



MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION
between

**THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE
PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES**
and

STETSON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

The Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (hereafter IAC) and Stetson University College of Law (hereafter SUCOL) (hereafter jointly called “the Participants”),

ACKNOWLEDGING that the objective of the IAC is to promote the protection, conservation, and recovery of sea turtle populations and the habitats on which they depend, based on the best available scientific evidence, taking into account the environmental, socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the IAC Parties;

RECALLING that Article XII of the IAC text states that “Parties shall promote bilateral and multilateral cooperative activities to further the objective of this Convention”;

ACKNOWLEDGING that one of SUCOL’s core values is environmental responsibility and that this value is supported through its Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy, which serves as an interdisciplinary focal point for education, research, and service activities related to global, regional, and local biodiversity issues;

RECOGNIZING that SUCOL has contributed significantly to the work of the IAC Convention since 2011 and has hosted the meetings of the two IAC subsidiary bodies, including the 7th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts and the 16th Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee, and recognizing further that SUCOL students, faculty, and

staff have supported the work of the IAC Secretariat, by collecting a digital archive of the laws and regulations of all IAC Parties that are relevant to sea turtles, and that this information is currently available on the IAC web site;

ACKNOWLEDGING SUCOL's extensive experience contributing to other international entities, such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, through research and analysis of their implementation, and further acknowledging that SUCOL hosts every year the Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition, which highlights global environmental challenges including those associated with sea turtles, as it was the case in 2013–2014 when the competition focused on the topic of exceptions based on the IAC and the IAC Secretary served as a final round judge;

NOTING that IAC and SUCOL recognize the importance of integrating law and policy considerations into sea turtle conservation efforts;

RECOGNIZING that IAC and SUCOL will benefit from cooperation and collaboration in areas of mutual interest, and that this cooperation will enhance the conservation of sea turtles and their habitats;

DESIRING to put in place mechanisms to promote cooperation and enhance synergies and partnerships to achieve common goals;

Therefore, the IAC Secretariat and SUCOL JOINTLY agree to the following:

I. OBJECTIVE OF THIS MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

The objective of this Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) is to facilitate cooperation between the IAC and SUCOL ("the Participants") with a view to supporting efforts to maintain a favorable conservation status of sea turtles by integrating law, policy, and science considerations.

II. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The IAC and SUCOL intend to cooperate and collaborate on areas of common interest that are directly or indirectly relevant to the recovery and conservation of sea turtles, which may amongst others include:

- (a) SUCOL faculty, staff, Biodiversity Fellows, and other SUCOL students working under the direction of Stetson faculty to conduct research related to sea turtle

conservation, law, and policy, and compiling a periodic bibliography of scientific articles discussing the IAC or sea turtle related management and policies;

- (b) SUCOL advising on IAC Resolutions, including draft Resolutions, and analysis of their implementation by the Parties;
- (c) Hosting IAC Meetings at SUCOL, and participation of SUCOL students, faculty, and staff in IAC meetings as observers;
- (d) IAC Secretariat staff delivering guest lectures to SUCOL students;
- (e) IAC Secretariat and SUCOL providing each other with details of their annual workplans to identify possible areas of collaboration.

The extent to which the joint collaboration and conservation activities are implemented will be subject to the availability of resources.

III. REVIEW AND MODIFICATION

The implementation and results of this MoC may be evaluated every five (5) years to define actions for improvement, and it may be reviewed or modified at any time by the mutual written consent of both Participants. The modifications are to be done in writing, specifying the date they become effective.

IV. LEGAL STATUS

The Participants acknowledge that this MoC is not legally binding between them.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE AND DISCONTINUATION

- (a) Either Participant may discontinue this MoC by giving six months' written notice to the other Participant.
- (b) This MoC takes effect on signature on behalf of both Participants.

VI. SIGNATURE

Signed on the 9th of November 2022 in four originals, in English and Spanish languages,
both texts equally authentic.



Verónica Cáceres Chamorro
Secretary
IAC Secretariat



Theresa J. Pulley Radwan
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