THE NATIONAL REPORT
EL REPORTE NACIONAL

FOR THE COUNTRY OF
POR EL PAIS DE

GUYANA

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE / REPRESENTANTE NACIONAL

SIBILLE HART

Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium
Simposio de Tortugas del Atlantico Occidental

17-22 July / Julio 1983
San José, Costa Rica
Guyana National Report, WATS I Vol 3, pages 209-215

WESTERN ATLANTIC TURTLE SYMPOSIUM
San José, Costa Rica, July 1983

NATIONAL REPORT FOR THE COUNTRY OF

GUYANA

NATIONAL REPORT PRESENTED BY

Sibille Hart

The National Representative

Address:
c/o The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries

P.O. Box 1001
Georgetown, Guyana

NATIONAL REPORT PREPARED BY

Henry A. Reichart with data supplied by Peter C.H. Pritchard
and K. Mohadin

DATE SUBMITTED: 29 December 1982

Please submit this NATIONAL REPORT no later than 1 December 1982 to:

IOC Assistant Secretary for IOCARIBE
% UNDP, Apartado 4540
San José, Costa Rica

Guyana National Report, WATS I Vol 3, pages 209-215

WIDECAST
Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network

With a grant from the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, WIDECAST has digitized the databases and proceedings of the **Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium (WATS)** with the hope that the revitalized documents might provide a useful historical context for contemporary sea turtle management and conservation efforts in the Western Atlantic Region.

With the stated objective of serving "as a starting point for the identification of critical areas where it will be necessary to concentrate all efforts in the future", the first Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium convened in Costa Rica (17-22 July 1983), and the second in Puerto Rico four years later (12-16 October 1987). WATS I featured National Reports from 43 political jurisdictions; 37 presented at WATS II.

WATS I opened with these words: "The talks which we started today have the multiple purpose of bringing our knowledge up to date about the biological peculiarities of the marine turtle populations of the western Atlantic; to know and analyse the scope of the National Reports prepared by the scientific and technical personnel of more than thirty nations of the region; to consider options for the orderly management of marine turtle populations; and in general to provide an adequate forum for the exchange of experiences among scientists, administrators, and individuals interested in making contributions for the preservation of this important natural resource."

A quarter-century has passed, and the results of these historic meetings have been lost to science and to a new generation of managers and conservationists. Their unique importance in providing baseline data remains unrecognized, and their potential as a "starting point" is neither known nor appreciated.

The proceedings document what was known at the time concerning the status and distribution of nesting and foraging habitat, population size and trend, mortality factors, official statistics on exploitation and trade, estimated incidental catch, employment dependent on turtles, mariculture operations, public and private institutions concerned with conservation and use, legal aspects (e.g. regulations, enforcement, protected areas), and active research projects. In most cases it was the first time a national sea turtle assessment had been conducted.

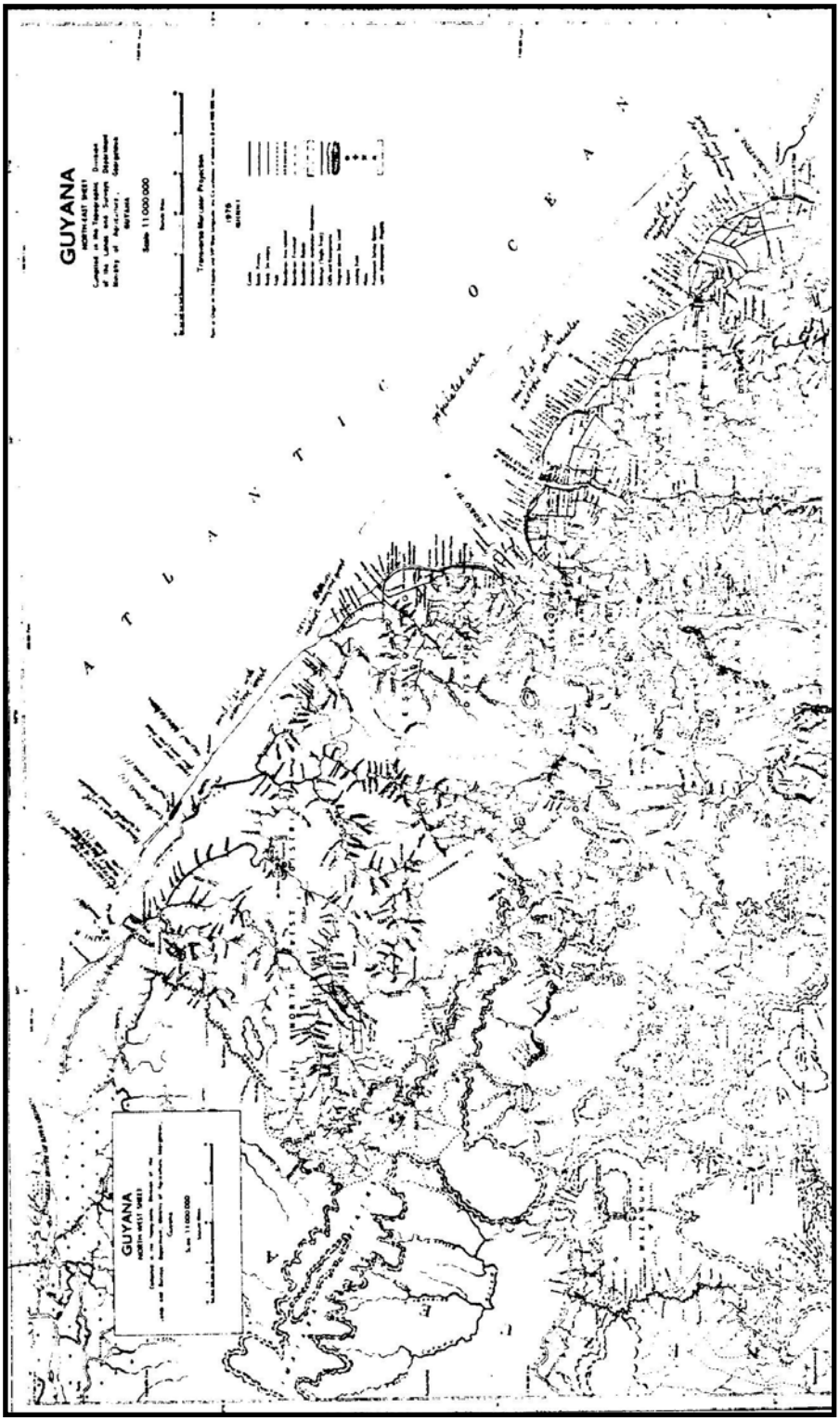
Despite the potential value of this information to agencies responsible for conducting stock assessments, monitoring recovery trends, and safeguarding critical habitat in the 21st century, the hand-written National Reports, largely illegible in the published proceedings, have slipped into obscurity. To help ensure the legacy of these symposia, we have digitized the entire proceedings, including the National Reports, plenary presentations and panels, and annotated bibliographies of both meetings, and posted them online at http://www.widecast.org/What/RegionalPrograms.html.

Each article has been scanned from the original document. Errors in the scan have been corrected; however, to be true to the original content (as closely as we can discern it), potential errors of content have not been corrected. This article should be cited:

Reichart, H.A. 1984. National Report for Guyana, pp.209-215. *In*: Bacon, P., F. Berry, K. Bjorndal, H. Hirth, L. Ogren and M. Weber (Editors), Proceedings of the First Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium, 17-22 July 1983, San José, Costa Rica. Volume III: The National Reports. RSMAS Printing, Miami.

Karen L. Eckert
WIDECAST Executive Director
June 2009

Figure 1. Guyana – W.A.T.S. National Report Study Area.[1]



[1] *Editor's note (2009):* Maps and figures are reprinted exactly as they appear in the original WATS I Proceedings (Bacon et al. 1984); we regret the poor quality exhibited in some cases.

INTRODUCTION

Although the appropriate Government officials of the Republic of Guyana have been approached on several occasions with an invitation to participate in the Western Atlantic turtle Symposium (WATS), to this date no official acceptance has been received nor has a national report been prepared. Therefore, in order to provide regional continuity for the WATS data base, this Ad Hoc data Report has been prepared and submitted instead.

BACKGROUND

The Republic of Guyana is located on the north (Atlantic) coast of South America. The country is bordered in the northwest by Venezuela, in the west and south by Brazil, and in the east by Suriname. Guyana has a surface area of 83,000 square miles (215,000 km^2). The 1976 population estimate of 750,000 inhabitants is here assessed to have remained the same for 1983. Roughly 90% of the population is located in a narrow belt along the coast, and most of these people live in and around the capital of Georgetown, and the towns and villages east from there to the border with Suriname.

The climate is tropical with temperatures in the coastal lowlands ranging between 74º-83º F (22º- 24º C). The Atlantic coastline runs in a generally northwest direction approximately 45º west of north. The currently known sea turtle nesting beaches are confined to the region west of Georgetown, while the western coastal part of Guyana is mostly reclaimed swamplands , which is now extensively cultivated. Broad mudflats are situated in front of these latter areas making the sandy beaches there practically inaccessible for nesting turtles.

METHODS

Information concerning Guyana's sea turtle resources is scant and the authors have had to rely primarily on outdated publications, incidental reports, and fleeting observations from short recent visit and aerial surveys made in 1982 and 1983. It is firmly established that four species of sea turtles are known to nest in Guyana, namely: *Chelonia mydas, Dermochelys coriacea, Eretmochelys imbricata, and Lepidochelys olivacea*, but no quantitative data could be found to arrive at some population parameter estimate for any of these species.

CONCLUSION

The lack of hard data in this report focuses attention on the fact that sea turtles are largely ignored by fisheries and conservation officials in Guyana. However, they are not ignored by local people on the beaches. Pritchard (1969) reports heavy slaughter of nesting females on practically all beaches he visited in Guyana and a near 100% harvest eggs when located. That this practice continues unabated is evident from aerial surveys conducted in 1982 and 1983 when dug up nests and the remains of numerous slaughtered sea turtles were to be seen on the beaches.

It appears from physical evidence that sea turtles are still common on Guyana beaches even though the current rate of exploitation cannot be but detrimental to the nesting population there. It is highly unlikely that the Guyana sea turtles form distinct populations and although apparently no Suriname-tagged turtle has ever been recovered nesting in Guyana, the concept of nest site fidelity has not been studied enough to assure that this over-exploitation of sea turtles in Guyana does not adversely affect other nesting populations in the area or the region. It is therefore imperative that Guyana be stimulated and (if need be) provided with funds and personnel to initiate and maintain a sound sea turtle conservation program in order to secure the safety of the Guyana nesting population and to provide quantitative data in these populations.

Guyana National Report, WATS I Vol 3, pages 209-215

TABLE 1. GEOGRAPHIC INVENTORY	
Length of Coastline*	459 Km**
Km^2 of Continental Shelf Area	
Seaward Extent of Jurisdictions	
Territorial Sea	
Extended Economic Zone	
Fisheries Jurisdiction	
Other (Describe)	

* Coastline length is the measurement of the national seaward boundary of a country; i.e., the distance from border to border for a coastal country and the distance around an island country.

** *Editor's note (2009):* Data sheet of the original National Report listed a value of 380 Km for the length of coastline; other references (eg., the World Fact Book of the Central Intelligence Agency, (https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bh.html) note a coastline (including islands) of 459 Km (17 Nov 2008).

TABLE 1A. GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION		
Area of Country Unit	215,000 km^2	
Boundaries	8º 31'N & 1º 15' N	Greatest N/S Latitude
	57º 25'W & 61º 25'W	Greatest E/W Longitude
Approximate Length of Coastline (marine) km	380 km*	

* See "*Editor's note (2009)*" on coastline length in TABLE 1

TABLE 2. COASTAL HABITAT INVENTORY OF MARINE SHORELINE			
	Km of Shoreline		
Marine Shoreline Characteristics*	Undeveloped	Developed**	Total
1. Sand Beach (Total)			160
A. Moderate Energy			60
B. Low Energy			100
2. Reef (exposed)			
3. Rocks			
4. Cliffs			
5. Vegetation (Total)			120
A. Vines			
B. Grasses			
C. Mangroves			85
D. Coconut Trees			
E. Other Trees or Shrubs			
F. Marshes			35
6. Mouths of Lagoons, Rivers, Canals			
7. Total Shoreline		175	

* Refer to SEA TURTLE MANUAL (Aerial Survey)

** Human development or use (See MANUAL)

TABLE 3. NESTING BEACH INVENTORY			
List beaches in geographic sequence. Provide additional information on following page.			
Name of Beach	Length In Km	Species Nesting (use abbreviations)*	Months of Recorded Nesting
1. Shell Beach	6	Cm, D, E, Lo	Cm: March-August; D: May- July
2. Waini Eaches	15**, ***	Cm, D, E, Lo	E: June - August; Lo: April - July
3. Papaya Beach		D	****
4. Father's Beach			****
5. Turtle Beach			****
6. Tiger Island Beach			****
7. Zeelandia Beach			****
8. Dauntless Point Beach			****
9. Manaica-Mahaicony Beach			****
10. Number 63 Beach			****
Species*	Abbreviation:		
Caretta caretta	Cc		
Chelonia mydas	Cm		
Dermochelys coriacea	D		
Eretmochelys imbricata	E		
Lepidochelys kempi	Lk		
Lepidochelys olivacea	Lo		
** Approximate value			
*** Equals the sum total of small separate beaches			
**** Additional comments in TABLE 3A			

TABLE 3A[2]. NESTING BEACH INVENTORY (supplementary page)

Please give additional information about each nesting beach identified in Table 3. Include information on color of sand, particle size, beach profile, backbeach vegetation, artificial lighting, etc.

The major nesting beaches in Guyana are located in the northeast of the country, roughly where the Waini River runs parallel to the coastline, about 10 km inland (see aerial survey map).

The most conspicuous one of these is Shell Beach, which is composed of pure shell sand. The remaining beaches are relatively short stretches of sand alternating with mangrove forest, mostly in erosion from the sea. Many of these beaches have local names, such as Waini Point Beach, Papaya Beach, Father's Beach and Turtle Beach, but many other beach names could not be found. Eastward from the mouth of the Pomeroon River no more nesting beaches were seen until the mouth of the Essequibo River, where several of the islands have suitable nesting beaches, such as Tiger Island Beach, Zeelandia Beach, and Dauntless Point Beach. Although there are local reports of turtles nesting there, no such evidence was seen during the survey flights. In Prichard (1969) mention was made of a nesting beach for leatherbacks at Punta Playa, the northernmost tip of Guyana. Although the area was not closely surveyed in 1976 and 1982 a distant view from a plane did not disclose a sandy beach there.

Apparently on some beaches in east Guyana nesting has occurred in the past, but during occasional surveys conducted between 1976 and 1982 not a single turtle track was ever seen here. Interviews with local people also indicated that turtles apparently no longer nest here.

[2] *Editor's note (2009):* In the original report, this Table 3A is listed as "Table 3-Additional Information"

The following are photographs of parts of the Guyana coastline. Photos taken in 1980 by P.C.H. Pritchard.

The following are photographs of parts of the Guyana coastline.
All photos taken in 1980 by P.C.H. Pritchard.

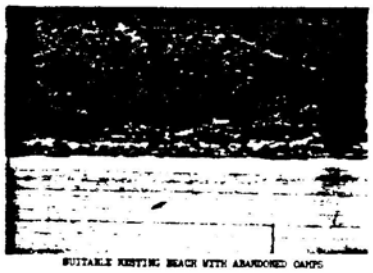
SHELL BEACH

COCONUT CULTIVATION COAST IN EROSION

SHELL BEACH

MIXED NATURAL FOREST COAST IN ACCRETION

SHARP COAST IN EROSION

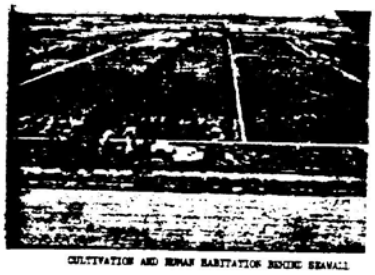


SUITABLE NESTING BEACH WITH ABANDONED CAMPS

RAPPEL SEAWALL AND HUMAN HABITATION

MODERATE ENERGY BEACH WITH CAMP

NESTING BEACH AT CULTIVATED AREA * NEST DUG UP



CULTIVATION AND HUMAN HABITATION BEHIND SEAWALL

TABLE 4.1. NESTING CENSUS FOR BEACH: Guyana Beaches			
Table summarizes census data for each beach listed in Table 3. Tables numbered sequentially.			
Species	Number of Nests		Dates of collection
	Nest/Night (average)	Nest/Season (estimated)	
Caretta caretta			
Chelonia mydas	5-6		April 1967; Shell Beach
Dermochelys coriacea			
Eretmochelys imbricata	12 nests in 3-week period		August 1967; Shell Beach
Lepidochelys kempi			
Lepidochelys olivacea			

TABLE 5. AERIAL BEACH SURVEY SUMMARY								
Give any additional information available from aerial surveys. Information should include ground truth observation if conducted.								
Date	Beaches Surveyed	Numbers of Nesting Tracks						
		Cc	Cm	D	E	Lk	Lo	No ID
09 September 1982	See attached map.							
15 June 1983	See attached summary of observations by P.C.H. Pritchard							

Species	Abbreviation
Caretta caretta	Cc
Chelonia mydas	Cm
Dermochelys coriacea	D
Eretmochelys imbricata	E
Lepidochelys kempi	Lk
Lepidochelys olivacea	Lo

TABLE 5A. AERIAL BEACH SURVEY SUMMARY (supplementary page)

Give any additional information available from aerial surveys. Information should include ground truth observation if conducted.

Sea Turtle Aerial Survey

Country: Guyana
Date: 9 September, 1982
Observer 1: K. Mohadin
Observer 2: Louis Autar
Observer 3: H.A. Reichart
Pilot: Rudy Aaron
Aircraft: Cessna 206
Visibility: Clear

The survey was made at an altitude of 250 feet (76 m) [3]* approximately 300 feet (91 m)* offshore and at airspeed of 100 miles per hour (87 knots)*. The flight was made so that the observer could see the coastline to his right. During the flight fresh turtle tracks were counted, beach vegetation and other characteristics were recorded.

Results

Sea turtle crawls were only recorded on the far west coast of Guyana where the beaches seem to be most suitable for turtle nesting.

One fishermen camp was observed about 16 km east of the Waini River. In the vicinity of this camp about 26 sea turtles were seen, from appearance assumed to be hawksbill. No other camp which could possibly have served as a guard station has been observed. From this one aerial survey it appears that most of the turtles nesting on this beach are being slaughtered by fishermen and that probably all eggs are harvested.

The eastern half of the Guyana coast is populated and it is unlikely that turtles are nesting here. Indeed, no turtle crawls were observed in this area during this survey.

The beach can be characterized as a low to moderate energy beach.

Summary of Observations Made on Aerial Survey of Northwestern Guyana, June 15th, 1983. By Peter C. H. Pritchard

Flew coast from Piarco, Trinidad to Timehri, Guyana. Altitude averaged 400 ft (122 m)*, speed 100 knots (115 miles per hour)*. Observations identified by precise time they were made.

Time	Observation
11:27:30	Passes Waini Point (mouth of Waini River). Beach begins in less than 1 mile.
11:28	2-3 turtle nests. Much beach morning glory.
11:29:30	Beach mostly swamped at high tide.
11:30:55	Beach continues with mud flats. Small camp on beach.
11:32:30	Village (several huts). One leatherback carcass.
11:33:10	Grove of very young coconut palms.
11:34	Two camps with people in them. Thirteen leatherback carcasses seen, all empty shells with plastron and contents removed. One green turtle carcass.
11:35	One leatherback nest.
11:35:40	End of beach. Started section with odoring trees and mud and flooded forests.
11:36:27	Three spoonbills.
11:37	Hugh fishing weir deployed from coast. Mudflats. Search begins.
11:38:40	Small camp.
11:39:10	Six spoonbills.
11:39:40	Passing Shell Beach. Apparently not necessarily eroded, but heavily and almost completely overgrown with vines.
11:40:04	Mouth of small creek, passing behind Shell Beach.
11:40:26	Old leatherback trail.
11:40:41	Camp with six people.
11:41:22	Creek mouth, temporary end of beach.
11:41:42	Small beach, one leatherback nest.

[3] *Editor's note (2009):* Conversions that appear in parentheses (and marked with an asterisk) following speed and distance values were inserted by the Editor and did not appear in the original National Report.

11:42	Beach begins. Very flat, much morning glory.
11:43:06	Fresh leatherback nest. Beach continues. Berm variably shaded by trees or covered with vines.
11:46	Mature coconut grove.
11:46:41	Small camp.
11:47:07	Another small camp.
11:47:30	End of beach. Eroding mangrove shoreline.
11:48:35	Exposed mud bank. Inland totally flat, forested.
11:50:35	Beach begins, with extensive mud flats. Mostly very narrow beach with freshwater washovers from flooded forests.
11:52:30	Large group of scarlet ibis. Circled for 15 seconds.
11:54:30	Huge wooden platform washed up on beach.
11:54:40	Young coconut grove.
11:56:10	Camp and boat in corial (canal).
11:56:20	Second camp and leatherback nest.
11:57:04	Flood area, with coconut palms planted on dyked ridges.
11:57:30	End of beach. Savanna visible half-mile inland.
11:58.30	Beach begins, extensive mud flats.
12:01	Very young coconut grove.
12:01:30	End of beach. Savanna reaches very close to shore.
12:03:10	Old camp, very small.
12:03:40	Another old camp. Savanna reaches right to coast. Beach and young coconut grove.
12:05	End of beach.
12:06	New beach begins. Boat on beach. One turtle track (green?). Savanna still about 200 meters (657 ft) inland.
12:09	Swamp behind beach, with outflow to sea.
12:10	Creek mouth. Hugh savanna area inland with *Maurita* palms. One scarlet ibis.
12:13	Young coconut grove, many small parrots. Two scarlet ibis. Flooded mud flats, mangroves.
12:15:30	three scarlet ibis.
12:16:50	Groves of coconut and *Maurita* palms. Drainage ditches and several camps.
12:18:10	More coconut groves, mud flats, and camps.
12:22:30	Mouth of Pomeroon River. No more beaches were found east of the Pomeroon. Several huge “fishing weirs” were seen.
12:27:05	Two scarlet ibis.
12:27:53	Twelve scarlet ibis. Cultivation inland.
12:30	About fifty scarlet ibis. Six spoonbill. Twenty more ibis.
12:31:18	Thirteen more spoonbill.
12:32:40	Two frigate birds plus four spoonbill.
12:33:45	Drainage canal from Pomeroon River, straight, 6th control structure. Three ibis, five spoonbill. No beach at all.
12:36:30	Big rice paddies.
12:37 et seq.	Stabilized (riprap) coast.

Good beaches were seen on the eastern side of Tiger Island, which appeared virtually undeveloped unlike the other Essequibo Island and also on the northern and northeastern side of Laguan Island (Dauntless Point), the more eastern beach having a better approach, with less mud flat. One possible nest was seen on Tiger Island.

Arrived Timehri Airport 1:15 p.m.

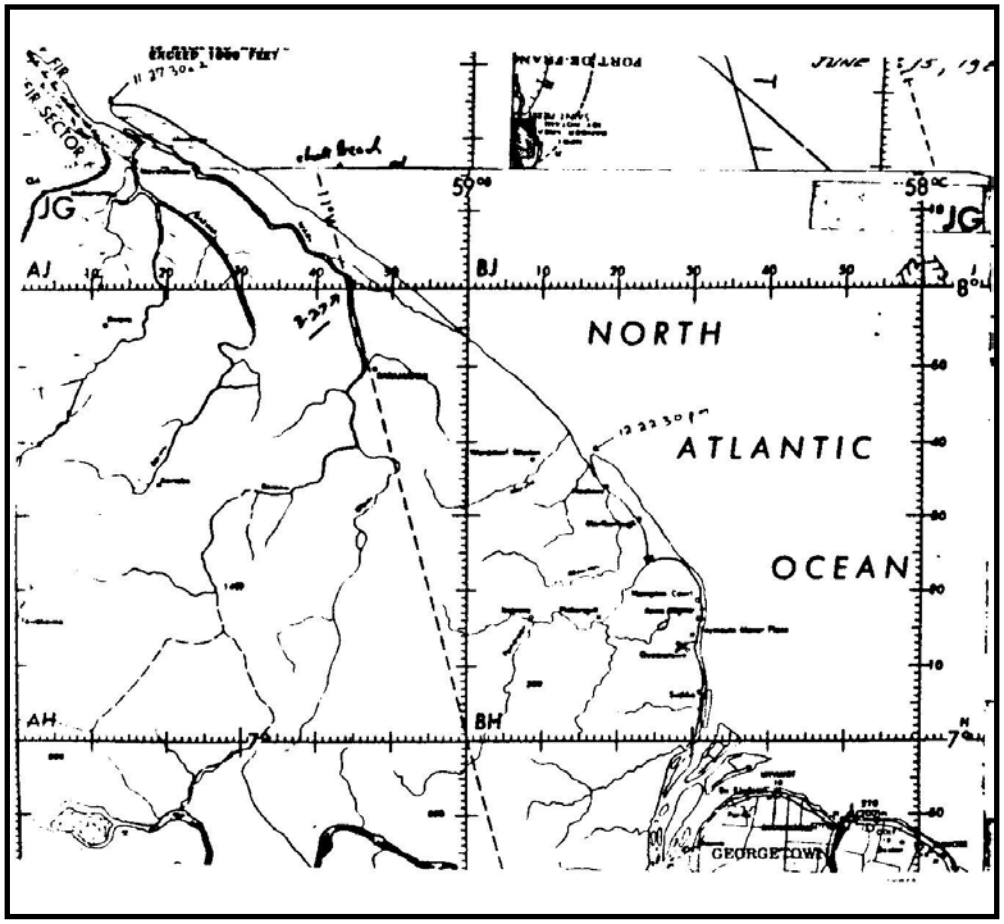


TABLE 20. REGULATORY AUTHORITY			
Indicate all entities with statutory responsibilities (e.g., Fisheries Departments and Ministries, Police, Coast Guard, etc.)			
Name and Address of Organization	Budget Allocation to Turtles	No. of Staff Assigned to Turtles	Comments on Levels of Enforcement
Mr. Reuben Charles Chief Fisheries Officer Ministry of Fisheries 39 Brickdam P.O. Box 1001 Georgetown, Guyana Telephone: 64398 or 71536			Apparently they have jurisdiction over sea turtles
Professor J.J. Niles Coordinator KRIU National Science Research Council Guyana Environmental Research and Information Unit 44 Pere Street Kitty, Georgetown, Guyana Telephone: 53829, 53822, or 62153			Apparently they have only an advisory capacity

Reports and Publications

The following is a list of the major reports and publications concerned with national turtle resources (list author, date, title, and publisher).

Pritchard, Peter C.H. 1969. Sea Turtles of the Guyanas. Bulletin of the Florida State Museum, Biological Science, Vol. 13 No. 2, pp 85-140.

THE NATIONAL REPORT
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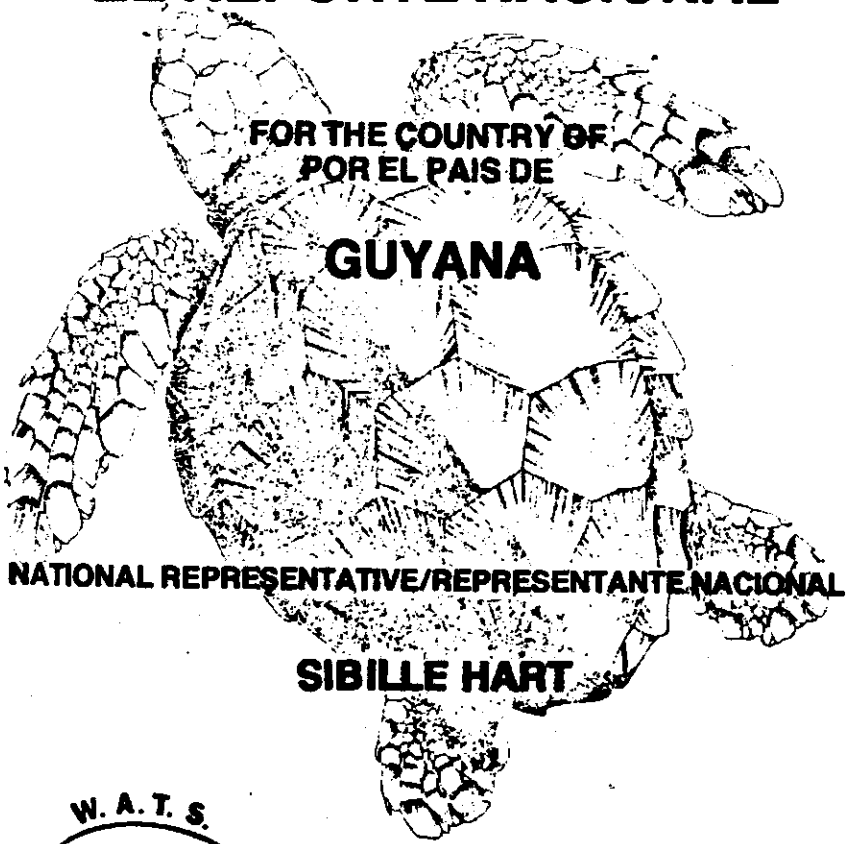

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SIBILLE HART

W. A. T. S.
S. T. A. O.

Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium
Simposio de Tortugas del Atlantico Occidental

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S. T. A. O.

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San Jose, Costa Rica

July 1983

NATIONAL REPORT FOR THE COUNTRY OF

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Sibille Hart
The National Representative

Address: c/o The Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries
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NATIONAL REPORT PREPARED BY

Henry A. Reichart with data supplied by
Peter C.H. Pritchard and K. Mahadin

DATE SUBMITTED: 11 July 1983

! Please submit this NATIONAL REPORT no later than 1 December 1982 to: IOC Assistant Secretary for IOCARIBE, % UNDP, Apartado 4540, San Jose, Costa Rica.

GUYANA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
GUYANA

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It is highly unlikely that the Guyana sea turtles form distinct populations and although apparently no Surinam-tagged turtle has ever been seen nesting in Guyana, the concept of nesting-fidelity has not been studied enough to ensure that this over-exploitation of sea turtles in Guyana does not adversely affect other nesting populations in the area or region.
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AD HOC REPORT FORM FOR WESTERN ATLANTIC TURTLE SYMPOSIUM (WATS)
A SYMPOSIUM ON SEA TURTLE RESEARCH IN THE WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC (POPULATIONS AND SOCIOECONOMICS) - SPONSORED BY IOCARIBE - TO BE HELD IN JULY 198 IN SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

AD HOC REPORT: (Country Name) GUYANA

Name & Address of person completing this Report

H.R.REICHART
36 OXFORD
MILL VALLEY
CALIF 94941
USA

SECTION 1
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

a. Geographical Description

1. Area of country unit ...215,000.....km^2
2. Boundaries ..8°.31'..N..8°.3.35'..N...(Greatest N/S Latitude).
..57°.25'..W..59°.41'..W..(Greatest E/W Longitude).
3. Approximate length of coastline(*marine) 300.km.
.. Type of shoreline
   a. Sand beach .....160..... km
      (High energy .....60..... km)
      (low energy .....100..... km)
   b. Rocks/reefs ..... km
   c. Cliffs ..... km
   d. Vegetation .....120..... km
      (mangroves .....85..... km)
      (marshes .....35..... km)
   e. Development .....175..... km
   f. Other (_____)..... km
4. Approximate area of nearshore and shelf habitat ..... km^2
.. type of habitat
   a. Reefs ..... ha
   b. Grass beds ..... ha
   c. Sand bottom ..... ha
   d. Mud bottom ..... ha
   e. Other (_____) ..... ha
5. Limits of territorial Sea .....km (nautical miles).

TABLE 1 & 2

NAME OF BEACH	LENGTH IN KM	SPECIES NESTING (Use abbreviations)*	MONTHS OF RECORDED NESTING
1. SHELL BEACH	6	Cm | Dc | Ei | Lo	Cm → MARCH - AUGUST Dc → MAY - JULY Ei → JUNE - AUGUST Lo → APRIL - JULY
2. WAINI PT. BEACHES	~E 15	Cm | Dc | Ei | Lo	
3. PAPAYA BEACH			ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON SECOND SHEET
4. FATHER'S BEACH			
5. TURTLE BEACH			
TIGER ISLAND BEACH 6.			
7. ZEELANDIA BEACH			
8. DAUNTLESS PT. BEACH			
MANNICA-MANBICONY 9. BEACH			
10. 63 BEACH			

TABLE 3. NESTING BEACH INVENTORY
List beaches in geographic sequence.
Provide additional information on following page.

~ = approx.
E = from both ends of mouth separate beaches.

Species Abbreviations:
Dermochelys coriacea — Dc
Chelonia mydas — Cm
Eretmochelys imbricata — Ei
Lepidochelys olivacea — Lo

TABLE 3 - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The major nesting beaches in Guyana are located in the northeast of the country, roughly in the region where the Waini River runs parallel to the coastline - about 10 km inland (see aerial survey map).
The most conspicuous one of these is Shell Beach, which is composed of pure shell-sand. The remaining beaches are relatively short stretches of sand alternated with mangrove forest, mostly in erosion from the sea. Many of these beaches have local names, such as: Waini Point Beach, Papaya Beach, Father's Beach and Turtle Beach, but many other beach names could not be found. Eastward from the mouth of the Pomeroon River no more nesting beaches were seen until the mouth of the Essequibo River, where several of the islands have suitable nesting beaches, such as: Tiger Island Beach, Zeelandia Beach and Dauntless Point Beach. Although there are local reports of turtles nesting there, no such evidence was seen during the survey flights. In Pritchard (1969) mention was made of a nesting beach for leatherbacks at Punta Playa, the northernmost tip of Guyana. Although the area was not closely surveyed in 1976 and 1982 a distant view from a plane did not disclose a sandy beach there.

Apparently no some beaches in east Guyana nesting has occurred in the past, but during occasional surveys conducted between 1976 and 1982 not a single turtle track was ever seen here. Interviews with local people also indicated that turtles apparently no longer nest here.

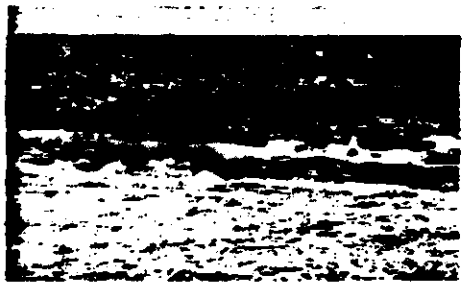
The following are photographs of parts of the Guyana coastline.
All photos taken in 1980 by P.C.H. Pritchard.

SHELL BEACH

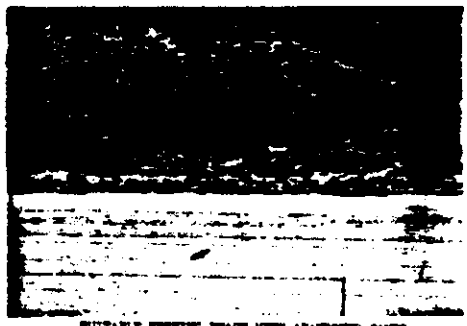
COCONUT CULTIVATION COAST IN EROSION

SHELL BEACH

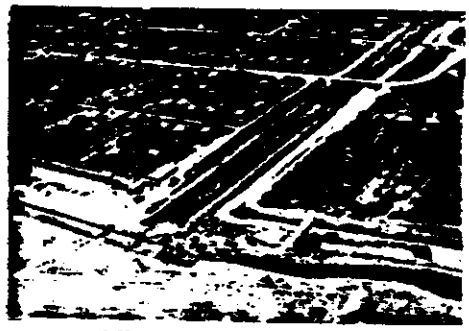
MIXED NATURAL FOREST COAST IN ACCRETION



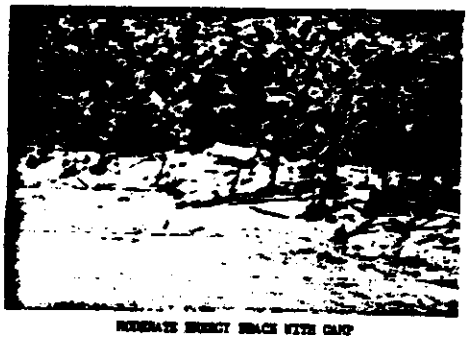
SHARP COAST IN EROSION



SUITABLE NESTING BEACH WITH ABANDONED CAMPS

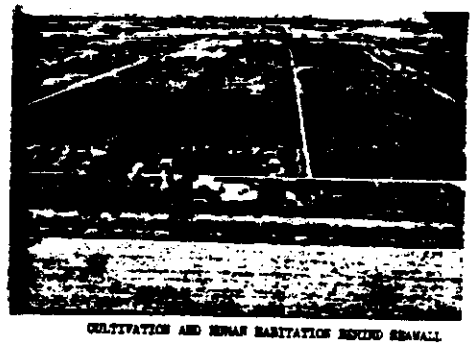


RAPPE SEAWALL AND MINAR HABITATION



MODERATE NESTING BEACH WITH CAMP

NESTING BEACH AT CULTIVATED AREA * NEST DUG UP



CULTIVATION AND MINAR HABITATION BEHIND SEAWALL

SPECIES	NUMBER OF NESTS		DATES OF DATA COLLECTION
	Nests/Night (Average)	Nests/Season (Estimated)	
Caretta caretta			
Chelonia mydas	5-6	—	APRIL 1967 SHELL BEACH
Dermochelys coriacea	—	—	—
Eretmochelys imbricata	12 NESTS IN A 3-WEEK PERIOD	—	AUGUST 1967 SHELL BEACH
Lepidochelys kempi			
Lepidochelys olivacea	—	—	

See Turtle Aerial Survey

TABLE 4 - ___ NESTING CENSUS FOR GUYANA BEACHES 0001

(name)

Please complete one of these tables to summarize census data for each beach listed in Table 3. Number tables sequentially (4-1, 4-2, 4-3, etc.) as enumerated in Table 3.

DATE	BEACHES SURVEYED	NUMBERS OF NESTING TRACKS						
		Cc	Cm	D	E	Lk	Lo	NO. ID.
9 SEPT 1982	SEE ATTACHED MAP							
15 JUNE 1983	SEE ATTACHED SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS BY P.C.H. PRITCHARD							

TABLE 5. AERIAL BEACH SURVEY SUMMARY
Give any additional information available from aerial surveys. Information should include ground truth observation if conducted.

Species Abbreviations:

Caretta caretta	Cc
Chelonia mydas	Cm
Dermochelys coriacea	D
Eretmochelys imbricata	E
Lepidochelys kempi	Lk
Lepidochelys olivacea	Lo

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS MADE ON AERIAL SURVEY OF NORTH-WESTERN GUYANA, JUNE 15 1983

Peter C. H. Pritchard

Flew coast from Piarco, Trinidad, to Timehri, Guyana. Altitude averaged 400 feet, speed 100 knots. Observations identified by precise time they were made.

11.27.30 a.m. Passed Waini Point (mouth of Waini River)
Beach begins in less than 1 mile.
11.28 Two-three turtle nests. Much beach morning-glory.
11.29.30 Beach mostly swamped at high tide.
11.30.55 Beach continues, with mud flats. Small camp on beach.
11.32.30 Village (several huts). One leatherback carcass.
11.33.10 Grove of very young coconut palms.
11.34. Two camps with people in them. Thirteen leatherback carcasses seen, all empty shells with plastron and contents removed. One green turtle carcass.
11.35 One leatherback nest.
11.35.40 End of beach.
Started section with adoring trees and mud and flooded forest.
11.36.27 Three spoonbills.
11.37 Huge fishing weir deployed from coast. Mud flats. Beach begins.
11.38.30 Small camp.
11.39.10 Six spoonbills.
11.39.40. Passing Shell Beach. Apparently not necessarily eroded, but rather heavily and almost completely grown over with vines.
11.40.04 Mouth of small creek, passing behind Shell Beach.
11.40.26 Old leatherback track.
11.40.41 Camp, with six people.
11.41.22 Creek mouth, temporary end of beach.
11.41.42 Small beach, one leatherback nest.
11.42 Beach begins. Very flat, much morning glory.
11.43.00 Fresh leatherback nest. Beach continues. Dune variably shaded by trees or covered with vines.
11.46 Mature coconut grove.
11.46.41 Small camp.
11.47.07. Another small camp.
11.47.30 End of beach.
Eroding mangrove shoreline.
11.48.35 Exposed mud bank. Inland totally flat, forested.
11.50.35 Beach begins, with extensive mud flat. Highly very narrow beach, with freshwater washovers from flooded forest.
11.52.30. Large group of scarlet ibis. Circled for 15 seconds.
11.54.30 Huge wooden platform washed up on beach.
11.56.40 Young coconut grove
11.56.10 Camp and boat in coconuts.
11.56.20 Second camp p, and old leatherback nest.
11.57.04 Flooded area, with coconut palms planted on dyked ridges.
11.57.30 End of beach. Savanna visible half a mile inland.
11.58.30 Beach begins, extensive mud flat.
12.01 Very young coconut grove
12.01.30 End of beach. Savanna ranches very close to shore.
12.03.10 Old camp, very small
12.03.40 Another old camp. Savanna ranches right to coast.
Beach and young coconut grove.
12.05 End of beach.
12.06 New beach begins. Boat on beach. One turtle track (green?). Savanna still about 200 meters inland.
12.09 Swamp behind beach, with outflow to sea.
12.10 Creek mouth. Huge savanna area inland, with Mauritia palms. One scarlet ibis.
12.13 Young coconut grove, many small parrots. Two scarlet ibis. Flooded mud flats, mangroves.
12.15.30 Three scarlet ibis.
12.16.50 Groves of coconut and Mauritia palms. Drainage ditches and several camps.
12.18.10 More coconut groves, mud flats, and camps.
12.22.30 Mouth of Pomeroon River.

No more beaches were found east of the Pomeroon. Several huge "fishing weirs" were seen.

12.27.05 Two scarlet ibis
12.27.53 Twelve scarlet ibis. Cultivation inland
12.30 About fifty scarlet ibis. Six spoonbill. Twenty more ibis.
12.31.18 Thirteen more spoonbill
12.32.40 Two frigate birds plus four spoonbill
12.33-45 Drainage canal from Pomeroon River, straight, with control structure.
Three ibis, five spoonbill. No beach at all.
12.36.10 Big rice paddies.
12.37 et. seq. Stabilized (riprap) coast.

Good beaches were seen on the eastern side of Tiger Island, which appeared virtually undeveloped unlike the other Essequibo Island and also on the northern and north-eastern side of Leguan Island (Dauntless Point), the more eastern beach having a better approach, with less mud flat. One possible nest was seen on Tiger Island.

Arrived Timehri Airport 1.15 p.m.

Sea turtle Aerial Survey

Country: Guyana
Date: 9 Sept. 1982

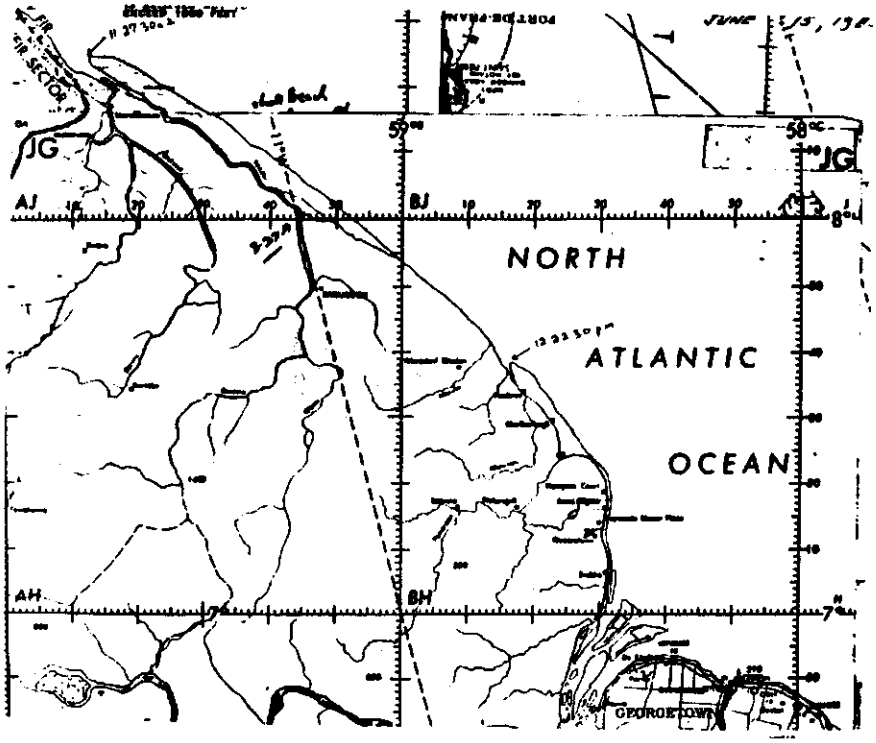
Observer 1: K. Mohadin
Observer 2: Louis Autar
Observer 3: H.A. Reichart
Pilot: Rudy Aaron
Aircraft: Cessna 206
visibility: clear.

The survey was made at an altitude of 250 feet approx 300 feet offshore and at an airspeed of 100 miles per hour.
The flight was made so that the observer could see the coastline on his right.
During the flight fresh turtle tracks were counted, beach vegetation and other characteristics were recorded.

Results.
Sea turtle crawls were only recorded on the far west coast of Guyana where the beaches seem to be most suitable for turtle nesting.
One fishermen camp was observed about 16 km east of the Waini River. In the vicinity of this camp about 25 sea turtle shells were seen, from appearance assumed to be hawksbill.
No other camp which could possibly have served as a guard station has been observed.
From this one aerial survey it appears that most of the turtles nesting on this beach are being slaughtered by fishermen and that probably all eggs are harvested.

The Eastern half of the Guyana Coast is populated and it is unlikely that sea turtles are nesting here. Indeed, no turtle crawls were observed in this area during this survey.

The beach can be characterized as a low to moderate energy beach.



REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

The following is a list of the major reports and publications concerned with national turtle resources (list author, date, title, and publisher).

1. Pritchard, Peter C.H. 1969. Sea Turtles of the Guianas. Bulletin of the Florida State Museum, Biological Sciences, Vol. 13 No. 2 pp. 85-140.

2.

TABLE 20. REGULATORY AUTHORITY

a). Ministry of Fisheries
39 Brickdam
P.O. Box 1001
Georgetown
Guyana

Telephone: 64398 or 71536

Mr. Reuben Charles
Chief Fisheries Officer

Apparently they have jurisdiction over sea turtles.

b). National Science Research Council Guyana
Environmental Research & Information Unit
44 Pere Street
Kitty
Georgetown
Guyana

Telephone: 53829 or 53822 or 62153

Professor J.J. Wilson
Coordinator ERIU

Apparently they have only an advisory capacity.