



## Xcacel Action Letter

May 25, 2010 contributed by SAVE A.C.

Xcacel-Xcacelito, the famous Turtle Sanctuary beach of Mexico, located 100 Km. south of Cancun in the tourist corridor of the Riviera Maya, is in peril again. Xcacel is known as one of the most beautiful white sandy beaches of the Mexican Caribbean coastline. But this is not all that it is known for, for also there are the 7000 turtle nests each year that dot this untouched-to-date beach bluff, along with plants, animals, cenotes, and underground river systems. For this, Xcacel is one of the **world's** most important turtle nesting beaches and for the Atlantic Ocean, THE MOST IMPORTANT, nesting beach, representing 20% of all loggerheads and 22% of all green sea turtles, in the Atlantic Ocean born to this beach.

Xcacel beach status is in BIG trouble. In the last 2 weeks, the Mexican government, to be more specific SEMARNAT, under the directions of Juan Elvira Quesada with the help of his signing sidekick, Mauricio Limon, has signed away the lifeblood of this most important beach, yes, for more hotels. A new project Punta Carey (same project that was rejected in 2004 and again in 2006) has just been given permission to build, with their PHASE #1 project, which includes the constructions of 30 apartments, 104 hotel rooms, a club house, beach services, security control access office and roads on the 26 hectares (2 ½ acres = 1 hectare) of beachfront land that will be located on the northern boundary of the Marine Turtle Sanctuary.

Being such a fragile zone, any development, even a low impact project, is not worth jeopardizing such a successful reproduction area for this particular endangered species. It has been proven around the world that building on a turtle nesting site will kill off all future turtle nestings. If the laying sea turtle cannot

return to the beach that she was born at, then she will have no choice except to deposit her eggs into the ocean, in which they will instantly die.

We ask for all citizens around the world to help us. The Mexican government will listen if the world speaks. Please copy and paste the following sample letter to the following Mexican politicians today...

Sample letter:

Dear Mexican Government official,

Please exercise all of the power in your authority to stop the planned constructions on the Sea Turtle sanctuary known as Xcacel-Xcacelito. Please decree federal protected status for the turtle sanctuary and bordering regions of Playa Xcacel and Playa Xcacelito in Quintana Roo. We know that the national Commission of natural Protected Areas (CONANP) has completed and published studies in 2005 assigning sanctuary status for these world important 360 hectares of Xcacel and Xcacelito. We are asking for further protection extending from the reef west through the wetland jungle to the paralleling Highway 307. In addition to the endangered marine turtles who return annually solely to this beach to nest, this zone contains endangered mangroves and other endangered plants. This is of critical ecological importance not only to this region but also to Mexico and the international community. It is a RAMSAR protected site # 1351. It is also one of the last public undeveloped beaches for locals and tourists to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Officials to write to in the Mexican Federal Government**

[felipe.calderon@presidencia.gob.mx](mailto:felipe.calderon@presidencia.gob.mx); [juan.elvira@semarnat.gob.mx](mailto:juan.elvira@semarnat.gob.mx);  
[c.secretario@semarnat.gob.mx](mailto:c.secretario@semarnat.gob.mx); [gobernador@qroo.gob.mx](mailto:gobernador@qroo.gob.mx); [mauricio.limon@semarnat.gob.mx](mailto:mauricio.limon@semarnat.gob.mx);  
[mlozano@qroo.gob.mx](mailto:mlozano@qroo.gob.mx); [cenotes@prodigy.net.mx](mailto:cenotes@prodigy.net.mx)

### **Lic. Felipe Calderon**

Presidente Constitucional de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos

Residencia Presidencial de los Pinos

Puerto Central, Primer Piso

Colonial San Miguel Chapultepec

Mexico, DF CP 11850

Tel: 555-522-4117

Email: [felipe.calderon@presidencia.gob.mx](mailto:felipe.calderon@presidencia.gob.mx)

**Juan Rafael Elvira Quesada**

Secretaria del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT)

Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources

Lateral de Anillo Periférico Sur 4209, 6 Piso

Fraccionamiento Jardines de la Montana

Delegación Tlalpan

México, DF CP 14210

Tel: 555-628-0602

Fax: 555-628-0643

Email: [c.secretario@semarnat.gob.mx](mailto:c.secretario@semarnat.gob.mx)

[juan.elvira@semarnat.gob.mx](mailto:juan.elvira@semarnat.gob.mx)

**Lic. Mauricio Limón Aguirre**

Subsecretario de Gestión para la Protección Ambiental

Tel: 555-624-3544 o 5

Fax: 555-624-3680

Email: [mauricio.limon@semarnat.gob.mx](mailto:mauricio.limon@semarnat.gob.mx)

**Félix González Canto**

Gobierno del Estado de Quintana Roo

Governor of the State of Quintana Roo

Email: [gobernador@qroo.gob.mx](mailto:gobernador@qroo.gob.mx)

[mlozano@qroo.gob.mx](mailto:mlozano@qroo.gob.mx)

Submitted by SAVE A.C. [www.saverivieramaya.org](http://www.saverivieramaya.org)