



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
Ninth Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts
April 19th 2016

CIT-CCE9-2016-Doc.4

Report of the 9th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts

April 19th, 2016

Opening Remarks and Agenda Adoption

1. The Ninth meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) took place on Tuesday April 19th 2016 by videoconference using the software Vidyoo from the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat office at the US Fish and Wildlife Service headquarters in Falls Church, Virginia.
2. The meeting started at 10:21 a.m. Eastern Time. After confirming that most of the participants had joined the virtual room, the Chair of the CCE Mr. Paul Hoetjes began the meeting with his opening remarks.
3. Delegates from ten (10) of the IAC Contracting Parties attended the meeting namely, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, United States, Honduras, Mexico, Caribbean Netherlands, Peru and Panama. Representatives of the IAC Scientific, Industry and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) sectors and the IAC Scientific Committee (SC) Chair attended as well. (List of participants CIT-CCE9-2016-Inf.1 Annex 1)
4. The CCE9 adopted the Agenda (CIT-CCE9-2016-Doc.1 Annex 1) without modifications.

Summary of the 8th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts

5. Mr. Paul Hoetjes, Chair of the CCE presented a summary of the meeting highlighting that the CCE prepared drafts Resolutions for the 7th Conference of the Parties (COP7), and agreed on the changes in the IAC Annual Report in regards to reporting on the Climate Change Resolution, noting that this topic will be discussed at this meeting.

Report on Secretariat *PT* Activities and Resolutions adopted at COP7

6. The IAC Secretary *PT*, Ms. Verónica Cáceres informed about the IAC support for projects in the IAC Parties, such as Panama where the implementation of the Resolution on exceptions in Isla Cañas is being reinforced with IAC support; in Costa Rica the IAC provided training material such as de-hookers for best practices workshops for fishermen, and in Belize a workshop on necropsy and first aid for stranded sea turtles will take place

this year. The Secretary *PT* also informed about the adoption of the Resolutions for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle and the Conservation of Loggerhead Sea Turtle.

7. Vice - Chair Mr. Joao Thomé talked about the IAC participation in regional events such as RETOMALA at the 36th Sea Turtle Symposium in Peru. The IAC presentation urged the audience to encourage Latin-American countries which are non-signatory of the IAC to become members of the Convention. The presentation also informed about the participation mechanisms in the IAC for researchers and scientists through the IAC committees and by providing information for their countries IAC Annual Report.

Recommendations from the 12th meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee

8. The IAC Scientific Committee (SC) Chair Mr. Diego Albareda presented the results from the meeting. The loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) working group was conformed, and it will prepare a report on the population status of this species at COP8.

9. The SC sent a letter of acknowledgement to Panama, Guatemala and Costa Rica on their progress in the compliance with the COP recommendations for their exceptions. These countries also received a form to report the progress implementing their respective Resolutions on exceptions for the SC evaluation.

10. The SC Climate Change working group prepared a form to be filled out by the Parties to collect information on the compliance of the Resolution Adaptation of Sea Turtle Habitats to Climate Change. The periodicity to request the information has not been decided yet. The SC will send the form to the CCE for a joint analysis.

Report of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Task Force (LB Task Force)

11. The NGO Sector delegate Ms. Joanna Alfaro, coordinator of the LB Task Force, presented the results in the reports CIT-CCE9-2016-Inf.2 and CIT-CCE9-2016-Doc.2. Both documents are included in Annex II A and B.

12. The coordinator informed on the EP Leatherback Turtle Workshop carried out during the 36th Sea Turtle Symposium. At this workshop, the IAC Secretary *PT* and the Scientific Committee Chair presented the Resolution mentioned and the importance of experts input in supporting the IAC Parties in its implementation.

13. The Scientific Sector delegate Mr. Bryan Wallace added that the objective of the workshop was to bring together the experts on leatherback nesting and incidental catch, and to establish a regional platform to collect information on the population current status; as well as to continue strengthening the work with the IAC, keeping the Convention updated on the information produced by the regional group of researchers LAUDOPO.

14. Peru delegate Ms. Elba Prieto, stated that with the support of the Foreign Affairs Ministry and IMARPE they are working on the IAC 2016 Annual Report, and that they are committed to comply with their commitments.

15. Costa Rica delegate Mr. Rotney Piedra, stated that Costa Rica objective is to increase the efforts in compliance with the Leatherback Turtle Resolution and they are preparing a short-term work plan to do this.

16. Mexico delegate Ms. Laura Sarti indicated that in the item regarding nesting of the Resolution compliance report, the percentages of the countries for which the resolution is not applicable are affecting the real result and suggested a modification in the analysis.

17. USA delegate Ms. Alexis Gutierrez acknowledged the LB Task Force work and requested their recommendation on the immediate steps to take considering the declining trend of the species given the small numbers in nesting reported in Costa Rica and México

18. The Scientific Sector delegate Mr. Bryan Wallace, stated that the LAUDOPO network expects to establish standards to collect information about nesting and incidental catches to determine the conservation efforts or threats reduction to change the negative trend of the population in a given time. He also stated the need to identify conservation measures to reduce incidental catches, assessing small-scale fisheries and identifying those areas with a higher interaction.

19. Panama delegate Ms. Haydee Medina informed that Panama will create a Sea Turtle National Network to standardize scientific data and thus improving the process of data collection.

20. USA delegate Mr. Earl Possardt, acknowledged the efforts of the regional groups working with Leatherback turtles and recommended that the priority is to identify actions with an immediate effect to avoid the population extinction. Mr. Possardt stated that management actions need to go beyond good practices on fishing vessels, and suggested the IAC as a connecting bridge between governments and NGOs, to create awareness on the urgency to carry out actions with a conservation impact in the field.

21. Brazil delegate Mr. Joao Thomé, suggested that the next step is to bring the issue to a higher political level engaging each country Ministry of Fisheries and Environment, to raise awareness about the fast reduction of the leatherback population and the need to reinforce conservation measures in the fisheries, which are the biggest threat and where higher mortality occurs.

22. Costa Rica delegate Mr. Antonio Porras, stated that although there are financial and human limitations for this tasks, Costa Rica has the support of the fishing sector and good political will for the protection of the species.

23. USA delegate Ms. Alexis Gutierrez, requested to identify collective actions of the countries either in high seas or in coastal areas, understanding it is a needed but not easy job. The delegate suggested that the IAC legal mechanisms could be used to recommend actions for the Parties fishing fleets.

24. Chile delegate Mr. Jorge Azocar, suggested creating a working group to collect information from observers. He highlighted the lack of law enforcement in the field, which makes it challenging in small-scale fisheries. It was suggested that Chile leads the definition of the standards for the observers, as minimal standard for the observers programs are not available.

25. The Scientific Sector delegate Ms. Hedelvy Guada, suggested that standardization of observer programs is an important topic for the SC and the CCE to analyze.

26. The Chair of the CCE concluded that to improve the EP Leatherback situation, it requires actions such as: a) continue collecting information to identify the areas of higher interaction of the Leatherback Turtle with fisheries, b) to bring the urgency of this case to a higher political level to produce direct results in specific areas, c) implement best practices in fisheries interacting with the Leatherback Turtle (mainly small-scale) and exchange knowledge between the countries, and d) increase the number of observers on board or establishing a minimum of observers for the fishing fleets.

27. The CCE agreed to request the Leatherback Task Force to prepare a report for the next CCE10 with recommendations for the Parties on urgent actions regarding the implementation of the Leatherback Turtle Resolution. The report should include comments from the IAC Scientific Committee. According to the decisions made by the CCE these recommendations could become a draft Resolution for COP8 in 2017.

28. The timeframe to prepare the report is May 2016 – February 2017, with a draft document by July 1st 2016 to be sent to the SC so that they can provide comments. To prepare this document the LB Task Force should use IAC Annual Reports and the reports presented at this meeting.

29. The CCE recommends IAC Parties to provide more detail in the Annual Report table about the Leatherback Turtle Resolution. It is recommended that Parties report based on the actions in the Annex of the Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2.

30. The CCE recommends the LB Task Force to include the information in the Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R2 Reduction of the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries, during the preparation of their report for the COP, if the information is applicable.

CCE Work Plan Update 2016-2017

31. The new activity in the work plan was the task assigned to the Leatherback Task Force. The CCE Work Plan CCE 2016-2017 (CIT-CCE9-2016.Doc.3) was adopted with the modification mentioned above (Annex III).

Discussion of the NGO Sector members on how to respond to requests from NGOs

32. The NGO Sector delegate Mr. Diego Amorocho, presented a proposal for a mechanism for the NGOs to request the IAC CCE to evaluate cases where human impacts are threatening sea turtles conservation and their habitats (CIT-CCE9-2016-Inf.3) Annex IV.

33. The Chair of the CCE agreed with developing mechanisms that enable NGOs and other sectors that don't have access to participate in the discussions of International Conventions to present their requests and concerns. However, he emphasized that the CCE should not be seen as an entity that is establishing rules for the civil society to approach the Convention. He then clarified that the NGO Sector of the CCE is proposing and is their responsibility to implement this mechanism with the NGOs. This is not a mechanism imposed by the CCE.

34. The Sectorial delegate Ms. Hedelvy Guada, stated that it is important to have a channel for NGOs to have visibility and suggested to agree on a maximum of petitions that can be accepted for consideration, prioritizing those referring to endangered species.

35. Argentina delegate Mr. Antonio de Nichilo suggested that before presenting a case or petition at the CCE meeting, the NGO Sector should consider the CCE representative of the country where the issue is taking place and they should consult with him to jointly decide if the petition should be presented to the CCE or not.

36. The Chair of the CCE stated that the NGO Sector status is the same as that of any of the CCE members. If an NGO Sectorial member requests to include an item in the CCE meeting agenda, this member does not need approval from the focal point of the country where the issue is taking place. The procedure in the CCE is to discuss the preliminary agenda at the beginning of each meeting for consideration and the adoption is by consensus. If any of the members wants to include an item, the matter can be discussed previously with the Secretary *PT*, the CCE Chair and the member of the country involved, however, this is not a CCE requirement for the delegates, and they are autonomous to request that the CCE include a topic on the agenda.

37. The CCE agreed to review the document of the proposal on a mechanism to present cases from NGOs (CIT-CCE9-2016-Inf.3), and send their comments to the NGO Sector delegates within 30 days.

38. The informative document of the NGO Sector (CIT-CCE9-2016-Inf.3) is in Annex IV as it was presented at the meeting. The CCE NGO Sector can modify the document once they include the feedback received from the CCE.

Other business

a) Results from the 36th Symposium on Sea Turtles in Lima and workshops relevant to the IAC: Workshop on the *Caretta caretta* action plan and Workshop on the EP Leatherback Turtle.

39. Due to technical problems in the local internet service, the NGO Sector delegate Ms. Joanna Alfaro could not present the results.

Preparation of the CCE 10

a) Election of Chair and Vice Chair

40. The CCE agreed on the re-election of Mr. Paul Hoetjes (Caribbean Netherlands) and Mr. Joao Thomé (Brazil), as Chair and Vice Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts respectively, for the next two years.

b) Election process for sectorial members (2017)

41. The Secretary *PT* presented the process for sectorial members included in the Resolution CIT-COP5-2011-R1, and reminded the delegates that applications will begin no later than January 2017. Sectorial members will be elected at COP8 in 2017. Those interested in applying for these positions can do it following the procedures in the above mentioned Resolution.

c) Proposal on preliminary dates for the next CCE10 meeting

42. The CCE10 meeting will be scheduled for March or April 2017. The decision between a face-to-face or a virtual meeting will depend on the number of Parties that confirm their delegate participation.

43. The Secretary *PT* indicated that virtual meetings have a higher participation from the Parties. In this meeting 22 connections were registered in the virtual room, this included 25 participants. The delegate from Brazil recognized the advantages of virtual meetings but suggested that at least every two years the CCE meets face-to-face. Costa Rica, Honduras, Chile, and Argentina agreed that there is a better use of financial resources in a virtual meeting, and there is increased participation of different governmental agencies in their countries.

44. At 3:47 p.m. Eastern Time the CCE Chair Mr. Paul Hoetjes thanked the participants for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Annex I - CIT-CCE9-2016-Inf.1 List of Attendance CCE9

Country	Name	Organization	E-mail
Consultative Committee of Experts – Parties Delegates			
Argentina	Antonio De Nichilo Jorgelina Oddi Débora Winter	Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación SADys	ajdnichilo@ambiente.gob.ar joddi@ambiente.gob.ar dwinter@ambiente.gob.ar
Brazil	Joao Thomé	Coordinador Nacional TAMAR	joao.thome@icmbio.gov.br
Chile	Francisco Ponce	Subsecretaría de Pesca y Acuicultura	franciscoponce@subpesca.cl
Chile	Jorge Azocar	IFOP	jorge.azocar@ifop.cl
Costa Rica	Antonio Porras	INCOPESCA	porrasantonio1@yahoo.com
Costa Rica	Rotney Piedra	SINAC	rotney.piedra@sinac.go.cr
USA	Earl Possardt	FWS	Earl_Possardt@fws.gov
USA	Alexis Gutierrez	NOAA	Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov
Honduras	Carolina Montalván	Dirección de Biodiversidad SERNA	carolmontalvan1568@gmail.com
Honduras	Rafael Amaro Garcia	Dirección de Biodiversidad SERNA	
Mexico	Laura Sarti	CONANP CONANP	Lsarti@conanp.gob.mx
Caribbean Netherlands	Paul Hoetjes	EL&I National Office for the Caribbean Netherlands	Paul.hoetjes@rijksdiensten.com
Peru	Elba Prieto	Ministerio de la Producción	eprietor@produccion.gob.pe
Panama	Marino Abrego Haydee Medina	Ministerio del Ambiente	meabrego@miambiente.gob.pa
Panama	Bolivar Canizales	Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores	
CCE – NGO Sector			
Colombia	Diego Amorocho	WWF Colombia	dfamorocho@wwf.org.co
Peru	Joanna Alfaro	Pro Delphinus	jas_26@yahoo.com
Uruguay	Alejandro Fallabrino	Karumbe	afalla7@gmail.com

Country	Name	Organization	E-mail
CCE – Scientific Sector			
Venezuela	Hedelvy Guada	Instituto de Zoología y Ecología Tropical – Universidad Central de	hjguada@gmail.com

		Venezuela / CICTMAR	
Costa Rica	Emma Harrison	Sea Turtle Conservancy	emma@conserveturtles.org
EEUU	Brian Wallace	Stratus Consulting	bryanpwallace@gmail.com
CCE – Productive Sector			
Mexico		CAINPESCA	
Scientific Committee			
Argentina	Diego Albareda	SC Chair - IAC	diego.albareda@gmail.com
IAC Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>			
	Verónica Cáceres	<i>PT</i> Secretary	secretario@iacseaturtle.org
	Luz Helena Rodríguez	IAC Assistant	asistentecit@gmail.com
	Darío Palma	Interpreter	

Agenda – 9th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts CIT-CCE9-2016-Doc.1

DATE /TIME	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENTS
April 19th 10: 00 AM – 3:00 PM EST time		
9:30 AM	Connections to videoconference IAC - USFWS office Introductions of participants	CIT-CCE9-2016-Inf. 1
10:00	1. Opening Remarks and Agenda adoption <i>Mr. Paul Hoetjes, CCE Chair</i>	CIT-CCE9-2016-Doc.1
10:10	2. Summary of 8 th Consultative Committee Meeting <i>Mr. Paul Hoetjes,, CCE Chair</i>	CIT-CCE8-2015-Doc.6
10:20	3. Report on IAC Resolutions adopted in COP7 <i>Ms. Veronica Caceres, IAC PT Secretary</i>	CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.4
10:30	4. Recommendations from 12 th IAC Scientific Committee <i>Mr. .Diego Albareda, SC Chair</i> a) IAC Parties data collection and reporting on Climate Change and Sea Turtles b) Report on implementation of IAC recommendations on exceptions by Guatemala, Panama and Costa Rica.	CIT-CC12-2015-Doc.5
11:15/15 min	<i>Break</i>	
11:30	5. Report from the East Pacific Leatherback Task Force working group <i>Ms. Joanna Alfaro task Force Coordinator</i>	CIT-CCE9-2016-Inf.2 CIT-CCE9-2016-Doc.2 CIT-CCE9-2016-Inf.4
12:00	6. CCE Work Plan update 2016	CIT-CCE9-2016-Doc.3
12:30 pm	7. NGO Sectorial members discussion on addressing requests from NGOs <i>Mr. Diego Amorocho</i>	
1:00 /15 min	<i>Break</i>	
1:15	8. Other business a) Results from ISTS Symposium Lima from workshops relevant to IAC - <i>Caretta caretta</i> action plan and East Pacific Leatherback action plan. <i>Ms. Joanna Alfaro</i>	
2:00	9. Preparation of CCE10 a) Election of Chair and Vice Chair b) Election process for sectorial members (2017) c) Preliminary dates for next meeting (CCE10)	
2:30	10. Closing remarks	
3:00	Session adjourns	

Annex II A

CIT-CCE9-2016-Inf.2

Report of the IAC Eastern Pacific Leatherback Working Group

This report was prepared by Dr. Joanna Alfaro, working group coordinator for the 9th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts.

1. Summary of the compliance with Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2: Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*).

Based on the IAC Parties annual reports from 2015, the IAC n Secretariat *Pro Tempore* prepared a report with the information available. Five countries in the region where the resolution is applicable (Chile, Costa Rica, United States, Guatemala and Mexico), provided information. The reports of two of the countries for which the Resolution is applicable were not submitted to the IAC Secretariat PT.

Three out of the four activities listed in the Resolution had compliance above 50%. The creation of conservation plans was among the activities with higher (100%) compliance (Activities 1A and 1B, see CIT-CCE9-2016-Doc.2, prepared by the Secretariat PT). Eighty percent (80%) of the parties have taken measures to abolish leatherback poaching in nesting areas (Action 2) except for Chile, where the activity is not applicable. Similarly, 80% of the countries implemented techniques to reduce incidental captures (Activity 3), which is applicable in most of the IAC Countries.

Among the activities with low compliance (<50%), are the protection of nesting sites and its associated ecosystems (Activity 3). For Chile and the United States, this activity is not applicable in their territory. On the other hand, Guatemala did not fill out this section, probably due to low or no nesting activity in this country.

Other relevant information reported by the Parties includes activities conducted at nesting sites, bycatch reduction in fishing activities, education and community outreach and other actions within the IAC Parties national conservation plans (See CIT-CCE9-2016-Doc. 2).

Additionally our colleague Eduardo Espinoza from Ministry of Environment, Ecuador has provided a summary of East Pacific Leatherback in Ecuador 2014-2015 as information document CIT-CCE9-2016-Inf. 4 to illustrate the nesting attempts and stranding of the species in Manabí province.

2. Nesting season 2015 update

Mexico: Information provided by Laura Sarti shows that work is being conducted in four index beaches along 50 km on the Pacific coast with 100% monitoring coverage. Table below provided by Larura Sarti (CONANP).

RESULTADOS PRELIMINARES DE ANIDACIÓN Y PROTECCIÓN DE LA TORTUGA LAÚD, TEMPORADA 2015-2016
EN CINCO PLAYAS ÍNDICE DEL PACÍFICO MEXICANO

RESULTADOS HASTA EL 9 DE ABRIL DE 2016.

PLAYA	BARRA DE LA CRUZ	TIERRA COLORADA	SAN JUAN	BAHÍA	CAHUITÁN	TOTAL
FUENTE	A. Tavera	E. Ocampo	C. Salas	C. Salas	R. Juárez / K. López	
Total de nidos	365	94	92	66	68	685
Reubicados	357	83	63	36	62	601
Reubicados en playa						
Saqueados-reubicados	1	1				2
In situ (con seguimiento)			4	20	1	25
In situ (sin seguimiento)						
Depredados						0
Saqueados	2	3	13	8	3	29
No localizados	5	7	12	2	2	28
No puso	24	8	9	3	2	46
Hembras diferentes	97	20	23		25	165
Remigrantes	12	1	2		5	20
Neófitas	85	19	21		20	145
Huevos	23,510	5,391	4,790	2,360	4,088	40,139
Crías liberadas	13,272	1,878	1,780	1,104	509	18,543

Table: Preliminary results from East Pacific Leatherback nesting and protection season 2015-2016 for 05 index beaches in the Pacific Coast of Mexico.

Costa Rica: Data provided by Bibi Santidrián includes the identification of 22 females in Playa Grande. Additionally, 10% of the sea turtles lay their eggs only in Langosta Beach (the other beach of the National Park) and another 7% of females are nesting outside the season. In total there are 26 reports of female leatherbacks. Between 70% and 80% of nesting leatherbacks in Costa Rica are found in Playa Grande/Langosta, with an estimate of 35 females in the Pacific coast of Costa Rica (Figure 1).

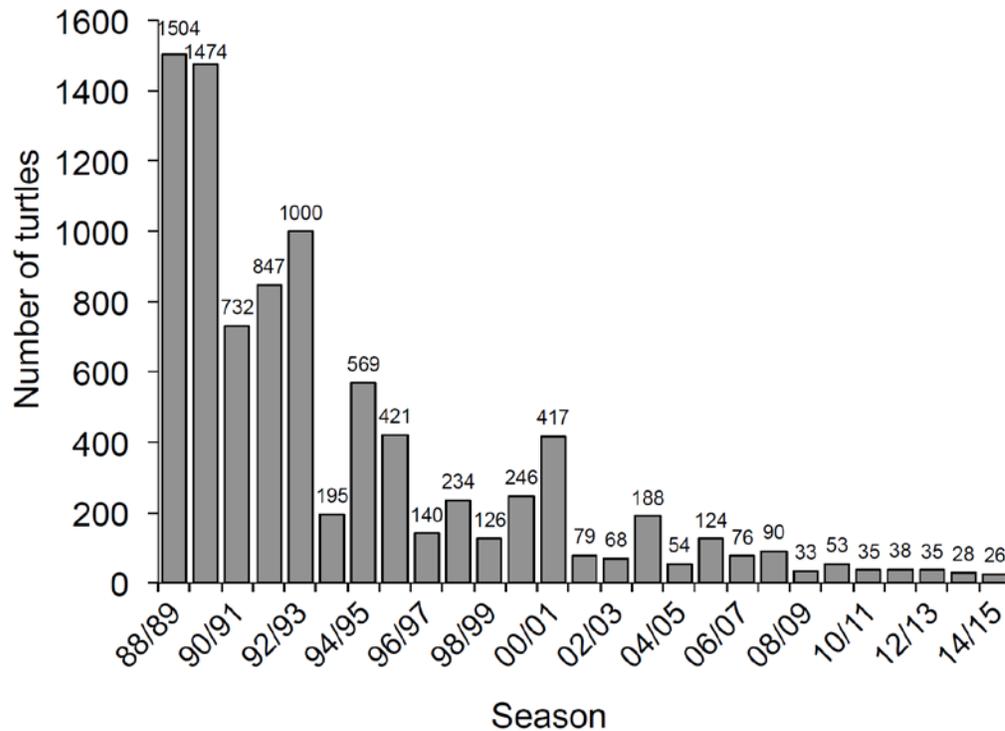


Figure 1: Number of nesting leatherback turtles in Playa Grande, Costa Rica. Season 2014 – 2015.

3. Activities of the IAC Eastern Pacific Leatherback WG

Activities included in the CCE Work Plan 2015

The CCE Work Plan adopted at the 7th Conference of Parties (COP7) assigned the Leatherback WG with two tasks to be completed in 2015. The WG executed both tasks as described below: a) The leatherback WG will identify additional questions necessary to evaluate the compliance with the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP7-2015-R2) table in the Annual IAC's report when needed. This task has been completed and the additional questions have been already included in the IAC annual report format for 2015. b) The leatherback WG prepared cost estimates and funding sources for the activities in Annex 1 of the new Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution. The results were presented as an information document to the IAC COP7.

36th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation

The 2nd workshop of the East Pacific Leatherback Network was held in Lima on February 29th 2015 as part of the 36th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation.

During this meeting there was progress made in the standardization of concepts to coordinate and implement the Regional EP Leatherback Turtle Conservation Plan. The workshop was organized by Fauna and Flora International (represented by Ms. Velkiss Gadea) in collaboration with Dr. Bryan Wallace. The participant list included 25 attendants and a higher number of people joined the workshop throughout the day. There were presentations about nesting activities in the previous season, and there was discussion on bycatch issues.

The workshop was an opportunity to discuss collaboration between different groups to create a network similar to the ICAPO one which is a collaborative network for research, management and conservation of Hawksbill turtles in the Eastern Pacific.

Several members of the IAC Leatherback WG attended the workshop. Among them Diego Amorocho, Bryan Wallace, Earl Possardt, Laura Sarti, Jorge Azocar and Joanna Alfaro. The IAC PT Secretary Verónica Cáceres, and the IAC Scientific Committee Chair Diego Albareda, did a presentation on the adoption of the Resolution “Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)”. They emphasized the importance of the technical support provided by the experts present in the workshop for this resolution to be adopted, and encouraged their participation in the tasks of the IAC Scientific and Consultative committees.

A discussion on the adoption of protocols to share data of the species will continue among those who took part on the workshop. The name of the network was chosen as LAUDOPO. The communications among the group members will be done through Google LAUDOPO list, and this will be coordinated by Dr. Bryan Wallace.

4. Proposal on the contents of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Work Group report to follow-up on the Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2 Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*).

This document was prepared by the EP Leatherback Work Group and it was presented at the 12th Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee for review. In the next IAC COP 2017, the report must include the nine points identified as important, a list of the WG members and the activities conducted throughout the year including: Outcomes of the WG activities, Results of the Leatherback Resolution Compliance Assessment, Review of other sources of information, compilation from the IAC Parties Annual Reports, relevant information regarding the EP leatherback, annual status of nesting populations in index beaches, development of stranding form of EP Leatherbacks, and recommendations of the WG to improve the implementation of the Resolution CIT-COP7-2015.R2. The draft of the contents of this report is in Appendix I.

Appendix I

Proposal on the contents of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Work Group report to follow-up on the Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2 Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

On June 2015, at the meeting in Mexico, the 7th Conference of the Parties (COP7), adopted the Resolution COP7-2015-R2 Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*). In this Resolution, and among other matters, the IAC Parties are prompted to agree on the five years strategic actions described in the Resolution's Appendix 1, which contain the critical activities. Additionally, with the collaboration of the IAC PT Secretariat and other Parties, the IAC Scientific and Consultative committees are requested to assess the implementation of these strategic actions through annual meetings of the work group designated by the Committees, and to develop a report compiling the information for the COP, Focal Points and the PT Secretariat. This assessment will be conducted using the information in the annual report developed by the Leatherback Work Group (WG).

The aim of this group is to monitor/assess the implementation of the Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2, to advise the Parties when implementation measures need to be improved, and to inform the COP about these needs.

This document has been prepared by Joanna Alfaro (Coordinator/CCE NGO-Sector), Laura Sarti (Mexico), Earl Possardt (United States), Jorge Zuzunaga (Peru), Evelyn Paredes (Peru), Francisco Ponce (Chile), y Diego Amorcho (CCE NGO-Sector).

Proposal of contents in the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle Work Group Report

- 1) Background/Introduction: a brief introduction on the content of the report, who are the members of the group, and the period encompassed in the report (e.g. data presented for the period May 2013 to December 2013).
- 2) Activities of the Leatherback WG: It would include the results of the group annual meeting (i.e. In person or virtual meeting, dates, attendants, minutes of the meeting)
- 3) Agreements of the Leatherback WG: outcomes of the WG activities.
- 4) Results of the assessment on the compliance of the Resolution (CIT-COP7-2015-R2) Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) based on the IAC Parties annual report within the scope of the resolution (include annual report year). This includes measures taken by the Parties to mitigate impacts in nesting beaches and fisheries (documents obtained from annual reports or officially requested to the Parties).

- 5) Review of other verifiable sources of information about the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (e.g. scientific papers and press notes, reported by the Parties) and if relevant, include these records in the WG report.
- 6) To compile detailed information included in the annual reports of the Parties (i.e. new technologies, stakeholders implementing actions, mitigation measures, fisheries sampled, methods) and if possible discuss and include indicators of results.
- 7) Annual status of nesting populations at index beaches: identify the information to be included in this section. Identify those index beaches that must be included, and the countries where they are located, and if possible use the work developed by the Nesting Beaches Work Group (CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5).
- 8) Based on the annual reports, develop an Eastern Pacific Leatherback turtle occurrence (stranded and at sea) record table (mortality, sightings, entanglements), and define the information to be included in each event (i.e. date, location, coordinates, condition).
- 9) Recommendations of the Leatherback WG to improve the implementation of the Resolution.

Annex II B

CIT-CCE9-2016-Doc.2

Compliance Analysis Report on Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2: Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Report prepared by the IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

This report was compiled to provide an overview of progress made by the parties of the convention on the compliance of the resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2: Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*). The report was prepared using the information provided by eight of the IAC Parties in their 2015 Annual Reports; specifically using the data reported on the table of the Resolution CIT-COP4-2009-R5, in Part II (c.1). The resolution does not apply for three countries namely Argentina, Brazil y and the Caribbean Netherlands. Therefore, five countries were included in the analysis: Chile, Costa Rica, United States, Guatemala and Mexico. The AIC Parties which are not mentioned in this report did not deliver the 2015 annual report.

2. METHODS

The resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2: Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) was reviewed for eight IAC annual reports (2015). A summary of the answers to the actions with percentages for YES, NO, ND (no data), NA (no apply) was developed and the results are included in this report. Except for Action 3, which calculation was based on the countries with leatherback nesting areas, the percentage of compliance of each action was calculated based on the five OPO countries included in the analysis and for which the resolution applies.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Overall compliance with Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2

All of the actions (Table 3.1) listed in the resolution **had a compliance above 50%**. All countries (100%) included in the analysis, have created conservation plans and long term programs that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback turtle in the Eastern Pacific (**Action 1A**) which are being implemented (**Action 1B**). Most of the parties (80%) have taken conservation measures to eliminate poaching of leatherback turtles (**Action 2**) except for Chile that states this action is not applicable for its country. In Parties where Action 3 is applicable, conservation measures for the protection of nesting sites and associated habitats are implemented in 67% of the cases. However, Guatemala (33%) did

not provide information probably due to a low or a lack of nesting activity for the species in the country. Regarding fishing techniques to reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species (**Action 4**), it complies for most of the countries except for Chile, stating the action does not apply for this Party. All actions are included in the graphs in [section 3.2](#)

Table 3.1. Chile, Costa Rica, United States, Guatemala and Mexico percentage of compliance of resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2.

ACTION	YES%	NO%	ND%	NA%
1a. Have you created conservation plans and long term programs that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback turtle in the Eastern Pacific?	100	0	0	0
1b. Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?	100	0	0	0
2. Have you taken conservation measures to eliminate poaching of leatherback turtles?	80	0	0	20
3. If your country has leatherback turtle nesting beaches in the Eastern Pacific: Have you taken conservation measures to protect the nesting sites and their associated habitats?	67	0	33	n/a
4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?	80	0	0	20

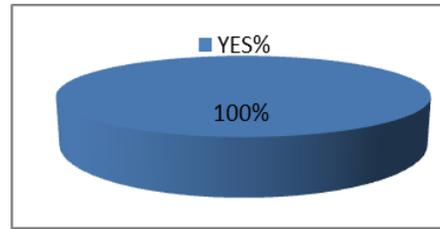
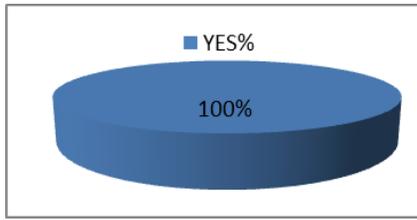
3.2 Compliance with specific actions of the IAC Resolution CIT –COP7-2015-R2

Below are listed the actions with the highest (>50%) and the lowest compliance with the actions listed in the resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2 included in 2015 annual report.

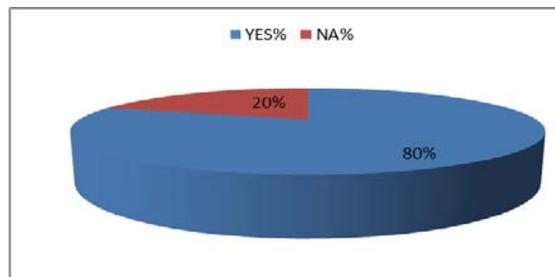
3.2.1 Specific actions reporting highest compliance (>50%)

ACTION 1A. Have you created conservation plans and long term programs that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback turtle in the Eastern Pacific?

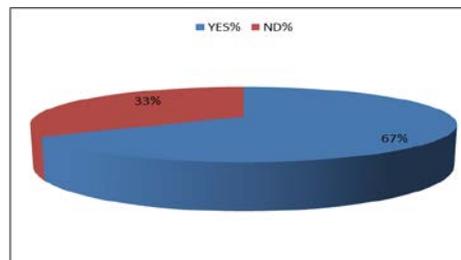
ACTION 1B. Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?



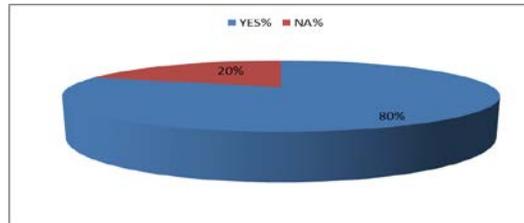
- ACTION 2. Have you taken conservation measures to eliminate poaching of leatherback turtles?



- ACTION 3. If your country has leatherback turtle nesting beaches in the Eastern Pacific: Have you taken conservation measures to protect the nesting sites and their associated habitats?



- ACTION 4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?



3.3. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION REPORTED BY IAC PARTIES ON THE COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION COP7-2015-R2

Some additional comments written in the column “description of actions” have been included in Table 3.2, according to the number of the action and the country involved in it. Those countries or actions for which there was no information of this type are not included.

Table 3.2. Description of relevant actions reported by some of the countries included in this compliance analysis of resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2

Action	Chile	Costa Rica	United States	Guatemala	Mexico
1A	SRAM – Implementation of protocols to release turtles captured incidentally.	Nesting beaches in protected area have Management Plans. Nesting beaches outside the protected areas: NGOs and local organization implement monitoring plans.	Recovery plan for Pacific leatherbacks Issuing of a five-year action plan for Pacific Leatherbacks at the end of 2015.	National moratorium for the trade of leatherback turtle.	Leatherback project more than 25 years old.
1B	The releasing protocols developed, are used by the observers on board.	In protected areas the implementation is through annual plans of environmental education, research and enforcement. Outside the protected areas project about nest protection and environmental education are implemented. A report is requested at the end of each season.	Minimizing the interaction. Through the modification of fishing gears, Working along with other EP countries to reduce the interactions, using illuminated gillnets in coastal fisheries.	Collection of leatherback turtle nest relocated in legally authorized hatcheries.	The actions of the leatherback turtle PACE have been implemented every year since 2008.
2		Patrols during the nesting season The possibility of establishing a new protected area in Moin is being studied, which would mainly protect the leatherback turtles nesting beach.	In 2015, the plan to combat wildlife trafficking was launched.	Awareness talks have been provided to sea turtle eggs collectors.	The four priority beaches for sea turtles in Mexico have an annual program of protection for females, eggs and newborns.

Action	Chile	Costa Rica	United States	Guatemala	Mexico
3		Nesting beaches for 85% of the leatherback turtles nesting in Costa Rica are protected inside the Marine National Park Las Baulas, where the respective monitoring is conducted.			Two out of the four index beaches in Mexico have a category of Sanctuary, and one more is in the process to be declared a protected natural area. The four of them have been designated as RAMSAR sites, three of them in 2003 and 2004, and the last one was declared in February 2008
4	In general rates of incidental capture are low (4 individuals in 14 years)	The executive decree N° 38681-MAGMINAE requires the use of better practices for the attention of sea turtles captured incidentally and the use of appropriate equipment. The AMMMS management plan requires the use of appropriate tool and techniques to release the turtles.	Observers on board in Hawaii. Circle hooks with whole finfish baits. Fishers are provided safe-handling gear to increase turtles' chances of survival post-release.	Use of Turtle Excluders (TED's).	The use of larger TED's is mandatory. The use of a flat bars grill for the sea turtle excluder device has been authorized, because it is more efficient in the exclusion of the turtles. Mandatory use of circle hooks for shark fishing. Closure of long line shark fishing areas in front of nesting beaches.

Annex III

CIT-CCE9-2016-Doc.3 Work Plan CCE 2016-2017

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
Consultative Committee of Experts	Exceptions	1) Follow the progress of Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama exceptions.	1) Report to CCE and COP about the follow up on Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala exceptions (if needed).	2017
Consultative Committee of Experts	Loggerhead turtle	Follow up on implementation of Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R3	Joint recommendation with Scientific Committee on the implementation of the tasks stated in the loggerhead turtle Resolution	2016
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat Pro Tempore	IAC's Website & Newsletter	Parties will send to Secretariat Pro Tempore relevant news on a monthly basis for the IAC's Newsletter.	IAC website updated with the IAC's Newsletter and other documents of interest.	Permanent
Eastern Pacific Leatherback Working Group	Eastern Pacific Leatherback	1) Follow up on implementation of the new Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP7-2015-R2). 2) To carry out annual meetings of the Leatherback Task Force. 3) The Leatherback task force will prepare a progress report on the Resolution compliance with recommendation for urgent conservation actions to be presented at the 13 th Scientific Committee meeting. With the input from the SC13, the Task Force will prepare a report with recommendations for the 10 th Consultative Committee meeting and COP8 (2017).	Report prepared by the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Task Force and presented at the Scientific Committee (2016). Reports presented at the CCE10 with recommendations on urgent conservation actions, and based on this report prepare a Resolution draft to present at COP8 (2017) if required.	2016, 2017

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
Resolution Compliance Working Group	IAC Annual Report and Compliance of Resolutions	Prepare report on Resolution compliance and recommendations to the CCE10 and COP8.	Recommendations presented at CCE10 and COP8 (2017)	2016, 2017
Resolution Compliance Working Group	IAC Annual Report and Compliance of Resolutions	Assess current Annual Report format.	Recommendations for changes to the format of the annual report as required.	2017
Consultative Committee of Experts	Work plan	Update CCE work plan following the recommendations of the Parties.	CCE biannual work plan updated with activities, timetable and responsible.	Permanent
Consultative Committee of Experts	Collaboration with international organizations	The CCE delegates will organize a meeting with RAMSAR Focal Points in their countries to identify activities of collaborative work under the MoU. Explore mechanism to collaborate with Ramsar Standing Committee to provide information for the report State of the World Wetlands	Report the meeting results.	2016
Consultative Committee of Experts	Collaboration with international organizations	Make recommendations and promote alliances and synergies for collaborative work with similar international organizations to meet the IAC's objectives.	Identification of synergies with similar organizations to share information (SPAW, IATTC, CPPS, WIDECAS, ACAP, ICCAT, RAMSAR, SWOT, ICAPO, ASO, WWF, CBD, CMS).	2016

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>	Collaboration with international organizations	Develop and review MoU drafts with relevant identified organizations.	Documents presented to COP for consideration.	2016, 2017
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>	Drafting Resolutions and Recommendations to COP	Address COP requests and draft resolutions and recommendations accordingly.	Resolutions and draft recommendations presented to COP as needed.	2016, 2017
Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Technical Documents	Develop technical documents as needed.	Technical documents available on IAC website and shared within IAC Parties.	2016
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>	IAC Experts Directory	Review and update the IAC experts directory	Updated directory on IAC Website.	2016

Annex IV

CIT-CCE9-2016-Inf.3

NOTE: This document does not need adoption from the Consultative Committee of Experts. This document is a proposal prepared by CCE NGO Sector and is subject to modifications by this same sector where appropriate.

PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION MAKING MECHANISM ON THE INCLUSION OF SEA TURTLE AFFECTATION CASES PRESENTED BY NGOS IN THE AGENDA OF THE IAC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

Document prepared by the CCE representatives of the NGO Sector: Diego Amorocho, Joanna Alfaro y Alejandro Fallabrino to be considered by the CCE9.

Procedure

- 1. Reception of a Petition:** A petition or case from an NGO is presented to the IAC CCE-NGO Sector (The CCE-NGO Sector officially notifies the NGO with copy to the CCE Chair and the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat). The minimum requirements for the petition are: 1) an executive summary containing the Convention Resolution or section of the IAC Convention text related to the issue, 2) contact information of the NGO responsible for the petition and 3) a maximum of XX pages (appendices can be attached). The documents are presented in English and Spanish.
Estimated time of reception: 90 days prior the CCE Meeting.
- 2. Review and Consultation:** In agreement with the IAC objectives and existing resolutions, the CCE-NGO Sector studies and prioritizes the case according to its pertinence, urgency and relevance. A previous consultation is done with the CCE Chair, the CCE Scientific Sector, and the CCE representative of the country relevant to the case presented. Based on results from this consultation the CCE-NGO Sector decides if the case will be presented or not as an item in the CCE agenda. The CCE-NGO Sector is not required to submit all cases received.
Estimated time to submit documents to be included in the agenda: 60 days before the CCE meeting.
- 3. Drafting of a Concept note requesting inclusion of the matter on the CCE Agenda:** The CCE-NGO Sector in consultation with the CCE Scientific Sector develops a concept note about the case. One (1) month before the CCE meeting the CCE-NGO Sector requests the inclusion of the matter in the CCE agenda; attaching the concept note (the document is 3 pages long divided into sections). For those cases in which it is decided that the petition will not be included in the agenda because it does not meet the

requirements established in the selection process, a formal response stating the reasons will be sent to the NGO that submitted the case.

4. **CCE Plenary Discussions and Results:** the CCE - NGO Sector is a channel for a request from members of the civil society outside of the IAC framework, with the purpose of bringing the attention of the Convention to the matter. The decisions regarding and case and petition will be made by consensus at the CCE meeting. The case/petition and the concept note are discussed in the CCE plenary resulting in one of two options:
 - a. The CCE decides that the case is well documented, important and urgent, and proceeds to make a decision and make recommendations accordingly.
 - b. The CCE decides that there is not enough information to make recommendations about the case at the meeting. If there is consensus, the CCE could request the Scientific Committee to carry out a technical review and to add supplementary information. Once the necessary information is included by the Scientific Committee, the case will be submitted once again for the CCE to reconsider it. According to the decision at the meeting the CCE will then make recommendations.

Estimated time: 90 days/months for any of the two options.