

# IAC INFORMATIVE BULLETIN NO.46 SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER

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



**Group photo of participants during the 19th Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee (November, 7-9th 2022.)**

## 19th Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee

The 19th meeting of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) Scientific Committee took place by videoconference, on November 7-9, 2022. The meeting was attended by delegates from Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the United States, and Uruguay; observer from the governments of Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), and the SPAW Protocol, as well as IAC accredited observers, for a total of 56 participants.

The Scientific Committee Chair, delegate from Chile, Ms. Leslie Camilla Bustos and the Vice chair, Dr. Heriberto Santana, delegate from Mexico, were re-elected for a second term (2022-2024) and facilitated the discussions among delegations with support from the IAC Secretariat.

Following the last IAC COP10 mandates, that in June 2022 adopted the updated Resolutions on Exceptions for Panamá, Guatemala, and Costa Rica; the [Resolution for the conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback](#), and the [Resolution for the Reduction of the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries](#), the SC19 discussed the proposals to monitor the implementation of each Resolution.

[Links to the Exceptions Resolutions here:](#)

Exception Resolution for Panama: [http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP10CIT/CIT-COP10-2022-R3\\_ENG\\_Panama\\_Resolution%20on%20Exception\\_15.June.22\\_ADOPTED.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP10CIT/CIT-COP10-2022-R3_ENG_Panama_Resolution%20on%20Exception_15.June.22_ADOPTED.pdf)

Exception Resolution for Guatemala: [http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP10CIT/CIT-COP10-2022-R4\\_ENG\\_Resolution%20Exception%20Guatemala\\_19.july.2022\\_ADOPTED.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP10CIT/CIT-COP10-2022-R4_ENG_Resolution%20Exception%20Guatemala_19.july.2022_ADOPTED.pdf)

Exception Resolution for Costa Rica: [http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP10CIT/CIT-COP10-2022-R5\\_ENG\\_Costa%20Rica\\_Resolution\\_Exception\\_16.June.22\\_ADOPTED.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP10CIT/CIT-COP10-2022-R5_ENG_Costa%20Rica_Resolution_Exception_16.June.22_ADOPTED.pdf)

Exception Resolution for Costa Rica: [http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP10CIT/CIT-COP10-2022-R5\\_ENG\\_Costa%20Rica\\_Resolution\\_Exception\\_16.June.22\\_ADOPTED.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP10CIT/CIT-COP10-2022-R5_ENG_Costa%20Rica_Resolution_Exception_16.June.22_ADOPTED.pdf)

In the case of the exceptions, the working group (WG) presented the indicators that will be used to prepare a form that allows each country to report progress in the implementation of their exception management plan. The EP leatherback WG presented a questionnaire that was adopted and will be included in the IAC Annual Report, except for the section regarding fisheries and EP leatherback, that will be discussed along with the Impacts of Fisheries questionnaire by the Fisheries WG.

The Dominican Republic, presented their case on impacts of tourist vessels on sea turtles as a threat to be addressed by the IAC Scientific Committee. A WG was formed to develop an action plan that includes the regulations being prepared in the Dominican Republic, and discussing guidelines for all the IAC Parties facing this issue. The coordinators of the Longline and Climate Change WG presented their progress reports and will continue gathering the data to include it in their five-years analysis, respectively. Also, the SC19 agreed that the Caretta caretta WG will present their final report in March 2023. A WG within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the IAC and the Agreement for Conservation. of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP) was formed and will discuss the collaborative activities to work together with the ACAP, that will be presented in the next SC20 in 2023.

The IAC and Stetson University signed their Memorandum of Cooperation within the framework of the SC19 virtual meeting, where the Interim Dean of Stetson's College of Law Professor Theresa J. Pulley Radwan and the IAC Secretary Ms. Veronica Caceres Chamorro addressed the importance of this collaboration as a support for the IAC legal processes and to provide Stetson University Law Students with firsthand experience on the operation of an international environmental agreement.





**IAC AND STETSON UNIVERSITY SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION (NOVEMBER 9TH, 2022)**

On Wednesday, November 9, 2022, the Dean and Professor of the Stetson University School of Law, Theresa J. Pulley Radwan and Ms. Veronica Caceres the Secretary of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation as recommended by the IAC Parties at the 10th Conference of the Parties COP10, in June 2022. The MoC signing ceremony took place within the framework of the 19th meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee, which was held virtually.

This Memorandum of Cooperation will provide the basis for the School of Law and Biodiversity Institute to continue supporting the IAC and its Secretariat in matters such as: consulting on issues that require legal expertise, research on matters regarding IAC resolutions implementation, and hosting conferences and meetings of the Convention. This relationship will contribute to the goals of the IAC and benefit Stetson students, who will have the opportunity to observe and learn how a regional environmental agreement operates.

Stetson University School of Law and Biodiversity Institute has collaborated with the IAC since 2011, hosting the 7th Consultative Committee Meeting in 2014, and the 14th Scientific Committee Meeting in 2019. Stetson students and faculty members have provided support to IAC with research of legal instruments related to sea turtles and have attended several meetings as IAC accredited observers.

Direct Access to the MoC:  
[http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/2022\\_Signed\\_MOU\\_English.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/2022_Signed_MOU_English.pdf)



**SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BY IAC SECRETARY, MRS. VERONICA CACERES (LEFT), AND THE DEAN FROM STETSON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW, PROFESSOR THERESA J. PULLEY RADWAN (RIGHT)**



**PARTICIPATION OF THE IAC IN THE SARGASSO SEA COMMISSION GEF INCEPTION WORKSHOP FOR THE PROJECT "STRENGTHENING THE STEWARDSHIP OF AN ECONOMICALLY AND BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT HIGH SEAS AREA: THE SARGASSO SEA"**

The assistant of the IAC Secretariat, Ms. Luz Helena Rodríguez, and the delegate appointed by Costa Rica Focal Point Mr. Nixon Lara Quezada, participated via Zoom in the Sea Sargasso Commission inception workshop of the GEF Project "Strengthening the Stewardship of an Economically and Biologically Significant High Seas Area: The Sargasso Sea". The workshop presented the key elements of this project that involves two global projects to promote more sustainable management of tuna and deep-sea fisheries, a project to develop capacities to improve cross-sectoral collaboration, and coordination in areas outside national jurisdictions, and a fourth project to promote communication between the different projects mentioned above.

As partner of the Sargasso Sea Commission, the IAC will have the opportunity to collaborate with the implementation of this and other projects of the SSC, within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding that it is soon to be signed.





MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP IAC-ACAP IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The IAC-ACAP working group met via Zoom on December 1st, 2022 to start the intercessional activities agreed at the IAC Scientific Committee CC19, in the framework of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between IAC and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels.

The members of the working group the delegates from Argentina, Peru, Chile, Mexico, Ecuador and the representative of ACAP, agreed to present a document with topics of common interest at the ACAP Advisory Committee Meeting in 2023, with the goal to be included in ACAP Work Plan, and to continue coordinating the conservation efforts for the species under both conventions.



WG COORDINATOR -VICTORIA GONZÁLEZ CARMAN DE ARGENTINA, VERÓNICA CACERES-IAC SECRETARY, JAVIER QUIÑONES-DELEGATE FROM PERU AND MARCO FAVERO-ACAP-ARGENTINA, DURING THE VIRTUAL MEETING FROM THE WORKING GROUP IAC-ACAP



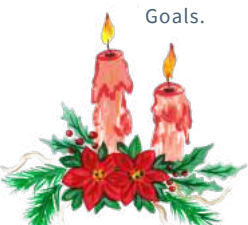
INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF WETLANDS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (7 NOVEMBER 7TH, 2022)

The IAC Secretary, Ms. Verónica Cáceres, participated as a panelist on a side event in the context of Ramsar COP14 in Geneva, Switzerland on November 7th, 2022. The IAC presented the IAC Climate Change Resolution and the pilot project on environmental data collection of the IAC Parties.

IAC participation was well received by the Caribbean countries attending the meeting, who wanted to learn more about the IAC project and possibly be part of it. The Interactive dialogue was informed by a summary of the discussions of the High Level Ministerial Segment on wetlands, climate change and ecosystem services that took place in Dominican Republic on 22 August 2022 under the Ramsar Caribbean Regional Initiative.

The event was moderated by the Vice Minister of Cooperation of Dominican Republic with remarks of high level officials of Cuba, Belize and Barbados and best practices from Belize, Cuba, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Sturt University in Australia, Delft Institute in the Netherlands and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles.

The objective of this event was to bring High-Level officials of the Ramsar Contracting Parties of the Caribbean and experts together to share experiences, identify solutions, to address the challenges of climate change and mainstreaming wetlands values in the current biodiversity and climate crisis to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.



## THE 23RD SPECIAL MEETING OF ICCAT COMMISSION ADOPTS IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATION FOR SEA TURTLES

The ICCAT Commission adopted 13 Recommendations, 4 Resolutions and 2 Documents of reference during the 23rd Special Meeting of the Commission, which was held in hybrid format in Vale do Lobo (Algarve, Portugal), from 14 to 21 November 2022.

The IAC looks forward to working with ICCAT Secretariat and Parties in the framework of the IAC -ICCAT Memorandum of Understanding to provide technical support to move forward in the implementation of the newly adopted resolution.

Of special interest to IAC is the adoption of Rec. 22-12 BYC Recommendation by ICCAT on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (combine, streamline, and amend Recommendations 10-09 and 13-11).

Rec. 22-12 BYC Recommendation by ICCAT on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries can be found here: <https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopf-e/2022-12-e.pdf>



## APPLICATION OF RAMSAR RESOLUTION XIII.24 ON SEA TURTLE HABITATS IN THE AMERICAS, AND PERSPECTIVES OF COLLABORATION IAC AND RAMSAR.

At the Ramsar COP14 in Geneva, Switzerland, on November 12, 2022, the IAC Secretariat participated as co-organizer in collaboration with the Ramsar Secretariat and France Government Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des Territoires and Lead Organization Chélonée, in a side event titled “Application of Ramsar Resolution XIII.24 on sea turtle habitats in the Americas, and perspectives of collaboration IAC and Ramsar”.

The survey’s focus was to establish the capacity of the IAC and Ramsar parties to implement the Ramsar Resolution of sea turtles. After the presentation of the results, it was recommended to review and update the technical document on wetlands of importance for sea turtles, including sites from IAC countries that are not included yet, as well as other sites suggested by the participants.

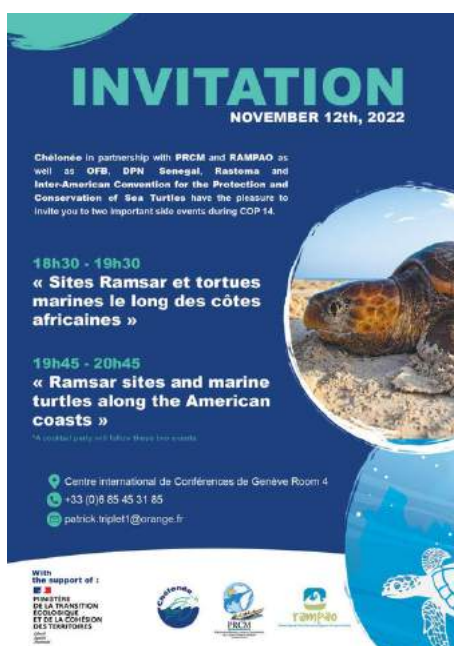
The objective of the side event was to facilitate an interactive dialogue to provide technical information by French experts with the Report of Sea Turtles and Wetlands, presentations by Ramsar Focal Points from Mexico and Venezuela to speak about best practices to implement Ramsar resolution XIII. 14 “The enhanced conservation of coastal marine turtle habitats and the designation of key areas as Ramsar Sites”, and the IAC and Ramsar Secretariat presented the results of the survey IAC-RAMSAR with the activities carried out by countries to implement Resolution XIII.14, and opportunities to collaborate.

Reports on Ramsar Sites Important for Sea Turtles can be found here:

[http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/tecnicos/REPORT%20Marine%20turtles%20Ramsar\\_dec21-web.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/tecnicos/REPORT%20Marine%20turtles%20Ramsar_dec21-web.pdf)

Wetlands of International Importance and the conservation of Sea Turtles:

<http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/publicaciones/humedales-tortugas-marinas-ing-peg.pdf>



**IAC SECRETARIAT PANELIST AT THE WORKSHOP: “TRANSBOUNDARY MARINE SPECIES AT RISK RECOVERY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE: TAKING STOCK OF CANADIAN AND US SCIENTIFIC AND GOVERNANCE RESPONSES, ENHANCING FUTURE COOPERATION” - NOVEMBER 3 - 4TH, 2022.**

The IAC Secretary, Ms. Veronica Caceres participated as a panelist at the workshop: “Transboundary Marine Species at Risk Recovery in a Changing Climate: Taking Stock of Canadian and US Scientific and Governance Responses, Enhancing Future Cooperation”. The event took place at Duke Conference Facility, in Washington, DC on November 3 and 4th 2022. The workshop was co-organized by: the Marine & Environmental Law Institute, Dalhousie University, the Ocean Frontier Institute, the Environmental Law Institute, Duke University School of Law, and the Duke Marine Lab. The objectives of the workshop were:

1. Take stock of scientific understandings related to transboundary marine species at risk including migratory corridors.
2. Compare Canadian and US national approaches and challenges in recovering marine transboundary species at risk.
3. Assess the role and limitations of existing cooperative management mechanisms and consider how such measures could be strengthened to further the recovery of marine species at risk in a rapidly changing ocean.
4. Explore ways in which bilateral and regional cooperation might be enhanced in the future to address shifting species migrations and distributions, including through the use effective area based measures and/or the establishment of a transboundary network of marine protected areas (MPAs).

IAC participated at the Panel 6: Enhancing Transboundary Marine Ecosystem Governance for Long-term Ocean Governance Integration: Lessons from Other Regions, with a presentation from lessons learned in regional collaboration for the management of migratory species sharing three experiences 1) Exchange experience between fishermen from Peru (feeding zone for Leatherback EP) and fishermen from Mexico (nesting zone for Leatherback EP); 2) Collaborative work between various countries from IAC sharing fisheries experience with IATTC to generate a model to determine the actions for conservation that will be required to reduce the vulnerability of the Leatherback of the Eastern Pacific in fisheries activities through the EASI-FISH model and 3) the WG from the IAC representatives of the civil society organization from Canada, French Guyana, Surinam and Trinidad and Tobago, to promote the implementation of the IAC Resolution for the Conservation of the Leatherback of the North Atlantic to generate interest and the approaching of governmental entities to collaborate with IAC in the protection of the Leatherback of the North West Atlantic.



GROUP PICTURE OF PARTICIPANTS AND PANELISTS OF THE WORKSHOP: “TRANSBOUNDARY MARINE SPECIES AT RISK RECOVERY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE: TAKING STOCK OF CANADIAN AND US SCIENTIFIC AND GOVERNANCE RESPONSES, ENHANCING FUTURE COOPERATION”. AT DUKE CONFERENCE FACILITY IN WASHINGTON, DC - NOVEMBER, 3-4TH 2022.

PICTURE CREDITS: BORIS WORM.



8TH MEETING OF THE IAC LEGAL WORKING GROUP

On December, 13th 2022, the 8th Meeting from the Legal Working Group from IAC, took place virtually through a video-conference. The group Coordinator-Mr. Rotney Piedra- CCE from Costa Rica was accompanied by Joaquín Correa –Asuntos Marítimos –Exterior Relations (Perú), Ann Marie Lauritsen punto Focal Point from United States, Derek Cambell –NOAA, Mavish Madad (United States), Angelo Santos – Focal point from Brasil, Verónica Cáceres- IAC Secretary, Luz Helena Rodriguez, IAC Assistant and Haydeé Medina –Interine Assistant.

The meeting allowed the group to revise the Work Plan adopted d COP10 by the WG and define futures dates to establish the implementation of the activities for the year 2023.

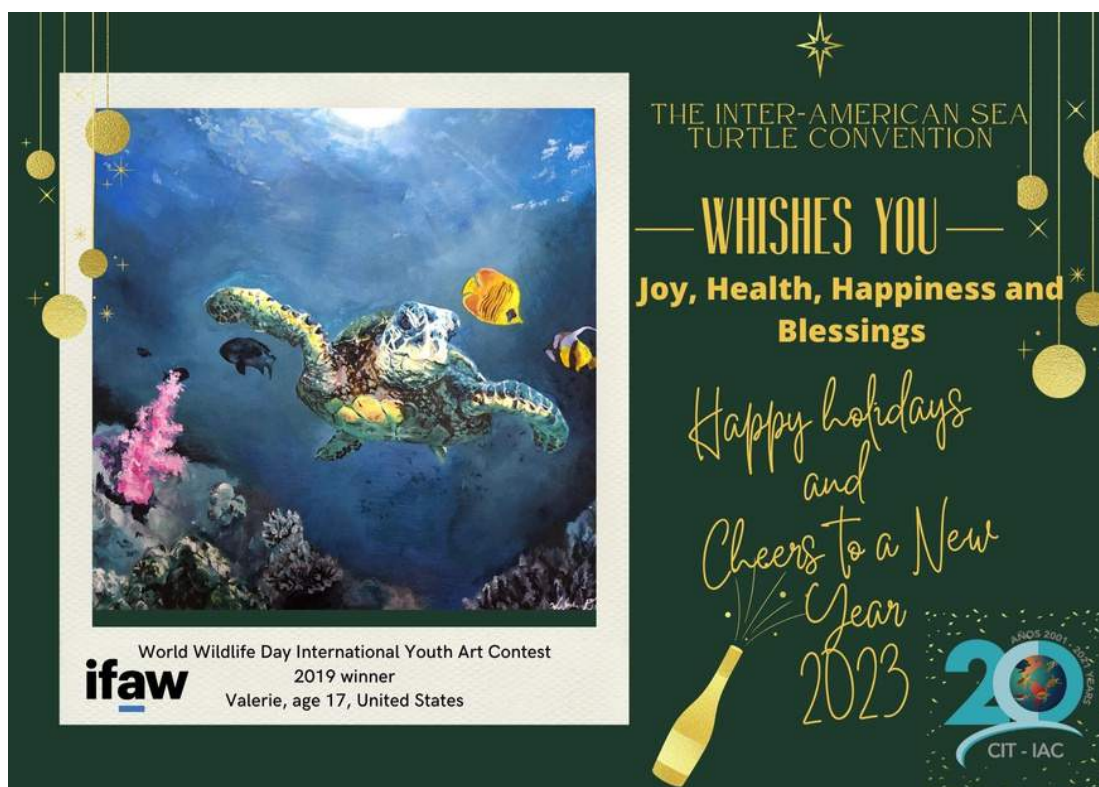


MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL WORKING GROUP DISCUSSING VARIOUS POINTS DURING THE MEETING.



Happy Holidays & a Happy New year !

*from Verónica, Luz Helena y Haydeé*



Credits: [IFAW.org](http://IFAW.org).

This year, IAC would like to thank IFAW, for its collaboration facilitating the image of our Christmas card. "Ocean in 500 years" is the title of the beautiful piece of art created by Valerie Dou from the United States and the winner of the [2019 World Wildlife Day International Youth Art Contest](#).

The art contest sponsored by IFAW in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat and the UNDP, strives to celebrate the annual World Wildlife Day as well as raise awareness about wildlife animals and plants of the world. For more information about the upcoming 2023 Art Contest, [check the IFAW website through this link](#).

CONTACT US AT

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