



SWOT Year in Review 2009

The SWOT Team now numbers in the hundreds. Data contributors, authors, photographers, and locally based researchers and conservationists from more than 70 countries now participate in this ever-growing network dedicated to building, improving, and using a global-scale data set to guide conservation of sea turtles and their ocean habitats. The team has been very busy of late, and the past year has ushered in many new tools to help expand its reach.

SWOT Strengthens Its Bond with OBIS-SEAMAP

In 2009, after much preparation and anticipation, the SWOT database was merged with the OBIS-SEAMAP (Ocean Biogeographic Information System-Spatial Ecological Analysis of Megavertebrate Populations) database, and the SWOT online application was launched on SEAMAP's Web site, <http://seamap.env.duke.edu/swot>. The Duke University-based OBIS-SEAMAP project is a spatially referenced online database that aggregates marine mammal, seabird, and sea turtle data from across the globe. It is also a founding partner of SWOT (involved in the effort since 2004) and is now home to SWOT database manager and spatial analyst Andrew DiMatteo.

In addition to viewing SWOT data on the SWOT Web site, users can interact with SWOT data in the SEAMAP environment, which also displays information from other marine species and oceanographic features. The SEAMAP interface allows various options for sorting SWOT data (e.g., by species, by country, or by nesting abundance). All SWOT data providers also prominently feature where their data are displayed. We encourage all those involved in sea turtle conservation to check out the SEAMAP site and to take advantage of the many applications and tools that are available for download and use.



Visit www.SeaTurtleStatus.org to download *Reporte SWOT, Vol. 3*, our first Spanish translation.

SWOT Report, Vol. 3 en Español!

The long-awaited translation and redesign of *SWOT Report, Vol. 3* into Spanish is complete and available on the SWOT Web site! We have distributed printed copies of *Reporte SWOT, Vol. 3* to SWOT team members throughout Latin America, where the copies are already being used as part of local conservation efforts. Our goal is eventually to translate and print all volumes of *SWOT Report* in Spanish and French as resources become available.

SWOT Data Are in Demand!

A primary goal for SWOT is to be a global clearinghouse of sea turtle data for applied conservation research initiatives. Over the past year, SWOT has received multiple requests to use SWOT nesting site data in various types of studies, such as analyses of sea turtle nesting habitat under future climate change scenarios. SWOT data were also used in the figures included in a story about leatherbacks, titled "Ancient Mariner," in the May 2009 issue of *National Geographic*. Although SWOT continues to maintain strict protections for data providers, we are excited to facilitate the use of this comprehensive, global sea turtle database for efforts that can help advance sea turtle and marine conservation.

Simplified Data Submission Processes

SWOT continues to strengthen protections for data providers and to make the processes for data submission and requests more efficient. On the submission side, we have translated the SWOT data submission form to Spanish (French is coming soon). In addition, we are working with the developers of the SWOT Web site (www.SeaTurtleStatus.org) to create a guided user interface for online data submission. We have also updated and simplified the processes for requesting SWOT data and have made improvements to the SWOT-SEAMAP Terms of Use for data providers. ■

Thanks to the SWOT Team, as always, for all of their contributions to these important efforts.

THIS PAGE: An employee of Amigos Para la Conservación de Cabo Pulmo excavates an olive ridley nest in Cabo Pulmo National Park, Baja California Sur, Mexico. © BRIAN J. HUTCHINSON
AT LEFT: Kuna Sahila Carlos López reads *SWOT Report, Vol. 4*, with his son in Armila, Kuna Yala, Panama. © THOR MORALES