



# PRESS RELEASE

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## “NAME THE LITTLE TURTLE” CHILDREN’S CONTEST WINNERS AWARDED”

**SAN SALVADOR-** The U.S. Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) jointly with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and La Prensa Grafica newspaper, presented this morning the awards to the “Name the Little Turtle” children’s contest, a pro-environment initiative where more than a hundred boys and girls participated through La Prensa Grafica’s “Palomitas de Papel” children magazine.

The contest that started last November, encouraged the magazine readers to name a representative character of a Chelonioidea or sea turtle. Today the names of the first, second, and third places, as also of those 8 additional participants that wrote the best phrase to explain why they liked turtles, were revealed.

The first three places winners were awarded with toys gift certificates of \$100, \$75, and \$50 respectively, as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Johanna Raquel Mayen Urias, 8 years old, from San Juan Opico, La Libertad, who suggested the name “Quelita”; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Josue Miguel Vasquez Granadino, 10, Ciudad Delgado, San Salvador, with the name “Carapachito”; and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Paola Michelle Abrego, 7, from Cuscatancingo, San Salvador, who proposed to name the turtle “Serafina”.

Sea turtles are very vulnerable species, and have many natural predators in conjunction with the human threat, that includes, turtle egg hunt and commerce. Four out of the eight sea turtle species that live on this planet (Hawksbill, Leatherback, Kemp’s Ridley and Black) lay their eggs on El Salvador’s beaches. These turtles are in the global red list of threatened species (in danger of extinction) and are protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which is an international agreement between governments aimed at ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

USAID supports the government, fishery and tourism stakeholders, local communities and Non-Governmental Organizations to reduce turtle egg consumption, therefore, ensuring the species’ survival.



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