



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles

Second Conference of the Parties

November, 16 – 18, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

COP2/2004/R-2*

*This version includes in brackets the section “Structure of the Scientific Committee”, which was not approved at COP2IAC, as well as modifications from COP3IAC to this section.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES

The mandate given to the Scientific Committee is established in Article VIII (2) of the Convention text.

OBJECTIVE

To provide technical and scientific advice to the Conference of the Parties to comply with the mandate of the Convention in order to promote the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and of the habitats on which they depend, based on the best available scientific evidence, taking into account the environmental, socioeconomic and cultural characteristics of the Parties.

FUNCTIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The Scientific Committee will have, in addition to the duties established in Article VIII (2) of the Convention, the following functions:

1. Prepare and update its Work Plan, pursuant to the guidelines of the Convention, and the accords and resolutions of the Conferences of the Parties (COPs), establishing the priority of the issues to be addressed. The Work Plan shall be presented to the Contracting Parties for its approval.
2. Elaborate, in collaboration with the Consultative Committee of Experts, the format of the Annual Report for the Parties, prior to the next Conference. This format shall include, in addition to the information required in Annex IV of the Convention, basic indicators for evaluating the status of sea turtles populations and their habitats, especially under those circumstances subject to the exceptions indicated in the Article IV (3) (b).
3. Periodically evaluate, in collaboration with the Consultative Committee of Experts, the format of the Annual Report for the Parties, and, if considered necessary, recommend modifications.



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Second Conference of the Parties

November, 16 – 18, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

4. Support the Secretariat in the creation and maintenance of an up-to-date directory of scientists, which will be available to the Parties and for whomever else requests. In this task it will, among other things, issue a public call for nominations, and should incorporate specialists who have a wide range of knowledge and experience in matters pertaining to the Convention, as well as in the geographic area that it covers.
5. Analyze the Annual Reports of the Parties, as well as the scientific investigations (including sociological and economic research), projects and initiatives conducted by Parties or other relevant organizations or entities.
6. Develop technical guidelines for the preparation of bilateral, multilateral and regional management plans.
7. Develop and improve methodologies for the evaluation of environmental, socioeconomic and cultural impacts resulting from the measures adopted within the frame of the Convention.
8. Support actions directed towards development, use, training and transfer of socially and ecologically sustainable technologies, taking into account the guidelines for international cooperation agreed by the Parties.
9. Present annually to the Parties, through the Secretariat, a report on its work, which reflects the different points of view and opinions of its members. This report shall include observations and recommendations on measures additional to those described in the Convention, to promote its objective.

STRUCTURE OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE*

***This point was not approved during the COP2CIT**

Procedure for representatives designated unilaterally by the Parties

1. *[Each Party may designate one representative to the Scientific Committee, who may be accompanied at each meeting by up to three advisors. The Party will notify the Secretariat, through diplomatic channels or via its designated focal point, the name of this representative. The Secretariat will circulate the list of these representatives to all the Parties.]*



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles

Second Conference of the Parties

November, 16 – 18, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

2. *[The representatives who comprise the Scientific Committee should have an academic degree and/or proven experience in any of the relevant thematic areas.]*
3. *[The term for representatives designated by the Parties shall be 2 years, at the end of which the Party may renew the designation. In case the designated representative of a Party cannot complete this term, the Party shall immediately provide the Secretariat with the name of the representative who will complete it. The Secretariat shall inform all the Parties the name of the new representative.]*

[Procedure for representatives designated by consensus]

4. *[In addition to the unilateral designations made by the Parties, the Parties shall also appoint by consensus invited representatives to the Scientific Committee with recognized scientific expertise in matters pertaining to the Convention.]*
5. *The number of invited members appointed to the Scientific Committee shall not be greater than a third of the members designated unilaterally by the Parties.]*
6. *The representatives of the Scientific Committee designated unilaterally by the Parties shall recommend these designations taking into account the necessities of the Committee and its Work Plan; these recommendations shall be based on the Directory (referred to in para. 4 of the Functions of the Scientific Committee) or other appropriate means.]*
7. *[The Secretariat, in coordination with the Parties, will issue a public call for nominations at least 120 days before the COP to receive nominations from the Parties, individuals or entities. The nominations shall include the following information, which will be provided in the working languages of the Conference of the Parties:*
 - a. *Name of candidate;*
 - b. *Affiliation; and*
 - c. *Curriculum vitae, profile or other documentation that shows his/her qualifications and/or recognized expertise.]*
8. *[Nominations for the representatives to be designated by consensus shall be transmitted to the Parties, by the Secretariat, no later than 90 days before the Conference of the Parties in which new designations will be made.]*
9. *[The Parties, when making their decision on designations, shall take the following factors, inter alia, into account:*
 - a. *Scientific, academic and/or practical expertise that reflects and complements the variety of disciplines and other matters pertaining to the Convention;*



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Second Conference of the Parties

November, 16 – 18, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

- b. Relevance of the candidate's scientific discipline to the duties of the Scientific Committee, specifically with its Work Plan;*
 - c. Capacity of the candidate to complement the expertise and knowledge base among the existent Committee members.]*
10. *[The period of the representatives designated by consensus to the Scientific Committee shall be two years, and may be renewed with the accord of the Parties.]*

MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

1. The meetings of the Scientific Committee will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the Convention (Resolution COP1CIT-004), except when an additional specific rule for better operation of the Committee has been approved by the Conference of the Parties, pursuant to Rules 14.1 and 14.2.
2. The meetings of the Scientific Committee will take place, preferably prior to the meetings of the Consultative Committee, at least once a year, taking into account, *inter alia*, financial resources available for this purpose in the Inter-American Convention Special Fund.
3. In general, members of the Scientific Committee shall conduct their work through electronic communication, tele/videoconferences, virtual fora and networks. The Secretariat shall facilitate these forms of communication, depending of the resources available for these purposes.
4. The Conference of Parties may request that the Scientific Committee convene an extraordinary meeting.
5. The Scientific Committee, to perform its tasks, may establish sub-committees or working groups, as appropriate.
6. The Chairman and/or Rapporteur of the Consultative Committee of Experts shall be invited to participate in the meetings of the Scientific Committee, as well as in the Conferences of the Parties.
7. The Scientific Committee may invite to its meetings any scientific institution or individual experts on matters pertaining to the objective of the Convention.



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Second Conference of the Parties

November, 16 – 18, 2004 – Isla de Margarita, Venezuela

8. Observers may participate in the meetings of the Scientific Committee, in accordance with Rule 11 of Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the Convention (Resolution COP1CIT-004).

CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

Members of the Scientific Committee of Experts shall maintain as reserved all information that they may have obtained or had access to during their tenure, which is categorized by the Parties as confidential. Likewise, they must abstain from using that information for objectives different or contrary to those established in the Convention.

Mazatlán, México, September, 2006