

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES****22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium on the Conservation and Biology of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles*****July 25–28, 2024*****Joint venture: Turtle Survival Alliance and IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group**

These instructions are provided to assist authors in preparing their abstracts for oral and/or poster dissemination. **Please review this information carefully**, as submissions not adhering to these guidelines will be returned for revision.

Abstracts for this year’s Symposium are due no later than **Monday, April 15, 2024**. Please submit your abstract early; not only does this help with conference planning, but we receive more requests for presentations than we can accommodate. Abstract submission will be online: [Linked here](#). You should receive confirmation of receipt of your submission via email - if you do not, please contact Jordan Gray at [jgray@turtlesurvival.org](mailto:jgray@turtlesurvival.org) **AND** Chelsea Rinn at [crinn@turtlesurvival.org](mailto:crinn@turtlesurvival.org).

**General Information**

1. The abstract must be written in English.
2. Deadline: **11:59 PM Pacific Daylight Time, Monday, April 15, 2024**.
3. Online abstract submission is required.
4. *Virtual* Oral Presentation abstract submission is offered to international applicants who CANNOT physically attend the symposium for legitimate reasons. **A letter of explanation and request to present virtually MUST be submitted** via the abstract submission form [linked here](#).
5. All accepted abstracts for presentation will be included in the Program and Abstracts eBook that will be available for download on the Turtle Survival Alliance website conference page.
6. Notification of acceptance or rejection will be made via email.

**Content of the Abstract\***

1. Abstracts are limited to 350 words – excluding title and author(s) information.
2. Use Times New Roman font.
3. Title should be as informative as possible. This is your first chance to impress and attract people to your presentation. **Use Bold Font, Capitalize Major Words, and Center the Title**.
4. Author(s) full first and last name. **USE BOLD FONT AND SMALL CAPS**.
5. Contact information should be annotated with superscript numbers where necessary. *Do not bold contact information, please use italics*.
6. Place the email address of presenting or corresponding author in [square brackets].
7. Body of abstract: purpose of the study, methods used, summary of the results and conclusion reached. Do not indent.
8. Species names should be formatted as: Common Name (*Latin name*)
9. Be clear and concise. The abstract is the “published” record of your work.
10. References and credits MUST NOT be included in the abstract.
11. Abstracts MUST NOT include tables or figures.
12. Abstracts MUST NOT include sensitive information or specific site locality.
13. Use standard abbreviations in parentheses after the full word or phrase the first time it appears.

14. Please indicate if you are an invited speaker in a special session or if you would like to be considered for one of the special sessions (open call for papers and posters). Indicate which special session.
15. If your presentation is not for a special session, please indicate the subject categories your abstract most closely represents. Examples: Field Studies, Genetics, Conservation, Captive Management, Veterinary, etc. This will aid in placing your presentation on the schedule with similar talks.
16. Indicate if this is for consideration as an **oral** or **poster presentation**.
17. An abstract should not include acknowledgments.
18. Abstracts will be published as submitted. Proof and edit your submission accordingly.
19. Save your file as “Last Name-First Name” e.g. Smith-Joe.doc and upload it with your form: [Linked here](#).

\*Please note, the Alliance reserves the right to copy-edit abstracts and change wording or titles if necessary.

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**SAMPLE ABSTRACT:**

**Five Years of Reproduction: Raising Captive Born  
Central American River Turtles (*Dermatemys mawii*) in Belize**  
**JAREN SERANO, THOMAS POP, HEATHER BARRETT, AND JACOB MARLIN**  
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and Environmental Education, PO Box 129 Punta Gorda, Belize*  
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The Central American River Turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*), known locally as the Hicatee, is the largest freshwater river turtle in Belize and the only living species of the family *Dermatemididae*, an ancient lineage of turtles dating back sixty-five million years. Once widespread, they now exist as remnant populations in parts of eastern Mexico, northern Guatemala and Belize and are ranked as Critically Endangered by the IUCN and one of the top twenty-five most endangered turtles in the world by the Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group. Overexploitation as a food resource for human consumption has resulted in drastic declines and extirpation of local populations. The Hicatee Conservation and Research Center (HCRC), which is a joint project of the Turtle Survival Alliance and Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education (BFREE), serves as a captive breeding facility for the species. The goals of the HCRC are to conduct research on the reproductive biology and nesting ecology while building a large assurance colony to aid in reintroductions. In this talk, we will describe the phenotypical features of *D. mawii* neonates through their first four years of growth and share behavioral aspects and biological traits observed. We will share our methods for captive management including egg incubation, hatch success, juvenile care, herbivorous diet preferences, and the effects of seasonal temperature shifts which appear to be linked to hatchling well-being. We will also discuss some of the challenges that have been encountered as we develop and modify our husbandry protocols. Finally, we will give an account of Hicatee Health Assessments which occur at the HCRC two times per year in order to monitor overall health, and document growth.

**TSA Partners:** Oral

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If you have any questions, please contact Jordan Gray at [jgray@turtlesurvival.org](mailto:jgray@turtlesurvival.org) **AND** Chelsea Rinn at [crinn@turtlesurvival.org](mailto:crinn@turtlesurvival.org). Thank you for your interest!