

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



## **Report on the Fifth Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles**

**Bonaire, 1-3 June 2011**

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## Introduction

The Fifth Conference of the Parties (COP5) of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles was a landmark event, which was held in Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands, from June 1-3 2011. We would like to thank our host country, the Netherlands, for their invaluable collaboration in organizing the COP5.

We extend our gratitude to the numerous personnel from Bonaire that supported us throughout this event; however, we would like to give a special thanks to Mr. Paul Hoetjes (Focal Point of the Caribbean Netherlands), Ms. Alexis Gutierrez (Chair of the COP5), Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, and all those who in one way or another made this a very successful meeting.

Since 2001, the IAC has been at the forefront of international collaboration for the protection and conservation of sea turtles in the Americas. The COP5 coincided with the IAC's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and, to commemorate this occasion, its members, which include a *Pro Tempore* Secretariat, government representatives, non-governmental organizations and scientists from Party countries produced a special publication. This document was presented at the meeting in order to reflect on progress made in sea turtle conservation, assess remaining challenges and demonstrate the important role international cooperation plays within the IAC so that each country may maximize their efforts, thus resulting in greater protection at a regional level.

In addition, this year we welcomed two new members to the IAC, Chile and Argentina. The IAC now has a total of 15 Party countries.

The Conference of the Parties is held every two years and is the highest instance for analysis and evaluation of compliance with existing mandates and decision-making in favor of the recovery of sea turtle populations in the Americas. Over the years, the COP has approved a number of scientific guidelines, techniques and resolutions that have oriented the Parties as what is expected of them in their compliance with the objectives of the Convention.

The objective of this report is to provide an easy to reference, informative document that includes the meeting minutes, and its final documents and resolutions.

Veronica Caceres Chamorro  
*Pro Tempore* Secretary

## COP5 IAC Minutes

**Meeting:** Fifth Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)

**Meeting Place:** Hotel Divi Flamingo, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands

**Date:** June 1-3, 2011

**COP5 Chair:** Alexis Gutiérrez, United States of America

### Opening ceremony

1. The meeting began promptly at 8:00 a.m. Quorum was reached with the attendance of nine countries (Chile, Costa Rica, Brazil, the Netherlands, Honduras, Ecuador, Peru, the United States of America and Mexico). Representatives from the following inter-governmental organizations participated as observers: Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol and Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), as well as one observer country, a representative from Nicaragua's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. Also participating at the meeting were the IAC accredited observers from Humane Society International, Sea Turtle Conservation-Bonaire, WWF International and WWF Suriname. The IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretary, Ms. Veronica Caceres, introduced the speakers. Dr. Glenn Thodé, Island Governor of Bonaire, gave the opening words, emphasizing the importance of sea turtle protection in the Americas and Bonaire's own efforts to protect them and their habitats. Dr. Thodé wished the COP5 much success in their meeting. The meeting continued with welcoming remarks by Dr. Delno Tromp, Island Commissioner for Nature & Environment and Tourism. A special guest, His Excellency Hilbert Stolte, a representative from the Government of the Netherlands on behalf of the three islands of Bonaire, Saba and Saint Eustatius, was also present. Afterwards, the Chair of the COP, Ms. Alexis Gutiérrez, expressed her gratitude to the Netherlands for their generous support in hosting this meeting.
2. The opening ceremony ended with a presentation by Ms. Mabel Nava, Director of Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). In her presentation, Ms. Nava talked about Caribbean sea turtle populations and their connection to those species protected under the Convention. She described the greatest threats they are facing, the current status of sea turtles in Bonaire and the activities carried out by STCB in collaboration with the local government and other stakeholders working in favor of sea turtle conservation. Ms. Nava informed the delegates that Bonaire is an important feeding ground for hawksbill and green sea turtles and through in-water surveys and satellite tracking, STCB has been able to determine growth rates and migratory routes of these species. Studies show that Bonaire has a higher growth rate than the rest of the Caribbean. Thanks to the measures taken by authorities to support conservation efforts for these species, the capture of sea turtles is prohibited as is the consumption of their eggs,

which further helps in the recovery of these species on the island. She also mentioned regional cooperation with groups like WIDECAST.

3. The Netherlands delegate, Mr. Hayo Haanstra, requested the floor and announced that the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation will be providing STCB with the support needed to equip a turtle with a satellite-tracking device.

#### **Focal point and delegation member introductions**

4. Each member of the delegation and observers introduced themselves (Annex I: CIT-COP5-2011-Inf.2). Mr. Pieter van Beren from the Netherlands delegation was appointed rapporteur assisted by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat.

#### **Adoption of the agenda**

5. The Chair presented the draft agenda and requested that Dr. Bryan Wallace's presentation be removed from the agenda due to his absence. The COP5 agenda was approved (Annex II: CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.1) with this change.

#### **PT Secretariat 2009-2011 report**

6. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat presented the 2009-2011 PT Secretariat Report (CIT-COP5-2011-Inf.1), highlighting the activities accomplished as a part of the 2009-2010 IAC Work Plan. Activities included: increasing IAC membership through the ratification of Chile in 2010 and Argentina in 2011 and increased outreach efforts to non-Party countries including Colombia, Nicaragua, Trinidad, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic, emphasizing that as a result of these visits, the Ministry of Environment of Dominican Republic expressed their interest in adhering to the IAC and Nicaragua participated as an observer at the COP5. She stated the increased participation of the IAC in international forums, activities that have been carried out in collaboration with other intergovernmental organizations with which the IAC has MOUs (CITES, SPAW, OSPESCA, CPPS), and the negotiation of a new MOU with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). As for external funding, the IAC was awarded two grants from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), one in 2010 and one in 2011. She concluded by providing a summary of the six meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies that were organized by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat over the past two years in addition to the support offered to various working groups that have been formed by the COP and/or its committees. The fact that the IAC is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year was also mentioned and that the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat has commemorated this event with the publication of the booklet entitled "Cooperating to Conserve Sea Turtle: the IAC Celebrates its 10 Year Anniversary" that was distributed to the COP5 participants.

7. The delegate of Brazil congratulated the *Pro Tempore* Secretary for all of her hard work and efforts over the past few years and offered to help them contact Suriname and Guyana through the bilateral cooperation that Brazil has with these two countries.
8. The delegate of Ecuador also congratulated the *Pro Tempore* Secretary for her efforts and achievements and added how valuable these efforts are at the Inter-American level. He reminded the Parties how important it is that the actions being carried out by each country to conserve sea turtles and fulfill the Convention be known.
9. The observer from the Humane Society International also congratulated the *Pro Tempore* Secretary and expressed their concern for the absence of many countries at the COP5 and hopes that the draft resolution to establish a travel fund for delegates will help resolve some of the problems with participation in future meetings of the Convention.

### **IAC 10 year anniversary report**

10. The document "Reflections on the 10 Year Anniversary of the IAC" (Annex III: CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.2) was presented by Mr. Joao Carlos Alciati Thome, Vice-chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) and member of the working group that prepared it. Mr. Thome explained that the objective of this document was to reflect on the achievements made by Party countries to fulfill their commitment to the IAC over the past ten years, list some of the challenges it faces and propose a series of objectives that define the path on which to continue in the future. He added that the document will be available for comments from the participants over the next couple days of the meeting. The Chair opened the floor for discussion on this document by asking the participants to comment on the challenges and future objectives section so that it may serve as a guide for the IAC work plan over the next couple of years. The Chair also mentioned that they must take into consideration the need to look for financial resources depending on what they propose for the future.
11. The delegate of Ecuador believes that the document prepared by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat has done a very good job capturing the efforts carried out over the past ten years and that this IAC document should be further analyzed in a binding framework such as a long term strategic plan.
12. The delegate of Costa Rica stated that now is the time to work on regional management issues since it is one of the major challenges and a lot has already been done at the national level. After 10 years of working to strengthen the Convention, it is time to prioritize regional efforts while continuing activities at a national level. The delegate added that it is important to prepare manuals and establish ways to work at a regional level as does the existing IAC manual on management of nesting beaches. It is also important to encourage the use of these materials produced by the IAC at a regional level.

13. The observer from WWF stated that a regional cooperation mechanism must be promoted in order to share information and encourage the countries to work together.
14. The observer from the Humane Society International advised us to use the information available outside the Parties as other NGO's have a lot of information available.
15. The observer from the IATTC stated that it is important to identify the region's most critical interesting and foraging habitats in order to guide organizations like the IATTC and provide them with recommendations so that they know which fishing areas should be used in order to not interfere with areas of highest occurrence of turtles. He expressed that identifying critical areas for sea turtle movements might be a task for the Scientific Committee along with IATTC and would be along the lines of regional work and sharing information.
16. The delegate from Brazil emphasized that one of the challenges the IAC faces is having a standardized database for all countries; this information is necessary to be able to see the regional picture and be able to identify IAC participation in regional activities. Without this database, we cannot talk about regional management activities.
17. The observer from STBC stated that there is a lack of coordination between different projects, researchers and NGOs in the region, that they are not aware of how to contribute their information so that it may be used by those who really need it and, therefore, a regional database would be very helpful.
18. The delegate of Costa Rica mentioned that the IAC has annual reports for each country and all members need to use the documents produced by the Convention like the nesting beach manual that she mentioned earlier to help generate standardization in data collection. She also expressed that researches are usually unwilling to share their methods or information.
19. The delegate of Ecuador reminded us that the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, with the help of the IAC, has made many attempts to standardized data, which is no easy task but the point is that the tools be standardized in each country and that they use them.
20. The delegate of Mexico expressed that among the challenges is the concern of sea turtle bycatch that many countries face, adding that some countries fishing in the waters of the Convention are not party to the Convention.
21. At the request of the Chair, the Vice-chair of the CCE along with the delegates from Ecuador, Mexico and Costa Rica worked to refine the future objectives by adding specific actions and timelines for their follow-up and completion in order to include them in the publication of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary document prepared by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat.



22. The document “Reflections on the 10 Year Anniversary of the IAC” (CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.2) was once again presented to the plenary session with the contributions mentioned above and was approved by the COP5. It was agreed to ask the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to incorporate the information in this document into the 10th anniversary publication presented at the COP5 entitled: “Cooperating to Conserve Sea Turtles, the IAC Celebrates its 10 Year Anniversary”, in order to produce a more comprehensive document. Once edited, the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat will send the draft document to the Focal Points for comments before its printing. This publication will be available on the IAC website for greater public distribution and will be sent by e-mail and/or paper (depending on costs) to the Focal Points and other partners of the Convention.

### **Report from the Chair of the Scientific Committee**

#### Review of 2009-2011 Work

23. The Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC), Mr. Jorge Zuzunaga, proceeded with a presentation of all the documents corresponding to this committee as noted in the agenda. He briefly summarized the agreements of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> SC meetings and the activities carried out by the fisheries and annual report working groups between sessions.
24. The observer from WWF Suriname expressed that the tables to characterize the impact of gillnets developed by the working group could be tested in all of the IAC countries to create awareness on its existence. Parties also need to test the gillnet tables at home providing feedback that would improve the tables as well as refine them. The SC Chair added that it would be a good idea to keep working on these tables to make them acceptable at a regional level since it is difficult to find a single format that is appropriate for all countries even though the majority fish in a similar fashion.
25. The observer from the IATTC pointed out that this is a good opportunity to share the work being done by OSPESCA and IATTC on similar tables for shark longliners in order to find similarities within these tables used for data collection and work together taking data on sharks and turtles.

#### Presentation of the 2011-2012 Work Plan

26. The meeting continued with the presentation of the 2011-2012 SC Work Plan (Annex IV: CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.3) and received comments from the plenary.
27. The Chair of the COP5 requested that the Chair of the SC share their ideas on the standardized database with the Consultative Committee so as to complement their activities on this matter and not duplicate efforts. She also recommended including the preparation of a set of guidelines for creating the database within the work plan.

28. The delegate of the Netherlands pointed out that a consultant would have to be hired to develop the database and suggested consulting the SPAW Protocol to determine how they have been successful in obtaining funds for this type of activity.
29. The delegate from Ecuador believes that the database must be included in the agenda of the next meeting of the SC.
30. The delegate of Brazil offered to help the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat draft a project proposal to develop the IAC database.
31. The observer from the IATTC added that it is a good idea to include the task of identifying the needs with regards to the type of data base desired within the work plans of the two committees so that they may complete this task.
32. The delegate of the Netherlands considers that the SC should prepare guidelines for management plans and national plans and that this should be reflected in their work plan. Collaboration with the SPAW Protocol would be helpful on these topics.
33. The delegates recommended including collaboration with those organizations with which MOUs have been signed (SPAW, OSPESCA, CPPS, CITES, IATTC), according to the topic in which we share a common interest, for example: database, action/management plans, etc.
34. The observer from WWF International emphasized that it is important that the IAC document on nesting beaches be reviewed. The Chair of the SC clarified that this document will be circulated within the committee for its final revision and that this activity is already included in the SC work plan for the next meeting.
35. The delegates of Mexico, Ecuador and the Netherlands recommended including the task of supporting the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat in creating and maintaining a directory of experts in the work plans for both committees. The Chair requested that this text also be included in the Terms of Reference for both committees.
36. It was agreed that the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat would incorporate all of the recommendations made by the delegates into the SC work plan. The document was once again presented in plenary session and adopted pending the final edition of the text.

#### Presentation of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Scientific Committee

37. The Chair of the SC explained that the changes suggested in this document (Annex V: CIT-COP5-2011-R1) were a result of the need to clarify the functions of the committee so that it may organize its work better.
38. The Chair asked for comments on this document and proceeded to listen to the opinions of the participants.

39. The delegate of Ecuador stated that the products that the SC will submit, their indicators and how they will be evaluated should be included.
40. The Chair of the SC believes that the products of the activities as well as their indicators should be part of the SC work plan instead of being reflected in the ToRs since these can change each period.
41. Including the task of creating a directory of experts was discussed and it was agreed that the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat would add text referencing this recommendation into the ToRs of both the SC and CCE as well as their work plans.
42. It was agreed to add that the Chairs of the SC and CCE would be invited to participate in the COPs into the ToRs. The delegate from the United States requested that they also add that in the case consensus was not reached on a decision during these meetings; it would be taken to the COP for its final decision.
43. Once the first part of the ToRs of the SC was finished being reviewed, the Chair asked for comments on the second part of the document, which deals with the structure of the Scientific Committee. The designation of the SC representatives by consensus was then discussed.
44. The delegate of the Netherlands stated that he does not agree that the designation of representatives of the Scientific Committee should be unilateral for each country (although it is not limited to the fact that the delegate must be a national of the Party country) since the SC has the ability to recruit experts from other nations and therefore does not necessarily have to be representatives from the country. On the other hand, it is the CCE that must be made up of delegates from each Party country, but the SC must be open to more experts.
45. The delegate from the Netherlands proposed an alternative mechanism for delegating the SC representatives for the consideration of the plenary. The idea consists of a multilateral process where Parties propose experts from different fields to form a multidisciplinary group from which the members of the SC will be elected. This would allow for a balanced committee and the participation of experts from different fields.
46. The delegation of the United States strongly supported the proposal made by the delegate of the Netherlands.
47. The delegate of Brazil agreed that the two committees (SC and CCE) must have a different composition, but is not sure that the SC should have experts from non-Party countries, since this would mean that some countries would not be represented in this Committee. Therefore, their position is to leave the text that refers to the designation of representatives by consensus just as it is in the original proposal for the SC ToRs.
48. The delegate of the Netherlands believes that experts from all fields (biology, socioeconomic) are always needed. Using this mechanism, each country would propose

3 experts from different fields and only one would be selected to represent the country. The COP would then decide what experts they would select for each country so that there would be a variety of different fields within the group.

49. The delegate of Chile expressed his concern that this method risks losing continuity of the representatives that participate in the meetings.
50. The delegate of the Netherlands explained that his intention is to not replace the current SC, but merely have the opportunity to include experts from different fields to support the Committee.
51. The delegate from Ecuador proposed that each country send the Curriculum Vitae of the different experts to the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to make the selection according to the needs presented.
52. The delegate of Mexico agreed with the point that the SC requires additional experts at their meetings and proposed forming a directory of advisors that can be chosen depending on their field and experience for each meeting. She proposed that there be at least 5 advisors at each meeting.
53. The delegate of the Netherlands believes that in the spirit of moving the meeting along, the discussion on the ToRs and structure of the SC must be concluded. Therefore, he agrees with Mexico's proposal and believes it should be the members of the SC who decide what experts are needed at the meetings depending on the topics that will be addressed. No new language needs to be added to the ToR since they already take into consideration the possibility of inviting experts from other fields to the meetings.
54. It was recommended that the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat remind the Parties of the qualifications necessary for the representatives of the SC when requesting nominations.
55. At the request of the delegate of Brazil a sentence was added to point 3 on what would happen if the official delegate could not participate in a meeting and the possibility that the country could send a substitute.
56. A discussion on the number of advisors a country can send to the meetings was initiated. Delegates from Mexico and Ecuador agreed that there be three advisors per country and that the Party who designates them will cover their participation. As for additional experts, Mexico stated that it must be clarified how the costs of their participation will be covered.
57. The Chair clarified the topic in the following manner: 3 groups of people are under discussion: 1) the official delegates paid for by the IAC special fund, 2) three advisors per Party country, paid for by their country and 3) a team of no more than 5 experts in different fields that will assist the committee at their meetings, which will be paid for by the IAC special fund and is subject to availability of funds.

58. The ToR for the Scientific Committee was reviewed one more time with the recent additions and was approved by the COP.

#### Discussion of the roles for the Scientific and Consultative Committees

59. The discussion was moved to the roles of the Consultative and Scientific Committees. The Chair pointed out the need to clarify their roles.

60. The delegate of Brazil believes that the CCE must review the work that the SC does and send their recommendations to the COP.

61. The delegate of Peru does not agree with the opinion of the delegate of Brazil since the SC should not be under the CCE in terms of hierarchy for them to review their documents.

62. The delegate of the Netherlands believes that the CCE should not act as a filter for the SC; however, from a political standpoint the CCE should have the ability to make comments on the SC documents and submit their recommendations separately to the COP.

63. The delegates of Brazil and Peru agree that the documents of the SC must be sent to the CCE so that they may add their comments if they have any. Only one document will be presented to the COP that includes the original text of the SC and the recommendations/comments of the CCE.

#### Presentation of the New IAC Annual Report Format

64. The Chair of the SC presented the new format (Annex VI: CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.5) that was prepared by a working group within the SC. This document was presented to the CCE where they made further suggestions for the COP to take into consideration. The modified format is mainly directed at the ease with which Parties can provide follow-up on compliance with the resolutions. Each part of the document was reviewed making note of the changes.

65. The delegate of Mexico requested that a note be made indicating that this format will be reviewed jointly by the SC and CCE every five years in order to include new resolutions.

66. The delegate of Ecuador believes that the part of the table referring to national plans should be modified to take into consideration regional and/or local plans. This table was modified and different options were presented on how to include the level of implementation of these plans in the table, until consensus was reached.

67. The delegate of the Netherlands recommended the separation of categories of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) similar to what was done with trawling and others in the fisheries resolution.

68. A delegate from the United States added additional text to the fisheries resolution relating to TEDs, seasonal closures, etc.
69. The delegate of Brazil asked what happened to the tables that included information on nesting beaches, species present and threats that were originally part of the annual report.
70. The Chair of the SC presented the three tables prepared by the committee and clarified that they were not finished yet and that the committee had still not decided how often they would be filled out. It is for this reason that they were not included in the annual report for the COP to review. He added that one of the problems with the information in the tables is that it has been difficult to get countries to report it and for the SC to analyze it during the short duration of the meetings. Therefore, they have tried to modify it to include the most relevant information to the committee.
71. The delegate of Chile agreed with the Chair of the SC that there is a lot of information contained in these tables which makes it difficult to compile the information.
72. The delegate of Ecuador believes that the annual reports are of utmost importance in order to understand population trends.
73. The delegate of Mexico suggested that the countries submit their report without the new tables, or use the old ones.
74. The Chair asked that a decision be made as to whether or not the tables will be used for this year's reports.
75. The delegate of Costa Rica proposed that the tables presented by the Chair of the SC be approved and later be revised by the SC in the case they need further changes.
76. The delegate of Brazil proposed that the tables be approved as annexes to the report and that they be used this year in order to give the SC the opportunity to finish them during their next meeting.
77. It was agreed that the SC would be asked to finish the three tables in the three weeks following the COP5 and that they send them to the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat so that the new annual report with its corresponding tables can be sent to the Parties by July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Parties will be given a period of one month to complete them and submit them to the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat no later than August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

## **Report from the Chair of the Consultative Committee**

### Review of 2009-2011 Work

78. Moving forward with the agenda, the delegate from Mexico, Ms. Laura Sarti, presented the CCE report on behalf of the ex – Chair of the CCE (2010-2011), Mr. Luis Fueyo. No comments were made on the progress report.

### Presentation of the Terms of Reference of the Consultative Committee

79. The meeting moved to discuss the CCE documents starting with the Terms of Reference of the CCE (CIT-COP5-2011-R1).
80. The delegates of Brazil and the Netherlands felt that it is necessary for the CCE to meet at least once a year.
81. The Chair opened discussion on the topic of whether the CCE needs to achieve quorum to hold its meetings. It was agreed that the rule regarding quorum should not apply to the CCE meetings since they do not make binding decisions, only the COP does. The delegate of the Netherlands, therefore, suggested that the Rules of Procedure (Annex VII: CIT-COP1-2003-R4-Rev.1) be modified to reflect this agreement. The changes made to the ToR of the CCE and the Rules of Procedure were approved.

### Presentation of procedures to report exceptions

82. After reading the Procedures for Cases Where Exceptions Exist (Annex VIII: CIT-COP5-2011-R2), the Chair opened up the floor for discussion.
83. The delegate of Mexico requested that the following text be added to the exceptions document: common and scientific name of the species being exploited, definitions of the terms traditional and cultural, and techniques and measures for its use. The delegate offered to provide the text for the definitions of traditional and cultural.
84. The delegate of the United States suggested some changes in the preamble and to broaden the population assessment to include status and trends as well as to add the word annually where it talks about number/eggs. The word domestic was added to the section regarding its impact and it was also mentioned that a plan for its compliance should be included.
85. The delegate of Brazil proposed adding information on the species present to the biological information. The delegate added that the management program already asks for compliance and it is not necessary to include it separately.
86. The delegate of the Netherlands stated that the IAC should not try to determine specific criteria as to how traditional or cultural use is defined, since these terms are defined in the national legislation of each country. Instead he proposed that the data provided by the country on the exception needs to be evaluated and based on this information, determine whether or not the turtles are endangered by this use.
87. The delegate of Mexico agreed with the Netherlands and mentioned that in other conventions these types of definitions exist. Although it is not good to have strict definitions, it is important to explore options to see if some text can be included that explains the terms traditional or cultural.

88. The observer from Nicaragua suggested that a reference regarding the impact of climate change on sea turtles can be added to the introduction of this document. The Chair pointed out that this is included as part of the information on threats to these species.
89. The delegate of the Netherlands proposed that what the whaling convention is doing in terms of definitions be reviewed. He pointed out that he wouldn't know how to distinguish between the terms: linked to subsistence and linked to tradition. The delegate proposed an alternative solution, to leave the text as is and analyze it on a case by case basis.
90. The observer from Suriname pointed out that definitions for traditional and cultural use already exist and if these definitions contradict how a Party defines these terms it could cause serious conflicts with the Parties.
91. The delegate of Costa Rica believes that it would be very difficult for them to have one single definition for traditional use from the IAC that differs from that of Costa Rica's.
92. The delegate of Brazil believes that it is difficult to define traditional use and it may be unnecessary.
93. The delegate of Ecuador requested that a paragraph be added to the preamble that states something about taking into consideration economic or conservation aspects.
94. A new sentence was added to the preamble stating that exceptions will only be considered when the COP deems that such exceptions do not undermine efforts to achieve the objective of this Convention.
95. The delegate of Mexico recognizes that the Parties exercise their sovereign powers to accept some practices. However, the IAC has sections that request the Parties that are reporting an exception to present a management plan for the exception. If the IAC, upon receiving the revision of the management plan by the CCE, feels that there are some components that undermine the wellbeing of sea turtles, they will call attention to this fact at the COP and request that the country presenting the exception provide further information or improve their management plan. The delegate from Mexico understands the limitations to define traditional or non-traditional use within the exceptions document, however, they would like to see a note to the Parties in the preamble of the document requesting that the CCE be mindful as it reviews the exceptions presented by a Party to ensure it is in line with the spirit of Article IV 3 (a) so that the exception does not undermine the objectives of the Convention. It was agreed that this text would be added to the preamble of the exceptions document.
96. The exceptions document was finished and the new changes incorporated into the document were given a final review before the document was approved.



### Presentation of 2012-2013 Work Plan

97. The delegate of Brazil proposed incorporating into the CCE work plan that the CCE work together with WIDECAST, SPAW and CCPS on preparing a guide to creating national management plans to assist those countries that are currently in the process of creating them or those who do not have them yet.
98. The delegate from the United States requested that collaborative activities with the IATTC also be included in the CCE work plan.
99. The CCE work plan was approved and it was agreed that the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat would incorporate the necessary text within the document to reflect the recommendations made by the delegates and to ensure that the activities that require joint collaboration between the two committees are adequately reflected in the work plans of both committees.

### **Presentation on Mitigation Measures of Sea Turtle Bycatch in the IATTC Region**

100. To open discussion on the MOU between the IAC and the IATTC, Dr. Martin Hall presented his work on circular hooks, mitigation efforts for entanglement in artisanal longlines and techniques to dehook sea turtles. During his presentation he touched on possible areas of collaboration between the two organizations through the signing of an MOU.
101. The delegate of Ecuador stated that the information on these efforts must be shared at the governmental level in order to achieve a reduction in sea turtle bycatch and sustainable fishing since the government plays such a vital role in these matters.

### **Presentation and Discussion of the MOU between the IAC and the IATTC**

102. The Chair continued the meeting by Reading the Draft MOU (MOU between the IAC and the IATTC) mentioning that it has been reviewed two times by the IAC focal points and by the Director of the IATTC. No more comments were made on the document and it was approved as the final document, removing the word draft.
103. The *Pro Tempore* Secretary was asked to immediately contact the General Director of the IATTC to obtain the necessary signatures for the MOU.

### **International Legal Personality-Document from the IAC Legal Working Group**

104. The delegate of the United States, Keith Benes, was in charge of presenting the legal protocol for establishing a permanent Secretariat (Annex IX: CIT-COP5-2001-R3). He explained the efforts carried out by the working group which was formed during the COP4 and referred to the various documents that were analyzed in order to prepare this draft protocol, which they all agreed should be a very simple proposal.

105. The delegate of the Netherlands asked if the working group had discussed what mechanisms were used by other secretariats like RAMSAR.
106. The delegate of the United States responded that they did review procedures from other conventions and multilateral agreements and explained that they are organized in a similar fashion to the IAC in regards to their Secretariat.
107. The delegate of Brazil asked the group if they had formally consulted the Parties on the need to establish a permanent Secretariat and added that she does not think the IAC Secretariat necessarily needs to have international legal personality in order to complete its basic functions. She also added that she does understand the need for a domestic legal personality in the country where the permanent Secretariat will be located, further suggesting that the procedures in the possible host countries for the permanent Secretariat are analyzed first. The delegate stated that Brazil's position on the matter is that the Secretariat does not need an international legal personality, but instead can have a domestic legal personality in the host country. However, considering that other countries feel that international legal personality is necessary, Brazil is open to listening to these reasons and to negotiate. She also believes that the 6<sup>th</sup> article of the text of the Convention can be amended in order to change the legal personality.
108. The delegate of Costa Rica does not believe it is possible to amend the 6th article since this would entail that the Convention be returned to congress for its ratification and this is not a viable option. She also expressed that within the description of the functions of the Secretary there is no mention of the legal personality of the Secretariat. Costa Rica agrees to move forward with the permanent Secretariat, but that the IAC Special Fund is given legal personality at the location of the Secretariat.
109. The delegate from Ecuador agrees with the establishment of a permanent Secretariat and stated that legal personality is important in order to be able to make financial contributions.
110. The delegate of the United States mentioned that there are other examples like the Inter-American Development Fund that works differently, more like a foundation. Therefore, there are more possibilities and mechanisms out there to explore. A pragmatic approach has been taken in order to do this, exploring more creative structures.
111. The Chair added that they had consulted with the UNEP regional offices as a possibility to host the Secretariat, but it was not possible because of the high cost of personnel salaries.
112. The delegate of Brazil proposed that the legal working group continues working and that the group present a report on their findings, including different alternatives to resolve the topic of the legal personality of the Secretariat at the next COP6.

113. The delegate of Honduras agreed with the motion of Brazil and pointed out that there are problems with the Spanish translation of the draft document presented by the legal group, which needs to be tended to.
114. The delegate of Costa Rica stated that ten years have already been spent revisiting this topic and it has yet to be clarified, further stating that it is time to resolve it and make a short term, not a long term decision. She mentioned that an agreement was made at the COP4, which was not fulfilled. The delegate continued by stating that since a Secretariat with a legal character will take a long time, she proposed that they make a decision at this time based on what information they have. She believes that if we want to continue down the legal path it is all right, but we know this will take a long time.
115. The delegate of the Netherlands agreed with the ideas of the delegates from Brazil, Costa Rica and Honduras, and also agrees that changing the text of the Convention would be very difficult and should be the last option, and not ready yet. He believes that the COP could grant legal status to the Secretariat and stated that the legal working group should present this discussion or protocol 60 days before the next COP in order to be able to make a decision on the matter.
116. The delegate of Mexico believes that the Secretariat could be made permanent through a resolution.
117. The delegate of Peru said that although the proposal seems like a good idea they cannot support it because of the lack of time to make necessary consultations in his country.
118. The delegate of Ecuador stated that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will carry out the necessary domestic consultations to determine whether amending the text of the Convention is feasible. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat can send a note requesting that the Parties make internal inquiries into alternatives to legal personality.
119. The delegate of Brazil reiterated the fact that they do not believe it is necessary to get international legal personality, but instead have domestic legal personality in the host country. The delegate pointed out that they still did not understand the reasons for which it is necessary to obtain international legal personality. She proposed that until the matter of international legal personality is resolved the permanent Secretariat can be established without making a decision on its legal personality.
120. The delegate of the Netherlands asked those countries that need the Secretariat to have international legal personality to let the working group know the reasons for this need so that they can reach an agreement.

121. The delegate of Brazil also mentioned that not only the Parties should be asked if they are interested in hosting the permanent Secretariat, but also other regional organizations.
122. The delegate of Costa Rica mentioned that they had also made some inquiries into different organizations as possible permanent locations of the Secretariat and did not find anything.
123. The Chair summarized that the new document must include the following three items: the location of the permanent Secretariat, the search for a new Secretary and a resolution on pending legal matters.
124. The Chair commented that whether there are two different issues and thus two separate documents needed must be considered: one on the Establishment of a Permanent Secretariat and the other on the international legal personality. She asked the delegates if they had the necessary authority to decide right now to form a permanent Secretariat separately from the legal personality or if they had to consult with the Party country.
125. The delegate of Costa Rica agreed with Brazil and the United States in that these are two different issues and one can exist without the other.
126. The delegate of Peru commented that Peru cannot make contributions without legal personality and added that he does not have the authority to make the decision regarding the permanent Secretariat at this time. This must be done through a formal consultation.
127. The delegate of Costa Rica asked if a permanent Secretariat can be established through a resolution.
128. The delegate of Brazil commented that the proposal is to prepare a resolution that states the following: to establish a permanent Secretariat by the COP, and that the legal working group continues to search for a permanent location and get concrete offers from Party countries and other international organizations.
129. The delegate of the United States proposed establishing a time frame for the countries to send their hosting proposals to the working group for their review. These proposals should be sent to the Parties up to one year in advance so that a decision can be made at the next COP.
130. The legal working group was established and their functions were approved. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat was asked to send a note to the countries asking if they are interested in participating in this working group and, if so, to send the names of their representatives.

## Location and Contract for the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat

131. The delegate of the United States presented the draft document on the temporary hosting of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to the floor for observations (Annex X: CIT-COP5-2011-R4). This document reiterates the offer of the United States to host the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat for a period of two more years.
132. The delegate of Costa Rica agreed with the hosting of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat, however, insisted that the topic of permanent Secretariat must be addressed and a resolution presented on this matter.
133. The Chair pointed out that the legal working group must look for a location for the permanent Secretariat while at the same time continue working on presenting different options for obtaining its legal personality.
134. The delegate of Brazil commented that the hosting proposals must be presented to the Parties before the next COP.
135. The delegate of the Netherlands stated that they currently do not have the appropriate legal advisors available since the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles; therefore, they withdraw their participation from the legal working group at this time. They will make the necessary internal inquiries to see if a lawyer will be available to participate in this group at a later time.
136. The delegate of Brazil stated that it would not be possible to prepare a resolution creating a permanent Secretariat at this meeting since a permanent location does not exist.
137. The delegate of the Netherlands clarified that it is better to divide the resolutions in the following manner: a) extend the current contract for the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat for two more years, b) the working group looks for a location for the permanent and c) working group looks for a solution to the legal personality of the permanent Secretariat.
138. The delegate of Costa Rica agreed with the delegate of the Netherlands and stated that we should revisit the COP4 resolution regarding the nomination of a secretary under extraordinary circumstances and add new text that extends this contract.
139. The Chair asked if these are two separate documents: one that accepts the temporary hosting of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat in the United States and the extension of its contract and another one on the working group and their tasks of looking for a location, secretary and legal personality of the Secretariat.
140. The delegate of Brazil presented the document they worked on with the United States, the Resolution on the Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat (CIT-COP5-2011-R3).

141. The delegates of Honduras and Chile proposed making some changes to the text in Spanish.
142. The delegate of Ecuador asked how the location will be chosen if several countries submit proposals.
143. Discussion of the document on the permanent Secretariat continued. The document was then adopted during the plenary session.
144. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat was instructed to send the document to the focal points once the COP5 documents were approved, asking them to identify those who will participate in the permanent Secretariat and legal personality working group.
145. During the discussion on the agreement to extend the hosting of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat, the topic of extending the contract of the current *Pro Tempore* Secretary was also discussed. The COP4 Resolution (CIT-COP4-2009-R1) was used as a reference. Changes were made to this document to reflect the current situation and obtain consensus from the plenary.
146. The delegate of Costa Rica expressed her concern on modifying a resolution that was made at the COP4 and asked the plenary if the COP can modify earlier resolutions since the resolution states that the Secretary must be a national from one of the Party countries, an exception that has already been made once.
147. The delegate of the United States tried to clarify the matter by stating that the COP does have the proper authority to modify resolutions, which in this case we are referring to the earlier resolution on naming a *Pro Tempore* Secretary under exceptional circumstances. The delegate added that changes to the text of the Convention cannot be made.
148. The delegate of Brazil commented that the current situation of the Secretariat continues to be an exception since it still does not have a permanent location or legal personality and, therefore, it doesn't make sense to follow the COP4 resolution, which includes the election of a Secretary. She recommended adding text to the resolution emphasizing the fact that the procedure for electing the Secretary will be completed over the next few years. The delegate further added that the work done by the current Secretary has been very good and she does not oppose the current Secretary continuing to fulfill this role.
149. The delegate of Costa Rica commented that they are pleased with the work being done by the current Secretary, but rather this is a matter of order. In order for national opinions to be heard on these issues, it is necessary to follow procedures and to be in agreement with the resolutions adopted.

150. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat was asked to include the objectives and deadlines for the permanent secretariat working group into the work plan so that there is clarity as to when this group must submit their results.
151. The delegate of Chile believes that if the current situation continues to be exceptional then the resolution must state that we continue with the same arrangement for exceptional circumstances.
152. The delegate of Costa Rica pointed out that there are already procedures in place for electing a Secretary, establishing a 6-month time frame to summon candidates, which should be used.
153. The Chair stated that the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat should include some text describing the support to be provided to the permanent Secretariat and legal personality working in the work plan.
154. Changes were made to the document according to the opinions expressed by the participants. An extension of the current *Pro Tempore* Secretary was approved for a period of two more years until the next COP.

#### **Presentation of SPAW Protocol Activities**

155. The representative of SPAW, Ms. Alessandra Vanzella, highlighted joint cooperative efforts between the IAC and SPAW, like the workshop carried out on the Hawksbill Turtle in the Wider Caribbean and Western Atlantic. She identified further items on which SPAW can collaborate with the IAC. One example given was offering the support of SPAW in preparing national sea turtle management plans since SPAW has already developed plans in the Caribbean with the help of WIDECAS. Ms. Vanzella proposed sharing information that SPAW has on marine protected areas and sea turtles with the IAC in addition to coral reef management activities through the application of best fisheries practices and the CAMPAM database. Further possible synergies were highlighted: 1) To promote the exchange of information, technical knowledge and lessons learned. This includes the revision and distribution of the Manual for Management of Nesting Beaches and linkages with WIDECAS Sea Turtle Nesting Beach Atlas and access to Marine Protected Areas data from the CAMPAM database as well as to coordinate efforts on the development and implementation of Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plans (STRAPs) with WIDECAS. 2) To jointly explore strategic alliances with relevant organizations, initiatives or individuals on specific activities of common interest in support of both the IAC and the SPAW work plans and that will also have the capacity to commit to and/or support the IAC. 3) To share reporting: SPAW will harmonize national reports with IAC, and share reports' information and coordinate on development of exceptions guidelines/reports for congruency. 4) To coordinate SPAW and IAC committees: coordination between the SPAW STAC and the IAC SC and CCE Committees on relevant recommendations and actions and thus ensure representation at respective meetings. 5) To evaluate the conservation status of the sea turtle

populations in the region based on the most trustworthy scientific data and to inform Parties on the state of sea turtle conservation within a regional scenario to achieve an effective incorporation in an integrated way of the local and national actions.

156. The delegate of Brazil commented that it is important to join forces with the SPAW database in order to facilitate information exchange. The delegate of Peru agreed and further added that the database for marine protected areas could be very useful tool for the IAC committees and reiterates how important it is to collaborate with SPAW, IATTC and CPPS.
157. The delegate of the Netherlands reminded the delegates of the cost of having a person dedicated to maintaining the database.
158. The delegate of Ecuador mentioned that the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific and Miramar also have databases on migratory species.
159. The Chair requested that the Scientific Committee incorporate some specific activities into their work plan to promote cooperation with the SPAW Protocol.

#### **2011-2013 IAC Budget**

160. The *Pro Tempore* Secretary presented the 2011 budget and estimated budget for 2012-2013 (Annex XI: CIT-COP5-2011-R5), highlighting the meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies to be scheduled during this period. The Secretary also requested technical support for the Secretariat.
161. The delegate of the United States stated that due to the amount of work that has been accomplished over the past two years and the efforts by the *Pro Tempore* Secretary to move the Convention forward, in addition to all of the extra time she has put into the job and the increase in cost of living and inflation in the Secretariat's temporary host country, the delegate submitted a proposal to the plenary and asked that they consider a 7% raise in salary for the *Pro Tempore* Secretary.
162. The delegate of the Netherlands agreed with the increase in salary as proposed by the delegation of the United States.
163. The delegates from Ecuador, Costa Rica and Brazil expressed their concern about paying for this increase in salary. In order to do this, the Parties that have not yet made their contributions must do so. They further expressed that the cost of living in the United States is higher than in other countries.
164. The delegate of the United States stated that a 3-4% annual increase is a standard procedure in the United States because of inflation. This is usually done automatically by the contractor and, in order to put it in perspective, the delegate clarified that it would only be about \$3,000 - \$5,000 USD per year.



165. The delegate of Mexico stated that the source of these funds must be identified since they have clear instructions not to exceed their contribution. They hope that more countries ratify the IAC soon and that the new contributions will increase the amount of funds available.
166. The Chair added that in their search for possible sites to host the Secretariat with organizations like the UNEP in Jamaica, they found the administrative costs to be much higher and that salaries must be based on a scale provided by UNEP, which is out of reach for IAC and, therefore, in light of this the present option is the most feasible.
167. The delegate of the United States announced that they will be sending their 2011 contribution in July and that they will work on the budget to present a version that reflects inflation and cost of living.
168. The delegate of Mexico requested clarification on the current amount available in the IAC special fund.
169. The *Pro Tempore* Secretary explained that the financial report was sent to the Parties prior to the meeting and proceeded to resend the document via electronic mail to all of the delegates present. She added that there was approximately \$110,000 USD in the special fund, clarifying that this is an estimate since the costs of the present meeting have not been included.
170. The delegates asked for an update on the status of contributions from the IAC Parties. The *Pro Tempore* Secretary responded that Mexico, Honduras and the United States are the only countries making their contributions to the Convention on a regular basis.
171. The delegates of Ecuador and Peru expressed the limitations their countries face in order to make contributions since the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat does not have legal personality and believe other countries face a similar problem. Therefore, they do not know how they could contribute.
172. The *Pro Tempore* Secretary suggested that in the meantime they can make in-kind contributions, similar to what other countries have done through collaborating in the logistics and transportation costs as host countries for different IAC meetings. This support has been a very valuable way for *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to reduce meeting costs and, therefore, may be a possible way for others to contribute.
173. The delegates agreed that this type of assistance be encouraged.
174. The delegate of the United States expressed that they hope the issue of the Secretariat's legal personality be resolved by the next COP.
175. The delegate of Ecuador agreed with the idea proposed by the *Pro Tempore* Secretary and offered to host the next COP6 (2013) in Ecuador, and asked that a formal request be sent to Ecuador's foreign affairs office.

176. The delegates thanked the delegate of Ecuador for his generous offer.
177. The delegate of the United States continued with the topic of the budget, pointing out that there will be a \$15,000 savings in administrative expenses on behalf of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, who currently manages the IAC special fund. The foundation offered to reduce the administrative cost for 2011 and the delegate proposed that the 3.5% annual increase for the Secretary is taken out of this savings, to compensate for inflation and increased cost of living.
178. The delegate of Brazil requested that the budget document include the finances resolution along with the receipt that the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat sends to the Parties and the table indicating contribution amounts.
179. The *Pro Tempore* Secretary stated that the amount of contributions for the new countries have not been agreed upon, which is needed in order to complete the table.
180. The Chair asked the delegate of Chile if he agrees that they add a contribution in the amount of \$2,000 USD, which is the minimum contribution.
181. The delegate of Chile agreed with this amount and explained that they would not be able to make this annual contribution in 2011 due to budgetary problems, but it will be made in upcoming years.
182. The delegate of Costa Rica commented that they are working on making their contribution and will notify the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat when it is ready.
183. It was agreed that the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat will send the invoices to the Parties as indicated in the 2011-2013 finances resolution, requesting their financial contribution based on the COP5 contribution table, which is the same table that was developed during the COP4, and to which this COP has now added Chile's contribution.
184. The delegate of Mexico expressed concern for the deficit in the IAC budget since there are more expenses budgeted than contributions received and, therefore, more country contributions are needed. He continued by stating that GEF projects are a good way to look for funds and that this option may be explored, for example, in the case of the IAC database. The delegate asked the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to work with the Scientific Committee to see how GEF funds could be applied to the database.
185. The Chair added that to reduce the deficit in the budget, the \$15,000 savings from the NMSF be applied to the IAC database.

#### **2011-2012 Secretariat *Pro Tempore* Work Plan**

186. The *Pro Tempore* Secretary presented the work plan (CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.3) and each item was reviewed, highlighting the changes and suggestions that were made to the work plans of the subsidiary bodies over the past few days.

187. The observer from IATTC suggested including the database on the status of sea turtles in the Americas that will be shared with other organizations. The delegate of Peru agreed that this be included in the work plan.
188. The delegate of Brazil commented that the difference between management plans and conservation plans be defined.
189. The observer from IATTC stated that conservation includes all management practices.
190. A note was made to finish reviewing the IAC document on managing sea turtle nesting beaches by the next Scientific Committee meeting. This is already part of the work plan.
191. The need to incorporate the development of this database into the work plans of both Committees as agenda items for their next meetings was discussed and approved.
192. The work plan was approved contingent upon the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat making the suggested changes.

## **Resolutions**

### Resolution to establish a travel fund to support IAC delegates

193. The meeting proceeded with a revision of the resolution to establish an IAC delegate travel support fund (Annex XII: CIT-COP5-2011-R6).
194. The delegate of the Netherlands disagreed with this resolution since it would set precedence in supporting the Parties and it is the sole responsibility of the Parties to cover the expenses of their delegates to the meetings. However, he does agree that it may be necessary in some cases, but that Parties must not become accustomed to it.
195. The delegate of Costa Rica stated that the money for the fund should not come from the IAC budget, but rather separate funds raised by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat. The delegate disagrees with point E, which states that a Party must have made a contribution to the IAC special fund to be eligible for travel funds, since the matter of legal personality has not been resolved and some countries are unable to make contributions.
196. The delegates agreed that if subsidiary body meetings and the COP are scheduled for the same year, the COP will have priority access to this fund since it requires quorum.
197. The delegate of Ecuador stated that if a delegate receives support from this fund and cancels their trip, they should be responsible for reimbursing the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat for any losses and noted that he also disagrees with point E.
198. The delegate of the United States agreed with the delegate travel support fund, but also recognizes that countries need to make their contributions.

199. The delegate of Brazil agreed with Costa Rica and Ecuador and is concerned about establishing a transparent mechanism to apply for and chose what country will receive support in the case that more than one countries request it.
200. The delegate of Mexico commented that it is not only important to work within the country to increase participation in meetings, but also work on activities at a national level. He expressed concern that this type of support becomes the norm. The countries need to be reminded that they made a commitment to participate in these meetings. Therefore, the delegate urged the Parties to fulfill their commitments to the IAC. The delegate proposed creating an application form to use when applying for funds.
201. The delegate of Brazil continued to express her concern for who will select the criteria to determine what country will receive support.
202. The delegate of Costa Rica mentioned that Parties should be conscious of the fact that they approve their budgets a year in advance and should inform the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat well in advance whether or not they have the necessary funds in their budget.
203. The delegates worked on incorporating this text into the resolution and then approved it.
204. The revised rules of procedures (CIT-COP1-2003-R4-Rev.1) were also approved, accepting the change to the text stating that quorum does not need to be reached in order to hold meetings of the subsidiary bodies.

#### Resolution RIO+20

205. The draft resolution on promoting sustainable fishing in international waters, especially for the protection of sea turtles (CIT-COP5-2011-R7), presented by Mexico with the assistance of Brazil was reviewed.
206. The delegate of Mexico pointed out that the idea for this resolution stemmed from the fact that as a group, all 15 countries present this message to include sea turtles as a part of the agenda of the United Nations meeting.
207. The delegate of the Netherlands asked if the *Pro Tempore* Secretary had the proper authority to present this topic to the Secretary General of the United Nations as part of their meeting agenda.
208. The delegate of Mexico explained that the *Pro Tempore* Secretary should send a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations requesting that this topic, sea turtles and bycatch mitigation, be included as an agenda item at the General Assembly of the United Nations that will meet on September 15.

209. It was agreed that the *Pro Tempore* would work together with the Parties to execute this resolution.

210. The delegate of Costa Rica offered the assistance of their foreign affairs office and representatives in New York and added that they will do what they can to move this resolution forward.

211. The delegate of Mexico offered to assist in this task by contacting their representative in New York, so that the request to include this topic on the agenda is received by the Secretary General of the United Nations.

212. The resolution was adopted.

### **Informative presentations by the participants and sea turtle day**

213. The delegate of Brazil officially presented the Executive Summary of the National Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan for Brazil. The Chair congratulated the delegation of Brazil for their efforts and important achievement.

214. The delegate of Ecuador presented a sea turtle tool kit that was created in Ecuador to be used in a public awareness campaign. This material also includes information on the IAC.

215. It was agreed that Brazil's action and the information contained in Ecuador's sea turtle tool kit would be placed on the IAC website.

216. Dr. Martin Hall, observer from the IATTC, gave a brief presentation on possible databases that could be used by the Convention. The Chair requested that the Chair of the SC take note of the different options presented by Dr. Hall for their consideration at the next SC meeting.

217. The delegate of Ecuador requested that the COP establish a regional sea turtle day, if it does not already exist.

218. The delegate of the Netherlands informed the delegates that a world sea turtle day already exists and is celebrated on June 16 of each year. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat was asked to research the conditions under which this day was declared and who declared it and communicate this information to the Parties.

219. It was agreed that the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat would remind the Parties of sea turtle day the following year so that they may coordinate with the IAC to plan activities to commemorate it.

### **Elect the board of directors of the COP6 and closing remarks**

220. Having covered all of the agenda items, the meeting was wrapped up with the closing remarks.

221. The delegate of Mexico expressed his gratitude to the Netherlands for their enormous amount of support in holding this meeting, adding that this COP has been one of the most supported by its host country, which is very valuable to the IAC. Furthermore he requested that these expressions of gratitude be included in the meeting minutes/report.
222. The Chair agreed with the delegate of Mexico, stating that it has been a wonderful experience and expressed appreciation on behalf of all of the delegates. She further suggested that the governments of the countries participating send their respective letters of appreciation to the host.
223. The meeting proceeded with the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the COP6. The delegate of Peru proposed that the current Chair, Ms. Alexis Gutiérrez of the United States, continue due to the outstanding job she has done. The delegate of Ecuador, Mr. Eduardo Espinoza was elected as Vice-Chair. It was agreed that the position of rappertour would be filled by a person from the host country of the next COP, which will be Ecuador in 2013.
224. The observer from Nicaragua expressed that she is very happy to have participated in the COP5 and announced that there is political will in Nicaragua as a signatory country of the IAC to carry out the internal procedures to ratify this Convention. The observer further stated that Nicaragua carries out many efforts related to sea turtles and they would like to be part of this regional effort by becoming a Party country very soon.
225. The observer from the Humane Society International congratulated the delegates for their new work plan that is filled with potential to move the Convention forward.
226. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat gave the final words of gratitude to the host country and the participants.

## Annex I: CIT-COP5-2011-Inf.2. COP 5 Participant List

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA/ OF AMERICA/	ALEXIS T GUTIÉRREZ CHAIR	FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPECIALIST, NOAA	alexis.gutierrez@noaa.gov	Tel: +1 (301) 713- 2322 x 158 Fax: +1 (301) 713-4060
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	MARLENE MENARD	OFFICE OF MARINE CONSERVATION (OES/OMC), U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE	MenardMM@state.gov	Tel: 202-647-5827
	KEITH BENES	ATTORNEY-ADVISED U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE	BenesKJ@state.gov	Tel: (202) 647-1871
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<b>INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/ORGANISMOS INTERNACIONALES</b>				
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<b>OBSERVERS/OBSERVADORES</b>				
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<b>SECRETARIAT /SECRETARÍA</b>				
	VERONICA CACERES	SECRETARIA <i>PRO TEMPORE</i>	secretario@iacseaturtle.org	Tel: 703-358-1828
	BELINDA DICK	SECRETARÍA <i>PRO TEMPORE</i>	contact@iacseaturtle.org	Tel: 506-8835-7331



## Annex II: CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.1. Agenda IAC Fifth Conference of the Parties (COP5IAC)

### Day 1 June 1st

- 8:00 AM Opening ceremony  
Opening words by Dr. Glenn Thodé, Island Governor of Bonaire  
Welcome remarks by Dr. Delno Tromp, Island Commissioner for Nature & Environment and Tourism  
Ms. Alexis Gutiérrez, COP5 Chair  
Presentation by Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, Ms. Mabel Nava
- 9:15 AM Introductions of Focal Points and delegation members
- 9:25 AM Elect COP5 Rapportuer
- 9:35 AM Adoption of the Agenda
- 9:45 AM Coffee Break
- 10:00 AM Secretariat *Pro Tempore* 2009-2011 Report
- 10:50 AM IAC 10 Year anniversary report presentation
- 11:15 AM Report from the Chair of the Scientific Committee
- a.) Review of 2009-2011 Work
  - b.) Presentation of Work Plan for 2011-2012
  - c.) Presentation of the TORS of the Scientific Committee
  - d.) Presentation of the New IAC Annual Report Format
- 12:30 PM Lunch
- 1:30 PM Report from the Chair of the Consultative Committee
- a.) Review of 2009-2011 Work
  - b.) Presentation of Work Plan for 2012-2013
  - c.) Presentation of the TORS of the Consultative Committee
  - d.) Presentation of procedure to report exceptions
- 2:30 PM Discussion of the TORs for the Scientific and Consultative Committees
- 3:45 PM Coffee Break
- 4:00 PM Presentation on Sea Turtle Bycatch in the IATTC Region (Dr. Martin Hall)
- 4:30 PM Presentation and Discussion of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
- 5:30 PM Adjourn
- 6:00-8:00 PM Welcome Cocktail Party offered by Tourism Corporation Bonaire, Mangazina di Rei Museum

### Day 2 June 2nd

- 8:00 AM International Legal Personality-Document from the IAC Legal Working Group

- a.) Presentation of the WG efforts
  - b.) Presentation of the Draft Protocol
  - c.) Discussion
  - d.) Increase commitment of IAC Parties to Convention
- 10:30 AM Coffee Break
- 10:45 AM Location and Contract for the Secretariat *Pro Tempore*
- a.) Presentation by United States
  - b.) Discussion of the Location
  - c.) Discussion of the Secretariat *Pro Tempore's* Contract
  - d.) Summary of Agreement/Resolution
- 12:00-2:00 PM Lunch at local countryside restaurant
- 2:00 PM Presentation of the Draft 2011-2012 Secretariat *Pro Tempore* Work Plan
- 2:30 PM 2011-2013 IAC Budget
- 3:15 PM Coffee Break
- 3:30 PM Continuation of the Budget Discussion
- 4:30 PM Presentation of SPAW Sea Turtle Activities and Possible Ways for IAC-SPAW Collaboration
- 5:30 PM Adjourn

**Day 3**  
**June 3rd**

- 8:00 AM Resolutions
- a.) Resolution to Establish an IAC Travel Fund to Support Delegates Participation in Meetings
- 9:30 AM Completion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Report
- 10:30 AM Coffee Break
- 10:45 AM Review of Agreements from the Meeting
- 12:30 PM Lunch
- 2:00 PM Continuation of Review of Agreements from the Meeting
- 3:30 PM Coffee Break
- 3:45 PM Elect place and dates for the IAC COP6 in 2013
- 4:00 PM Elect next Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapportuer
- 4:30 PM Closing Remarks
- 5:30 PM Adjourn
- 6:30-8:30 PM Sunset get together offered by Divi Resort on the Pier End

**Day 4 (Optional)**  
**June 4<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 – 11:00 AM

Excursion to the satellite island of Klein Bonaire offered to the COP5 Delegates by our host the Netherlands and the Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). This will include a short boat trip, please bring swimwear and strong sunscreen, masks and snorkels will be provided.

## Annex III: CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.2 Reflections on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IAC

### *Message to the readers*

In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), we have prepared this special report to recognize and celebrate the efforts and achievements carried out by Party countries in order to conserve and protect the six species of sea turtles found in our waters. This report tracks the accomplishments of the Convention over the past decade, from increased regional cooperation to the commitment of each Party to carry out the Convention's objectives. It is a testament to the extraordinary regional efforts taken to preserve these ancient animals, and inspires all of us to continue this good work and address the many challenges that sea turtles still face. Cooperation and collaboration at all levels are imperative to the success of the Convention and to ensure the survival of these endangered species. The Secretariat exists to facilitate the effective implementation of the Convention and we encourage all Party and non-Party countries to strengthen their commitment to cooperation and compromise so that the IAC and the region's sea turtles will prosper well into the future.

VERÓNICA CÁCERES CHAMORRO  
IAC *PRO TEMPORE* SECRETARY

In celebration of the first 10 years of the IAC, I would like to express what a pleasure it has been for me to have participated as the Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts during this period. To have collaborated during its formation and watch it grow, provided me with a great opportunity to preside over a diverse and integrated forum, where knowledge generated along the coasts of the Party countries contributes to the decision making process for the management and conservation of sea turtles in the region.

The strength of the Committee has been its communication among the different sectors of society, sharing as common interest, the conservation of these species that helps to guide the Conference of the Parties, having a cohesive vision of the problems and their solutions. The Committee has reviewed draft resolutions and reports, made recommendations, and incorporated socio-economic and political aspects that build on the technical and scientific aspects that define the Scientific Committee.

Now, it is time for the Convention to overcome the challenges presented during these past 10 years. Though some are not new, they need to be re-examined by the Parties who must commit to them in order to avoid any further delays in fulfilling the actions needed to recover sea turtle populations in the region.

LUIS FUEYO MAC DONALD  
CHAIR OF THE IAC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS (2010-2011)  
NATIONAL COMMISSIONER  
CONANP-SEMARNAT, MEXICO

For the Americas, especially the member countries, the entering into force of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) meant a commitment to implement actions that promote the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and the habitats on which they depend. The commitments adopted by the Convention's member countries state that these measures must be based on the best scientific evidence available and they must take into account the environmental, socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the Parties (Article II, Text of the Convention).

Understanding the nature of these problems compelled the IAC to create the Scientific Committee (Committee) as one of the IAC subsidiary bodies. The function of this Committee is to provide the Conference of the Parties with technical and scientific advice in order for them to comply with the objectives of the Convention and taking into consideration that, according to the scope of the IAC, these actions must be carried out on nesting beaches as well as within the jurisdictional waters of the countries.

The first Scientific Committee meeting was held in August 2004. Since then, six more meetings have been held, making it the IAC's most continuous working subsidiary body to date. Despite the many difficulties that it has faced, mainly due to the variety of topics discussed within the Committee as a consequence of the specific problems of each country, the Committee has made important progress especially in regards to the standardization of information that must be presented by the Parties on their compliance with the IAC agreements and resolutions and the programs that each country has committed to accomplishing in order to fulfill the Convention's objectives.

After a complete decade of work, and as we enter the IAC's second decade, the Scientific Committee is fully committed to integrating the information available on the biological research and dynamics of sea turtle populations; evaluating the environmental impacts of activities that exploit marine resources, coastal development, among others, on these species and their habitats, in order to recommend the most effective protection and conservation measures taking into account the fact that these measures must be based on the best scientific evidence available as well as the environmental, socio-economic and cultural aspects of the Parties.

JORGE ZUZUNAGA  
CHAIR OF THE IAC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
MINISTERIO DE LA PRODUCCION-PRODUCE, PERU

For centuries now, sea turtles have played an important role on marine and terrestrial ecosystems as well as the cultures of the Americas. Evidence of this is the growing understanding of the ecological role sea turtles play as biological transporters of nutrients and

energy from marine to terrestrial ecosystems and in maintaining healthy coral reef communities, in the frequent use of sea turtle images on various currencies and artifacts within the region, and the recognition of the importance of sea turtles to eco-tourism activities.

Today, as the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Marine Turtles enters its 10th year, it is heartening to see the increasing membership. The IAC is the only treaty in the world solely for the protection of sea turtles, making it a unique instrument. Over the course of the last ten years, the Parties have worked diligently to establish many processes to ensure the successful implementation of the treaty, as well as to begin addressing many sea turtle conservation needs. As we move into the next decade of the IAC, the Parties will continue to galvanize regional efforts to conserve and recover sea turtles by addressing the many threats to sea turtles including fisheries bycatch, climate change, vessel strikes, marine debris, and coastal development. These issues are difficult to address, but the Parties recognize that they must be addressed jointly in order to recover the region's sea turtle populations. Thus, the IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretariat together with the Parties will be working to engage all the regional stakeholders so that the Americas will have healthy turtle populations for future generations. We hope that by our 20th anniversary, all the countries in the Americas will have ratified and be actively participating in the Convention and that we will start to see increased recovery of sea turtle populations. We hope you will join us in these efforts!

ALEXIS GUTIERREZ  
CHAIR COP5  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPECIALIST  
NOAA, USA

### ***Background***

This year the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Just like sea turtles are shared resources, this agreement recognizes that responsibility for their protection and conservation also must be shared. It is fitting that the world's first treaty for sea turtles was signed in the Americas, a region not only rich in sea turtles but in a history of their conservation as well. Six of the world's seven species of sea turtles once flourished in the region but, in the last several hundred years these long-lived, migratory creatures have succumbed to multiple threats on the beaches and at sea. Today the World Conservation Union (IUCN) identifies sea turtles as threatened with extinction, with some species faring better than others.

IUCN lists the six species of sea turtles in the Americas as follows:

- Vulnerable: Olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)
- Endangered: Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), Green turtle, black turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
- Critically Endangered: Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*); Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*); Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*).

The Americas provide extensive nesting, foraging, migratory and developmental habitats for the region's sea turtles. By the 20th Century, exploitation of eggs, meat, skin, calipee and shell had exacted a heavy toll on these species. Incidental (unintentional) and intentional capture in numerous fisheries, including trawl nets, longlines, gill nets, and drift nets as well as habitat destruction and pollution have continued to threaten their survival.

Scientists are just beginning to understand the importance of sea turtles in marine and coastal ecosystems as diverse as nesting beaches, coral reefs, and seagrass pastures; growing evidence indicates their roles are valuable and extensive. Sea turtles also provide cultural, aesthetic, and economic value for many communities.

### ***The IAC: the beginning of a cooperative effort***

In recognition of regional threats to sea turtle survival, in 1994 the nations of the Western Hemisphere began to negotiate a binding agreement to ensure the future of these species. Two years later, the text of the Inter American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), was concluded. In 2001, with the ratification of eight countries, the IAC entered into force.

The cornerstones of the IAC are international cooperation and collaboration to preserve the shared sea turtle resources of the Americas. While all countries have national natural resource legislation, the IAC plays a unique role in supporting regional conservation for sea turtles and the habitats on which they depend on by providing a legal framework and promoting multinational cooperation. In order to strengthen its ability to bring about change, the IAC supports efforts to harmonize national legislation throughout the region and support more effective management. The Convention also encourages Parties and non-Parties to develop and implement high priority, regional sea turtle conservation programs.

### ***The Parties and their commitments to the IAC***

On its Tenth Anniversary, 15 countries from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean are Parties of the IAC. Through the Conferences of the Parties, Consultative Committee of Experts and the Scientific Committee and their respective work plans and resolutions, the IAC is evolving to address the needs of the region's sea turtles and its Party countries. Private enterprise, local communities, NGOs, and other stakeholders have also been encouraged to participate.

The objective of the Convention is "To promote the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and the habitats on which they depend, based on the best available scientific evidence, taking into account the environmental, socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the Parties."

The Parties of the IAC commit to:

- Protecting and conserving sea turtle populations and their habitats
- Reducing incidental capture, injury and mortality of sea turtles associated with fishing activities
- Prohibiting intentional capture and international trade in sea turtles, their eggs, parts and products; turtles may be used to satisfy the economic subsistence needs of traditional communities
- Fostering international cooperation for sea turtle research and management
- Implementing additional measures needed for their protection

### ***Celebrating 10 Years: The Convention Today***

Today, 15 countries —Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Mexico, Peru, the Netherlands Antilles, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela — constitute the IAC Contracting Parties. New ratifications by Chile and Argentina, which only have foraging areas, demonstrate that sea turtle conservation must include collaboration by all range states. Participation in the IAC by Parties and growing interest by non-Parties is increasing. Non-governmental organizations and the private sector also support the IAC. With outreach to more countries, membership is anticipated to grow.

The impressive range of activities undertaken by the IAC and its Party countries over the past 10 years includes the following:

- Five Conferences of the Parties and an Extraordinary Meeting: COP1 (Costa Rica), COP2 (Venezuela), COP3 (Mexico), COP4 (Costa Rica), COP5 (Bonaire) and an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties (Peru)
- Seven Scientific Committee meetings in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama
- Four Consultative Committee meetings in Costa Rica, Mexico, Belize, and Brazil
- Six Memorandum of Understandings/Cooperation with OLDEPESCA, SPAW Protocol, OSPESCA, CPPS, CITES and IATTC
- A workshop in Tortuguero, Costa Rica (2008) to prepare the draft *IAC Manual for Sea Turtle Management and Conservation Techniques in Nesting Beaches in Central America*
- A regional workshop on the Hawksbill turtle in the Wider Caribbean and Western Atlantic co-organized by IAC, CITES, SPAW Protocol and the Mexican Government SEMARNAT and CONANP in Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo, Mexico (2009)
- The IAC was awarded two grants from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (MTCF) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 2010 and 2011. The first one has the objective of supporting the efforts of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to increase membership to the IAC with an emphasis in the Caribbean; the objective of the second grant was to support the IAC meetings mostly supporting the participation of Party countries to the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies.

- A number of visits to non Party countries in the region with emphasis in the Caribbean were made: Trinidad and Tobago (2010), Nicaragua (2010), Colombia (2010) and Dominican Republic (2011), to encourage IAC ratification.
- Four Resolutions have been adopted to conserve and recover sea turtles:
  - ❖ Conservation of Leatherback Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) (2004)
  - ❖ Conservation of the Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) (2006)
  - ❖ Reduction of the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries (2006)
  - ❖ Adaptation of sea turtle habitats to climate change (2009)

### **Achievements**

The following information is a summary of the different operational aspects of the IAC since its beginning that will allow us to reflect on the progress made and the areas where we need to improve in order to redirect our efforts to further our progress over the next decade.

### **IAC Accredited Observers**

From the beginning, a growing number of accredited observers have attended Convention meetings. There are currently 23 accredited observers, of which 17 are accredited institutions and organizations and 6 are accredited as individuals. There are also seven intergovernmental organizations participating in the IAC.

<b>ORGANIZATIONS</b>
Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA)
Centro de Acción Legal Ambiental y Social de Guatemala (CALAS)
Centro de Incidencia Ambiental (CIAM)
Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental (CEMDA)
Defenders of Wildlife, Mexico
Ecology Project International (EPI)
FUNDATUN
Humane Society International (HSI)
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
Programa de Restauración de Tortugas Marinas (PRETOMA)
Protective Turtle Ecology Cooperative for Training, Outreach and Research (PROTECTOR)
Sea Turtle Conservancy (STC)
Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STBC)
Sea Turtle Restoration Project/Turtle Island Restoration Network
TRAFFIC North America
Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
<b>INDIVIDUALS</b>
<i>Anny Chaves</i> , Instituto Costarricense de Electricidad (ICE)
<i>Gerardo Chaves C.</i> , Universidad de Costa Rica, Escuela de Biología



John Regnery, The Brighter Way Foundation  
 Milani Chaloupka, Ecological Modelling Services P/L; Vice-Chair Pacific Islands IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group  
 Raquel Briseño Dueñas, Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología, Unidad Académica Mazatlán (BITMAR)  
 Susanna Musick, Virginia Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program

**INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

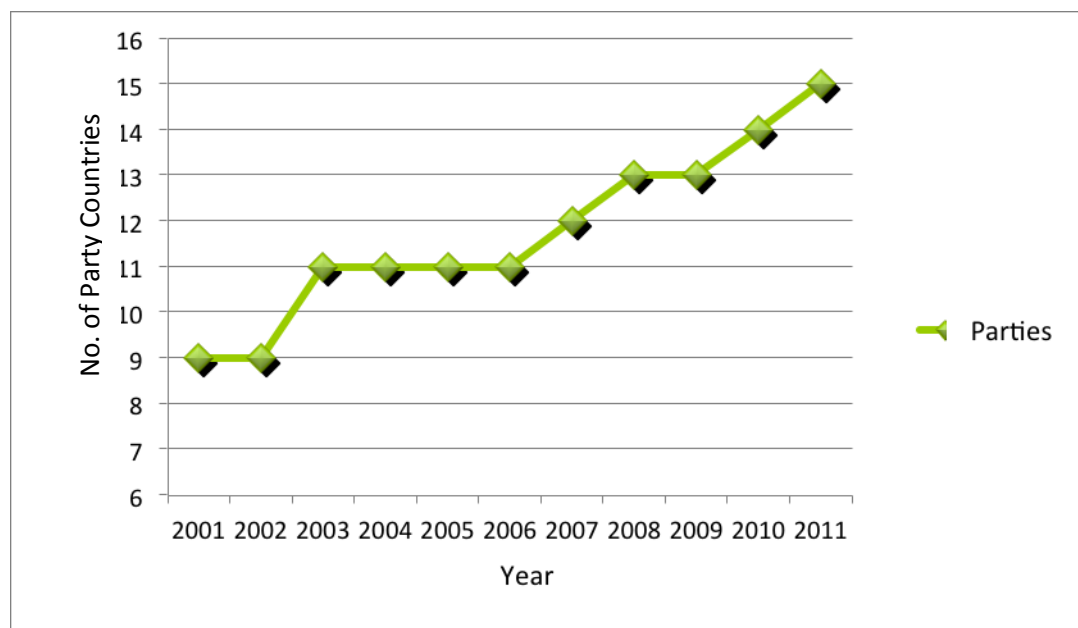
CAR/RCU Regional Coordinating Unit, United Nations Environment Program /SPAW  
 Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (CPPS)  
 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)  
 Corredor Marino del Pacifico Este Tropical  
 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)  
 Organización Latinoamericana de Desarrollo Pesquero (OLDEPESCA)  
 Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano (OSPESCA)

**Increase in the number of Party Countries (membership)**

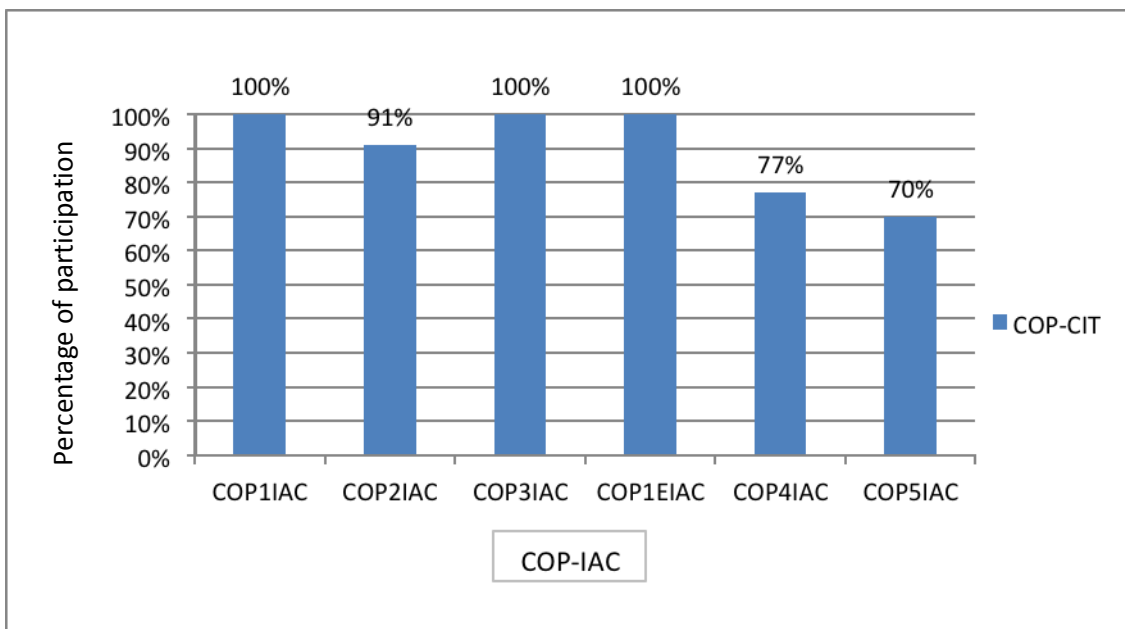
YEAR	NUMBER	PARTY COUNTRIES
2001	9	Brazil Costa Rica Ecuador Honduras Mexico Netherlands Antilles Peru United States Venezuela
2003	11	Belize Guatemala
2007	12	Uruguay
2008	13	Panama
2010	14	Chile Kingdom of the Netherlands*
2011	15	Argentina

\* After 10 October 2010, the Kingdom of the Netherlands is a party to the IAC for Curacao, Sint Maarten and the Caribbean part of the Netherlands (the Islands of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba).

**Increase in the number of Party countries (membership)**



**Percentage of delegates (party countries) attending the meetings**



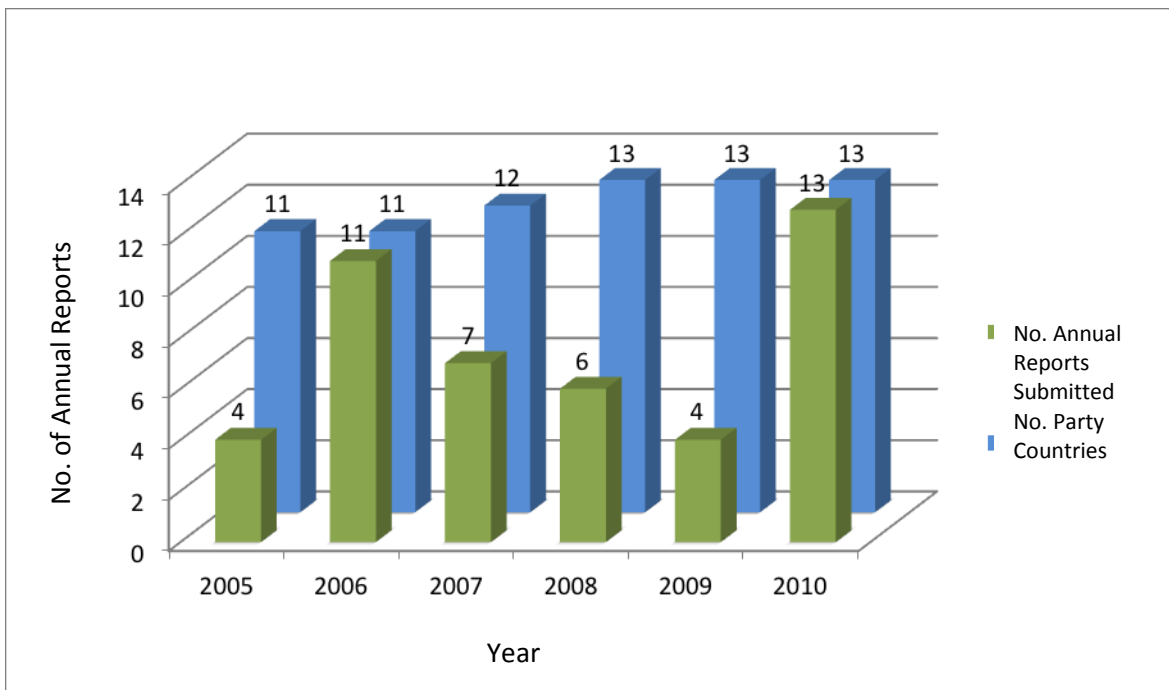
**Number of annual reports submitted**

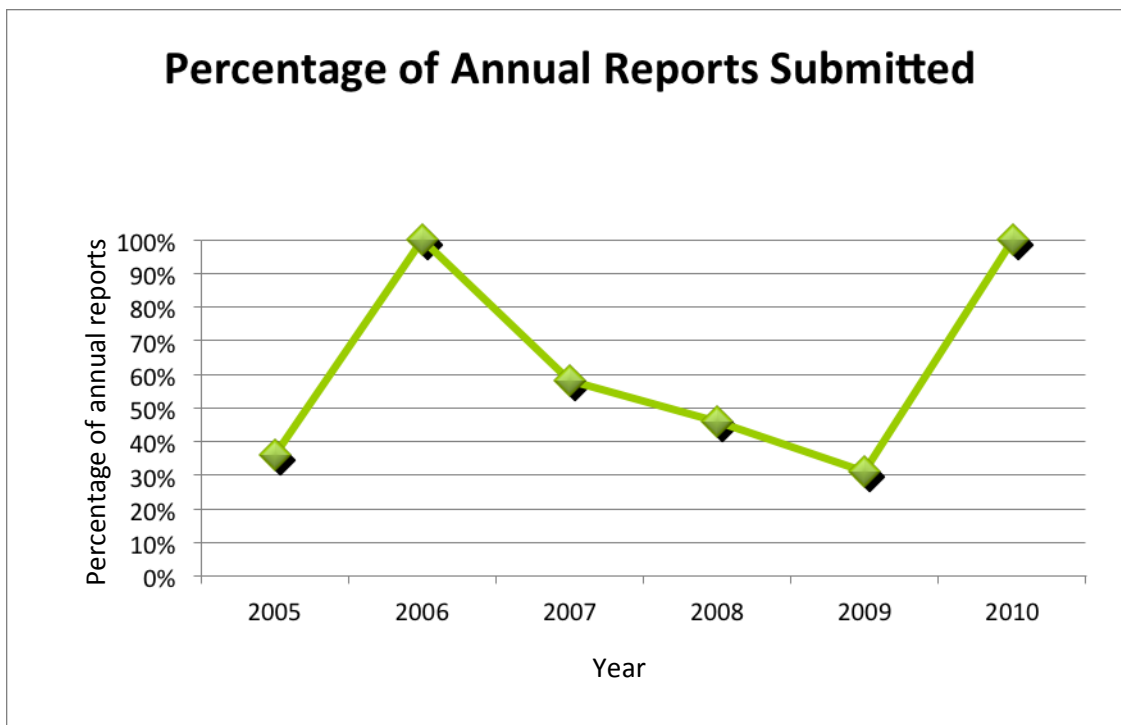
YEAR	COUNTRY	NO. OF COUNTRIES SUBMITTING REPORT	RATIFIED COUNTRIES	PERCENT SUMMITTED	
2005	Netherlands Antilles Belize	United States Mexico	4	11	36%
2006	Netherlands Antilles Belize Brazil Costa Rica Ecuador Estados Unidos	Guatemala Honduras Mexico Peru Venezuela	11	11	100%
2007	Brazil Costa Rica Ecuador United States	Guatemala Honduras Mexico	7	12	58%

2008	Netherlands Antilles Brazil Guatemala	Mexico Peru Venezuela	6	13	46%
2009	Brazil Guatemala	Mexico Peru	4	13	31%
2010	Netherlands Antilles Belize Brazil Costa Rica Ecuador United States Guatemala	Honduras Mexico Panama Peru Uruguay Venezuela Chile*	13*	14	100%

\* Chile was not asked to submit their annual report since they had not yet nominated their focal point before the 2010 report deadline.

**Number of annual reports submitted by Party countries per year**





**Existing action plans of the Parties**

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>ACTION PLAN</b>
Netherlands Antilles	Action Plan to Recover Sea Turtles (1992)
Belize	Action Plan to Recover Sea Turtles (1992)
Brazil	National Action Plan to reduce sea turtle bycatch in fisheries (2010)
Costa Rica	Management Plans: RNVS Ostional, RNVS Marine Management Plan, RNSV Gandoca Manzanillo Management Plan.
Ecuador	National Plan for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and their Habitats (2009)
United States	The U.S. has recovery plans for each species listed under the Endangered Species Act – the green, hawksbill, olive ridley, kemp's ridley, leatherbacks and loggerhead.
Guatemala	National Strategy for Management and Conservation of Sea Turtles (ENTM). Including the preparation of the following documents: national diagnosis, strategy and action plan.
Honduras	There is no National Plan, but do have Conservation and Protection Projects.
Mexico	National Sea Turtle Conservation Program of 1968, updated in 2000. Recovery Plan for the Leatherback Turtle <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> of the

	Eastern Pacific (Early 80s) Plan for the Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Gulf of California (2003) Action Program for the Conservation of Hawksbill, Leatherback and Green Turtles (PACE) in 2007 and 2008 respectively.
Panamá	Draft Action Plan for Sea Turtle Conservation.
Peru	Does not have a National Plan for sea turtles.
Uruguay	Not specified.
Venezuela	Conservation Plan for the Sea Turtles in the State of Vargas.

### **Number of Memorandum of Understanding/Cooperation**

- 1) Memorandum of Understanding between the IAC and OLDEPESCA; COP2 (2004)
- 2) Memorandum of Cooperation between the IAC and SPAW Protocol; COP3 (2006)
- 3) Memorandum of Cooperation between the IAC and OSPESCA; COP3 (2006)
- 4) Memorandum of Cooperation between the IAC and CPPS; COP4 (2009)
- 5) Memorandum of Cooperation between the IAC and CITES; (2009)
- 6) Memorandum of Understanding between the IAC and IATTC; COP5 (2011)

### **International meetings attended by the IAC**

- 1) Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network. Annual meeting (WIDECAST), (2010, 2011)
- 2) Kobe II Bycatch Workshop (KOB2). Brisbane, Australia (2010)
- 3) Eastern Pacific Hawksbill Initiative (ICAPO). Second Workshop of the Hawksbill Turtle in the Eastern Pacific. Estero Padre Ramos Natural Reserve, Nicaragua (2010)
- 4) 4th Regional Sea Turtle Symposium in the South East Pacific, Medellin, Colombia (2010)
- 5) 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd Sea Turtle data Standardization Workshops, Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS), Smithsonian Institute, IAC. Guayaquil, Ecuador (2009, 2010)
- 6) Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) (2008, 2010)
- 7) Informative meeting on the Mitigation of Incidental Mortality of Sea Turtles in Longline Artisanal Fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF). La Jolla, CA (2011)
- 8) 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles. San Diego, CA (2011)
- 9) II Meeting of the Caribbean Wetlands Initiative (RAMSAR). Bonaire (2011)

### **Workshops organized**

- 1) A Regional Workshop on the Hawksbill Turtle in the Wider Caribbean and Western Atlantic. (CITES-SPAW-WWF-SEMARNAT-CONANP), Puerto Morelos, México (2009)
- 2) Training workshop held in Tortuguero, Costa Rica, on sea turtle management and conservation techniques in nesting beaches of Central America (2008)

## IAC Publications

Publications	
1	10 Quarterly Informational IAC Newsletters (2007-2010)
2	Draft Manual of sea turtle management and conservation techniques on nesting beaches in Central America
3	Hawksbill decline in the Wider Caribbean and the Western Atlantic
4	Interactive map of nesting sites in IAC Contracting Parties
5	Sea turtles: a struggle for survival
6	Sea Turtle life cycle poster
7	Poster: The future of sea turtles is up to you
8	Threats to Sea Turtles and Possible Solutions
9	Sea turtles and fisheries
10	Decline of the <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> sea turtle
11	Synopsis of the leatherback sea turtle ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> )
12	An Introduction to the Sea Turtles of the World
13	Catch Fish not Turtles Using Longlines
14	The Inter-American Convention: An Introduction
15	Brochure on the IAC Convention
16	Global Status of Marine Turtles: An Overview
17	Cooperating to Conserve Sea Turtles: The Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Celebrates its 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## **CHALLENGES AND FUTURE OBJECTIVES OF THE IAC, 10 YEARS AFTER IT ENTERED INTO FORCE**

15 years since the dialogues began and 10 years after the IAC entered into force, the IAC still faces many challenges, which require strong regional collaboration to address. In addressing these challenges, the Parties must be aware of the socio-economic, environmental and cultural considerations. Finally, it is important to keep in mind that sea turtles are a shared resource and thus the IAC needs to strengthen its operation in the near future and this will only be possible if it confronts the challenges it faces and clearly defines its future objectives that have resulted from its first decade of work.

### **CHALLENGES**

- Ensure that the IAC has strong financial foundation. Parties should make their voluntary contributions regularly, so that the Convention can operate. Additional funds should also be sought by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat. The treaty envisioned that financial resources would be needed to support the Convention.
- Achieve greater participation by the Parties in Convention meetings and take advantage of the intersessional period between COPs in order for the subsidiary bodies to generate relevant

information and feedback that guides the Parties to make priority decisions in sea turtle conservation.

- Ensure Parties use status indicators and trends of the different species in their territory. Without these, it will be impossible to objectively evaluate the results presented in the Annual Reports and, as a result, it will be impossible to establish whether or not sea turtles in the hemisphere are recovering since the implementation of the IAC. This means that these indicators or specific criteria for sea turtle recovery must show the state of: protection of nesting and feeding areas, reduction of mortality in artisanal and industrial fisheries, environmental education, creation of economic alternatives, community participation and environmental control. This will also increase the participation of different institutions and sectors as well as increase the financial and technical resources invested in order to guarantee the recovery of this species.
- Create regional projects that involve various countries for the joint management of shared turtle populations. The projects should include topics such as management, capacity building and harmonization of protocols and best practices.

## **FUTURE OBJECTIVES**

- Identify in the short term, a permanent Secretariat for the IAC.
- Increase outreach efforts by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat and the Parties for other countries to adhere to the IAC and to follow up of the ones in process.
- Ensure that the Parties protect all important and critical nesting sites in their countries.
- Reduce incidental capture, especially those species listed as critically endangered, in industrial and artisanal fisheries, by promoting changes to fishing technologies or operations or by implementing other management measures like closures, technology exchange and capacity building among the Parties and other stakeholders involved.
- Encourage Party countries to establish alternative livelihoods like ecotourism to reduce direct take or incidental capture of sea turtles.
- Ensure Parties control the use of these species for economic subsistence by traditional communities until scientifically proven that the species have recovered within the region.
- Work to ensure standardized information reporting by Parties. This will allow subsidiary bodies to review the status of sea turtle populations at the national and regional level.
- Encourage technical exchange between countries, related to community participation, environmental education, building databases, networks, fishing technologies and other strategies for sea turtle conservation.
- Ensure that the Scientific and the Consultative Committees provide a summary of the state of sea turtles and their habitats to the COP6 that contains priority recommendations to improve the situation of sea turtles in the IAC region.
- Ensure that all exceptions are reported and formally reviewed by the COP6.
- Ensure completion of annual reports by the Parties and that the Convention will have an online reporting and mapping system on its website and in use by the COP6.
- Ensure that at least two MOUs with organizations that have similar objectives to the IAC will be completed by the COP6.

- Ensure that the IAC increases its visibility outside of the subsidiary bodies and the Parties, so it can be seen as a tool that can be used by the general public and decision makers in the region.

## **Acknowledgements**

### IAC Focal Points

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Ecuador: Daniel Ortega Pacheco

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We specially thank those individuals who make up the IAC for their continued support of the Convention over the years; we hope to continue to strengthen our work together.

This document was elaborated by the Consultative Committee Working group: João Carlos Alciati Thomé, Marydele Donnelly, Luis Fueyo, Hedelvy Guada, Alexis Gutiérrez and Oscar Ramírez, with the assistance of the IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretariat. The report was based on the information available from the IAC Parties annual report.

## Annex IV: CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.3 2011-2012 Work Plan

### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES TO ACCOMPLISH**

Objective 1: To inform and to create awareness in the countries of the region concerning migrations of sea turtles and the problems affecting them, for promoting their hemispheric conservation by means of the coordination between the Parties and the adhesion to the Convention of all the states in the Americas.

Objective 2: To establish strategic alliances with international conventions, regional fisheries regulating bodies, NGOs and other pertinent civil society organizations, for facilitating the search for solutions for the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitat

Objective 3: To strengthen the ability of the national and local institutions of the Party States for achieving the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitats by supporting national programs and fostering joint actions between national authorities responsible for the Convention, other governmental bodies and civil society.

Objective 4: To consolidate the operative, technical and legal capacities of the Convention through actions that favors their financial strengthening, the efficient operation of their subsidiary bodies and the timely adoption of decisions between the Parties favoring the conservation and protection of sea turtles.

Objective 5: To facilitate and support the exchange of information between the Parties concerning the legal aspects of conservation in each country, thus contributing to harmonize legal provisions at a regional level that support the achievement of the Convention's objectives.

## 2-STRATEGIC PROGRAMS

### 2.1 - STRATEGIC PROGRAM: ADHESION OF ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS TO THE CONVENTION

STRATEGIC PLANNING	WORK PLAN GOALS – SCOPE - REQUIREMENTS							
Strategic Activities	Verifiable Goals	Indicators	Program year 1		Program year 2		Responsible	Not Financed
	Products		I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
2.1.1 To continue with the efforts to achieve the adhesion of new countries.	a. Send informative bulletins non-Party countries in order to keep them updated on the activities of the Convention.	Number of documents sent		X		X	Secretariat	
	b. Inform and invite non-Party countries to the Conference of the Parties and technical meetings.	Number of documents sent	X	X	X	X	Secretariat	
	c. Participate in meetings of regional organizations with the purpose of providing information about the IAC, and contacting non-Party country delegates in order to invite them to collaborate in achieving the IAC objectives.	Number of meetings	X	X	X	X	Secretariat	
	d. Visit accredited diplomatic representatives in the host country.	Number of visits made	X	X	X	X	Secretariat	

STRATEGIC PLANNING	WORK PLAN GOALS – SCOPE - REQUIREMENTS							
Strategic Activities	Verifiable Goals	Indicators	Program year 1		Program year 2		Responsible	Not Financed
			I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
	e. Carry out necessary efforts to inform on and get Caribbean Countries involved in IAC activities in order to motivate them to become contracting Parties.	Number of countries informed or visited	X	X			Secretariat	Funds from MTCA of USFWS for travel only
f. Provide follow-up on progress in countries visited: Colombia, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Trinidad and Tobago.	Number of communications sent	X	X	X	X	Secretariat		

## 2.2- STRATEGIC INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAM

STRATEGIC PLANNING	WORK PLAN GOALS – SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS							
Strategic Activities	Verifiable Goals	Indicators	Program year 1		Program year 2		Responsible	Not Financed
			I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
2.2.1 To promote synergies with other relevant conventions and international organizations.	a. Sign two cooperation agreements with organizations related to the compliance with the objectives of the Convention.	Two agreements in progress	X	X	X	X	Contracting Parties, Secretariat and COP Chair	

STRATEGIC PLANNING	WORK PLAN GOALS – SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS							
Strategic Activities	Verifiable Goals  Products	Indicators	Program year 1		Program year 2		Responsible	Not Financed
			I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
2.2.2 To promote the exchange of information, technical knowledge and lessons learned.	a. Participate in technical meetings or workshops and IAC publications.	Number of meetings attended and IAC publications	X	X	X	X	Scientific and Consultative Committees and Secretariat.	
	b. Review and distribute Manual for Management of Nesting Beaches with help of Committee members	Final document on the IAC website and its distribution to Party Countries		X			Secretariat and Committees	
	c. Present the IACs 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary and its achievements to non-Party and Party countries at international forums and send the documents to diplomatic representatives in the PT Secretariat host country.	Number of presentations in forums and documents sent to diplomatic representatives , countries and organizations	X	X			Secretariat	
	d. Promote the awareness and celebration of world sea turtle day each year.	Number of presentations, activities and/or documents sent			X		Secretariat and Contracting Parties	

STRATEGIC PLANNING	WORK PLAN GOALS – SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS							
Strategic Activities	Verifiable Goals  Products	Indicators	Program year 1		Program year 2		Responsible	Not Financed
			I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
2.2.3 To identify the entities and persons with the capacity to commit to and/or support the IAC.	a. Promote and establish strategic alliances with entities able to commit to and/or support the IAC.	Number of established synergies or in progress	X	X	X	X	Contracting Parties, Secretariat and Committees	

### 2.3- STRATEGIC PROGRAM: ACTIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

STRATEGIC PLANNING	WORK PLAN - GOALS – SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS							
Strategic Activities	Verifiable Goals  Products	Indicators	Program year 1		Program year 2		Responsible	Not Financed
			I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
2.3.1 To elaborate and update its Work Plan following the guidelines of the Convention and the agreements and resolutions of the Conference of the Parties (COP's).	a. Prepare the committee's bi-annual work plan with actions to be performed, chronogram and those responsible.	Updated Work Plan		X		X	Scientific Committee	
	b. Complete this work plan at the next Scientific Committee meeting, identifying the tools and mechanisms necessary to carry out their work with help from Focal Points and other organizations like SPAW, IATTC, CPPS, and WIDECAS.	Work Plan, tools and mechanisms identified		X			Scientific Committee	
2.3.2 To evaluate the conservation status of the sea turtle populations	a. Prepare yearly technical report on annual reports.	Report submitted		X		X	Scientific Committee	

in the region, based on the most trustworthy scientific data and considering the environmental, socioeconomic and cultural characteristics of the Parties.

b. Prepare terms of reference for creating an IAC database in coordination with the Consultative Committee, including recommendations on what information to include and how to manage it (Annual Reports and other sources).	Database Terms of Reference prepared		X			Scientific and Consultative Committees and Secretariat	
c. Report on progress made in applying technical guidelines adopted by the Parties (Annual Reports).	Report submitted		X		X	Scientific Committee	
d. Carry out inter-sessional work groups formed by the Scientific Committee.	Reports on the results of working group(s)	X	X	X	X	Scientific Committee	
e. Make recommendations on high-priority projects that need financing and other types of support needed to achieve intended objectives.	Number of high priority project profiles		X		X	Scientific Committee	
f. Make recommendations and technical guidelines for developing activities regarding the standardization of methods to determine the status and nesting trends of sea turtles. Results from direct participation in specific activities on this topic.	Technical document and reports from workshops and/or meetings if relevant.		X		X	Scientific Committee	
g. Identify synergies with other organizations related to the IAC to help create and/or share information for a database (SPAW, IATTC, CPPS,	Present a summary of possible activities/syn		X		X		Scientific and Consultative Committees

	WIDECAST).	ergies with other organizations in meeting report						
2.3.3 To address requests from the Conference of the Parties and the Consultative Committee and make the pertinent recommendations.	a. Send recommendations to the Consultative Committee and COP, as necessary.	Number of documents with recommendations sent		X		X	Scientific Committee	
2.3.4 To foster alliances and synergies with competent specialists and organizations that shall facilitate the achievement of the IAC objectives.	a. Make recommendations that promote synergies and coordination mechanisms with entities relating to achieving the IAC objectives.	Specialists and organizations identified and/or contacted. Number of meetings at which members of the SC promoted the IAC by presenting its activities.	X	X	X	X	Scientific Committee	
	b. Create and maintain a directory of scientists and/or experts in fields related to the IAC.	Directory on the IAC web site.		X	X	X	Scientific and Consultative Committee	
	c. Collaborate with the SPAW Secretariat on data sharing and management as appropriate.	Number of meetings attended		X	X	X	Scientific Committee and SPT	



#### 2.4- STRATEGIC PROGRAM: ACTIONS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Note: At the First Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Parties carried out in Lima, 2007, it was agreed to that the expenses of all Party representatives would be covered by their respective countries. This situation has been a limiting factor in being able to have all the representatives of the countries present at the meetings. Therefore, the COP5 approved Resolution CIT-COP5-2011-R6, the Establishment of an IAC Delegate Travel Support Fund to assist member countries in attending IAC Conference of Parties and Subsidiary Body meetings.

STRATEGIC PLANNING	WORK PLAN GOALS – SCOPE - REQUIREMENTS					
Strategic Activities	Verifiable Goals Products	Indicators	Program year		Responsible	Not Financed
			Year 1	Year 2		
2.4.1 To elaborate and update the CCE Work Plan following IAC Guidelines, agreements and resolutions of the Conference of the Parties (COP's).	a. Prepare biennial Consultative Committee work plan with actions to be performed, timeline, responsible entity and funding requirements.	2014-2015 Work Plan submitted		1. Populate work plan with 2014-2015 CCE activities and goals.	Consultative Committee	
2.4.2 To work with the Secretariat to promote IAC objectives by submitting recommendations, draft resolutions, and advice to the COP.	a. Present the report to the Conference of the Parties.	Report with recommendations and/or draft resolutions presented at the COP6		1. Present a Draft Resolution to the COP6	Consultative Committee	
	b. Review Annual Reports specifically regarding compliance with resolutions.	Number of documents Presented	1. Review Parties' compliance according to information provided in 2011.	1. Review Parties' compliance according to information provided in 2012.	Consultative Committee and Secretariat	
2.4.3 To work with the Scientific Committee to promote IAC objectives.			1. Review progress made in the fisheries WG and prepare relevant recommendations. 2. Prepare scenarios and formulate sea turtle conservation strategies at the midterm, taking into consideration the scientific information available, the	1. Review progress made on the conservation strategy and prepare relevant recommendations.	Consultative Committee and Scientific Committee	\$20,000 (online & interactive map)

			<p>recommendations of the Scientific Committee and applying the precautionary approach.</p> <p>3. Assist the Secretariat in preparing a ToR for an online reporting system and interactive map.</p> <p>4. Work with the Scientific Committee to develop guidelines for National Management/Conservation plans and management plans for exceptions</p>		<p>Scientific and Consultative Committees, Secretariat and SPAW protocol</p>	
2.4.4 To analyze the exceptions submitted by the Parties.	a. Make recommendations to the COP6 based on the Annual Reports and/or the requests sent by the Parties.	Report to the COP6	1. Review exceptions currently in place and provide recommendations to COP6 and relevant Party.	1. Provide recommendations to COP6 and relevant Party	Consultative Committee	
2.4.5 To facilitate engagement of member countries with the help of the Secretariat.	a. Assess participation levels of Parties and members in subsidiary bodies and obstacles preventing their participation.	Number of Parties and Members participating	1. Make recommendations on how to increase participation in subsidiary bodies.		Consultative Committee and Secretariat	
2.4.6 To facilitate outreach to non-member countries and promote alliances and synergies with other international organizations related to IAC objectives.	a. Make recommendations for promoting synergies and coordination mechanisms with entities associated to the IAC.	Number of international organizations identified	<p>1. Draft MOUs and assist Secretariat with outreach to: ICCAT, CRFM, CARICOM, COFI-FAO.</p> <p>2. Assist the Secretariat in drafting an MOU with CITES by preparing and presenting a letter of interest at the next</p>		Consultative Committee and Secretariat	

			<p>CITES COP. Mexico &amp; Netherlands will promote the MOU at CITES COP.</p> <p>3. Promote accession to IAC: Canada, Nicaragua, Colombia El Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominican Republic, Suriname, French &amp; British Territories</p>			
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## 2.5- STRATEGIC PROGRAM: FINANCIAL RESOURCES

STRATEGIC PLANNING	WORK PLAN GOALS – SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS								
	Strategic Activities	Verifiable Goals Products	Indicators	Program year 1		Program year 2		Responsible	Not Financed
				I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
2.5.1 To identify projects and activities subject to external financing.	a. Make list of priority projects for obtaining financing.	Number of projects Identified	X	X	X	X	Secretariat, Contracting Parties and Committees		
2.5.2 To identify sponsors for the different projects.	a. Identify donor organizations.	List of donors identified	X	X	X	X	Secretariat with the help of Contracting Parties and Committees		
2.5.3 To create and negotiate financial proposals.	a. Create and negotiate financial proposals for at least 2 projects.	Two proposals submitted to different sponsors	X	X	X	X	Secretariat, Contracting Parties and Committees		

STRATEGIC PLANNING	WORK PLAN GOALS – SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS							
Strategic Activities	Verifiable Goals  Products	Indicators	Program year 1		Program year 2		Responsible	Not Financed
			I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
2.5.4 To carry out financed projects.	a. Finance two projects	Projects in execution	X	X	X	X	Secretariat	
2.5.5 To prepare reports on the projects implemented.	a. Prepare technical and financial reports.	Timely submitted reports		X		X	Secretariat	

## 2.6- STRATEGIC PROGRAM: TRAINING, COMMUNICATION AND KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION

STRATEGIC PLANNING:	WORK PLAN GOALS SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS							
Strategic Activities	Verifiable Goals  Products	Indicators	Program year 1		Program year 2		Responsible	Not Financed
			I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
2.6.1 To publish and disseminate the recommendations and decisions adopted at the meetings of the Parties.	a. Edit and send COP5 Report for its distribution.	Reports sent to Parties and committee members		X	X	X	Secretariat	
2.6.2 To disseminate and promote the exchange of information and educational material on the efforts being made by the Parties in order	a. Prepare a digital program to disseminate information regarding the efforts related to the IAC objectives.	Quarterly bulletin placed on the IAC web site	X	X	X	X	Secretariat, Party Countries and Committees	

STRATEGIC PLANNING:	WORK PLAN GOALS SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS							
Strategic Activities	Verifiable Goals Products	Indicators	Program year 1		Program year 2		Responsible	Not Financed
			I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
to increase public awareness concerning the need to protect and conserve sea turtles and their habitats.	b. Create an online reporting system	Online reporting system available on the IAC web page		X	X	X	Secretariat	\$2,200 from USFWS Grant

## 2.7- STRATEGIC PROGRAM: IMPROVEMENT OF EXECUTION ABILITY

STRATEGIC PLANNING:	WORK PLAN GOALS – SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS							
Strategic Activities	Verifiable Goals Products	Indicators	Program year 1		Program year 2		Responsible	Not Financed
			I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
2.7.1 To provide follow up in complying with the “Strategic Plan”, by means of the IAC’s bi-annual operative plans, approved at the Conferences of the Parties.	a. Approve the IAC’s 2011-2012 operative plan at the COP5.	Secretariat’s Annual Report presented		X		X	Secretariat and Committees	
2.7.2 To perform the necessary actions for implementing Resolution CIT-COP5-2011-R1 “Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat.”	a. Support the Parties and follow-up on actions necessary to implement Resolution CIT-COP5-2011-R1.	Permanent Secretariat established	X	X	X	X	Conference of the Parties with support from Secretariat	

STRATEGIC PLANNING:	WORK PLAN GOALS – SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS							
Strategic Activities	Verifiable Goals	Indicators	Program year 1		Program year 2		Responsible	Not Financed
	Products		I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
	b. Support the Permanent Secretariat and Legal Personality Working Group on legal personality, inviting the Parties to confirm their participation in this working group within 30 days of the approval of COP5 documents and preparing the working group's terms of reference.	Progress report from working group by December 2011 and final report presented at the COP	X	X	X	X	Conference of the Parties with support from Secretariat	
2.7.3 Establish the institutional mechanisms necessary for providing the IAC with the required financial resources.	a. Establish a viable system that allows the IAC to receive fiduciary fees from the Parties.	Agreement made by the COP5		X	X	X	Conference of the Parties with support from the Permanent Secretariat and Legal Personality working group	
2.7.4 Organize the Conference of the Parties (COPs) and Committee meetings as well as the working groups they establish.	a. Prepare for COP6 and its subsidiary body meetings.	COP6, Consultative and Scientific Committee Meetings held	X	X	X	X	Secretariat, COP Chair and Committee Chairs and established	

STRATEGIC PLANNING:	WORK PLAN GOALS – SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS							
Strategic Activities	Verifiable Goals	Indicators	Program year 1		Program year 2		Responsible	Not Financed
	Products		I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
							working groups	
2.7.5 Receive Annual Reports from each Party, where they report on the programs adopted to protect and conserve sea turtles and their habitat.	a. Receive Annual Reports.	Annual Reports submitted to the Secretariat and placed on the IAC website		X	X		Party Countries	
2.7.6 To inform the Parties on the regional conservation status of sea turtles in order to achieve the objectives of the IAC.	a. Sent report to the COP by the Scientific Committee on the conservation status of Sea Turtle Populations.	Document presented				X	Scientific Committee	
	b. Report to the COP from the Consultative Committee with regard to compliance of the Parties with the IAC resolutions and agreements made – adopted - applied by the COPs	Document presented				X	Consultative Committee	



STRATEGIC PLANNING:	WORK PLAN GOALS – SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS							
Strategic Activities	Verifiable Goals	Indicators	Program year 1		Program year 2		Responsible	Not Financed
	Products		I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
<p><b>2.7.7</b> To promote activities with organizations that have signed MOUs with the IAC and other multilateral agreements.</p>	<p>c. Send report to the COP from the Consultative Committee concerning the use of sea turtles or their products by the Parties (Exceptions).</p>	<p>Document presented</p>				X	Consultative Committee	
	<p>a. Participate in the meetings of these organizations as established in the MOUs.</p>	<p>Number of activities or meetings attended</p>		X	X		Secretariat	

## **Annex V: CIT-COP5-2011-R1 Terms of Reference for the IAC Subsidiary Bodies**

The Convention establishes the Consultative Committee in Article VII and the Scientific Committee in Article VIII. After a decade in force, the roles of the Committees with respect to each other and to the Conference of Parties need to be clarified to ensure efficiency of operation and avoid duplication of effort. This resolution clarifies these matters and also amends the selection process for the members of the Scientific Committee.

This resolution replaces in its entirety Resolution CIT-COP1-2003-R5 and Resolution CIT-COP1-2003-R5.

The Scientific Committee is the sole subsidiary body of the Convention to provide scientific advice and the Consultative Committee of Experts guides the Conference of the Parties on compliance with mandates of the Convention. The Consultative Committee shall review the recommendations of the Scientific Committee and the recommendations of the Scientific Committee shall be sent forth to the Conference of the Parties in a document that includes the comments as appropriate by the Consultative Committee. The Consultative Committee taking into consideration the recommendations of the Scientific Committee will draft if appropriate, resolutions for the Conference of Parties to consider at their meetings.

### **Terms of Reference for the Consultative Committee of Experts of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles**

The mandate of the Consultative Committee of Experts is established in Article VII (2) of the Convention.

#### **Objective**

Advise and guide the Conference of the Parties to comply with the mandate of the Convention in order to promote the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and of the habitats on which they depend, based on the best available scientific evidence, taking into account the environmental, socioeconomic and cultural characteristics of the Parties.

#### **Functions of the Consultative Committee of Experts**

The Consultative Committee of Experts, pursuant with Article VII (2) of the Convention, will take into consideration the opinions and recommendations of the Scientific Committee and the expert groups created to advise it, in accord with Article VII (4), and, taking into account the opinions of its multi-sectorial members, must comply with

the following:

1. To prepare and update its Work Plan, pursuant to the guidelines of the Convention, and the accords and resolutions of the Conferences of the Parties (COP's).
2. To present to the COP, through the Secretariat, opinions and recommendations that promote the objective of the Convention, on the following issues, *inter alia*:
  - a. On resolutions, amendments, creation of additional annexes and complementary protocols to the Convention;
  - b. On the actions of one or more Parties that in any way affect the objectives of the Convention;
  - c. On agenda items for the COP;
  - d. On measures to promote synergy and cooperation with international organizations, conventions and other international organisms pertinent to the objectives of the Convention and;
  - e. On measures to promote mechanisms of cooperation with the private sector, scientific community, and nongovernmental organizations (NGO's).
3. To analyze the economic and social impacts of the different proposals and measures adopted to reduce incidental or directed capture and mortality of sea turtles, in order to recommend corresponding actions to the Parties.
4. To review and analyze the annual reports, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee, in particular for the purpose of compliance with the obligations of the Convention.
5. Support the Secretariat in creating and maintaining an up-to-date directory of scientists and/or experts in fields related to the Convention, which will be available to the Parties and for whoever else requests it.
6. To periodically evaluate, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee, the format of the Annual Report for the Parties, in accord with Annex IV of the Convention.
7. To support the Parties with specialized information relevant to the Convention.

### **Structure of the Consultative Committee of Experts**

#### *Procedure for Official Representatives*

1. Pursuant to Article VII (1) (a) of the Convention, each Party may appoint one representative to the Consultative Committee, who may be accompanied at each meeting by advisors.
2. Each Party will notify the Secretariat, through diplomatic channels or via the designated focal point, the name of its official representative to the Consultative

Committee. The Secretariat will circulate the list of official representatives to all the Parties.

3. The term for official representatives to the Consultative Committee shall be 2 years. In the case that the official representative of a Party will not complete his or her term, the Party will immediately provide the Secretariat with the name of the new official representative who will complete the term. The Secretariat will then forward the name of the new official representative to all the Parties.

#### *Procedure for Sectorial Representatives*

4. Pursuant to Article VII (1) (b) of the Convention, the Parties shall also appoint, by consensus, three representatives, with recognized expertise in matters pertaining to this Convention, from each of the following groups, for a total of nine representatives:

- a. The scientific community;
- b. The private sector; and,
- c. Non-governmental organizations.

5. The Secretariat, in coordination with the Parties, will issue a public call for nominations at least 120 days prior to the COP to receive nominations from the Parties, individuals or entities. The nominations shall include the following information, which will be provided in the working languages of the Conference of the Parties:

- a. The sectorial group being nominated and the justification for this choice;
- b. The name of the candidate;
- c. The affiliation; and,
- d. The *Curriculum vitae*, profile or other documentation of qualifications or recognized expertise.

6. The nominations for the sectorial representatives shall be transmitted by the Secretariat no later than 90 days prior to the Conference of the Parties in which new members will be appointed.

7. For the designation of the sectorial representatives, the Parties will take into account the importance of the Consultative Committee including experts with knowledge and experience in matters pertaining to the Convention, as well as in the geographic areas of the hemisphere where the sea turtles occur.

8. The sectorial representatives shall be appointed to the Consultative Committee for a period of two ordinary COPs. The appointment of any sectorial representative may be renewed with the consensus of the Parties.

9. For each sector represented, the Parties will also designate three alternates based on the number of votes they receive from the Parties. These alternates can substitute a Consultative Committee member in their respective sector, in the case of absence, withdrawal, or death.

## **Meetings of the Consultative Committee of Experts**

1. The meetings of the Consultative Committee will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the Convention, except when an additional specific rule for better operation of the Committee has been approved by the Conference of the Parties, pursuant to Rules 14.1 and 14.2.
2. The meetings of the Consultative Committee will take place preferably after the meetings of the Scientific Committee, and in accordance with Article VII (3) of the Convention, meeting at least once before each COP, taking into account funding available for this purpose in the Inter-American Convention Special Fund.
3. The Conference of the Parties may request that the Consultative Committee convene an extraordinary meeting.
4. The Consultative Committee, to perform its duties, may establish sub-committees or work groups, as appropriate.
5. In general, members of the Consultative Committee shall conduct their work between sessions through electronic communication, tele/videoconferences, virtual fora and networks. The Secretariat shall facilitate these forms of communication, depending on the resources available for these purposes.
6. The Chairman and/or Rapporteur of the Scientific Committee will be invited to participate in the meetings of the Consultative Committee. The Chair of the Consultative Committee will be invited to participate in the Conference of the Parties.
7. Observers may participate in the meetings of the Consultative Committee, in accordance with Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the Convention.

## **Confidentiality of Information**

Members of the Consultative Committee of Experts shall maintain as reserved all information that they may have obtained or had access to during their tenure, which is categorized by the Parties as confidential. Likewise, they must abstain from using that information for objectives different or contrary to that established in the Convention.

### **Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of sea turtles**

The mandate given to the Scientific Committee is established in Article VIII (2) of the Convention text.

## **Objective**

To provide technical and scientific advice to the Conference of the Parties (COP) to comply with the mandate of the Convention in order to promote the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and of the habitats on which they depend, based on the best available scientific evidence, taking into account the environmental, socioeconomic and cultural characteristics of the Parties.

## **Functions of the Scientific Committee**

The Scientific Committee will have, in addition to the duties established in Article VIII (2) of the Convention, the following functions:

1. Prepare and update its Work Plan, pursuant to the guidelines of the Convention, and the accords and resolutions of the Conferences of the Parties, establishing the priority of the issues to be addressed. The Work Plan must include the areas of research and their short-term and medium-term objectives with their respective activities and indicators as well as their products. The Scientific Committee must always present the budget requirements needed to develop these activities. The Work Plan shall be presented to the Contracting Parties for its approval.
2. Evaluate the status of sea turtle populations and their habitats, especially under those circumstances subject to exceptions as indicated in Article IV (3) (b), taking into consideration the scientific information provided in the Annual Reports of the Parties (Annex IV of the Convention), among others.
3. Recommend modifications to the format and content of the Annual Report of the Parties as deemed necessary.
4. To periodically evaluate, in collaboration with the Consultative Committee, the format of the Annual Report for the Parties, in accord with Annex IV of the Convention.
5. Support the Secretariat in creating and maintaining an up-to-date directory of scientists and/or experts in fields related to the Convention, which will be available to the Parties and for whoever else requests it.
6. Analyze, as requested by the Parties, the scientific research (including sociological and economic aspects), projects and initiatives conducted by Parties or other relevant organizations or entities, and make recommendations on how to improve those actions that will help achieve the objective of the Convention.
7. Contribute to the development of bilateral, regional and multilateral management plans. This can be done through requesting outside help from experts or specialists and by forming ad-hoc working groups.

8. Develop and improve methodologies for the evaluation of environmental, socioeconomic and cultural impacts resulting from the measures adopted within the framework of the Convention.

9. Support actions directed towards development, use, training and transfer of socially and ecologically sustainable technologies.

10. Present the report on the ordinary meeting each year to the Consultative Committee of Experts, through the Secretariat.

11. Present annually to the Parties, through the Secretariat, a report on its inter-sessional work since the last COP. This report must be approved by consensus of its members and the Committee Chair will present it to the plenary of the COP. This report shall include the results of working groups, when applicable, as well as observations and recommendations on measures in addition to those described in the Convention to achieve its objective. In the event where consensus cannot be achieved a minority and majority report should be reported to the Conference of the Parties.

### **Structure of the Scientific Committee**

#### *Procedure for representatives designated unilaterally by the Parties*

1. Each Party may designate one representative to the Scientific Committee, who should have an academic degree and/or recognized expertise in any of the relevant thematic areas. The Party will notify the Secretariat, through diplomatic channels or via its designated focal point, the name of this representative. The Secretariat will circulate the list of these representatives to all the Parties.

2. Each representative to the Scientific Committee may be accompanied by up to three advisors. Before each meeting, the Party will provide the Secretariat, through diplomatic channels or via its designated focal point, with a list of its delegation.

3. The term for representatives designated by the Parties shall be 2 years, at the end of which the Party may renew the designation. In case the designated representative of a Party cannot complete this term or must be absent from a meeting, the Party shall immediately provide the Secretariat with the name of the representative who will complete it. The Secretariat shall inform all the Parties the name of the new representative.

### **Meetings of the Scientific Committee**

1. The meetings of the Scientific Committee will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the Convention (Resolution COP1CIT-004), except when an additional specific rule for better operation of the Committee has been approved by the Conference of the Parties, pursuant to Rules 14.1 and 14.2.

2. The meetings of the Scientific Committee will take place at least once a year, preferably prior to the meetings of the Consultative Committee and taking into account, among other things, the financial resources available for this purpose in the Inter-American Convention Special Fund.
3. In general, members of the Scientific Committee shall conduct their work between sessions through electronic communication, tele/videoconferences, virtual fora and networks. The Secretariat shall facilitate these forms of communication, depending on the resources available for these purposes.
4. The Conference of Parties may request through the Secretariat, that the Scientific Committee convene an extraordinary meeting.
5. The Scientific Committee, to perform its tasks, may establish sub-committees or working groups, as appropriate.
6. The Chair and/or Rapporteur of the Consultative Committee of Experts will be invited to participate in the meetings of the Scientific Committee. The Chair of the Scientific Committee will be invited to participate in the Conference of the Parties.
7. The Scientific Committee may invite to its meetings any scientific institution or individual experts on matters pertaining to the objective of the Convention subject to available resources.
8. Observers may participate in the meetings of the Scientific Committee, in accordance with Rule 11 of Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the Convention (Resolution COP1CIT-004).

### **Confidentiality of Information**

Members of the Scientific Committee of Experts shall maintain as reserved all information that they may have obtained or had access to during their tenure, which is categorized by the Parties as confidential. Likewise, they must abstain from using that information for objectives different or contrary to those established in the Convention.



## Annex VI: CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.5 IAC Annual Report

Annex IV of the Convention text states that each Contracting Party shall hand in an Annual Report. To complete this Annual Report, Focal Points should consult with various stakeholders involved in sea turtle issues. If you have any questions regarding this Annual Report, please write to the PT Secretariat at [secretario@iacseaturtle.org](mailto:secretario@iacseaturtle.org)

Please note that the date to submit this Annual Report is **X of 2011**.

### Part I (General Information)

*Please fill out the following tables. Add additional rows if necessary.*

#### a.\_ Focal Point

Institution	
Name	
Date Annual Report submitted	

#### b.\_ Agency or Institution responsible for preparing this report

Name of Agency or Institution	
Name of the person responsible for completing this report	
Address	
Telephone(s)	
Fax	
E-mail	

#### c.\_ Others who participated in the preparation of this report

Name	Agency or Institution	E-mail

**Part II (Policy and Management)**

**a.\_ General description of activities carried out for the protection and conservation of sea turtles**

*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 and explain the level of progress in the comments column.*

	<b>YES/NO/ In Progress</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Does your country have a national plan of action in accordance with Article XVIII?		
Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional levels in accordance with Article XVIII?		
Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?		

**b.\_ National legislation and international instruments related to sea turtles adopted in the preceding year**

*Describe any national regulations, international agreements and other legal instruments adopted during the preceding year (April 30, 20XX-April 30, 20XX) related to sea turtles and/or relevant activities. Provide a reference and attach the digital file for the legislation and its corresponding number. The laws adopting the international legislation should be included, when they exist.*

<b>National Legislation</b>		
Type and name of legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanctions(s) Imposed
<b>International Instruments</b>		

Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding	Year signed and/or ratified

**Note:** *If this is the first time a country is submitting this information, please include all pertinent national legislation and international instruments currently in force.*

**c.\_ Actions for compliance with national and international legislation**

**c.1 IAC Resolutions**

*Fill in the following tables for each of the IAC Resolutions listed below. In the case that a Resolution does not apply to your country, please mark the box RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY, and if a specific question does not apply, please mark the column DOES NOT APPLY. If you need more space to describe these actions, please attach additional pages and note the resolution and question number to which you are responding.*

**Resolution CIT-COP2-2004 R1:** Conservation of leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

**ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP2-2004-R1, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:**

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY	
			DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
1a) Have you created conservation plans and long-term programs that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback turtle in the Eastern Pacific?				
1b) Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?				
2a) Have you taken conservation measures to significantly reduce the use of leatherback turtle products and by-products?				
2b) Do you evaluate these conservation measures?				
3a) 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?				
3b) Do you evaluate the conservation measures taken to protect those				

nesting sites and their associated habitats?				
4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?				
5a) Is your country collecting information on incidental capture of leatherbacks in the following fisheries:				
Artisanal fisheries				
i) Long-line				
ii) Gillnets				
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))				
Industrial fisheries				
i) Long-line				
ii) Gillnets				
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))				
5b) Have you provided the IAC with information on incidental capture of leatherbacks in the following fisheries:				
Artisanal fishing				
i) Long-line				
ii) Gillnets				
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))				
Industrial fisheries				
i) Long-line				
ii) Gillnets				
iii) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))				
6. Have you established agreements and/or understandings with countries fishing within international waters to adopt fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture of leatherback turtles? List which countries:				
7. Have you encouraged other non-Party states to the IAC, carrying out activities that affect leatherback turtles, to adopt measures in favor of their conservation, by means of bilateral, multilateral or regional contacts?				
8. Have any cooperative agreements or alliances been established with pertinent organizations? List:				

**(\*) Specify actions implemented, name of the project or relevant document, location, objective(s), institutions responsible, contact, financial or other support (optional), results (both positive and negative) and duration.**

**Resolution CIT-COP3-2006 R-1: Hawksbill turtle conservation (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)**

**ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP3-2006-R1, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:**

		RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY			
IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY	
1. Has your country promoted synergies with other Conventions, treaties, international organizations, and/or regional fisheries bodies on the management and conservation of hawksbill turtles and their habitats? Indicate which one(s).					
2 a) Are you strengthening monitoring of the illegal use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products?					
2 b) Are you enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation?					
2 c) Are activities being carried out in order to stop illegal trade of hawksbill products?					
3. Does your country support and strengthen the research and monitoring activities required to improve the scientific basis of conservation measures for the hawksbill turtle? Especially in:	Genetics				
	Migratory behavior				
	Location and conservation status of foraging habitats.				
	Location and conservation status of prey species.				
	Population dynamics at foraging sites				
	Integrity of nesting habitats				
	Others (specify)				
4. As indicated in the recommendations from FAO's Technical Meeting on the conservation of marine turtles and fisheries that was held in Bangkok in 2004 and adopted by the 26th Session of FAO's Fisheries Committee (COFI),	a) Evaluate incidental capture of hawksbill turtles in jurisdictional waters.				
	b) Actions to mitigate incidental capture of hawksbill turtles in their jurisdictional				

does your country carry out any activities mentioned in a) and/or b)?	waters.				
<b>5. Does your country apply the precautionary approach when considering proposals for seismic exploration on priority marine habitats of the hawksbill turtle?</b>					
<b>6. Indicate if your country is strengthening the protection of important nesting and foraging habitats by declaring protected areas and regulating anthropogenic activities that adversely impact these habitats.</b>	a) Protection of nesting habitats				
	b) Protection of feeding habitats				
<b>7. Does your country promote exchange of technical capacity and collaborative research on hawksbill habitats among Parties as well as non Parties and other involved organizations in the Area of the Convention?</b>					

(\*) Specify actions implemented, name of the project or relevant document, location, objective(s), institutions responsible, contact, financial or other support (optional), results (both positive and negative) and duration.

**Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R2:** Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles

**ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP3-2006-R2, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:**

<b>IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>DESCRIBE ACTION (*)</b>	<b>DOES NOT APPLY</b>
1. Adopted the "Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality induced by fisheries operations", of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), including:				
A. Research and monitoring of adverse impact of fisheries on sea turtles				
• Collect information by fishery				
• Observer programs				
• Research on sea turtle/fishery interactions				

• Information on non-Party vessels				
• Cooperation with non-Party states to obtain information				
B. Mitigation measures for the following fisheries:				
i) Long-line				
ii) Gillnets				
iii) Trawling (e.g., 1. TEDs: specify legally approved TEDs, their dimensions, material, and target species for that fishery, 2. time-area closures: specify geographical area, time of closure and target species for that fishery, 3. tow times and/or 4. other measures)				
iv) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))				
C. Training, education and dissemination				
• Training, education and dissemination activities				
D. Harmonization of policies and legislation				
• Modifications to instruments				
E. Capacity building				
• Creation of a national sea turtle committee/network				
F. Financing				
• Financial support obtained to implement guidelines in this resolution				
G. Socio-economic considerations				
• Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles				
H. Other aspects				
• Environmental impact studies for mariculture projects				
2. Sent information and documents on sea turtles created by your country to the Secretariat of the Convention? List documents.				
3. Initiated activities that assist the Convention Secretariat in contacting non Party States through established mechanisms, especially in the area of the Convention, so that they may provide, in a cooperative spirit, the Secretariat with available data on incidental sea turtle catches in their fisheries?				
4. Supports the Convention Secretariat, through established mechanisms, to				

commence discussions with regional fishery management organizations in order to develop Memorandum of Understandings.				
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**(\*) Specify actions implemented, name of the project or relevant document, location, objective(s), institutions responsible, contact, financial or other support (optional), results (both positive and negative) and duration.**

**Resolution CIT-COP4-2009-R5: Adaptation of sea turtle habitats to climate change**

**ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP4-2009-R5, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:**

<b>IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>DESCRIBE ACTION (*)</b>	<b>DOES NOT APPLY</b>
1 a) Have marine and coastal habitats on which sea turtles depend been included in national plans and programs for adaptation to climate change? Specify habitats and plans				
1 b) Are these plans for adaptation to climate change being implemented?				
2 a) Are corrective measures and measures on adaptation to climate change included within management plans and/or protection and conservation programs for sea turtles and their habitats?				
2 b) Are you evaluating the corrective measures and measures on adaptation to climate change included within management plans and/or protection and conservation programs for sea turtles and their habitats?				
3. Have you identified any organizations or pertinent expert groups as possible partners to work on the topic of adaptation by sea turtles to climate change? Please list.				
4. Have you carried out research and monitoring to improve knowledge of the effects on, and vulnerability of sea turtles and their habitats, to climate change?				
5. Has your country hosted capacity building workshops for monitoring techniques and/or adaptation to climate change?				
6. Has your country implemented mitigation measures for non-climatic threats as a way to improve the resilience of populations to the impacts of climate change? Specify which ones.				

**(\*) Specify actions implemented, name of the project or relevant document, location, objective(s), institutions responsible, contact, financial or other support (optional), results (both positive and negative) and duration.**



**c.2 National and International Mandates**

List actions that are being carried out to comply with national and international mandates (Ex: inspections, confiscations, sanctions, etc.)

**d.\_ Application[submission] of exceptions established in the Convention**

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-R2). Attach management program.

**Part III (Research information)**

**a.\_ Threats**

Describe threats (**Coastal development, incidental capture, direct use, contamination and pathogens, and climate change**) by species, with information on the area and activities taken to control them in the following table. Lo = *Lepidochelys olivacea*; Lk = *Lepidochelys kempii*; Dc = *Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei = *Eretmochelys imbricata*; Cc = *Caretta caretta*; Cm = *Chelonia mydas*.

Species	Threat(s)	Actions
Lo		
Lk		
Dc		
Ei		
Cm		
Cc		

**b.\_ Research**

Describe scientific research that is being carried out in the country relating to sea turtle population assessments including tagging, migration, and genetic studies, as well as those relating to conservation issues including habitat monitoring, fisheries interactions, disease, etc. Provide a list of references for the information used in this report and note how to obtain them when needed.

**c.\_ Other activities**

Include information on: environmental education activities, programs to establish and manage protected areas, and cooperative activities with other Party countries.

**Part IV: Annexes**

**Table 1: Species Present**

Place an X in the box when the species listed is present in the oceanographic basins of your country as established in Article III of the text of the Convention. Lo = *Lepidochelys*

*olivacea*; Lk = *Lepidochelys kempii*; Dc = *Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei = *Eretmochelys imbricata*; Cm = *Chelonia mydas*; Cc = *Caretta caretta*.

Species	Pacific Ocean	Atlantic Ocean	Caribbean Sea
Lo			
Lk			
Dc			
Ei			
Cm			
Cc			

**Table 2: Important nesting sites for sea turtle conservation**

- a. *This table is intended to report information on the priority nesting beaches (for example, sites with greater abundance, endemism, genetic importance, others) for each species. For beaches that have multiple species nesting, enter that beach under the list for the primary nesting species. When entering information on nesting beaches, information is to be entered for each species independently. Indicate the names of nesting sites and the nesting season months for each site.*
- b. *Geographic location: Specify latitude and longitude in degrees, minutes and seconds - provide one or two points of reference for nesting sites (if available).*
- c. *Extension: Provide the total length (in Kilometers) of the nesting beach.*
- d. *Declared protection area: Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area.*
- e. *Protection measures: Indicate if any type of protection measures are in place at the nesting site (For example, turtle safe lights).*
- f. *Annual nesting abundance: Where possible, provide information on the total number of females and/or nests deposited at the nesting beach. If a specific value is not available, please provide a range for annual number of nesting females or nests deposited. If data are unavailable, enter 'unknown' or 'unavailable'. The ranges for annual number of females are: 0-10, 11-100, 101-500, 501-1000, 1001-5000, 5001-10000, 10001-50000, 50001-100000, >100000. The ranges for annual number of nests are: 0-10, 11-100, 101-500, 501-1000, 1001-5000, 5001-10000, 10001-100000, 100001-500000, >500000. On a separate sheet, provide a brief description/justification on why each site that was mentioned is considered important (sites with greater abundance, endemism, genetic, others). Include historical information (graphic and/or tables) showing the population status of each species present at the site.*
- g. *Information from tagging program: Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the nesting beach. This includes flipper tagging, passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry programs. If possible, on a separate sheet or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available.*

- h. Tissue sampling: Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, or as attached references, describe these tissue sampling programs in greater detail. For example, were samples collected for genetic, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies?*

spp	Name of Priority Nesting Site (Regular nesting)	Season	Geographic Location (Lat/Long) in Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds																Extension (km)	Declared Protection Area	Protection Measures	Annual Nesting Abundance		Tagging Program	Tissue Sampling
			Beginning								Ending											Females	Clutches		
Lo			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						
Lk			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						
Dc			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						
Ei			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						
Cm			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						
Cc			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						
			°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W	to	°	'	"	N	°	'	"	W						

**Table 3: Important in-water sites for sea turtle conservation**

- a. *This table is intended to contain information for the priority in-water sites for each species. For marine habitats that have multiple species present, enter the specific site under the heading for the priority species at that site. Indicate whether or not there is in water occurrence and/or foraging sites for that species.*
- b. *Geographic location: Describe the in-water site in general, providing the name of the site and points of reference at sea, when available. If possible add the geographic location in Lat/Long coordinates.*
- c. *Declared protection area: Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area.*
- d. *Information from tagging program: Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the in-water site. This includes flipper tagging, passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry programs. If possible, on a separate sheet, or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available.*
- e. *Tissue sampling: Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, or as attached references describe these tissue sampling programs in greater detail. For example, were samples collected for genetic, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies?*

Species		Description of geographic location	Declared Protection Area	Tagging Program	Tissue Sampling
Lo	In water Occurrence				
	Foraging Sites				
Lk	In water Occurrence				
	Foraging Sites				
Dc	In water Occurrence				
	Foraging Sites				
Ei	In water Occurrence				
	Foraging Sites				
Cm	In water Occurrence				
	Foraging Sites				
Cc	In water Occurrence				
	Foraging Sites				

## **Annex VII: CIT-COP1-2003-R4-Rev.1 Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles**

### **RULE 1 APPLICATION**

These rules shall apply to any meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles held pursuant to Article V.

### **RULE 2 DEFINITIONS**

In addition to the definitions under Article I of the Convention, for the purposes of the foregoing Rules of Procedure, the following definitions shall apply:

- a) *Convention*: The Inter-American Convention on the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles;
- b) *Rules of Procedure*: The Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention;
- c) *Conference of the Parties*: The meetings of the Parties established pursuant to Article V of the Convention;
- d) *Meeting*: Any ordinary or extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties held pursuant to Article V of the Convention;
- e) *Chair*: The person elected to preside the Conference of the Parties pursuant to the Rules of Procedure;
- f) *Subsidiary Bodies*: Any committee or working group established by the Convention or the Conference of the Parties, including the Consultative Committee and the Scientific Committee, whenever they are established;
- g) *Secretariat*: The entity responsible for carrying out the functions described in Article VI of the Convention, established pursuant to the Rules of Procedure;
- h) *Focal Point*: Any government entity designated by a Party to act as liaison with the Secretariat and Subsidiary Bodies created under the Convention;

### **RULE 3 MEETINGS**

The Meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held under the terms and conditions established in Article V of the Convention and meetings shall be subject to a quorum of at least two thirds of the Parties to the Convention.

### **RULE 4 REPRESENTATION**

4.1 Each Party shall notify the Secretariat, through the official channels it deems appropriate, of the conformation of its delegation to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

4.2 Each Party shall designate a Focal Point with the main responsibility of acting as liaison with the Secretariat in the period between meetings.

## **RULE 5**

### **DECISION-MAKING**

5.1 Decisions shall be adopted by consensus of the Parties pursuant to Article V (5) of the Convention. For adopting a decision, quorum shall consist of no less than two thirds of the Parties to the Convention.

5.2 Consensus shall exist when there is general agreement among the Parties, unless a delegation expressly states its opposition.

5.3 For decision-making on financial and budgetary matters, the Parties shall consider any recommendations made by the Secretariat for resource optimization, distribution of financial burdens and possible funding sources.

5.4 For decision-making on matters pertaining to the Subsidiary Bodies, Parties shall take into consideration any recommendations made by them. In case the Conference of the Parties decides not to accept said recommendations, said matters could be sent back to the appropriate Subsidiary Body for further analysis and submission of new recommendations.

5.5 In case a decision needs to be made between sessions, particularly in cases of emergency that cannot wait until an ordinary or extraordinary meeting is held, a decision may be adopted by correspondence or electronic means, no longer than thirty (30) days after the determination that said decision be made by those means. In that case, the following shall apply:

- a) The Chair, through the Secretariat, shall explain the issue or problem and suggest alternatives for solutions to the Parties.
- b) The Parties shall promptly acknowledge receipt of any request for a decision through these means.
- c) Should acknowledgement of receipt not be received within a week of the transmittal date, the Secretariat shall re-transmit the request and shall use all additional means available to ensure it has been received.
- d) Should the Secretariat receive no answer from a Party that acknowledges receipt within the required period, this Party shall be recorded as having abstained, but this will not prevent adoption of the decision.
- e) The Secretariat shall communicate to the Parties any decisions made by these means as soon as possible but no later than fifteen (15) days.

## **RULE 6**

### **AGENDA**

- 6.1 The provisional agenda for the meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall be prepared by the Secretariat following the instructions of the Chair, as well as any requests by the Parties, and shall be forwarded, together with any necessary supporting documentation, to all Parties and observers, no less than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the meeting.
- 6.2 Any comment or suggestion made by the Parties received after distribution of the provisional agenda but no less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the meeting shall be taken into consideration, unless related to urgent matters, which shall be allowed to be presented up to thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the meeting.
- 6.3 The provisional agenda for each ordinary meeting shall include, as appropriate:
- a) Items provided for by the Convention, including that set forth in Article V(3);
  - b) Any items to be included from previous meetings, as decided by the Parties;
  - c) Any item proposed by a Party prior to approval of the provisional agenda;
  - d) Any other items the Conference of the Parties deems necessary for consideration.
- 6.4 At the start of each meeting, the Chair shall submit the provisional agenda to the Conference of the Parties for approval.

## **RULE 7**

### **DEBATES**

- 7.1 The meetings of the Conference of the Parties and of the subsidiary bodies shall be open, unless the Parties or the relevant body decides otherwise.
- 7.2 No representative may take the floor in meetings of the Conference of the Parties without prior authorization from the Chair, who shall yield the floor in the same order as requests are made.
- 7.3 During the discussion of an issue, any Party may present a motion of order and the Chair shall immediately act on it, pursuant to the provisions of these Rules of Procedure. Any Party making a motion of order may not at the same time speak to the substance of the issue under discussion.
- 7.4 During a debate, the Chair may develop a list of speakers and with the agreement of the Conference of Parties, declare the list to be closed. However, the Chair may grant the right of response to any Party if an intervention made after the list was closed makes it necessary.



7.5 During the debate of any issue, any Party may propose suspending, adjourning, or postponing the debate. Said motions shall immediately be submitted to the Parties for a decision, including a decision on the resumption of the debate.

7.6 The observers may have the opportunity to participate in the debates. The Chair will make all efforts that the debates are not exclusive to the observers.

7.7 Any Party may request an executive session or heads of delegation meeting due to issues of confidentiality.

## **RULE 8**

### **CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND RAPPORTEUR**

8.1 The Conference of the Parties shall elect the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Rapporteur at the end of the ordinary meeting, to act in that capacity until the end of the next ordinary meeting.

8.2 The Chair, Vice Chair and Rapporteur may be re-elected. The Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Rapporteur shall assume their positions immediately after being elected.

8.3 The functions of the Chair of the Conference of the Parties shall be:

- a) To open and adjourn each meeting;
- b) To preside the meetings;
- c) To direct the meetings pursuant to the approved agenda;
- d) To guide the discussions, to submit issues for decision by the Parties and to announce any decisions;
- e) To yield the floor;
- f) To determine, upon consultation with the Secretariat, the draft provisional agenda and the provisional agenda for each Conference of the Parties;
- g) To sign the report of each meeting prior to its distribution to the Parties and other interested persons, as appropriate;
- h) To give follow-up to decisions and resolutions from the Conference of the Parties, in collaboration with the Secretariat.

8.4 When the Chair is temporarily unable to participate, the Vice-Chair shall take on the functions of the Chair.

8.5 Should the position of Chair is left vacant permanently, the Vice-Chair shall take on the duties of the Chair until the Parties elect a new Chair.

8.6 The Chair or the Vice-Chair, while chairing the Conference of the Parties shall not participate in decision-making, unless expressly on behalf of his/her delegation.

8.7 The Rapporteur shall assist the Secretariat in drafting the meeting reports, the minutes of the meetings and any other functions assigned to him under these Rules of Procedure and others assigned by the Conference of the Parties.

## **RULE 9 LANGUAGE**

9.1 The official languages of the Convention shall be Spanish, French, Spanish and Portuguese. The working languages of the Conference of the Parties shall be Spanish and English.

9.2 Any interventions in one of the working languages shall be interpreted to the other. In case a different language is used, the Party or observer involved shall see that it is interpreted into the working languages.

9.3 All official publications and communications shall be prepared in the official languages, as appropriate.

## **RULE 10 DOCUMENTS, FILES AND REPORTS**

10.1 Documents prepared for discussion at the Meetings, shall be written in one of the working languages and translated into the other, to be distributed prior to the relevant meeting. If necessary, and unless a Party is not opposed, the Chair may allow discussions on documents that were not translated into the working languages, or that were distributed on the same day of the session where they are to be discussed.

10.2 The minutes of each meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall be prepared by the Rapporteur, with support of the Secretariat and distributed to the Parties for their review no later than 15 days after the end of the meeting. The Parties shall have 30 days to make comments. In case there are substantive comments or observations, the Secretariat shall forward these to the other Parties. After exhausting the exchange of communications, the minutes shall be deemed to be approved.

10.3 The minutes, memoirs, summary reports, proposals, as well as any other document emanating from the Conference and adopted by it, shall be transmitted by the Secretariat to the Parties and made available to the participants as soon as possible after each meeting.

10.4 Resolutions, recommendations and decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties shall be forwarded by the Secretariat to the Parties and made available to the

participants as soon as possible after each meeting, and in no case no later than thirty (30) days after the conclusion of the relevant meeting.

10.5 The Conference of the Parties shall adopt an annual report, or bi-annual, as appropriate, of its activities, which shall include:

- a) A report on the activities carried out by the Conference during the inter-sessional period;
- b) A report of ordinary and extra-ordinary meetings;
- c) An executive summary of the reports set forth in Article XI of the Convention; and,
- d) An executive summary of the reports on activities carried out by the Subsidiary Bodies during the corresponding period.

## **RULE 11 OBSERVERS**

11.1 Interested States and international organizations may participate in the Conference of the Parties as observers, in accordance with Article V (6). The Secretariat will extend the corresponding invitations.

11.2 Organizations or individuals of the private sector, scientific institutions and non-governmental organizations with recognized expertise in matters pertaining to the Convention may solicit their accreditation to participate as observers in the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with Article V (6).

11.3 Once the place and date of the next Conference of Parties are defined, the Secretariat, in consultation with the host country, will determine the deadline for the reception of requests for accreditation consistent with Rule 11.6.

11.4 For their accreditation, the applicants of the private sector, scientific institutions, and non-governmental organizations, must include in their respective requests the following information:

- a) experience related with the matters of the Convention,
- b) legal status in accordance with the legislation of the country of origin, when appropriate.

11.5 Once the participation of an observer is accredited, they must notify the Secretariat of their intention to participate when a Conference of Parties is convened.

11.6 The Secretariat will distribute among the Parties a list of the observers requesting participation, at least 90 days before the next Conference of the Parties, including the

order of presentation of the requests and also information about the logistic capacity of the organizers.

11.7 For extra-ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with Rule 12.4, only observers accredited for the previous Conference may participate.

11.8 Observers may participate in meetings of the Convention and its Subsidiary Bodies, consistent with Rules 7.1 and 7.7.

11.9 The Parties, through the Secretariat, may require observers to pay reasonable fees to cover the costs related with their participation.

11.10 Observers must comply with all the rules, procedures, and norms applicable to the other participants in the meeting.

11.11 The documentation distributed to the Parties will be available for observers, except that which the Parties consider to be of reserved use.

11.12 Observers may distribute documents through the Secretariat, make declarations, or be involved in other activities, as appropriate and with previous authorization of the President. All that information distributed by an observer without heeding the above may be retracted by instructions from the President.

11.13 If an observer is undermining the objectives of the Convention or is not complying with Rule 11.10 or other applicable Rules of Procedure, their accreditation will be withdrawn at the request of a Party when the Party submits such a request, with a written justification, to the Secretariat. The withdrawal of accreditation will be effective immediately.

11.14 The Secretariat, in accordance with Resolution COP1-001 (3) (b), will maintain a register of observers who participate in the Conferences of the Parties.

## **RULE 12**

### **DATE AND PLACE OF MEETINGS**

12.1 Ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be convened pursuant to Article V of the Convention.

12.2 Meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in the country chosen by the Conference of the Parties at its previous meeting, based on the official invitation of the Party. The host Party shall determine the exact dates and duration of each ordinary meeting, after consultation with the Secretariat and the other Parties.

12.3 Extraordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be convened only after a Party so requests it from the Secretariat, pursuant to Article V (2) of the Convention.

To the extent possible, an extraordinary meeting may be convened if in a period equal or smaller than 120 days another meeting of the Conference of the Parties has been scheduled.

12.4 The majority of the States shall support the request for an extraordinary meeting, provided that the Parties have approved holding said meeting no later than thirty (30) days from the date of the request. The meetings shall be convened no later than ninety (90) days from the date the request receives support by the majority.

### **RULE 13**

#### **AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES**

13.1 A Party may propose amendments to these Rules of Procedure by submitting to the Chair of the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, the text of the proposed amendment, no later than ninety (90) days prior to the next Meeting of the Parties. The Chair shall forward any proposed amendment to all Parties, through the Secretariat, no later than fifteen (15) days after receipt. Any proposed amendment shall be included in the provisional agenda of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

13.2 Any amendment to the Rules of Procedure shall enter into force immediately upon adoption by the Parties.

13.3 Should any doubts arise regarding the scope or meaning of the Rules of Procedure, it shall be up to the Conference of the Parties to make a decision to this effect.

### **RULE 14**

#### **SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

14.1 With the exception of the reference to the text that establishes that meetings shall be subject to a quorum of at least two thirds of the Parties to the Convention, these Rules of Procedure shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies established pursuant to Articles VII and VIII of the Convention, as well as to those of any other Subsidiary Body approved by the Conference of the Parties and in accordance with the Terms of Reference established for them by the Conference of the Parties.

14.2 In case a Subsidiary Body requires additional specific rules for better operation, these shall be approved by the Conference of the Parties.

## **Annex VIII: CIT-COP5-2011-R2 Procedures for Cases Where Exceptions Exist**

### **Preamble**

According to Annex IV(e) of the text of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (Convention), Parties have the obligation to give a detailed description of any exceptions allowed.

Exceptions will only be considered in cases where national regulations exist that recognize and regulate extractive use to satisfy economic subsistence needs of traditional communities.

Exceptions will only be considered when the Conference of the Parties deems that such exceptions do not undermine efforts to achieve the objective of this Convention.

The Consultative Committee should be mindful as it reviews the exception(s) presented by a Party to ensure it is in line with the spirit of Article IV(3) a so that the exception does not undermine the objectives of the Convention.

Parties should inform as part of the Annual Report about any extractive use (direct take) allowed under national regulations, in accordance with Articles IV(3) a and b, and Annex IV(e).

Therefore, every Annual Report must inform about the existence of all exceptions. The Party must also indicate explicitly in the Report when no exceptions exist.

### **Procedure for cases where exceptions exist**

1. According to Article IV(3) a and b and Annex IV(e), the Party that allows an exception will present said exception to the Convention in the Annual Report, according to the guidelines established by the Conference of the Parties so that the subsidiary bodies can provide the relevant recommendations and assess if the scheme of use in question undermines the objectives of the Convention.

2. The Secretariat will verify that all of the information requested in this procedure is included in the exception presented by the Party. If this is met, the Secretariat will deliver the information to the Scientific Committee for their review and analysis. In cases where the guidelines are not met, the Secretariat will request from the Party any additional information that is relevant.

3. The Scientific Committee will analyze the validity of the information on the exception. If necessary, the Scientific Committee can request additional information from the Party through the Secretariat, and report to the Consultative Committee.

4. The Consultative Committee will review the exception, based on the analysis of the Scientific

Committee, and give its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.

5. If any of the subsidiary bodies determine that the exception undermines the objectives of the Convention, the Consultative Committee as established in Article VII(2) a-e, can recommend that the Conference of the Parties request the Party in question to carry out immediate remedial measures that resolve the concerns of the Committees.

6. Based on the recommendations of the Consultative Committee, the Conference of the Parties will evaluate if the exception in question upholds the objectives of the Convention, in accordance with Article II.

7. The Party presenting the exception is required to follow up on any recommendations from the Conference of the Parties.

8. The interested Party must report any changes in the information presented in Annual Reports subsequent to the presentation of the exception.

9. The Secretariat will follow up with the Party during the intercessional period to assess the compliance with the recommendations and report to the subsidiary bodies, which in turn will inform the Conference of the Parties.

**Basic elements to be included for the presentation of exceptions:**

Specific elements for the presentation of exceptions will be developed in detail by the Scientific Committee, based on the best available scientific information.

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- a. Introduction (summary, 2 pages maximum)
- b. Background, including:
  - i. Location
  - ii. Type of use (description)
- c. Attach a copy of the law or regulation in place

**II. BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

The information to be presented must demonstrate that the use does not undermine the objectives of the Convention. It must include, among others:

- a. Information on species and populations present and their threats (including possible effects of climate change)
- b. Geographic distribution of sea turtles and the impacts
- c. Research carried out or in progress
- d. Population assessment including status and trends
- e. Description of the habitat
- f. Number/limit of nests (eggs) or individuals taken annually
- g. Predicted impact to local, domestic and regional sea turtle populations

### III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INFORMATION

The Parties must demonstrate that the use conforms to Article IV(3) a with respect to economic subsistence needs of traditional communities. This information can include, among others:

- a. Socio-economic and cultural characterization of the beneficiaries
- b. Characterization of the traditional/cultural use in place
- c. Marketing of the product, if carried out (Commercialization chain, income generated for immediate users, and distribution pattern of benefits, among others)
- d. Characterization and estimation of size of illegal trade

### IV. MANAGEMENT PLAN

In compliance with Article IV(3)(b)i, Parties presenting an exception must formulate and present a Management Plan specific to the sea turtle resource, which establishes limits on extractive use. It is recommended that the Management Plan include, as a minimum, the following information or specifications:

- a. Conservation, control and protection measures to be implemented
- b. The means of implementation
- c. Monitoring and evaluation (indicators and verifiers) including monitoring of illegal trade/harvest
- d. Resource scheme of use and methodology
- e. Period established for use of the resource
- f. Impact of use of the target species and other species of sea turtles at local and regional level
- g. Limitations, obstacles and threats
- h. Study of the viability of economic alternatives when applicable
- i. Financial plan of the management plan
- j. Enforcement plan for the management plan
- k. Minimum 5-year duration
- l. Bibliography



## Annex IX: CIT-COP5-2011-R3 Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat

**CONSIDERING** that Article VI of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) contemplates the establishment and functions of a Secretariat by the Parties;

**TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION** that at the First Conference of the Parties, through Resolution CIT-COP1-2002-R1, a *Pro Tempore* Secretariat was established for a period of two years, which was then extended for successive two-year periods and continues to function;

**RECOGNIZING** the need to have a permanent administrative body that has the necessary resources to carry out the functions as established in Article VI of the Convention and comply with the mandates of the Conference of the Parties.

**TAKING ALSO INTO ACCOUNT** the terms of reference for the IAC Permanent Secretariat approved at the First Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties, through the Resolution CIT-COPE1-2007-R1;

**RECOGNIZING** the need to evaluate the most appropriate methods to address important points regarding the operation of the Permanent Secretariat, including, among others, points related to its legal status and contracting personnel;

**RECALLING** the Resolution CIT-COP4-2009-R2 through which a Working Group on the Legal Framework of the Convention and Permanent Secretariat was established to evaluate the most appropriate methods to address those important points regarding the operation of the Permanent Secretariat and to present to the Parties the possible alternatives;

**TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION** the exchange of different viewpoints that occurred during the COP5IAC;

**TAKING ALSO INTO CONSIDERATION** the Resolution CIT-COP4-2009-R4 that accepted the proposal by the United States presented in Annex I to host the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat for a period of up to four (4) years and to undertake the functions and duties described in Article VI of the Convention, as well as any other tasks and mandates assigned by the Conference of the Parties, taking into account the interim nature of the arrangement and the availability of resources.

**RECOGNIZING** that despite the fact that the issues of the legal status of the Permanent Secretariat continue to be unresolved, the need remains to move forward in establishing and operating the Permanent Secretariat as contemplated in article VI of the IAC Convention.

**THE FIFTH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVE TO:**

- 1) Renew and revise the mandate of the Working Group on the Legal Framework of the Convention and Permanent Secretariat to include the tasks of identifying potential options for the location and establishment of the Permanent Secretariat.
- 2) The Working Group will have the mandate of analyzing different alternatives with the purpose of finding the most appropriate framework for the operation of the Permanent Secretariat, including not only its legal structure, but also the identification of potential host and the terms and conditions of the location arrangements. In these tasks the working group will consider the relevant practical experiences relating to the application of other environmental agreements. A report of this analysis shall be presented to the Parties, through the *Pro tempore* Secretariat, by the end of December 2011.
- 3) Concurrently, by the end of 2011, the Working Group will identify possible host international organizations and work with the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to solicit formal hosting proposals from these international organizations as well as the Parties of the Convention. Any formal hosting proposals must be received by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat no later than the end of June of 2012.
- 4) The Working Group will review and analyze the proposals received and submit a second report with recommendations to the Parties through the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat by the end of 2012 for consideration by the COP6. In the event that no proposal is received, this second report will consist of recommendations of potential alternative arrangements.
- 5) To facilitate its discussion during the COP6, the Working Group will submit specific proposals for adoption by the Parties, no less than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the meeting.
- 6) During this process the Working Group shall continue to analyze the possibility and need to provide the Permanent Secretariat with international legal personality. The Working Group in coordination with the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat may solicit from the Parties information necessary to support its work. This analysis and any possible amendment proposal to the Convention shall be submitted to the Parties no less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of COP6.
- 7) The Working Group will be made up of those Parties that express interest within a period of thirty (30) days from the approval of this resolution.
- 8) The activities of the Working Group will be developed mainly through e-mail, telephone or video conferences. When the delegated task at hand has made sufficient advances, a meeting in person of the different members may be considered if deemed necessary.

9) The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat will offer their support to the Working Group so that they may begin as soon as possible and satisfactorily comply, in both time and format, with the task delegated to them in virtue of this resolution.

## Annex X: CIT-COP5-2011-R4 Extension of the *Pro Tempore* Secretary

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the need to revise the term of the *Pro Tempore* Secretary as stated in CIT-COP4-2009-R1;

**RECOGNIZING** that the Parties desire that the legal personality of the Permanent Secretariat must be addressed prior to the establishment such Secretariat;

**CONSIDERING** that the exceptional circumstances that necessitated adoption of CIT-COP4-2009-R1 still exist while the Parties continue their efforts to clarify the legal personality of the Permanent Secretariat;

**CONSIDERING** that the Government of the United States has offered to continue the arrangements for the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to operate in the United States for two more years in accordance with CIT-COP-2009-R4, which provided that the United States would host the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat for up to four years;

**CONSIDERING** that the *Pro Tempore* Secretary's term expires this year;

### THE FIFTH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES THE INTERAMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES

#### RESOLVE TO:

1. To reaffirm that it remains the consensus of the Parties that the Secretary shall be a national of one of the Parties as established in Resolution CIT-COPE-2007-R1.
2. To approve that for an additional two years, in response to the continuing exceptional circumstances, the *Pro Tempore* Secretary position may be held by a person who is a not a national of one of the Parties, but is a national of a Signatory state. This continuation of the exception in response to exceptional circumstances shall not be considered in terms of setting a precedent for the future.
3. To extend the contract of the current Secretary Pro Tempore for an additional two years.
4. To urge the Chair of the COP6 to request candidates from the Parties for the Secretary position 180 days before the end of the term of the current Secretary and/or the COP6, according to that established in Annex II of Resolution CIT-COPE-2007-R1.

## **Annex XI: CIT-COP5-2011-R5 Finances 2011-2013**

CONSIDERING Article XIII of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) regarding financial resources;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that resolution CIT-COP1-2002-R-2 adopted by the First Conference of Parties established the IAC Special Fund;

FURTHER RECALLING the guidelines for financing the activities of the IAC established in Resolution CIT-COPE1-2007-R2 adopted during the First Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties;

RECOGNIZING the legal limitations under which the IAC Parties can provide financial contributions;

CONSIDERING that the total amount of voluntary contribution goals does not cover the budget need, and that additional funding will need to be obtained;

### **THE FIFTH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES**

#### **RESOLVE TO:**

1. Adopt the 2011 budget and approve the indicative 2012 and 2013 budgets included in Annex I.
2. Authorize the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to forward an invoice to each of the Parties for an amount equal to the contribution goal identified in Annex II.
3. Recognize that countries have different abilities to make financial contributions.

**ANNEX I**

<b>Presupuesto 2011-2013 de la CIT / IAC 2011-2013 Budget (Montos expresados en \$US /Amounts expressed in US\$)</b>			
<b>Rubro/Items</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>1-Personal/Staff</b>	<b>133,389</b>	<b>135,870</b>	<b>138,438</b>
Secretario <i>Pro Tempore</i> /Secretary <i>Pro Tempore</i> (salario base \$68,480, seguros, pensión, costos de contrato y trámites de visa y 3.5% incremento anual por costo de vida / base salary \$68,480, dental and health insurance, retirement, cost of contracting agency and visa process and 3.5% annual increase in cost of living)	115,389	117,869	120,437
IAC PT Secretariat Technical assistant full time/Asistente técnica de la Secretaria PT de la CIT tiempo completo	18,000	18,000	18,000
<b>2-Otros Servicios Profesionales/Other Professional Services</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>
Traducciones/Translations	4,000	4,000	4,000
<b>3-Comunicaciones/ Communications</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>
Sitio web/Website	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>4-Viaje/Travel</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
Viaje/Travel	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>6-Apoyo a Reuniones de la CIT/IAC Meeting Support</b>	<b>72,300</b>	<b>64,000</b>	<b>96,000</b>
Comité Científico/Scientific committee *	34,300	38,000	38,000
Comité Consultivo/Consultative committee**		26,000	26,000
<b>COP***</b>	38,000		32,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>220,689</b>	<b>214,870</b>	<b>249,438</b>
<b>8- Costo Administración/Overhead Costs (10%)</b>	<b>22,069</b>	<b>21,487</b>	<b>24,944</b>
<b>TOTAL (US\$)</b>	<b>\$242,758</b>	<b>\$236,357</b>	<b>\$274,382</b>

**ANNEX II**  
**Invoice for financial contribution**

In accordance with:

1. The financial rules (CIT-COPE1-2007-R2) adopted October 2007 by the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) in Lima, Peru;
2. The US\$2,000 suggested minimum financial contribution established during the first Conference of Parties in San José, Costa Rica;
3. The 2011 budget adopted in Bonaire and the indicative budget for 2012 and 2013; as well as;
4. The table of contribution goals developed by the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties in San José, Costa Rica that was updated at COP5 in Bonaire;

The IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* hereby presents this invoice to the Government of [insert country].

**INVOICE**

Party/Country	Year	Suggested Contribution (\$US)	Date

**FINANCIAL HISTORY**

[insert country] history of financial contributions to the IAC is included below for your reference.

Party/Country	Year	Suggested Contribution	Amount Contributed	Date Received

**FUTURE CONTRIBUTIONS**

In accordance with the indicative budget for 2011 presented in Bonaire the IAC Secretariat *pro Tempore* suggests the Government of [insert country] plan for and include in your 2011 budget, a financial contribution for the IAC totaling US\$XXXX.

**ANNEX III**

<b>IAC Contributions Goals for 2011</b>	
<b>Member Country</b>	<b>Contribution Goal<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Belize</b>	\$3,500
<b>Brazil</b>	\$7,056
<b>Costa Rica</b>	\$2,000
<b>Chile</b>	\$2,000
<b>Ecuador</b>	\$2,000
<b>Guatemala</b>	\$2,000
<b>Honduras</b>	\$2,000
<b>Mexico</b>	\$15,000
<b>The Netherlands</b>	\$5,000
<b>Panama</b>	\$2,000
<b>Peru</b>	\$2,000
<b>The United States</b>	\$65,000
<b>Uruguay</b>	\$2,928
<b>Venezuela</b>	\$3,653
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$116,137</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Noting the Convention does not provide for mandatory contributions, the amounts presented here are suggested contributions and do not imply a legal obligation.



## **Annex XII: CIT-COP5-2011-R6 Establishment of an IAC Delegate Travel Support Fund**

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that at the First Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Minutes COPE1IAC), considering the limited availability of funds to carry out the functions of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat and in agreement with the Resolution on financial and administrative aspects for the IAC operation (CIT-COPE1-2007-R2), it was decided that each country, beginning in 2008, will cover the participation costs of their delegates, in both the meetings of the Parties and in the Consultative Committee meetings. The Convention will cover the costs of the Scientific Committee meetings and of the 9 sectoral members of the Consultative Committee.

RECOGNIZING that the recent global financial crisis has dramatically impacted the financial and human resources of several governments.

RECOGNIZING that the sea turtle populations in the Americas will only recover with support from all of the countries of the Americas, which requires the full participation of all the IAC Parties.

### **THE FIFTH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES THE INTERAMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES**

#### **RESOLVE TO:**

1. Establish an IAC Delegate Travel Support Fund to assist member countries in attending IAC Conference of Parties and Subsidiary Body meetings.
2. The IAC COP instructs the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to immediately raise funds from foundations, IAC Parties and non-Parties, non-governmental organizations and industry groups to help support the attendance of IAC Parties to IAC Conference of Parties and Subsidiary Body meetings.
3. The IAC COP instructs the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to work with the IAC's financial institution to establish a separate account for the IAC Delegate Travel Support Fund. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat should report to the Parties at each Conference of Parties the funds received into this separate account.
4. The stipulations of the fund are as follows –
  - a. This fund is established to ensure the attendance of IAC Parties to the IAC Conference of Parties and its Subsidiary Body meetings in the case that a Party cannot afford to send at least one delegate.
  - b. A Party can request funds from the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat for the attendance of no more than one official delegate to attend the meeting. The Party must fill out the required application form (Annex I) and send it to the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat at least (60) sixty days prior to the IAC Conference of Parties or

Subsidiary Body meeting. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat will review the applications and inform the Parties requesting the funds within (30) thirty days if they will receive financial support for the meeting.

- c. The Party seeking travel support must pay for either meals and lodging or transportation costs for their attendance.
- d. The Party must have submitted their annual report form on time for that year.
- e. The Party must have regularly responded to all communication from the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat.
- f. If the Party cancels their attendance to a meeting in which they have received financial support and the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat is not able to recover the travel costs due to cancellation penalties, the Party will be ineligible for applying for support from the Delegate Travel Support Fund for one year from the date of the cancellation unless they reimburse the Delegate Travel Support Fund for the amount lost.
- g. If a Party is able to secure alternate funding to attend the meeting they will notify the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat and will not be eligible to receive funding from the IAC Delegate Travel Support Fund.
- h. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat will report to the Parties the amount of funds available in the IAC Delegate Travel Support Fund once the date of the meeting to be funded has been set.
- i. The delegates will be funded on a first come first serve basis, when the Party has meet all the criteria as stated above. If an IAC Conference of Parties is being held within the same year as a Subsidiary Body meeting, the Conference of the Parties will have priority for funding.
- j. In the case that a Party has previously received support from the IAC Delegate Travel Support Fund, Parties that have not yet received support from the Travel Fund will be given priority.

## ANNEX I

### **Application for the IAC Delegate Travel Support Fund**

This form must be filled out and sent to the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat ([secretario@iacseaturtle.org](mailto:secretario@iacseaturtle.org)) at least 60 days prior to the IAC Conference of Parties or Subsidiary Body meeting to which the Party is requesting travel support and must meet all of the required stipulations as stated in Resolution CIT-COP5-2011-R6 Establishment of an IAC Delegate Travel Support Fund. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat will review the applications and inform the Party requesting the funds within 30 days if they will receive financial support for the meeting. If you have any questions regarding the application process please contact the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat directly.

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Contact Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

IAC Meeting to which the country is requesting travel funds \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

The Party will cover the delegate's (please check one):

Meals and lodging       Transportation

Date latest IAC Annual Report was submitted (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

Has your country previously received funds from the IAC Delegate Travel Support Fund:

Yes  No

Please notify the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat ([secretario@iacseaturtle.org](mailto:secretario@iacseaturtle.org)) immediately if your country has secured alternate funding to attend the meeting above or in the event that you must cancel your participation in the meeting in which you have received financial support. If the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat is not able to recover the travel costs due to cancellation penalties, the Party will be ineligible for applying for support from the Delegate Travel Support Fund for one year from the date of the cancellation unless they reimburse the Delegate Travel Support Fund for the amount lost

## **Annex XIII: CIT-COP5-2011-R7 Promote sustainable fishing in international waters, especially for the protection of sea turtles**

RECOGNIZING that the state of some sea turtle populations is still a concern and that, among other causes, fishing is still an activity that negatively impacts conservation efforts;

CONSIDERING that fishing in international waters is carried out by countries outside of the region – the American continent – and thus outside of the range of application of the Convention;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that the Rio + 20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which will focus on two themes: a green economy and international environmental governance;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that from the point of view of the objectives of the IAC, these two themes are fundamental to the conservation of sea turtles;

RECOGNIZING the importance of collaboration between the Convention and other multilateral environmental agreements related to the conservation of marine species and with other multilateral mechanisms related to fishing activities;

CONSIDERING that the efforts made by IAC Party countries to conserve sea turtles in their jurisdictional waters can be threatened by activities carried out in international waters;

### **THE FIFTH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES**

#### **RESOLVE TO:**

Invite the Parties to:

1. Urge countries that carry out fishing activities in international waters to adopt principles of sustainable fishing and in particular, the practices recommended to protect sea turtles.
2. Encourage, during the negotiations at the Rio + 20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that the objectives of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles be included in the final documents to be adopted.

Instruct the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to:

1. Propose, in collaboration with the IAC Parties and the Secretary General of the United Nations, that discussions on the protection of sea turtles be included in the agenda item on sustainable fishing.
2. To promote the objectives of this Convention before the Parties and secretariats of other similar agreements and international mechanisms.

## Annex XIV: IAC COP5 Document List

Working document number	Resolution number	Titulo del documento/Title of document
CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.1		Agenda Fifth IAC Conference of the Parties (COP5IAC)
CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.2		Reflections on the 10th Anniversary of the IAC
CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.3		2011-2012 Work Plan
CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.4	CIT-COP5-2011-R1	Terms of Reference for the IAC Subsidiary Bodies
CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.5		New IAC Annual Report Format and its Instructions
CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.6	CIT-COP5-2011-R2	Procedures for Cases Where Exceptions Exist
CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.7		Memorandum of Understanding between the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.8	CIT-COP5-2011-R3	Establishment of a Permanent Secretariat
CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.9	CIT-COP5-2011-R4	Extension of the <i>Pro Tempore</i> Secretariat
CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.10	CIT-COP5-2011-R5	Finances 2011-2013
CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.11	CIT-COP5-2011-R6	Establishment of an IAC Delegate Travel Support Fund
	CIT-COP5-2011-R7	Promote sustainable fishing in international waters, especially for the protection of sea turtles
CIT-COP1-2003-R4	CIT-COP1-2003-R4-Rev.1	Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the IAC
<b>Informational documents</b>		
CIT-COP5-2011-Inf.1		2009 - 2011 <i>Pro Tempore</i> Secretariat Report
CIT-COP5-2011-Inf.2		COP5 Participant List
CIT-CC6-2009-Doc.4 CIT-CC7-2010-Doc.3		Agreements and Recommendations of the VI and VII Meetings of the IAC Scientific Committee
CIT-CCE3-2010-Doc-4 CIT-CCE4-2011-Doc-3		Summary of Agreements and Recommendations of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Meetings of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts
		Minutes COP4CIT

## Annex XV: Photos IAC COP5



Dr. Glenn Thodé, Island Governor of Bonaire



COP5 Plenary Session



COP5 Participants



Pieter van Beren (Caribbean Netherlands), Alexis Gutierrez (USA COP5 Chair ),  
Verónica Cáceres (IAC PT Secretary)



COP5 Delegates: Santiago Alonzo (México), Consuelo Mass (Honduras), Eduardo Espinoza (Ecuador), Jenny Asch (Costa Rica), Francisco Ponce (Chile)