

Summary Data












Name of Assessment:	An Atlas of Sea Turtle Nesting Habitat for the Wider Caribbean Region
Scale:	Regional
Region:	Wider Caribbean Region
Country:	Not Applicable
Acronym:	No Information Entered
Full Reference:	No Information Entered
Full Text Reports/Output URL:	No Information Entered
Assessment reviewed by GoE member:	Yes
Classification/Type of Activity:	Narrow Assessment
Organisation:	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network
Justification/Context of the Assessment:	To significantly expand on the understanding of sea turtle habitat use, while at the same time facilitating the creation of operational frameworks to census populations, monitor stock recovery and safeguard habitat. This information can contribute to the regional planning processes
Objectives of the Assessment:	? Generate the first standardised and geographically comprehensive spatial database of active sea turtle nesting beaches in the central western Atlantic Ocean; Inform policy-making regarding the protection of critical habitat, in particular nesting habitat, by making population and spatial databases, including information on contemporary threats to sea turtle survival, publicly available in print and electronic formats; Contribute essential species and habitat data to the ecoregional planning processes of international organisations and intergovernmental entities and; Promote implementation of regional agreements that protect sea turtles and their habitat: Convention for the Protection and Development of the Wider Caribbean Region, and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
Status of Activity:	Completed
Is the assessment repeated:	No Information Entered
Start Date:	No Information Entered
Finish Date:	No Information Entered

Detailed Data

Institutional Arrangements	
Organisation Type:	TBA
Organisation Contact:	No Information Entered
Organisation URL:	http://www.widecast.org/
Other Collaborating Organisations:	No Information Entered
Was the assessment a result of an initiative by the body carrying it out:	Yes
Additional comments:	The assessment was carried out at the request of t
Funding Arrangements:	No Information Entered
Client or Commissioning Body:	No Information Entered
Orientation / Justification	

Objectives URL:	No Information Entered																
What is the relation of the assessment to the policy cycle?:	The assessment was carried out by WIDECAST which is established by the States in the region to see progress on their agreed collective strategy, to improve sea turtle conservation																
Is the target audience specified?	No																
Target Group:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Decision Makers:</td> <td>✗</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Civil Society:</td> <td>✗</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scientists/Researchers:</td> <td>✗</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teachers:</td> <td>✗</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Students:</td> <td>✗</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other:</td> <td>✗</td> </tr> <tr> <td>If other, please specify:</td> <td>No Information Entered</td> </tr> </table>	Decision Makers:	✗	Civil Society:	✗	Scientists/Researchers:	✗	Teachers:	✗	Students:	✗	Other:	✗	If other, please specify:	No Information Entered		
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Teachers:	✗																
Students:	✗																
Other:	✗																
If other, please specify:	No Information Entered																
Coverage & Source of Information																	
Geographic Coverage (detailed):	No Information Entered																
Reasons for selecting geographic area:	The WCR includes nesting and foraging grounds, as well as important migration corridors, for six of seven extant marine turtle species																
How often will assessments of this kind be produced:	The assessment was a one-off process to set up the database which will now be constantly updated.																
What period of time does the assessment cover:	All available data up to the date of the assessment.																
On what information is the assessment based?	The assessment uses environmental data from regular marine monitoring systems. The main source of information came from published data and local sea turtle experts who possess vast amounts of data on sea turtle nesting sites, habitat descriptions, population estimates, current threats to populations and legislative status.																
Is there spatial data:	No Information Entered																
Is there access to environmental, economic or social data?	Yes																
Environmental, economic or social data URL:	http://seamap.env.duke.edu/																
Additional information:	No Information Entered																
Are metadata available on the data series used?	No specific details are given on what metadata is available.																
Assessment methods used:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Collection of Primary Data:</td> <td>✗</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Synthesis of Secondary Data:</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spatial Data Analysis:</td> <td>✗</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Statistical Analysis:</td> <td>✗</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Creation of Case Studies:</td> <td>✗</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Creating Meta Data:</td> <td>✗</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Modelling:</td> <td>✗</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expert Opinion:</td> <td>✗</td> </tr> </table>	Collection of Primary Data:	✗	Synthesis of Secondary Data:	✓	Spatial Data Analysis:	✗	Statistical Analysis:	✗	Creation of Case Studies:	✗	Creating Meta Data:	✗	Modelling:	✗	Expert Opinion:	✗
Collection of Primary Data:	✗																
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Spatial Data Analysis:	✗																
Statistical Analysis:	✗																
Creation of Case Studies:	✗																
Creating Meta Data:	✗																
Modelling:	✗																
Expert Opinion:	✗																

Process

How did the assessment control the quality of the data used?	In no case were data absorbed from other regional synthesis efforts. Each data point was traced to its original source for verification and rating, discarding many existing records that did not meet the criteria. Local researchers were regularly interviewed during this verification process
Were models used?	No
Additional comments:	No Information Entered
Were indicators used?	Yes
Additional comments:	The assessment used various indicators (e.g. nesting frequencies)
If traditional knowledge was used, what quality control was used?	Traditional knowledge is often used and validated scientifically before use.
If expert opinion was used, what quality control was used?	All the parts of the assessment based on expert opinion were exposed to wide-ranging comment by other experts, and revised in the light of their comments
Was a conceptual framework used?	Yes
Additional comments:	The assessment looked at state, pressures, their likely development, the measures that had been taken, their effectiveness and possible future options for action
How was the involvement of different scientific specialisms organised?	No details are given on how the the different scientific specialisms should be involved
How was interaction organised between scientists and policy makers?	The policy-makers/scientists who participated in the assessment provided the economic and social input
How were non-official stakeholders enabled to participate?	No special arrangements are reported to have been made
Did differences of opinion arise over the conclusions of assessment? If so how were these resolved?	There appeared to be no differences of opinion arising over the conclusions
Was there peer review?	Yes
Additional comments:	A range of scientists was invited to comment on a fully developed draft of the assessment and their comments considered before final adoption
Were any specific links made to other contemporary processes?	Reliance was placed on the participation of national experts in the assessment process who were simultaneously involved in the other relevant processes
Were specific efforts made to strengthen institutional, scientific or technical capacity for the assessment?	Reliance was placed on the general network of support for scientific development between the participating governments
Communications	
How was the output of the assessment presented?	Database: 
	Technical Report: 
	Policy Synthesis: 
	Manuals: 
	Maps: 
	Data Set: 
	Website: 
	Bulletins and Newsletters: 
	Other: 
	If other, please specify: No Information Entered
In what languages are materials available?	Arabic: 
	Chinese: 

English:	✓
French:	✗
Russian:	✗
Spanish:	✓
Other:	No Information Entered

Was there a communications strategy for disseminating the results? No Information Entered

Additional comments: Copies were sent to the participating institutions and the database made available online.

Future Actions

How did the assessment control the quality of the data used? In no case were data absorbed from other regional synthesis efforts. Each data point was traced to its original source for verification and rating, discarding many existing records that did not meet the criteria. Local researchers were regularly interviewed during this verification process

Does the assessment rank or prioritise problems identified? Yes

Additional comments: The assessment explicitly ranked the problems that it identified (e.g. fishing, coastal development)

Does the assessment evaluate future policy options? Yes

Additional comments: The assessment indicated preferred actions to achieve the agreed goals for the conservation of sea turtles and indirectly dealt with some of the socioeconomic implications of implementing these measures

Were information gaps identified? Yes

Additional comments: The assessment noted the lack of data in some of the participating countries (e.g. Haiti). It therefore turned to previous published literature to collect information. The remainder of the assessment confined itself to evaluating the available information on the basis of the best current scientific knowledge.

Were gaps in scientific understanding identified? No

Additional comments: The assessment confined itself to evaluating the available information on the basis of the best current scientific knowledge

Review

Was there a review or evaluation to draw lessons for future assessments? No

Additional comments: No Information Entered

URL of review or evaluation: No Information Entered

Thematic Focus (A) What aspects of the marine ecosystem are covered?

ISSUES RELATED TO THE NON-HUMAN MARINE ENVIRONMENT			
Physical and chemical background of the marine environment	Covered in detail	Covered in general terms	Not relevant
A1 Hydrography (sea bed)	✗	✗	✓
A2 Hydrology (salinity, currents)	✗	✓	✗
A3 Influence of major freshwater inputs	✗	✗	✓
A4 Water quality – nutrient levels	✗	✗	✓
A5 Water quality – contamination and pollution	✗	✓	✗
A6 Water quality – turbidity	✗	✗	✓

A7	Other issues relevant to physical and chemical background covered by the assessment	No Information Entered		
Marine Fauna and Flora				
B1	Primary production	✗	✗	✓
B2	Plankton abundance and diversity	✗	✓	✗
B3	Fish populations – wild commercial fish stocks	✗	✗	✓
B4	Fish populations – other populations of demersal and pelagic fish	✗	✗	✓
B5	Fish populations – mariculture	✗	✗	✓
B6	Benthic fauna – wild commercial stocks of molluscs and crustacea	✗	✗	✓
B7	Benthic fauna – other populations of molluscs and crustacean	✗	✗	✓
B8	Benthic fauna – mariculture of molluscs and crustacea	✗	✗	✓
B9	Benthic flora – seaweed	✗	✓	✗
B10	Marine Reptiles	✓	✗	✗
B11	Marine mammals	✗	✓	✗
B12	Seabirds	✗	✗	✓
B13	Marine fauna and flora – identification of threatened and/or endangered species	✗	✗	✗
B14	Other issues relevant to marine fauna and flora covered by the assessment	No Information Entered		
Marine Habitats				
C1	Coral reefs	✓	✗	✗
C2	Other spawning, breeding or nursery areas	✗	✓	✗
C3	Identification of threatened and endangered marine habitats	✓	✗	✗
C4	Other issues relevant to marine habitats covered by the assessment	No Information Entered		

Thematic Focus (B) What aspects of human impacts on the marine environment are covered?

ISSUES RELATED TO INTER-RELATIONS BETWEEN HUMAN ACTIVITIES AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT				
		Covered in detail	Covered in general terms	Not relevant
Food				
D1	Scale of commercial capture fisheries (amounts taken of target species)	✗	✓	✗
D2	Pressures from commercial capture fisheries (amounts taken of non-target species and physical impact of fishing gear)	✓	✗	✗
D3	Scale of mariculture	✗	✗	✓
D4	Economic and social aspects of fisheries and mariculture (such as economic value of products and employment)	✗	✓	✗
D5	Proportion of fisheries and mariculture landed within the region	✗	✓	✗
Human health				
E1	Impacts on human health from contaminated sea-water and/or contaminated fish and shell-fish	✗	✗	✓
E2	Impacts on human health and well-being from hydrological events (e.g. the El Niño phenomenon, hurricanes, typhoons, tsunamis)	✗	✗	✓
Energy				
F1	Offshore wave and wind energy generation: environmental aspects (scale and impact on the marine environment)	✗	✗	✓
F2	Offshore wave and wind energy generation: social and economic aspects (such as economic value and employment)	✗	✗	✓
F3	Oil and gas extraction from the seabed: (environmental aspects (scale and aspect on the marine environment))	✗	✗	✓
F4	Oil and gas extraction from the seabed: social and economic aspects (such as economic value and employment)	✗	✗	✓

Solid mineral extraction				
G1	Extraction of aggregates (sand and gravel) from the seabed: environmental aspects (scale and pressure on the marine environment)	✗	✗	✓
G2	Extraction of aggregates (sand and gravel) from the seabed: social and economic aspects (such as economic value and employment)	✗	✗	✓
G3	Extraction of other solid minerals from the seabed: (environmental aspects (scale and pressure on the marine environment)	✗	✗	✓
G4	Extraction of other solid minerals from the seabed : social and economic aspects (such as economic value and employment)	✗	✗	✓
Waste disposal				
H1	Discharge of liquid waste from land to sea – municipal waste water	✗	✓	✗
H2	Discharge of liquid waste from land to sea – industrial	✗	✗	✓
H3	Discharge of liquid radioactive waste from land to sea	✗	✗	✓
H4	Disposal of solid land-generated waste dumped at sea	✗	✓	✗
H5	Disposal of dredged material from navigational dredging	✗	✗	✓
Coastal change				
J1	Siltation	✗	✗	✓
J2	Creation of artificial coastline structures (sea defences, port and harbour construction, etc)	✓	✗	✗
J3	Land reclamation (including changes to Ramsar Convention wetlands)	✗	✗	✓
Maritime transport				
K1	Maritime freight movement (particularly tonnage)	✗	✗	✓
K2	Maritime traffic (particularly numbers of ship movements)	✗	✗	✓
K3	Discharges and emissions from normal operation of vessels (as covered by MARPOL)	✗	✗	✓
K4	Pressures on the marine environment from maritime catastrophes (shipwrecks, groundings and collisions)	✗	✗	✓
K5	Impacts on other human activities from maritime catastrophes (shipwrecks, groundings and collisions)	✗	✗	✓
Land-based development				
L1	Pressures from urban and industrial development	✓	✗	✗
L2	Pressures from agricultural development (including forestry and horticulture)	✗	✓	✗
L3	Coastal tourism activities: environmental aspects (scale and pressure on the marine environment)	✓	✗	✗
L4	Coastal tourism activities: social and economic aspects (such as economic value and employment)	✗	✗	✓
Other				
M1	Marine litter	✗	✓	✗
M2	Other pressures from human activities on the marine environment covered by the assessment	No Information Entered		
M3	Other impacts on humans from changes in the environment covered by the assessment	No Information Entered		