



41st International Sea Turtle Symposium

Workshop Proposal for ISTS41

Title of Proposed Workshop:

Strengthening Community-based Environmental Education Through Efficient Use of Technological Communication Tools

Name of Main Organiser: Amalia María Cano-Castaño, Anjélika Sole Abdo Abou Issa, Antonio Trujillo, Diana del Pilar Ramírez Acosta, & Georgina Zamora

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Suggested Duration of Workshop: Full Day (8 hours)

Description and Justification of the Workshop:

Environmental Education (EE) is one of the most powerful tools in the conservationist's toolbox, although it is regularly misunderstood and undervalued. It is essential to clarify and strengthen the understanding and reach of EE – a widely used concept since the world's first Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education, in 1977, organized by UNESCO/UNEP in Tblisi, Georgia (USSR). In specifically promoting community development –at all levels– as well as the efficient employment of all appropriate technologies, EE is directly relevant to all sectors of society, from marginalized producers to elite consumers and corporate exploitative activities. Countries such as Brazil and Colombia have incorporated EE into national and state legislation, including marine turtle protection programs.

Regularly turtle conservation programs, integrated with EE activities, are carried out with very limited resources, in challenging conditions for communication; hence, it is essential that EE practitioners make the fullest, most efficient use of available technologies to facilitate and enhance communications, from local to international levels.

This workshop, with a maximum of 40 participants, will strengthen the understanding and reach of EE, through discussion, familiarization, and practice of common communication technologies. Furthermore, the workshop promotes the realization that “technology” can include the most recent digital apparatus to Pleistocene stone axes, any of which can be relevant to conservation of marine turtles and their

habitats.

Workshop organizers include an international, multilingual, multicultural team of specialists in turtle conservation, EE, and diverse means communication:

- Amalia María Cano-Castaño (Fundación Coriácea, COLOMBIA): 14 years in Project Development and Coordination, particularly in science, technology, and innovation, as well as conventional Publishing and design of social media networks and other forms of digital communication, 5 years in Marine Turtle field projects.
- Anjelika Solé Abdo Abou Issa (Museo de Historia Natural de Marsella, FRANCE): Environmental Education and Science Education, independent specialist, since 2011 various environment education projects, particularly in the Egyptian Red Sea and on Marine turtles.
- Antonio Trujillo (Ayotzintli AC, MÉXICO): 25 years with Marine Turtles, 17 years with Environmental Education, Organizer of the Environmental Education workshop at ISTS 37 2017.
- Diana del Pilar Ramírez Acosta (Fundación Tourtugas, COLOMBIA): 11 years with Environmental Education and Marine Turtles; Chairperson of District Board of Environmental Education of Bogotá.
- Georgina Zamora (COSTA RICA): Project Director, Escuela Biodiversidad, over 12 years in Environmental Education, 10 of which with the Sea Turtle Conservancy of Central America, as Program Coordinator, Education and Outreach.
- Jack Frazier (National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, USA) half a century with Marine Turtles and conservation, decades with Environmental Education and project development, “evangelical iconoclast”.
- José Matarezi (Universidade do Vale do BRASIL): Coordenador, Laboratorio de Educación Ambiental (LEA), Escuela del Mar, Ciencia y Tecnología, Universidade do Vale do Itajaí y de la Rede Trilha da Vida de Formação em Educação Ambiental por BiomVas Brasileiros. Over 40 years with Environmental Education, with emphasis in Conservation Units and Community Environmental Education, Art-Education and Heritage Education; Member of the Advisory Board of the Brazilian Fund for Environmental Education.

Workshop organizers will supply their own laptop, as well as their own Audio-visual equipment, only space will be required. Efforts are still being made to obtain funding support for Workshop activities.

Anyone needing clarification before registering for this workshop should contact fundacioncoriacea@gmail.com

Expected Outcomes of the Workshop:

1) Integration of registered participants will be promoted through personalized correspondence with workshop organizers during the month immediately before the workshop. This will facilitate the initial steps of consolidation of the group, thereby reducing time required during the actual workshop, and result in more efficient and effective use the limited time available during the workshop, and it will be essential for promoting successful workshop outcomes, and future activities. Before the workshop each participant shall submit a written summary of their professional profile, as well as a project proposal that will be considered for discussion in the group (see #4).

2) Generation of a working inventory of EE leaders, practitioners, programs, institutions, activities, literature, tools, etc., will be based on knowledge and experiences of participants, organizers, and other sources, including the inventory developed by ASO (the Southwest Atlantic Sea Turtle Network). Special attention will be given to community-based activities.

3) Participants and organizers will collaborate in the generation of working guidelines for identifying and making efficient use of appropriate communication technologies and tools.

4) Design and execution of participant-initiated practice tests, to enhance understanding, and efficient, economic use of appropriate communication technologies, to be applied to turtle EE conservation programs and activities (see # 1)

5) A reliable group of colleagues (“PPP”) will be established, beginning with workshop participants, and expanding through their personal, institutional, and professional contacts, open to potentially anyone interested in the topic. The “PPP” group will facilitate support for EE turtle project development, execution, and evaluation, as well as responses to specific questions.

6) An objective, anonymous evaluation of the workshop shall be conducted at the end of the event, the results to be shared with all workshop participants and ISTS 41 organizers.