

SWOT Team Member Spotlight



Raquel Briseño Dueñas (Mexico)

I have been working with sea turtles for the past 36 years, based at the Mazatlán Academic Unit of the Institute of Marine Science and Limnology, part of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). I also coordinate the Marine Turtle Database (BITMAR), serve as one of the East Pacific regional vice co-chairs of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group, and am president of the Sinaloa Sea Turtle Network (RETOS). As a member of the local, national, and international sea turtle community, I have the privilege of sharing the tasks of conserving this charismatic species with a huge network of dedicated specialists who collaborate to produce synergistic effects on the health of our oceans and coastlines. SWOT is an invaluable tool for achieving our collective conservation goals.



Michael Coyne (United States)

I founded and have directed Seaturtle.org—Global Sea Turtle Network since 1997, and have been working with sea turtles for 22 years. My primary goal is to make information about sea turtles as accessible as possible. I am based in Durham, NC (U.S.A.), but one of the benefits of my work is that most of it can be done from anywhere, as long as I have a computer and an Internet connection. By far, the biggest challenge I face is encouraging colleagues to work together and helping them feel comfortable sharing data and information. The more open we are, the more quickly we can find solutions to some of the very difficult conservation problems faced by sea turtles and other species. SWOT serves an important communication and information-sharing role that has enhanced the mission of Seaturtle.org and will continue to do so.



Alexsandro Santana dos Santos (Brazil)

I have worked as a biologist and the regional technical coordinator of Projeto TAMAR in Brazil since 1993, and for the past six years I have served as the national coordinator of SITAMAR (Projeto TAMAR's information system on sea turtles). For over three decades, Projeto TAMAR has led efforts to understand and conserve Brazil's five species of sea turtles and to engage local communities, governments, businesses, and the public in its efforts. The biggest challenge I face in my work is to provide organized, standardized, and reliable information to researchers to better deal with the threats faced by sea turtles in Brazil. *SWOT Report* not only grants us easy access to a vast repository of data and information on research initiatives but also provides a unique global vision for sea turtle conservation.



Jack Woody (United States)

After serving in the U.S. Navy and other wildlife and fisheries jobs, I accepted a position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Washington, DC, which I hated. I was soon transferred to Albuquerque, NM (U.S.A.), where in 1972, I was made regional chief of endangered species, and later international sea turtle coordinator for the USFWS. Starting in 1972, I represented the United States on countless international wildlife conservation projects for 20 years. I helped launch the long-term conservation program for black turtles in Michoacán, Mexico, which has been an outstanding success, and I also worked to develop the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles. But I am most proud to have initiated the binational recovery project for the Kemp's ridley, based in Rancho Nuevo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. This has been a successful effort by the governments of two countries, countless institutions, NGOs, and individuals of both nations that brought the species back from the brink of extinction.