



IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group
2015 Annual General Meeting
Regional Update

Southwest Atlantic Region

Regional Vice Chairs

Neca Marcovaldi

Joca Thomé

Alejandro Fallabrino

Regional Membership

Three countries (Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina)

BR

Claudio Bellini (Tamar)

Cesar C.D.da Silva (Tamar)

Guy Marcovaldi (Tamar)

Neca Marcovaldi (Tamar)

Gustave G. López (Tamar)

Luciano S. Soares (University of Florida)

Milagros López Mendilaharsu (Tamar / Karumbé)

João Carlos A. Thomé (Tamar)

Cecilia Baptistotte (Tamar)

Antonio de Pádua Almeida (Tamar)

Paulo Barata (Fiocruz)

Bruno Giffoni (Tamar)

Alejandro Fallabrino (Karumbé)

Andrés Estrades (Karumbé)

Ma.Noel Caraccio (Karumbé)

Cecilia Lezama (Karumbé)

Laura Prosdocimi (PRICTMA)

Diego Albareda (PRICTMA)

UY

AR

18 members

Regional Concerns - ongoing concerns for turtles

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- The map shows the eastern coast of South America, including Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina. A white outline marks the coastline. Various colored circles and lines indicate specific concerns: a dashed green circle in the northern ocean; yellow circles along the coast of Brazil; blue and orange circles in the southern ocean; and a red dotted circle in the southern ocean. A dashed green line follows the coast from Brazil down to Uruguay.
- **Longline** -> Leatherbacks (foraging) juv and adults (Domingo et al. 2006, Sales et al. 2008, Bugoni et al. 2010)
 - **Longline** -> Loggerheads (foraging) juv and adults (Domingo et al. 2006, Sales et al. 2008, Pons et al. 2010)
 - **Trawl fishery (shrimp) in SE** -> Lo (breeding) (Silva et al. 2010)
 - **Trawl fishery (finfish) in RG and R. de la Plata** -> Cc (foraging) (Monteiro 2004, Miller et al. 2006)
 - **Gillnets throughout the coast** -> greens (foraging) (Gallo et al. 2006, Marcovaldi et al. 2009, Lezama 2009, Lima et al. 2010, Gonzales -Carman et al. 2012, Rivas 2012)
 - **Gillnets in ES (breeding)/Rio de la Plata (foraging)** -> Dc (Fiedler et al. 2012, Perez & Wharlich, 2005, Vélez-Rubio, G. 2011, Gonzales -Carman et al. 2012)
 - **Pollution (marine litter) in R. de la Plata and South Brazil**-> Cm juv (Bugoni et al. 2001, Murman 2011, Gonzalez Carman et al. 2014 and 2015)
- **Coastal Development** (light pollution, beach use, dredging, ports) - main nesting beaches SE/NE coast of Brazil -> Cc, Dc, Lo, Ei adults and hatchlings (Revista Biodiversidade Brasileira 2011)
 - **Coastal Development** (dredging, ports) in Uruguay -> Cm juv

Regional Concerns - ongoing concerns for turtles



Manabi Port

- Company *Manabi* to Brazilian authorities (2012) → environmental license to build a major port for iron ore export.
- Location: northern coast of Espirito Santo, eastern Brazil
- **Only regular leatherback nesting area for the SWA population (IUCN - CR) ; High Risk-High Threat (Wallace et al. 2010)**
- Key nesting area for loggerheads in SWA (IUCN - EN)

Regional Concerns - Concerns for MTSG

- **Conflict of interests:** the company presented to Brazilian authorities, as an integral part of the licensing process, 2 technical reports written by a chair of the MTSG, who was hired as a consultant by the company.
 - The report presented by the consultant identified as an MTSG authority is supporting the construction of the port in opposition of the technical reports of Brazilian Federal Biodiversity Agency, supported by the SWA MTSG regional group.
 - There was no previous consultation to the regional vice-chairs of the SWA.
 - **The SWA MTSG regional group is not against the construction of the port per se, but its suggested location.**
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- The documents related to the licensing process are public under Brazilian law. Some of them are available at: <http://goo.gl/bkSOSO>

Ongoing conservation strategies

Brazilian guidelines and regulations to conciliate coastal development and sea turtle conservation

- For each type of development this practical guideline will help stakeholders and entrepreneurs identify impacts to sea turtles and possible solutions
- The first guidelines are addressed to hotel/ residence developments , seismic activities, oil and gas exploration and port developments.
- Each impact is classified considering their effects on sea turtles at a temporal and spatial scale
- Below is the general structure of the matrices

Type of development			Impact classification						Mitigation measures
Activities / actions	Impacts	Effects on sea turtles	Type	Occurrence	Duration	Time Frame	Magnitude	Reversibility	Measures should be proportionate to the size of the development and degree of sensitivity of the area

Ongoing conservation strategies

Below is a simplified example for two different types of development:

Port developments			Impact classification			Mitigaton measures
Activities / actions	Impacts	Effects on sea turtles	Type	Time Frame	Magnitude	Measures should be proportionate to the size of the development and degree of sensitivity of the area
Light pollution on beaches	light pollution	Disorientation and death	Direct and indirect	Immediate	high	· Lighting design with control of light pullution, with periodic review and maintenance.
Dredging	Incidental capture	Death	Direct	Immediate	high	· Window environment; · Use of deflectors and hiring on-board operators; · Monitoring on-board observer; · Beach Monitoring

Hotels and residences developments			Impact classification			Mitigaton measures
Activities / actions	Impacts	Effects on sea turtles	Type	Time Frame	Magnitude	Measures should be proportionate to the size of the development and degree of sensitivity of the area
Increase of artificial lights and light scattering	Light pollution	Disorientation and death	Direct	Immediate	High	· Lighting design with control of light pullution, with periodic review and maintenance;
Recreational beach equipment (beach furniture, umbrellas, etc.)	Obstacle to nest excavation by females interfere and hatchlings' ability to reach the ocean	Disruption of the nesting process and destruction of nests	Direct	Immediate	Average	· Prohibit the stay of equipment on the beach at night; · Monitoring, signs and fencing nests; · Restrictions on the beach use in high density nesting beach streches;
Buggy rides, quads, horses, etc.	Beach traffic in nesting beaches	Nest compactation and run over hatchlings	Direct	Immediate	Média	· Monitoring, signs and fencing nests; · Prevent access of vehicles and animals during the nesting season;

Regional Opportunities

- Sea turtle hybridization in the Brazilian coast: a genetic, ecological and behavioral analysis (ongoing PhD Thesis, L. Soares)
- Satellite tracking of neonate sea turtles in the SWA (K. Mansfield, University of Central Florida/NOAA/TAMAR)
- Satellite telemetry studies at main sea turtle breeding grounds in Brazil (requirement for ERA due to seismic activities)
- Collaboration between TAMAR (Brazil) and FURG University (Brazil):
 - Interaction between the trawl fishery and loggerheads turtles in RS (ongoing PhD Thesis, D. Montero)
 - Ontogenetic changes in diet and habitat use, age and growth estimates of the hawksbill turtle (L. Medeiros)
 - Population structure and trophic ecology of loggerheads in the SWA (ongoing PhD Thesis, L. Medeiros)
- "Molecular and Morphometric characterization of Sea Turtle Populations of Paraná, Brazil" (PRICTMA/ Federal University of Paraná and Londrina State University)
- Collaboration between PRICTMA (Argentina) and the Federal University of Paraná (Brazil)
 - "What a skull morphology can tell about evolution and behavior pattern of juvenile green turtles?: An important tool for turtles conservation in Southwestern Atlantic Ocean" (Master Thesis, V. Coelho)
- Sea turtle Stranding Analysis along the Buenos Aires Coast, Argentina (PRICTMA /Huston Zoo /University California Davis)

Red List Assessments

- Red List Assessment in Brazil (2010)
- Red list assessment in Argentina (2012)
Prado et al. 2012. Cuad. herpetol. 26: 375-388
- Red list assessment in Uruguay (2014)



- National Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in Brazil (2010 - 2015)

An evaluation and planning meeting will take place in August 2015

- National Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in Argentina (2014- 2015)

First meeting (2014) . Is pending approval by government authorities



Networking & Regional Development

XI Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee in Peru (2014)

25 participants from 13 countries in the Americas

XI Meeting of the IAC Consultant Committee (Video conference -2015)

15 participants from 7 countries in the Americas

Conference of the Parties (COP 7) will be held in Mexico in 2015.

Members of 17 countries in the Americas will participate.

WIDECAST anual meeting in Manuabo, Puerto Rico (2015)

Members of 27 countries attended the meeting.

Sea Turtle Research and Conservation in the SW Atlantic (8th ASO Meeting).

The conference sessions of the 8th ASO will be held in Lima, Perú during the next Sea Turtle Symposium in 2016.