



INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES (IAC)

REPORT OF THE 12th CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES IAC-COP12-2026-Doc.5

**LIMA, PERU
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**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF
SEA TURTLES(IAC)**

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IAC COP12 REPORT (2026) IAC-COP12-2026-Doc.5

Meeting: 12th Conference of the Parties (COP12) to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)

Meeting Location: Lima, Peru—Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs—Carlos García Bedoya Building

Date: June 30–July 3, 2026

COP12 Chair: Minister Julio Armando Reinoso, Director of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru.

Rapporteur: Giancarlo Fernando Ríos Cruz, Ministry of Production of Peru

Host: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru

ITEM 1. OFFICIAL OPENING AND WELCOME TO COP12

1. The 12th Conference of the Parties to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (COP12) was held in Lima, Peru, from June 30 to July 3, 2026, at the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs—Carlos García Bedoya Building.
2. The official opening was presided over by Ambassador Librado Augusto Orozco Zapata, Director General of Sovereignty, Boundaries, and Antarctic Affairs of the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Orozco welcomed the delegations in attendance, comprising representatives from 14 IAC Parties, and acknowledged the preparatory work carried out by the IAC Secretariat. He then noted that the conservation of sea turtles depends on cooperation among the countries of the Americas along their migratory routes. He also invited the Parties to address the agenda items in a constructive and results-oriented spirit, with the sincerity of those who share a common purpose and the agreements that can be accomplished together.
3. Ms. Verónica Cáceres Chamorro, Secretary of the IAC, expressed her gratitude to the hosts for their welcome in Lima, and, on the occasion of IAC's 25th anniversary, highlighted the organization's progress over the past 25 years, including an increase in the number of Contracting Parties from 8 to 16, the holding of 50 technical meetings, workshops, and exchanges that have strengthened knowledge and action on essential issues such as bycatch, the impact of climate change, monitoring of index beaches, the population status of six sea turtle species, the fight against illegal traffic of hawksbill turtle parts and products, and the adoption of IAC Resolutions that strengthen the protection of critically endangered species such as the Eastern Pacific leatherback turtle. She also noted that these efforts have helped build consensus between the fishing and environmental sectors to address threats that still persist, pointing out that 13 countries currently have national conservation plans, many of which were developed after joining IAC. She further noted that IAC has strengthened capacities, protected more than 150 index nesting beaches, and shared decades of experience, establishing itself as a bridge between science and public policy by bringing together governments, academia, civil society, and the fishing sector. Finally, the Secretary noted that the IAC is the mechanism that enables the coordination of local and regional efforts, thereby multiplying the impact of each country; and that maintaining this commitment will be essential for the next 25 years.

ITEM 2. INTRODUCTION OF THE IAC PARTIES DELEGATION’S MEMBERS, READING THE LIST OF OBSERVERS, AND QUORUM VERIFICATION

4. The delegations were introduced, confirming the quorum for COP12 with the attendance of 14 IAC Parties (Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, the United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, the Netherlands, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay). Next, representatives from the governments of observer countries—France and the observers accredited to the IAC from the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS)—were introduced. Finally, the list of accredited observers to IAC present was read as follows: Acorema, Prodelphinus, World Wildlife Fund Peru, the “Save the Blue Five” Project (GIZ), Stetson University, the Western Pacific Fisheries Council, the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law, and EcoOceanica, for a total of 47 participants. (Annex I – List of Participants, CIT-COP12-2026.Inf.1).

ITEM 3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ELECTION OF COP12 RAPPORTEUR

5. The agenda was adopted with the inclusion, under “Other Business,” of a one-minute of silence in memory of Dr. Félix Moncada Gavilán, a sea turtle expert from Cuba, at the request of the delegate from Panama, Mr. Marino Abrego. (Annex II – Agenda, Document IAC-COP12- 2026- Doc.1).
6. Peru proposed Mr. Giancarlo Fernando Ríos Cruz, a professional from the Ministry of Production (PRODUCE), as rapporteur for COP12.

Agreement: The inclusion of an agenda item on the third day of the COP was approved, regarding a minute of silence for Dr. Félix Moncada Gavilán, who was an extraordinary advocate for sea turtle conservation in Cuba.

Agreement: Giancarlo Fernando Ríos Cruz of the Peruvian Ministry of Production was ratified to serve as COP12 rapporteur.

ITEM 4. SECRETARIAT REPORT FOR THE 2024–2026 PERIOD: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PLAN

7. Ms. Verónica Cáceres, Secretary of the IAC, presented her activity report in accordance with the Work Plan for the past biennium (Annex III—IAC Work Plan Implementation Report 2024–2026, Document IAC-COP12-2026-Inf.2). The presentation outlined the progress made on tasks assigned by the Parties and concluded by highlighting that in the IAC Annual Report the Secretariat received recent requests from Contracting Parties to include new index beaches in the report. The Secretariat gave a brief presentation on the selection criteria for an index beach and advised the Parties to exercise care in the selection process by using the criteria recommended by the IAC in Technical Document IAC-CC10-2013-Tec.5, “Selection of Index Beaches in the IAC Region and Guidelines for Data Collection.” Additionally, the Secretariat reported that the IAC currently has 150 index beaches. Finally, it detailed the cooperation activities carried out under memoranda of Understanding with other international organizations, such as the IATTC, the CPPS, and Stetson University College of Law.
8. The delegates from the Contracting Parties expressed their gratitude and recognition for the work carried out by the Secretariat with limited resources and a staff of just one person. In this regard, the following comments were made:

-Panama: Emphasized the valuable report presented by the Secretariat. It also highlighted the Secretariat's work, done by a single person, noting that her work is relevant to the ongoing efforts for sea turtle conservation in the Contracting Parties.

-Peru: Echoed Panama's comments and highlighted the work of the Secretariat. The results of the working groups are the outcome of the countries' collective efforts.

-The United States of America: Commended the Convention's efforts and highlighted the collaborative efforts that can yield results. It emphasized the work of the IAC Secretariat.

-Costa Rica: shares the views expressed by the three delegations and emphasizes that the Secretariat's work has become more complex and demanding due to insufficient staffing.

ITEM 5. PRESENTATION BY THE HOST COUNTRY

9. Ms. Jennifer Chauca, from IMARPE, presented "Progress in the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles in Peru," citing the following as key implementation achievements: the approval in 2021 of the Regulations for the Management of the Peruvian Sea Turtles, which require that at least one crew member on board be trained in the safe release of sea turtles; the approval of the Leatherback Turtle Safe Handling and Release Program, which has resulted in the safe release to the ocean of 60 leatherback turtles; the implementation of the bycatch mitigation program; the publication of the Manual of Best Practices for the Management of Tourism Services for Sea Turtle Observation along the Peruvian Coast, promoting sustainable tourism that minimizes impacts on these species and their habitats.

10. Mr. Marco Antonio Arenas from the National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR), presented the "Implementation of the National Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in Peru," highlighting the results achieved between 2024 and 2026 in fulfilling the conservation actions established under the five objectives of the aforementioned national plan, for 5 of the 7 species of sea turtles that exist worldwide and exist in Peruvian waters. Information was also presented on the establishment of critical habitats—nesting areas for the sea turtle species *Chelonia mydas* and *Lepidochelys olivacea* in Piura and Tumbes.

11. The Secretariat and the delegations from Chile and Brazil commended Peru's efforts. The following comments were made:

-Secretariat: noted that the progress made by Peru since 2019—the year the National Conservation Plan was created—is significant, and that IAC supported that process.

-Chile: congratulated Peru on the implementation of the National Plan. It commended the collaborative efforts between public and private institutions. It posed the following question to Peru: "*What is the most difficult aspect of raising awareness among artisanal fishermen about sea turtle conservation?*"

-Peru: noted that the work of nongovernmental organizations has been able to reach communities. They do so through the children in these communities, so that this message can be conveyed to their parents, who are involved in fishing activities.

-Brazil emphasized that the rescue and safe release to the ocean of 60 leatherback sea turtles is highly significant, as this is a critically endangered species and it makes the achievement particularly important, and congratulated Peru on this accomplishment.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

ITEM 6. RESOLUTION PROPOSAL TO MODIFY THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE IAC SUBSIDIARY BODIES

12. The Chair of COP12, Minister Julio Armando Reinoso, began the discussion of the “Terms of Reference for the Subsidiary Bodies of the IAC—Document IAC-COP12-2026-R2,” noting that the intent of the changes to the original text of the Terms of Reference for the Subsidiary Bodies of the IAC, which date from 2011, is to include a mechanism for selecting the Sectoral Representatives of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) and to specify the functions of the chair and vice chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies; and that the document has received comments only from the U.S. delegation, so these will be addressed first. The U.S. delegate, Ms. Ann Marie Lauritzen, indicated that her comments are general suggestions for improving the wording and do not alter the meaning of the document. Peru, Argentina, the United States, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Brazil, and Uruguay offered drafting suggestions to improve the text. Subsequently, the COP12 Chair asked the plenary to review the procedure for selecting Sectoral Representatives—from the scientific, industry/productive, and NGO sectors. Costa Rica requested an amendment clarifying that the COP Chair and observers may not participate in the selection process for Sectoral Representatives, and granting the Chair and Vicechair of the IAC’s subsidiary bodies the opportunity to participate in this process, provided that very often they are the heads of their country’s delegations present at the COP. Text was also included stating that alternate Sectoral Representatives will be invited to participate in CCE meetings.
13. **Agreement:** The Resolution on the Terms of Reference for the IAC Subsidiary Bodies (Document IAC-COP12-2026-R2) was approved by the COP12 plenary. (Annex IV—Document IAC-COP12-2026-R2)

ITEM 7. REPORT ON THE OVERVIEW OF THE IAC’S FINANCIAL SITUATION AND THE CURRENT STATUS OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE PARTIES

14. The report was presented by Ms. Gina Digiantonio on behalf of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF), which manages the IAC’s funds (Annex V—Document IAC-COP12-2026-Inf.3). She noted that, while the projected budget through the end of 2026 remains precarious, and the remaining funds from previous years will allow the IAC to operate at a basic level in 2026 and 2027. This is due to the fact that the IAC’s expenditures have been slow and the Secretariat has been mindful of cost-saving measures, owing to several years of virtual meetings of the Scientific and Consultative Committees instead of in-person meetings (since 2015), and to an intermittent ability to fill the IAC technical assistant position. Because of this current situation of limited financial viability, it would not be possible to cover the budget for all activities in 2027; therefore, document IAC-COP12-2026-Inf.3 presented three (03) scenarios for increasing the budget available under the Convention, which would allow for the implementation of activities in 2027 and end that year with a budget available for operations in 2028. The NMSF indicated that Scenario C—“Contributions Made by All States Parties as in the Past”—presents a situation in which States contribute at the same level as in 2026. This scenario would provide enough funds to operate during

the 2027 calendar year, but there would not be enough funds for the IAC to remain viable throughout 2028, and the IAC would have to consider ceasing operations in early 2028. This could be extended slightly if the IAC operates on a minimal “skeleton” budget rather than the fully approved budget. Based on historical experience with the IAC, the NMSF observes that Scenario “C” is the most likely. The NMSF states that if the IAC’s Member States act proactively now and resolve the current uncertainty regarding financial support, the IAC may continue to receive the financial contributions necessary to sustain its modest operations. The Foundation, in presenting the lowest-risk scenario, recommends following Scenario “C” as the most likely outcome if funding continues at its current level and uncertainty persists regarding contributions from all State Parties. The scenarios discussed are found in document IAC-COP12-2026-Inf.3, along with recommendations proposed by the NMSF to improve the IAC’s financial situation, which are summarized here:

- Increase Parties contribution goals to cover the \$65,000 shortfall previously covered by the USFWS grant, which is no longer be available starting in 2025. To increase contributions by \$65,000, each Party would need to contribute \$3,611 per year.
- Review the minimum annual contributions on a regular basis (at least every 5 years) and adjust them in line with increases in the cost of living.
- Catch up on pending annual contributions from previous years.
- The Parties should make their contributions at the beginning of the calendar year (no later than March 2027), so that the Secretariat can plan the year’s activities.
- Determine priorities within the IAC budget.
- Help alleviate the IAC’s operating budget by providing support for organizing meetings of subsidiary bodies or for the travel of delegates to in-person meetings.
- Alternate in-person meetings of the Scientific Committee and/or consider holding in-person meetings every two years.
- Consider providing to the Secretariat a dedicated technical assistant from one of the Parties. This cost is included in the financial projections beginning in July 2026.

15. The delegate from Panama, Mr. Marino Abrego, informed the plenary of Panama’s increase in its annual contribution to the IAC to \$5,000, effective as of 2026. The Secretariat confirmed that it has already received this contribution.
16. The delegate from Peru, Mr. Alberto Soto, reported that efforts are underway to increase Peru’s annual contribution to \$5,000 USD in 2027.
17. The Chair of COP12, Minister Julio Reinoso, noted that it is important to notice the NMSF’s recommendations in document IAC-COP12-2026-Inf.3 regarding the payment of pending annual contributions, and he called on the Parties to make every effort to pay their contributions at the beginning of the year or before the end of the first quarter of each year. He also proposed that the Parties cover certain costs, such as the travel expenses of delegates to Convention meetings. He also called for a careful review of each of the scenarios presented by NMSF, noting that there is a risk of a situation arising in which the IAC’s financial sustainability would not be viable by 2028, and that the Parties should strive to avoid this outcome.

ITEM 8. REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE IAC SECRETARIAT (LEGAL-WG) AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE IAC

18. Mr. Rotney Piedra, delegate from Costa Rica and Coordinator of the Legal Working Group, presented a summary of the Working Group's activities. (Annex VI – Document IAC- COP12-2026-Doc.2). He noted that as of 2026, the Legal Working Group had held at least 15 meetings during which important issues regarding the operation of the IAC Secretariat had been addressed; this Working Group has proposed solutions through draft resolutions on IAC finances presented at COP10, COP11, and the one currently under consideration at COP12. He noted that the finance subgroup of this Working Group identified four financial mechanisms to support the IAC Special Fund (annual contributions from the Parties, in-kind contributions from the Parties, fundraising from other sources, and exploring the possibility of increasing annual contributions). Mr. Piedra highlighted the need for the Parties to review the recommendations presented by the NMSF to improve the IAC's financial sustainability. He noted that the fact remains that not all countries contribute to the IAC and called for the necessary steps to be taken to resolve this situation. He emphasized the need to review the minimum annual contribution of \$2,000 USD, which has not changed in 20 years, and is not in line with the increase in the cost of living, as noted by NMSF. Mr. Piedra invited the Parties to analyze and discuss the recommendations on the financial mechanisms proposed to COP12 by the Legal Working Group, as contained in document IAC-COP12-2026-Doc.2.
19. The head of the Brazilian delegation, Mr. Ricardo Serrano, indicated that Brazil continues with the process of internal consultations with its government to establish a legal basis for making regular contributions to the IAC. The delegate indicated that he hopes to find a solution to this situation sooner rather than later.
20. Regarding in-kind contributions, the Brazilian delegate's advisor, Mr. Joao Thome, indicated that he has authorization from the Chico Méndez Institute to inform COP12 that its office for project proposals drafting is available to the IAC to develop GEF-style project proposals, and that the Espírito Santo Foundation can also provide support in drafting project proposals aimed at supporting the financial sustainability of the IAC Secretariat.
21. The delegate from Argentina, Mr. Diego González, suggested changes to the text proposed by the Legal Working Group for the Financial Resolution so that, instead of the word "urge" the Focal Points from Parties that have not contributed to date to "exhaustively explore mechanisms to ensure that the contribution to the IAC is included in their country's annual budget," the word "invite" be used instead, since the country considers that it exceeds the organization's authority to request explanations regarding the preparation of countries' annual budgets.
22. **Agreement:** To include an activity in the work plan of the Consultative Committee of Experts under the responsibility of the Working Group on Fundraising for the Operation of IAC Secretariat and Projects, that this Working Group, with the support of the Project Unit of the Chico Méndez Institute of Brazil and the Espírito Santo Foundation, will prepare project proposals to provide financial support for the operation of the IAC and its Secretariat. It was agreed that the WG on Fundraising for the Operation of IAC Secretariat and Projects will be coordinated by the delegate from Brazil to the Consultative Committee.

ITEM 9. RESOLUTION ON IAC FINANCES AND THE 2028–2030 BUDGET

23. The Chair provided background information on the Finances Resolution on Finances (Annex VII – Document IAC-COP12-2026-R1) prepared by the Legal Working Group and the Secretariat, noting that the new text follows the recommendations made by the Legal Working Group in its report and incorporates the edits proposed by the United States during the review period; the Chair invited the plenary to offer any further comments or edits.
24. U.S. delegate Ann Marie Lauritzen, following up on the NMSF's recommendations, suggested prioritizing activities in the IAC budget and proposed allocating funds for in-person meetings of the Scientific Committee to be held every other year. Another priority is the contract for the Secretary's assistant. She noted that the total amount of contributions from the Parties indicated in Annex III of the Finance Resolution is not even remotely close to the projected budget that IAC needs for each year from 2028 to 2030, as indicated in Annex II of the proposed Resolution, and this is a matter of concern that must be addressed. She reiterated that the priorities in the Annex II budget are: the Scientific Committee meeting, the contract of an assistant for the Secretariat, and the organization of the COP meetings.
25. The Costa Rican delegation requested that the 2028–2030 budget be reviewed and that the cost for the Scientific Committee meeting be adjusted to include two virtual meetings and one in-person meeting prior to the COP. The Secretariat was requested to make this adjustment and present it to the COP.
26. The delegate from Mexico, Mr. Adolfo Zepeda, noted that, based on the report from the Marine Sanctuaries Foundation, the budget should be revised to bring the figures closer to the amount of funds expected to be available by the end of 2026.
27. The Chair agrees that there is a considerable difference between the projected budget and what the Parties contribute, and suggests taking up the Marine Sanctuaries Foundation's (NMSF) suggestion regarding the need to increase annual contributions to the IAC.
28. The Chair invited the Secretariat to describe each budget line item to provide more context to the Parties, and subsequently instructed the Secretariat to make adjustments to the budget in accordance with the requests made during the plenary session by the delegations from Mexico, Costa Rica, and the United States. The Chair continues with the analysis of the text of the Resolution while the adjustments to the budget are being made.
29. The delegate from Guatemala, Ms. Airam López, reported that it took Guatemala some time to bring their annual contributions to the IAC up to date, but that now the country has been making them regularly for the past three years. She called on the delegations at the COP to take the necessary administrative and diplomatic steps in their countries to ensure that contributions are made and to negotiate a gradual increase in contributions within their respective countries.
30. The delegate from Argentina, Mr. Diego González, requested that the paragraph in the Finances Resolution urging Parties to pay pending contributions be deleted.

31. The delegate from Chile, Ms. Lezlie Bustos, requested an explanation for the request to remove the text. She noted that this provision is important for the Parties to plan and activate their internal mechanisms so that the IAC receives the financial contributions, as these contributions are essential to implement the work plans of the Scientific and Consultative Committees. The delegate from Guatemala asked the Argentine delegation to propose alternative text so that they could work on it.
32. Argentina stated that contributions are voluntary in nature and that the text should be adapted accordingly.
33. Chile explained its country's interpretation of the contributions: the amount a country decides to contribute is voluntary, once that amount is adopted in the IAC Finances Resolution, it becomes the country's responsibility to make the contribution specified in Annex III of the IAC Finances Resolution.
34. Argentina agreed not to delete the paragraph and proposed replacing the word "urge" with "invite" in the Resolution. This was approved by the plenary. The Chilean delegation thanked Argentina for its support in proposing text for the Finances Resolution that will allow them to move forward at the national level to strengthen the financial support for the IAC.
35. The United States proposed to discuss the suggestion made by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) regarding the increase in the annual contribution and suggested to add a column to Annex III of the Finances Resolution including the suggested contribution goal based on the figures proposed by NMSF in its report, with the aim of encouraging the Parties to consider reaching this suggested amount.
36. Chile noted that the United States' suggestion may be difficult to implement, as each country voluntarily determined its own contribution, which is reflected in Annex III of the Finances Resolution.
37. The Secretary presented the revised budget to the plenary; the changes reduce the budgets for the Scientific Committee meeting, COP meeting, translations, and Secretariat official travel. The U.S. indicated that the budget for official travel should be increased, and the adjustment was made.
38. **Agreement:** The Scientific Committee will hold two virtual meetings and one in-person meeting during the 2028–2030 period, and language was included stating that, should budgetary improvements occur, the Scientific Committee meetings may be held in person.
39. Brazil proposed holding the Scientific Committee meeting in Brazil. Brazil offered to cover the costs of meals and hotel accommodation for the Scientific Committee delegates.
40. The COP12 Chair invited the Parties to reflect on the Marine Sanctuaries report, which highlights IAC's fragile financial situation, and drew attention to Scenario C of that report, urging them to

share this information with their respective countries to help them take measures to improve the situation.

41. The COP12 Chair invited Parties to review of Annex III of the Finances Resolution, which sets forth the amounts of the Parties' contributions, and invited the Parties to make any adjustments they deem appropriate. The delegation from Panama announced an increase in its contribution to \$5,000 USD beginning in 2026. The delegation from Peru announced an increase in its contribution to \$5,000 USD starting in 2027.
42. **Agreement:** The COP12 plenary adopted the IAC 2028–2030 Finance Resolution (Annex VII – Document IAC-COP12-2026-R1).

SIDE EVENT ORGANIZED BY THE PERUVIAN SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (SPDA): “Actions to Promote Responsible Coexistence with Sea Turtles in Peru”

The COP12 Chair invited delegations to participate in the Side Event organized by the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law: **“Actions to Promote Responsible Coexistence with Sea Turtles in Peru”**. The event highlighted progress and experiences in Peru aimed at strengthening sea turtle conservation through an approach that integrates public management, the legal framework, animal welfare, scientific research, and citizen participation. SERFOR presented progress on the implementation of the 2019–2029 National Sea Turtle Conservation Plan, highlighting the identification of critical habitats for green and olive ridley sea turtle nesting areas in the northern part of the country, as well as the development of technical criteria for responsible recreational observation of marine wildlife. The SPDA outlined the legal and technical challenges to ensuring effective protection of sea turtles, emphasizing the need for specific, operational, and enforceable regulations to address threats such as bycatch, habitat loss and disturbance, illegal trade, and not careful tourist interactions. There was also a presentation on the animal welfare approach as key elements for assessing impacts on sea turtles, including stress, physical harm, and behavioral changes of the animal. The NGO EcOceánica shared their experience in research, nesting beach monitoring, and citizen science, highlighting the importance of generating ongoing data to identify priority conservation areas, main threats and strengthen coordination among SERFOR, SPDA, EcOceánica, and other public, academic, and local entities involved in sea turtle conservation in Peru, promoting concrete measures for the protection of critical habitats, the responsible management of tourist interactions, the reduction of threats, and generation of scientific information to inform public policies.

43. The COP12 delegations attended the welcome reception hosted by the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which took place at the Torre Tagle Palace—Ambassadors' Hall.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES: THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

ITEM 10. REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS (CCE)

44. Mr. Santos R. Hernández, Chair of the CCE, joined the meeting by videoconference from Mexico and presented the Report on the Implementation of the CCE Work Plan, detailing the activities for

the 2024–2026 biennium (Annex III – Document IAC-COP12-2026-Inf.2), noting that the biennial work plan includes 27 activities; of these, 14 were implemented. Activities included the EPO (Eastern Pacific Ocean) Leatherback WG, the Atlantic Leatherback WG, the Terms of Reference Working Group, collaboration with international entities and strategic partnerships—that included the signing of a Letter of Intent with the SPAW Protocol, collaboration with Stetson University on the Technical Paper to be presented at COP 12 titled “The Indispensable Role of the IAC,” and the preparation and review of the draft resolutions submitted for consideration to COP 12. Meanwhile, 6 activities remain in the implementation phase within the Fisheries WG and the Exceptions WG.

45. The Secretariat noted that the work of the CCE is very important, as it prepares and/or reviews draft resolutions containing the recommendations from the IAC the working groups and the Scientific Committee, which are then submitted to the Conference of the Parties for consideration. She also noted that Brazil and Mexico are delegations that have kept their representatives on the CCE almost since the beginning of the IAC; they are an important institutional memory for the Convention. Brazil’s Consultative delegate, Mr. Joao Thome, commended the good work carried out by the CCE Chair, in monitoring and promoting the implementation of the CCE’s work plan.

ITEM 11. REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC)

46. Ms. Lezlie Camila Bustos, Chair of the SC, presented the Report on the Implementation of the SC’s 2024–2026 Work Plan (Annex III—Document IAC-COP12-2026-Inf.2). This committee has 33 activities classified in the report according to their level of progress (green, yellow, and red), and these are carried out by the 12 working groups within the Scientific Committee. Among the activities implemented by the SC are an analysis of *Lepidochelys olivacea* nesting data in response to a request from Honduras; an update of the list of index beaches in IAC countries; an update of the regional report on the implementation of the TEDs; the organization of the activity with the Fibropapilloma Working Group for Sea Turtle Day; preparation of a technical document on the status of the green sea turtle population in the IAC region, a review of the implementation of the Exceptions Resolution, and the preparation of three technical documents that have been submitted to COP12 on the impact of Sargassum, electronic monitoring of fisheries, and the impact of fibropapillomatosis in the IAC region. The SC Chair highlighted the important work of the Working Groups, which address the COP’s requests and meet virtually throughout the year to carry out the work plan.
47. The delegate from the United States inquired about the progress of the report on the analysis of bycatch data in longline fisheries. In this regard, the SC Chair noted that in recent years, the number of countries submitting their information in the IAC Annual Report has decreased; this is a matter of data availability, not of the committee’s analysis of the information. The Secretariat noted that SC members have reported that in some cases it is difficult to obtain information on longline fisheries or other fisheries, as this information is in possession of the countries’ fisheries agencies; and although the IAC Focal Points request the information from their fisheries agencies, they do not always receive it.
48. The Secretariat emphasized that the Scientific Committee makes a big effort to prepare the IAC Technical Documents presented at the COP; at COP 12 alone, four Technical Documents are being presented. IAC does not hire consultants to carry out this work; everything is prepared by the

delegates appointed by the countries to the committees. This is a unique and highly valuable aspect that distinguishes the work and dedication of the colleagues who make up IAC's subsidiary bodies, and it is supported by the leadership of the Chairs of the Committees.

ITEM 12. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SCIENTIFIC AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AND PRESENTATION OF TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS

49. Technical Document: Current and Potential Implications of Sargassum for the IAC Region (Pre-recorded presentation)

Mr. Didiher Chacón, Costa Rica's delegate to the IAC Scientific Committee and coordinator of the Sargassum Working Group, presented the Technical Document IAC-CC21-2026-Tec.26. The presentation addressed the factors contributing to the increase in Sargassum, its impacts on ecosystem, social, economic, and environmental services, as well as recommendations for the comprehensive management of the problem: developing regional mechanisms to address the Sargassum problem; leveraging existing initiatives, protocols, manuals, and other tools (cleanup, cost estimates, impact assessments, etc.); regional standardization of procedures for Sargassum management; technologies (prevention, monitoring, and cleanup); and the utilization, valorization, and research of Sargassum. (Annex VIII: Technical Document IAC-CC21-2026- Tec.26. Link on the IAC website).

50. Comments from the plenary:

- Costa Rica and Brazil: request that the Sargassum Working Group prioritize the actions included in the technical document and focus on advising countries that are directly affected.
- United States: recommended collaborating with the SPAW protocol to exchange information on Sargassum from the perspective of sea turtles.
- Panama: Noted that the situation in the Caribbean waters off Panama has been monitored for the past two years and pointed out that the presence of Sargassum has not only increased but also begins earlier in the year (December) and lasts for several months. Its impact has been felt primarily in tourist areas, ports, and leatherback turtle nesting beaches. She also mentioned that the Sarmarin Project aims to address the massive influxes of Sargassum and strengthen combined (regional and local) response mechanisms to this problem.

51. The Chair of the Scientific Committee recommended that the Sargassum Working Group be included in the Scientific Committee's work plan to prioritize the 13 recommendations from the Technical Document IAC-CC21-2024-Tec.26, with the aim of identifying those that the affected countries can feasibly begin to implement.

52. **Agreement:** The plenary requested the inclusion of an activity in the Scientific Committee's work plan to continue implementing the recommendations in Technical Document IAC-CC21-2024-Tec.26, and the Scientific Committee's Sargassum Working Group is instructed to prioritize the recommendations in the document and to provide these recommendations to facilitate implementation in IAC member countries affected by this issue.

53. Technical Document: Electronic Monitoring Systems in Fisheries for the Conservation of Sea Turtles (Pre-Recorded presentation)

The Coordinator of the Scientific Committee's Strategic Alliances Working Group, Ms. Laura Prosdocimi, presented Technical Document IAC-CC22-2025-Tec.27, noting that the document was prepared with participation from the Working Group members from Argentina, Chile, Peru, Mexico, the United States, and the IAC Secretariat; and explained that the process used to develop it was based on experiences with electronic monitoring in Chile, the United States, and Peru. This Technical Document is provided to the IAC Parties as a guide containing recommendations and guidelines to support IAC member countries that wish to strengthen their existing systems or implement electronic monitoring systems for their fisheries, taking into account the collection of valuable information for monitoring bycatch of sea turtles and the application of best practices for the management of incidentally caught sea turtles. (Annex IX— Technical Document IAC-CC22-2025-Tec.27. Link available on the IAC website).

54. La The delegate from Chile noted that the technical document presented is based on the IAC Resolution on mitigating the adverse impact of fisheries on sea turtles and recommends guidelines for electronic monitoring based on six pillars: participatory governance, tactical deployment, collective intelligence, economic sustainability, operational excellence, and security and ethics. In this regard, the Chair of COP12 noted that the recommendations presented to the Parties do not require approval in the plenary session but should instead be continuously reviewed and implemented in accordance with national regulations.

55. **Agreement:** IAC Parties are recommended to use the guidelines from Technical Document Electronic Monitoring Systems in Fisheries for the Conservation of Sea Turtles (CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.27) as appropriate for each country.

56. Technical Document: Fibropapilloma in Sea Turtles in the IAC Region. (Pre-Recorded presentation)

The technical document IAC-CC22-2025-Tec.28 was presented by Ms. Virginia Ferrando of the Uruguayan NGO Karumbe, coordinator of the Scientific Committee's Fibropapilloma Working Group, which was established in 2024 in response to a request from the Netherlands at COP11. The technical document outlines the definition of fibropapillomatosis (FP), its significance as a threat to sea turtle conservation, its diagnosis, treatment, and prevalence in IAC member countries. To this end, a questionnaire was sent to the Parties and other collaborating countries in the region to gather information on the presence of this disease, resulting in 19 reports. Among the most relevant findings is that the green sea turtle is the most affected species, though there are also cases in hawksbill sea turtles. Furthermore, the United States and Brazil have the highest number of recorded cases, and at least 15 countries have reported at least one case of FP; of all the countries that completed the questionnaire, FP is present in 14 IAC members. Finally, the following management recommendations were presented: isolating turtles with fibropapilloma from those without tumors in rehabilitation centers; using dedicated medical instruments, gloves, and face masks; using sanitary mats; and disinfecting tanks between individuals, among others. (Annex X—Technical Document IAC-CC22-2025-Tec.28).

57. The Chair of the Scientific Committee noted that Technical Document IAC-CC22-2025-Tec.28 was prepared at the request of the Netherlands and that the Working Group has successfully completed this assignment. She indicated that the document provides technical recommendations in four areas. She noted that the plan for the implementing organizations has a 5-year timeframe,

comprising an immediate phase, an intermediate phase, and a medium-term phase. Additionally, the following comments were received from the plenary:

- Peru's advisor, Ms. Jennifer Chauca of IMARPE, shared her experience as a member in the Fibropapilloma Working Group and the Electronic Monitoring Working Group, expressing gratitude for the learning opportunity, the coordination among members of each group, and the time each member invested in preparing the technical documents so that they may be useful for IAC countries' decision-making processes for the conservation of sea turtles.
- The Secretary noted that this Working Group made every effort to respond to the request made by the Netherlands at COP11 to prepare this Technical Document, and the Working Group is recognized for this work.
- The United States supports the first recommended action in the Technical Document—reducing pollution from agricultural pesticides—as it is a positive step for the sea turtle community. The delegate recommended that the WG review the information the United States has gathered on fibropapillomatosis and the natural regression of the disease, which must be monitored. Furthermore, she noted the significant collaboration that has emerged within the Fibropapilloma WG, which is also facilitated by IAC.
- Brazil noted that it is important to consider developing a protocol for managing individuals with fibropapilloma. The delegate inquired whether the IAC Annual Report includes questions about individuals with this disease, and if not, whether such information should be collected.

58. The Scientific Committee Chair recommended including questions about Fibropapilloma in the IAC Annual Report to assist the Fibropapilloma WG in gathering information to update disease monitoring in the IAC region every 5 years. It was recommended that this activity be included in the Scientific Committee's Work Plan.

59. **Agreement:** The recommendations in Technical Document IAC-CC22-2025-Tec.28 are adopted, and the Scientific Committee is requested to update the document every 5 years.

60. **Agreement:** The Scientific Committee is requested to include in its work plan for the Fibropapilloma Working Group an assessment of the need to include questions in the IAC Annual Report on Fibropapilloma for use in updating the technical document every 5 years. If necessary, the Working Group will propose questions for the IAC Annual Report to be presented to the Consultative Committee.

61. Report of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Working Group (Document IAC-COP12-2026-Inf.4) (Pre-Recorded presentation).

The presentation was given by Mr. Manuel Rodríguez Barón, co-coordinator of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Working Group, who began by noting that this species is critically endangered, with a 90% decline in nesting females since 1980. He then presented the results of the assessment, which was conducted through a survey of non-governmental organizations' contributions to the implementation of the IAC Resolution on the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle, with the aim of identifying progress and gaps and generating recommendations to strengthen the conservation of the Eastern Pacific leatherback turtle. Among the findings, it was noted that information from nongovernmental organizations was

collected through a survey involving 13 NGOs from Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, and Peru. The recommendations to the Contracting Parties are: (1) to prioritize strategic actions under the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle Resolution; (2) to strengthen data collection; (3) strengthen the participation and coordination of NGOs with decision-makers; and (4) ensure that the information generated by NGOs is included in the IAC Annual Report (Annex XI—Document IAC-COP12-2026-Inf.4).

62. Chair of the Scientific Committee noted that the presentation by the EPO Leatherback Working Group is for informational purposes. It is an assessment of the IAC Resolution on the Conservation of the EPO Leatherback, adopted by the COP five years ago, and calls on the Parties to review the report's recommendations to strengthen those areas that the Working Group has highlighted as needing improved implementation. The following comments were done by the plenary:

-The Secretary noted that this Working Group is carrying out the task assigned to it in the EPO Leatherback Resolution, and their recommendations will be presented to COP13.

-The United States noted that the EPO Leatherback WG is one of the most important, as the species has the most severely affected populations and it is critically endangered. Many of the projects supporting the conservation of this subpopulation in the EPO have recently lost their funding; therefore, she urged the Parties to continue promoting projects aimed at the conservation of the EPO leatherback turtle.

63. **Agreement:** COP12 took note of the recommendations in the report of the EPO Leatherback Working Group (document IAC-COP12-2026-Inf.4).

ITEM 13. WORK PLAN OF THE SECRETARIAT AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES 2026–2028

64. The Secretariat presented the Work Plan for 2026–2028, contained in document IAC-COP12-2026-Doc.4. The work plan includes the following topics: IAC Membership; Communication and Capacity Building; Collaboration with International Organizations and Strategic Partnerships; Financial Resources; Organization of Meetings; Permanent Secretariat; Resolutions and Recommendations for the COP; Annual Report; and IAC Work Plan Update.

65. **Agreement:** The Secretariat's Work Plan for 2026–2028 was adopted by the COP12 plenary. (Annex XII – Document IAC-COP12-2026-Doc.4).

66. The Vice Chair of the Consultative Committee, Ms. Airam López, delegate from Guatemala, presented the Work Plan of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) contained in document IAC-COP12-2026-Doc.4. The Work Plan includes the following topics: Exceptions, Eastern Pacific Leatherback, Northwest Atlantic Leatherback, Fisheries interactions with sea turtles, IAC Annual Report, Collaboration with International Organizations and Strategic Alliances, Resolutions Proposals for the COP, Technical Documents, Directory of Experts, IAC Newsletter, Communication Strategy, Work Plan Update, and the Fundraising Working Group. The following are the comments from the plenary:

- Brazil agreed to be the coordinator of the Fundraising Working Group, the Consultative Committee's Work Plan will be amended to change the name of the working group to: "Fundraising for the Operation of the IAC Secretariat and Projects," and specific activities

were included for this WG to carry out during the next biennium; the first is that, with support from the FES Foundation (Fundación Espíritu Santo), the WG will submit to the Consultative Committee a project proposal for financial support for the operation of the IAC Secretariat.

- Costa Rica requested that the IAC–CPPS Collaboration WG includes in the Consultative Committee’s work plan the task of developing a work plan for the implementation of the IAC–CPPS Memorandum of Understanding. It also noted that, although activities have been underway, they have not been formalized through a work plan. In this regard, the work plan should also be agreed upon in consultation with the CPPS Secretariat.

67. **Agreement:** The Work Plan of the Consultative Committee of Experts was adopted by the COP12 plenary. It was agreed to remove from the Work Plan those activities that have already been implemented and to include the activities suggested by Brazil and Costa Rica in the Fundraising Working Group and the IAC-CPPS Working Group. (Annex XII—Document IAC-COP12-2026-Doc.4).

68. The Chair of the IAC Scientific Committee, Lezlie Camila Bustos, and delegate from Chile, presented the Scientific Committee’s (SC) Work Plan contained in document IAC-COP12-2026-Doc.4. The Work Plan includes the following topics: Exceptions, Fisheries interactions with sea turtles, Conservation Status of Index Beaches, Climate Change, Eastern Pacific Leatherback, Conservation Status of Sea Turtles, Collaboration with International Organizations and Strategic Alliances, IAC Annual Report, Fibropapilloma, Capacity Building, Recommendations for the COP, Technical Documents, IAC Bulletin, Directory of Experts, and Work Plan Update. The following comments were made by the plenary:

-Guatemala commented on their next steps regarding the management plan for its Exception; Guatemala will submit the updated management plan to the Scientific Committee for final review.

-Peru requested that an activity be added to the Fisheries Working Group: the organization of a workshop to disseminate the best practices manual and the field guide sheets with best practices for fishermen. This activity was added to the Scientific Committee’s work plan, and it is dependent on the availability of funds.

-Brazil noted that the most challenging issue to address is the mitigation of bycatch in fisheries; data on this topic are difficult to obtain and manage. Fisheries authorities should be encouraged to provide data in the IAC Annual Report to help make progress on this issue.

69. **Agreement:** The Scientific Committee’s Work Plan was adopted by the COP12. It was agreed to remove from the Work Plan those activities that have already been implemented. Follow-up activities were included for the Sargassum WG, the Fibropapilloma WG, and the Fisheries WG. (Annex XII—Document IAC-COP12-2026-Doc.4).

ITEM 14. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND REPORT ON IAC MEMBERSHIP

70. “*Safeguarding Sea Turtles: The Indispensable Role of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles*” (Technical Document IAC-CCE19-2026-Tec.29). Dr. Katherine Pratt, Foreman Biodiversity Fellow at Stetson University, School of Law, presented the Technical Document that Stetson University developed under the Memorandum of Collaboration with IAC and in support of the Consultative Committee of Experts, which had been tasked by COP11 with preparing a document detailing the history of IAC and its operations to serve as informational material for promoting engagement with countries that are not members of IAC. The document includes a historical overview of IAC from its inception in 2002, the Convention’s objective, and its organizational structure, highlighting its significance as the only legally binding treaty dedicated exclusively to the conservation of sea turtles in the Western Hemisphere. The document contains information provided by members of the Consultative Committee on their countries’ achievements in implementing the IAC, as well as information from the IAC’s Annual Reports. Among the Convention’s main achievements, the following are highlighted: (i) supported efforts to recover sea turtle populations; (ii) regional data collection and monitoring; (iv) capacity building; and (v) technical documents with scientific recommendations to inform decision-making. In this regard, it was noted that the Parties can use the technical document to highlight the importance of maintaining financial support so that IAC operations can continue and regional membership can grow. Likewise, decision-makers should prioritize sustained budgetary support and seek to increase their contributions. These regional efforts in sea turtle conservation depend on greater action by IAC member countries; therefore, it is important to keep the Convention in force and seek the participation of more countries as IAC members in order to broaden the scope of the Convention’s measures. (Annex XIII—Technical Document IAC-CCE19-2026-Tec.29). Link on the IAC website.
71. The COP12 Chair invited the Parties to review the Technical Document. Brazil noted that it had contributed information to the document regarding new legislation that established a ban on shrimp trawling to coincide with the nesting season of *L. olivacea* and protect the species.
72. Argentina requested that the Falkland Islands be indicated on the map of IAC Contracting Parties using the same color as the other Contracting Parties. The United States stated that their delegation currently has no instructions to adopt this change and that they would need to consult with capital. The COP12 Chair proposed removing the map from Technical Document IAC-CCE19-2026-Tec.29 and only the names of the IAC Contracting Parties will be left in order to adopt the Technical Document at the COP. This proposal was accepted by the plenary.
73. The COP12 Chair acknowledged and thanked Stetson University for their work in support of IAC and notes that this Technical Document will motivate continued efforts toward sea turtle conservation. Likewise, the Secretary joins in this acknowledgment, emphasizing that it is a collaboration that has provided significant support to the IAC through the Memorandum of Collaboration with Stetson; two IAC meetings have been organized at Stetson University campus, and two technical documents have been prepared and presented to COP11 and COP12.

74. **Agreement:** COP12 plenary adopted the Technical Document “Safeguarding Sea Turtles: The Indispensable Role of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles” IAC-CCE19-2026-Tec.29. COP12 requests that the Secretariat transmit the document to countries interested in acceding to the IAC, such as France, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, and Suriname, to encourage them to notice the IAC’s achievements and how they could participate.

75. **Presentation: Ministerial Agreement extending protection to all sea turtle nesting sites in mainland Ecuador**

The delegate from Ecuador, Ms. Jennifer Montoya, reported that Ministerial Agreement No. MAE-MAE-2026-0058-AM was drafted with reference to the text and Resolutions IAC-CC10-2013-Tec.5 and IAC-COP10-2022-R6; which include protective measures for nesting beaches, such as the use of low-impact lighting; a ban on the entry onto the beach, as well as the movement and parking of motorized vehicles of any kind; a ban on nighttime recreational events and activities involving amplified sound or bonfires; and a ban on sand mining on beaches. This ministerial agreement incorporates key elements developed by IAC regarding the importance of protecting sea turtle nesting beaches.

76. **Presentation: “Uniting Seas: Save The Blue Five—Best Practices and Shared Experiences for Sea Turtle Conservation—in Ecuador, Colombia, and Costa Rica”**

The delegate from Costa Rica, Mr. Rotney Piedra, mentioned the development of two workshops in collaboration with Ecuador, Colombia, and GIZ on “Management of Hatcheries in Nesting Areas.” Experiences in the Pacific and the Caribbean were discussed, both within and outside protected areas. Among the results of this work, common problems across the three countries were identified. The delegate from Costa Rica then gave the floor to the observer from the Save The Blue Five project (GIZ) for a presentation on other project-related activities. One of the initiatives presented was the development of a training module based on the Manual of Best Practices for the Handling and Release of Sea Turtles in Longline Fisheries. It was also noted that a network of volunteers is being established (a regional hub for sea turtle conservation volunteers). A video was also shared featuring an interview with Gustavo Lara of Colombia’s Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development regarding his participation in conservation activities, such as participatory governance mechanisms, noting that the IAC is a very important forum for coordinating sea turtle conservation measures with other countries. The delegate from Costa Rica emphasized that information exchanges with other countries are of great importance for the implementation of coordinated conservation measures.

77. **Presentation by the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) on activities carried out under the Memorandum of Understanding with IAC. *Dr. Leonardo Marriaga, Coordinator of the CPPS Action Plan***

Mr. Leonardo Marriaga, Coordinator of the CPPS Action Plan, provided an overview of the founding instruments of the CPPS (the Santiago Declaration of 1952 and the Lima Convention of 1982). Next, the key pillars of the CPPS’s 2022–2030 strategy were presented, along with the Regional Program for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Southeast Pacific as one of the regional instruments. It was then noted that a Memorandum of Understanding with IAC has been in place since 2009, which has helped strengthen coordinated conservation efforts, among other things. In this regard, it was noted that the goal is not necessarily to carry out more activities, but

rather to carry them out in a more coordinated manner. Finally, a number of CPPS-IAC activities were put forward for consideration as next steps, including a joint CPPS-IAC operational plan and the promotion of regional projects.

78. The COP 12 Chair opened the floor for comments. The IAC Secretariat noted that the coordinated work with the CPPS has been a significant support for the IAC; the Memorandum of Understanding has been implemented through joint activities in the celebration of Sea Turtle Day. These activities have included webinars, virtual workshops on climate change and plastic management, fibropapilloma, videos for social media, and social media posts. The CPPS invited the IAC to participate in the review of its Regional Sea Turtle Program. Costa Rica requested that the Work Plan for the IAC–CPPS Memorandum of Understanding be included in the Work Plan of the IAC–CPPS WG in the Consultative Committee to be developed and presented to the Consultative Committee in 2027. This was agreed upon.
79. The delegates from Ecuador and Chile expressed their gratitude for the coordination efforts by CPPS and IAC that made their attendance at COP12 possible. Panama noted that these partnerships are extremely important for continuing sea turtle conservation efforts in the IAC region.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT ON IAC MEMBERSHIP

80. Regarding the “Observers’ Report on IAC Accession by States in the IAC Area that are not Parties,” the observer from the French government, Mr. Cyrille Barneiras, indicated that the process for France to become an IAC member is in the European Union Commission. The ratification is expected to be finalized before COP13 in 2028.
81. The COP12 Chair noted that, as part of the accession or ratification process, the France would require the participation or coordination of several institutions in France. The Chair requested that France inform IAC if it needs any support through the diplomatic channels of the IAC countries for this process.

ITEM 15. OTHER BUSINESS

82. Reflecting on IAC 25th Anniversary

Dr. Joao Thome, advisor to the Brazilian delegation, began his presentation by sharing memories of working with colleagues from six of the first countries to ratify the IAC following the drafting of the Convention text. He mentioned that the Convention was established when people from different states and communities realized that sea turtles know no borders and that cooperation among countries was needed to ensure the conservation of these species; this paved the way for meetings, dialogues, and efforts to build understanding among nations. This would not have been possible without the efforts of individuals working to build consensus—people who contributed their best skills to the Convention, such as vision, dialogue, science, commitment, cooperation, and coordination. Today, 25 years later, there is a promising future for the IAC thanks to the new generation that is on track and growing toward the same initial goal without losing sight of the values that inspired the founders. He also highlighted the Convention’s achievements over these 25 years in fulfilling the very purpose for which it was created: to protect sea turtles, strengthen science, promote cooperation, build trust, and demonstrate that it is possible to work together.

However, the work is not yet finished, as these species continue to face threats; therefore, international cooperation remains as necessary as it was from the very beginning.

83. At Costa Rica's request, a video message was presented from IAC's first Secretary, Mr. Marco Solano, from Costa Rica. He noted that the Convention originated from a CITES meeting on the hawksbill turtle, where there was significant interest in the issue; however, the financial resources for this process were lacking. Following a discussion with delegates from the United States, funding was secured to organize the first meeting, during which there was the establishment of a pro tempore Secretariat, Scientific and Consultative Committee, and a headquarters for the Secretariat—initially located in Costa Rica and later moved to the United States—were established. He also emphasized the importance of support from all IAC countries. Finally, he thanked all those who have participated in the past and those currently participating in this Convention.

84. *In memoriam* Felix Moncada Gavilán

A tribute in memory of Felix Moncada Gavilán was done by the delegate from Panama, Mr. Marino Abrego, who noted that Mr. Moncada, a Cuban scientist, was a great ally in the conservation of sea turtles, belonging to a generation of scientists whose work straddled the line between fisheries exploitation and conservation. His professional life spanned a historic period during which Cuba shifted from managing sea turtles as a regulated fishery resource to treating them as vulnerable populations requiring conservation measures. Cuban authorities and other entities recognize him as a distinguished researcher who has made significant contributions to the conservation and protection of sea turtles. A minute of silence was observed.

ITEM 16. NOMINATIONS OF SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS (CCE)

85. The COP12 Chair read the procedure outlined in the Resolution on Terms of Reference for the Subsidiary Bodies of the IAC, adopted on the first day of COP12, to guide the Parties in the selection of sectoral representatives for the CCE. The selection forms were then distributed, and it was noted that participants should use Document IAC-COP12-2026-Doc.4, in Annex XIV, which contains details on the candidates for each sector. It was emphasized that there are only 9 candidates: 4 for the scientific sector, 3 for the NGO sector, and 2 for the private sector. Given this number of candidates, the only option is to select representatives from the scientific sector; three regular members and one alternate must be designated. The outcome of the process will be presented to the Parties for approval.
86. The COP12 Chair requested that the Parties indicate who will serve as tabulators to count the selection of preference of the Parties. The delegations from Brazil and Peru offer their support to carry out the process of tabulating the preferences expressed by the Parties, who were also assisted by delegates from Stetson University. The Chair gave 10 minutes to the heads of delegations to indicate their preferences on the forms.
87. The tabulators proceeded to announce the results of the selection process, and the Chair asked the plenary if there was agreement:
Selection Results:
Scientific Sector
Laura Prosdocimi 29 points

Nelly de Paz 28 points
Laura Sarti 19 points
Juan Manuel Rodríguez 8 points – Alternate

NGO Sector – Sectoral Representatives
Diego Amorocho
Alessandro Santos
Federico Rosentahl No alternate

Private Productive Sector -Sectoral Representatives
Blake Price
Carolina Brow

88. **Agreement:** The COP12 plenary agreed by consensus to appoint the nine sectoral representatives who will participate in the IAC Consultative Committee for a term of two COPs—July 2026–2030.
89. **Agreement:** To request that the Secretariat send letters of appreciation to the sectoral representatives who have completed their term. Additionally, the IAC Secretariat will be sending letters to the new representatives selected during COP12.

ITEM 17. ADOPTION OF COP12 RECOMMENDATIONS

90. During this session, updates were made to the work plan of the Expert Consultative Committee, adding the task related to the implementation of the memorandum of understanding with the CPPS, and updates were made to the work plan of the Scientific Committee regarding the activities of the Sargassum WG, Fisheries WG, and Fibropapilloma WG.

ITEM 18. PLANNING IAC COP13—PRESENTATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA.

91. COP13 Host and venue: Panama’s delegate, MSc. Marino Abrego, announced the presentation of a video message from Panama’s Minister of the Environment, in which he proposed Panama as the host for the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to IAC in 2028, noting that the country is already preparing for this event. Minister Juan Carlos Navarro addressed the COP12 delegates, reaffirming the country’s commitments to sea turtle conservation. Aware of the challenges and the importance of strengthening multilateral cooperation, he proposed Panama as the host country for IAC COP13. Finally, he expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to present Panama as a candidate to host such an important event in 2028.
92. The delegations welcomed and expressed their gratitude for Panama’s proposal. The COP12 Chair indicated that there is agreement on the venue for COP13. Annex XV—Letter from the Government of Panama to the IAC Secretariat regarding hosting of COP13-2028.
93. COP13 Chair: The COP12 Chair informed the delegate from Panama that, as is customary, the host country also is the COP Chair, and asks the delegate whether Panama would accept to Chair COP13; the delegate from Panama accepted.

94. COP13 Vicechair: The COP12 Chair asked Panama if he has a proposal for Vicechair; Panama proposed Costa Rica. The delegate from Costa Rica, Mr. Rotney Piedra accepted the nomination for COP13 Vicechair.

95. Agreements:

COP12 accepted Panama's proposal to host COP13, which will take place in June/July 2028, with the exact dates to be determined.

COP12 decided that Panama will be COP 13 Chair.

COP12 agreed that Costa Rica will be COP13 Vicechair.

ITEM 19. FINAL REMARKS AND CLOSING OF THE MEETING

96. Ambassador Librado Orozco delivered closing remarks. He thanked the delegations for their participation, for their efforts to build consensus over the past few days, and for the hard work of the participants and the Secretariat. He stated that Peru, as the host country, has sought to contribute to ensuring the Convention remains in force, recognizing the importance of ongoing efforts to protect sea turtles. Therefore, it is an honor for the country to have hosted this meeting, especially on the 25th anniversary of the IAC. Finally, he once again thanked all the delegates for coming to Lima and for their efforts to make this possible despite the complex situations facing each member country; he also thanked the observers, interpreters, and others who provided support throughout the meeting.

97. Costa Rica expressed its gratitude and praised Peru warm hospitality, the efforts made to organize the meeting, the skills from the Chair, and the Secretariat, and thanked delegations for their work in seeking consensus. Chile thanked and congratulated Panama on being the next host of COP13. Panama noted that it they will have a major challenge in organizing COP13, and they will do their best. Uruguay thanked the Peruvian government for organizing COP12, Panama for offering to host COP13, and Costa Rica for serving as vice-chair. The U.S. thanked the COP12 Chair for his leadership and work, all the delegates for their spirit of collaboration, and the interpreters. The United States also highlighted the work of the many individuals dedicated to the conservation of sea turtles and their habitats. The IAC Secretary expressed gratitude to the host country, Peru, for its support during the planning of COP12—which began in 2024—and especially during the event itself. She emphasized the importance of the work carried out during the meeting and expressed her hope that more countries will soon join the convention.

Activity organized by the host country for COP12 delegates.

The delegates traveled to La Punta for a tour of the district to visit key sites such as the Fortaleza Real Felipe, Callao, the Callao Church, and the Port of Callao, among others. In the afternoon, they visited the BAP Carrasco, a Peruvian oceanographic vessel belonging to the Peruvian Navy that serves as a platform for scientific research in fields such as hydrography, oceanography, geology, and resource assessment. Finally, the participants were transported back to their hotels, bringing the day's agenda to a close.

Photos from COP12 Annex XVI

Annex I – Participant List Document CIT-COP12-2026-Inf.1

	COUNTRY	NAME	AFILIATION	E-MAIL
DELEGADOS				
1	ARGENTINA	DIEGO MARTÍN GONZALEZ Jefe de Delegación	Funcionario de la Embajada	sob@mrecic.gov.ar digma@mrecic.gov.ar
2	BRAZIL	RICARDO SERRANO Jefe de Delegación	Embajada de Brasil en el Perú. Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores	ricardo.serrano@itamaraty.gov.br
3	BRAZIL	JOAO ALCIATI THOME Asesor	Coordinador Centro TAMAR/ICMBio - Centro Nacional de Pesquisa e Conservação de Tartarugas Marinhas e da Biodiversidade Marinha do Leste	joao.thome@icmbio.gov.br
4	COSTA RICA	ROTNEY PIEDRA CHACÓN Jefe de Delegación	Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación – Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía	rotney.piedra@sinac.go.cr
5	COSTA RICA	FLORA LEAH VENEGAS Asesora	Embajadora de Costa Rica en Perú Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto	fvenegas@rree.go.cr
6	COSTA RICA	IVANNIA MARÍA CHAVES MONTERO Asesora	Ministra Consejera Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto	ichaves@rree.go.cr
7	CHILE	LEZLIE CAMILA BUSTOS Jefa de Delegación	Subsecretaría de Pesca de Chile Presidenta del Comité Científico de CIT	lbustos@subpesca.cl
8	ECUADOR	JENNIFER MONTOYA Jefa de Delegación	Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía Guardaparque-Dirección de Areas Protegidas	jennifer.montoya@ambienteyenergia.gob.ec
9	MEXICO	ADOLFO ZEPEDA SOIRA Jefe de Delegación	Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE)- Embajada de México en el Perú	azepeda@sre.gob.mx
10	KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS	THYRA BALBORDA Head of delegation	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	t.m.balborda1@minlnv.nl
11	KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS	LEONTINE CRISSON Asesora	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Agricultural counselor/Agriculture & Nature Team Colombia, Perú & Ecuador	leontine.crisson@minbuza.nl
12	PANAMÁ	MARINO ABREGO Jefe de Delegación	Departamento de Conservación de Recursos Costeros y Marinos/Ministerio del Ambiente	meabrego@miambiente.gob.pa
13	PERÚ	MINISTRO JULIO ARMANDO REINOSO Presidente COP12	Director de Asuntos Marítimos de la Cancillería de Perú/ Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores	jreinoso@rree.gob.pe
14	PERÚ	EMBAJADOR LIBRADO OROZCO Presidente COP12	Director General de Soberanía, Límites y Asuntos Antárticos del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores del Perú	

	COUNTRY	NAME	AFILIATION	E-MAIL
15	PERÚ	ALBERTO SOTO Jefe de Delegación	Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores	aasotom@rree.gob.pe
16	PERÚ	SARA DUEÑAS	Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores	sduenas@rree.gob.pe
17	PERÚ	JENNIFER CHAUCA	Instituto del Mar del Perú (IMARPE)	jchauca@imarpe.gob.pe
18	PERÚ	GIANCARLO RIOS Relator COP12	Ministerio de la Producción (PRODUCE)	grios@produce.gob.pe
19	REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA	EMBAJADOR CÉSAR FLORENTINO DE JESÚS HERRERA DÍAZ Jefe de Delegación	Embajada de la República Dominicana en el Perú	embadomperu@mirex.gob.do direcciondecumbres@mirex.gob.do dmelenciano@mirex.gob.do
20	REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA	CAROLINA GONZÁLEZ REYNOSO Asesora	Embajada de la República Dominicana en el Perú	embadomperu@mirex.gob.do direcciondecumbres@mirex.gob.do adiaz@mirex.gob.do lmarte@mirex.gob.do
21	GUATEMALA	AIRAM LOPEZ ROULET Jefa de Delegación	Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas CONAP	hidrobiologicosconap@gmail.com
22	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	ANN MARIE LAURITSEN Head of Delegation	US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	annmarie_lauritsen@fws.gov
23	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	JARED MILTON Advisor	STATE DEPARTMENT	MiltonJR@state.gov
24	URUGUAY	SILVANA MONTES DE OCA - Jefa de Delegación	Embajadora del Uruguay en Perú	medio.ambiente@mrre.gub.uy uruperu@mrree.gub.uy
25	URUGUAY	CESAR FLEITAS Jefe de Delegación Alterno	Consejero de la Embajada del Uruguay en Perú	uruperu@mrree.gub.uy
26	HONDURAS	ARACELY BANEGAS ALFARO	Ministro Consejero Embajada de Honduras en Perú	aracely.banegas@gmail.com
OBSERVERS GOBERMENT				
27	FRANCIA	CYRILLE BARNERIAS	European and International Relations Director French Biodiversity Agency	cyrille.barnerias@ofb.gouv.fr
OBSERVERS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS				
28	Ecuador	Leonardo Marriaga	Director/Coordinador Regional – Plan de Acción Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur CPPS	lmarriaga@cpps-int.org
29	Ecuador	Magaly Valencia	Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur CPPS	mvalencia@cpps-int.org
30	Ecuador	Raúl Suárez	Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur CPPS	
ACREDITED OBSERVERS				
31	USA	Katherine Pratt	Stetson University College of Law Universidad de Stetson	kpratt2@law.stetson.edu

	COUNTRY	NAME	AFILIATION	E-MAIL
32	USA	Alyssa Huffman	Law Fellow, Jacobs Law Clinic for Democracy and the Environment/Stetson University College of Law	ahuffman3@law.stetson.edu
33	USA	Erika Leeper	Stetson University College of Law	eleeper@law.stetson.edu
34	Costa Rica	Esteban Estrada	GIZ-Save the Blue Five	esteban.estradamora@giz.de
35	Ecuador	Beatriz Ladines	GIZ-Save the Blue Five	beatriz.ladines@giz.de
36	Perú	Jimson Jesús Dávila Ordoñez	Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental. Director del Programa de Gobernanza Marina	jdavila@spda.org.pe
37	Perú	Luis Zari Alva	Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental. Coordinador de Gestión de Proyectos	
38	Perú	José Luis Capella Vargas	Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental	
39	Perú	Antonio Alejandro Cuba Martínez	Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental. Especialista Pesquero del Programa de Gobernanza Marina	
40	Perú	Juan Alexander Carranza Aybar	Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental. Asistente Legal del Programa de Gobernanza Marina	jcarranza@spda.org.pe
41	Perú	Nelly de Paz	ACOREMA	nellydepazcampos@gmail.com
42	Perú	Astrid Jiménez/Joanna Alfaro Shigueto	ProDelphinus	jas_26@yahoo.com
43	Suriname	Soraya Wijntuin	WWF-Guianas Manager Better Production in Natural Resources	swijntuin@wwf.sr
44	Perú	Piero Uceda	WWF- Perú Oficial Asociado de Mecanismos de Conservación para la Conectividad	piero.uced@wwfperu.org
45	USA	Kitty M. Simonds	Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC) - Executive Director	kitty.simonds@wpcouncil.org
46	Perú	Eco-Oceanica	Shaleyla Kelez Sara	Shaleyla.kelez@ecooceanica.org
SECRETARIAT IAC				
47	Secretaria	Verónica Cáceres Chamorro	Secretaria IAC	secretario@iacseaturtle.org

Annex II - Agenda Document CIT-COP12-2026-Doc.1

CIT-COP12-2026-Doc.1

12th Conference of the Parties of the IAC – (COP12)

Registration 8:30-9:00 AM Headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru
Building Carlos García Bedoya

1) COP12 Opening Ceremony

2) Introduction of the IAC Parties delegation's members, reading observers list and quorum verification.

[Document CIT-COP12-2026-Inf.1](#)

3) Adoption of the agenda and election of the COP12 Rapporteur

[Document CIT-COP12-2026-Doc.1](#)

4) Report from the Secretariat Implementation of the Work Plan 2024-2026

[Document CIT-COP12-2026-Inf.2](#) -MSc. Verónica Cáceres, IAC Secretary

5) Presentation by host country Peru

- IAC implementation in Peru. *IMARPE*
- National Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in Peru. *SERFOR*.

6) Resolution Proposal to modify the Terms of Reference of IAC Subsidiary Bodies

[Document CIT-COP12-2026-R2](#)

7) Overview of IAC financial situation and the current status of the Parties contributions/ *Ms. Gina Digiantonio /National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF)*

[Document CIT-COP12-2026-Inf.3](#)

8) Report of the Working Group for the establishment and operation of the IAC Secretariat (Legal – WG) and recommendations to strengthen the financial sustainability of the IAC/ *Mr. Rotney Piedra*

[Document CIT-COP12-2026-Doc.2](#)

Analysis and discussion of Legal -WG recommendations:

- a-Parties comments to the financial mechanisms proposed by the Legal -WG and feasibility of implementation.
- b-Analysis of creative alternatives to implement, Parties present their proposals.

9) Resolution Proposal Finances and the 2028-2030 budget

[Document CIT-COP12-2026-R1](#)

Report and recommendations from IAC subsidiary bodies

10) Report of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE). *Mr. Santos Roberto Hernandez*

[Document CIT-COP12-2026-Inf.2](#)

11) Report of the Scientific Committee (SC). *Ing. Lezlie Camila Bustos*

[Document CIT-COP12-2026-Inf.2](#)

12) Recommendations from IAC Subsidiary Bodies and Technical Documents of the Scientific and

Consultative Committee of Experts.

- Sargassum current and potential implications for the IAC region [Document CIT-CC21-2024-Tec.26](#)
- Electronic Monitoring System in fisheries for the Conservation of Sea Turtles [Document CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.27](#)
- Fibropapilloma in Sea Turtles in the IAC region [Document CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.28](#)
- Report Working Group – East Pacific Leatherback [Document CIT-COP12-2026-Inf.4](#)

13) Work Plan Secretariat and Subsidiary Bodies 2026-2028

[Document CIT-COP12-2026-Doc.3](#)

14) Collaboration with other organizations and report on IAC membership

14.1 Technical Document: Safeguarding Sea turtles: The Role of the IAC/ *Dr. Katherine Pratt, Foreman Biodiversity Fellow, Stetson University Colleague of Law* [Document CIT-CCE19-2026-Tec.29](#)

14.2 Presentation Ministerial Resolution that extends the protection to all nesting sites in continental Ecuador. Delegation of Ecuador, Ms. *Jennifer Montoya*

14.3 Presentation "Uniendo mares: Save The Blue Five- Best Practices and Experiences shared for sea turtle conservation - Ecuador, Colombia and Costa Rica. *Delegation Costa Rica, MSc. Rotney Piedra*

14.4 Presentation by Permanent Commission of the South Pacific – Activities in the framework of the MoU with IAC. *Dr. Leonardo Marriaga, Coordinator Action Plan CPPS*

14.5 Report from the Non-Party Countries observers

15) Other business

- Reflecting on IAC 25 Year Anniversary- *Delegation of Brazil, Dr. Joao Thome*
- *In memoriam* Felix Moncada Gavilan

16) Nominations of Sectorial Representatives to the Consultative Committee of Experts

[Document CIT-COP12-2026-Doc.4](#)

17) Adoption of recommendations from the COP12

18) Planning IAC COP13-Presentation by the Government of Panama.

Delegation of Panama, MSc. Marino Abrego

19) Final remarks and closing of the meeting

Annex III - Report with the implementation of the Work Plan 2024-2026 Document CIT-COP12-2026-Inf.2

CIT-COP12-2026-Inf.2

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IAC WORK PLAN 2024-2026

The following document is presented by the IAC Secretariat, the Chair of the Scientific Committee, and the Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts. The report lists the activities of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles biennial Work Plan 2024-2026. The report includes the activities and the status of implementation where **green** is “completed”; **yellow** is in progress, and **red** is no execution/no action. Items in **blue** were presented at COP12 and after the meeting the color for the status was updated.

This document includes the implementation status of activities in the work plan:

- The IAC Secretariat
- The IAC Consultative Committee of Experts
- The IAC Scientific Committee

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF IAC SECRETARIAT WORK PLAN 2024-2026

Green: Activities that have been completed. **Yellow:** In progress, **Red:** Activities with no implementation

Activity Proposed			Status – June 2024 – July 2026			2024	2025	2026
IAC Membership								
1.	Continue efforts to achieve the adhesion of new Parties to the IAC.	The IAC Secretariat continues to follow up by email correspondence or virtual meetings with representatives from the governments of Canada, Colombia, France, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, and Aruba.						
2.	Send informative bulletins to non-Party countries to keep them updated on the IAC's activities.	IAC Secretariat shared IAC Bulletins (4) in 2022 and (3) in 2025 and (1) in 2026 with government representatives from non - member countries and IAC accredited observers.						
3.	Invite non-Party countries to the Conference of the Parties and IAC's committee meetings.	Participation in meetings 2024-2026 • Canada (3 meetings – SC21, SC22, CCE19) • Trinidad and Tobago (2 meetings CC22, CCE19) • Colombia (2 meetings CCE19, SC22)						
4.	Attend meetings of regional organizations, RFMOs and Conventions to share information about the IAC, and networking with non-Party country delegates to invite them to collaborate and join the IAC.	• Participation of IAC Secretary at 9 + meetings of International Organizations and other entities.						
5.	Follow up on the steps already undertaken in collaboration with IAC Parties to recruit new members to the IAC.	• 2024-2025: IAC Secretary has meet with representatives from the governments of Aruba, and Trinidad and Tobago.						
6.	Parties Chancelleries and other relevant authorities support the	• As Focal Points if they have made any progress in reaching out to other non-member countries.						

Activity Proposed		Status – June 2024 – July 2026	2024	2025	2026
	IAC Secretariat approaching non-member countries (Canada, France - French Guiana, Guadeloupe and Martinique, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guyana and, Suriname), to encourage their ratification. As well as identify new countries for outreach.				
7.	IAC Focal Points consider carrying out side events within the framework of other meetings to promote the IAC.	In 2026 the government of Brazil have promoted side events in the framework of the CMS COP.			
Communication and Capacity Development					
8.	The Focal Points and the Committees on a monthly basis will send relevant news to the Secretariat to be included in the IAC Bulletin.	4 bulletins in 2024 3 bulletins in 2025 1 bulletin in 2026 (Jan-March) http://www.iacseaturtle.org/boletin-eng.htm Brazil has provided support to the IAC Secretariat to prepare IAC Bulletin in 2025. The delegate from Argentina to the Scientific Committee Dra. Laura Prodoscimi has supported the Secretariat with the IAC bulletins in 2024 and December 2025.			
9.	Countries will share outreach material on Sea Turtle Day activities and other events with the Secretariat.	The Secretariat has a folder including videos, pictures, infographics, and outreach material shared by the Parties			
10.	Implementation of the IAC communication strategy with Costa Rica Focal Point.	No activity to report			
11.	Publish and disseminate the recommendations and decisions adopted at the COP.	Resolutions adopted at COP11 uploaded in the IAC website after the meeting in 2024. Resolutions adopted at COP12 uploaded in the IAC website after the meeting in August 2026.			
Collaboration with International Organizations and Strategic Partnerships					
12.	Promote the signature of at least one cooperation agreement (MoU) with an organization related to the IAC's objective. The goal is to promote collaborative work with other relevant Conventions and International and Regional Organizations	MoU signed in 2025: - MoU IAC-NMSF, March 2022 Letter of Intention signed in 2024: - IAC-SPAW signed in 2024			
13.	Prepare draft MoU (when needed).				
14.	The Secretary will participate in the IATTC annual meeting, and any	The Secretary or IAC Working Groups have attended 9+ meetings of IO and or RFMO. Meetings attended included below.			

Activity Proposed		Status – June 2024 – July 2026	2024	2025	2026
	other relevant meeting of this Organization, to present recommendations as needed.				
15.	Promote activities with organizations that have signed MOUs with the IAC and other multilateral agreements. The activities can include preparing technical documents and joint publications.	<u>Collaboration IAC-Stetson University</u> Technical document: Safeguarding Sea Turtles: The Rol of the IAC to be presented at COP12.			
16.	Attend technical meetings and workshops.	<u>WORKSHOPS AND TECHNICAL MEETINGS</u> • Congress Network of Marine Protected Areas– CPPS – Collaboration, Oct 16-17, 2025. IAC Secretariat Presentation • 3rd Ecosystem and Bycatch WG meeting IATTC. May, 2025. Presentation by IAC update on Manual on best practices for sea turtles. • Institute for International Education -International Visitor Leadership Program U.S Department of State “Combating Illegal Fishing off the Coasts and in Lakes of Africa Washington DC - July 23rd 2025: Role of IAC in sustainable fisheries-IAC Secretariat and USA Focal Point • 1st IATTC Workshop on best practices. Dec, 2025-IAC Fisheries WG • SPAW Advisory Committee meeting STAC– Panama, July 2025 • Webinar Sea Turtle Day-June, 2025 • Stakeholders meeting STRAP Trinidad and Tobago-Oct,2025 • 2nd Workshop on Best Practices IATTC- Jan, 2026-IAC Fisheries WG			
17.	Promote the celebration of World Sea Turtle Day each year	<u>COLLABORATION IAC-Permanent Commission of South Pacific (CCPS)</u> 2024 • Sea Turtle day 2024 activities with CPPS y preparación de postal digital para compartir por redes sociales. 2025 • Sea Turtle Day activity 2025 – Webinar organized the Government of Ecuador Title: <i>Connecting with Sea Turtles</i> Panelists from 5 IAC Countries: Peru, Panama, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, and Venezuela Participating Institutions: MAE–Ecuador, IMARPE, Mi Ambiente Panamá, Government of Venezuela, Galápagos National Park, TORTUBANKS, Schools in Peru, and Puerto Cabuyal Activity Co-organized with: The Consultative Committee Delegation – Ecuador and the IAC Secretariat 2026 • Sea Turtle Day activity 2026 - 2 Webinars • Title: Learning more about Fibropapiloma impacts on sea			

Activity Proposed		Status – June 2024 – July 2026	2024	2025	2026
		turtles Title: Expert workshop (virtual) about Fibropapiloma treatment and diagnostics. Activity Co-organized by IAC Secretariat, Scientific Committee, CPPS and Save the Blue Five project.			
FINANCIAL RESOURCES					
18.	IAC Focal Points and Committees to identify external funding for projects and activities identified by the IAC Scientific Committee and/or the Consultative Committee as a high priority.	No external source of funding was identified by the Parties or Committees.			
19.	Prepare and negotiate project proposals.	Since 2024 the IAC Secretariat does not have technical support to address this activity.			
20.	Implementation of funded projects and activities and prepare reports of projects implemented.	2024 - a progress report was provided to Marine Turtle Conservation Fund MTCF-USFWS) 2025- there was a stop work order for the MTCF and the funds remaining for IAC cannot be used. 2026 – IAC has no other funding source for projects			
Organization of Meetings					
21.	Organize the COP meetings Organize Scientific (SC) and Consultative (CCE) Committee's meetings Organize meetings of working groups established.	5 IAC MEETINGS - SC21-Guatemala (2024) - SC22-Virtual (2025) - CCE18-Virtual (2025) - CCE19-Virtual (2026) - COP12-Peru (2026) <u>Preparatory meetings and WG meetings 2024-2026</u> 5 preparatory meetings for COP12 3 meetings Legal Working Group 2 meeting WG Ad hoc Terms of Reference 4&4 preparatory meetings with the Chair of CCE (8 meetings total). - Preparatory meetings of working groups (Fisheries, EP Leatherback, NW Atlantic Leatherback, Fibropapiloma, etc) 3 & 4 preparatory meetings with the SC Chair (7 meetings total) 15 Working Groups convened with IAC Secretariat support			
Establishment of a permanent Secretariat					
22.	Support activities for the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat and support the IAC Legal. Report updates on this process to COP12	<u>Working Group Legal Framework and Permanent Secretariat (Legal-WG).</u> - A report of the Legal – WG was presented at COP11 - A report of the Legal – WG will be presented at COP12 14 meetings of the Legal Working Group (2022-2026) - Legal WG Coordinator: Mr. Rotney Piedra (Costa Rica) - Members IAC Legal -WG: Costa Rica, Chile, The United States, Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil, and Peru.			

Activity Proposed		Status – June 2024 – July 2026	2024	2025	2026
23.	The finances sub-group of Legal – WG will implement the strategy to fund the IAC operation	The finances sub-group will implement a strategy to fund the IAC Operation, based on their work plan, and including the analysis of the annual contribution, raising of in-kind contributions, and fundraising of pending contributions. This activity was included in the Legal WG Work plan and the sub-group on finances presented a report to COP11. 2026 Legal -WG presented a report to COP12 with recommendations on the finances strategy.			
COP Resolutions and Recommendations					
24.	Address COP requests and draft recommendations and resolutions accordingly.	Proposal for Resolutions COP12 (2026) 1. CIT-COP12-2026-R1: IAC Finances 2028-2030 2. Workplan IAC Secretariat and Subsidiary Bodies 2026-2030 3. SC and CCE Terms of Reference modifications 5. Designation of Sectorial Members CCE 2026-20230			
IAC Annual Report					
25.	Each Party sends the Secretariat its Annual Report.	2024: 13 countries have submitted their annual report thus far (<i>Argentina, Costa Rica, Brazil, Chile, United States, Honduras, Guatemala, Uruguay, Caribbean Netherlands, México, Dominican Republic, Panama and Venezuela.</i>). 2025:10 countries have submitted their annual report thus far (<i>Argentina, México, Brazil, Perú, Guatemala, United States, Honduras, Uruguay, Dominican Republic and Venezuela</i>). 2026: 11 countries have submitted their annual report thus far (<i>Argentina, México, Brasil, Perú, Guatemala, Estados Unidos, Ecuador, Honduras, Uruguay, República Dominicana y Venezuela</i>).			
26.	IAC Secretariat will continue to work with WCMC to manage the online report platform. Support IAC Parties with the use of the online report platform.	• 2025 (40 hours): Preparation of the update online reporting system and translation into Spanish • 2026: Preparation of the updated online questionnaire for IAC Report 2026 • 2025–2026 (50 hours): Support for the use of the online report and troubleshooting with IAC Focal Points			
Work Plan					
27.	Prepare a biennial work plan.	• Work Plan adopted at COP11. • Work Plan adopted at COP12.			
28.	Prepare report on Secretariat and Committees activities presented at COPs.	• Report on the Implementation of the IAC Work Plan Activities updated presented to COP11 2022-2024 (CIT-CO11-2022-Inf.2) • Report on the Implementation of the IAC Work Plan 2024-2026 presented to COP12 (CIT-COP12-2026-Inf.2)			

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
WORK PLAN 2024-2026**

Green: Activities that have been completed. Yellow: In progress, Red: Activities with no implementation

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –May 30, 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
Exceptions (CIT-COP10-2022-R3, CIT-COP10-2022-R4, CIT-COP10-2022-R5)					
1.	The IAC Exceptions WG (CCE and SC members) will support Guatemala in the review of the Management Plan of Exception	In 2024 the Exception WG provided feedback and edits to Guatemala Scientific Committee delegate for their draft Exception Management Plan. Guatemala shared their Exception Management Plan with the Exception WG in 2024 and received feedback. Guatemala in 2025 informed the Scientific Committee that they are still working on the Exception Management Plan. Guatemala provided updates for 2026 regarding their Exception Management Plan and next steps.			
2.	Evaluation of the exception Management Plan of Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala	The Exception WG (members of CCE and SC) will evaluate the Exception Management Plans of the 3 countries according to their Resolutions timeframe every 5 years. Costa Rica report (2026), Panama report (2027), Guatemala report (2028). The WG will use the matrix with indicators developed for this purpose in document CIT-CCE16-2024-Doc.4 A report will be presented to COP. 2026-Costa Rica presented its exception implementation report to CCE19. This report will be reviewed by the IAC Exception Working Group and they will provide recommendations to Costa Rica in June 2026.			
3.	Inform the COP about the use of sea turtles or their products in the Exceptions of the IAC Countries (when new exceptions are presented).	No new exceptions have been presented			
Implementation of the East Pacific Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP10-2022-R6)					
4.	Hold annual meetings for the Leatherback EP working group.	The WG meet annually to follow up with their work plan in 2024. The WG meet in July 2025.			

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –May 30, 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
		The WG Coordinators presented a report to CCE19 in 2026			
5.	Prepare preliminary report to follow up on the implementation of the EP Leatherback Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6	The WG will prepare a preliminary report in 2025 to present to CCE18. This activity did not get implemented in 2025 and the date changed to 2026-CCE19. The report will use information from Annex I and II of EP Leatherback resolution from the IAC Annual reports. Recommendation COP11: The EP Leatherback WG will review the activities that are being carried out in the IAC countries and the NGO Sector, and will make a list of those in place and identify gaps in protection to highlight those that need to be conducted or strengthened to prepare recommendations to IAC Parties. Their findings will be included in the preliminary report presented to CCE-2026 In 2025 the WG implemented the activity by conducting a survey with NGOs to find out the conservation activities that are being implemented and what are the gaps. In 2026 the EP Leatherback WG Coordinators presented a preliminary report with the findings of the above mentioned activity at CCE19, and the report will be presented to COP12-2026.			
6.	Prepare final report to follow up on the implementation of the EP Leatherback Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6	The WG will prepare the final report. The report will use information from Annex I and II of EP Leatherback resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 from the IAC Annual reports. The WG will present the report in 2027 to CCE20.			
Implementation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP9-2015-R2)					
7.	Prepare a map of important areas to define which areas are critical for the species and which are already protected.	2024: The Working Group North West Atlantic Leatherback finalized the technical document “<i>Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population and Recommendations to Leatherback Conservation in these Areas</i>” CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.20. This was adopted at CCE16 and its recommendations were presented at COP11(2024). Technical document located in IAC web site. The WG with authorization of COP changed name and objective.			

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –May 30, 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
		2025: The WG changed its name to Atlantic Leatherback and presented a document with a work plan and terms of reference (CIT-CCE18-2025-Doc.5) that was endorsed by CCE18. 2026: The WG presented a progress report to CCE19. The WG is working to expand NWA leatherback map to include all Atlantic leatherback populations.			
8.	Work in collaboration with the IAC outreach group to approach non-IAC parties that are in the range of the species	The WG on Outreach to IAC –Non Member Countries has the objective to support countries such as Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, France, and Suriname to begin the process to becoming members of the IAC. The outreach WG has been meeting regularly from 2020 and as often as needed.			
		<u>Government Representatives from Non-Party Countries participating as observers in IAC meetings</u> 2024: Canada and France attended as observers at the CCE17 and IAC Conference of the Parties (COP11). 2025: Surinam and Canada attended as observer to CCE18 2026: Canada and Trinidad and Tobago attended as observers to CCE19			
Fisheries (CIT-COP10-2022-R7)					
9.	The Fisheries WG members of the Scientific and Consultative Committee	2024: CCE17 agreed to merge the Fisheries WG from CCE with the Fisheries WG of the Scientific Committee as they share some members and they have similar tasks. 2024: The Fisheries WG met several times to work on the manual for best practices for sea turtles. The manual was presented to COP11 (2024) and it was requested that the CCE members review and comment. The manual was shared in Spanish to CCE members in 2024 their comments were included. 2025: Feedback was received from the USA and Brazil CCE members, the Fisheries Working Group has included them into the Manual. 2026: The Fisheries Working Group addressed the USA’s comments and prepared the final version of the Manual. The Manual is now with Mangrove Studio for graphic design.			
PROJECTS					
10.	Pilot Project to evaluate the possibility of information collection	The CCE approved the draft pilot project (Chile and Peru) Title: “Standardization of formats to auto – report for Collection of Data of Incidental Catch of Sea Turtles for Implementation in Artisanal			

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –May 30, 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
	on artisanal longline fisheries (WG Chile -Peru) Activity subject to funds availability	<i>longline and Gillnet Fisheries of Southern Peru and Northern Chile”.</i> The WG Chile-Peru prepared a draft of budget for this project. This needs to be further refined. The execution of this project is subject to availability of funds. 2023: the Coordinator of the WG-Chile sectorial member MSc. Paula Salinas sent several email communications to other members in an effort to make progress on preparing a budget for this activity. 2024: the WG convened a meeting on January 30th 2024 where it was agreed that Peru will turn in their budget for the project, and Chile will revise its budget. The delegate from Chile is in charge of exploring the possibility of collaboration between Subpesca and IFOP in the capacity building component of the project. 2025: The Coordinator Paula Salinas organized a meeting on may 2025 with Peru and IAC Secretary. The meeting agreed for Peru to develop a budget for a small port to begin. Chile reported that they secured an alliance with other governmental agency in Chile to carry out the project in two ports and do this is the framework of other activities. The Coordinator presented updates at CCE18. 2026: Coordinator presented a progress report at CCE19. The WG will take into consideration the USA suggestion to find possibility of cooperation for this project with IATTC, as they also have a proposal for port sampling of industrial fleets in Ecuador: https://www.iattc.org/getattachment/8ba9f531-bf13-467a-9d4f-f8857af44c0a/SAC-16-05_Integrated-Port-Sampling-Program.pdf and the recommendation is to find a potential to coordinate with the surveys for this project considering budget constraints. The WG will explore how the at port surveys could be shared with IATTC to compare and how the information can be used to address bycatch and find ways to collaborate with IATTC.			
Annual Report and Compliance with Resolutions					
11.	The CCE delegate will support the Focal Point of each country in preparing the IAC Annual Report.	2026: 11 countries have submitted their annual report thus far (Argentina, México, Brasil, Perú, Guatemala, Estados Unidos, Ecuador, Honduras, Uruguay, República Dominicana y Venezuela).			

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –May 30, 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
		2025: 10 countries submitted annual report (Argentina, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, United States, Honduras, Mexico, Uruguay, Venezuela and Perú). Deadline for IAC Annual Report is April 30th 2025. Pending 2025 Annual Report: Belize, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, and Caribbean Netherlands. 2024: 13 countries have submitted their annual report (Argentina, Chile, México, Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, United States, Honduras, Uruguay, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Panamá and Caribbean Netherlands)			
12.	Prepare, together with the Scientific Committee, changes in the relevant sections of the IAC Annual Report according to the new resolutions adopted at COP	2026: IAC Annual Report online updated with new list of index sites. 2025: IAC Parties requested an update in their index nesting sites list. 2025: The IAC Secretariat with WCMC prepared the IAC Annual report format 2025 in a new updated platform.			
Collaboration with International Organizations/ And Strategic Partnerships					
13.	Identify, prioritize and work on the implementation of joint activities in the framework of the MoUs.	STETSON UNIVERSITY: The CCE identified topics for collaborative work with Stetson University, within the framework of the MoC. This was the preparation of Report on Compliance with the IAC Resolutions with information form Annual Report to be presented at Committees and COP. Stetson University prepared in 2024 the final report with the evaluation of compliance with IAC Resolutions report CIT-CCE17-2024-Tec.24 titled: Analysis of the IAC Annual Reports 2015-2023. This report was adopted at CCE17 (2024). The report CIT-CCE17-2024-Tec.24 was presented to COP11 (2024) and it is available in IAC website. 2026: The CCE included in its work plan the preparation of a technical document presenting the benefits of the IAC for the Parties. Stetson University is helping the CCE to do this and prepared a technical document draft and presented it at CCE19. CCE members provided information that is included in this document. The technical document “Safeguarding Sea Turtles” was presented and adopted at COP12.			
14.		IAC-IATTC-ICCAT:			

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –May 30, 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
		2025: Presentation at Common Oceans Initiative the results of EASI-Fish collaboration. Presentation given on behalf of IAC by IATTC staff member. The meeting was organized by ICCAT. IAC -IATTC: 2025: IAC Fisheries WG attended IATTC 2nd circular hook workshop. February. 2025: IAC invited to present the progress in the manual for best practices prepared by IAC, at IATTC Bycatch WG meeting May. 2025 and 2026: IAC Fisheries WG attended IATTC workshop to review IATTC best practices manual December 2025 and January 2026.			
		IAC-SARGASSO SEA COMMISSION (SSC): The NWA Leatherback WG identified topics for collaborative work with the Sargasso Sea Commission, within the framework of the MOU and will prepare a work plan. 2023: the USA delegate to CCE convened two (2) meetings with SSC and IAC Secretariat to discuss areas of interest to collaborate. The preliminary topics are: SSC facilitates outreach with countries in European Union such as Portugal, share sea turtle critical areas in Sargasso Sea to look into the topics of collision of boats / vessel strikes with sea turtles and plastic pollution. Primarily information exchange. 2024: the WG presented a progress report at CCE17. There is nothing to report for 2025-2026			
15.		SPAW Protocol: 2024: CCE17 prepared a Letter of Intent to facilitate the technical collaboration between IAC – SPAW Protocol. CCE Chair with IAC Secretariat and Legal WG prepared a draft letter it was shared with SPAW and presented to COP11. It was adopted. SPAW sent IAC Secretariat the signed Lol in July 2024. 2025: IAC is a member of the SPAW Sargassum WG, they met several times in 2024-2025 to prepare a work plan to address the sargassum issue. The results were presented at CCE18 by SPAW Protocol representative.			
16.		CIT-CPPS-Save the Blue Five Project (SB5): 2024: Per request of COP11 the CCE created a Working Group (Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Panama, Sectorial Bryan Wallace, Sectorial Nina Pardo-coordinator) to collaborate with CPPS and SB5. The WG meet 2 times in 2024.			

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –May 30, 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
		2024: Meeting CCE IAC-CPPS working group with Project Director Save the Blue Five (GIZ), Coordination CPPS and Southeast Pacific Sea Turtle Scientific and Technical Committee, to identify activities and components of the project Save the Blue Five that they will collaborate. Task: Prepare a work plan with activities to meet CPPS, IAC and SB5 objectives. New activities were identified one of them is to co-organize a webinar with IAC Scientific Committee for sea turtle day 2026. 2026: Costa Rica Mr. Rotney Piedra is the new coordinator for the WG was ratified at CCE19. CPPS: 2024: IAC Secretariat attended the CPPS Workshop to update CPPS Sea Turtle Conservation strategy. October 2024. 2025: IAC Secretary attended as panelist at the meeting Network of Marine Protected Areas organized by CPPS. October 2025. 2026: IAC Secretary attended the workshop for the sea turtle regional strategy for CPPS-Juen 2026 in Lima.			
17.	Sea Turtle Day Activities-June 16 th	COP Request: To begin in 2025 the CCE and SC members support the IAC Secretariat to plan, coordinate and carry out activities to celebrate World Sea Turtle Day each year, and when needed collaborate with other International Organizations or partners. The activities may include facilitating virtual meetings, educational outreach, support for communication in various social media platforms as applicable. 2025: Webminar on June 16th 2025 about inspiring experiences in the volunteer work with sea turtles. The webminar was co-organized with CCE delegates from the Government of Ecuador Ministry of Environment and it was transmitted on the Ministry social media platform FB live. The invited panelist included the following countries and organizations: Peru, Ecuador, Panama, Dominican Republic, and Venezuela, representing NGO, local schools, academia, and governmental entities. 2026: The activities this year will be organized by the IAC Scientific Committee. The CCE will organize an activity for 2027.			

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –May 30, 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
FUNDING SOURCES					
18.	Identify funding sources for small projects recommended by CCE- The name of WG and Coordination changed per request from COP12	A Working Group was established to raise financial support for small projects in 2022. The delegate from CCE Chile was the only member of this WG. Expressions of interest from other CCE members were received in at CCE16 – 2023. The members of the Fundraising WG are: Chile (Paula Salinas CCE delegate-Coordinator-Paula Salinas), CCE Sectorial Nina Pardo, and CCE Sectorial ONG – Costa Rica por Siempre (Luis Fonseca), Costa Rica (Rotney Piedra CCE delegate). Coordinator Chile presented in 2023 the update on the pilot project Chile-Peru <i>“Standardization of formats to auto – report for Collection of Data of Incidental Catch of Sea Turtles for Implementation in Artisanal longline and Gillnet Fisheries of Southern Peru and Northern Chile”</i>. The fundraising WG will focus on small projects. In 2023 the WG Coordinator P. Salinas convened a meeting with the Coordinator of the Legal WG R. Piedra. The roles for collaboration were agreed. The meeting of the WG with CPPS to discuss possible collaboration it is pending until 2024. 2025: No updates 2026: Per request from COP 12 the name of WG changed and the Coordination is Brazil.			
Recommendations to the COP and Resolutions					
19.	Resolution review for COP12	CCE17 - 2024 discussed the resolution proposals from Legal WG on amendment of terms of reference for CCE and SC. The CCE17 created a WG (Argentina, Mexico and Costa Rica) to provide a legal review only regarding to the process for selection for CCE Sectorial Representatives. 2024-2025: The WG coordinated by Argentina presented to COP11 a work plan to carry out this activity it was adopted. The WG meet 4 times 2024-2025 and prepared their final version of the Terms of Reference CCE-SC it was discussed and adopted at CCE18. The Terms of Reference CCE-SC was presented to COP12 and adopted. 2026: The IAC Legal WG drafted new text for IAC Finances Resolution to strengthen the financial sustainability of IAC: This resolution was reviewed at CCE19 and edits were included.			

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –May 30, 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
		2026: IAC Finances Resolution was presented by Legal WG for consideration to COP12 and it was adopted.			
IAC Technical Documents					
20.	Prepare technical documents as needed.	2024: The CCE provided comments to the Technical Document Manual Best practices. The edits were included in the Spanish version. The manual is currently in review. 2025: CCE18 adopted the technical document on Electronic Monitoring prepared by the Scientific Committee, and provided comments that were transmitted to SC. The recommendations from the technical document will be presented to COP12 (2026). 2026: CCE19 made edits from Brazil. Uruguay Venezuela and Argentina to the technical document Safeguarding Sea turtles: the role of the IAC. Stetson University presented the technical document at COP12 and was adopted.			
Website and IAC Newsletter /IAC Directory of Experts/ Communication Strategy					
21.	Update the directory of experts in areas of interest of the IAC	Directory of Experts updated in June 2024 with information received from Mexico, Uruguay and Ecuador, and USA. The directory can be found in IAC website. http://www.iacseaturtle.org/directorioExpertos-eng.htm			
22.	Send the Secretariat news from your country -every month- for the IAC Bulletin.	2024: Two bulletins 2025: Tree bulletins published 2026: One bulletin published - Brazil Focal Point is providing support to IAC Secretariat to prepare 2 bulletins for 2025. -CCE Sectorial delegate Dr. L. Prodoscimi prepared the bulleting for 2025 August -December. Brazil Focal Point is providing support to IAC Secretariat to prepare bulletins for 2026.			
23.	The CCE delegates will send outreach material on sea turtles to Costa Rica to be used in the Communication strategy of the Convention. Documents for IAC outreach Increase IAC visibility in social media	Costa Rica will continue to support the development of audiovisual material as needed. COP11 Request: Prepare a technical document to support the increase the IAC membership with input from the member states. Stetson University has collaborated to implement this activity and prepared a draft technical document that was adopted at CCE19. The document “Safeguarding Sea turtles will be presented at COP12”. COP11 request: CCE members identify opportunities to increase visibility for IAC through social media platforms, such as			

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –May 30, 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
		internships with academia or other organizations. It is expected from CCE collaborations identified to increase IAC visibility through social media. Present progress at the CCE meetings, as needed. CCE19 Brazil delegation offered support to increase IAC visibility in social media platforms. Brazil will provide a report to CCE20-2027.			
Consultative Committee of Experts Work Plan					
24.	Report on the implementation of the Consultative Committee work plan	2024: Implementation status of the 2023-2025 Work Plan presented at the CCE17 and COP11 meeting (CIT-CCE17-2024-Doc.2). This will be presented at COP11 (2024). 2025: Implementation status of the 2024-2025 Work Plan presented at the CCE18. CIT-CCE18-2025-Doc.2 2026: Implementation status of the 2025-2026 Work Plan presented at CCE19 (2026). 2026: Implementation status of the 2024-2026 Work Plan presented at COP12 (2026). (CIT-COP12-2026-Inf.2) Responsible: CCE Chair and Secretariat			
25.	Update the CCE Work Plan.	Updated work plan at the 17th Meeting of the Consultative Committee CCE17, 2024. Revised and edited by COP11. Updated work plan at the 18th Meeting of the Consultative Committee CCE18, 2025. Updated work plan at the 19th Meeting of the Consultative Committee CCE19, 2026. Revised and edited by COP12.			
26.	Organize working group meetings to follow up on the CCE work plan	<u>Meetings of the CCE Working Groups from 2024-February March 2026:</u> WG-Fisheries (3) WG-EP Leatherback (1) WG-Exceptions (2) WG-Atlantic Leatherback (5) WG-Save the Blue Five (3) WG-Projects Chile/Peru (2) WG-Chair CCE and Secretariat (6)			

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IAC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2024-2026

Green: Activities that have been completed.

Yellow: In progress,

Red: Activities with no implementation

Proposed Activities		Status – Julio 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
Exceptions					
1.a	Guatemala presents their Exception management Plan for review to the SC	Guatemala presented a progress report at SC19-2022, and at SC20-2023 submitted a draft Exception Management Plan (MP). The Exceptions Working Group (Costa Rica, Brazil, the United States, and the Secretariat) and the Scientific Committee provided comments on the Management Plan. Guatemala submitted its updated Management Plan to SC21 in 2024 for approval. Some issues remained to be included and clarified. Guatemala agreed to present its Exception Management Plan to the Scientific Committee in June 2025.			
1.b		SC21-2024 recommended that Guatemala will continue to work on the MP with a small WG with USA, Ecuador for final edits. 2025: Guatemala indicated that they have their Exception Management Plan prepared with the SC-2024 comments included, but the Management Plan has not been approved by the new CONAP authorities. Guatemala committed to submitting to the SC in December 2025 a detailed report on the next steps to be taken for the approval of the exception management plan.			
2.	Panama presents their Exception management Plan to the SC	Panama will inform the IAC Secretariat and IAC subsidiary bodies when the Panama Exceptions Management Plan is officially adopted by the Minister of Environment. 2025: Panamá said that their Exception management Plan is still in review by legal advisors at the Ministry of Environment.			
Fisheries					
3.	Fisheries WG delegate-Mexico will prepare the report on data analysis of observer data for longline fisheries including data	The report was updated with longline data from 2020, 2021 and 2022 IAC Annual report. Pending update with 2023, 2024 and 2025 data. The delegate from Mexico presented a progress report to SC19 (2022). The delegate from Mexico to the SC will review the			

Proposed Activities		Status – Julio 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
	2020 - 2025 from IAC Annual Report.	data submitted for 2023 and 2024-2025, to check on which countries have submitted information on longline to update the technical document. It will be reported to SC each year the status of data available. The IAC Secretariat prepared a table with the status of long line data submission per year 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. This table is available in the SC20 (2023) report under the agenda item IAC Annual Report. Dr. Heriberto Santana member of the Fisheries WG will prepare the Technical Document: Report of the analysis of observer data for longline fisheries data 2020-2025 to the IAC SC 2024-2026. The document will be presented at COP12 in 2026. Progress has not been made because the information is not available in the Parties' Annual Reports, or not all Parties have submitted their Annual Report. The document will not be presented at COP12 in 2026 because the information is still not available. Responsible: Dr. Heriberto Santana member of the Fisheries WG will			
4.	Carry out a technical exchange (virtual meetings) between the IAC Fisheries WG with the representatives of the IAC countries fisheries agencies as appropriate, to strengthen their participation providing information on fisheries interaction and sea turtles in the IAC Annual Report. Primarily focusing on longline data collection	Guatemala proposed this activity to be carried out in 2022 with the purpose to convey to the fisheries agencies in the IAC countries the need for the fisheries data collection in the IAC Annual Report. This is to help prepare the technical document or report and analysis of the Fisheries WG and to follow up with the Resolutions. This activity did not take place in 2022, the Fisheries WG did not indicate next steps. SC20 (2023) decided to extend the implementation time for this activity to the first trimester of 2024. COP11 decided to extend the implementation date to 2024-2026. The Fisheries WG will provide progress reports at the 2024-2026 SC meetings until this activity is concluded. Responsible: SC Fisheries WG			

Proposed Activities		Status – Julio 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
5.	Develop a data collection form. Develop a method to analyze data on the interaction between sea turtles and gillnets according to Resolution on Fisheries CIT-COP10-2022-R7	The SC and CCE Fisheries WG will develop a proposal to include information on interactions between sea turtles and gillnets in the IAC Annual Report. No progress has been reported by the Consultative Committee Consultative Committee should indicate the deadline and time frame for this activity to be completed. SC20 (2023) decided that this activity will be coordinated by the delegate from Chile, whom will reach to the CPPS and their sea turtle committee to share the data collection form for gill nets developed by IAC SC in previous years. With the goal to prepare a minimum data requirement, format that works for IAC and CCPS. The results of this coordination will be presented at SC21 (2023). At COP11, the date for this activity was extended to 2024-2026. The WG will have to report on the progress on each meeting as applicable. Responsible: Chile Delegate (SC)			
6.	Fisheries WG prepare IAC Manual for best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles that interact with fishing gear.	The WG finalized the manual by selecting illustrations and pictures and produced a final version for graphic design by Mangrove Studio by the first week of March 2024. The manual in Spanish was presented at IAC COP11-2024.			
7.		By request from COP11, the manual for sea turtle handling on board fishing vessels prepared by the Scientific Committee Fisheries WG (in drafting from 20220) will be shared with the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) for review and approval electronically (June- 2024-2025). This has been implemented the CCE sent edits to Manual in August 2025. Edits from CCE Costa Rica, Brazil, México and the United States has been included. The SC Fisheries WG continues to prepare the final version taking into account the CCE's comments and will prepare the final version in Spanish and English. Subsequently, the manual will be shared with the Focal Points for approval by electronic correspondence (2024-2025).			

Proposed Activities		Status – Julio 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
		2026: The WG included all comments from CCE and prepared final version of Manual. Mangrove Studio is preparing in September 2026 the graphic design.			
8.		The Fisheries WG will prepare for SC22 and SC23, as necessary, educational charts for use by fishermen on boats. This activity will be in collaboration with CPPS, both in the technical part and in financial support. It is suggested that CPPS coordinates this activity during the period 2024-2026. Pending final approval of manual. Responsibles: Fisheries WG and CPPS Pendingt until the manual is finalized.			
Index Beaches Conservation Status					
		The WG has been updating the Technical Document IAC Index Beach Data Analysis since 2014. The updated list of index beaches is in the 2024 IAC Annual Report and IAC website. The Nesting Beach WG presented technical document updated “IAC Index Beach Data Analysis 2009-2023” to SC20 (2023) and it was adopted. The document was presented at COP11 2024.			
9.	Collect information on annual nesting in index beaches of IAC countries using the form developed by the SC, and the data from the IAC Annual Report. The Technical Document “IAC Index Beach Data Analysis” is updated every 5 years.	In 2025, the Scientific Committee and the Focal Points were asked to update the index beaches that will be included in the 2026 IAC online Annual Report. Requests for changes were received from the Focal Points for the index beaches of the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Belize, the United States, and Venezuela. The updated list will be posted on the IAC website and is included in the SC22 report. The WG will update the nesting beaches database with information from the IAC Annual Reports, no later than December 2026. The next update of the technical document will be in 2028 and will be presented at its corresponding COP. Responsible: USA delegate, Ecuador delegate and the Secretariat			

Proposed Activities		Status – Julio 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
10.		Evaluate with the Consultative Committee the information related to index beaches (inclusion of secondary beaches for critically endangered species) in the IAC Annual Report. The Annual Report format in the nesting data part updated as applicable. There is no update requested.			
Climate Change					
11.	Follow up and provide support to countries implementing the “Pilot Project for IAC Parties to collect environmental data in their index nesting beaches”. Convene annual meetings of the WG. Pilot Project countries: Caribbean Netherlands, USA, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Dominican Republic and Panama.	The WG Coordinator sent a survey in 2022 to the participant countries to follow up on their environmental data collection. The Working Group coordinator sent a questionnaire in 2022 to the participating countries to follow up on the information collection. The coordinator presented a progress report at CC19-2022. The WG agreed to meet in December 2023 to check on updates on the pilot projects. The WG Coordinator presented a progress report with reminder about the finalization of data collection for the Pilot Project at SC21- 2024.			
		Participating countries Ecuador, The United States, Costa Rica, México, Caribbean Netherlands, Panamá and Dominican Republic will continue to report / record the environmental data for the pilot study on July 30th of each year until completion of the study in 2025. 2025: Information collecting continues to prepare project report in 2026. 2026: The WG Coordinator will present the final report to SC-2026. Responsible: Delegate Caribbean Netherlands - Coordinator			
Eastern Pacific Leatherback <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>					
12.	EP leatherback WG following up the implementation of the Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6	The EP Leatherback WG will prepare an evaluation report every 5 years on the “Implementation of conservation measures and strategic actions in Annex 1 of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6”. The first report will be presented to the SC and CCE in 2026 and at the corresponding COP.			

Proposed Activities		Status – Julio 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
		2025: WG meet in July 2025 and sent out a survey to NGOs regarding strategic actions they are in process of analysis. 2026: WG coordinator presented a preliminary report a report to COP12			
Sea Turtle Conservation Status					
13.	Update report CIT-CC13-2016-Tec.13: Status of Loggerhead Turtles in IAC countries. This report is updated every 5 years. Working Group: Mexico, Brazil, Belize, USA. Coordinator USA and Belize.	The Technical Document Status of Loggerhead Turtles in IAC countries CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.21 (updated) was presented at COP11 and adopted. Recommendations made by Argentina have been completed and the final version is now available. Next update of the document in 2028 Responsible for update 2028: Brazil and USA			
14.	Vessel Strikes and sea turtles. Working group to prepare recommendations to mitigate this threat.	Prepare a Technical Document of Vessel strikes and sea turtles to present at SC20-2023. The WG prepared a list of topics to include in the technical document to be adopted at SC20-2023. In 2024, the list of contents and next steps was presented to SC21. The Working Group submitted a draft of the technical document at SC22-2025, and they are working to present the document to CC-2026. New members were included in the Working Group. Responsible: Dominican Republic (Coordinator), Guatemala (Coordinator), Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, Belize, Mexico, Chile, Panama, Peru and Ecuador (Charles Darwin Foundation).			
15.	Sargassum Working Group	The Sargassum Working Group was formed, consisting of Costa Rica (coordinator), Belize, Honduras, the Caribbean Netherlands and Panama. The WG will prepare a technical document including the impacts of the increase in sargassum on beaches, the problems of its removal from the coasts and recommendations to the IAC Party Countries to manage and mitigate the impacts. The			

Proposed Activities		Status – Julio 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
		technical document was presented in 2024 to the SC and edits from Caribbean Netherlands were included in the final version. 2025: Technical document on Sargassum is in translation by the Secretariat. 2026: Technical document on Sargassum was presented and adopted at COP12.			
16.	Fibropapilloma Working Group	Membership and coordination of the Fibropapilloma WG were decided at the SC21 meeting (2024). The WG compiled and exchanged information with IAC member countries on the causes and treatments related to fibropapilloma in the range of IAC countries with respect to green turtles and other species that may be affected by this disease. COP11 request. The WG prepared a technical document that was adopted at SC22. The technical document includes comments from SC and CCE in 2025. Final technical document as adopted at COP12 (2026). The WG -Coordinator participated as panelist in a webinar with CPPS and Save the Blue Five to present the document in the framework of Sea Turtle Day-June 2026. Coordinador: Dr. Virginia Ferrando – Karumbe			
17.	WG <i>L. olivacea</i>	The WG prepared a recommendation to Honduras on <i>L. olivacea</i> nesting peak. The WG will presented their report with recommendations to SC22-2025 and it was adopted. This concludes the task for the WG. Data for this work was collected from Honduras, Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala. The WG will continue to support Honduras to prepare more data analysis. The IAC Secretariat will share the report with recommendations with Honduras Focal Point in 2026. WG Members: Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico			
18.	WG <i>Chelonia mydas</i>	2025 - WG–Green Turtle was formed			

Proposed Activities		Status – Julio 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
		2026 – WG will present an information document to COP12. This activity did not happen as the WG has a draft document with unresolved comments. 2026-WG will present a technical document to SC23-2026			
19.	Recommendations on sea turtle's conservation status using technical documents presented to the COP when applicable.	The SC presented recommendations to COP11 (2024) from the following technical documents: - CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.21: Status of Loggerhead Turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) in IAC countries - CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.22: Nesting beach data analysis 2009-2023 - CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.23: Manual for best practices for sea turtles. The Scientific Committee will prepare recommendations to the COP12 (2026), from the technical documents as applicable. • Electronic Monitoring (2024-2025)-Done • Sargassum (2024-2025)-Done • Fibropapilloma (2025)-Done			
Collaboration with Other Organizations and Strategic Alliances					
20.	Members of the SC will support the activities to celebrate Sea Turtle Day on June 16 of each year and when necessary, with the support of IO and strategic alliances.	Support to the IAC Secretariat in activities to celebrate World Sea Turtle Day 2025-2026, for example: facilitating virtual meetings with experts, educational material, communications on social networks as applicable. COP11 's Recommendation. 2025: activity organized by the delegates of Consultative Committee and Government of Ecuador with participation in panel of members from Peru, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Panama. 2026: FP WG co – organized with CPPS and SB5 a Sea Turtle day webinar in this topic.			
21.		At SC20 (2023) it was agreed for the WG to prepare a technical document: EM and lessons learned in the implementation from Chile and USA to be presented at SC21 (2024). The			

Proposed Activities		Status – Julio 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
	WG Strategic Alliances formerly known as “Implementation of IAC - ACAP MoU”	document was presented for consideration at SC21-2024 and it was adopted. The WG prepared its terms of reference and they were presented at SC 21(2024) and were adopted. Responsible: Argentina (Coordinador), Chile, Peru, Mexico, Ecuador and USA.			
22.		The WG prepared a technical document of guidelines for the use of electronic monitoring for sea turtle conservation and the document was approved at the SC22 (2025). The document will be presented to COP12. Responsible: Argentina (Coordinador), Chile, Peru, Mexico, Ecuador and USA.			
IAC Annual Report					
23.	Evaluate the IAC Annual Report questionnaire together with the Consultative Committee and make changes to relevant sections of the IAC Annual Report as necessary.	The new questions from the EP Leatherback Resolution and Fisheries Resolution were included in the questionnaire in the IAC 2024 Annual Report. The questions were adopted by SC and CCE. Make recommendations to the format of the Annual Report as necessary. 2026: Index nesting beaches updated in the 2026 IAC Annual report questionnaire.			
24.	Include in SC agenda every year a presentation of research from one or two IAC member countries reported in the IAC Annual Report.	2024 Research by Belize and Ecuador presented at SC21 (2024)			
		2025 Research by Guatemala and Honduras was presented at SC22.			
		2026 Research by México and Perú will be presented in SC23			
Projects					
25.	Recommend high priority projects to apply for funds and other resources needed to achieve the IAC objectives.	No recommendation for new projects from the Scientific Committee to date. No color for the status.			
Capacity Development					

Proposed Activities		Status – Julio 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
26.	Technical support from SC members in workshops and training on subjects that the Parties identified and for which funding is available.	Activities will be reported as necessary.			
Recommendations from COP and Consultative Committee of Experts					
27.	Address COP and Consultative Committee of Experts requests and make recommendations accordingly.	The requests from COP11 were addressed by the Scientific Committee during the 2024-2026 and presented at COP12.			
Technical Documents					
28.	Prepare technical documents as needed.	Technical Documents (2024-2026) • Manual for best practices of sea turtles CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.23. (2024-2025) • Electronic monitoring (2024-2025) • Sargassum (2024-2025) • Fibropapilloma (2025-2026)			
IAC Website and News Bulletin					
29.	The delegates of the Scientific Committee will provide to the IAC Secretariat news from their countries to include in the IAC Bulletin	News updated on the IAC website. 2 IAC bulletin published in 2024 3 IAC bulletin published in 2025 1 IAC bulletin published in 2026 http://www.iacseaturtle.org/boletin-eng.htm			
IAC Experts Directory					
30.	Update the directory of experts on the IAC areas of interest.	Experts Directory to be updated on the website. http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/Directorio_de_Expertos_2021_Directory_of_Experts_2021.pdf			
Scientific Committee Work Plan					
31.	Report on the implementation status of the SC Work Plan.	Report on the status of implementation of the 2024 Work Plan presented by the SC Chair at the SC21 meeting and COP11.			

Proposed Activities		Status – Julio 2024-July 2026	2024	2025	2026
		Report on the status of implementation of the 2025 Work Plan presented at the SC22 meeting.			
		Report on the status of implementation of the 2026 Work Plan presented at the SC23 meeting.			
		Report on the status of implementation of the 2024-2026 Work Plan presented to COP12. Responsibles: IAC Chair/Vicechair			
32.	Update the Scientific Committee Work.	Work Plan updated at the 21 th Scientific Committee meeting 2024. Work Plan updated at the 22 nd Scientific Committee meeting 2025. Work Plan 2026- 20230 presented and adopted at COP12 in 2026.			
33.	Convene meetings of SC Working Group to implement the WP.	Number of meetings SC Working Groups March 2024-July 2025: Index Nesting beach (1), Vessel strikes (1), IAC -ACAP (3), Exceptions WG (2), <i>Caretta caretta</i> (1), Fisheries/Manual WG (3), EP Leatherback WG (0), Climate Change WG (1), SC Chair /IAC Secretariat (7). Number of meeting SC Working Groups August 2024–July 2026: WG Vessel Strikes (2), Electronic Monitoring/ Strategic Alliances (3), Fisheries/Manual WG (4), Fibropapilloma(4), WG Green Turtle (2), Coordination meeting with SC Chair (4) to prepare SC2025. Responsible: SC Chair / Vicechair, WG Coordinators with support of IAC Secretariat.			

Annex IV – Resolution Terms of Reference for the IAC Subsidiary Bodies Document CIT-COP12-2026-R2

Resolution CIT-COP12-2026-R2

Terms of Reference for the IAC Subsidiary Bodies

The Convention establishes the Consultative Committee in Article VII and the Scientific Committee in Article VIII. After two decades in force, the roles of the Committees with respect to each other and to the Conference of Parties need to be clarified to ensure efficiency of operation and avoid duplication of effort. This resolution clarifies these matters and amends the selection process for the Sectorial Representatives of the Consultative Committee of Experts.

This resolution replaces in its entirety Resolution CIT-COP5-2011-R1.

The Scientific Committee is the sole subsidiary body of the Convention to provide scientific advice and the Consultative Committee of Experts guides the Conference of the Parties on implementation of the Convention. The Consultative Committee shall review the recommendations of the Scientific Committee and they shall be sent forth to the Conference of the Parties (COP) in a document that includes the comments as appropriate by the Consultative Committee.

The Consultative Committee shall prepare and /or review if appropriate, draft resolutions for the Conference of Parties to be addressed at their meetings.

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

The functions of the Consultative Committee of Experts are established in Article VII (2) of the Convention.

Objective of the Consultative Committee of Experts

Advise and guide the Conference of the Parties on implementation of the Convention and the follow up and implementation of the Resolutions and other decisions adopted by the COP 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 Consultative Committee of Experts

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

1. Prepare and update the Committee's Work Plan, pursuant to the guidelines of the Convention, and resolutions of the Conferences of the Parties (COP's).
2. Present to the COP, through the Secretariat, opinions and recommendations that promote the objective of the Convention, on the following issues, inter alia:

- a. On resolutions, amendments, creation of additional annexes and complementary protocols to the Convention;
 - b. On the actions of one or more Parties that in any way affect the objectives of the Convention;
 - c. On agenda items for the COP;
 - d. On measures to promote synergy and cooperation with international organizations, and conventions pertinent to the objectives of the Convention and;
 - e. On measures to promote mechanisms of cooperation with the private sector, scientific community, and nongovernmental organizations (NGO's).
3. Analyze the economic and social impacts of the different proposals and measures adopted to reduce incidental or directed capture and mortality of sea turtles, in order to recommend corresponding actions to the Parties.
 4. Review and analyze the Annual Reports, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee, in particular for the purpose of compliance with the obligations of the Convention.
 5. Support the Secretariat in creating and maintaining an up-to-date directory of scientists and/or experts in fields related to the Convention, which will be available to the Parties and for whoever else requests it.
 6. Periodically evaluate, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee, the format of the Annual Report for the Parties, in accord with Annex IV of the Convention.
 7. Support the Parties with specialized information relevant to the Convention.
 8. Present to the Parties at the COP a report on its inter-sessional work since the last COP. This report must be approved by consensus of the Committee's members, and the Committee Chair will present it to the plenary of the COP. This report shall include the results of working groups, when applicable, as well as observations and recommendations, as appropriate, on any other measures, not specifically listed in the Convention, that the Parties deem appropriate to achieve the Convention's objective. In the event that consensus cannot be achieved, minority and majority reports should be presented to the Conference of the Parties.

In carrying out its work, the Consultative Committee of Experts will take into consideration the opinions and recommendations of the Scientific Committee, the expert groups created by the Parties pursuant to Article VII (4), and the opinions of its multi-sectorial representatives appointed pursuant to Article VII(1)(b).

Structure of the Consultative Committee of Experts

Procedure for Official Representatives

1. Pursuant to Article VII (1) (a) of the Convention, each Party may appoint one representative to the Consultative Committee, who may be accompanied at each meeting by advisors.
2. Each Party will notify the Secretariat, through diplomatic channels or via the designated focal point, the name of its official representative to the Consultative Committee. The Secretariat will circulate the list of official representatives to the Parties.

3. The term for official representatives to the Consultative Committee shall be 2 years. In the case that the official representative of a Party will not complete his or her term, the Party will immediately provide the Secretariat with the name of the new official representative who will complete the term. The Secretariat will then forward the name of the new official representative to the Parties.

Procedure for Sectorial Representatives

4. Pursuant to Article VII (1)(b) of the Convention, the Parties shall also appoint, by consensus, three (3) representatives, and (1) alternate representative, with recognized expertise in matters pertaining to this Convention, from each of the following groups: a. The scientific community b. The private sector; and, c. Non-governmental organizations, for a total of nine (9) representatives, plus three (3) alternates. The representatives of the scientific community will represent their field of expertise in their personal capacity, while the representatives of the private sector and non-governmental organizations will represent the expertise of their sector.

5. The Secretariat, in coordination with the Parties, will issue a public call for nominations at least one hundred and sixty (160) days prior to the COP to receive nominations from the Parties. The Parties will then share the public call internally with the potential candidates to the three sectors. The Parties should send their nominations to the Secretariat within forty-five (45) days of the transmittal of the public call. The nominations shall include the following information, which will be provided in the working languages of the Conference of the Parties:

- a. The sectorial group being nominated and the justification for this choice;
- b. The name of the candidate;
- c. The affiliation; and,
- d. The *Curriculum vitae*, profile or other documentation of qualifications or recognized expertise in matters pertaining to this Convention.

6. The nominations received and compiled by the Secretariat, will be transmitted in writing to the Parties in at least ninety (90) days before the Conference of the Parties at which the appointments of those nominees will be considered.

7. For the designation of the Sectorial Representatives, the Parties will take into account the importance of the Consultative Committee including experts with knowledge and experience in matters pertaining to the Convention, as well as in the geographic areas of the hemisphere where the sea turtles occur.

8. The Sectorial Representatives shall be appointed to the Consultative Committee for a period of two (2) ordinary COP, and their term will start immediately after the conclusion of the COP in which they are designated. The appointment of any Sectorial Representative may be renewed with the consensus of the Parties.

9. At the COP, IAC Parties shall indicate their selection preferences for the initial slate of Sectorial Representatives. Only IAC Parties present at the COP may participate in this process to select the Sectorial Representatives.

10. The selection of the 9 Sectorial Representatives and the 3 alternates will be as follows:

a) The procedure will be carried out by the Heads of Delegation of the Parties or their designee. The Chair of the Conference of the Parties, as well as observers and experts do not participate in the selection;

- b) For the selection for the initial slate of Sectorial Representatives, IAC Parties in attendance will receive a ballot/ list with the names of all candidates put forward. The COP Chair will ask the Parties to indicate their preference using a system with points (3-1) where 3 indicates higher preference and 1 lower preference;
- c) The Chair of the COP will suggest to the Parties the selection of two members present to count / tabulate the Parties' preferences indicated in the ballot. They will be selected from the Parties or observers from Governments attending the COP;
- d) The Heads of Delegation or their designee will indicate their preference in the ballot for (3) three candidates from each sector chosen by marking (3-1 points) in the correspondent field. The process will be considered valid when the ballot has (3) three chosen candidates. If the ballot results in the selection of fewer than 3 candidates chosen, the ballot counters (tabulators) will indicate the inconsistency to the delegation and confirm the selection is correct in order to ensure that their indication of preference is valid;
- e) The initial slate of 9 Sectorial Representatives will be selected from the three (3) candidates with the highest number of points per each sector, the fourth (4) candidate with the highest number of points per each sector will be selected as alternate;
- f) Should there be a tie among any of the three seats, all three will be selected for their sector. Should there be a tie that hinders a clear selection to determine the main seats or alternates, the Chair of the COP will ask the Parties to do a new indication of preference only involving the concerned candidates in the tie;
- g) Tie breaking rounds will continue until there is a final slate of (3) three Sectorial Representatives and (1) alternate selected for each sector;
- h) The Heads of Delegation or their designee will approve the final slate of Sectorial Representatives by consensus in accordance with Article VII (1)(b) of the Convention.

11. The selected Sectorial Representatives will be notified by the Secretariat at the conclusion of the COP meeting.

12. If a Sectorial Representative of the Consultative Committee position becomes permanently vacant, because of failure to participate in two (2) consecutive meetings of the Committee, resignation, death or incapacity, the alternate shall fill the position for the remainder of that position's term.

Meetings of the Consultative Committee of Experts

- 1. The meetings of the Consultative Committee will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the Convention, 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 Consultative Committee will take place preferably after the meetings of the Scientific Committee, and in accordance with Article VII (3) of the Convention, meeting at least once before each COP, taking into account funding available for this purpose in the Inter-American Convention Special Fund.
- 3. The Conference of the Parties may request that the Consultative Committee convene an extraordinary meeting.

4. The Consultative Committee, to perform its duties, may establish sub-committees or work groups, as appropriate.
5. In general, members of the Consultative Committee shall conduct their work between sessions through electronic communication, videoconferences, virtual fora and networks. The Secretariat shall facilitate these forms of communication, depending on the resources available for these purposes.
6. The Consultative Committee will elect, among the country representatives, the Chair and Vice-Chair at the end of its meeting, to act in that capacity for two meetings. The Chair and Vice-Chair may be re-elected. The Chair and the Vice-Chair will assume their positions immediately after being elected.
7. The functions of the Chair of the Consultative Committee are: a) To determine, upon consultation with the Secretariat, the draft provisional agenda; b) To open and adjourn each meeting; c) To preside over the meetings; d) To direct the meetings pursuant to the approved agenda; e) To guide the discussions, to submit issues for decision by the Committee and to announce any decisions; f) To yield the floor; g) To prepare a report on the implementation of the Committee work plan and present it to the Committee and the COP; h) To sign the report of each meeting prior to its distribution to the Parties and others as appropriate; i) To follow-up on the work plan adopted by the COP, in collaboration with the Secretariat; j) To carry out other functions as the Consultative Committee may assign.
8. When the Chair is temporarily unable to participate, the Vice-Chair will take on the functions of the Chair.
9. Should the Chair be unable to continue their duties, the Vice-Chair will take on the duties of the Chair until the Committee elects a new Chair.
10. The Chair of the Scientific Committee will be invited to participate in the meetings of the Consultative Committee. The Chair of the Consultative Committee will be invited to participate in the Conference of the Parties.
11. Observers and alternatives may participate in the meetings of the Consultative Committee, in accordance with Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the Convention.

Confidentiality of Information

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

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

The function 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 (COP) 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 resolutions of the Conferences of the Parties, establishing the priority of the issues to be addressed. The Work Plan must include the areas of research and their short-term and medium-term objectives with their respective activities and indicators as well as their products. The Scientific Committee must always present the budget requirements needed to develop these activities. The Work Plan shall be presented to the Contracting Parties for its approval.
2. Evaluate the status of sea turtle populations and their habitats, especially under those circumstances subject to exceptions as indicated in Article IV (3) (b), taking into consideration the scientific information provided in the Annual Reports of the Parties (Annex IV of the Convention), among others.
3. Recommend modifications to the format and content of the Annual Report of the Parties as deemed necessary.
4. To periodically evaluate, in collaboration with the Consultative Committee, the format of the Annual Report for the Parties, in accord with Annex IV of the Convention.
5. Support the Secretariat in creating and maintaining an up-to-date directory of scientists and/or experts in fields related to the Convention, which will be available to the Parties and for whoever else requests it.
6. Analyze, as requested by the Parties, the scientific research (including sociological and economic aspects), projects and initiatives conducted by Parties or other relevant organizations or entities, and make recommendations on how to improve those actions that will help achieve the objective of the Convention.
7. Contribute to the development of bilateral, regional and multilateral management plans. This can be done through requesting outside help from experts or specialists and by forming ad-hoc working groups.
8. Develop and improve methodologies for the evaluation of environmental, socioeconomic and cultural impacts resulting from the measures adopted within the framework of the Convention.
9. Support actions directed towards development, use, training and transfer of socially and ecologically sustainable technologies.

10. Present the report on the ordinary meeting each year to the Consultative Committee of Experts, through the Secretariat.

11. Present annually to the Parties, through the Secretariat, a report on its inter-sessional work since the last COP. This report must be approved by consensus of the Committee's members and the Committee Chair will present it to the plenary of the COP. This report shall include the results of working groups, when applicable, as well as observations and recommendations on measures not specifically listed in the Convention, that the Parties deem appropriate to achieve its objective. In the event that consensus cannot be achieved a minority and majority report should be presented to the Conference of the Parties.

Structure of the Scientific Committee

Procedure for representatives designated unilaterally by the Parties

1. Each Party may designate one representative to the Scientific Committee, who should have an academic degree and/or recognized expertise in any of the relevant thematic areas. 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.

2. Each representative to the Scientific Committee may be accompanied by up to three advisors. Before each meeting, the Party will provide the Secretariat, through diplomatic channels or via its designated focal point, with a list of its delegation.

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 or must be absent from a meeting, 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.

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 COP1CIT004), 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 at least once a year, preferably prior to the meetings of the Consultative Committee and taking into account, among other things, the 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 between sessions through electronic communication, tele/videoconferences, virtual fora and networks. The Secretariat shall facilitate these forms of communication, depending on the resources available for these purposes.

4. The Conference of Parties may request through the Secretariat, 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 Scientific Committee will elect among the country representatives, the Chair and Vice-Chair at the end of their meeting, to act in that capacity for two meetings. The Chair and Vice-Chair may be re-elected. The Chair and the Vice-Chair will assume their positions immediately after being elected.
7. The functions of the Chair of the Scientific Committee are: a) To determine, upon consultation with the Secretariat, the draft provisional agenda; b) To open and adjourn each meeting; c) To preside the meetings; d) To direct the meetings pursuant to the approved agenda; e) To guide the discussions, to submit issues for decision by the Committee and to announce any decisions; f) To yield the floor; g) To prepare a report on the implementation of the Committee work plan and present to the Committee and the COP; h) To sign the report of each meeting prior to its distribution to the Parties and others as appropriate; i) To follow-up on the work plan adopted by the Conference of the Parties, in collaboration with the Secretariat; j) To carry out other functions as the Scientific Committee may assign.
8. When the Chair is temporarily unable to participate, the Vice-Chair will take on the functions of the Chair.
9. Should the Chair be unable to continue their duties, the Vice-Chair will take on the duties of the Chair until the Committee elects a new Chair.
10. The Chair and/or Rapporteur of the Consultative Committee will be invited to participate in the meetings of the Scientific Committee. The Chair of the Scientific Committee will be invited to participate in the Conference of the Parties.
11. The Scientific Committee may invite to its meetings any scientific institution or individual experts on matters pertaining to the objective of the Convention subject to available resources.
12. 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 shall maintain as reserved all information that they may have obtained or had access to during their tenure, which is categorized by the Party that submitted the information as confidential. Likewise, they must abstain from using that information for objectives different or contrary to that established in the Convention.



Memo

To: Parties to the InterAmerican Convention for the Conservation & Protection of Sea Turtles

From: Gina Digiantonio, Program Operations Manager, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Date: 22 June 2026

RE: Budget forecast scenarios for the IAC 2026-2027 **Document CIT-COP12-2026-Inf.3**

Background

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is pleased to have served as the fiscal sponsor for the InterAmerican Convention for the Conservation & Protection of Sea Turtles since 2009. In that fifteen plus year history, we have not experienced the uncertainty to support IAC operations that we began to experience in 2025 and it continues in 2026.

Traditionally, the Foundation's fiscal sponsorship of the IAC has included acceptance of dues from member nations, and acceptance of grants from U.S. federal agencies, including NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), USFWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), and the U.S. Department of State. The Foundation also processes and tracks the expenses for the IAC, including the contracts for the IAC Secretariat with Ocean Associates and also for an IAC technical assistant (currently vacant), travel and meeting expenses for IAC meetings virtual and in person for Conference of the Parties (COP), Scientific and Consultative Committee meetings, and other operational needs as included in the IAC budget in the IAC Finances Resolution adopted by the IAC COP and directed by the Secretariat.

In 2025, the Foundation, as the fiscal sponsor for the IAC, experienced multiple challenges with IAC funding:

- Received stop work notification for the USFWS grant that supported IAC work, about \$65,000/year (equivalent to approximately 21% of the approved IAC FY27 budget) not available;
- Experienced that IAC Parties that regularly contribute have delayed the date for their contributions and/ or are one or more years behind;
- The situation persists that from 16 member countries IAC receives regular contributions from 8 countries. (Table Annex I)

While the 2025 financial challenges were resolved mostly favorably for the IAC, 2026 is still tenuous. Rollover funding from past years creates viability for the IAC in 2026 and 2027 at very basic operation levels, but that is only due to the slower and [financially conscious](#) spending on the IAC Secretariat due to several years of virtual rather than in person meetings ([since 2015](#)), and a more sporadic ability to fill the IAC technical assistant position.

2026 Budget Projection

As stated in the 2026 Mid-Year Report, the balance for the IAC as of June 2026 was **\$288,469.49**. The forecasted funds available at the end of 2026 is \$226,522.70. For the best sustainability of operations and future planning, it is recommended that the IAC operate with one-year advance funding. To be clear, the current approximate one-year reserve is very reliant on the contributions from various federal agencies of one Member State. The ability of this country to continue to contribute to the IAC at current levels is unknown for 2027.

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is sharing three scenarios that can be used to support future planning and decision-making for the IAC in these uncertain times.

For the 2027 Scenarios that follow, the Foundation is using the projected remainder balance of \$226,523, which includes an anticipated \$65,000 contribution from NOAA.

Also note, the Foundation cannot waive the 12% fee included in our MOA with the Conference of Parties. However, the Foundation's 12% fee is based on received revenue, so if revenue is reduced, the Foundation's rate could be \$0 in 2027 if the revenue is also \$0. The Foundation's received funding is completely based on the revenue contributions to the IAC.

Please find Scenarios A through C starting on page 3.

SCENARIO A—Fully Realized Dues Contributions from all Member Nations

This scenario presents a “best case” situation where all Member Nations pay their noted IAC COP11 resolution or typical dues payments, resulting in a budget surplus. If the member nations contribute yearly dues at the goal rates from COP11 (\$136,137), and the IAC follows its approved FY27 Budget, then the IAC would have funding to operate through 2027, but will only have funds to support a few months of operations in 2028.

Notes on this scenario:

- All member nations contribute yearly dues at the goal rates from COP11
 - Note that currently some nations contribute more than their goal rate
- IAC operates at the approved 2027 budget level
 - Note that the IAC is currently operating at a lower burn rate than the approved budget level
- Includes 12 months of technical assistant
- In-person Scientific Committee meeting
- Virtual Consultative Committee meeting

SCENARIO A	
Available funds to start FY27	\$226,523
16 member nation contributions	+\$136,137
Approved IAC FY27 Budget	-\$311,586
End of FY27 Projected Balance	\$51,074

In this scenario, it is particularly advantageous to IAC operations for all Members to pay dues as early in the calendar year as possible. This provides a known sustainability of operations that benefits future planning for meetings COP and subsidiary bodies [and operations of 12 working groups in IAC](#), allowing for long term outlooks for meeting planning.

SCENARIO B—No Revenue

This scenario presents a dire situation where, due to member nations that provide regular contribution have uncertainties about the future years, other member nations continue [without making their contribution](#) in 2027, resulting in \$0 revenue.

Notes on this scenario:

- No contributions from any member nations
- IAC operates at the approved 2027 budget level
 - Note that the IAC is currently operating at a lower burn rate than the approved budget level
- Includes 12 months of technical assistant
- In-person Scientific Committee meeting
- Virtual Consultative Committee meeting

SCENARIO B	
Available funds to start FY27	\$226,523
No member nation contributions	+\$0
Approved IAC FY27 Budget	-\$311,586
End of FY27 Projected Balance	-\$85,063

In this scenario, the IAC COP would be making a determination by the mid-2027 to close or put into dormancy IAC operations. Funding would run out before the end of 2027, projected in August 2027 if assuming even monthly spenddown of the budget. The IAC may decide to operate at a lower budget than approved, in which case the funds would be able to be stretched longer before running out.

Scenario B is a “worst case scenario” projection, and not expected, but wanted to illustrate how far IAC operations could go with no additional revenue. The question of – why hire a technical assistant if the IAC will close – may be asked. The decision to take close out actions on the Convention will be administratively, logistically, and emotionally taxing, and the additional support will be required to continue base level operations for virtual meetings alongside the additional workload of closeout actions.

SCENARIO C—Member Nations Contribute at Past Level

This scenario presents a scenario where nations contribute at the same level as in 2026 (including the projected \$65,000 from NOAA). Similar to Scenario A, while this scenario would generate enough funds to operate through calendar year 2027, there would not be enough remaining funding for the IAC to remain viable for the full 2028, and the IAC will need to look to close operations in early 2028. This could be extended further if the IAC operates at a skeletal budget rather than the fully approved budget.

Notes on this scenario:

- All member nations pay dues. Same member nation contributions as Fiscal Year FY26**
- IAC operates at the approved 2027 budget level
 - Note that the IAC is currently operating at a lower burn rate than the approved budget level
- Includes 12 months of technical assistant
- In-person Scientific Committee meeting
- Virtual Consultative Committee meeting

SCENARIO C	
Available funds to start FY27	\$226,523
Reflects same member nation contributions as FY26**	+\$205,750
**Projected, not final	
Approved IAC FY27 Budget	-\$311,586
End of FY27 Projected Balance	\$120,687

Conclusion/Recommendations

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation finds that **Scenario C is the most likely** based on historical experience with the pattern of contributions to the IAC.

Should IAC Member countries act proactively now, and the uncertainty in the financial support that we are experiencing now is resolved, it may be the case that the IAC can continue to receive the financial contributions that sustain its modest operations; however, the Foundation, in presenting the least-risk scenario, recommends following Scenario C as the likely outcome of continued status quo funding and projecting a continued absence of one of the major contributions.

It is difficult for the IAC (or any organization) to run a meaningful operation that fulfills its goals, or does more than simply 'exist,' without some reserves that allow for planning and action to take place. The key takeaway that is evident in each scenario is how much the IAC is impacted by potential loss or delays of member countries contributions, and how essential the contributions of all other member nations of the IAC becomes. The best path forward for robust operations of the IAC is full dues support of all member nations. In addition, the Foundation recommends that the IAC consider increasing the minimum contribution. This amount has not changed since the Foundation first started as the fiscal sponsor for the IAC.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Foundation if there are additional projections that may be helpful. The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation appreciates the more than fifteen year partnership with the IAC and is optimistic for future growth and funding that benefits the IAC's continued work.

Annex I Contributions IAC Countries 2022-2026

Country	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 (As of June 3, 2026)
Argentina					
Brazil					
Belize					
Costa Rica	\$ 1,975.00	\$ 1,981.00	\$ 1,981.15 *	\$2,000.00	
Chile	\$ 7,526.00	\$ 7,853.13			
Dominican Republic	\$ 1,964.00	\$ 1,933.52	\$ 1,991.00	\$2,079.88	\$2,000.00
Honduras	\$ 2,963.00	\$ 2,000.00*	\$ 2,000.00*	\$ 1,930.00	
Guatemala			\$2,000.00*	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
México	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$7,500.00
Kingdom of the Netherlands	\$ 4,980.00	\$ 4,980.00	\$ 4,980.00	\$14,980.00	
Ecuador					
Panamá	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$5,000.00

Perú	\$ 4,139.00	\$ 2,025.25	\$ 2,921.29	\$ 4,548.43	\$2,250.52
United States	\$ 185,976.00	\$ 185,976.00	\$ 185,976.00	\$ 190,000.00	\$125,000.00
Uruguay					
Venezuela					
Total	\$ 226,523.00	\$ 216,248.90	\$ 218,849.44	\$234,538.31	\$143,750.52

Note: To facilitate the interpretation, contributions marked with an asterisk (*) are aligned with their corresponding year, but the asterisk indicates they were received on a later date than that correspondent year.

Annex II: Recommendations taken from NMSF presentation to COP12

Actionable Recommendations

- 1) Increase contribution goals to cover the lost \$65,000 grant* *Note that this still does not cover full IAC budget

Member Country	Contribution Goal	Equal contributions	New Contribution Goal
Argentina	2,000.00	3,611.11	5,611.11
Belize	3,500.00	3,611.11	7,111.11
Brazil	7,056.00	3,611.11	10,667.11
Costa Rica	2,000.00	3,611.11	5,611.11
Chile	8,000.00	3,611.11	11,611.11
Dominican Republic	2,000.00	3,611.11	5,611.11
Ecuador	2,000.00	3,611.11	5,611.11
Guatemala	2,000.00	3,611.11	5,611.11
Honduras	2,000.00	3,611.11	5,611.11
Mexico	15,000.00	3,611.11	18,611.11
Caribbean Netherlands	5,000.00	3,611.11	8,611.11
Curacao	5,000.00	3,611.11	8,611.11
St. Maarten	5,000.00	3,611.11	8,611.11
Panama	2,000.00	3,611.11	5,611.11
Peru	2,000.00	3,611.11	5,611.11
The United States	65,000.00	3,611.11	68,611.11
Uruguay	2,928.00	3,611.11	6,539.11
Venezuela	3,653.00	3,611.11	7,264.11
	136,137.00	65,000.00	201,137.00

The minimum country contributions of \$2,000 since the Foundation has been fiscal sponsor starting in 2010 has not changed. Costs have increased since that time. The parties could consider increasing this minimum contribution amount.

One recommendation for an increased minimum contribution is to try to cover the \$65,000 per year that was previously received by a grant. In order to increase the contributions by \$65,000, each member country would need to contribute \$3,611 more per year.

- 2) Revisit the minimum goal contributions at a regular cadence (no less frequently than every 5 years) and adjust for rising costs
- 3) Catch up on past year or late dues
- 4) Member nations make contributions early in calendar year (no later than March 2027)
- 5) Determine priorities within the IAC budget
- 6) Help relieve IAC operational budget by providing support for hosting meetings, or delegate travel to in-person meetings
- 7) Alternate in-person meetings for the Science Committee and Consultative Committee, or consider bi-annual in-person meetings
- 8) Consider an in-country dedicated technical assistant support for Secretariat. This cost is included in projections starting July 2026

Annex VI -Report from the Legal – WG and recommendations to strengthen the financial sustainability of the IAC

CIT-COP12-2026-Doc.2

Report of the Working Group on the Legal Framework and Permanent Secretariat of the IAC (Legal-WG) regarding the Implementation of the Financial Strategy for the Sustainability of the IAC

This report was presented by the Coordinator of the Legal Working Group (Legal-WG), Mr. Rotney Piedra, with the IAC Focal Points attending the preparatory informational meeting for COP12, held by videoconference on January 12, 2026. In compliance with the agreements at COP11 for the Legal -WG to present a report at COP12, the Legal Working Group produced this report with an update on the implementation of their work plan.

To date, the IAC Legal Working Group (Legal -WG) has held fourteen meetings, and in its work plan approved at COP11, it once again prioritized the issue of the financial sustainability of the IAC. This matter requires urgent attention, particularly in light of the situation that arose in 2025, which needed taking measures to ensure the financing of IAC operations. In 2025, the IAC Secretariat adopted cost-reduction measures affecting basic operational expenses and reduced its staff from two people to one. In addition to limiting the Secretariat's capacity to plan activities for 2026, this required a significantly greater dedication of time and effort to fully carry out the activities planned for 2025.

After reviewing the Financial Sustainability Strategies for the IAC that were proposed at COP10 in Panama, and submitted again at COP11 in Ecuador, and subsequently approved, and in accordance with the most recent session of the Legal - WG held in March 2025, the Legal - WG has worked on developing a set of recommendations for the Parties to the IAC. The objective is to identify and implement joint creative solutions that will provide the Convention with the financial means necessary to continue its operations and support the work that the Secretariat has been undertaking in fulfillment of the work plan assigned by the Parties.

With the aim of guiding the Parties and fostering the search for solutions through constructive dialogue at the 12th Conference of the Parties to the IAC—resulting in agreements that ensure the financial sustainability of the IAC—the Legal-WG proposes the following recommendations for each mechanism of the financial strategy.

Request to the Parties to the IAC prior to COP12:

- Provide comments and recommendations to this document.
- Submit new proposals to be considered by the Parties at COP12 in order to identify creative solutions for strengthening and ensuring the financial sustainability of the IAC.

Recommendations of the Legal-Working Group for the Implementation of the Financial Strategy for the Sustainability of the IAC

A) Actions to Improve the Collection of Financial Contributions from the Parties

1. **Recommendation to the Parties to the IAC:** Invite Focal Points of Parties that have not yet made their contributions to thoroughly explore the mechanisms required to ensure that the IAC contribution is included into their country's annual budget. The Parties should report on these efforts at COP12-2026.
2. **Recommendation to the Parties to the IAC:** Parties should make their annual contributions at the beginning of each year, no later than March 1st, so that the Secretariat and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation can adequately plan operations.
3. **Recommendation regarding a Draft Resolution describing the process for making contributions:** The IAC Legal Working Group will add new language to the IAC Finance Resolution describing the timeline for making deposits—specifically, the deadline month for contributions—and outlining the process through which Parties may submit their annual contributions to the IAC. This proposed addition to the Resolution will be presented to COP12-2026 for consideration.

Draft Resolution on the Process: The Legal Working Group will prepare a draft resolution detailing the process by which a country makes its contribution to the IAC and will present this proposal to COP12-2026.

Additional Text: It is recommended that the payment process that should specify that the IAC Focal Point uses the finance resolution adopted by the COP to initiate the internal process within the country for payment of the contribution indicated in Annex 3 of the Finances Resolution.

B) Actions to Improve the incoming of In-Kind Contributions

The activities and operational components of the IAC that require funding and could be supported through in-kind contributions include: hiring an assistant for the IAC; contracting simultaneous interpretation services and document translation for IAC meetings; and paying for the organizational costs of in-person meetings of the COP and the annual Scientific Committee.

1. **Recommendation to the Parties to the IAC:** Parties to the IAC may support the Secretariat by providing financial resources for the hiring of a full-time technical assistant dedicated exclusively to supporting the activities under the IAC work plan. Proposals from the Parties are expected at COP12.
2. **Recommendation to the Parties to the IAC:** Parties to the IAC may support the organization of virtual meetings by providing simultaneous interpretation services. At the COP, Parties will agree on which countries will support the meetings scheduled for 2026, 2027, and 2028, through a letter from their Focal Points to the Secretariat confirming their availability to hosting the meeting.

3. **Recommendation to the Parties to the IAC:** Parties to the IAC hosting in-person meetings will cover the costs of the meeting or provide counterpart contributions (such as simultaneous interpretation, meeting room and audiovisual equipment, meals for delegates, and other office supplies/communication expenses). At the COP, Parties will agree on which countries will support the meetings scheduled for 2026, 2027, and 2028, through a letter from their Focal Points to the Secretariat confirming their commitment to host a meeting.
4. **Recommendation to the Parties to the IAC:** Parties to the IAC cover the participation costs of their delegates attending the annual in-person meetings of the Scientific Committee.

C) Resources from Other Sources

1. **Recommendation to the Parties to the IAC:** Focal Points should undertake all feasible efforts to include IAC-related activities (such as participation of national delegates in the COP and the Scientific Committee, and in-kind support for meetings and activities) into funding proposals currently under implementation in their countries or into proposals that are soon to be awarded at the national level.
2. **Recommendation to the Parties to the IAC:** The hiring of an expert in project management and grant writing to work for the IAC and with the Secretariat in preparing regional project proposals to entities such as the GEF, with the aim of securing financial support. It is possible that a country may already have a project management / grant writing office capable of providing this support to the IAC for a specific project.

D) Identification of New Strategic Partnerships to be formalized through Memoranda of Understanding or other mechanisms

1. **Recommendation to the Parties to the IAC:** Parties should present at IAC COP12 proposals for organizations, institutions, or donor roundtables—whether national or regional—with which new strategic partnerships could be established and formalized through Memoranda of Understanding or other mechanisms. The Party will support the IAC Secretariat in formalizing these partnerships.

E) Evaluate the Possibility of Increasing Annual Contributions to the IAC

1. **Recommendation to the Parties to the IAC:** Invite Focal Points to carry out internal consultations on the feasibility of adjusting the amount of their annual contribution to the IAC and to present the results of these efforts at COP12-2026 for inclusion in the Finances Resolution.

Next Steps

1. **Conference of the Parties (COP12, 2026):**
 - Foster a constructive and solution-seeking dialogue to examine the recommendations presented by the IAC Legal WG.
 - Reach operational and concrete agreements that enable the immediate implementation of the financial strategy.
2. **Expected Commitment from the IAC Parties:**
 - Submit substantive proposals and comments to find solutions based on the recommendations.
 - Actively collaborate in the development and adoption of innovative and feasible solutions.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism:

- Establish a step by step implementation plan with clear milestones for the adopted recommendations.
- Establish an evaluation process to monitor and ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the Convention.

Annex VII – Finances IAC 2028 – 2030 Document CIT-COP12-2026-R1

Resolution CIT-COP12-2026-R1

IAC Finances 2028 – 2030

CONSIDERING Article XIII of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) regarding financial resources;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that resolution CIT-COP1-2002-R-2 adopted by the First Conference of Parties established the IAC Special Fund;

FURTHER RECALLING the guidelines for financing the activities of the IAC established in Resolution CIT-COPE1-2007-R2 adopted during the First Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties;

RECOGNIZING that countries have different abilities to make financial contributions;

RECOGNIZING the legal limitations under which the IAC Parties can provide financial contributions;

CONSIDERING that the total amount of contribution goals reflected in Annex III does not cover the budget need, and that additional funding will need to be obtained;

THE 12th CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES TO:

1. Adopt 2028, 2029 and 2030 budgets included in Annex I.
2. Authorize the Secretariat to forward an invoice to each of the Parties, in accordance with Annex II, for an amount equal to the contribution goal identified in Annex III.
3. Consider the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation at COP13 in 2028.
4. Urge the Parties to make payment of their financial contributions preferably before March 31 of each year, or as soon as possible within their national budgetary procedures, in order to facilitate the financial planning of the Secretariat.

5. Invite the Parties that have pending contributions to consider, in coordination with the Secretariat, establishing voluntary payment arrangements to regularize their pending financial contribution, in accordance with Annex III of this resolution, within their national annual budget.
6. Encourage the Parties, taking into account their national circumstances, to adjust their financial contribution included in Annex III, with the aim of strengthening the financial sustainability and effective implementation of the Convention.
7. Request the Working Group on the Legal Framework and Permanent Secretariat of the IAC, based on the communications from those Parties that decide to adjust their contribution, to prepare a proposal to update Annex III for consideration and approval at COP13.
8. Urge Parties, in accordance with their institutional frameworks, to identify, propose, and implement strategies to mobilize financial resources to address the existing budgetary deficit of the Convention as a matter of priority, including by increasing their contributions to support implementation of the Convention's Work Plan adopted by the COP; and further invite Parties to report on any progress made in this regard to mobilize their contributions and any additional resources at the next COP.
9. Urge Parties to establish and strengthen coordination mechanisms among their national projects related to the conservation of sea turtles, with the support of cooperating organizations and other relevant stakeholders, in order to develop and implement joint initiatives and facilitate access to complementary sources of financial support that directly contribute to the implementation of the IAC Work Plan and the effective achievement of the objective of the Convention.
10. Request the Secretariat and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to present, at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, an updated report on the status of Parties' financial contributions.

ANNEX I

IAC 2028-2030 Budget (Amounts in US\$)			
Items	2028	2029	2030
1- Staff	223,418	230,442	237,994
Secretary* (base salary \$135,480 - based on host country, in this case USA- costs for dental, health insurance, retirement plan, cost of contracting agency, and 3.5% annual increase in the cost of living)	198,418	205,442	212,994
IAC Secretariat Technical assistant full time estimated cost	25,000	25,000	25,000
2- Other Professional Services	2,000	2,000	2,000
Translations			
3- Communications	4,000	4,000	4,000
Website Maintenance/ Computer /Software/	2,500	2,500	2,500
Telecommunications/Maintenance IAC Online Reporting System	1,500	1,500	1,500
4- Travel	7,000	7,000	7,000
5- IAC Meeting Support	20,000	47,000	20,000
Scientific Committee (SC)**	5,000	42,000**	5,000
Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE)***	5,000	5,000	5,000
Conference of the Parties (COP)	10,000		10,000
Subtotal****	256,418	290,442	270,994
6- Overhead Costs (12%) *****	34,966	39,606	36,954
TOTAL	291,384	330,048	307,948

*Budget based on the contract for the Secretary with *Ocean Associates Inc* as decided at COP11. Projected amounts subject to changes in the costs of benefits.

**Budget for the SC (airfare, lodging, meals, meeting room rental, translation) for 20 participants. This budget will be used contingent on availability of funds.

***Budget for the CCE is for a virtual meeting via video-conference.

****Projected amounts subject to change depending on the total of actual funds received by IAC.

*****Administrative services provided by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) for a value of 12%, as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding between IAC COP and NMSF signed at COP11 (CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.2). These are projected amounts subject to change depending on the total of actual funds received by IAC.

ANNEX II

Invoice for financial contribution

In accordance with:

1. The financial rules (CIT-COPE1-2007-R2) adopted in October 2007 by the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles in Lima, Peru;
2. The US\$2,000 suggested minimum financial contribution established during the first Conference of Parties in San José, Costa Rica;
3. The 2028 budget adopted in COP12, the budget for 2029 and 2030 in the finances resolution CIT-COP12-2026-R1; as well as;
4. The table of contribution goals developed by the 4th Conference of Parties in San José, Costa Rica that was updated at COP5 in Bonaire, COP6 Ecuador, COP7 in Mexico, COP8 in Argentina, COP9 in the Dominican Republic, COP10, COP11 in Ecuador and COP12 in Peru;

The IAC Secretariat hereby presents this invoice to the Government of [insert country].

INVOICE

Party/Country	Year	Suggested Contribution (US\$)	Date

FINANCIAL HISTORY

[insert country] history of financial contributions to the IAC is included below for your reference.

Party/Country	Year	Suggested Contribution	Amount Contributed	Date Received

FUTURE CONTRIBUTIONS

In accordance with the budget for 2028 presented in COP12, the IAC Secretariat request the Government of [insert country] consider including in your annual national budget [insert year], a financial contribution for the IAC totaling US\$ [insert amount], in order to facilitate the financial contribution adopted in the framework of the Convention.

ANNEX III

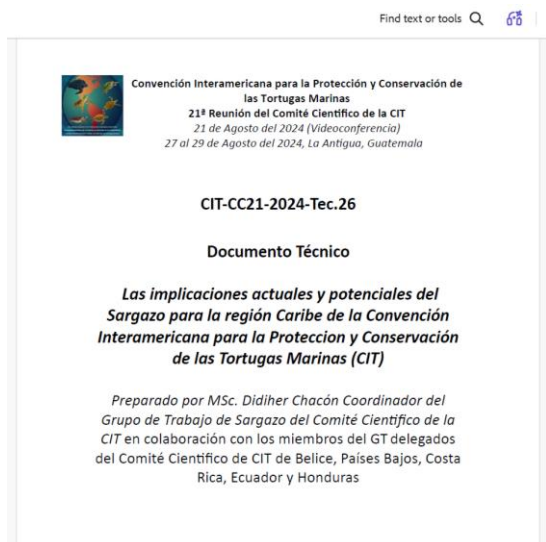
IAC Contributions Goals for 2028	
Member Country	Contribution Goal
Argentina	\$2,000
Belize	\$3,500
Brazil	\$7,056
Costa Rica	\$2,000
Chile	\$8,000
Dominican Republic	\$2,000
Ecuador	\$2,000
Guatemala	\$2,000
Honduras	\$2,000
Mexico	\$15,000
The Kingdom of the Netherlands	
Caribbean Netherlands	\$5,000
Curacao	\$5,000
St Maarten	\$5,000
Panama	\$5,000
Peru	\$5,000
The United States	\$65,000
Uruguay	\$2,928
Venezuela	\$3,653
TOTAL	\$142,137

Annex VIII – Technical Document CIT-CC21-2026-Tec.26 - Sargassum

Technical Document: Current and Potential Implications of Sargassum for the Caribbean Region of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles.

Link to the IAC Technical Documents webpage:

<http://www.iacseaturtle.org/documentos-eng.htm>



Annex VIX – Technical Document CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.27 – Electronic Monitoring Systems

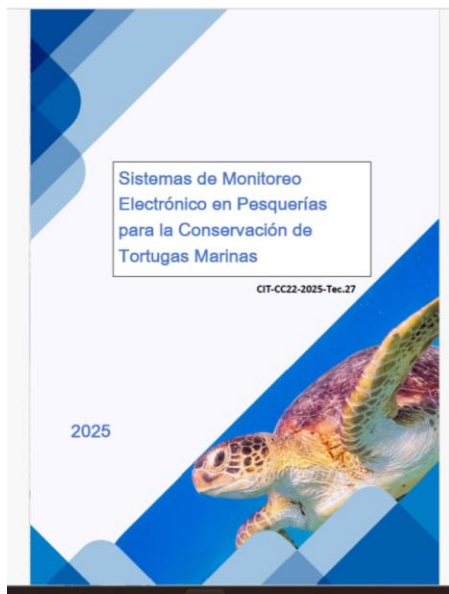
Technical Document: Electronic Monitoring Systems in Fisheries for the Conservation of Sea Turtles.

Link to the IAC Technical Documents webpage:

<http://www.iacseaturtle.org/documentos-eng.htm>

Link to Technical Document CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.27

http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/tecnicos/CIT_CC22_2025_Tec_27_Electronic_Monitoring_S_ENGLISH_10_nov.pdf



Annex X – Technical Document CIT-CC22-2025-Tec.28 - Fibropapillomatosis

Technical Document: Fibropapillomatosis in Sea Turtles within the IAC Region

Link to the IAC Technical Documents webpage: <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/publicaciones-eng.htm>

Link to Technical Document IAC-CC22-2025-Tec.28

http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/tecnicos/IAC_CC22_2025_Tec_28_FIBROPAPILOMA_10_NOV_2025_FINAL_WEB_ESPANOL.pdf



Annex XI - Document CIT-COP12-2026-Inf.4 Report East Pacific Leatherback Working Group

Report on the Activities of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle Working Group with input from Non-Governmental Organizations to the Implementation of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6

Prepared by the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle Working Group Juan Manuel Rguez-Baron and Diego Amorocho/Coordinators

This report has been prepared by the Eastern Pacific Ocean Leatherback Turtle Working Group (WG-EP Leatherback), composed of members of the IAC Consultative Committee and Scientific Committee. The report follows up on the implementation of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 and responds to the request of the 11th Conference of the Parties of the IAC to the WG-EP Leatherback to prepare technical recommendations to COP12 that would allow for evaluating progress in the implementation of the resolution, identifying gaps, and guiding future actions. This report identifies the activities that Non-Governmental Organizations are carrying out in IAC Member Countries in support to the implementation of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6. The report highlights gaps in the implementation of the Resolution strategic actions and provides recommendations for activities in that need to be strengthened.

This informational document is presented for consideration to the 12th Conference of the Parties of the IAC.

CIT-COP12-2026-Inf.4

Report on the Activities of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle Working Group with input from Non-Governmental Organizations to the Implementation of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6

Prepared by IAC Working Group East Pacific Leatherback

Diego Amorocho, CIMAD, Colombia

Leslie Bustos, Subsecretaría de Pesca y Acuicultura de Chile

Eduardo Espinoza, Parque Nacional Galápagos, Ecuador

Luis Fonseca, Fundación Costa Rica Por Siempre, Costa Rica

Santos Hernández, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales México

Rotney Piedra, Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación, Costa Rica

Javier Quiñones, Instituto del Mar del Perú

Juan Manuel Rguez-Baron, JUSTSEA Foundation, Colombia

Paula Salinas, Fundación Tortumar Chile

Bryan Wallace, Ecolibrium Inc. U.S.A.

Juan Manuel Rguez-Baron and Diego Amorocho
Coordinadors

1. INTRODUCTION

The Eastern Pacific subpopulation of the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) represents one of the most threatened management units among sea turtles worldwide. Distributed along the American Pacific coast, this population has experienced a decline of more than 90% since the mid-1980s, placing it in a critical conservation status. The main threats identified include incidental capture in artisanal and industrial fisheries, egg extraction on nesting beaches, and the degradation of its habitats.

In response to this alarming situation, the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) adopted Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6, which establishes strategic actions aimed at reversing the species' decline. These actions are structured around reducing incidental capture; identifying and protecting key areas; strengthening prohibitions on use and trade; and protecting nesting areas as well as clutches.

The Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle Working Group (WG-Leatherback EP), that operates as part of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts, plays a key role in evaluating the implementation of these measures. Within the framework of COP11 (2024), this group was tasked with preparing technical inputs to assess progress, identify gaps, and guide future actions toward IAC COP12 and the five-year evaluation of the resolution scheduled for 2027. In this context, the WG designed and conducted a survey directed at Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working on the conservation of the species in the Eastern Pacific.

This report summarizes the results of the survey conducted, provides a regional overview of the actions currently being implemented, their degree of alignment with the strategies defined by Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6, and the main associated challenges. Likewise, this exercise made it possible to identify gaps in the implementation of strategic actions and highlighted the role of NGOs as key actors in the conservation of the species by generating technical inputs that contribute to strengthening decision-making, regional coordination, and the planning of future actions within the framework of the IAC.

2. METHODS

2.1 Survey Design

A survey was designed aligned with the four strategic actions of Annex I of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6. The instrument included questions distributed across five sections: general information, alignment with the resolution, implementation of strategic actions, assessment of gaps, and recommendations. The survey combined short-answer questions, multiple-choice questions, and open-ended questions, allowing for the collection of both quantitative and qualitative information. The survey used is included in Annex 2 of this document.

2.2 Structure of survey by strategic actions

The core of the survey was structured around the four strategic actions of Annex I of the Resolution, allowing for the evaluation of the implementation of each specific activity:

Strategic Action 1: Reduction of incidental capture. This section included questions to identify the implementation of activities such as mitigation measures, research on fishing gear, training, monitoring, communication with fishers, exchange of experiences, and recording the fate of turtles. It also included questions regarding the main challenges.

Strategic Action 2: Definition and protection of important areas. This section included questions on the identification of aggregation zones or areas of interaction with leatherbacks in national and international waters, as well as limitations related to data, access, and institutional coordination.

Strategic Action 3: Strengthening prohibitions on use and trade. This section included questions on the identification of areas of illegal consumption and awareness campaigns, as well as limitations in enforcement and law application.

Strategic Action 4: Protection of nesting sites. This section included questions on nest protection, biological monitoring, inclusion of new beaches, and economic alternatives, along with questions on operational and logistical challenges.

2.3 Monitoring and methods

The survey included a specific section on monitoring, with closed questions (yes/no/in progress) and open-ended questions to describe the methodologies. This allowed for the characterization of practices aligned with the requirements of Annex II of the Resolution.

2.4 Analysis of the information

The analysis combined quantitative and qualitative approaches. Multiple-choice questions were used to identify implementation trends by activity, while open-ended responses made it possible to identify gaps, obstacles, and recommendations. The information was subsequently organized by country and by strategic action.

2.5 Survey sharing

The Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle Working Group had the support of the Laúd OPO Network for the circulation of the survey. Since Laúd OPO is a regional network focused on implementing strategies for the conservation of the leatherback in the Eastern Pacific, and brings together non-governmental organizations, governments, and international conventions, its participation proved strategic. In this context, the IAC is a member of Laúd OPO, and the contributions generated within the framework of this network were decisive in the formulation of the strategic actions contained in Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6.

3. RESULTS

Seventeen responses were obtained from twelve NGOs (Annex 1 – Table 1), nine of which work in IAC Party Countries such as Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, and Peru, and three of which work in Nicaragua and Colombia, countries that are not yet members of the IAC (Annex 1 – Table 2 NGOs that participated). These organizations carry out activities at different levels of intervention, including beach monitoring, work with fisheries, applied research, and environmental education.

3.1 México (7 organizations)

Systematic and successful activities in the protection of nesting beaches, including monitoring of females, nest protection, and hatchery management. These actions are complemented by community education and, to a lesser extent, by activities aimed at reducing incidental capture, mainly through training fishers. Systematic fisheries monitoring activities and the generation of fleet-scale data are more limited.

3.2 Costa Rica (1 organization)

One of the most comprehensive profiles, with a balanced combination of scientific research, monitoring, work with fisheries, and beach conservation. Its leadership in reducing incidental capture stands out, including training, innovation in fishing gear, and regional approaches. Likewise, it maintains strong activities in nesting protection and the generation of applied knowledge.

3.3 Panamá (1 organization)

In Panama, activities are distributed among monitoring incidental capture, working with fishers, and protecting beaches. There is a significant presence of applied research. Education and awareness-raising activities are also relevant, but limitations in coverage and continuity have been identified.

3.4 Perú (1 organization)

In Peru, activities are mainly focused on environmental education, awareness-raising, and some specific monitoring efforts. The WG is aware that there are important initiatives in the characterization and mitigation of mortality from incidental capture in the country, but the organizations (NGOs) involved did not participate in the survey.

3.5 Nicaragua (1 organization)

In Nicaragua, participation is mainly through regional networks (such as Laúd OPO). The activities identified correspond primarily to the provision of information and local conservation and awareness efforts, with limited systematic implementation in the field.

3.6 Colombia (2 organizations)

Colombia's activities are more toward reducing incidental capture, especially through port monitoring, fisher surveys, and training in best practices. Activities related to the protection of nesting beaches are practically nonexistent, since no significant nesting of the species has been recorded in the country. Research focuses on fisheries interactions and marine dynamics.

4. CONCLUSION

The analysis carried out shows that NGOs play a central role in the implementation of leatherback turtle conservation actions in the Eastern Pacific, particularly in relation to the protection of nesting sites, training of fishers, and awareness-raising activities. In many contexts, these entities constitute the main operational actor in the field, generating information, carrying out direct conservation

actions, and coordinating efforts at the local level. In this sense, NGOs must be recognized as fundamental strategic allies for fulfilling the commitments undertaken by IAC Party Countries within the framework of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6. The survey also revealed that some NGOs are aware of the IAC National Annual Report and have provided information to the National Focal Point to be included in this report.

Nevertheless, the analysis also reveals that the implementation of strategic actions is heterogeneous and shows significant gaps, especially in activities that require greater technical capacity, institutional coordination, and government support. In particular, limited levels of implementation were identified in the systematic monitoring of incidental capture—including the use of onboard observers and electronic monitoring systems—the generation and standardization of data by fishing fleet, the identification of critical areas in international waters, and the implementation of spatial and temporal management measures. These gaps are especially evident in countries where institutional capacities and resources are more limited, as well as in contexts where the species does not nest and actions depend mainly on fisheries work, such as in Colombia and, to a lesser extent, in Peru. Likewise, the absence of responses or the limited participation of some organizations in the survey also highlights the need to strengthen the link between NGOs in the region and the IAC. In fact, several organizations participated mainly through their articulation with the Laúd OPO Network, rather than through direct interaction with the Convention's processes or with Party Countries, which suggests important opportunities to improve mechanisms of integration, communication, and regional participation in the implementation of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6.

5. RECOMENDATIONS

a) IAC Parties should prioritize strengthening those strategic actions in Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 that show lower levels of implementation, promoting inter-institutional and regional alliances that allow efforts to be scaled up and resources optimized.

b) It is key to promote coordinated initiatives on incidental capture, as well as strengthen the generation of information in oceanic waters and along migratory corridors, where significant gaps in knowledge and management persist. In particular, these efforts should extend to areas beyond national jurisdiction, where governance and monitoring remain limited. In this context, it is recommended to explore synergies with the emerging framework of the recently ratified BBNJ Agreement, as an opportunity to articulate regional actions, improve access to data, and strengthen international cooperation in the conservation of highly migratory species.

c) Strengthen, improve, and/or establish articulation between the actors involved in species conservation and the formal mechanisms of the IAC. In this sense, it is recommended that IAC Focal Points make explicit efforts to integrate NGOs, universities, and other relevant actors into the process of preparing National Annual Reports. A concrete strategy for this could be the organization of participatory national meetings for the construction of these reports, which would not only facilitate the incorporation of field-generated information but also help identify common challenges, promote the exchange of experiences, and strengthen coordination among actors, adding visibility to the important role played by NGOs.

d) IAC Parties should ensure the timely submission of the National Annual Reports corresponding to the years 2025 and 2026, as well as those pending from previous periods, since these constitute a fundamental input for the regional analysis to be carried out by the WG-Leatherback EP in preparation for the five-year evaluation of the Resolution in 2027. A concrete strategy for this could be the organization of participatory national meetings for the preparation of these reports, which would not only facilitate the incorporation of field-generated information but also help identify common challenges, promote the exchange of experiences, and strengthen coordination among actors, adding visibility to the important role played by NGOs.

In summary, moving toward a more effective implementation of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 will require consolidating the efforts currently led by NGOs, while also strengthening the commitment of the Parties in terms of coordination and information generation. This approach will enable the construction of a more coherent regional response, based on scientific evidence and aimed at reversing the decline of the leatherback turtle in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

5. Next Steps

In compliance with Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6, the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle Working Group (GT-Baula OPO) will continue developing a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the strategic actions in Annex I, using as a basis the information reported by the Parties in their National Annual Reports for the 2022–2026 period. This process is part of the five-year evaluation provided for in the Resolution, which seeks to systematically assess the degree of implementation of conservation measures at the regional level. Likewise, this survey represents a first regional effort aimed at incorporating the perspective and experience of NGOs working in leatherback conservation in the Eastern Pacific. In this sense, the results obtained should be understood as a preliminary approach that allows the identification of trends, gaps, and opportunities for strengthening. It is expected that future applications of this exercise will achieve greater participation and representativeness of organizations in the region, thereby consolidating a more robust, inclusive, and articulated mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Resolution.

In accordance with this mandate, the GT-Baula OPO will prepare an evaluation report to be presented to the CIT Advisory Committee of Experts and the Scientific Committee, and subsequently to the Conference of the Parties. The first five-year report is scheduled for presentation in 2027, constituting a key milestone to guide future decisions within the CIT framework.

Acknowledgement

The GT-Baula OPO expresses its gratitude to all organizations and individuals who participated in the survey, whose willingness to share information and experiences was fundamental to the development of this analysis. The valuable support of Bryan Wallace and Velkiss Gadea, coordinators of the Laúd OPO Network, is also recognized, as their commitment and coordination have been key to facilitating information gathering and strengthening regional conservation efforts for the species.

ANNEX 1. Comparative synthesis by country of the implementation of strategic actions (EA) for the conservation of the leatherback turtle in the Eastern Pacific under Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6. Data obtained from a survey answered by 12 NGOs. Colombia and Nicaragua are not members of IAC but are within the distribution range of the Eastern Pacific leatherback.

Country	EA1 – Reduction of Incidental Capture	EA2 – Important Areas	EA3 – Use and Trade	EA4 – Nesting Sites
Mexico	High in training and litigation; low in conservation, data, and awareness	Moderate: national areas; low in international	High in awareness; low in enforcement	High in protection and monitoring; medium in hatching success; low in economic alternatives
Costa Rica	High in monitoring, research, and training; medium in training and partial monitoring; low in protection and monitoring	High in national and progress in international	High in awareness; medium-low in enforcement	High in protection; medium in hatching success; low in economic alternatives
Panama	Medium in training and partial monitoring; low in data and critical areas	Medium in national; low in international	Medium in awareness; low in enforcement	Medium-high in protection; low in hatching success and economic alternatives
Peru	Low (mainly awareness)	Very low	Low in awareness	N/A (no nesting)
Colombia	Medium in training and port monitoring; low in hatching success and data	Low	Medium in awareness	N/A (no nesting)
Nicaragua	Low (limited, indirect)	Very low	Low in awareness and low in enforcement	Low

Table 2. NGOs that answered the survey members of Laud OPO network

NGO	Country
Barreros de San Luis	México
Fundación Ecológica	México
Fundación por las Caguamas	México
Grupo Tortuguero	México
ReSiMar – La Tortuga	México
Campamento Tortuguero Los Quelonios	México
Fundación BioMar	México
CREMA (Conservación de Recursos Marinos)	Costa Rica
EcoOceánica	Perú
Fauna & Flora	Nicaragua
JUSTSEA Foundation	Colombia
Fundación CIMAD	Colombia

ANNEX 2. Survey on Implementation of Measures for Leatherback Turtle Conservation in the East Pacific Ocean – IAC Working Group

Introduction

The IAC East Pacific Leatherback Working Group is gathering information on actions implemented by organizations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) related to the conservation of the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), within the framework of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6. Your collaboration is essential to identify gaps and strengthen regional strategies.

Section 1: General Information

Question type: short answer

- Name of the organization
- Contact person
- Email address
- Country/region

Section 2: Alignment with Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6

Question type: multiple choice + long answer

- Are you familiar with Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6?
 - ☐ Yes

- ☐ No
- Have you implemented measures from Annex I (Strategic Actions for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle)?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Partially
 - Briefly describe the measures implemented: [long answer]
- Do you carry out monitoring actions according to Annex II (reproductive monitoring and reduction of incidental capture)?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ In development
 - Describe the methodologies used: [long answer]

Section 3: Evaluation and Gaps

Question type: long answer

- Which measures do you consider have not been adequately implemented?
- Which actions do you consider replicable or scalable in other EPO contexts?
- What have been the main obstacles to implementing the measures proposed in the resolution?

Section 4: Recommendations

Question type: long answer + multiple choice

- What proposals do you have to strengthen leatherback turtle conservation in the EPO?
- Are you interested in collaborating with the EPO Leatherback Working Group?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Under evaluation

Section 5: Additional Comments

Question type: long answer

- Open space to share observations, suggestions, or other relevant information.

Alignment with Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 – CONTINUED

Proposed questions based on Annex I of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6.

Instructions: Please mark the responses that correspond to the activities your organization is implementing or not, and select the main challenges you face.

1 Strategic Action: Reduce Incidental Capture

1.1 Is your organization implementing any of the following activities? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Application of incidental capture reduction measures
- ☐ Research on fishing gear modifications
- ☐ Training in safe handling and release of turtles
- ☐ Monitoring of incidental capture at ports or onboard vessels
- ☐ Exchange of experiences among fishers on best practices
- ☐ Identification of the fate of captured turtles (for human consumption or discarded)

1.2 Which of these activities are NOT currently being implemented by your organization? (Select all that apply)

1.3 What are the main challenges preventing implementation? (Select up to three)

- ☐ Lack of funding
- ☐ Limited access to fishing fleets
- ☐ Lack of trained personnel
- ☐ Resistance from fishing communities
- ☐ Absence of government support
- ☐ Other (specify): _____

2 Strategic Action: Define and Protect Important Areas (nesting and feeding) for the species

2.1 Is your organization carrying out any of the following activities?

- ☐ Identification of priority areas in national waters
- ☐ Identification of critical areas in international waters

2.2 Which activities are NOT being carried out?

2.3 Main challenges:

- ☐ Lack of scientific data
- ☐ Difficulty accessing remote areas
- ☐ Limited inter-institutional coordination between NGOs and government entities
- ☐ Other: _____

3 Strategic Action: Strengthen bans on use and trade

3.1 Is your organization implementing any of these actions?

- ☐ Identification of areas with poaching
- ☐ Awareness campaigns

3.2 Which activities are NOT being implemented?

3.3 Main challenges:

- ☐ Insufficient human resources
- ☐ Low community awareness
- ☐ Limited government law enforcement action
- ☐ Other: _____

4 Strategic Action: Protection of Nesting Sites

4.1 Is your organization carrying out any of the following activities?

- ☐ Protection of nests, females, and hatchlings
- ☐ Biological monitoring on index nesting beaches
- ☐ Inclusion of new beaches in protection programs
- ☐ Strategies to increase hatching success
- ☐ Implementation of alternative economic options in local communities

4.2 Which activities are NOT being implemented?

4.3 Main challenges:

- ☐ Lack of financial resources
- ☐ Conflicts with human activities on beaches
- ☐ Logistical difficulties
- ☐ Other: _____

Annex XII – Secretariat and Subsidiary Bodies Work Plan 2026-2028 Document CIT-COP12-2026-Doc.3

CIT-COP12-2026-Doc.3

SECRETARIAT AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES WORK PLAN 2026 – 2028

The following document was prepared by the IAC Secretariat, the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) and the Scientific Committee (SC). The Work Plan of the IAC Secretariat and the IAC Subsidiary Bodies 2026-2027 was adopted at IAC COP12.

IAC SECRETARIAT WORK PLAN 2026-2028

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
IAC MEMBERSHIP					
1	IAC Secretariat	Increase membership IAC	1) Continue efforts to achieve ratification of new Parties to the IAC and report on the progress to COP. 2) Send IAC Informative Bulletin to non-Party countries. 3) Invite non-Party countries to the Conference of the Parties and IAC's committee meetings. 4) Attend meetings of International Organizations (IO), RFMOs and Conventions to share information about the IAC, and networking with non-Party country representatives to invite them to collaborate and join IAC.	Increase in IAC membership.	Permanent

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
			5) Follow up on the efforts already initiated with Canada, Colombia, France, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, Aruba, Nicaragua and El Salvador with the collaboration of IAC Parties to incorporate new members to the IAC.		
2	IAC Parties	Adhesion of new parties to the IAC	1) The Parties Chancelleries and other relevant authorities from IAC Parties, support IAC Secretariat in the approaching non-member countries previously identified (Canada, France, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guyana and, Suriname) to encourage their ratification. As well as identify new countries for outreach. 2) IAC Focal Points consider carrying out side events within the framework of other meetings to promote the IAC.	Increase in IAC membership.	Permanent
COMMUNICATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT					
3	IAC Secretariat	IAC's website and Informative Bulletin Communication and capacity development	1) The Focal Points on a monthly basis will send relevant news, and will share outreach material related to World Sea Turtle Day activities and other events with the Secretariat to include them in the IAC Bulletin. 2) Secretariat will prepare the IAC Bulletin. 3) Implementation of the IAC communication strategy with Costa Rica Focal Point.	1,2) IAC's website updated with relevant news and 1 or 2 IAC Bulletin available every year.	Permanent

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
				3) Communication strategy implemented as needed.	
4	IAC Secretariat, Parties	Communication	Publish and disseminate the Resolutions and recommendations adopted at the COP.	COP 12 and COP13 report available on IAC web site	2026 -2028
COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS					
5	IAC Secretariat	Collaboration with International Organizations and strategic partnerships	1) Promote the signature of at least one cooperation agreement with an organization related to the IAC's objective. The goal is to promote collaborative work with other relevant conventions and international and regional organizations. 2) Prepare draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) (when needed). - Legal Working Group and Secretariat will review the MoU with National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and will present recommendations to IAC COP13. Per recommendation of IAC Finances Resolution from COP12. (New) 3) The Secretariat will evaluate the importance and possibility of attending meetings of other international organizations (IO) and RFMO (IATTC-ICCAT) relevant to the objectives of the IAC Convention to promote	1) Cooperation agreement or MoU signed or in the process to be signed. 2) Documents presented to the COP13 for consideration. 3) Report to IAC COP on meetings attended by IAC representative.	2026-2028

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
			collaboration and present recommendations as appropriate.		
6	Secretariat, Parties	Collaboration with International Organizations and strategic alliances	4) Promote activities with organizations that have signed MoUs with the IAC and other multilateral agreements. The activities can include among others preparing technical documents and joint publications. 5) Attend technical meetings and workshops.	4) Technical documents and joint publications available on IAC web site to promote information exchange, and lessons learned. 5) Report on workshops attended as appropriate.	4) Permanent 5) Permanent
7	Secretariat, Parties	Collaboration with international organizations and strategic alliances	6) Promote the celebration of the World Sea Turtle Day June 16th each year.	6) World Sea Turtle Day activity carried out by IAC Secretariat in collaboration with IAC Parties, IO and/or strategic alliances.. 7) Activities in celebration of World Sea Turtle Day carried out by each IAC Party.	1) 2026-2028 2) Permanent
FINANCIAL RESOURCES					
8	Parties	Financial Resources	1) Identify external funding for projects and activities identified by the IAC Scientific Committee and/or the Consultative Committee as high priority.	1) Potential donors identified	Permanent
9	IAC Legal working group, Parties, Secretariat	Financial Resources	2) Prepare and negotiate project proposals. 3) Implementation of funded projects and activities, and prepare reports of projects implemented.	2) Project proposal presented to potential sponsors. 3) Technical and financial reports presented in a timely manner to the funding agencies.	2026-2028

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
MEETING ORGANIZATION					
10	Secretariat, Chairs of COP , Chairs Committees	Execution capacity- Meetings organization	1)Organize COP12 and COP13 2)Organize Scientific Committee annual meetings. (2 meetings) 3)Organize Consultative Committee annual meetings. (2 meetings) 4)Organize meetings of working groups(WG) established in the inter-session period. About 12 Working Groups active.	1)Convene COP (Bi- annual) (2 meetings) 2)Convene Consultative Committee CCE (annual) (2 meetings) 3)Convene Scientific Committee SC (annual). (2 meetings) 4)Working Groups meetings and follow up	2026-2028
PERMANENT SECRETARIAT					
11	IAC Legal Working Group, Parties	Permanent Secretariat	1)Support activities for the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat, and support to the IAC Legal Working Group. 2) Report updates on this process to COP13.	1)Permanent Secretariat established. 2) Progress report presented to COP13.	1) Ongoing 2) 2028
12	Legal Working Group, Parties	Financial Sustainability	3)The sub group on finances from Legal -WG will implement the strategy to fund the IAC operation. Activities include analyzing annual contributions, raising in-kind resources, and fundraising of pending contributions from Parties. Legal WG will preesent recomedation and new text for Finances Resolution to COP as needed.	3)The IAC operation is fully funded and does not need external sources of funding. Legal WG Reports presented at COP. Resolution proposal drafted as needed	2026-2028

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
			-The Legal -WG will revise the IAC Finances Resolution Annex III Contribution Goals - accordingly to feedback received from IAC Parties, as stated in the COP12 Finances Resolution. (New)		
RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COP					
13	Secretariat, Consultative Committee of Experts, Parties	Drafting resolutions and recommendations to COP	Address COP requests and draft resolutions and recommendations accordingly.	Present draft resolutions and recommendations to COP as needed	2028
14	IAC Legal Working Group, Parties	Finances Resolution	1)The Legal -WG will present a proposal with the review of IAC Finances Resolution Annex III Contribution Goals. (New) 2)The Legal WG- with the Secretariat will review the MoU with National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and will present recommendations to COP13. (New)	1) Recommendation to COP13 of changes to Financial Resolution as needed. 2) MoU presented to COP13	1) 2027- 2028
IAC ANNUAL REPORT					
15	IAC Parties	IAC Annual Report	1) Each Party sends the Secretariat its Annual Report each year. 2) IAC Parties will send their pending Annual Reports when applicable.	1 & 2) IAC Online Report submitted by the Parties.	Permanent

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
16	Secretariat and WCMC	IAC Annual Report Online Platform	3) IAC Secretariat will continue to work with WCMC to manage, update the online report platform, and update the IAC Annual Report questions. 4) Technical support IAC Parties with the use of the online report platform to submit the online Annual Report.	3) IAC Annual Reports are available on the IAC website to be analyzed by the Committees. 4) IAC Parties received training to use and resolve issues with the online platform.	2026-2028
WORK PLAN					
17	Secretariat, Parties	Work Plan	1) Prepare a biennial Work Plan.	1) Secretariat biennial work plan approved at COP13.	2028
18	Secretariat and IAC COP Chair	Implementation of Work Plan	2) Prepare report on the implementation of the Work Plan for the Secretariat to be presented at COPs.	2) Report on implementation of the Work Plan 2026, 2027, and 2028 presented to COP13.	2028

IAC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WORK PLAN 2026-2028

This document was prepared by Consultative Committee of Experts and the IAC Secretariat, the activities were included at the CCE19 meeting in 2026. The CCE Workplan was adopted at the 12th Conference of the Parties-IAC COP12 (2026) with inclusion of new activities.

	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
EXCEPTIONS					
1	Consultative Committee of Experts	Exceptions	1) Follow up with the report for the evaluation of the implementation of the Management Plan for Exceptions of Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Panama, received from the IAC Scientific Committee. 1.1) Costa Rica presents to CCE their exception implementation report according to Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R5. 1.2) Panama presents to CCE their exception implementation report according to Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R3. 1.3) Guatemala presents to CCE their exception implementation report according to Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R4.	1) The WG for Exceptions (members CCE and Scientific Committee SC) will prepare a report for the evaluation of the implementation of their Management Plan for Exceptions of Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama, using the evaluation format provided to the Focal Points of the countries with the exception. Each country will report every 5 years. First report for Costa Rica 2026, Panama 2027 and Guatemala 2028. Reports will be presented to Consultative, Scientific Committee. 1.1) The WG - Exceptions will prepare a report for the evaluation of the implementation of Costa Rica Management Plan for Exceptions.	1) 2026-2028 1.1) 2026 1.2) 2027 1.3) 2028

	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
			2) The Consultative Committee of Experts will prepare a report to the COP on the Exceptions for the use of sea turtles or their products from the IAC Parties (when new exceptions are presented).	The report with recommendations to Costa Rica will be presented to the SC and CCE, Costa Rica Focal Point and COP. 1.2) The WG - Exceptions will prepare a report for the evaluation of the implementation of Panama. Management Plan for Exceptions. The report with recommendations to Panama will be presented to the SC and CCE and Panama Focal Point 1.3) The WG-Exceptions will prepare a report for the evaluation of the implementation of Guatemala Management Plan for Exceptions. The report with recommendations to Guatemala will be presented to the SC and CCE and Guatemala Focal Point. 2) Reports about new exceptions presented to the COP for consideration, if applicable.	2) Permanent
EASTERN PACIFIC LEATHERBACK					
2	Eastern Pacific Leatherback Working Group	Eastern Pacific Leatherback	1) Conduct annual meetings of the EP Leatherback Working group.	1) Meetings of the Leatherback Working group.	1) Permanent

	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
			2) Follow up on the implementation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP10-2022-R2). 3) Follow up with the recommendations from the IAC-IATTC EASI-Fish study and how they relate to the IATTC sea turtle resolution menu approach for bycatch mitigation measures. As an example, follow up on the discussion on the circle hook size. Identify opportunities to continue the collaboration with IATTC.	2) The EP Leatherback will prepare a report with the implementation of the EP Leatherback Resolution with information from IAC Annual reports 2023, 2024, and 2025. The report will be completed by 2026 to be presented at Scientific Committee 2026 and CCE20 in 2027. Final report presented to COP13. 3) EP Leatherback WG will report their progress regarding the EASI-Fish project and collaboration with IATTC to the CCE20. Explore the possibility to link this work with the IAC sea turtle bycatch mitigation workshop.	2) 2026-2028 3) 2026-2027
ATLANTIC LEATHERBACK					
3	Atlantic Leatherback Working Group	Atlantic Leatherback	1) Promote technical collaborations with the SPAW, WIDECAST and other organizations working on the protection of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback. 2) Promote and support the IAC Secretariat with outreach and collaboration to countries in the	1) Progress report presented at CCE as applicable	1) 2026-2028 2) Permanent

	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
			range of the species such as: Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, and France. 3) Promote collaboration and identify areas for exchange and collaborative work in the framework of MoU with IATTC, RAMSAR and the Sargasso Sea Commission. 4) The WG will periodically update its work plan that focuses on international collaboration to address threats both on nesting beaches and in the water, in particular bycatch reduction.	2) Collaboration with the working group to reach out to IAC's non-party countries and with the SPAW protocol. 3) Information exchange and develop a workplan for collaboration. 4) The new activities in the Work Plan will be presented at the CCE as necessary.	3) 2026-2028 4) 2026-2028
FISHERIES					
4	Fisheries Working Group (CCE and SC)	Fisheries and interactions with sea turtles	1) The Fisheries WG will organize a workshop on current bycatch reduction and mitigation measures (trawl, longline, gillnets) with representatives from both Consultative and Scientific Committees. This activity is subject to availability of funds that IAC Parties might be able to provide.	1) Workshop report presented to CCE, SC and COP	1) 2026-2027

	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
5	Working Group Chile -Peru	Fisheries and interactions with sea turtles	2) Pilot project <i>“Standardization of formats to report sea turtles’ bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in southern Peru and northern Chile”</i> - This activity is depending on availability of funds.	2) Progress report on the implementation of the Pilot Project in Peru and Chile. Provide update on budget and fundraising at CCE as needed.	1) 2026-2027
IAC ANNUAL REPORT					
6	Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Annual Report	1) CCE delegates from each country will provide support to the Focal Point to prepare the IAC Annual Report.	1) IAC Annual Report prepared each year.	Permanent
7	Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Annual Report Form	2) Assess current Annual Report form.	2) Recommendations for changes to the Annual Report format as required.	1) Permanent
COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS					
8	Consultative Committee of Experts	Collaboration with International Organizations	1) Promote alliances and collaborative work with relevant international organizations (IO) to accomplish the IAC objectives. 2) Provide technical guidance to IAC Secretariat and/or attend IO meetings and other relevant groups, as needed.	1) Collaborative work identified with similar organizations to share information (CITES, SPAW, IATTC, ICCAT, CPPS, RAMSAR, ACAP, Sargasso Sea Commission, CMS, CBD, OSPESCA, OLDEPESCA, Laud OPO, WIDECAST, SWOT, ICAPO, ASO, and other civil society organizations as appropriate). 2) CCE delegates report to CCE annual meeting on workshops and meetings that	2026-2028

	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
				they attend on behalf of IAC when applicable.	
9	Consultative Committee of Experts	Sea Turtle Day	1) CCE members support activities to celebrate World Sea Turtle Day each year and when needed collaborate with other IO. 1.1) CCE members co-organize with IAC Secretariat one activity for Sea Turtle Day 2027. 2) Explore opportunities to increase visibility through social media platforms, such as internships with academia or other organizations. Brasil will support this activity to increase IAC presence in social media.	1) Support the IAC Secretariat in the Celebration of the World Sea Turtle Day activities, such as facilitating virtual meetings, educational outreach, support for communication in various social media platforms as applicable. 1.1) Report to CCE and COP on the 2027 activity. 2) Identify potential collaborations to increase IAC visibility through social media. Brasil will report their progress at CCE20-2027.	1) Permanent 1.1) 2027 2) 2026-2028

	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
10	Consultative Committee of Experts	Implementation of MoUs	1) Develop and review drafts MoU with relevant organizations identified. 2) Identify, prioritize, and implement activities in the framework of the MoU.	1) MoU Documents presented to COP for consideration 2) List of priority activities being implemented within the MoU frameworks. Activities identified with SSC, Stetson University, ICCAT and SPAW Protocol. Report to CCE20-CCE21, as needed.	1) Permanent 2) 2027-2028
11	Consultative Committee of Experts, Sea Turtle Scientific-Technical Committee PAPSE (WG IAC-CPPS)	Implementation of IAC – CPPS MoU	1) Prepare Work Plan to guide the implementation of IAC -CPPS MoU. The document will be presented to the Consultative Committee in 2027 (New)) 2) CCE IAC-CPPS working group, Project Save the Blue Five (GIZ), CPPS and Southeast Pacific Sea Turtle Scientific and Technical Committee prepare the Work plan for a 5 year period with activities related to the Save the Blue five project sea turtle component and other of the project areas as pertinent. 3) Collaboration and support of the CCE IAC-CPPS WG for the implementation of activities, and facilitate the coordination with experts of IAC Scientific Committee as necessary. 4) Prepare final report.	1) Work Plan prepared to present to CCE and COP13 (New) 2) Work plan adopted by WG. 3) and 4) Project report with results on the implementation of the workplan on sea turtle component also including if pertinent the IAC resolutions that were implemented with support of the activities of the Save the Blue Five Project. Presentation of preliminary and final report of the collaboration IAC-CPPS-GIZ to COP13 (final report).	2026-2028

	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
12	Fundraising Working Group Coordinator Brazil	Fundraising for IAC Secretariat operations and projects	1) The Fundraising - Working Group with support from grant writing department Foundation Espiritu Santo and ICMBIO Brazil will identify sources of funding, and prepare project proposals to help support IAC Secretariat operation. (New) 2) The Fundraising Working Group with support from grant writing department Foundation Espiritu Santo and ICMBIO Brazil will identify sources of funding, and prepare project proposals for implementation of priority projects. 3) The Fundraising - WG will continue to work with the Legal - WG to find opportunities to finance projects.	1) One proposal presented by the Fundraising - WG to potential donors to support the operation of IAC Secretariat. (New) 2) The Fundraising -Working Group will apply grants to implement priority small projects. At the moment the project identified by CCE in the topic of “Fisheries” is the pilot project <i>“Standardization of formats to report sea turtles’ bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in southern Peru and northern Chile”</i>. Progress report presented as needed.	1) 2026-2028 2) 2026-2028
DRAFTING RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COP					
13	Comité Consultivo de Expertos	Drafting Resolutions and Recommendations to COP	1) Address COP requests and draft Resolutions and recommendations accordingly.	1) Draft Resolutions and recommendations presented to COP as needed. 1.2) Prepare/review Resolution proposal for COP13.	1) Permanent 1.2) 2027-2028
IAC TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS					

	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
14	Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Technical Documents	1) Prepare technical documents as needed. 2) Review recommendations from the Consultative Committee Technical Documents prepared in 2026-2028	1) Technical documents available on the IAC website and shared with IAC Parties. 2) Technical documents with recommendations presented to COP13 as appropriate.	1) Permanent 2) 2028
IAC EXPERTS' DIRECTORY					
15	Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat	IAC Experts Directory	1) Update the IAC Experts Directory as often as needed.	1) Updated directory available on IAC's Website.	Permanent
IAC BULLETIN					
16	Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Newsletter	1) Every month, the CCE members will send to Secretariat relevant news for the IAC's Newsletter.	1) IAC's Newsletter updated in IAC Website (1-2 Bulletin per year).	Permanent
IAC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY					
17	Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Communication Strategy	1) Implementation of the IAC Communication Strategy with support from Costa Rica, as needed. 2) Prepare a technical document to support the increase the IAC membership and the role of IAC safeguarding sea turtles CIT-CCE19-2026-Tec. 29	1) Outreach material produced by IAC Parties included in the Convention Communication strategy portfolio. 2) Technical document CIT-CCE19-2026-Tec. 29 to support increase IAC	1) 2026-2028 2) 2026

	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
			with input from the member states. Activity carried out in collaboration with Stetson University.	membership adopted at CCE19 and COP12 available on IAC web site.	
WORKPLAN					
18	Consultative Committee Chair	Report on Implementation of CCE Work Plan	1) Prepare report on the status of implementation of the CCE Work Plan. Annual report with the activities in the work plan presented to CCE. 2) Prepare annual report and present it to CCE20. 3) Prepare a biannual report on implementation of the CCE Work Plan for COP13.	1) Report presented to CCE. 2) Report presented to CCE20 3) Report June 2026, 2027, 2028 presented at COP13.	1) 2026 -2028 2) 2027 3) 2028
19	Consultative Committee of Experts	Work plan	4) Update the CCE work plan following the recommendations from the Parties.	4) CCE biennial work plan updated with activities, timetable, and responsible.	Permanent
20	Consultative Committee Chair and Working Groups	CCE Working Groups	5) Convene working groups meetings to follow up on work plan.	5) Number of meetings of the CCE working groups June 2026–May 2028.	2026-2028

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2026 – 2028

The following document was prepared the Scientific Committee (SC) and the IAC Secretariat. The activities included were agreed at SC22 (2025) meeting and adopted at COP12 (2026) with new activities.

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
EXCEPTIONS					
1	Exceptions WG	Assessment of Panama, Costa Rica and Guatemala exception management plan every five years.	1) The Exceptions WG will review the “<i>Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan</i>” presented by Costa Rica (2026), Panama (2027) and Guatemala (2028), in accordance to the time frame in their Exception Resolution. 2) The Exception WG will prepare a report on the progress in the implementation of the exception Resolution for each country to present to IAC COP every 5 years, as applicable The first report will be to Costa Rica - 2026. 3) Exception WG provides technical support to prepare Guatemala Exception Management Plan.	1) The SC together with CCE will provide comments and recommendations based on the “<i>Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan</i>” for each country as applicable. The first recommendations will be provided to Costa Rica and presented to SC-2026. 2) SC and CCE will present report to IAC COP on the progress in the implementation of the exception resolutions as applicable. 3) Recommendations from Exception WG to the draft management plan presented to SC21-2024. Exception WG will provide support as needed by Guatemala.	1)2026-2028 2) 2028 (COP13) 3) 2026

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
2	Guatemala	Exception Management Plan	4) Guatemala presented the Exception Management Plan to the Scientific Committee in 2024 and included recommendations from SC. Guatemala will present in December 2025 a progress report to the SC including the steps for CONAP approval. 5) Approval of Exception Management Plan Guatemala by CONAP. Progress report presented by Guatemala as needed.	4) Progress report presented to SC23 (2026), and in the subsequent years as applicable. 5) Exception Management Plan for Guatemala approved by CONAP.	4) 2026 5) 2026
FISHERIES					
3	Fisheries WG	Interactions with observed longline fisheries Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7	1) Analysis of observer data on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longlines based on IAC Annual Report data from 2020-2025. Coordinator: Mexico 2) Present Report to COP13 with data from Annual Reports 2020 -2027.	1) Recommendations from the SC to the report regarding interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline (2020-2025). 2) Report and recommendations presented to the COP13 (2028).	1) 2026 2) 2028
4	Fisheries WG	Technical Exchange	3) Carry out a technical exchange (virtual meetings) between the IAC Fisheries WG with the representatives of the IAC countries fisheries agencies as appropriate, to strengthen their participation providing	3) Virtual or in person meetings with the participation of the fisheries WG and representatives of the IAC countries fisheries agencies.	3-5) 2026-2028

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
			information on fisheries interaction and sea turtles in the IAC Annual Report. Primarily focusing on longline data collection. 4) The Fisheries WG (members of CCE and SC) will coordinate an in person workshop looking at sea turtle bycatch mitigation methods. Activity subject to funding availability that IAC Parties might be able to provide. 5) Workshop to apply the for best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles during fishing operations and the use of cards/booklet for fishermen to use in vessels. This activity is subject to funding availability. (NEW)	4) Workshop implemented 5) Workshop implemented	
5	Fisheries WG SC and CCE	Interactions with gillnets	6) The SC and CCE Fisheries WG will develop a proposal to include information on interactions between sea turtles and gillnets in the IAC Annual Report. Coordinador: Chile-SC Member	6) Proposal to the Scientific and Consultative committees to include information on interactions between sea turtles and gillnets in IAC Annual Report according to the Resolution on Fisheries CIT-COP10-2022-R7.	6)2026-2028
6	Fisheries WG	Safe handling and release of sea turtles that interact with fishing gear	7) Prepare IAC Manual for best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles during fishing operations. The document was shared for comments with the Consultative Committee (CCE). The	7) Final version of Manual on IAC shared with IAC countries and in IAC website. 8) Field cards presented at the Scientific Committee meeting as needed.	7)2026 8)2026-2028

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
			comments were included. After this it will be shared with the IAC Focal Points for approval by email. COP11 recommendation. This is in process still not finalized. Coordinator: SC Delegate Mexico 8) The Fisheries WG will prepare field cards/booklet for fishermen to use in vessels. This activity is subject to funding availability.		
CONSERVATION STATUS ON INDEX NESTING BEACHES					
7	Nesting Beaches WG (Jeff Seminoff USA Coordinator, Ecuador – Eduardo Espinoza and Secretariat)	Conservation Status in Index Nesting Beaches	1) Collect information on annual nesting in index beaches using the IAC Annual Report. The Technical Document on IAC Index Beaches is updated every 5 years. Next update of technical document in 2028. To present to COP13	1) Technical Document IAC Index Beach Data Analysis 2009-2028 using the latest data from IAC Annual Report 2028, to be presented to the Scientific Committee (2027-preliminar) and COP13. Timeframe to present the technical document: 2027-2028 2) IAC Annual Report format Nesting Data updated as applicable.	1) SC2027 2)2026-2028
CLIMATE CHANGE					

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
8	Climate Change WG Coordinator Julia Horrocks (Caribbean Netherlands, USA, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and Dominican Republic).	Climate Change; Pilot Project	1) Following submission of data by the countries that are implementing the pilot project, the WG Coordinator will prepare the final report on the 5- year implementation of the pilot project and present it to the Scientific Committee 2026.	1) Final Report on 5-year implementation of the pilot project (2021-2025) presented to the Scientific Committee in 2026.	1) 2026
EASTERN PACIFIC LEATHERBACK <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>					
9	EP Leatherback WG	Resolution CIT-COP10- 2022-R6	1) The EP Leatherback WG will prepare an “ <i>Evaluation report on the implementation of the conservation measures and strategic actions in Annex 1 of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6</i> ”, every five years. The first report is to be presented to the Committees SC and CE in 2027 and to the subsequent COP13.	1) Evaluation report on the implementation of the Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 (5-year report) presented to SC, CCE in 2027 and COP13.	1) 2026-2027
SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION STATUS					
10	<i>Caretta caretta</i> WG (Mexico, Belize, Brazil, Panama, and USA).	<i>Caretta caretta</i> ; conservation status report. Coordinator Brazil and USA Delegates	1) Report: Status of Loggerhead Turtles (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) Within Nations of the IAC. The report is updated every 5 years according to Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R3.	1) Updated Technical document presented to SC 2027 and COP13.	1) 2026-2028

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
			Next update of technical document in 2028 to present to COP13		
11	WG Vessel strikes recreative and fishing vessels with sea turtles (Dominican Republic/Coordinator, Guatemala, Caribbean Netherlands, Mexico, Belize, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Costa Rica)	Threats: Vessel strikes and sea turtles	2)The WG will prepare an IAC Technical Document with general guidelines to mitigate this threat, for each country to implement as appropriate, and will share with CCE and SC in 2027.	2) Technical document compiling regional information (IAC countries and others) adopted (2027). Technical document presented to COP13 2028.	2) 2027 3) COP13 2028
12	WG Green Turtle Ecuador (Coordinador), Argentina, Peru, Chile, USA, Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica.	Population status of <i>C. mydas</i> in IAC region	3) Prepare technical document about the population status of <i>C. mydas</i> in IAC region. Responsible: Green Turtle WG	3) Technical Document presented to Scientific Committee 2026, and Consultative Committee 2027. Technical document presented to COP13.	3)2026-2028
13	WG-Sargassum	Technical Document-	4)The WG will prioritize the recommendations contained in the	4)List of priority actions for IAC countries facing the impact of Sargassum.	2026-2028

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
		“ The potential impact of Sargassum in IAC Countries”	Technical Document on sargassum, with the purpose of identifying those that can be implemented by the IAC member countries in the short term or that are more urgent. (NEW) 5) The Working Group will make a list of the IAC member countries affected by the proliferation of sargassum and will promote coordination of efforts for the joint implementation of the prioritized recommendations from the Technical Document. (NEW)		
14	Scientific Committee Chair	Sea turtle’s conservation status	6) Prepare recommendations on sea turtle’s conservation status using technical documents to the COP when applicable.	6) Recommendations on sea turtle conservation status as technical documents presented to COP13. 6.1) Presentation of following technical Documents to COP13: Technical Document Vessel strikes Technical Document Green Turtle Technical Document IAC Index Beach Data Analysis 2009-2028. -Technical Document Status of Loggerhead Turtles (Caretta caretta) Within Nations of the IAC. - Evaluation report on the implementation of the conservation measures and strategic	6) Permanent 6.1) 2026-2028

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
				actions for EP Leatherbacks in Annex 1 of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6. -Inform about the interactions of sea turtles with long lines.	
COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS					
15	Scientific Committee	Sea Turtle Day	1) SC members will provide support to activities to celebrate Sea Turtle day on June 16 th and as needed they will work with other IO. 2) Activity Sea Turtle Day June 2028.	1) Support to IAC Secretariat on activities to celebrate World Sea Turtle Day such as facilitate virtual workshops with experts, outreach material educational material, communications in social media as applicable. 2)Activity implemented	1) Permanent 2) June 2028
16	Scientific Committee	Collaborative work with International Organizations.	1) Include topics that improve and activate collaboration with international organizations.	1) Recommendations on collaborative work identified.	1) Permanent
ANNUAL REPORTS					
17	Scientific Committee	Annual Reports	1) Analyze the IAC Annual Report technical information.	1) Report on the analysis of technical information from the IAC Annual Reports with recommendations to the Parties when needed.	1)Permanent
18	Scientific Committee	Annual Report Format	2) Assess the Annual Report current questionnaire.	2) Recommendations of changes to the Annual Report questionnaire as needed.	2)2026-2028

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
			-WG-Fibropapilloma: analyze the possibility of including new questions in IAC Annual Report. (New)		
19	Scientific Committee	Research reported in the IAC Annual Report	3) Include in the agenda of the Scientific Committee meeting a presentation of research in the IAC member countries reported by two or three countries in their IAC Annual Reports.	3) Research presentations from IAC Countries at the Scientific Committee meetings 3.1) Presentation Mexico and Peru SC23. (2026) 3.2) Presentation Panama and Caribbean Netherlands SC24 (2027) 3.3) Presentation Dominican Republic and USA SC25 (2028)	3) Permanent 3.1) 2026 3.2) 2027 3.3) 2028
PROJECTS					
20	Scientific Committee	High priority projects; Recommendations	1) Recommend high priority projects to apply for funds and other resources needed to achieve the IAC objectives.	1) Project's proposals developed by the Scientific Committee when needed. Recommendations on high priority projects when needed.	Permanent
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT					
21	Scientific Committee	Capacity development	1) Support from Scientific Committee members in workshops and training on topics identified by IAC Parties and those for which funding is available.	1) Strengthening capacities on topics related to sea turtles in the IAC Parties.	Permanent
RECOMMENDATIONS COP AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE					

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
22	Scientific Committee	Recommendations from COP and CCE	1) Address the COP and Consultative Committee of Experts requests and make recommendations accordingly.	1) Recommendations submitted to the COP and the Consultative Committee of Experts, as needed.	Permanent
TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS					
23	Scientific Committee	Technical documents	1) Develop technical documents as needed. 2) IAC Best practices Manual for safe handling and release of sea turtles, presented and adopted at SC20. Shared with CCE for comments. In process to include comments. Request of COP11. This is not finalized yet. 3) Technical Document on vessel strikes presented at SC23 (2026) it will be shared with CCE for adoption and will be presented to COP13. 4) Technical Document Green Turtle will be shared with CCE for adoption and will be presented to COP13. 5) Technical Document IAC Index Beach Data Analysis 2009-2028 will be shared with CCE for adoption and will be presented to COP13. 6) Technical Document Status of Loggerhead Turtles (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) Within Nations of	1) Technical documents available at the IAC's website and shared with IAC Parties. 2) Final manual best practices for sea turtles adopted. The final version available in IAC website in 2026. 3-6) Technical Documents available IAC website in 2028.	1) Permanent 2) 2026 3) 2028

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
			the IAC will be shared with CCE for adoption and will be presented to COP13.		
IAC WEBSITE AND NEWS BULLETIN					
24	Scientific Committee	IAC website and news bulletin	1) Every month, the SC will provide news relevant to IAC Parties to the Secretariat for the IAC News Bulletin. 2) The SC will share outreach material on Sea Turtle Day activities and other events with the Secretariat.	1) Updated news in the IAC website, and regular publication of the IAC's News Bulletin. 2) IAC countries outreach material repository.	Permanent
EXPERT DIRECTORY					
25	Scientific Committee, Secretary	IAC Experts Directory	1) Review and update the IAC Expert Directory.	1) Updated directory available on IAC's website.	Permanent
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN					
26	Scientific Committee Chair	Implementation status of SC Work Plan	1) Prepare a report with the implementation of the SC work plan and present to SC meeting. 2) Prepare report on the implementation of the SC work plan biennial and present to IAC COP13.	1) Implementation of SC WP report presented to SC23 and SC24. 2) Report on implementation of SC work plan activities 2026-2028 presented to COP13.	1) 2026-2028 2) 2028

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
27	Scientific Committee	SC Work Plan	3) Update the SC Work Plan following IAC guidelines and the COPs Resolutions.	3) Scientific Committee biennial work plan including actions, timetable, and responsibilities.	Permanent
28	Scientific Committee Chair and WG	SC Working Group meetings	4) Convene working groups meetings to follow up on work plan	4) Number Working Group meetings July 2026-May 2028 WG-Exceptions WG-Strategic alliances WG-Fisheries WG-EP Leatherback WG-Fibropapilloma WG-Vessel Strikes WG- Green Turtle WG-Nesting WG – Sargassum WG-Climate Change Chair, Vicechair and Secretary	2026-2028

Annex XIII-Technical Document CIT-CCE19-2026-Tec.29 – Safeguarding Sea turtles

Technical Document: Safeguarding Sea turtles: The Indispensable Role of IAC

Link to the IAC website Technical Documents: <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/publicaciones-eng.htm>

Link to Technical Document IAC-CCE19-2026-Tec.29:

http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/tecnicos/CIT_CCE19_2026_Tec_29_IAC_Role_June_2_WEB_ENG_Final.pdf



Annex XIV - Nominations Received for the Sectorial Representatives on the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) **CIT-COP12-2026-Doc.4**

Nominations Received for the Sectorial Representatives on the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE)

Below is a summary of the nominations received by the IAC Secretariat, in no order, within the time frame indicated by the Secretariat in accordance with Resolution “Terms of Reference for the IAC Subsidiary Bodies”. The description of the experience of the nominees is as they wrote it in their nomination form. The CV as they were transmitted to the Secretariat from the candidates were shared with IAC Focal Points before COP12.

According to the process in Resolution CIT-COP12-2026-R2 the Parties attending COP12 will indicate their preference for nine sectorial representatives (3 from each of the sectors mentioned below) as long as the number of nominations allow. For each sector represented, the Parties will also designate if the number of nominations allow three alternates based on the number of points they receive. These alternates can substitute a Consultative Committee member in their respective sector, in the case of absence, withdrawal, or death.

Update: on June 15th Ms. Olga Koubrak-SeaLife Law withdrew her nomination to the NGO sector. We deleted her reference from the table below and updated the information below with text underlined.

A total of 10 nominations were submitted, one nomination was withdrawn 9 remain. Four (4) nominations were received for the Scientific Sector, three (3) for the NGO Sector, and two (2) for the Productive Sector. There have been four (4) Consultative Committee of Experts meetings since the COP10, the number of CCE meeting attended has been included for those nominees that applied to be considered a second time. The resulting nominated professionals will serve at the CCE for a term corresponding to two COPs.

Sectorial Representatives July 2026-2030 nominated at COP12:

Scientific Sector: Laura Sarti, Laura Prodocimi, and Nelly de Paz. Alternate: Juan Manuel Rodríguez

NGO Sector: Alessandro Santos, Diego Amoroch, and Alan Federico Rosenthal. Alternate: none

Private / Productive Sector: Carolina Brandl and Blake Price. Alternate: none

LIST OF NOMINATIONS FOR THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SECTOR (NGO)

SECTOR	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS					
Name of Candidate	Institution or Organization	Relevant Experience	Fields of Experience	Proposed by	Applying for 2 nd nomination	Number of CCE Meetings Attended
Alexsandro Santos Master	Fundacao Projeto Tamar Address: Vitoria -ES, Brasil	After joining the Tamar Project Foundation in 1992, he earned a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from the State University of Londrina (1992) and a master's degree in Ecology and Biomonitoring from the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA). He is one of the developers of the Marine Turtle Information System (SITAMAR) of the Brazilian Center for the Protection and Research of Sea Turtles. Throughout his career at the Tamar Project Foundation, he served as conservation and research manager at the bases of Guriri (ES), Praia do Forte (BA), and Costa do Sauípe (BA). He also worked as conservation and research coordinator (BA). He is currently the regional coordinator for research and conservation in Espírito Santo, a technical advisor for SITAMAR, and a data content manager. His experience includes work in the field of Zoology, with an emphasis on databases. He has experience in transmitter installation and satellite monitoring, having participated in the deployment of more than 35 transmitters, 14 of which were placed on leatherback turtles in Espírito Santo (2020/2021 and 2021/2022)	Marine turtle biology Coastal development Socio-economics	Government of Brazil	No applicable	Not applicable

		seasons). He is the coordinator and technical manager of the Medium-Term Leatherback Turtle Monitoring Project via Satellite Telemetry (PMTCTS), responsible for installing 28 satellite transmitters; coordinator and technical manager of the BC/ES Basin Beach Monitoring Program; and coordinator and technical manager of the Marine Turtle Conservation Plan in the Doce River Estuary Region, within the PMBA (Aquatic Biota Monitoring Program), linked to the Mariana disaster.				
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Name of Candidate	Institution or Organization	Relevant Experience	Fields of Experience	Proposed by	Applying for 2nd nomination	Number of CCE Meetings Attended
Diego Amorocho, PhD	Research Center for Environmental Management and Development-CIMAD (In Spanish) Carrera 4 #2A-71. Apto 101. Edificio Torre Estelar. Cali,	Environmental researcher and consultant with extensive experience in the conservation and management of sea turtles and marine-coastal ecosystems in the Eastern Pacific, with a strong focus on ecosystem-based management, environmental governance, and the science-policy interface. Since 2012, I have actively served as a member of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) Expert Consultative Committee, contributing on a continuous basis to the Convention's technical, scientific, and strategic processes.	Marine turtle biology Marine resource management Coastal development	Self-nominated	Yes	3/4

	Colombia	My professional work has focused on assessing key threats to sea turtles, including bycatch in artisanal and industrial fisheries, degradation of critical habitats, and the impacts of coastal development and climate change. I have participated in the development and review of technical recommendations, guidance documents, and working group discussions within the IAC, supporting the adoption of evidence-based and context-appropriate mitigation measures. As Director of the Center for Research on Environmental Management and Development (CIMAD), I have led and collaborated on applied research projects, capacity-building initiatives, and technical advisory processes involving governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and coastal communities. My experience integrates biological, socio-economic, and marine resource management perspectives, promoting regional cooperation and informed decision-making consistent with the objectives and commitments of the IAC. Chair of the Sea Turtle International Society for the terms (2019-2020 and 2022-2023).	Socio-economics Environmental law Fisheries technology Bycatch mitigation			
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		Active member of the ICAPO and LaudOPO networks. More than 30 years of experience in research, conservation, and management of sea turtles in Colombia and Latin America. Founder of the Network of Experts on Sea Turtles in Latin America (RETOMALA). The sustained trajectory as a candidate and as a member of the IAC Consultative Committee, of which I have been part since 2012, demonstrates a continuous, technical, and proactive commitment to the objectives of the Convention. Dr. Amorocho experience combines solid scientific expertise with a deep understanding of regional governance processes, international cooperation, and the practical application of technical recommendations in complex socio-environmental contexts. Dr. Amorocho active and consistent participation has contributed to strengthening the work of the Consultative Committee and to supporting informed decision-making within the IAC, while providing a balanced representation of the non-governmental sector's perspective. Currently, as Co-lead of the Leatherback Turtle Working Group,				
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		Dr. Amorocho further reinforce my sectoral, personal, and professional commitment, along with my collaborative spirit toward the conservation of this species, contributing to the engagement of Working Group members and supporting the Consultative Committee from a regional perspective to advance the achievement of the IAC's mission objectives.				
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Name of Candidate	Institution or Organization	Relevant Experience	Fields of Experience	Proposed by	Applying for 2nd nomination	Number of CCE Meetings Attended
Alan Federico Rosenthal Licenciado	Asociación Naturalista Gesellina Paseo 114 N°1225, Villa Gesell, Buenos Aires, Argentina	With more than a decade of experience in sea turtle research and conservation, my work integrates scientific research, field monitoring, environmental education, and institutional collaboration to contribute to the protection of these species. I have participated in research and conservation projects in several countries. In Argentina, I actively collaborate in research and conservation networks, including the Regional Program for the Research and Conservation of Sea Turtles in Argentina and the Southwest Atlantic Network. I have contributed to scientific studies on sea turtle parasitology, ecology, and strandings, participating in peer-reviewed publications and presentations at	Marine Turtle Biology	Government of Argentina	No applicable	New Nomination N/A

		international conferences. My current research focuses on the spatio-temporal analysis of strandings of sea turtles, marine mammals, and seabirds as indicators of environmental threats such as pollution, fisheries bycatch, and environmental change, with the aim of contributing to the development of more effective and coordinated conservation strategies. Other comments to support the nomination: As Scientific Director of the Asociación Naturalista Geselina (ANG), I have promoted citizen science initiatives, coastal monitoring programs, and environmental education activities that strengthen the link between science and society while contributing to the conservation of marine biodiversity. My work also involves close collaboration with academic institutions, governmental agencies, and non-governmental organizations, facilitating dialogue and cooperation among the different sectors involved in marine conservation. My experience integrating scientific research, community engagement, and institutional collaboration provides valuable perspectives that can contribute to the objectives of the Inter-American Convention				
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		for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, particularly in strengthening regional cooperation and promoting science-based conservation actions.				
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NOMINATIONS FOR THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY SECTOR

SECTOR	SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY					
Name of Candidate	Institution or Organization	Relevant Experience	Fields of Experience	Proposed by	Applying for 2nd nomination	Number of CCE Meetings Attended
Laura Sarti MSc.	Independent researcher	Ms. Sarti participated in the IAC since the first meetings for its formation, the accession of Mexico and other countries, and the terms of reference for the operation of the two IAC committees as well as the sectoral groups. I have participated in almost all Consultative Committee meetings CCE, and several of the Scientific Committees contributing elements such as the formats of the annual reports and the method for evaluating compliance, collaborating in the development of some plans for exceptions, and the work plan for the leatherback turtle.	Marine turtle biology Coastal development Environmental law	Self nomination	Not applicable	Not applicable

		Also participated in several COPs as an advisor to Mexico's legal representative. I am very interested in the issues addressed at the COP and believe that I can continue to contribute as an academic and scientist, which I was prior to my work in the government sector.				
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SECTOR	SCIENTIFIC					
Name of Candidate	Institution or Organization	Relevant Experience	Fields of Experience	Proposed by	Applying for 2nd nomination	Number of CCE Meetings Attended
Juan Manuel Rodríguez Baron Phd.	JUSTSEA Foundation Dirección: Carrera 13 No. 152 80, Torre 1, 406.	Juan Manuel Rodríguez-Baron is a marine biologist and researcher with extensive expertise in sea turtle conservation and the analysis of fisheries interactions with marine megafauna in the Eastern Tropical Pacific—areas closely aligned with the objectives of the Inter-American	Marine turtle biology Marine resources management	Self-nominated	Not applicable	Not applicable

	Bogotá, Colombia	Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC). Currently, he serves as Co-chair of the East Pacific Leatherback Working Group of the Convention, where he fosters collaboration among researchers, organizations, and authorities across multiple countries. In parallel, he serves as one of the Co-chairs of the Eastern Pacific Region of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group (IUCN-SSC MTSG), contributing to assessments of sea turtle conservation status and identifying regional research and management priorities. He also is the Colombia focal point for MigraMar, advancing fisheries management strategies that support biodiversity conservation in the Eastern Tropical Pacific. Additionally, he is an active member of regional conservation networks, including ICAPO and Laúd OPO, both of which are dedicated to protecting Critically Endangered sea turtles in the Eastern Pacific. Within Laúd OPO, he led the Research and Innovation Working Group for the Action Plan for the Recovery of the East Pacific Leatherback Turtle 2022–2032, strengthening the scientific research and regional cooperation necessary for its conservation.	Bycatch mitigation			
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SECTOR	SCIENTIFIC					
Name of Candidate	Institution or Organization	Relevant Experience	Fields of Experience	Proposed by	Applying for 2nd nomination	Number of CCE Meetings Attended
Laura Prosdocimi Phd.	Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales (MACN-CONICET) Dirección: Av. Ángel Gallardo 470. (C1405DJR), CABA. Buenos Aires, Argentina	Dr. Prosdocimi leadership during the 2022–2026 period as sectorial member of the CCE has focused on guiding strategic priorities for the region: - Fisheries: Participation in drafting and editing the <i>Manual for the Handling of Sea Turtles Onboard Fishing Vessels</i>. - Electronic Monitoring: Leadership in preparing the technical documents on Electronic Monitoring (EM) systems in fisheries, approved by the Scientific and Advisory Committees of the IAC. - Strategic Partnerships: Coordination of the Strategic Partnerships Working Group (formerly IAC-ACAP) and drafting of its new Terms of Reference. - Atlantic Leatherback Working Group: Active participation in developing the work plan, producing habitat-use maps for the leatherback turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>) in the Southwestern Atlantic, and contributing to the drafting of the Group's Terms of Reference. - Green Turtle Working Group: Participation in drafting the Information Document for the Advisory Committee and COP12. - International Engagement: Active representation of the IAC before other international bodies such as the IATTC	Marine turtle biology Marine resource management Environmental Law Fisheries technology Bycatch mitigation	Government of Argentina	Yes	3/4

		(Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission), ensuring alignment with regional best management practices. Communications: Responsible for the design and editing of Convention Newsletters No. 53 and No. 56 Other comments in support of the nomination: Well-recognized track record and extensive experience in the biology and conservation of sea turtles in the Southwestern Atlantic. My nomination ensures technical continuity in critical issues I have recently led, such as the implementation of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) in fisheries and the coordination of international strategic partnerships.				
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SECTOR	SCIENTIFIC					
Name of Candidate	Institution or Organization	Relevant Experience	Fields of Experience	Proposed by	Applying for 2nd nomination	Number of CCE Meetings Attended
Nelly de Paz Campos Biologist	ACOREMA Avenida 8 de Octubre N° 234. Lima 35. PERU	More than 25 years of experience align with the priorities of the IAC, particularly in bycatch mitigation and regional cooperation. Contributions include the institutionalization of conservation measures in Peru, such as the development of the National Sea Turtle Conservation Plan (2019–2029) and protocols for handling and releasing sea turtles in artisanal longline	Marine turtle biology Fisheries technology	Self-Nominate d	Yes Ms. Paz was alternate sectorial member	1/4

		fisheries, which support the Dolphinfish Fisheries Management Regulation. Extensive experience in bycatch mitigation in fisheries directly addresses Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R-2 and subsequent resolutions on reducing adverse fishery impacts. Work includes implementing LED lights in artisanal gillnet fisheries, reducing bycatch across multiple taxa while maintaining target species catch efficiency. Additional efforts include evaluating circle hooks in surface longline fisheries and developing best fishing practices that contribute to the IAC's Best Fishing Practices Manual, currently led by Chile and Ecuador, particularly regarding handling and release techniques for sea turtles in artisanal fisheries. Well positioned to advance the Peru–Chile binational pilot project on fishery self-reporting, a strategic IAC initiative promoting participatory monitoring. Experience developing self-reporting methodologies with artisanal fishing communities in critical hotspots (San Andrés, Tambo de Mora), combined with established collaborator networks along the Peruvian coast, enables effective scaling of this approach into Chilean waters, strengthening cross-border	Bycatch mitigation Environmental Education and community outreach			
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		cooperation within the IAC–CPPS collaboration framework. As the scientific representative of CPPS (2004–present), she has facilitated and participated in regional standardization workshops that are essential for the implementation of IAC resolutions.				
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NOMINATIONS FOR THE PRIVATE AND PRODUCTIVE SECTOR

SECTOR	PRIVATE AND PRODUCTIVE					
Name of Candidate	Institution or Organization	Relevant Experience	Fields of Experience	Proposed by	Applying for 2nd nomination	Number of CCE Meetings Attended
Blake Price	Southern Shrimp Alliance Director Address: 9400 River	Previous senior fisheries scientist and executive leader with 30+ years of progressive experience in federal and state fisheries science, bycatch mitigation engineering, endangered species protection (ESA/MMPA), regulatory compliance, international diplomacy, and program management. Proven leadership at NOAA/NMFS, and state level management agencies with supervisory, budgetary, and policy responsibilities. Published researcher with	Marine resource management Fisheries technology Bycatch mitigation	The United States Government	Not applicable	New nomination Not applicable

	Crossing Rd., New Port Richey, FL 34655	extensive field, vessel, and gear engineering expertise. Current Executive Director with the Southern Shrimp Alliance providing overall leadership and strategic direction in conjunction with the Board of Directors to advance the mission and protect the interests of the U.S. shrimp industry through initiatives, policy advocacy efforts and stakeholder relations.				
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SECTOR		PRIVATE AND PRODUCTIVE				
Name of Candidate	Institution or Organization	Relevant Experience	Fields of Experience	Proposed by	Applying for 2nd nomination	Number of CCE Meetings Attended
Carolina Brandl	Porto do Açú Address: Rua do Russel, 804, 5th floor, Rio de Janeiro, RJ,	Carolina is an oceanographer with extensive experience in environmental management within complex coastal and port environments. She currently serves as Environmental Licensing Manager at one of the largest ports in South America, where she plays a central role in ensuring regulatory compliance while enabling large-scale infrastructure development.	Coastal development Socio-economics Bycatch mitigation	Government of Brazil	No applicable	No applicable

	Brazil, 22.210-010 Her technical background in oceanography underpins her work in designing and implementing robust environmental mitigation strategies, particularly in ecologically sensitive areas. A key highlight of her experience is the development of protocols to minimize impacts on marine turtles in a recognized priority nesting and breeding zone. This includes monitoring programs, operational controls, and adaptive management measures aligned with best international practices. Carolina also has significant expertise in the management of large-scale dredging campaigns, balancing operational efficiency with environmental protection. She has overseen environmental assessments, sediment management plans, and monitoring frameworks to mitigate impacts on marine ecosystems. Beyond technical execution, Carolina is highly experienced in stakeholder engagement. She has led structured dialogues with fishing communities and local populations, ensuring transparency and incorporation of social considerations into project planning. In parallel, she maintains active coordination with environmental authorities and key stakeholders in the port and maritime sectors,				
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		facilitating licensing processes and fostering collaborative solutions. Her profile combines strong scientific knowledge, regulatory expertise, and practical experience in managing complex environmental challenges in large port operations. Other comments in support of the nomination Her profile combines strong scientific knowledge, regulatory expertise, and practical experience in managing complex environmental challenges in large port operations. Given this background, Carolina is a strong candidate to serve on an advisory committee for marine turtle protection as a representative of the private sector. Her more than 10 years of direct involvement in monitoring and supporting a conservation project in partnership with a private environmental reserve provides her with a unique, long-term perspective on ecosystem management. This experience, combined with her ability to bridge scientific, regulatory, and operational dimensions, positions herself to contribute meaningfully to high-level discussions and the development of effective, pragmatic conservation strategies.				
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Annex XV – Official Letter from Ministry of Environment Panama with the offer to host IAC COP13 -2028)



Annex XVI- Pictures COP12





25 Years Anniversary



COP12 Host Country Delegation



Delegates Guatemala and Estados Unidos



Plenary COP12



Plenary COP12



Delegates Panamá and The Netherlands



Above: Delegates Brazil and Perú | Left-R: Secretary , Chair COP12 and Scientific Committee Chair



COP12 Delegates visit to Fortaleza Real Felipe in Callao