



**Inter-American Convention for the
Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
Second Conference of the Parties**

November, 16th – 18th, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

Second Annual Report Form

Directory

| | |
|--|--|
| Country | Belize |
| Agency or institution responsible for preparing this | Belize Fisheries Department |
| Name of the person in charge of this form | Isaias Majil |
| Address | Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City |
| P.O. Box | 148 |
| Telephone(s) | 501-2244552/2232623 |
| Fax | 501-2232983 |
| E-mail | species@btl.net |
| Website | |

Others who participated in the preparation of this form

| Name | Affiliation | Contribution/Topic | Telephone | E-mail |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--|
| Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community | Community organisation | nests, ongoing monitoring | | mcsweaney@hotmail.com |
| Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve | Government of Belize | nests, ongoing monitoring | 501-2244552 | bacalarchico-belize@hotmail.com |
| South Water Caye Marine Reserve | Government of Belize | nests, ongoing monitoring | 501-2244552 | nids21@hotmail.com |
| Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve | Government of Belize | nests, ongoing monitoring | 501-2244552 | pgboy2003@yahoo.com |

Focal Point

Institution: Belize Fisheries Department

Name: Isaias Majil

Signature: _____ 2-May-06

Date: _____



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

November, 16th – 18th, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

1. Biological Information

1.1. Species present

| Species | Pacific Ocean | Atlantic Ocean | Caribbean Sea |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Phase(s) | Phase(s) | Phase(s) |
| <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> | | | |
| <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> | | | |
| <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> | | | m |
| <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> | | | m,r,f, |
| <i>Chelonia mydas</i> | | | m,f,r, |
| <i>Caretta caretta</i> | | | m,r,f, |

Phases: R = Reproduction; F = Foraging; M = Migration; D = Phase Unknown

1.2. Important sites for sea turtle conservation

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------|--|-----------------------------|
| | Gales Point Manatee Bar | ei,cc | May-November | | 7 miles | Special Development Area | Limited development allowed |
| | Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve | ei | May-September | 16Q364290 1781198 | | Marine Reserve, 66 ft. National Zone | sea turtles are protected |
| Foraging Site | Belize Barrier Reef | ei,cm,cc | All year | | 185 miles | Species protected by law for no posesion | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Migratory Routes | Offshore | Dc,cm,ei,cc | all year | | | species | |
| | | | | | | | |

* include a brief and concise summary of relevant information regarding the population status on a separate page (for further information see the instructions)



**Inter-American Convention for the
Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
Second Conference of the Parties**

November, 16th – 18th, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

2. Information regarding the use derived from sea turtles

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------|--|--|---|---------|---------------------|---|
| subsistence | cc,cm | meat | | | x | unknown | fishermen anecdotal | patrols, information dissemination to fishermen |
| ornamental | ei | shell | | | x | unknown | | patrols, information dissemination to fishermen |

* L = legal, I = illegal

3. Main threats

3.1 Habitat and other threats



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

November, 16th – 18th, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|------|
| waste in the ocean | ei,cc,cm,dc | not available | territorial waters | annual reports | none |
| hurricanes | ei,cc,cm,dc | eggs | nesting beaches | annual reports | none |

3.2 Capture (Intentional/incidental)

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|---------|-----------------|----------------------|--|
| capture of sea turtles on beach | ei,cc,cm | | nesting beaches | beach annual reports | beach surveillance by volunteers and officers |
| incidental capture for personal ornamental decoration | ei,cm,cc | unknown | Reef lagoon | arrest logs | prosecuted cases relating to sea turtle posesion |



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

November, 16th – 18th, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

4. Legal Framework

4.1. International instruments

| | |
|---|---|
| Convention on Biological Diversity | signed June 13, 1992 December 30, 1993 |
| Cartagena Convention | 12-May-04 |
| United Nations Law of the Sea | ratified August 13, 1983 |
| Central American Biodiversity Convention | |
| Convention for the Conservation of Biodiversity and the Protection of Priority Areas in Central America | signed 1971 |
| The Convention on wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitats RAMSAR | |

4.2. National legislation

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| | | TED violation \$2000 Bz or one year imprisonment or to both fine and imprisonment |
| National Lands Act | National territory | Depends on infraction |
| Land Utilization Act | National territory | Depends on infraction |
| Environmental Protection Act | National territory | Depends on infraction |

4.3. Indicate any legal instruments that are currently in the process of being approved. NONE



**Inter-American Convention for the
Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
Second Conference of the Parties**
November, 16th – 18th, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

4.4. Public and private institutions involved in sea turtle conservation

| Institution/ Entity | Responsibilities |
|---|---|
| Belize Fisheries Department | All legal responsibility over seaturtles |
| Belize Audubon Society | Monitoring |
| Sea Turtle Conservation Network | Advisory to policy formulation |
| Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee | Monitoring and protection |

5. Exceptions

Under the present regulations extraction can only occur with a permit from the Fisheries Administrator for traditional and cultural use. However since 2002 no permit has been issued even though various applications have been received. A management plan has not been elaborated as yet for the sea turtle fishery thus none is legally occurring. A fishery management plan is presently in the process of elaboration for the fishing industry in general whereby it will incorporate the sea turtle as a sub section.

Programs involving extractive use (include Management Plan)

6. Conservation Efforts

6.1 General description of the sea turtle protection and conservation program

A Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for Belize was prepared by WIDECAS in 1992 and plans are underway for possible funding for its updating. This plan list the actions needed in the stress reduction of our sea turtle population and is the document used by the Fisheries Department in the management of the resource. Many sea turtle conservation programs are complimentary of other projects geared towards the sustainable management of our tourism and fishing industries. In its effort to control the illicit fishing of the lobster and conch fishery, the Fisheries Department embarks in consistently monitoring the activities within the territorial waters of Belize. These Conservation Compliance Unit patrols thus gear efforts in minimizing illegal sea turtle captures. The Fisheries Department also declared 8 marine reserves which have as objective the conservation and protection of the areas biodiversity which incorporates the sea turtles. All programs under this component involve sea turtles. Programs under this component are but not limited to enforcement of reserve and Fisheries regulations, monitoring of the biodiversity and environmental education to local communities and stakeholders. These areas are strategically all



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

November, 16th – 18th, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

along the Belize Barrier Reef, 185 miles long, creating an enforcement presence throughout the Belize territorial waters and atolls.

A working group named the Sea turtle Conservation Network meets every two months to discuss issues in regards to the reptile and recommends actions to the Fisheries Department. Also it updates all members on the recent developments in the effort to conserve and protect the sea turtles.

Local NGO's approached the Fisheries Department to help in the monitoring and conservation of the sea turtles habitat and nesting beaches. This is reflected in the community participation of Gales Point Manatee Bar, one of the most important nesting areas for the hawksbill in Belize. Another example is the Belize Audubon Society who posses responsibility for the monitoring of a nesting beach at one of the atolls.

6.2 Relevant Projects and Activities

| | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Gales Point Manatee Bar | sea turtle monitoring and conservation, protection | secured 65 ei nest | May | September |
| Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve | sea turtle monitoring and conservation, protection | secured 26 ei nests | May | September |
| Belize Audubon Society | sea turtle monitoring and conservation, protection | secured 6 nest ei, cc | June | September |
| South Water Caye Marine Reserve | sea turtle monitoring and conservation, protection | secured 6 ei nests | May | September |

7. International Cooperation

Wildlife Conservation Society

Collaboration in staff training and technical support. Has listed the hawksbill turtle as an indicator species in a project to be implemented at the Glover's Reef Atoll in the Glovers reef Marine Reserve.

GAP Challenge



**Inter-American Convention for the
Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
Second Conference of the Parties**

November, 16th – 18th, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

A UK based volunteer organization that provides human resource support to the nesting areas for day and night beach patrols. These are done on a free base with limited investment from the supported agency.

EARTH Watch

Assisted financially to the Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee for the 2004 nesting monitoring. Support was offered for the 2005 season in the form of volunteers.

El Colegio de la Frontera Sur ECOSUR

Quintana Roo, Mexico based academic institution support with technical advise to the agencies involved in sea turtle conservation.

WIDECAST

Updated information as to opportunities and technical assistance available.

8. National Directory



**Inter-American Convention for the
Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
Second Conference of the Parties**

November, 16th – 18th, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

| Name | Institutional affiliation | Line of work / Specialty | Telephone | Fax | E-mail | Website |
|-------------------|---|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--|----------------|
| Melanie McField | WWF | Marine Biologist | 501-2237680 | 501-2237681 | mcfield@wwf.org | |
| Roberto Pott | Belize Audubon Society | Marine Protected Areas Coordinator | 501-2234988 | 501-2234985 | | |
| Lincoln Mcsweaney | Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee | Director | 501-2277466 | | | |
| Linda Searle | Independent Researcher | marine biologist | 501-2235505 | 5012237007 | info@seasportsbelize.com | |
| Janet Gibson | Wildlife Conservation Society | WIDECAST | 501-610-2090 | 501-223-3005 | jgibson@btl.net | |

9. Sources of Information

Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve Annual Report 2005

Sapodilla Caye Marine Reserve Annual Report 2005

South Water Caye Marine Reserve Annual Report 2005

Gales Point Sea turtle data 2005

CITES web page

Convention on Biodiversity web page

Fishermen Anecdotal information

WWF Belize

WCS Belize

Smith, Gregory W., Karen L. Eckert, and Janet P Gibson. 1992. WIDECAST Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for Belize 1992 (Karen L Eckert, Editor). CEP Technical report 18.

UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme, Kingston Jamaica. 86p.

10. Annexes