

San San Pond Sack

San San Pond Sack is one of the most important wetlands of the Caribbean Me-soamerican coast.

Its biological diversity includes migratory birds during most of the year, and important species such as the manatee and four species of sea turtles that nest on its beaches. Its channels and coastal lagoons offer a great variety of landscapes that you have not seen in other areas of the country.



This wetland is located in the province of Bocas del Toro, Changuinola district, and it is part of the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP).

This area is ideal habitat for thousands of species of flora and fauna, but attract attention to two endangered species: manatees and sea turtles.

Moreover, since 1998 this wetland is part of the Biosphere Reserve La Amistad (RBLA) together with La Amistad International Park, Volcan Baru National Park, Wetland Volcano Lagoons, Fortuna Forest Reserve, the National Marine Park Isla Bastimentos and Palo Seco Protected Forest.

This wetland has humid environments with both marine influence and the rivers that cross it, such as the Changuinola, San San and Sixaola.



The leatherback sea Turtle



Endangered species

The Wetlands of San San Pond Sak "This area is an ideal habitat for sea turtles"

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General

Characteristics

The leatherback turtle is the only sea turtle without a Shell. Its common name in English means "back of leather", which refers to the skin without plates and smooth, similar to the leather that covers it. This cover is supported and strengthened by thousands of osteodermal polygonal pieces.

Only during the first weeks of life has scales. Their skin is typically black and mottled with white. The carapace has seven ridges or keels prominent, aerodynamically shaped and slightly flexible. Its plastron can vary in color and has five keels. This species has other common names in Spanish, such as: lute, canal, tingular, seven keels, among others.



Habitat



The leatherback turtle is the species that dives the deepest and which has the widest distribution among all turtles marine. A typical dive can last 15 minutes and although very rarely it extends beyond 200 m of depths have been reported dives to more than 1000 m. They are found throughout the seas of the world, mainly in the pelagic waters of the temperate and tropical oceans as well as the cold sub-arctic waters.

Feeding

The leatherback turtle lacks teeth; however, the structure of the jaw, shaped like a "W", it acts like teeth and also has corneal projections in the esophagus area (see photo). Are are two distinct characteristics associated with their specialized diet of animal bodies fluffy, mainly jellyfish. It is interesting to note that they are not affected by toxins of jellyfish such as the poisonous "Portuguese frigate". Although the growth rate specific to this species is unknown, leatherback may grow rapidly eating many times your body weight daily.

