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# Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Netherlands Antilles 2008 Annual Report

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## General Information

Please fill out all of the following. Double click on the turtle icons to open the respective spreadsheet

### Directory



Directory

### Others who participated in the preparation of this Annual Report



Others who  
participated

### Focal Point



Focal Point



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## 1. Biological Information

### 1.1. Species present

Fill in the respective blanks depending on the oceanographic basin (according to the provisions in Art. III of the Convention) for each species, using the following codes for the different phases: R = reproduction; F = foraging; M = migration; D= phase unknown.



### 1.2. Important sites for sea turtle conservation

- a. For each phase, indicate the names of priority sites mentioning the species present in each site and its season. Confirmed migratory routes should be integrated as a separate worksheet where relevant data can be added, for example, beginning and ending point (LAT/LON), tag/recovery. If migratory route maps already exist as well as their course in LAT/LON, please add them as an annex so that this information may be included in the GIS of the IAC.
- b. Geographic location: Specify latitude and longitude in degrees, minutes and seconds - provide one or two points for nesting places (if available). For migratory routes, please describe them briefly in the observations column.
- c. Extension:
  - Nesting sites - provide the total length in Kilometers of the beach used by the turtles.
  - Foraging sites (or feeding areas) provide the extension in Hectares (if available).
  - Migratory Routes: not applicable
- d. Category of protection: Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area, the name of the Management Category, briefly describe in terms of use or protection offered.
- e. Estimations: Select an estimate of the number of clutches and hatchlings per year. The ranges for clutches are: unknown, unavailable, 0-10, 11-100, 101-500, 501-1000, 1001-5000, 5001-10000, 10001-100000, 100001-500000, >500000. The ranges for hatchlings are: unknown, not available, 0-1000, 1001-10000, 10001-50000, 50001-100000, 100001-500000, 500001-1000000, 1000001-10000000, 10000001-50000000, >50000000. On a separate sheet, provide a brief description/justification on why each



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site that was mentioned is considered important (sites with greater abundance, endemism, genetic, others). Include historical information (graphic and/or tables) showing the population status of each species present in the site. If available, provide information on the species for a wider region than the specific nesting place.



## Important Sites

### 2. Information regarding the use derived from sea turtles

- a. The types of use (non consumptive/consumptive) may be, among others:  
Domestic (for subsistence), cultural, commercial, medicinal, tourism, scientific.
- b. Products or parts used: eggs, skin, carapace, meat, oil, craftsmanship, etc.
- c. Ocean Basin: Pacific, Atlantic or Caribbean
- d. Origin: make reference to the law that forbids/allows it from section 4 (Juridical framework) of this form.
- e. Estimated annual quantity:
  - Legal: refer to section 5 (Exceptions) of this form
  - Illegal: total amount of eggs or clutches, total animals (per sex, per stage)
- f. Actions: refer to section 6 (Actions for conservation) of this form



## Derived Use



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### 3. Main threats

Add sheets with additional observations whenever necessary.

#### 3.1 Habitat and other threats

- a. Using the following list, select the main threats and list the species affected, considering reproduction and foraging sites and migratory routes.
  - Accumulation of sand or presence of contention structures (please indicate)
  - Sand mining
  - Beach Erosion
  - Construction and infrastructure on the beach
  - Inadequate management of tourism
  - Other human activities
  - Beach driving
  - Noise pollution (explain)
  - Artificial light
  - Depredation of eggs and hatchlings by domestic or feral animals
  - Agricultural, industrial waste and residual/sewage waters
  - Oil pollution
  - Obstacles on the beach (logs, plastic, etc.)
  - Impact on other associated habitats (reefs, mangroves, etc.)
  - Waste in the ocean (ropes, fishing gear, bags, etc.)
  - Diseases
  - Natural phenomena (indicate types)
  - Other (indicate)
- b. Size of impact: use the same as in the section above: total number of eggs, total animals (per sex, per stage)
  - not quantified
- c. Geographic region(s) affected: make the most accurate reference, if possible use lat/long of the affected area.
- d. Make reference to the full quote in section 9 (Source of information) of this form
- e. Actions: briefly explain the threat and mention the actions that are under way to prevent the threat or minimize its effect; if relevant, refer to section 6 (Actions for conservation) of this form.



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## Habitat and Other Threats

### 3.2 Capture (Intentional/incidental)

- a. Using the following list, pick the main threats and list the affected species
  - Capture of sea turtles in the ocean
  - Capture of sea turtles on the beach
  - Egg collection
  - Purse sein fisheries
  - Gill net fisheries
  - Longline artisanal fisheries
  - Longline commercial fisheries
  - Bottom Trawling
  - Pelagic Trawling
  - Fishing nets
- b. Size of impact: whenever possible provide Capture values per Unit of Effort (CPUE) making reference to the unit of effort (number of boats, lances, man hours, etc), or the total amount of animals or eggs captured/collected.
- c. Geographic region(s) affected: make reference as accurate as possible, if possible use lat/long of the affected area.
- d. Refer to the full citation as in Section 9 (Source of information) of this form.
- e. Actions: briefly describe the threat and mention the actions that are under way to prevent the threat or minimize its effect; if relevant, refer to section 6 (Actions for conservation) of this form.



## Capture

## 4. Legal Framework

### 4.1. International instruments

List international instruments related to sea turtles and their habitat signed or ratified by your country.



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## International Instruments

### 4.2. National legislation

List the national legislation in force related to the protection, conservation and use of sea turtles and the habitats on which they depend. Provide a brief description including the sanctions faced when violated



## National Legislation

### 4.3. Indicate any legal instruments that are currently in the process of being approved.

In process: island nature ordinance for Bonaire which will prohibit catch and possession of all sea turtles and their products, and disturbance of sea turtles or their nests, punishable by a maximum fine of \$ 550,000 or 4 years imprisonment. Expected to pass this year.

### 4.4. Public and private institutions involved in sea turtle conservation

Based on the national juridical framework, list any public or private institutions with responsibilities and actions in the conservation and protection of sea turtles and their habitat. Briefly describe the responsibilities of each of them.



## Public and Private institutions

## 5. Exceptions

Not applicable

## 6. Conservation Efforts

### 6.1 General description of the sea turtle protection and conservation program

The Netherlands Antilles was one of the first states in the Wider Caribbean area to produce a Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP), in 1992, in close collaboration with the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle (WIDECAST) network under the Specially



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Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol of the Cartagena Convention for the protection and development of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean. However, this has not yet been updated and evaluated since its publication, and there is no current overarching policy plan for all the islands. Constitutionally, executive responsibility for the protection of sea turtles lies with the individual island governments, which do not have specific sea turtle protection and conservation programs, except through government-subsidized NGOs that manage the island's marine protected areas, which in St. Eustatius and in Curaçao include nesting beaches. The national government actively enforces sea turtle protection regulations through the Coastguard of the Netherlands Antilles & Aruba. In addition the National Government supports two sea turtle monitoring and tagging programs, one in St. Eustatius and one in Bonaire. The program in Bonaire is now independent after three years of funding from the National government.

## 6.2 Relevant Projects and Activities

List the most relevant public or private projects/activities for the conservation of sea turtles in your country; please include general objective or objectives, and the results obtained and the duration of each. Including projects/activities like the enhancement and development of new fisheries to reduce incidental capture and mortality of sea turtles, scientific research, environmental education actions, creation of databases, national plan, management plan, community participation or other kind of planning for the conservation and protection of sea turtles. Add more rows if necessary.



**Relevant Programs**

## 7. International Cooperation

The Netherlands Antilles is party to the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean (Cartagena Convention). The collaborative program of SPAW and WIDECAS has been instrumental in preparing numerous Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plans (STRAPs) for countries in the Wider Caribbean, among which the STRAP for the Netherlands Antilles.

## 8. National Directory

List the contacts (persons and/or institutions, public or private) related to the objectives of this Convention (specialists in fisheries, economy, statistic or others). Include at least name, specialty, telephone number, fax and e-mail address. Add more rows to accommodate all relevant personal.



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## **9. Sources of Information**

**Nava, M. 2008. Progress report 2007. Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire. Bonaire, 31 p.**

**Herrera, A. 2008. Annual Report. St. Eustatius Sea Turtle Conservation Programme. St. Eustatius. 77 p.**



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## 10. Annexes

### Annex II Follow-up on Resolution CIT-COP2-2004 R1 Resolution for the conservation of leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

NOT APPLICABLE FOR THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

**Indicate the activities and results most relevant for each one of the resolution points noted, quantifying when necessary.**

Elaborate and/or implement conservation plans and long-term programs that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback sea turtle in the Eastern Pacific. (Insert text here)

Acquire and evaluate pertinent conservation measures to significantly reduce the use and consumption of leatherback sea turtle products and by-products. (Insert text here)

Parties with leatherback sea turtle nesting beaches in the Eastern Pacific: acquire and evaluate pertinent conservation measures for the protection of nesting sites and habitats, in accordance with Articles IV and Annex II of the Convention. (Insert text here)

Collect and facilitate information to the Convention regarding the incidental capture of the leatherback sea turtle in long-lines, gillnets, and other fishing gear used by the artisanal as well as industrial fisheries, in order to evaluate and adopt fishing techniques that reduce their impact on this species. (Insert text here)

Establish agreements and/or understandings with countries fishing within international waters, so that they receive the initiative of this Convention to adopt fishing techniques that reduce the incidental capture of leatherback sea turtles. (Insert text here)

Establish and strengthen cooperative agreements and alliances with pertinent organizations that help in the conservation of the leatherback sea turtle, in accordance with Articles XII and XX of the Convention. (Insert text here)



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### Annex III Follow-up on Resolution CIT-COP3-2006 R-1 Conservation of the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

RECOMENDATIONS PUT FORTH IN Resolution CIT/COP3/2006/R-1	Specific recommendation to be implemented	Name of project or relevant document	Location	Objective(s)	Responsible institution/s	Contact	Financial and other support (optional)	Significant Results (both positive and negative)	Duration*
EXHORT the Parties to promote synergies between the IAC and CITES, the SPAW Protocol, CMS, WHMSI, FAO, other pertinent treaties and international organizations, and regional fisheries bodies in order to facilitate regional dialogue on management and conservation of the hawksbill turtle and its habitats;	CITES								
	SPAW								
	CMS								
	WHMSI								
	FAO								
	Other treaties (specify)								
	Regional fisheries bodies (specify)								
URGE the Parties to strengthen monitoring of the use and illegal trade of hawksbill turtles and their products, to enforce pertinent legislation and to stop illegal trade;									
EXHORT the Parties to support and strengthen the research and monitoring activities required to improve the scientific basis of conservation measures for the	Genetics								
	Migratory behavior								
	Location and conservation status of foraging habitats and								



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<p>hawksbill turtle, particularly in genetics, migratory behavior, location and conservation status of foraging habitats and food prey, population dynamics in feeding sites, interactions with fisheries, social and economic impacts of conservation measures, and integrity of its nesting beaches;</p>	food prey								
	Population dynamics in feeding sites								
	Interaction with fisheries								
	Social and economic impacts of conservation and protection measures								
	Stability of nesting beaches								
	Other (specify)								
<p>URGE the Parties to evaluate and mitigate incidental capture of hawksbill turtles in their jurisdictional waters in accordance with recommendations emanating from FAO's Technical Meeting on the conservation of marine turtles held in Bangkok 2004 and adopted by the 26th Session of Fisheries Committee of FAO (COFI). Also review the application of IAC guidelines for mitigating fisheries interactions</p>									
<p>URGE the Parties to strengthen protection of important hawksbill nesting and foraging habitats by</p>	nesting habitats								



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<p>declaration of protected areas and the regulation of anthropogenic activities adversely impacting these habitats</p>	<p>marine habitats (feeding, inter-nesting, resting ...)</p>								
<p>SUPPORT a working group within the Scientific Committee to keep the Conference of the Parties informed on the status of the species and its habitats in the Area of the Convention;</p>									
<p>PROMOTE the exchange of technical capacity and collaborative research on the hawksbill turtle on their habitats among Parties as well as non Parties and other involved organizations in the Area of the Convention</p>									
<p>SUPPORT the organization of a workshop with recognized experts to evaluate the current condition of hawksbill populations in the Greater Caribbean and Western Atlantic, and present the best available methods of research and conservation for the species in its marine habitats.</p>									



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## Annex VI Follow-up on Resolution CIT-COP3-2006 R-2 Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles

Please indicate any measures taken in your country regarding the following:

NOT APPLICABLE, THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT BY-CATCH OF TURTLES FROM THE ARTISANAL FISHERIES IN THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES.

### 1. Research and follow-up on fisheries aspects:

- What kind of data or information is your country collecting to try and quantify sea turtle interactions with fisheries?
- Indicate in which types of fisheries on board observer programs have been implemented.
- Specify the name of any research projects associated with interactions between fisheries and sea turtles being developed in your country.
- Report on whether vessels of non Party States that fish in jurisdictional waters, have provided information on the capture and mortality of sea turtles. If yes, was this information included in Table 3.2?
- Inform on whether cooperation mechanisms have been established with non Party states to obtain information on sea turtle capture and mortality in areas of interest of the Convention.

### 2. Mitigation measures

Indicate any measures your country is taking to reduce interactions between fisheries and sea turtles in the following fisheries:

- Coastal trawl fisheries
- Purse seine
- Longline
- Gillnet

### 3. Training, education and divulgation

Indicate training, education and divulgation activities that have been organized in your country regarding the topic of reducing incidental captures of sea turtles in fisheries.



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## 4. Harmonization of policies and legislation

Indicate if any national legal instruments have been modified in order to harmonize them with the IAC and its resolutions.

## 5. Capacity building

Did your country create a National Sea Turtle Committee?  
What networks have been organized to achieve better interaction between interested groups in sea turtles and fisheries?

## 6. Financing

Specify the type of financing or support obtained to implement the guidelines of resolution CIT COP3/2006/R-2.

## 7. Socio-economic issues

Indicate socio-economic activities that have been implemented in your country regarding interactions between sea turtles and fisheries.

## 8. Other aspects

Indicate if your country considers the potential effects of mari culture projects on sea turtle populations in critical areas within environmental impact studies.