

Report of the 4th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts

1. The Fourth Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) of the IAC took place in the city of Praia do Forte, Bahía, Brazil on March 22-23, 2011. The meeting venue was the Hotel Iberostar Bahía.
2. The objectives of the meeting were to develop recommendations for submittal to the Conference of the Parties on occasion of the 10th anniversary of the IAC, to prepare the documents as requested by the CCE for inclusion in the COP5 agenda, and to review the documents resulting from the 7th meeting of the Scientific Committee (Annex I, Agenda).
3. The Consultative Committee meeting began at 8:30 a.m. on March 22nd with welcome remarks by the CCE Chair Dr. Luis Fueyo Mac Donald, who invited the participants to introduce themselves. The participating countries were Brazil, the Netherlands Antilles, United States of America, and Mexico, as well as four members representing the productive, scientific and NGO sectors and the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat (Annex II, List of Participants).
4. The Government of Brazil, represented by Focal Point Licenciado Ugo Vercillo of ICMBio, welcomed the participants and expressed appreciation for the invitation to participate in the meeting and share with the Committee the common goals of sea turtle conservation in the Americas. He additionally highlighted the efforts under way in Brazil to protect sea turtles and their habitats, and reiterated the support of his country for the Convention and its activities. Mr. Vercillo also confirmed that Brazil will participate in the IAC COP5 where they will present their national sea turtle management plan. He wished the participants a successful meeting and a pleasant stay in Bahía.
5. The CCE Chair asked the Pro Tempore Secretary, Verónica Cáceres, for assistance as meeting rapporteur. The meeting agenda was adopted immediately thereafter without modifications.
6. The CCE Chair invited the participants to discuss the first items on the agenda:

Summary of the Pro Tempore Secretariat Activities in 2010-2011 and Update on COP5

7. The *Pro Tempore* Secretary summarized the activities and progress with the recommendations of the COP and IAC subsidiary bodies to the Secretariat, namely:
a) to increase IAC membership, and to visit non-parties to create awareness about the Convention, among them: Dominican Republic, Trinidad & Tobago, Nicaragua, and Colombia; b) to participate in international meetings such as the KOBE 2 Workshop on sea turtle bycatch, the regional symposium in Medellin, Colombia, the regional WIDECAST meeting, and the second meeting on standardized data

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reporting of CPPS; c) to further the Memorandum of Understanding with the IATTC; d) to organize the seventh meeting of the Scientific Committee in Panama, in September 2010, and the fourth CCE meeting; e) to monitor and support the Scientific Committee working groups; f) to ensure that all the Parties had submitted their 2010 annual reports; g) to prepare for COP5 meeting in June 2011 and activities to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Convention.

8. The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles congratulated the PT Secretary for her efforts to reach out to non-party nations and encourage them to join the Convention. The interest of non-parties in participating as observers in COP5, demonstrates the renewed interest in the region. The delegate of Brazil considers that the submission of all 2010 annual reports a significant advance.
9. The delegate of Mexico consulted on the status of MOUs with other RFMOs, and was informed that with the support of Mexico and the USA, they will begin reaching out to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).
10. The NGO sectorial representative also thanked the PT Secretary for its efforts and proposed resuming the MOU with CITES, and participating in its upcoming COP in Thailand.
11. The CCE chair joined others in congratulating the PT Secretary for work that has been done to further the implementation of the IAC. Despite the progress, efforts must be doubled to strengthen sea turtle conservation in the Americas. Further work is also required in the area of fisheries interaction as noted during the KOBE process. This Convention needs to address the issues highlighted during the Kobe Bycatch Workshop.

Update on 7th Meeting of the Scientific Committee and Working Groups

12. The Scientific Committee (SC) Chair, Dr. Jorge Zuzunaga, gave a presentation addressing the objectives of the meeting, agreements reached, and outcomes of the working groups, stressing the development of a new annual reporting format and the review of the SC terms of reference. He explained that over the years, the SC has been working on improvements to the Reporting Format to make it clearer to the Parties and encourage its submission every year.
13. Ugo Vercillo, Focal Point of Brazil, expressed that his country is particularly interested in the SC recommendation regarding the drafting of a proposal to GEF on the mitigation of climate change impacts, and expressed his interest to participate in the effort. The SC chair recalled the existence of a resolution in the annual report to

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monitor progress on climate change. The PT Secretary explained that during the SC meeting, WWF had offered to draft a proposal to GEF if all parties were interested in participating. The PT Secretary said it would convey to the SC the interest expressed by Brazil to participate in the GEF project supported by WWF.

14. Presentation on the new annual reporting format, by the Scientific Committee Chair. Eng. Jorge Zuzunaga explained some changes to the report as indicated in the IAC text, aimed at enhancing the report and making it more relevant to the Parties and the Convention. He underlined that the report must focus on two matters: a) how the Parties are complying with the resolutions; and b) scientific information to facilitate assessing the status of sea turtle populations. The report annexes contain a series of tables with more detailed scientific data that require fine-tuning during the 8th Scientific Committee meeting in 2011. The SC Chair also explained that the Convention states that the Consultative Committee must analyze the reports, especially the portion of the annual report related to compliance with resolutions. The CCE recommends that the information in the report be divided and evaluated by the two committees since the Scientific Committee should be the one to evaluate the scientific aspects of the annual report. This report will be taken to COP5 for approval.
15. The representative of the scientific sector, Hedelvy Guada, recommended that the CCE should approve the work of the SC in the annual report; she additionally expressed concern over the workload of presenting a proposal to GEF. Another concern is how the way in which countries presents information in their annual report, and how some do not consult research or conservation institutions to include that information in the reports. She proposed that the CCE examine the participation of diverse institutions in national annual reports, as well as other entities and how, and if, their information is reflected in the annual report.
16. The delegate of the United States expressed support for the new reporting format, which should provide more consistent data. Moreover, she mentioned the need for SC meetings to focus on specific issues, and not on all matters simultaneously. She suggested that the CCE should recommend that the SC focus its meetings on one theme to ensure the participation of the most suitable and knowledgeable delegates in that specific meeting every year.
17. The representative of the scientific sector, Neca Marcovaldi, said it was not advisable to prioritize SC matters each year, since Governments could interpret that one matter is more important than another. She proposed sending the appropriate delegates by subject matter to participate more efficiently in subject-specific working groups, without prioritizing. Another problem highlighted was that Parties do not submit their annual reports in advance of the SC meeting, making their analyses more difficult.

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18. The delegate of Mexico opined that the SC has a big workload and that the CCE should support the SC by examining the second portion of the annual reports, regarding compliance with resolutions. The delegate of the United States supported the comment and proposed that both committees meet annually for that purpose and present a more substantive report to the Parties. The NGOs delegate, Juan Carlos Cantú, recalled that the IAC text clearly mentions that the CCE shall examine the annual reports, and the Scientific Committee shall analyze science-related matters. Such separation of duties fosters more efficient work.
19. The SC Chair concurred with the latter statement and indicated that exceptions should be examined by the CCE as provided in the IAC text.
20. The sectorial delegate Hedelvy Guada said that documents such as the US recovery plan could be used as a model by other countries to monitor compliance with resolutions and measure a country's efforts regarding both the scientific-technical and financial aspects of sea turtle conservation.
21. The Brazilian focal point informed the CCE that his country will submit its national sea turtle conservation plan for the next 5 years during COP5. He also suggested adding to the report a specific question on the existence or not of a sea turtle conservation plan in each country and, if so, how it was implemented. This idea was supported by the delegate of the Netherlands Antilles.
22. The CCE Chair summarized the agreement for the CCE to examine the portion of the annual report related to compliance with resolutions and the issue of exceptions, and for the Scientific Committee to examine the part on scientific information. It was also agreed to include, in Part 2, paragraph a) of the new annual report format, a reference to the IAC Convention text (Article 9) urging the Parties to develop and submit national plans, and one last paragraph to report on progress in complying with these management plans.
23. The meeting also agreed that the CCE supported taking the new annual reporting format developed by the SC to COP5, including the CCE recommendation of adding a table on national plans and their implementation.
24. The GEF5 proposal was discussed again in view of the need to circulate a basic text among the countries. A draft will be submitted for analysis and consultation among the Parties.
25. The PT Secretariat, with the support of the USA and Brazil, will examine the feasibility of a GEF proposal.

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Update on the 3rd meeting of the Consultative Committee

26. The CCE Chair summarized the agreements of the third meeting and advances in compliance. He said that significant progress had been made with most recommendations, and that most goals had been met. Still pending is the organization of a working group on interaction with the fisheries.
27. The delegate of Mexico requested the support of the PT Secretary to resume contact with OSPESCA and with Guatemala for the appointment of a delegate, and the establishment of an electronic forum to work on Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs).
28. The U.S. delegate reminded the participants that the two CCE and SC working groups had been merged into one group on Fisheries, which will address TEDs and interaction with other fishing gear. The SC Chair agreed that this meeting should develop the terms of reference for that working group, based on the TED-related portions of the IAC text.
29. The SC Chair added that Mexico is concerned about measuring compliance with TED use and how useful this has been for sea turtle conservation, and what needs exist for training captains and fishermen. It is important to determine how the IAC can help strengthen national actions and identify TED issues. In his opinion, this is an assessment exercise, not only as a Government action, but also listening to the views of fishermen regarding their experiences with TEDs.
30. It was agreed that the next CCE meeting will review progress of the working group regarding the list of TEDs requested from the countries.
31. The CCE proceeded to produce the draft ToR for this working group. **CIT-CCE4-2011-Doc-005**
32. The U.S. delegate suggested adding a paragraph indicating that the WG will examine the sections related to TEDs and interactions with the fisheries in the 2011 annual reports, and presenting an analysis to the next CCE meeting. She underlined the importance of both committees working in coordination on the fisheries interaction issue. And she supported the SC Chair in the need to gather further information of gillnets and sea turtle bycatch.
33. A sectorial delegate mentioned that as the WG advances in this effort, it could develop a proposal to donors regarding bycatch. The possibility of having a CCE delegate accompany the PT Secretary to present the proposal to a donor was discussed.
34. The CCE proposed promoting a Fisheries WG meeting one day prior to the 8th SC, tentatively scheduled for August 2011.

Terms of Reference (ToR) for the CCE

35. Document **CIT-COP1-2003-R5-rev. 1**, elaborated during the CCE Belize meeting, was reviewed. The Chair read the document out loud requesting approval section-by-section.
36. The U.S. delegate asked for a clarification of item 5, regarding the national directory. The IAC technical assistant explained that is possible that this requirement comes from the IAC text, so the US delegate expressed there is no need to have this in the ToR as it has not been fulfilled and it is not mentioned in the IAC text.
37. The task of the CCE to examine annual reports for compliance with resolutions was again stressed. This is undertaken in coordination with the SC.
38. The terms of procedure for the election of sectorial members were discussed. A proposal will be taken to the COP5 to renew the CCE sectorial appointments extraordinarily. Sectorial representatives not present will be asked if they are interested in serving on the CCE until COP6. However, a special announcement should be prepared by the PT Secretariat to inform the Focal Points on the need to fill the three existing vacancies, to be nominated during COP5.
39. Subparagraph 8bis was discussed, concerning the term “ABSENCE,” and which was solved by resorting to the substitute delegate. The delegate of the United States said the COP must define when a sectorial member is “absent” from the committee and when to substitute such member.
40. The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles expressed that sectorial members should contact the PT Secretary to confirm their participation. If there is no response, the PT Secretary should try to contact them two weeks in advance to inform that the substitute will be summoned.
41. Having read and discussed CIT-COP1-2003-R5-rev. 1, it was approved with the suggested modifications.

Update on the 2012-2013 Work Plan

42. The delegate of the United States proposed extending the Work Plan to also include 2013. The meeting proceeded to work on document **CIT-CCE4-2011-Doc004**.
43. The delegate of Brazil recommended undertaking the sea turtle stock assessment in conjunction with the SC to populate the IAC database with standardized information.

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44. The delegate of the scientific sector, Neca Marcovaldi, mentioned the need for a database to systematize the information from the Parties, not only regarding fisheries but also nesting beaches, to perform a trend analysis. Moreover, it is necessary to gather at least 10 years of standardized data to develop a database.
45. The delegate of the United States expressed that in order to analyze nesting data in the CCE, a joint CCE-SC data analysis mechanism is required.
46. The SC Chair said that the data analysis to define stock trends must be undertaken by the SC, something not done before. Efforts should not be duplicated with the CCE. The Brazilian delegate agreed on the need to not duplicate efforts but called to share work between both committees and that the best way to do this needed to be found.
47. A discussion took place on the database and how to develop it, including partnerships with other entities that already have their own.
48. Document **CIT-CCE4-2011-Doc004** – CCE Work Plan was approved.

10th Anniversary of the IAC

49. The PT Secretary presented the progress of the SC resolutions working group. The delegates worked with the Excel matrices produced by the WG, which identified weakness and strengths in individual 2010 annual reports, examined the information and made recommendations. This discussion took place within the framework of the 10th anniversary of the IAC.
50. The CCE Chair summarized the PT Secretariat's financial issues and the need to ensure country commitment for its strengthening.
51. The document of the SC Working Group on resolutions was examined gradually. The NGO representative Juan Carlos Cantu said that, just at a glance, the percentages depict the shortfall in compliance with resolutions, and that the leatherback resolution is hardly mentioned.
52. The U.S. delegate suggested developing a reflection document on the 10 years of existence of the Convention, including IAC challenges in the following areas:
 - a. Administrative capacity building;
 - b. Funding issues;
 - c. Clearer procedures to see how each country identifies the regulatory changes required; and
 - d. Adaptation of management plans in response to resolutions.

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53. A working group was formed to produce a balance document on the 10 years of the IAC, composed by the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Hedelvy Guada, and Marydele Donnelly (to be consulted). The document would highlight the strengths (achievements), weaknesses and opportunities to grow the Convention. The document must be ready for review by the CCE on April 30 and then forwarded to the Parties. No feedback will be requested of the Parties since this is information directly from the annual reports. The working group met over the lunch break to define the contents of the document.
54. Through the US delegate, the Working Group presented guidance for the document on the IAC 10th Anniversary **CIT-CCE4-2011-Inf3**. After listening to comments and incorporating changes, the guidance was approved. The suggested format is a Word document, to be expanded at COP5 and then diagrammed for distribution to a larger audience.
55. The delegate of Brazil mentioned the need to update the IAC interactive map with information from the 2010 annual reports.
56. Agreement existed to update the IAC interactive map with data contained in the 2010 annual reports.
57. The U.S. delegate expressed the need for the CCE to make recommendations to the Parties regarding compliance with the resolutions based on the SC Resolutions WG document.
58. The SC Chair said that this document should help provide an overall view of weaknesses in compliance with the resolutions. Additionally, it should not be used for country-specific purposes.

Exceptions

59. The CCE Chair read **CIT-CCE3-2010-Doc-006-Rev.1**, and the group concluded that, with certain minor changes, the document should be included in the exceptions section of the new annual format.
60. The meeting was reminded that the CCE mandate is to review exceptions submitted by the Parties. The PT Secretariat must ensure that Parties reporting exceptions provide all the necessary according to the guidance developed by the CCE.
61. The representative of the scientific sector, Hedelvy Guada, indicated that countries submitting exceptions should include a viability plan for economic alternatives to

extraction. The Brazilian delegate mentioned the need to ask Parties to report the number of females or eggs being utilized.

62. The subsequent discussion focused on not discouraging Parties to include extractive use in their national legislations just because an exceptions reporting procedure already exists.
63. The productive sector delegate opined that a time limit should be set for countries to have exceptions. The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles disagreed.
64. The U.S. delegate highlighted the importance of helping countries with exceptions and with limited resources to ensure robust viability analyses of their exceptions, and to enhance their exception management plans without harming turtle stocks.
65. Document **CIT-CCE3-2010-Doc-006-Rev.1**, with the changes suggested, was approved and will be submitted to COP5. Additionally, the document will be included in the new annual reporting format to report exceptions. The NGOs delegate, Juan Carlos Cantú, recommended that the illegal trade associated with the exception presented should be evaluated.

Terms of Reference of the Scientific Committee

66. Document **COP2CIT-002-Rev.1 Terms of Reference of the Scientific Committee** was examined and no duplication of functions with the Consultative Committee was found.

Memorandum of Understanding

67. The discussion focused on future MOUs of importance to the IAC to gain further support from other organizations.
68. Mexico and the Netherlands Antilles supported the PT Secretariat to sign an MOU with CITES. As a first step, the IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretariat must submit a letter of interest to the CITES Secretariat.
69. According to the delegate of the United States, the support of participating delegations for the completion of an MOU between the IATTC and the IAC in the upcoming IATTC meeting would be very helpful. She stressed that the United States fully supports this effort, as well as approaching the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI).

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70. The U.S. delegate also suggested that CCE members should support the PT Secretariat efforts to urge Parties to send delegations to the COP and to committee meetings.

Other Business: GEF Project and IAC Database

71. The need to hire a consultant to develop a GEF project profile was discussed. The U.S. delegate offered to facilitate contact with GEF representatives in the United States to explain the process and the status of funds.
72. The Mexican delegate mentioned that CCE activities should include an update on the IAC interactive map and its database, in coordination with the SC, as well as the mechanism, such as a consultancy.
73. The delegate of the United States mentioned the need for an estimate of the resources required to arrange for a database development consultancy. After a brief discussion, the sum of US\$20,000 was considered a good starting point for the interactive map and database consultancy.
74. Assistance will be provided to the Secretariat to develop the ToR for the consultancy related to the interactive map and the database for the IAC website.
75. The mechanism to review and approve documents from the 4th CCE meeting was agreed. Meeting documents will be forwarded to all CCE members through the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat, and they will have 10 calendar days for comments. Otherwise, the documents will be deemed final.
76. Deadlines for annual reports were discussed. Parties will be asked to submit these once the new reporting format is approved, as provided in the inter-sessional rules of procedure in the Minutes of COP2. The COP Chair will write to the Focal Points asking to move the date to one month after COP5.

Election of CCE Chair and Vice-Chair

77. Nominations were received for the new CCE board, with the following results:
- a. CCE Chair: Mr. Paul Hojtes, Netherlands Antilles
 - b. Vice-Chair: Mr. Joao A. Thomé, Brazil
78. The Chairman elect thanked the outgoing Chair Luis Fueyo for his excellent and dedicated work throughout the two meetings chaired, and also thanked the CCE members for their vote of confidence.

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Recommendations and Agreements of the 4th CCE Meeting

79. The CCE agreements and recommendations were drafted and reflected in document CIT-CCE4-2011-Doc-003 (Annex III).

Having completed the items on the Agenda of the 4th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts, the meeting was adjourned with the words of appreciation of the Consultative Committee Chair and of the *Pro Tempore* Secretary.

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ANNEX I

**Agenda
 IV Reunión del Comité Consultivo de Expertos**

Día 1

22 de Marzo

<i>Hora</i>	<i>Tema</i>	<i>Ponente</i>
8:00	Registro de participantes	
8:30	Palabras de Bienvenida	Ugo Vercillo ICMBio Brasil
9:00	Presentación de los participantes	
9:10	Elección del relator de la reunión	Presidente del Comité Consultivo (CCE)
9:20	Aprobación de la Agenda	Presidente del CCE
9:30	Resumen de actividades 2010-2011 de Secretaría PT y actualizaciones de COP5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Aumento de la membresía de CIT b. Futuros MOUs c. Conferencia de las Partes (COP5) d. Informes anuales 2010 e. Reuniones atendidas 	Secretaria PT
10:00	Resumen de la VII Reunión del Comité Científico <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Acuerdos y grupos de trabajo b. Nuevo formato de informe anual de CIT y documentos relevantes 	Presidente del Comité Científico
10:30 Pausa Café		
10:45	Resumen de la III Reunión del CCE	Presidente del CCE
12:00 Almuerzo		
1:30- (3:30 Pausa Café) 5:00	Preparación de documentos a ser presentados en la COP5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. CEE Términos de Referencia y Procedimiento para Nominación de Representantes sectoriales: Preparar la propuesta para la COP5. b. CCE Plan de trabajo 2011-2012 y preparar puntos de acción del CCE de acuerdo a este plan. c. Aniversario 10 años CIT: Preparar la reflexión de los 10 años de la CIT para la COP5 incluyendo: logros, avances y dificultades, análisis del cumplimiento de las resoluciones, y la necesidad de apoyo financiero. 	

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Día 2

23 de Marzo

<i>Hora</i>	<i>Tema</i>	<i>Ponente</i>
8:00	Preparar documentos a ser presentados en la COP5 (Cont) d. Excepciones: Revisión de los comentarios del Comité Científico sobre el documento guía para reportar excepciones que preparó el CEE. Preparar una propuesta para la COP5.	
10:30 Pausa Café		
10:45	e. Revisión de los documentos del Comité Científico: Nuevo Formato del Informe Anual.	
12:30 Almuerzo		
1:30- (3:30 Pausa Café) 5:00	Preparar borrador resoluciones y recomendaciones para la COP5	

Día 3

24 de Marzo

<i>Hora</i>	<i>Tema</i>	<i>Ponente</i>
8:00	Finalizar temas pendientes del día anterior: Borradores de resoluciones y recomendaciones.	
10:30 Pausa Café		
10:45	Continuación	
12:30 Almuerzo		
1:30	Conclusiones a. Aprobar recomendaciones y/o borradores de resoluciones para COP5 b. Resumen de las discusiones	
2:30	Elección de Presidente y Vicepresidente de la V reunión del CCE y Propuesta de sede para la próxima reunión CCEV	
2:45- 3:00	Clausura de la IV Reunión del CCE	Presidente CCE
3:00	Visita al Centro de Visitantes TAMAR	

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ANNEX II – List of Participants

COUNTRY/PAIS	NAME/ NOMBRE	INSTITUTION/INSTITUCION	TEL/FAX	E-MAIL
DELEGATES/DELEGADOS				
NETHERLANDS	PAUL HOETJES	POLICY COORDINATOR, RCN-EL & I	Tel: (599)- 7019094	paul.hoetjes@rijksdienstcn.com
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SECTORIAL MEMBERS/MIEMBROS SECTORIALES				
Scientific Community/ Comunidad Científica	MARÍA ANGELA MARCOVALDI	PRESIDENTE, FUNDACIÓN TAMAR Y COORDINADORA TÉCNICA NACIONAL , CENTRO TAMBAR-IBAMA	Tel:55-71-36761045 Fax:55-71-36761067	neca@tamar.org.br
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Private Sector/ Sector Productivo y Privado	LES HODGSON	U.S. SEAFOOD INDUSTRY	Cel: (956) 572-0736	msshrimp@aol.com
NGO/ONG	JUAN CARLOS CANTU	DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE	Tel: 5255-55962108	jccantu@defenders.org
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE/COMITE CIENTIFICO				
	JORGE ZUZUNAGA	Scientific Committee Chair/ Presidente Comité Científico		
IAC SECRETARIAT/SECRETARIA CIT				
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ANNEX III

**Summary of Agreements and Recommendations of the 4th Meeting of the IAC
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1. Proposal for a New IAC Annual Report Format

The Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) made the following recommendations to the proposal for a new IAC annual report format (CIT-CC7-2010-Doc.5), which was prepared during the 7th meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC), and request that the COP5 take these recommendations into consideration when approving the document:

- a) The CCE recommends changing the following text of **Part II (Policy and Management)** section (a) to read:

In accordance with Articles IX and XVIII of the text of the Convention, each Party shall establish monitoring programs, policies and plans for implementation at a national level for the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitat.

As a result, the Party shall report on the action plans, management plan or other types of instruments, describing their location, the species considered and the actions implemented by governmental, non-governmental and private institutions related to sea turtles.

In addition to the above, please fill out the following tables.

	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>
<i>Does your country have policies, plans and programs in accordance with Article XVIII?</i>		
<i>Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?</i>		

	<i>Date dd/mm/yy</i>
<i>In case you do not have these policies, plans and programs, when would they be ready?</i>	

- b) In order to comply with the mandate of the text of the Convention regarding the use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TED), the CCE recommends including in **Part II, section c.1 IAC Resolutions**, Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R-2, number 1.B (iii) trawling, the following clarification: *(In reference to turtle excluder devices TEDs, specify legally approved TEDs, their dimensions, material, and target species).*

c) In **Part II, section c.2 National and international mandates**, d. Application of the exceptions established in the Convention, the CCE recommends replacing the current text for the following: *Describe in detail the exceptions allowed in accordance with article IV, item 3(a,b,d) and Annex IV of the text of the Convention, in accordance to the procedure established by the COP (Doc. CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.XXX). Attach management program.*

d) According to the functions of the CCE established in Article VII of the text Convention, and their task of reviewing and analyzing the annual reports, the CCE agrees to review the information contained in the report related to compliance with resolutions (Part II: Policy and Management of the new annual report format) and the Scientific Committee will review the scientific information of this report (Part III: Research information of the new annual report format).

e) The CCE agrees that in accordance with rule 5.5 of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the Convention (COP1/2003/R-4), the Chair of the COP5 will request that the date to submit the 2011 annual reports of the Parties to the Pro Tempore Secretariat be extended to July 30, 2011 for this one time only, due to the fact that a proposal for a new annual report format will be presented to the COP5 for its consideration.

2. Terms of Reference for the Consultative Committee of Experts

- a) Modifications were made and included in the ToR document CIT-COP1-2003-R5-Rev.1, which will be presented at the COP5.
- b) The CCE recommends that rule 14.1 of the Rules of Procedure (COP1/2003/R-4) on reaching quorum not be applied in the case of CCE meetings, because it is difficult for most Parties to participate in these meetings due to a lack of funding and, therefore, the quorum is not being reached. In addition only the COP can make binding decisions, so only then is a quorum absolutely necessary.

3. 2012-2013 CCE Work Plan

The CCE biannual work plan was updated (Doc.CIT-CCE4-2011-Doc-004) to include the objectives and activities for the 2012 to 2013 period.

4. Fisheries Working Group

It was agreed that the TEDs and fisheries interactions working group of the CCE be combined with the fisheries working group of the Scientific Committee in order to not duplicate efforts. The working group is made up of: Mexico, the United States, Guatemala, Brazil and Peru and a member of OSPESCA's Fisheries Group. The working group will operate in accordance with the Terms of Reference document for the Fisheries Working

Group (CIT-CCE4-2011-Doc-005), which was prepared by the CCE during their 4th meeting.

5. IAC 10 Year Anniversary

- a) The CCE will assist the PT Secretariat in preparing a document that reflects the last 10 years of the IAC. A working group was formed to prepare this document and consists of: USA (Alexis Gutierrez), Mexico (Oscar Ramírez), Brazil (Joao Thomé), Hedelvy Guada, and Marydele Donnelly will be asked if she is interested in participating in the group. The document will highlight the strengths (achievements), weaknesses and opportunities of the Convention and will use the information contained in the annual reports as well as the country profiles that the Parties submitted. The balance should be of a regional nature. The document shall be finished no later than April 30, 2011. The document will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines developed during the meeting Doc. CIT-CCE4-2011-Inf.3.
- b) The PT Secretariat will make every effort possible to update the IAC's geographic data base using the information provided in the 2010 annual reports so that it may be included in the IAC 10 Year Reflection document.

6. Exceptions

Document CIT-CCE3-2010-Doc-006-Rev.1 was reviewed and new modifications were made and incorporated.

7. Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee

The Terms of Reference of the Scientific Committee were reviewed and no overlapping functions with the CCE were found.

8. COP5 Agenda Items

The Consultative Committee requests that the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat consult the Parties to include the following items on the COP5 agenda for their review:

- a) Terms of Reference for the Consultative Committee (CIT-COP1-2003-R5-rev.1). Review the role of the IAC Subsidiary Bodies according to the text of the Convention and their respective terms of references agreed to by the parties in order to clarify the coordination mechanisms between the committees and facilitate the adoption of resolutions by the COP.
- b) Procedures for reviewing the exceptions presented by the Parties (Doc. CIT-CCE3-2010-Doc-006-Rev.1).

- c) 2012-2013 Consultative Committee of Experts Work Plan (CIT-CCE4-2011-Doc-004).
- d) New annual report format prepared by the Scientific Committee (CIT-CC7-2010-Doc.5) with the observations made by the CCE.
- e) Present progress made on the possibility of applying for GEF funds.

9. GEF proposal with Climate Change component

- a) The CCE agreed that the United States would help the PT Secretariat to research the process of applying for GEF funds and this information would be submitted to the CCE to evaluate the viability of presenting a Project.
- b) If it is viable to present a project, funds would then be requested from the Parties and used to hire a Consultant that would draft the Project.
- c) Brazil and México offered their help throughout the process of applying for GEF funds.

10. Method to approve the documents of the 4th Meeting of the CCE by all CCE members.

The PT Secretariat will circulate the documents generated at the 4th meeting among all members of the CCE for their revision and comments. A period of 10 calendar days will be set to receive changes, any changes received will be incorporated into the document and once the timeframe established has expired, the documents will be considered final and can be sent to the IAC Parties for the COP5.

11. Election of Chair and Vice-chair of the CCE

According to the proposals made by the members, Mr. Paul Hoetjes, delegate of the Netherlands, was elected as the new Chair of the CCE and Mr. Joao Alciati Thomé as the Vice-Chair. This designation must be agreed to by the rest of the CCE members as stated in paragraph 10 of this document.

12. Proposed location of the 5th CCE Meeting

The PT Secretariat will consult the Parties via e-mail to determine the location of the 5th CCE meeting.