



NEWS BULLETIN

*Inter-American Convention for the
Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)*

*Bulletin No. 22
June 2014*

The Seventh Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts

IAC celebrated the seventh meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts on Stetson University, College of Law, located in Gulfport, Florida on June 4th -6th. The event was opened by Ms. Theresa J. Pulley Radwan, Associate Dean for Administrative and Business Affairs and Professor of the Stetson University College of Law, who welcomed delegates of 8 Member Countries, 7 sectorial members in representation of NGOs, scientific and private sector associated to IAC and accredited observers such as the Sargasso Sea Alliance (SSA), the Faculty of Law of Stetson University and the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention (STRP).



Group Picture CCE7

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During the sessions the participants reviewed the level of compliance of the IAC Technical Resolutions according to the information provided on the 2013 and 2014 annual reports. Updated the CCE work plan for 2014-2015, reviewed documents elaborated by the 10th Meeting of the Scientific Committee, reviewed progress of activities of the Working Group on the Eastern Pacific leatherback and discussed strategies for IAC collaboration with relevant international organizations. In addition, the plenary reviewed the Exception document submitted by Costa Rica in its 2014 annual report for Ostional beach in accordance with Article IV paragraph 3 (abd) and Annex IV of the Convention text.

As part of the meeting, the participants enjoyed the hospitality of Stetson University and its partners, who organized a reception at the University of South Florida. This event was opened by the Mayor of St. Petersburg City, Mr. Rick Kriseman, who welcomed the participants. Also during the field trip, participants had the opportunity to visit the installations of the Rehabilitation and Research Center of sea turtles at the Florida Aquarium, and had an exchange of experiences on rehabilitation and the main issues found in Florida and South America.

IAC participates in WWF's Caribbean Marine Alliance Annual Meeting

IAC's Secretary *PT*, Ms. Veronica Caceres, participated in the Caribbean Marine Alliance (CMA) annual meeting from June 9-13 2014 in Paramaribo, Suriname. The meeting aimed at starting the implementation stage of the CMA and identifying cooperation opportunities with key stakeholders in the region. The IAC Secretary presented some of IAC's activities, its committees' work on the Member Countries, specifically in the Caribbean and describe the process to ratified IAC; in order to identify collaboration opportunities and create an implementation plan.



Group Photograph ©Angela Mojica

The Caribbean Marine Alliance is a regional initiative created by several WWF programs and offices, such as: WWF Mesoamerican Reef, WWF Cuba, WWF Guyana, WWF LAC, WWF International through the Sea Turtles Global Program, and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire as a regional partner. Its objective is to develop actions, cooperation and financing opportunities to support conservation actions in the Caribbean from a regional level. The Alliance's conservation strategy includes four basic pillar: Marine Protected Areas (MPA's), corals, sea turtles and sharks, sustainable tourism as an opportunity to promote development and climate change as a common topic which interacts with the prioritize conservation topics.

Some of the meeting's results were the creation of the CMA working plan, which includes on the sea turtle components, working mainly with IAC and WIDECAST in the topic of the impacts of climate change on sea turtle habitats and promoting capacity building and information exchange. Moreover, IAC Secretary held meeting with Suriname environment authorities to discuss the country's possibility to start the adhesion to the IAC Convention.



Fishermen on Suriname River mouth, fishing nets and leatherbacks and green turtle nesting beach ©Angela Mojica



CMA Annual Meeting ©Angela Mojica

Sea Turtle Day Celebrations

June 16th marks the World Sea Turtle Day!!! This day is celebrated in honor of the Dr. Archie Carr. Who was a pioneer in working with sea turtles. In the 50's Dr. Carr began working for the conservation of sea turtles in Tortuguero –Costa Rica, becoming one of the most relevant scientists in the region. Through his books and research, Dr. Carr provided much of what is currently known about the biology and life cycle of sea turtles. Thus contributing to a better understanding of the threats faced by sea turtles. Dr. Carr founded in 1955, the Caribbean Conservation Corporation, now known as Sea Turtle Conservancy.

On this occasion, the IAC has compiled some of the celebrations organized in member countries:

Sea Turtles week USA- NOAA

In celebration of the World Sea Turtle Day, the Department of Fisheries of NOAA organized the sea turtles week. Through their website, they highlight the main features of the species found in the United States, threats and conservation activities.

For details of activities, follow the link:
<http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/stories/a/species/turtles/index.html>



Olive-Ridley Arribada
© NOAA fisheries

Sea Turtle Conservation and the Football World Cup Tamar-Brazil Project

As part of the World Sea Turtle Day, Environment Week and the soccer World Cup, the Tamar Project organized activities in all their bases and visitor centers in the Brazilian coast. They celebrated arriving to the mark of releasing 2 million turtles annually .

Among the activities are exhibitions, debates, videos, theatrical and musical performances, cleaning activities and other interactive activities with the participation of coastal communities, students and visitors.

For details of activities, follow the link:
<http://www.tamar.org.br/noticia1.php?cod=518>



Celebration Activities
World Sea Turtles Day 2014
© Tamar Project

Celebration of World Sea Turtles Day in Florida. Sea Turtle Conservancy

The Sea Turtle Conservancy Organization arranged a visit to the Museum of Natural History of where special sea turtle related activities were organized to promote the education of the population and contribute to the conservation of sea turtles.

For details of activities, follow the link:

<http://conserveturtles.org/turtleblog/blog/2014/06/09/june-16th-is-world-sea-turtle-day/>



© Sea Turtle Conservancy

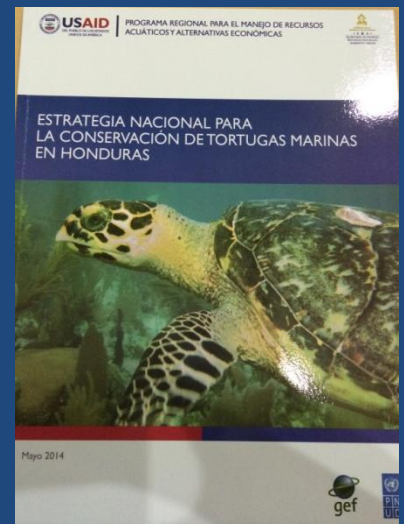
Honduras presents its National Strategy for the Conservation of Sea Turtles

On June 26, the Honduran Technical Focal Point officially presented the National Strategy for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in Honduras, organized by the Secretariat of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mines through the Directorate of Biodiversity (DiBio).

The event was inaugurated by the Vice-Minister of Environment Carlos Fasquelle Pineda, the Chair of the Directorate of Biodiversity, Amaro Garcia and the participation of members of the Technical Committee for the protection and conservation of sea turtles (COTTOM). As well as members of the academy, civil society and representatives of USAID-MAREA.

After the opening remarks and a short presentation on the strategy, the vice minister and Mr. Garcia proceeded to formally distributing the approved document to relevant actors. This represented a symbolic gesture, to encourage participants to effectively implement the activities proposed in Action Plan.

For more information, please contact: Carolina Montalvan (DiBio)
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© S. Méndez Castillo



From Left to Right: Official Submission by the Vice-Minister Pineda to Nestor Windevohel (USAID-MAREA); Group photo; Submission by the Vice-Minister Pineda and Abog. García (DiBio) to representative of DIGEPESCA

© SERNA

Sea Turtles Conservation Activities in Chile

In the Region of Arica and Parinacota, specifically in the sector of "La Puntilla" in Playa Chinchorro, there is a feeding area for young black female turtles. This sector is located within Arica's urban area, which conveys a unique space for the specie in the country. It also entails a set of threats not found in other areas: primarily related to urban developing, the increasing use of the coastline, polluting agents and others.

Therefore, in 2009 with the creation of the Regional Board of Sea Turtles, which is chaired by the Zonal Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture of regions IV, I and II of the Subsecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture, and the participations of different related public services of the XV Region such as: Ministry of Environment, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Service, DIRECTEMAR, National Tourism Service, Arturo Prat University and the Municipality of Arica in addition to the Caribineros of Chile and the Investigation Police(PDI).

One of the important milestone to be highlighted is that the Regional Government of Arica and Parinacota, funded in 2011 the Marine Turtle Conservation Program, executed by the Arturo Prat University (Tortumar-Chile). This Study serves as a base to obtain technical and scientific information on which the Regional Board of Sea Turtle is currently working in order to evaluate the possibility of establishing a Protected Area. Therefore, it would provide a figure of legal protection, for both the species and foraging habitat.



Meeting of the Regional Board ,
May, 2014

Upcoming Events

✓ **FIRST THEORY-PRACTICAL WORKSHOP "BIOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES AND CETACEANS"**

Agua y Tierra Foundation
Mata Oscura, Veraguas Province in Panama;
18-21 September 2014,
<http://agua-y-tierra.wix.com>



**Primer curso teórico-práctico sobre
BIOLOGÍA MANEJO Y CONSERVACIÓN DE
TORTUGAS MARINAS Y CETÁCEOS**
Centro de Preservación de la Fauna y Flora de Mata Oscura
Quebra, provincia de Veraguas, República de Panamá.

Organiza: Agua y Tierra

Fecha: Jueves 18 al domingo 21 de septiembre del 2014

Incluye: Alimentación, hospedaje, transporte en campo, gastos locales de materiales, certificados, material de trabajo y fotografías.

Inversión: USD 250.00

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Colaboradores: CRAM, Fundación Agua y Tierra, etc.

<http://www.aguaytierra.wix.com>

✓ **11th Meeting of the Scientific Committee IAC**

Lima, Perú del 24-26 September, 2014

For more information please contact: secretario@iacseturtle.org o smendez.cit@gmail.com

We invite you to send us news on courses, research and other activities related to sea turtles and their conservation. Submit your article in a Word file and photography in JPG format to the e-mail:
smendez.cit@gmail.com

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