



Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Third Conference of the Parties

September 26th-28th, 2006 – Mazatlán, México

COP3/2006/R-6

Memorandum of Cooperation between the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) and the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) and its Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA Protocol).

CONSIDERING that the objective of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (1990, hereinafter SPAW Protocol) of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (1981, hereinafter Cartagena Convention) is to protect, preserve and manage in a sustainable manner:

- 1) The areas and ecosystems which require protection to safeguard their special value;
- 2) threatened or endangered plant and animal species and their habitats; and
- 3) species, so that they do not become endangered or threatened with extinction;

CONSIDERING that the main objective of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (2001, hereinafter IAC), is to promote the protection, preservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and their habitats, based on the best available scientific evidence, and taking into account the environmental, socioeconomic and cultural characteristics of the Parties;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that cooperation between the Conventions and the active participation of the Contracting Parties is necessary in order to achieve the objectives of both agreements;

AWARE that it is necessary to make every effort to avoid sea turtles becoming further endangered or threatened with extinction, by protecting their feeding grounds, migration and reproductive habitats;

NOTING that the feeding, migration and nesting habitats of sea turtles fall within areas where industrial, commercial and artisanal fishing take place;

CONSIDERING that marine turtles play an important ecological role in the marine ecosystems and that the well-being of sea turtle populations is necessary for the sustainability of other species populations, some of which are economically important to the different sectors of society;



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AWARE that the formal Agreement to be established through this Memorandum should fall within and comply with the norms, rights and obligations established in the framework of each Convention;

THE PARTIES TO THE SPAW PROTOCOL AND THE IAC RESOLVE TO:

1. Establish cooperative linkages within the framework of their general objectives and work plans through specific activities to be agreed upon and executed through operational agreements between their administrative bodies.
2. Share information which will be mutually beneficial in identifying opportunities for cooperation between the Contracting Parties, Secretariats, and subsidiary bodies, focused on the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitats.
3. Recognize the importance of attending meetings organized by each organization in areas of common interest, including Conferences of the Parties and meetings of each Convention's subsidiary bodies.
4. Periodically examine each, the implementation of this Memorandum, taking the necessary measures to facilitate and expand their mechanisms for cooperation.
5. Respect the intellectual property created or resulting from the activities carried out under this Memorandum.

This Memorandum of Cooperation can be modified or amended by the Parties to the SPAW Protocol and the IAC by mutual agreement.

None of the clauses of this Memorandum of Cooperation can be considered a renunciation of the rights, privileges and immunities of the Contracting Parties of each Convention, or imply the modification of the rights and obligations of its Signatories, the SPAW Protocol or the IAC. Additionally, this Memorandum does not prejudice the position of Party States to the IAC or the SPAW Protocol with respect to their decision to adhere to the other instrument.

In the event of controversies on the interpretation or application of this Memorandum, they should be resolved by mutual agreement between the SPAW Protocol and the IAC.

The results of the joint collaborative activities carried out within the framework of this Agreement, may be published or used commercially only with the consent of the



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Secretariats of the SPAW Protocol and the IAC, by means of specific contracts and in conformity with existing relevant international agreements.

Mazatlan, Mexico September 2006

FOR THE SPAW PROTOCOL

FOR THE IAC

Nelson Andrade Colmenares
Coordinator
UNEP-CAR/RCU

Marco Solano
Pro tempore Secretary

Date: _____

Date: _____