle nesting 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 nongovernmental organizations implementing monitoring programs and conservation actions to protect the species in the Costa Rican Pacific. These programs are made official through research permits by SINAC or INCOPECSA. 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.</p> <p>In 2018 and 2019, two fisheries planning tools were developed: the national action plan for sustainable fishing of large pelagic species (PNAGP)</p>		



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		<p>(http://www.pelagicoscr.org/es/la-plataforma/plande-accion) and the Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP). Both tools include specific actions to encourage activities to improve practice for these species handling and release.</p>	
<p>1b) Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?</p>	X	<p>Implementation in Wild Protected Areas 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 annually using the tool to Assess Wildlife Areas Management Effectiveness. 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 INCOPECA through the projects. At the end of each season, a report must be handed to the area's research coordinator. The FIP is on its first year of implementation. Information is available at www.fisheryprogress.org</p>	
<p>2. Have you taken conservation measures to eliminate poaching of leatherback turtles?</p>	X	<p>– In leatherback nesting beaches 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</p>	



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			<p>recommendations which should be included in future proposals or work plans accordingly</p>	
<p>3. If your country has Eastern Pacific leatherback turtle nesting beaches: Have you taken conservation measures to protect the nesting sites and their associated habitats?</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>Yes – Monitoring programs of the National Marine Park Las Baulas have been established with the support of organizations such as TLT, KUEMAR, USFWS, FUNDECODES as well as SINAC. Monitoring programs continue strengthening in secondary sites inside and outside protected areas where leatherbacks nest sporadically, such as the National Wildlife Reserve or RNVS Camaronal (led by SINAC), the mix RNVS Ostional (SINAC), and the monitoring in the beaches complex known as Jesus-Zapotillal (by KUEMAR), and in beaches such as Junquillal (Verdiazul), Punta Pargos (by Sea Turtle Forever), Cabuyal by TLT, and Santa Rosa National Park Naranjo beach (by LAST). These organizations make an important effort to protect these sites. Each leatherback nest found inside or near beaches during monitoring (if possible) is protected and monitored. At the end of each nesting season, the 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 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.</p>	



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<p>4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of leatherbacks?</p>	X	<p>Techniques and recommendations are in Executive Decree N°. 38681-MAG-MINAE, Management for Tuna and Tuna Like Species Economic Exclusive Zone in Costa Rica´s Pacific and the AJDIP/115-2016.</p> <p>Additionally, these are addressed in INCOPECA´s FIP work plan, acknowledged by the board of directors in the AJDIP/062A-2019. INCOPECA has included in their institutional plan POI 2021, strengthening the knowledge on sea turtle handling for fishermen.</p>
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(*) 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-COP8-2017-R2: Conservation of the Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP8-2017-R2, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

IS COMPLIANT 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	X		The Integrated System for Processing and Attention to Environmental Complaints (SITADA), has been critical in strengthening and controlling activities on this matter. (http://www.sitada.go.cr/denunciaspublico/). Participants of the monitoring programs throughout the country are ready to report illegal trade to relevant authorities, for instance, the students in Reserva Pacuare are trained to report sells of sea turtle products or sub products, with an introduction to recognize them, and on procedures and current regulations.	
2. Are you enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation?	X		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.	
3. Are activities being carried out to stop the illegal trade of hawksbill products?	X		Reports from SITADA are addressed by the relevant authority, whose compliance is monitored by the environmental comptroller.	
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	Real estate projects carried out near sea turtle nesting beaches must comply with the regulations that establish recommendations to protect these areas, in the Environmental Impact Assessment that the projects submit for approval by the Ministry of the Environment.	
	b) Protection of feeding habitats	X	As reported in the previous year, at least five hawksbill feeding grounds have been identified in the last years, along Costa Rica's Pacific Coast (Golfo Dulce, Cabo Blanco, Punta Coyote, Punta Pargos y Bahía Matapalito). Most of these sites are totally or partially under a management category, for instance, Golfo Dulce is a responsible fishing area, and Cabo Blanco is an Absolute Reserve and a Marine Management Area. Punta Coyote is partially protected by the Wildlife National Refugee Caletas-Arrio; Bahía Matapalito is under the Marine Management Area of Santa Elena Bay. Threats are reduced in these sites. Punto Pargos is not yet under a management category.	



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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:

IS COMPLIANT WITH THE FOLLOWING:	RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY			X
	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
1. Has your country created national action plans and/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 turtle 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 a long-term (minimum 10 years) standardized data available for population trend studies?				
6. Is there exploitation or direct harvest of loggerhead 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



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Resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R2: Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback

ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP9-2019-R2, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

IS COMPLIANT WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	
Note: Question 1 must be answered by all IAC Parties, please skip the other questions if the Resolution is not applicable in your country.				
1. Has reached out to Canada, Guyana, French Guiana, Trinidad & Tobago, and/or Suriname to inform these nations about the critical situation of the population and priority actions for the conservation of leatherbacks in the NW Atlantic?		X		
IS COMPLIANT WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
2. Has implemented techniques to reduce leatherback bycatch and mortality in fisheries, following the UN-FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations?		X		
3. Have fishery observer programs that comply with the minimum standards for scientific observer coverage that have been established by pertinent Regional Fishery Management Organizations?				X
4. Has implemented laws and regulations related to Northwest Atlantic leatherback conservation, particularly related to fisheries bycatch and marine protected areas?		X		
5. If your country has Northwest Atlantic (NWA) leatherback turtle nesting beaches:				
5.1. Has your country implemented conservation measures for the protection of the NWA leatherback nesting beaches and associated habitats?	X		Sites important for leatherback nesting are within Protected Wildlife Area which annually implement Specific Plans on Environmental Education, Research, Volunteering, Protection and Control, Ecologic Monitoring, Communication, Ecotourism. Monitoring and assessment is done with the Tool to Assess Protected Wildlife Areas Management Effectiveness. Outside protected areas, there are NGOs, Academy and local organizations implementing projects approved by SINAC or INCOPECSA, which	



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			<p>beside research and monitoring, also implement activities regarding nests protection, and environmental education, included in the research proposal.</p> <p>At the end of each season, a report must be handed to the area's research coordinator. Each project has the Costa Rican state approval. 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.</p>	
<p>5.2. Does your country have a monitoring and tagging program at the NWA leatherback nesting beaches?</p>	X		<p>As mentioned throughout this report, there are several organizations authorized by the State to tag and monitor sea turtles in nesting beaches.</p>	
<p>6. Is your country collecting data on interactions of the NWA leatherback with fishing fleets? Report data of interactions of the species with industrial longline vessels in Annex 3 of this report.</p>		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:

In the column for “species” please use: Cm (*Chelonia mydas*), Lo (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), Dc (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Cc (*Caretta caretta*), Lk (*Lepidochelys kempii*), Ei (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

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					
i) Collect information by fishery	X		The medium and advanced scale commercial fleet uses an operations logbook. Captains record if there is an interaction between sea turtles and longlines in the sets form. A database has been developed to record this information.	Cm Lo Dc Ei	
ii) Observer programs	X		There are plans to design the observers program in 2020 with the participation of the longline sector led by INCOPECA.	Cm Lo Dc Ei	
iii) Research on sea turtle/fishery interactions		X	Currently there is no enough information available for a solid statistical analysis.	Cm Lo Dc Ei	
iv) Information on non-Party vessels					X
v) Cooperation with non-Party states to obtain information					X
B. Mitigation measures for the following fisheries:					
i) Long-line	X		There are regulations such as: • The Regulation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Law, article 56, establishes that pelagic longline fishing will be carried out exclusively using circle hooks; • Decree 38681 MAG MINAE establishes the tools that must be used on board and training on best practices; • AJDIP/115-2016 reinforces the use of operation books to record information	Cm Lo Dc Ei	
ii) Gillnets	X		There is a temporal and spatial closure agreement in Golfo de Nicoya AJDIP 071-2020		



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iii) Trawling (e.g., 1. TEDs: specify legally approved TEDs, their dimensions, material, and target species for that fishery, 2. time-area closures: specify a geographical area, time of closure and target species for that fishery, 3. tow times and/or 4. other measures)	X		INCOPESCA Board of Directors Agreement. AJDIP N. 474-2017: common Regulations for all commercial licenses for the sustainable use of shrimp. a) Spatial Marine Management: zoning and satellite tracking. No licenses are available for this fishery since 2019.	Cm Lo Dc Ei	
iv) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))					
v) Fisher training programs about best practices for safe handling and release of incidentally-caught sea turtles			In 2016 and 2018, training and equipment was provided to fishermen from the small-scale, medium-scale, and advanced commercial fleet. Updates are planned for 2020-21, if covid 19 conditions, allow. Agreements AJDIP/143-2016; AJDIP/218-2016 and AJDIP/239-2016, described in detail above, refer to the training program and activities.	Cm Lo Dc Ei	
C. Socio-economic considerations					
i) Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles	X		Training and activities mentioned in previous sections seek the development of responsible fishing to gain access to better markets. Additionally, through the FIP, it seeks to position large pelagic fishing products under sustainability measures that consider the social and economic conditions of the sector.	Cm Lo Dc Ei	

(*) 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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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, together with the National Coast Guard Service, the Public Force and the Tourist Police, participate in the protection and compliance with the environmental legislation established in the country. Marine patrols are carried out inside and outside protected areas, as well as day and night patrols in the main land, inspections and confiscations of sea turtle products and by-products.

The nesting beaches outside the Protected Wilderness Areas, due to lack of personnel, are not yet institutionally attended by SINAC, so that the work carried out by NGOs in coastal areas is decisive for developing ecological monitoring and enforcement of Law No. 8325 (Law for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles). However, we are aware of the urgency of institutional attention, especially to counteract the threat of eggs poaching.

The SINAC Institutional Commission created in August 2018 and the inter-institutional Commission (currently in the formalization phase) are working on the implementation of the Action Plan of the National Strategy for the Conservation and Protection of Sea Turtles, so their results may be seen in the short term.

INCOPECSA is responsible for the authorization, regulation and supervision of fishing gear. INCOPECSA made arrangements within the framework of the IATTC annual meeting in 2019, in Bilbao, Spain, to achieve consensus on Resolution C-19-04, focused on mitigating the impacts on sea turtles.

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.

Details on Costa Rica progress regarding its exception are specified in the document "Costa Rica Progress Report on the Exceptions Resolution No. CIT-COP7-COP7-II. Costa Rica's progress report on the Exceptions Resolution No. CIT-COP7-COP7- 2015-R1", is attached following ACT-OR-DASP-827-2020 (Annex 1).



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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)		Actions
Lo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	<p>Coastal Development: In the buffer zones of some protected areas there is greater control over housing projects regarding lighting, noise, tourism, activities on the beaches, among others. For example, there are legal instruments that, when used properly, help to reduce the impact on sea turtles nesting habitats, such as the environmental feasibility of SETENA and the coastal regulatory plans that consider sea turtle resource and their critical habitats.</p> <p>Bycatch: MINAE and MAG have legal mechanisms to regulate bycatch through the tuna zoning decree (No. 38681-MAG-MINAE). This decree and the respective agreements of the Board of Directors contemplate several mitigation actions managed by INCOPECA. Likewise, the FIP includes actions in this regard.</p> <p>Additionally, marine protected areas have measures in their management plans, specific plans and regulations. In addition to marine patrols within its protected limits. The Cabo Blanco and Santa Elena Marine Management Areas are working on the implementation of actions that help</p>



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			<p>their conservation and sustainable use.</p> <p>Throughout the Pacific, 10 responsible fishing areas have been defined and delimited, where there should be a reduction in threats.</p> <p>In the Camaronal and Ostional National Wildlife Refuges, fishing exploitation plans have been prepared.</p> <p>Direct Use: There is illegal eggs poaching, mostly outside protected areas, for which day and night patrols are carried out, in addition to other protection activities (hatcheries). There are institutional guidelines for the operation of the hatcheries (Directive SINAC-DE-1438 (2018). The Manual is in the process of being updated. In the case of the Exception in Ostional National Wildlife Refuge, control patrols are carried out in coordination with other police institutions to reduce the impact of eggs poaching.</p> <p>Pollution: A large part of the pollution comes from the rivers, by natural debris or by synthetic or organic litter. Beach cleanups are organized and there are waste management programs at various sites. Some of the beaches are awarded by the Blue Flag Program.</p> <p>Pathogens: Nests in natural conditions are exposed to pathogens. So when necessary, nurseries are built and nest relocations are carried out respecting the best practices. More information and studies are required on this matter.</p> <p>Climate change: Monitoring of parameters such as temperature. The changing dynamics of the dunes on some of the beaches, the high incidence of erosion and the increase in</p>
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			temperature on the beach affect the nesting of females and the survival of embryos. When necessary, hatcheries are implemented to avoid these effects, or nests are relocated to shady sites, respecting the appropriate temperatures for their development.
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	<p>Pacific and Caribbean</p> <p>Coastal Development: In the buffer zones of some protected areas there is greater control over housing projects in the management of light, noise, tourism, beach activities, among others. For example, there are instruments of the Environmental Technical Secretariat, such as the environmental feasibility that must consider the sea turtle resource. It is required that there be a greater incidence in this particular. It is also necessary to ensure that these species and their critical habitats are considered in the Coastal Regulatory Plans. In the case of the PNM Las Baulas, the two administrative resolutions of the National Environmental Technical Secretariat referring to guidelines for construction remain in force. In the same way, there are a series of recommendations provided by the Administration of the Camaronal NWR and the Ostional NWR to their neighbors.</p> <p>Outside of protected areas, control is more complex; however, the groups responsible for carrying out biological monitoring activities make great efforts in conservation. In some places, such is the case of the Playas Nombre de Jesús – Zapotillal complex, SINAC,</p>



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			<p>through the administration of the Las Baulas National Marine Park, has expressed the need for future real estate developments to consider in their site and infrastructure designs, the proper management of lights, the establishment of protection zones, control of visits to nesting sites, noise, among others.</p> <p>Bycatch: MINAE and MAG have the legal mechanisms to regulate bycatch through the tuna zoning decree (No. 38681-MAG-MINAE). This decree and the respective agreements of the Board of Directors contemplate several mitigation actions managed by INCOPECA. Likewise, the FIP includes actions in this regard. Additionally, marine protected areas have mitigation measures in their management plans, specific plans and regulations.</p> <p>Throughout the Pacific, 10 responsible fishing areas have been declared and delimited. In the Caribbean, INCOPECA has declared a responsible fishing area.</p> <p>Direct Use: permanent patrols are made to control and protect nests during the nesting period. Constant and permanent monitoring of nesting. Outside of protected areas, the risk is greater, the activities greatly reduce poaching, but it still requires greater institutional support, which is affected by lack of personnel. There are institutional guidelines for the operation of hatcheries (Directive SINAC-DE-438 (2018). The Manual is in the process of being updated.</p> <p>Pollution: Beach cleanups are</p>
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			<p>organized and some sites have waste management programs. Some of the beaches are awarded by the Blue Flag Program. Pathogens: Apply the best practices to handle sea turtles and their nests. More information and study is required.</p> <p>Climate change: Monitoring of parameters such as temperature. The changing dynamics of the dunes on some of the beaches, the high incidence of erosion and the increase in temperature on the beach affect the nesting of females and the survival of embryos. When necessary, hatcheries are implemented to avoid these effects, or nests are relocated to shady sites, respecting the appropriate temperatures for their development.</p>
Ei	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	<p>Pacific and Caribbean</p> <p>Coastal Development: In the buffer zones of some protected areas there is greater control over housing projects in the management of light, noise, tourism, beach activities, among others. For example, there are instruments of the Environmental Technical Secretariat, such as the environmental feasibility that must consider the sea turtle resource. It is required that there be a greater incidence in this particular. It is also necessary to ensure that these species and their critical habitats are considered in the Coastal Regulatory Plans.</p> <p>Outside of protected areas, control is more complex; however, the groups responsible for carrying out biological monitoring activities make great efforts in conservation.</p>



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			<p>Bycatch: MINAE and MAG have legal mechanisms to regulate bycatch through the tuna zoning decree (No. 38681-MAG-MINAE). This decree and the respective agreements of the Board of Directors contemplate several mitigation actions managed by INCOPECSA. Likewise, the FIP includes actions in this regard.</p> <p>Additionally, marine protected areas have mitigation measures in their management plans, specific plans and regulations. Throughout the Pacific, 10 responsible fishing areas have been declared and delimited.</p> <p>In the Caribbean, INCOPECSA has declared a responsible fishing area.</p> <p>Direct Use: permanent patrols are carried out to control and protect nests during the nesting period. Constant and permanent monitoring of nesting.</p> <p>Outside of protected areas, the risk is greater, the activities greatly reduce poaching, but it still requires greater institutional support, which is affected by lack of personnel. There are institutional guidelines for the operation of hatcheries (Directive SINAC-DE-1438 (2018). The Manual is in the process of being updated.</p> <p>Pollution: Beach cleanups are organized and some sites have waste management programs. Some of the beaches are awarded by the Blue Flag Program.</p> <p>Pathogens: Apply the best practices for handling sea turtles and their nests. More information and study is required.</p>
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			<p>Climate change: Monitoring of parameters such as temperature. The changing dynamics of the dunes on some of the beaches, the high incidence of erosion and the increase in temperature on the beach affect the nesting of females and the survival of embryos. When necessary, hatcheries are implemented to avoid these effects, or nests are relocated to shady sites, respecting the appropriate temperatures for their development.</p>
Cm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental capture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contamination <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change 	<p>Coastal Development. In the Pacific, the most important sites are located outside protected areas. This requires to keep working on declaring, making official, and implementing the instruments that allow better control of the threats that are caused by the development of housing projects under the modalities of residential, condominiums or hotels. These threats can be lighting, noise, tourism or activities that gather large numbers of people on the beaches, among others. Some individuals appear with injuries, indicating interactions with boats, however, there are no actions to address this.</p> <p>Work continues on the control of tourist visitation activities that occur on beaches that are not under any management category, such as the implementation of good practices for turtle observation.</p> <p>Bycatch: MINAE and MAG have legal mechanisms to regulate bycatch through the tuna zoning decree (No. 38681-MAG-MINAE). This decree and the respective agreements of the Board of Directors contemplate several mitigation actions managed by</p>



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			<p>INCOPECSA. Likewise, the FIP includes actions in this regard.</p> <p>Additionally, marine protected areas have measures in their management plans, specific plans and regulations. In addition to marine patrols within its protected limits. In the Pacific, the new Cabo Blanco and Santa Elena Marine Management Areas are working on the implementation of actions that help their conservation and sustainable use. They have also defined and delimited 10 responsible fishing areas in the Pacific and 1 in the Caribbean.</p>
Cc	<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	



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b. _ Research

Describe scientific research that is being carried out in the country relating to sea turtle population assessments including tagging, migration, and genetic studies, as well as those relating to conservation issues including habitat monitoring, fisheries interactions, disease, etc. Provide a list of references for the information used in this report and note how to obtain them when needed.

As mentioned in the previous report, there is a significant number of non-governmental and academic organizations, as well as State institutions, which each year make great efforts to invest time and resources to investigate, monitor and protect sea turtles that come to Costa Rica to nest on its beaches and make use of its marine habitats.

In both the Caribbean and the Pacific, these efforts remain constant thanks to the performance of organizations such as:

Caribbean: Latin American Sea Turtles Association (LAST); Sea Turtle Conservancy; Pacuare Reserve- Ecology Project International (EPI); Tropical Science Center; ASTOP; COTERC; Las Tortugas Station Association (ASESTO); Marine Reserve; Cahuita Rescue Turtle Race; Volunteer Association for the Protection of the Environment-ASVPA.

Pacific: South Pacific Sea Turtle Conservation Network; Tortuga Beach Reserve, Corcovado Foundation, Corcovado Sea Turtle Conservation Committee (COTORCO); Bear Conservation; Punta Banco Neighborhood Association; Association of Volunteers for Environmental Protection (ASVPA); CREAM; Turtle Trax; Sea Turtle Forever; Verdiazul Association; Latin American Sea Turtles Association (LAST); Marine Biocoenosis; cyrena; Drum Bay Turtles; Association of Volunteers for Service in Protected Areas (ASVO); TLT; KUEMAR; Team Tora Carey; Costa Rica university; Romelia Mixed Wildlife Refuge, Ostional Integral Development Association (ADIO).

Mentioned below are the investigations and monitoring programs that have been carried out during the period covered by this report.

1. Project for the conservation of wildlife and population monitoring of Matina beach sea turtles. ACLAC. Barbara Barrera Vilarmau. Rainforest Concern organization. R-SINAC-PNI-ACLAC-012-2019, R-SINAC-PNI-ACLAC-045-2019 Addendum.

2. Monitoring the nesting dynamics of Tortugas de Playa. ACLAC. Brenda Yamileth Hernandez Perez. Association Save the Turtles of Parismina – ASTOP. RSINAC-PNI-ACLAC-019-2019.



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3. *Monitoring of sea turtle populations in South Pacuare. ACLAC. Claudio Alberto Quesada Rodriguez. Volunteer Association for Environmental Protection – ASVPA. R-SINAC-PNI-ACLAC-016-2019.*
4. *Monitoring of sea turtle populations in the Pacuare Reserve. ACLAC. Claudio Alberto Quesada Rodriguez. organization Ecology Project InternationalEPI. R-SINAC-PNI-ACLAC-011-2019.*
5. *Investigation, Conservation and Management of the sea turtle populations of the Barra Norte de Pacuare (from the southern margin of Laguna Perlas to the mouth of the Pacuare River), Costa Rica. ACLAC. Didiher E. Chacon Chaverri. Latin American Sea Turtles Association (LAST). R-SINAC-PNI-ACLAC-003-2019, RSINAC-PNI-CLAC-014-2019 ADDENDUM, R-SINAC-PNI-ACLAC-051-2019 Addendum.*
6. *Research, Conservation and Management of the sea turtle populations of Playa Moín (from the north bank of the Moín River to the mouth of the Matina River), Costa Rica. ACLAC. Didiher E. Chacon Chaverri. Latin American Sea Turtles Association (LAST). R-SINAC-PNI-ACLAC-004-2019, R-SINAC-PNIACLAC-015-2019 ADDENDUM.*
7. *Satellite tracking and aquatic monitoring of Leatherback Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) from the Northwest Atlantic that nest in the Pacuare Reserve, Costa Rica. ACLAC. George Lewis Shillinger. Ecology Project International-EPI. R-SINAC-PNIACLAC-018-2019.*
8. *Research, management and conservation of the population of nesting female sea turtles at Mondonguillo Beach, Las Tortugas Station, Limón, Costa Rica. ACLAC. Stamatina Virginia Skliros. Las Tortugas Station Association – ASESTO. RSINAC-PNI-ACLAC-020-2019.*
9. *Migratory movements of sea turtles and elasmobranchs in the Cocos Island National Park and the Montes Submarinos Marine Management Area. ACMIC. Elpis Joan Chaves Calderon. Fins Attached Marine Research and Conservation. 2019-I-ACMC-06.*
10. *Spatial and temporal ecology of sharks, rays and sea turtles in Cocos Island National Park. ACMIC. Todd Steiner. Turtle Island Restoration Network. 2019-I-ACMC-03.*
11. *Sea Turtle nesting dynamics at Playa Matapalo Quepos. ACOPAC. Adriana González Molina. Volunteer Association for the Protection of the Environment. SINAC-ACOPAC-D-RES-047-2019.*
12. *Research, conservation and monitoring of the populations of sea turtles in waters of Golfo Dulce Costa Rica. HARASS. Didiher Chacon Chaverri. Latin American Sea Turtles*



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Association (LAST). INV-ACOSA-034-19.

13. Conservation and protection of sea turtles visiting Playa Platanares, Puerto Jimenez as a strategy to control human predation. HARASS. Juan Carlos Diaz Cruz. Innovation Association for sustainable development. INVACOSA-037-2019.

14. Monitoring of the nesting activity of sea turtles (Testudinata: Cheloniidae, Dermochelyidae) in the Ostional National Wildlife Refuge. ON Gerardo Jimenez Arce. Costa Rica university. ACT-OR-DR-093-2019.

15. Monitoring and management of sea turtles in Playa Arío, Cóbano, Costa Rica. ON Greivin Fallas Bonilla. Natural Resources Research Center. ACT-OR-DR045-19.

16. Monitoring and management of sea turtles in Playa Buena Vista, Nicoya, Costa Rica. ON Greivin Fallas Bonilla. Association of Volunteers for Service in Protected Areas (ASVO). ACT-OR-DR-046-19.

17. Monitoring and management of sea turtles in Playa Montezuma, Cóbano, Costa Rica. ON Greivin Fallas Bonilla. Association of volunteers for the service in protected areas (ASVO). ACT-OR-DR-047-19.

18. Monitoring of the nesting activity of the olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), during the usable pre arribada, in the Ostional National Wildlife Refuge. ON Hellen Lobo González. Ostional Comprehensive Development Association (ADIO). ACT-OR-DR-036-19.

19. Research and conservation of sea turtles in Bahía Tambor. ON Javier Carazo Salazar. Drum Bay Turtles. ACT-OR-DR-041-19.

20. Population structure of the olive ridley sea turtle, *Lepidochelys olivacea*, from the eastern Pacific, assessed by massive sequencing of mitochondrial and nuclear markers. ON Maiké Heidemeyer Thielemann. Costa Rica university. ACT-OR-DR-097-2019.

21. Sea turtle conservation project in the Romelia National Mixed Wildlife Refuge. ON Oscar Mario Cubero Vasquez. Romelia Refuge. ACT-ORDR-071-2019.

22. The behavior of the olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) in the coastal waters of Ostional, Costa Rica. ON Vanessa Sylvie Bezy. hatchlings. ACT-ORDR-079-2019.

23. Temperature and sex ratio in olive ridley sea turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) nests in Ostional, Costa Rica. ON Vanessa Sylvie Bezy. Sea Turtle Conservation. ACT-OR-DR-092-



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2019.

24. *Project for the conservation of sea turtles on the beaches of Nosara. ON Vanessa Sylvie Bezy. ACT-OR-DR-120-2019.*

25. *Monitoring of the population of olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and black (*Chelonia mydas a.*) turtles that nest on beaches: Langosta, Nombre de Jesús, Honda, Real and Zapotillal, Guanacaste, Costa Rica. Elizabeth Velez, Rotney Stone. Resolution. KUEMAR-SINAC ACT-OR-DR-127-2018. Includes the year 2019.*

26. *Conservation and monitoring of sea turtles on nesting beaches in the South Nicoya Peninsula (PLANS) 2018-2019. ON Daniel E. Arauz Naranjo. ACTOR-DR-006-2019.*

27. *Program for monitoring, marking, morphometry and size of arrivals of sea turtles in the Camaronal and Ostional NWRs, ACT, Costa Rica. ON Carlos M. Orrego Vasquez. ACT-OR-DR-018-2019.*

28. *Distribution, abundance, habitat use and trophic ecology of threatened marine species on the Costa Rican Pacific coast. ON Daniel E. Arauz Naranjo. ACTOR-DR-022-2019.*

29. *Monitoring, conservation and research of sea turtle populations in Las Baulas National Marine Park. ON James Robert Spotila. ACT-OR-DR-101-2019.*

30. *Research and conservation of Punta Pargos sea turtle populations, Guanacaste, Costa Rica 2019-2020. ACT. Marc W. Ward. ACT-OR-DR-110-2019.*

31. *Monitoring of the sea turtle nesting beach at Matapalo beach (Carrillo), Pacific Northwest of Costa Rica (Gulf of Papagayo). Tempisque Conservation Area. ON Giovanni Bassey Fallas. ACT-OR-DR-131-2019.*

32. *Use of coastal habitat of sea turtles in Costa Rica: identification of critical habitats to define and encourage the creation of new marine protected areas in the Pacific. ON Christine Figgner. ACT-OR-DR-135-2019.*

33. *Program for Monitoring and Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Barra del Colorado Wildlife Refuge. Act. Charlotte Foale. Canadian Organization for Tropical. SINAC-ACTo-D-023-2019.*

34. *Temporal dynamics of the concentration of Fusarium in sea turtles and its application to the design of management protocols on nesting beaches. Act. Keilor Cordero Umana. Royal Botanical Garden of Madrid, CSIC, Spain. CPI-SINAC-PNIACTo-002-2019.*



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35. *Monitoring of sea turtle nesting in the southern strip of the Tortuguero National Park. Act. Renato Saragoça Bruno. RAINFOREST CONCERN. SINACACTo-D-RES-002-2019, SINACACTo-D-RES-055-2019.*

36. *2019 Sea Turtle Program. ACT. Roldán Valverde Espinoza. Sea Turtle Conservancy (STC). SINAC-ACTO-D-014-2019, SINAC-ACTo-D-RES-064-2019, SINAC-ACTo-D-RES-060-2019, RES SINAC-ACTo-D-RES-058-2019.*

37. *Conservation and management of sea turtle populations on Naranjo and Nancite beaches, Muricélago Island archipelago (Marine Sector), Santa Elena Peninsula and Bolaños Island beaches, Guanacaste Conservation Area, Costa Rica. Luis Fonseca. LAST. SINAC-ACG-PI-029-2019.*

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 species.

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

c. _ Other activities

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

Some of the activities developed specifically by several of the monitoring and research projects are shared below.

1. Environmental education is a strong component within the Management Plans of Protected Areas, as well as in conservation and research projects led by NGOs, academia or communities. Talks are provided, field trips are organized, brochures are prepared, activities are organized.

2. In Tortuguero, Costa Rica Caribbean, throughout the 2019 turtle nesting season, between the months of March and November, the Sea Turtle Conservancy has carried out a series of Environmental Education and Outreach activities aimed at students, preschool, primary and



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secondary schools, tourists and the community in general.

More than 400 different people have participated in the activities aimed at infants and youngsters (the absolute total of participants was 2,180), in a total of 140 sessions and more than 347 hours of work (without taking into account the hours of preparation, only activities directly with the participants). More than 140 hours have been invested in meetings, organization of events and outreach activities in the Tortuguero Community (without taking into account the hours spent in the Visitor Center), in addition to 170 hours of work in the Ecolabeling program.

The main blocks of work during the season have been:

- Activities for school audiences. Program in the CEN, school and college, in addition to activities in the library and other specific events.
- Ecolabelling Program. Aimed at businesses in the community to develop environmental awareness and a sustainable tourism model.
- Program against plastic bags Aimed at Tortuguero families.
- Youth Assistants Program. Program to promote the participation of local youth in field work and in activities with the community.
- Specific events. World Sea Turtle Day, Earth Day, National Holidays.
- Social networks. Maintenance of the Facebook page and Instagram account.

All activities have been carried out under the supervision of the environmental education coordinator or environmental education assistants, including their participation and the research assistants

3. The Pacuare Reserve has an EPI Environmental Education Program and a Research Program between the Pacuare Reserve and the US organization UPWELL.

4. In Mata Palo beach, Central Pacific of Costa Rica, the Association of Volunteers for the Protection of the Environment (ASVPA) has a communication strategy within its project, which is aimed at the municipality, community leaders, educational institutions and fairs.

Municipality: When a nesting season begins and ends, the permits and objectives of each nesting season are presented to the municipality, as well as the results generated, which are externalized, where the relevant aspects are communicated (species of turtle visiting Matapalo beach, rescued nests, total number of turtle eggs that were relocated to the hatchery, hatching success, weekly beach cleaning, waste separation for recycling, among others) that show the



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importance of continuing to conserve coastal marine species and the beaches of the canton of Quepos, through these non-profit projects

Community leaders: A link has been established with community organizations, such as the Matapalo Integral Development Association and with the community itself. Presentations are made with them to show the results from each nesting season and progress taking place each season, with the objective that leaders inform their community about the work carried out by the sea turtle conservation project in Matapalo beach and encourage the community to participate, counting on constant collaborations in the protection of the eggs in the hatchery, the patrols at night and the cleaning of the beaches.

With the ASADA of Matapalo, a participation agreement was established in which they tried to keep the beach and community clean in addition to contacting the solid waste collectors who spend every week collecting the waste that the volunteers and collaborators who participate in the project sort into paper, plastic, glass and aluminum every week when cleaning the beach.

Educational institutions: we participated in some projects of the Colegio de Matapalo such as talks and science fairs. Boys and girls from the Matapalo school were encouraged to visit the hatchery to explain what the project consists of and invite them to collaborate and participate in their spare time.

Fairs: the project is promoted and exhibited in the educational centers surrounding Matapalo beach and an invitation is made to them to the "sea turtle release party" where in one morning children and young people from the institutions are summoned to participate in the observation of the release of hatchlings into the sea. In this way, it is used to explain and raise awareness about the importance of conserving these species.



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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	X		X
Dc	X		X
Ei	X		X
Cm	X		X
Cc			X



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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. Please use the index sites that your country has selected included in the document circulated with this report as Table 4. Also available on the [IAC website](#).*
- 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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Spp	Name of Index Nesting Site or Beach	Nesting Season		Monitoring Period		Survey Frequency	Geographic Location (Lat/Lon) in Decimal Degrees		Extension of beach monitored (km)	Declared Protected Area (Yes/No)	Annual Nesting Abundance			Tagging Program (FT, 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	Jul 2019	Jun 2020	Aug 2019	Feb 2020	Daily (arrived and solitary)	10.8048 11	85.669346	1.05	Yes	40,020	88,445			Luis Fonseca (LAST)	
	Naranjo					Daily	10.7790 40	85.666107	4.0	Yes	No data	No data	No data			
	Ostional	Jul 2019	Jun 2020	Jul 2019	Jun 2020	During arrivals	9.99391 3	85.700403	7.00	Yes	243,739	538,664			Carlos Mario Orrego (MINAE), Luis Fonseca (LAST) y Yeimy Cedeño (SINAC)	
	Hermosa	Jul 2019	Jan 2020	Aug 2019	Nov 2019	Daily	9.3116	84.3211	6.5	Yes	No data		2234	No	No	RNVSPHSINAC
Lk																
Dc	Playa Grande (PNM Baulas)	Oct 2019	Mar 2020	Oct 2019	Mar 2020	Daily	10.3346 75	85.847822	3.6	Yes	4	23	29	PIT	No	María del Pilar Santiridrián (TLT); Elizabeth Vélez (KUEMAR)
	Tortuguero	Mar 2019	Jul 2019	Mar 2019	Jul 2019	Biweekly	10.5866 75	83.52247	29	Yes			285		No	Roldan Valverde (Sea Turtle Conservancy)
	Pacuare Norte	Mar 2019	Aug 2019	Mar 2019	Aug 2019	Daily	10.2448 13	83.299166	7.1	No	160	296		MA	No	Luis Fonseca (LAST)
	Pacuare Sur (al Norte de la Reserva Pacuare)	Mar 2019	Jul 2019	Feb 2019	Aug 2019	Daily	10.2120 04	83.270044	1.1 km	No	22	28	28	Metallic	No	Claudio Quesada (ASVPA)
	Reserva Pacuare	Mar 2019	Jul 2019	Feb 2019	Nov 201	Daily	10.1788 01	83.242027	5.8 km	Yes	299	580	580	MA, PIT	No	Claudio Quesada (Reserva Pacuare – EPI)
Ei	Cahuita (Playa Grande)	Mar 2019	Jul 2019	Feb 2019	Aug 201	Every 2 days	9.75806 3	82.867282	3.4 km	No	2	2	2	Metallic	No	Claudio Quesada (Cahuita Rescue Turtle Race)
	Gandoca	May 2019	Nov 2019	Jun 2019	Sep 2019	Daily	9.59849 8	82.605934	7.0	Yes	No data	No data	No data		No	
Cm	Isla Murciélagos						10.8557 92	85.911412	0.35	Yes	No data	No data	No data		No	

	Naranjo					Daily	10.7790 40	85.666107	4.0	Yes	No data	No data	No data	MA	No	
	Cabuyal	Oct 2019	Mar 2020	Oct 2019	Mar 2020	Daily	10.6738 815	85.654271 9	1.4	No	11	31	54	MA and PIT	No	María del Pilar Santidrián (TLT)
	Nombre de Jesús	Jan 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2019	Dec 2019	Daily	10.3942 333	85.835983 1	0.9	No	316	918		MA	No	Elizabeth Vélez (KUEMAR), Rotney Piedra (SINAC)
	Punta Pargos	Oct 2019	Apr 2020	Oct 2019	Apr 2020	Daily	10.2015 12	10.201512	7.7	No	No data	59		No	No	Nancy Tankersley (Sea Turtles Forever)
	Tortuguero	Jun 2019	Nov 2019			Weekly	10.5866 75	83.522247	29	Si			129,660		No	Roldan Valverde (Sea Turtle Conservancy)
Cc																

Note from the Secretariat: According to numeral 7 of Resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R2 for the conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback turtle that requests the information included in Table 3 of this report (information on longline fisheries, the information sensitive will be confidential For any additional information, the procedure established in Resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R4 must be applied

