



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

Report on the Eight Conference of Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles.

Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 28-30, 2017

PUBLISHED BY:

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**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND
CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES (IAC)**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Eighth Meeting of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) Conference of Parties (COP8) was held on June 28-30, 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina at the Argenta Tower Hotel. The meeting was attended by representatives from 12 IAC member countries (Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, the United States, and Venezuela), and the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. Accredited observers from six non-governmental organizations (Fundación Mundo Marino, CONICET-INIDEP, Karumbe, Humane Society International, Center for Biological Diversity and Justsea), and the Executive Secretary of the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) – attended the meeting, for a total of 35 participants.

Mr. Daniel Romero, Secretary of Environmental Policy, Climate Change and Sustainable Development of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina provided the opening remarks. The COP8 Chair, Mr. Antonio De Nichilo stated the importance of hosting the COP considering the challenges of doing sea turtle conservation in the country, as they are not easily visible for the public. The Chair called the Parties to actively participate, with the help of diplomatic missions, in the strategy to approach non-IAC members and encourage them to accede to the Convention. In the afternoon, Argentina's Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Rabbi Sergio Bergman, welcomed the delegations and spoke about the importance of preserving the environment, our common house.

The COP8 Agenda was adopted with the inclusion of the United Nations Sustainable Development agency presentation on the Agenda 20/30. The rapporteur was Argentina's Chancellery.

Mexico shared information on conservation actions in this country. Argentina presented their progress on sea turtle conservation including their achievements in collaboration with organizations from the civil society and highlighting that the main threat for the three species (i.e. *Dermochelys coriacea*, *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas*) occurring in the country is plastic pollution due to ingestion of plastics.

The IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore* presented her report 2015-2017, announcing Dominican Republic accession to the IAC, increasing membership to 16 Member Countries. The Chair of the Scientific Committee, Mr. Diego Albareda, presented the work of the Committee for 2015-2017, and the results of the report "Status of Loggerhead Turtles within IAC Countries". The Vice-Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts, Mr. Joao Thome, presented the work of the CCE along with the report on Resolution Compliance based on the IAC Annual Reports. The average of compliance with the IAC Resolutions showed that for 2015-2016 the Hawksbill Turtle Resolution has the highest compliance (66%), followed by the Leatherback Resolution (48%), and the Fisheries Resolution (38%). The need for the Parties to submit their Annual Report on time in order to carry out this analysis with robust data was highlighted by the CCE Vice-Chair.

The COP8 updated the Committees and Secretary *Pro Tempore* work plans 2017-2019 according to the Parties requirements. An item on the support of IAC countries chancelleries to increase the IAC membership by inviting nonmember countries as observers in the IAC meetings was included. The COP8 identified the following countries as a priority for outreach: Colombia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Canada, Surinam, and the Guianas.

Costa Rica and Panama presented their progress on the compliance with the Resolution on Exceptions. Costa Rica highlighted the approval of the five year Plan for Management and Conservation of the Olive Ridley's Turtle in Ostional 2017-2021, as well as the standardization of sampling using Valverde & Gates method; and Panama highlighted the approval of their National Sea Turtle Conservation Action Plan.

Regarding the establishment of the IAC Permanent Secretariat, the United States provided the response from the Bureau of International Organizations at State Department denying the IAC status as an International Organization as it does not meet the United States legal requirements, this, therefore, prevented the establishment of a Permanent Secretariat in the USA using that mechanism. However, the United States reaffirms its support and interest to continue hosting the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* and will continue exploring mechanisms for establishing a Permanent Secretariat. The Resolution on the extension of the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* was adopted to formalize this agreement.

Peru presented its jointed actions with Mexico and the United States on capacity building in the fisheries sector for the conservation of the East Pacific (EP) leatherback. Ms. Laura Sarti, the delegate from Mexico, presented the Recommendations from the IAC Leatherback Taskforce to address current threats to the EP leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*). The United States suggested adding a recommendation to the IAC Secretary *PT* to participate in the meetings of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and its advisory Scientific Committee to communicate them the IAC expert's recommendations.

Costa Rica led the discussion on Hawksbill products illegal trade, resulting in the adoption of an updated Resolution for the Conservation of Hawksbill Turtles (CIT-COP8-2017-R2). Changes in the Resolution involved the countries strengthening their measures to monitor and control hawksbill turtle's products traffic in the countries. Also proposed by Costa Rica, the COP discussed the IAC support to a Resolution to develop an international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in international waters, outside national jurisdictions. The discussion resulted in the preparation of a statement that would be submitted to the United Nations UNCLOS.

The Secretariat *PT* presented the Resolution on Finances 2017-2019 that includes the budget for the Special Fund for the operation of the Convention and the status of contributions (2010-2017). The countries that have contributed to the IAC are Chile, Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, Honduras, Panama, Mexico, and the United States. Recent in-kind support provided by Brazil and Argentina as hosts of meetings was highlighted. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, as the IAC fiscal agent, was extended.

The Consultative Committee of Experts Sectorial members for the period 2017 -2019 were selected as follows:

NGOs Sector: Rebecca Regnery, Diego Amorocho and Alejandro Fallabrino.

Scientific Sector: Maria Ángela Marcovaldi, Luciano Ponce, Eduardo Cuevas and Bryan Wallace as substitute.

Private/Industry Sector: Humberto Becerra Batista and Nina Pardo Antúnez.

There was a special recognition to the work and contributions by the IAC members Mr. Isaías Majil (Belize Focal Point) and Mr. Les Hodgson (CCE Productive Sector) who passed away in 2016, and 2017, respectively.

Guatemala proposed to host the COP9 and the offer was accepted and welcomed by all the Parties present. It was approved that the 9th Conference of the Parties will be held in Guatemala in 2019

For the election of the COP9 Chair, Argentina proposed Mr. Antonio de Nichilo to continue for two more years. The Parties approved the proposal, which was accepted by Mr. Nichilo Guatemala, as the host country of the COP9, would take the position of Vice-Chair. Guatemala could not accept immediately as he would consult with the Focal Point. Peru proposed the United States as the second option in case Guatemala couldn't accept, and the United States accepted the nomination.

Argentina's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development Undersecretary provided the closing remarks highlighting Argentina as a country where sea turtles are protected, by hosting important events like the IAC COP the collaboration among several nations is promoted.

IAC COP8 REPORT

Meeting: Eight Conference of the Parties (COP8) of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)

Venue: Hotel Argenta Tower, Buenos Aires, Republic of Argentina

Date: June 28 – 30, 2017

Chair of COP8: Antonio De Nichilo, Argentina

Vice-chair of COP8: Joao Carlos Thome, Brazil

Rapporteur:

- Environmental Affairs General Direction, Argentina's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cult
- IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore*

ITEM 1. OPENING CEREMONY

1. The COP8 began at 9:00 am with the welcome remarks by the host country Government of Argentina represented by Mr. Diego Moreno, the Environmental Policy, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Secretary from Argentina's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. The Secretary welcomed the delegations wishing success in the meeting. His remarks were a review of the history of sea turtle conservation efforts in Argentina, highlighting how the country has led a conservation process to establish marine protected areas. He reflected on the "Pampa Azul" initiative that aims to increase the understanding of Argentinian seas, as well as the work carried out by the Federal Fisheries Council along with the Federal Environmental Council (COFEMA in Spanish) with regards to the Natural Resources Action Plan.

2. Mr. Antonio De Nichilo, Chair of COP8 and Director of Environmental Management of Water and Aquatic Resources of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina, also welcomed the IAC delegations and observers. He acknowledged the support of the IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore*, the Fisheries Undersecretary from the Ministry of Agroindustry, and the civil society organizations who worked together in the preparation of COP8.

3. The Chair highlighted Argentina's work regarding the protection of sea turtles. He stressed that although sea turtles are not a common sight, because there is no nesting in the country, a National Action Plan is focusing on the interaction with fisheries and the impact of plastics on the marine environment.

4. In the evening of the first day the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina, Rabbi Sergio Bergman, addressed the meeting and expressed that environmental issues are a global policy and a State Policy for Argentina. The Rabbi highlighted the importance of Latin American natural reserves and Argentina's thoughts on the correlation between human rights and the rights to preserve a healthy environment for future generations as stated in the Constitution. The Minister emphasized that Argentina

will continue working on the issue of marine debris at the G20 Summit, and stressed that there is a disposition for the development of national policies to increase protected areas.

5. Ms. Dolores Duverges, Undersecretary of Planning and Environmental Management of this Ministry, expressed how rewarding is to learn from other countries conservation experiences. She wished the delegates a productive, successful and rich meeting and concluded expressing the support of the Ministry of Environment to the marine agenda.

ITEM 2. PRESENTATION OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

6. There was an introduction of the heads of delegations representing 12 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

7. Ms. Veronica Caceres Chamorro, IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore*, proceeded to read the list of accredited observers: Foundation Mundo Marino, CONICET/INIDEP, Karumbé, Human Society International (HSI) – Wildlife Center for Biological Diversity and Justsea.

8. **Participants List is in Annex I - CIT-COP8-2017-Inf.1**

ITEM 3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The COP8 Chair submitted the draft agenda for consideration. The agenda was adopted including the following: presentation of the Coordinator of the United Nations System in Argentina, Mr. Rene Mauricio Valdes “Agenda 2030, Oceans and Sea Turtles”. The delegate from Mexico shared an informative document regarding conservation activities for *Caretta caretta* sea turtles in Mexico, available to COP8 participants for their reference.

10. **The adopted Agenda is in Annex II - CIT-COP8-2017-Doc.1**

• Election of COP8 Rapporteur

11. Argentina proposed the Secretary Florencia Grimalt, from the Environmental Affairs General Direction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cult as the COP8 Rapporteur.

ITEM 4: HOST COUNTRY PRESENTATION ON THE CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES IN ARGENTINA

12. Ms. Karina Alvarez from Foundation Mundo Marino – Regional Program for Research and Conservation of Sea Turtles (PRICTMA) presented the following topics: a) Sea Turtle species occurring in Argentina, b) PRICTMA contributions, c) Issues of plastic in sea turtles digestive tracts, d) Outreach and awareness activities e) Satellite monitoring program, f) Preparatory workshop for the National Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles (PAN - TM), g) National Action Plan to Reduce the Interaction of Sea Turtles with Fisheries in Argentina, h) Workshop on Necropsies and Research on Sea Turtles, i)

Workshop on Educational Strategies and Outreach to Reduce Marine Debris in La Plata River and Buenos Aires Coast, j) Workshop “Marine Debris: Tools for Better Advocacy in Public Policies and Cultural Change”, and k) Participation in the Development of Internal Laws.

13. Dr. Victoria Gonzalez Carman from INIDEP/CONICET presented the following topics: a) The presence of sea turtles in Argentina, b) Species, distribution, and habitat use, c) Report on the impact of marine debris on green turtles, d) Population genetics, e) Interaction with fisheries.

14. Dr. Laura Prosdocimi, from the Ministry of Agroindustry and Ms. Debora Jessica Winter, from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, presented the following topics: a) International and national regulatory framework, b) Implementation of the IAC in Argentina, c) Preparatory workshop for the National Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles (PAN - TM), d) National Action Plan to Reduce the Interaction of Sea Turtles with Fisheries in Argentina, and e) the National Action Plan to Reduce the Interaction of Sea Turtles with Fisheries in Argentina

15. The delegates from Brazil, Mexico, and Honduras congratulated Argentina for their collaborative work with civil society organizations (CSO) and with other countries.

ITEM 5. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY *PRO TEMPORE* 2015 – 2017

16. Ms. Veronica Caceres, IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore*, presented the Secretary *Pro Tempore* activities implemented in compliance with the biennial Work Plan of the Convention. Regarding IAC membership, the Secretary *PT* informed the COP the accession of the Dominican Republic as the 16th member of the Convention, adding that is expecting Venezuela’s confirmation on the reception of the official documents submitted by the Dominican Republic Chancellery.

17. The delegations from Honduras, Mexico, and the United States expressed their congratulations highlighting this was achieved with limited effort and limited IAC staff. There was a recognition of the Secretary *PT* leadership who facilitates the collaborative work among the Parties during inter-sessions periods. The delegate from Costa Rica acknowledge the work and stated the importance of synergies with other instruments, requesting greater efforts from the Parties to comply with the IAC Work Plan.

18. Ecuador reported on the progress of the project “Artisanal Fishing in Puerto Lopez, Manabí” a special area where Eastern Pacific hawksbills occur. The delegate highlighted that last September the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility (MREMH) received an official document from the Secretary *PT* expressing the concern of several organizations from the civil society on the development of the aforementioned project which would affect populations of sea turtles. The IAC requested information on the conservation measures to minimize the impact of this project. The delegate informed that in December 2016 a Multidisciplinary Technical Group (MTG) was formed within the Ministry of Environment (MAE) to find a balance between the development of the fishing facilities and the conservation of sea turtle habitats. IAC Scientific Committee (SC)

members were invited to participate in this working group. The delegate informed that in March 2017, MAE extended its appreciation to the IAC through the Chancellery on the concern regarding this matter and welcomed advice from the IAC. Additionally, between January and May of this year, a meeting with the MAE Undersecretary of Marine and Coastal Management, Manabí's Provincial Direction of Environment, and the Galapagos National Park Direction (GNPD) was carried out with those in charge of the development of the fishing port to assess the status of the project. Progress reports on different stages of the project were submitted to the authorities with an *In situ* inspection, to verify the activities described in the management plan.

ITEM 6: REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

a.) Review of 2015 -2017 work

19. Mr. Diego Albareda, Chair of the IAC Scientific Committee (SC), presented the activities in their last meetings CC12 (Chile 2015) and CC13 (Belize 2016). He highlighted the work developed by the Working Group on Exceptions, analyzing the exceptions in Costa Rica and Panama and explained the progress of those countries in compliance with the recommendations under the exception resolution.

20. The SC Chair mentioned the work carried out by the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Task Force, stressing the importance to continue with data collection for the IAC Annual Reports. The Chair mentioned the recommendation from the Climate Change Working Group regarding data collection of environmental data at index beaches, in which the Parties will be requested to submit climate change data collected for the Scientific Committee to follow up on the Resolution on Climate Change.

b.) Implementation of the Resolution on the Conservation of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle CIT-COP7-2015-R3. Presentation of the report “Status of Loggerhead Sea Turtles *Caretta caretta* within nations of the IAC” (CIT-CC13-2016-Tec.13)

21. Venezuela requested edits to the document “Status of Loggerhead Sea Turtles *Caretta caretta* within nations of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles”. The following observations were made: a) image in Figure 3.1.1, does not depict the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela official map, therefore a modification including the reclamation zone was requested; b) data in Table 3.15.2.1 “Nesting Abundance” has been obtained through communications with foreign actors showing information different than that reported in the Country national reports, including several local beaches where sea turtles conservation programs or projects are not in place; c) regarding point 3.15.3 “Threats”, stating that “*Other threats included in the Annual Report 2014 include artificial lights in the form of a photographic flash used by tourist, direct catches for consumption or by drivers at the beach, and loss of habitat due to coastal development and beaches degradations*” Venezuela stressed that this information does not agree with what has been mentioned in the Annual Report. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed its willingness to collaborate with the Secretary *PT*, in order to include the edits requested.

c.) Presentation of the Work Plan 2017-2018

22. The IAC SC Chair presented the Work Plan 2017-2018. The following comments were made during plenary: Mexico enquired if the *Lepidochelys olivacea* trend analysis is a consultancy that will be hired, or if the SC will develop it. The SC Chair informed that this will be determined during next year's meeting of the SC. The United States expressed to include the development of the 5-year analysis on *Lepidochelys olivacea* in the SC Work Plan. Mexico requested information on who will develop the informative document on *L. olivacea* eggs traffic, and it was clarified that this will be inter-session work of the delegates from Honduras and Costa Rica.

23. Regarding capacity building in the IAC Parties, Ecuador included in the SC Work Plan, the participation of experts from the SC at the multidisciplinary working groups to follow up on the project "Artisanal Fishing Facilities in Puerto Lopez, Manabí". Brazil informed that will provide Ecuador with a guide for the development of coastal projects including all types of impacts on sea turtles and guidelines for the implementation of best practices.

24. The observer from "Center for Biological Diversity" requested to consider the issue of incidental catches of loggerhead turtles in Mexican waters. This NGO highlighted that high catching rates have been identified by several agencies, including the Mexican Government. He concluded requesting Mexico's Government to adopt permanent instead of provisional regulations regarding bycatch and asked the IAC Scientific Committee to provide relevant recommendations. The Chair acknowledged the presentation and reminded the participants that only the IAC Parties can make requests to the Scientific Committee.

25. The delegate from the United States asked where he could find the list of Sea Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) included in the SC Work Plan. The SC Chair informed that this list can be found in one of the SC reports, and took responsibility to share it with the delegation of the United States. The United States requested that the priority activities identified for the loggerhead turtle are included in the Scientific Committee Work Plan.

ITEM 7: REPORT ON THE COMPLIANCE WITH THE RESOLUTION ON EXCEPTIONS IN COSTA RICA, PANAMA, AND GUATEMALA.

26. The Chair invited the delegates to present their report. The delegate from Guatemala informed that on this occasion he would not present this report regarding exceptions.

27. The delegate from Panama presented the report on the compliance with the Resolution on Exceptions CIT-COP6-2013-R1. He highlighted the Situational Diagnosis of Isla Cañas Wildlife Refuge (RVSIC in Spanish) and the training workshops for members of the community. He also mentioned the implementation of the Sea Turtle Monitoring Program in this refuge, along with the construction of hatcheries and the appointment of a biologist as chief of the RVSIC. He also informed that with the support of the IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore*, a project to comply with the Resolution was implemented between September 15 to December 30, 2016, by the Ministry of Environment Direction of Coast and Seas. Panama expressed that there have been attempts of tourist development in Isla

Cañas and pointed out the difficulty of dealing with this situation as technicians. The one-year Action Plan contributes with a zoning of tourist activities, fisheries, and agriculture hoping these respect nesting activities. Community groups work on small scale tourism, and limited staff in the area to ensure that tourism is carried out properly is a challenge.

28. The delegate from Costa Rica presented the Exception in Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R1 regarding Ostional. The delegate described progress included in the Annual Reports submitted to the IAC, such as the workshops to develop a Five Year Sea Turtle Management and Conservation Plan of Olive Ridley's at the National Wildlife Refuge Ostional 2017-2021. He highlighted the approval of the document "Sea Turtle Eggs Traceability Procedures from the National Wildlife Refuge Ostional", and a manual for traders. He noted that during the last five years, Costa Rica has monitored indicators such as hatching success and emergencies in Ostional. Likewise, the delegate informed that park rangers are trained in Ostional to receive tourists, and the local community is informed on the ecosystem services provided by sea turtles.

29. Mexico offered support to Costa Rica to compare *L. olivacea* data and invited the technicians to visit their monitoring program in Escobilla to compare experiences. Honduras and Brazil congratulated both Countries for their progress in the conservation of sea turtles within the framework of the IAC.

ITEM 8: UPDATES ON THE PROCESS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IAC PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

30. The Chair introduced the document CIT-COP8-2017-R.1 stating that on March 10, 2017, the U.S. State Department Bureau of International Organization determined that the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles does not comply with the statutory criteria of international organizations according to the regulations of the United States. Therefore, the IAC Secretary will not be granted with privileges and immunity for public international organizations in the United States.

31. Mr. Joseph Fette, delegate from the United States clarified the reasons for such a determination, explaining that the status of International Organization with privileges and immunity is rarely granted by the U.S. State Department. The delegate emphasized that the United States will continue with the status quo as temporal host of the IAC Secretary *PT* in its current location at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) headquarters for the next four years. The delegate called the attention on while having a temporal host of the IAC Secretary the contract extension should be considered to be of 4 years, instead of 2 as it has been until now, and submitted these proposals for the consideration of the Parties.

32. The Chair requested opinions on the proposal regarding the Secretary *Pro Tempore* contract renewal and the venue of the Secretary *Pro Tempore*.

33. Panama, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, Argentina, Venezuela, and Guatemala supported the proposal to extend the Secretary *Pro Tempore* contract for 4 years.

34. Venezuela, Guatemala, and Mexico also supported the proposal of the United States to host the Secretary *Pro Tempore* for the following 4 years.

35. Brazil agreed with the extension of the Secretary *Pro Tempore* for 4 years and proposed that from now on all the terms are of 4 years, with only one opportunity of renewal. The delegate clarified that the venue of the Secretary is to be addressed separately from the person of the Executive Secretary.

36. Mexico supported the United States proposals, and regarding the duration of the contract and renewal suggested by Brazil, requested that this is presented for the consideration of the Parties when a Permanent Secretary is established, and not at this moment. Specifically, Mexico proposed that the Secretary *Pro Tempore* continues without a specific term, and once it is decided that the Secretary is permanent a term will be established.

37. Argentina understands Brazil proposal to limit the terms of leadership to seek renovation and avoid perpetuation. However, it recognized that in this case the circumstances are *sui generis*, and given the situation by which the Secretary *Pro Tempore* has provided her services, Argentina agrees with the eventual re-election in the future.

38. The United States clarified that their proposal is not binding the term of the Secretary *Pro Tempore* with the venue of the office, what they proposed is to extend both for 4 more years without binding them. The U.S. delegate thanked the support of the delegations to keep hosting the Secretary *PT* in the current location.

39. **Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R.1 was adopted by consensus - Annex III**

Link to Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R.1: http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP8CIT/CIT_COP8_2017_R1_%20Extension%20Secretariat%20PT_Adopted.pdf

40. Brazil proposed opinions regarding the designation of *Pro Tempore* for the Secretary and requested considering that this designation as *Pro Tempore* is related to the venue and not to the person. It suggested the title should be Executive Secretary. The delegates from Mexico, Panama, Ecuador, and Uruguay agreed with this change in the designation.

41. The United States pointed out that this change would not be applicable, as one of the Resolutions from an early COP notes that the position of Secretary should be held by a national from one of the Parties, which is not the case at the moment as Ms. Caceres is from Nicaragua a Party that is not an IAC member, although it is signatory. Argentina indicated that this is included in an exception to the rule. Mexico reminded that the exception is included in a Resolution, which was amended when the term was extended. Mexico added that when the exceptions to the general norm were adopted, it was done with a fixed term, understanding the special circumstances in case of not having a Permanent Secretariat.

42. Brazil indicated that the regulation cited by the United States makes reference to the restriction at the moment of establishing a Permanent Secretary, which is not the current situation.

43. The Chair concluded that the matter will be revised when a Permanent Secretary is established, not being the case for this meeting.

ITEM 9: REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS (CCE)

a.) Review of the work 2015-2017

44. Mr. Joao Carlos Thome, Vice-chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) gave the presentation of the work during the CCE10 meeting on behalf of the CCE Chair Mr. Paul Hoetjes.

45. The work of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Taskforce was discussed along with their recommendations on urgent actions of the Parties on the implementation of the Leatherback Resolution. The proposal of NGO sectorial members to develop a mechanism for NGOs to submit cases to the IAC was reviewed. This proposal can be found in Annex IV of the CCE9 report CIT-CCE9-2016-Doc.4. Finally, the CCE discussed the changes suggested by the Scientific Committee to the IAC Annual Report regarding sea turtle foraging areas. The CCE requested the CC to provide an explanation on the use and need to obtain information on foraging areas to justify to the Parties why they have to collect information that is very difficult to obtain.

b.) Report on Resolution Compliance based on IAC Annual Reports and Recommendations from the Consultative Committee to the COP8

46. The CCE Vice-Chair presented the report on Resolutions Compliance regarding the Resolution on the EP Leatherback, Hawksbill, and Fisheries. **Document CIT-COP8-2017-Inf.3 in Annex IV.**

47. Argentina requested a correction in this report regarding the resolution on fisheries, specifically on bottom trawling, clarifying that this activity is not banned in all Argentinian territorial waters but only in areas of temporal and permanent closure.

c.) Presentation of the Work Plan 2017-2018

48. The delegations included the following activities in the CCE Work Plan:
Strengthening Capacities: the CCE will support the Parties with priority topics they identify, and when funding is available.

49. Increasing IAC Membership: Guatemala highlighted the need of the Secretary *PT* to receive support from the Chancelleries to comply with the resolutions and by inviting countries not members of the IAC to participate as observers during the meetings. Guatemala agrees with Uruguay and Mexico idea that Focal Points can support this process as well.

50. Panama pointed that during the second half of 2017, they will hold the Presidency of the Central American Integration System (SICA in Spanish) that included non-IAC Countries, and this will be a good opportunity for outreach.

51. The United States proposed to send to the Embassies of Latin American countries nonmembers of the IAC, the COP8 report to support the efforts of approaching those countries, working along with the Secretary *PT* to identify the candidates.

52. The Chair highlighted the importance of Chancelleries and Focal Points supporting the work of the Secretary *PT* to increase the IAC membership.

ITEM 10: PRESENTATION ON CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES WITH PERUVIAN FISHERMEN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE EAST PACIFIC LEATHERBACK

53. The delegate from Peru presented the report of the project for the conservation of the leatherback EP, carried out with the support of the IAC Secretary *PT*, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Government of Peru –IMARPE-, and the Government of Mexico – CONANP and INAPESCA. The delegate explained leatherback bycatch in Peru by drift nets and gillnets, adding that there are several fisheries in the Southeast Pacific using driftnets that catch tuna and chondrichthyans, and how leatherbacks and green turtles are usually found in these nets. This project increased the awareness of the Peruvian fishermen to implement measures to reduce sea turtle bycatch. A [video on the activity](#) was presented.

54. Peru also pointed out that workshops to review the proposal for the National Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtle in Peru have been carried out, and within the framework of this Plan mitigation measures such as placing the nets deeper and use of LED lights in fishing nets would be implemented. He noted that Peru is implementing an onboard observer program on artisanal vessels.

55. The Chair acknowledged the activity in Peru, given the history of conflict by the fishing industry and communities in that country. Panama and Mexico also recognized Peru's work, and Panama announced that will carry out similar activities to increase awareness within the fishing sector. Mexico ratified its offer to continue the collaboration and the importance to keep investing in conservation. Ecuador reported new records of leatherbacks nesting in their beaches.

56. The Secretary *PT* and the Chair stressed the importance of the IAC countries working together, cooperating with funding, resources, and experience that enhance everyone's work, as financial resources are usually limited.

ITEM 11: RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE EASTERN PACIFIC LEATHERBACK CIT-COP7-2015-R2 FROM THE IAC EP LEATHERBACK TASK FORCE.

57. Dr. Laura Sarti, from Mexico, presented the recommendations of the EP Leatherback Task Force for the Consideration of the COP. She noted that the document was developed by the Task Force in March 2016, and it includes recommendations to the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees.

58. The recommendations are summarized as follows: a) Organize national technical workshops in countries within the EP Leatherback range to prioritize specific mitigation measures; b) organize visits to relevant authorities in the countries within the Leatherback EP range, with the purpose of informing the critical situation of the species in the region; c) sustained effort on: I. Monitoring and conservation of nesting beaches, II. Emphasize on feeding grounds to reduce bycatch, III. Increase knowledge on the impact of fisheries, to implement mitigation measures, IV. Develop mechanisms to share experiences; d) Develop synergies with other bodies such as the South Pacific Permanent Commission (CPPS in Spanish), CMS, the Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA in Spanish), the Latin America Organization for Fisheries Development (OLDEPESCA in Spanish) and other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) when relevant.

59. The delegation of the United States supported the work and recommendation from the Task Force and congratulate the IAC on the progress. The U.S. informed that will present a draft Resolution on sea turtle bycatch mitigation during the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) meeting in July 2017 that contains recommendations on measures regarding leatherbacks. The U.S. welcomed the support of IAC members that are also members of the IATTC, to support the adoption of this resolution. It also requested that under item 4 of the Work Group recommendations a sub-heading 4a is added such as “the IAC Secretary *PT* will participate in the IATTC Annual Meeting of the Commission 2017 and any other subsequent meeting where sea turtle conservation is discussed to present the IAC subsidiary bodies and Parties recommendations”. It was requested that this is included in the IAC Work Plan.

60. **Recommendations from the leatherback Task Force on the implementation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution are in CIT-COP8-2017-DOC.2 - Annex V**

ITEM 12: DISCUSSION ON HAWKSBILL TURTLE PRODUCTS TRADE AND AMENDMENT OF THE RESOLUTION ON CONSERVATION OF HAWKSBILLS CIT-COP8-2017-R2

61. Mr. Rotney Piedra, delegate from Costa Rica presented the proposal to amend the IAC Hawksbill Resolution to include more emphasis to mitigate traffic of hawksbills because despite the current efforts trade is still occurring. He highlighted that this topic was

addressed at the International Sea Turtle Symposium, and it is necessary to update the 2006 Resolution with the current status of the trade.

62. Venezuela was in favor of keeping the original text because it is more general. The United States supported the amendment but suggested changes in the text pointing out that all CITES references would not be an issue if all IAC Parties were also CITES Parties, a fact confirmed by the Secretary *PT*.

63. The Chair convened a drafting group to work on the document formed by Venezuela, the United States, Panama, Mexico and Costa Rica (coordinator).

64. Costa Rica read the new text in plenary. The delegations from Venezuela, Mexico, and Brazil made suggestions and the representative from Karumbe suggested including the Atlantic Ocean in the text. Once agreed on the text, the Resolution was adopted.

65. **Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R.2 was adopted by consensus - Annex VI**
Link to the Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R.2: http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP8CIT/CIT-COP8-2017-R2_Hawksbill_Adopted.pdf

ITEM 13: ANALYSIS TO AGREE ON A RESOLUTION ON IAC SUPPORT TO THE PROCESS TO DEVELOP AN INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE BIODIVERSITY IN AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION (ABNJ)

66. Mr. Rotney Piedra, delegate from Costa Rica, highlighted the importance of supporting marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in waters beyond national jurisdictions, as this is relevant to the IAC. The intention of this resolution is to call the attention of the international community, considering that sea turtles are part of marine biodiversity.

67. Argentina agreed with Costa Rica and offered to support a resolution text that is clear and highlighted the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 69/292, stating that sea turtles spend a substantial part of their time in high seas, and stressing the process of Resolution UNGA 69/292 and the IAC objectives that go along with such a Resolution. Mexico, the United States, Brazil, and Uruguay agreed with Argentina and supported Costa Rica on the importance of working on this issue.

68. The United States and Venezuela suggested the difficulty of reaching an agreement on the text during the COP due to their internal procedures to approve Resolutions. Brazil proposed drafting another type of document such a statement/declaration, which take less approval time for the Parties and to send it as a message to the UN negotiations

69. The Chair convened a drafting group to prepare a statement that satisfied the Parties, formed by Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil, and Argentina (coordinator).

70. The statement by the drafting group was presented by Argentina during plenary. The new text allowed to transition from a draft resolution (as it was originally) to a declaration.

71. Delegations from Uruguay, Mexico, and Costa Rica agree with the text and pointed out that the declaration must be submitted soon to the UN, as the discussion begins on July 10. The mechanism would be through the IAC Secretary *PT* who would submit the statement to Brazil's Ambassador in the UN, who is the representative in the region leading the process. The United States and Venezuela expressed the need for submitting this document to their capitals for approval.

72. The Chair stated that final approval will be via email a week after the COP when the United States and Venezuela approve it. The Secretary *PT* will follow up on the submission process to the UN before July 10.

73. Document CIT-COP8-2017-Doc.3 Promotion of the Conservation of Sea Turtles and its Relation to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/292 is in Annex VII.

ITEM 14: IAC FINANCES 2017-2019 (BUDGET AND MEMBER COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTIONS) CIT-COP8-2017-R.3, AND EXTENSION OF MoU WITH NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION

74. The Secretary *PT* presented the contributions of Parties to the date, adding that there are in-kind contributions as well, such as those from countries hosting and helping to organize IAC meetings.

75. The Chair inquired on the possibility of contributing in-kind instead of the annual contribution. The Secretary *PT* explained that Argentina should inform the COP with supporting documentation of the expenses used for the Conference of the Parties. She clarified the absence of a mechanism to record these contributions.

76. The United States recognized the importance of the contributions in cash as well as in-kind and mentioned that will keep contributing with more of what is required in the Resolution. The delegation acknowledged and thanked Argentina for their contribution to this event, and to Belize for hosting the 2016 Scientific Committee (SC13).

77. Regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and the Chair of the IAC Conference of the Parties (COP) (CIT – COP8 – 2017 – Inf. 2), this was renewed. The United States requested changing the word 'agreement' for 'arrangement'. As the depository of IAC, Venezuela requested confirmation of the Dominican Republic ratification document to mention it in the MoU and added that the COP Chair is the one signing the new MoU. Subsequently, Venezuela informed that the Dominican Republic ratification documents have not yet arrived at the depository in Caracas Chancellery.

78. The Finances Resolution IAC (2017-2019) CIT-COP8-2017-R.3 was adopted with a change in Annex I, and the Memorandum of Understanding between National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and the Chair of the Conference of the Parties was renewed until 2021.

79. Adopted Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R.3 is in Annex VIII

Link to Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R.3: http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP8CIT/CIT-COP8-2017-R3_Finances_2017_2019_Adopted.pdf

Presentation of United Nations Development Program (UNDP) on the “AGENDA 2030”

80. Mr. Rene Mauricio Valdes, representative of the UNDP presented the core aspects of the Agenda 2030 and its relationship with sea turtles. The Agenda was approved by the UNGA 2015 and comprises 17 goals, where the main objective is to guide the policies and the general society. This Agenda was launched by Pope Francis I, who had published the encyclical *Laudato Si* which included fundamental ideas that coincided with those in the Agenda 2030, and important insights on the seas and life in the ocean.

81. Mr. Valdes mentioned that sea turtles are related to goal 14. The concept of sustainability is multidimensional. The Agenda explains the need for combining issues such as social inclusion and economic growth with environmental protection. According to the reports of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the environmental aspect is the one with less progress. It would be critical moving to use less carbon.

82. Honduras thanked the presentation that conveys a challenge to think of all we can do to protect our common home. Ecuador highlighted the countries commitment to face climate change and expressed that it is in the way of an energetic reconversion to 80% of renewable sources of energy.

ITEM 15. ELECTION OF THE IAC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS SECTORIAL MEMBERS /CIT-COP8-2017-DOC.4

83. The Secretary *PT* presented a summary of nominations received until the specified deadline (October 30, 2016) according to Resolution CIT-COP5-2011-R1 “Terms of Reference for the IAC Subsidiary Bodies”, stating that the IAC Parties would vote for nine sectorial representatives. The Parties would appoint a substitute (according to the number of candidates) based on the number of votes. These substitutes can take the place of a CCE member in their respective sector, in case of absence, resignation or death.

84. The Secretary *PT* clarified that for the private sector there were two candidates only. The experts elected will be members of the CCE for a period of two COPs. Brazil proposed that during the intersession period the Parties seek for a hotel's industry representative to be part of the private and industry sector.

85. The outcome of the voting was as follows:

Scientific Sector: Maria Angela Marcovaldi, Eduardo Cuevas, Luciano Ponce / Substitute - Bryan Wallace.

NGOs Sector: Rebecca Regnery, Diego Amorcho, Alejandro Fallabrino

Industry Sector: Humberto Becerra (Mexico) and Nina Pardo (Peru)

86. The Republic of Argentina pointed out that the election of Mr. Diego Amorochó was based on his background and experience, in addition to his previous work with the CCE. However, they stated that Mr. Amorochó is working for the World Wildlife Fund that has published several articles naming the Malvinas Islands under British nomenclature exclusively.

87. The Republic of Argentina, requested the Secretary *PT* to inform Mr. Diego Amorochó that the decision of Argentina to vote for him as part of the CCE includes the requirement of taking into account the existence of disputed territories recognized by the United Nations, and therefore, in documents and presentations for the IAC, he must use proper nomenclature for places and content of jurisdictional nature that reflects such territories.

88. Venezuela stated that the Guiana is a disputed territory, highlighted the sensitivity of the matter, and joined Argentina on their argument but regarding the reclamation of the Guiana.

89. The Secretary *PT* explained that the new sectorial delegates will begin their duties on July 2018, with their first CCE meeting in February 2018. If the Parties wish to present candidates for the vacant on the industry sector the invitation is to follow the schedule that. Brazil proposed a period of 60 days for the Parties to present candidates (until September 1st), thirty days for the Secretary to inform the parties with a summary about the candidates and their CV (until October 2), and another 30 days to receive votes (until November 6).

ITEM 16: COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

• Discussion on potential activities within the Memorandum of Understanding CIT-ACAP/ CIT-COP8-2017-Inf. ACAP

90. Dr. Marco Favero, Executive Secretary of the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels –ACAP, presented potential collaborations mainly with regards of bycatch and marine pollution, as follows: seeking effective solutions – mitigation; b) deficiency on bycatch data collection by RFMOs; c) assistance to observers programs; d) issues reporting bycatch; and e) conservation and outreach measures regarding plastic in the marine environment.

91. He pointed out that it is critical to find common issues to work on with the RFMOs on joined solutions to mitigate seabirds and sea turtles bycatch. He added that the IAC and ACAP presented technical documents before the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) making a positive impact during this Commission's meeting.

92. The United States stressed that although it is not an ACAP signatory, supports the Agreement and suggested to form a group of countries interested in improving the relationship with RFMOs, which could meet every year to develop specific recommendations.

**ITEM 17: WORK PLAN OF THE SECRETARY *PRO TEMPORE* AND
SUBSIDIARY BODIES 2017-2018 / CIT-COP8- 2017-DOC.5**

93. The Work Plan for the Secretary *PT*, Subsidiary Bodies and the Parties was presented and discussed by the delegations:

94. Increasing the IAC membership, the Plan includes: 1) Continue efforts for achieving the accession of new countries; 2) Send the informative bulletins to countries that are not Parties; 3) Inform and invite non-Parties to COPs and the Committees Meetings; 5) follow up on the ongoing outreach efforts by the Parties to include new IAC members.

95. In regards to regarding increasing the membership, the Secretary *PT* read a text proposed by Panama, Honduras and Costa Rica related to the invitation for the members of the Central America Integration System (SICA). The Secretary *PT* pointed out that the countries showing interest to become members of the Convention are Nicaragua, Colombia and El Salvador. Brazil included the French Guianas and Suriname as those who have expressed interest. The Secretary *PT* has made formal visits to these countries. She recommended to include Canada and requested the support of the United States.

96. Within the framework of their bilateral relationships, Argentina and the United States will send a report with the COP Rapporteur to the non-member countries. The Secretary *PT* will send to Argentina an IAC informative report to circulate it among non-member countries as part of the outreach strategy. Uruguay requested to include support from the Chancelleries to this communication effort.

97. Regarding Communication and Training, Brazil recommended including the App Pic4turtle in the communication strategy. The App Identifies Sea Turtles and provides information about them. The data is received by a central host that organizes it and the NGO closes to the place where the report was recorded receives it, in case help from the NGO is required. Brazil has a sponsor that would donate the App to the Convention. The IAC could have total control and the Parties could participate as members and receive information. The Chair suggested Brazil submitting a proposal for the Secretary *PT* to send it to the Parties for their consideration.

98. The Chair summarized the idea as developing a database supplemented by the users. The Secretary *PT* requested Brazil preparing a document including the sponsor and the details on how the Parties would use the App. If approved a link could be included in the IAC Website.

99. Regarding the collaboration with international organizations and strategic alliances, the United States requested including in the Secretary *PT* work plan, participation in the IATTC 2017 and relevant meetings where sea turtle issues are discussed.

100. With regards to Financial Resources, member countries will support the Secretary *PT* to identify potential sponsors of projects and activities subject to external funding. This would help to close the gap between contributions of the Parties and the budget required for the operation of the Secretary *PT*.

101. The Chair explained, that to follow up and understand the progress, indicators should be included in the Work Plan of the Secretary *PT*, Subsidiary Bodies, and the Parties. These annual indicators of progress should be easy to include in a summary chart and could be monitored every six months as the COPs are biennial. The Chair stated that the indicators could be included in the CC and CCE work plans.

102. The IAC Work Plan was adopted with the proposed edits as Document CIT-COP8- 2017-Doc.5 - Annex IX

ITEM 18. REVIEW AND EDITION OF DOCUMENTS OF THE MEETING

103. The delegations working on the text of the hawksbill turtle resolution and the IAC supporting statement to the process for developing an international tool for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas outside jurisdictional waters presented the edits for the final consideration of the Parties, who approved them. The statement text will receive final approval within the following 10 days.

104. A summary of recommendations adopted by the COP8 is included in the document COP8- 2017-Doc.6 - Annex X

ITEM 19: SPECIAL MENTION AND RECOGNITION TO IAC MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY 2016 – 2017 FOR THEIR WORK ON SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION. MR. ISAIAS MAJIL (BELIZE FOCAL POINT) AND MR. LES HODGSON (CCE MEMBER)

105. A special mention and recognition to the memory of IAC Focal Point and Consultative Committee members who passed away within the last two years was shared.

106. Mr. Joseph Fette, the delegate from the United States remembered Mr. Les Hodgson career. He was one of the first members of the fisheries industry working on the conservation of sea turtles. The United States nominated him for the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts and he fulfilled this position for more than eight years. For his contribution to the United States and Mexico, Mr. Hodgson will be missed very much.

107. Ms. Kirah Forman, the delegate from Belize to the Scientific Committee remembered the career of Mr. Isaias Majil in sea turtle conservation at Belize's Fisheries Department. He was the Marine Protected Areas Coordinator, and the IAC Focal Point for more than 10 years passing away on January 17, 2017, at only 42 years old.

108. The Scientific Committee Chair, recalled Isaias modesty, sharp criteria, and vast knowledge. His job was even more relevant considering that Belize is a young country with several needs. However, Isaias did not hesitate about assuming all sorts of commitments regarding conservation. Similar comments were made by the delegates from Panama, Mr. Marino Abrego, Peru, Javier Quiñones, and Mexico, Laura Sarti, who also acknowledged Les Hodgson great commitment with the Kemp's Ridley turtle and the work he carried out for several years with conservationists in Mexico.

ITEM 20. OTHER BUSINESSES

109. Mr. Joao Thome, Vice-chair of the Consultative Committee, took the opportunity to introduce the new CCE sectorial members who were present in the meeting. They are Rebecca Regnery, Deputy Director of Wildlife at the Humane Society International, and Alejandro Fallabrino from the organization Karumbe. Both committed to continuing working jointly with the IAC Parties.

ITEM 21. PROPOSAL ON PLACE AND DATES FOR COP9

110. The delegate from Guatemala offered to host COP9 and added that he will send a formal note with this offering. The delegations thanked Guatemala for the offer and approved the proposal. The fourth week of June was set as a tentative date for COP9.

TEMA 22. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

111. Argentina submitted the nomination of Mr. Antonio De Nichilo for another two years as Chair for the consideration of the COP. Guatemala requested that the current Chair was elected by acclamation. The re-elected Chair proposed Guatemala as Vice Chair since it will be the host for the next COP, pointing out that the vice chair position involves taking the lead in a case that the Chair is not available. Honduras supported this proposal. The delegate from Guatemala noted that as a member of the Chancellery he should ask the Ministry of Environment. Peru nominated the delegate of the United States as a substitute vice chair.

ITEM 23. CLOSING REMARKS

112. The meeting finished with the Chair closing remarks who thanked the delegates for trusting him in the position for another term. The delegations acknowledged the professionalism in executing the meeting, and the warmth and hospitality they received. The Secretary *Pro Tempore* also thanked the support received, and jointly with the Chair, invited all to work earnestly during the intersession period.

ANNEXES

Annex I

List of Participants - CIT-COP8-2017-Inf.1

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| | | INTERPRETE I | |
| | | INTERPRETE II | |

Annex II

COP8 Agenda - CIT-COP8-2017-Doc.1

Wednesday, 28 June

- 08:00 Participant Registration** Argenta Tower Hotel & Suites
Juncal 868 Bs. As. Argentina C1062ABF
Mozart Hall
- 09:00 Start of the Meeting**
- 09:00 – 09:30 Welcome remarks – Host Country Authorities and Mr. Antonio de Nichilo IAC COP8 Chair
- 09:30 – 09:40 Introductions of Focal Points and delegation members and reading of the list of representatives from observer organizations / CIT-COP8-2017-Inf.1
- 09:40 – 10:00 Adoption of the Agenda and Election of the COP8 Rapporteur / CIT-COP8-2017-Doc.1
- 10:00 – 10:40 Presentation by host country about sea turtle conservation activities in Argentina
- 10:40 – 11:10 Coffee break
- 11:10 – 11:40 Secretariat *Pro Tempore* report period 2015 – 2017
- 11:40 – 12:20 Report from the Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC)
- a.) Review of 2015 -2017 work
 - b.) Implementation of the Resolution on the Conservation of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle CIT-COP7-2015-R3. Presentation of report “Status of Loggerhead Sea Turtles *Caretta caretta* within nations of the IAC” ([CIT-CC13-2016-Tec.13](#))
 - c.) Presentation of the Work Plan 2017-2018
- 12:20- 01:00 p.m. Report on the compliance with the Resolution on Exceptions in Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala
- 01:00 – 02:30 p.m. Lunch
- 02:30 – 3:30 p.m. Discussion on the updates of the process for the Establishment of the IAC Permanent Secretariat/ CIT-COP8-2017-R1
- 03:30 – 4:00 p.m. Coffee Break

04:00 – 4:20 p.m. Announcements on logistics and preparation for next day

Welcome Reception for the COP8 Country Delegates courtesy of Government of Argentina - Transportation from Hotel Argenta departs at 7:30 pm

Thursday, 29 June

- 9:00 – 10:00 Report from the Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE)
- a.) Review of 2015-2017 work
 - b.) Report on Resolution Compliance based on IAC Annual Reports and Recommendations from the Consultative Committee to the COP8 CIT-COP8-2017-Inf.3
 - c.) Presentation of the Work Plan 2017 – 2018
- 10:00 – 10:30 Presentation on capacity building activities with Peruvian fishermen for the conservation of East Pacific Leatherback
- 10:30 – 11:00 Recommendations on the implementation of the Resolution for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback CIT-COP7-2015-R2 from the IAC Leatherback Task Force CIT-COP8-2017-Doc.2
- 11:00 – 11:25 Coffee Break
- 11:25 – 12:30 Discussion on hawksbill turtle products trade and proposal to update the Resolution on Conservation of Hawksbills CIT-COP8-2017-R2 (proposed by Costa Rica)
- 12:30 – 02:00 p.m. Lunch
- 02:00 – 03:00 p.m. Analysis to agree to draft a resolution on IAC support to the process to develop an international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in waters outside national jurisdiction CIT-COP8-2017-Doc.3 (proposed by Costa Rica)
- 03:00 – 03:40 p.m. Resolutions proposals by IAC Contracting Parties and/or the IAC Committees
- 03:40 – 04:10 p.m. Coffee Break
- 04:10 – 05:00 p.m. IAC Finances 2017-2019 (Budget proposal and Member Countries contributions) CIT-COP8-2017-R3 and extension of MoU with National Marine Sanctuary Foundation CIT-COP8-2017-Inf.2

Friday, June 30

- 09:00 – 10:00 Election of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts Sectorial Members
CIT-COP8-2017-Doc.4
- 10:00 – 10:30 Collaboration with International Organizations
- Presentation “United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”
-Discuss possible activities under Memorandum of Understanding with ACAP/CIT-COP8-2017-Inf.4
- 10:30 – 11:00 Work Plan of the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* and subsidiary bodies 2017 – 2018 / CIT-COP8- 2017-Doc.5 (Excel Document 3 Work Sheets)
- 11:00 – 11:25 Coffee Break
- 11:25 – 12:30 Review and edits of meeting documents
- 12:30 – 01:00 p.m. Especial mention and recognition to IAC members who passed away 2016 – 2017 for their work on sea turtle conservation. Mr. Isaias Majil (Belize Focal Point) and Mr. Les Hodgson (Member CCE)
- 01:00 – 02:30 p.m. Lunch
- 02:30 – 03:00 p.m. Other business
- 03:00 – 03:15 p.m. Proposal on place and dates for the IAC COP9
- 03:15 – 03:45 p.m. Election of next Chair and Vice Chair
- 03:45 – 04:00 p.m. Coffee
- 04:00 – 04:30 p.m. Closing Remarks

EXTENSION OF THE SECRETARIA *PRO TEMPORE*

RECALLING that COP1/2002/R-1 established a *Pro Tempore Secretariat* and that the government of Costa Rica graciously hosted the Secretariat for several years;

RECOGNIZING that by Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R3 and CIT-COP-Inter-session-2014-R1, Parties asked the United States of America to host the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat until a headquarters arrangement is agreed and implemented, and extend the contract of the current *Pro Tempore* Secretary for an additional two years and six months;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that a desire to continue in the process to establish the Permanent Secretariat;

CONSIDERING that the Government of the United States of America has been hosting the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat since 2009 and has proposed that the IAC authorize extending that arrangement;

NOTING that the Working Group on the Legal Framework of the Convention and Permanent Secretariat worked with interested Parties in the process to establish a Permanent Secretariat as requested in Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R3;

RECOGNIZING the need to provide the appropriate means for the functioning of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat, as well as the quality of the work of the current Secretary;

THE EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the United States of America's offer to continue to host the *Secretariat Pro Tempore* for an additional four years.
2. To authorize the extension of the contract of the current *Pro Tempore* Secretary until December 31st, 2021.
3. To explore potential avenues to provide for a permanent Secretariat in the United States after 2021.

SUMMARY OF IAC RESOLUTIONS COMPLIANCE 2015-2016

The IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* has summarized information provided by IAC Country Parties (Table 1) in their Annual Report 2015 and 2016, and provides a synthesis of the compliance with the following Resolutions:

- CIT-COP7-2015-R2 Leatherback Turtle Conservation
- CIT-COP3-2006-R1 Hawksbill Turtle Conservation
- CIT-COP3-2006-R2 Reduction of the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries

Information from some countries is not included as their Annual Report was not submitted, or it was not delivered on time for the development of this document (Table 2).

Table 1. Countries included in the summary of IAC Resolutions Compliance

| Year | Countries included | IAC Countries who submitted the Annual Report with the information for this summary |
|------|--------------------|---|
| 2015 | 12 | Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Caribbean Netherlands, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, United States, and Venezuela. |
| 2016 | 12 | Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, United States, and Venezuela. |

Table 2. Countries not included in the summary of IAC Resolutions Compliance, their report was not submitted to the Secretary *PT*.

| Years | Countries not included | IAC Countries who did not submit their Annual Report |
|-------|------------------------|--|
| 2015 | 3 | Ecuador, Peru, and Uruguay. |
| 2016 | 3 | Chile, Guatemala, and Uruguay |

The assessment of the IAC Resolutions compliance is based on the recommendations of the Resolutions Compliance Working Group (CCE7). The summary analyzes the Annual Report questions approved by the CCE8 as the most relevant, which can be used as indicators to monitor the actions benefiting sea turtles in the countries Parties.

Data refers to percentages of “Yes” and “No”, or to the number of countries per type of answer, included in the Annual Reports submitted to the Secretary *PT*.

For a better interpretation of bar charts the type of answers “No Data (ND)” and “Not Applicable (NA)” have been included. However, these don’t provide information on the level of compliance with the Resolution. Answers were recorded “ND” when the country did not submit the Annual Report, or when a specific question was not answered.

Table 3 depicts the detail on the IAC Resolutions applicability per country.

Table 3. Applicability of IAC Resolution in Countries Party

| Country | Leatherback Resolution | | Hawksbill Resolution | | Fisheries Resolution | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| | Applicable | Not Applicable | Applicable | Not Applicable | Applicable | Not Applicable |
| Argentina | | XX | | XX | XX | |
| Belize | | XX | XX | | XX | |
| Brazil | | XX | XX* | | XX | |
| Caribbean Netherlands | | XX | XX* | | | XX |
| Costa Rica | XX | | XX | | XX | |
| Curacao | | XX | XX* | | | XX |
| Chile | XX | | | XX | XX | |
| Ecuador | XX | | XX | | XX | |
| Guatemala | XX | | XX | | XX | |
| Honduras | | XX | XX | | XX | |
| Mexico | XX | | XX | | XX | |
| Panama | XX | | XX | | XX | |
| Peru | XX | | XX | | XX | |
| United States | XX | | XX | | XX | |
| Uruguay | | XX | | XX | XX | |
| Venezuela | | XX | XX | | XX | |

* The Resolution includes specific questions on fisheries that are not applicable

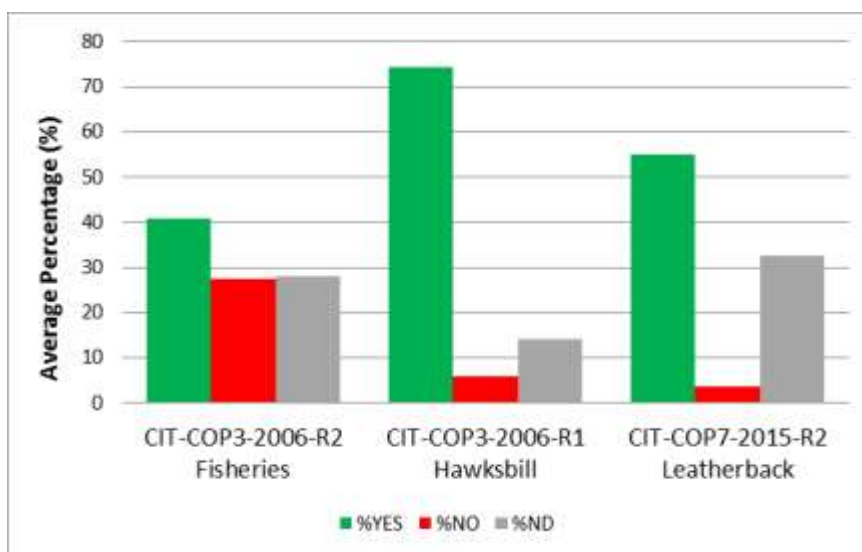
A. IAC RESOLUTIONS GENERAL COMPLIANCE

The following data and figures depict the results from the analysis on the compliance of the IAC resolutions for the Conservation of the Leatherback Turtle (CIT-COP7-2015-R2), the Conservation of the Hawksbill (CIT-COP3-2006-R1) and for the Reduction of the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries (CIT-COP3-2006-R2).

The resolution about leatherback consults the Parties Countries where it is applicable, about the implementation of conservation and monitoring programs, nesting sites protection and fishing techniques to reduce bycatch. The resolution about Hawksbill requires the countries to report their activities regarding monitoring of hawksbill products illegal trade, enforcement of pertinent legislation, activities to stop illegal trade, and the protection of nesting and foraging areas. The Fisheries resolution requests the report of activities regarding data gathering by fisheries, research on their interaction with sea turtles, mitigation of their impact and support of social and economic activities to reduce this impact.

The IAC Resolutions general compliance average for the 2015-2016 period (Figure 1) shows that the Hawksbill Resolution has the highest compliance (66%) followed by the Leatherback Conservation Resolution (48%), and the Fisheries Resolution (38%). In the case of the Leatherback Resolution, this summary only considers eight countries of the Eastern Pacific where this Resolution is applicable. Table 4 presents a summary of the answers average percentage included in the Resolution for both years.

Figure 1. Average percentage of compliance with IAC Resolutions in 2015 and 2016



Note: "ND" refers to cases in which countries did not provide answers to certain questions, or did not submit their Annual Report.

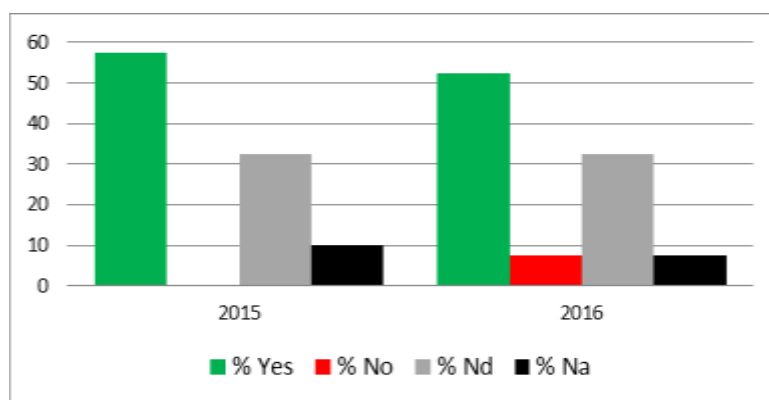
Table 4. Summary of general percentages of compliance with each resolution in 2015 and 2016 (No = the resolution is not implemented; ND = no data; NA = not applicable)

| | General Percentage | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | % YES | % NO | % ND | % NA |
| Leatherback* | | | | |
| 2015 | 57,5 | 0 | 32,5 | 10 |
| 2016 | 52,5 | 7,5 | 32,5 | 7,5 |
| General average | 55 | 3,75 | 32,5 | 8,75 |
| Hawksbill | | | | |
| 2015 | 71,7 | 5 | 16,7 | 6,6 |
| 2016 | 76,7 | 6,7 | 11,6 | 5 |
| General average | 74,2 | 5,8 | 14,2 | 5,8 |
| Fisheries | | | | |
| 2015 | 39 | 29 | 31 | 1 |
| 2016 | 42,9 | 26,6 | 24,7 | 5,8 |
| General average | 40,9 | 27,6 | 27,9 | 3,6 |

B. COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION CIT-COP7-2015-R2 FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE EAST PACIFIC LEATHERBACK TURTLE

Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2 is applicable to the East Pacific countries only, where the species occurs at nesting beaches and/or migratory routes, and foraging habitats. These countries are the United States, Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile. Figure 2 includes the percentage of compliance reported by these countries in the Annual Report 2015 and 2016, showing that compliance has decreased.

Figure 2. Percentage of compliance with Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2 for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)



The three questions in Table 5 (below) were considered as the most relevant. Increasing compliance with the resolution during the last year is shown in green and a reduction in red.

Compared to 2015, there was a reduction in the percentage regarding the implementation of conservation plans (1b) in 2016, probably due to the absence of data from countries that did not submit their Annual Report. In 2015, Ecuador and Peru did not submit their Annual Report, and in 2016, Guatemala, and Chile did not submit it either.

Table 5. Percentage of compliance with specific actions (most relevant) in the Resolution for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback reported in 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports. Red = Reduction; Green = Increase. *Question (3) is not applicable to Chile, the United States, and Peru.

| CIT-COP7-2015-R2 LEATHERBACK | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | |
|---|-------|------|-----------|------|-------|------|-----------|------|
| | % Yes | % No | % No d | % Na | % Yes | % No | % No d | % Na |
| Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs? (1b) | 75 | 0 | 25 | 0 | 62,5 | 12,5 | 25 | 0 |
| 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? (3) | 37,5 | 0 | 37,5 | 25 | 50* | 0 | 37,5 | 25 |
| Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species? (4) | 62,5 | 0 | 25 | 12,5 | 50 | 0 | 37,5 | 12,5 |

CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION PLANS IN NESTING BEACHES

- Conservation measures to protect the leatherback nesting sites increased in 2016.
- Costa Rica continues with Las Baulas National Marine Park territorial, operational and financial consolidations as a conservation area for 85% of nesting females in Costa Rica's Pacific.
- Mexico also remains in its efforts to establish its four index nesting beaches as protected natural areas. Two index sites have already been declared as Sanctuaries and one more is in the process.
- In Ecuador, during the 2015-2016 nesting season, nests in *Manabí* (*Santa Marianita* at Manta and *Puerto Cabuyal* at *San Vicente*) were monitored.
- As this question (3) is not applicable for Chile, Peru and the United States, it must be considered that the maximum percentage to be obtained is 63%. Meaning that 38% compliance is above half of the expected value (63%).

TECHNIQUES TO REDUCE BYCATCH

- The implementation of techniques to reduce bycatch decreased in 2016.
- Peru states that this question is not applicable to their country, which would have to be consulted with the person who prepared Peru's Annual Report.
- Costa Rica, Mexico, and Panama have made compulsory in their regulation the use of techniques, tools and best practices to release sea turtles (e.g. TEDs, circle hooks, spatial closures for shark fisheries in Mexico).
- The United States has an observers program with 100% coverage in Hawaii, and the rest of the east coast implements the use of fishing gears safe for turtles, as well as circle hooks.

C. COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION CIT-COP3-2006-R1 FOR CONSERVATION OF THE HAWKSBILL TURTLE

Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R1 has the highest average percentage (66%) of compliance (Figure 3) reported in the Annual Reports 2015 and 2016 of the IAC Countries Parties, except for Chile, Uruguay, and Argentina where the resolution is not applicable as the species does not occur in their waters. Table 6 presents percentages of compliance with the most relevant questions, showing an increase in compliance with the actions in 2016.

Figure 3. Percentage of compliance with Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R1 for the Conservation of the Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

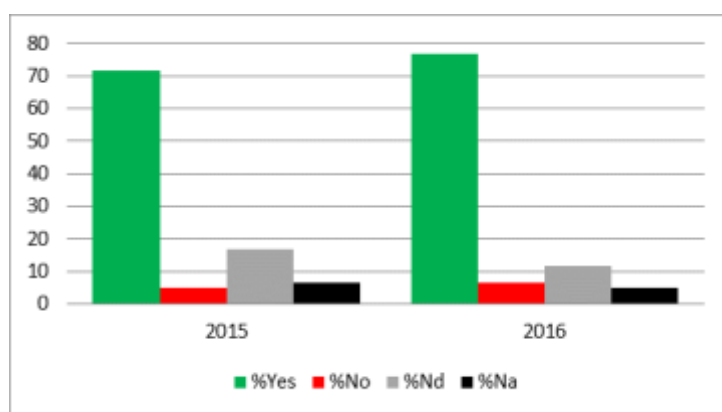


Table 6. Percentage of compliance with specific actions (most relevant) in the Resolution for the Conservation of the Hawksbill Turtle reported in 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports. Green = Increase or equal. *Questions (1 and 3) are not applicable to Brazil and the Caribbean Netherlands

| CIT-COP3-2006-R1 HAWKSBILL | | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| | | % Yes | % No | % Nd | % Na | % Yes | % No | % Nd | % Na |
| Are you strengthening monitoring of the illegal use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products? (1) | | 58 | 8 | 17 | 17 | *67 | 8 | 17 | 8 |
| Are you enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation? (2) | | 83 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 83,33 | 8,33 | 8,33 | 0 |
| Are activities being carried out in order to stop illegal trade of hawksbill products? (3) | | 66,6 | 0 | 16,7 | 16,7 | *67 | 8 | 17 | 8 |
| Indicate if your country is strengthening the protection of important nesting (4a) and foraging (b) habitats by declaring protected areas and regulating anthropogenic activities that adversely impact these habitats. | a) Protection of nesting habitats | 75 | 8 | 17 | 0 | 83,33 | 0 | 8,33 | 8,33 |
| | b) Protection of feeding habitats | 75 | 8 | 17 | 0 | 83,33 | 8,33 | 8,33 | 0 |

MONITORING OF HAWKSBILL ILLEGAL TRADE

- Except for Brazil and Caribbean Netherlands who state that questions 1 and 3 on monitoring actions to stop illegal trafficking of Hawksbills are not applicable to their territory, the majority of the countries are implementing measures such as training of officials to inspect and confiscate products and byproducts of sea turtles. Actions are implemented in strategic places such as airports, land transportation terminals, cross-border areas, crafts markets, and also during Easter religious celebrations when in 2015 Costa Rica recorded an important confiscation at Punta Arenas.
- It is noteworthy that Belize is using satellite tagging to record turtles illegally caught
- In spring 2015 the United States White House Launched the Plan to Combat Wildlife Trafficking.

ENFORCEMENT OF PERTINENT LEGISLATION

- In Honduras, where there are no specific regulations, the implementation of international conventions such as CITES, RAMSAR, and the IAC, has allowed enforcing control measures concerning Hawksbills. As a result, the country is in the process of declaration of RAMSAR sites important for sea turtles.
- Peru answered “no” to all the questions related to the issue.

PROTECTION OF NESTING AND FEEDING HABITATS

- The implementation of Marine Protected Areas is a common denominator to protect Hawksbills nesting and feeding habitats in the Countries Parties.
- Ecuador reported the discovery of a nesting beach at “*Playa Rosada*” in *El Pelao* Marine Reserve.
- The United States reported the declaration of critical habitats at *Isla Mona*, Puerto Rico.
- Peru is in the process to declare “*El Ñuro*” and “*Punta Sal*” as marine protected areas where hawksbills are present.
- Guatemala states that there are no proposals for projects in nesting and feeding site.
- Honduras is collecting information about these same types of sites and their threats, previously identified by ICAPO.
- Brazil declared Fernando de Noronha as Ramsar Site. This is a feeding area for this species.
- Panama requires that all building projects developed near nesting beaches comply with the current regulations stating the recommendations to protect these areas. Control and enforcement have been strengthened in Marine Protected Areas.

D. COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION CIT-COP3-2006-R2 FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE ADVERSE IMPACTS OF FISHERIES ON SEA TURTLES.

The percentage of compliance with the IAC Resolution CIT COP3-2006-R2 on fisheries increased in the Countries Parties 2016 Annual Report (Figure 4). This Resolution is not applicable to the Caribbean Netherlands. Table 7 depicts the average values of compliance with the most relevant activities.

Figure 4. Percentage of compliance with Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R2 for the reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles

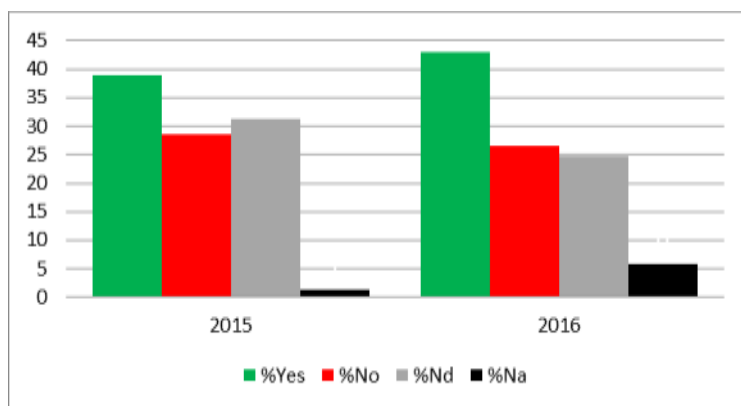


Table 7. Percentage of compliance with specific actions (most relevant) in the Resolution for the reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles. Green = Increase or equal; Red = Reduction.

| CIT-COP3-2006-R2 FISHERIES | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|------|-------|-----|-------|------|------|------|
| Adopted the “Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality induced by fisheries operations”, of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), including (1): | | | | | | | | |
| A. Research and monitoring of adverse impact of fisheries on sea turtles | | | | | | | | |
| | 2015 | | | | 2016 | | | |
| | % Yes | %No | %Nd | %Na | % Yes | %No | %Nd | %Na |
| Collect information by fishery | 50 | 21 | 29 | 0 | 57,1 | 21,4 | 21,4 | 0 |
| Observer programs | 50 | 21 | 29 | 0 | 57,1 | 21,4 | 21,4 | 0 |
| Research on sea turtle/fishery interactions | 50 | 21 | 29 | 0 | 57 | 14 | 29 | 0 |
| Information on non-Party vessels | 14 | 57 | 29 | 0 | 21,4 | 35,7 | 21,4 | 21,4 |
| B. Mitigation measures for the following fisheries (1b): | | | | | | | | |
| Long-line | 50 | 14 | 36 | 0 | 50 | 21,4 | 21,4 | 7,1 |
| Gillnets | 28,6 | 35,7 | 35,7 | 0 | 29 | 43 | 21 | 7 |
| Trawling | 50 | 7 | 36 | 7 | 64,3 | 7,1 | 21,4 | 7,1 |
| Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s)) | 35,7 | 28,6 | 35,7 | 0 | 36 | 21 | 43 | 0 |
| C. Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles | 28,6 | 42,9 | 28,57 | 0 | 28,6 | 35,7 | 28,6 | 7,1 |

FISHERIES INFORMATION GATHERING

- Compliance regarding fisheries information increased in 2016 (57%).
- Guatemala, Peru, and Panama stated not being generating this type of information.
- It is noted that Argentina is using satellite information compared with fishing effort.
- Multiple types of research are carried out in the Countries Parties, in some case through their observer's programs.
- The United States has a research program on technologies to reduce bycatch.

OBSERVERS PROGRAMS

- Belize, Brazil, and Venezuela point out not having observers programs currently.

- Guatemala reported a pilot program in 2015
- In 2015, Costa Rica started the implementation of an observers program including fishermen training in best practices to handle sea turtles on board.
- Guatemala, Brazil, Chile, Panama, and the United States report training of fishermen and crews to guarantee post-capture survival. Costa Rica also requires the presence of observers in foreign vessels to report interactions with sea turtles
- In Argentina, observers don't cover all of the fisheries.
- Chile observers operate in industrial fisheries only.
- The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP in Spanish) is developing an observers program.

MITIGATION OF FISHERIES/TURTLES INTERACTIONS

- In Mexico, transportation on vessels of sea turtles alive or dead is forbidden.
- In Belize animals from bycatch must be reported and taken to port; sea turtles alive must be released.
- Chile states there are no records of interactions of sea turtles with trawling fisheries; therefore it does not record the use of TEDs.
- Belize, Ecuador, and Venezuela report that trawling is completely banned in their territorial waters.
- Costa Rica states that no more permits will be issued for this activity.
- In Peru, it is noted the experimental work carried out by the NGO ProDelphinus using LED lights to reduce the interaction of gillnets with sea turtles.
- The use of spatial and temporal closure stands out in the information provided by Argentina, Mexico, and Brazil.
- Mexico also bans shark longline fishing within a 5 km strip, from the coast during sea turtles nesting season, and the use of circle hooks in this fishery is compulsory.
- The use of circle hooks is reported in Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica, and the United States.
- Costa Rica and Peru point out that there is monitoring of illegal catches in their countries.

- In Panama, an ongoing project aims to document the interaction of sea turtles and another megafauna, with commercial and artisanal fisheries.
- Venezuela carries out rescue and rehabilitation actions.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Although there are no variations in compliance (29%) in 2016, **support to social and economic activities** is noteworthy in:

- Honduras, where there are training programs about tourism, productivity, management, and cooperatives capacity strengthening.
- Brazil, through TAMAR project, has established a recycled paper manufacturer, two clothing factories, and weaving and embroidering community groups
- Mexico, supporting fishermen in obtaining fishing gears safe for sea turtles, and the conversion of fishermen to other productive activities.

E. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that all the countries submit their Annual Report on the date established April 30 to develop a complete and robust analysis on the compliance with resolutions. The absence of information could be biasing the results.

It is recommended to fill up all the corresponding formats fields (yes, no, not applicable) to reduce the ND (No data) answers biasing the results.

It is recommended that all those countries whose answers to some of the actions were “no” request support from the IAC and other Countries Parties to, if possible, achieve compliance.

It is recommended to be more specific in the fisheries from question C regarding the government's support to economic alternatives to finish sea turtles exploitation. The question refers to specific economic activities generating income to the communities putting pressure on these species.

It is recommended that countries considering that Hawksbills illegal trafficking questions are not applicable to their territories, take into account new mechanisms for wildlife trafficking such as international trade through online platforms (e.g. E-bay, Mercadolibre, etc.) where this type of trafficking can be found.

Recommendations from the IAC Leatherback Task Force to address the current threats to the Eastern Pacific Ocean Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Considering the strategic actions included in Annex I of the Resolution for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) CIT-COP7-2015-R2, the Leatherback Task Force has prepared the following priority recommendations including the suggestions from the 13th IAC Scientific Committee meeting and the 10th IAC Consultative Committee of Experts meeting, for consideration by the IAC 8th Conference of the Parties.

1. Organize national technical workshops in the range countries of the EP Leatherback to prioritize specific mitigation measures addressing threats to EP Leatherbacks. It is suggested that for each technical meeting relevant government agencies, academic institutions, and civil society be invited in order to identify and agree upon potential actions set out in the EP Leatherback Resolution and in the Regional Action Plan to reverse the decline of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (<http://savepacificleatherbacks.org>) that are feasible to implement, and discuss the convenience to establish temporal/spatial management measures in the high priority areas identified by the EP Leatherback Action Plan and the IAC Leatherback Task Force in 3 b i, ii, iii (see below), in order to reduce bycatch threats to the population while considering, social, economic, and political implications of its implementation.

2. The IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore* together with a small delegation of the Consultative and/or Scientific committees members and local experts will visit relevant authorities (Secretariats/Ministries/ Directors of environmental and fisheries agencies) from countries within the range of distribution of the EP Leatherback. The purpose of the visits will be to communicate the EP Leatherback critical status, the IAC experts urgent recommendations, and those resulting from the national technical workshops, stressing the mitigation measures of threats to this species, to urge these agencies to collaborate and take action implementing these measures and specific priority actions moving forward to minimize the threats against the EP Leatherback survival.

3. Based on the results of the technical workshops, urge the Parties to implement the corresponding mitigation measures to avoid EP Leatherbacks bycatch and mortality, on the beach as well as at sea. Among others, these measures could include:

- a. Maintain and increase conservation efforts on EP Leatherback nesting beaches by supporting sea turtle monitoring projects specifically those in Mexico and Costa Rica, including index beaches and secondary beaches. To promote that other non - member signatory countries like Nicaragua also undertake similar efforts.

- b. Strengthen the work in feeding grounds, especially capacity building focused on best practices for safe handling and release of turtles incidentally caught and ways to reduce bycatch in priority areas identified in the EP Leatherback Action Plan (<http://savepacificleatherbacks.org>) cited in the IAC Resolution.

Below are areas identified as important, however other areas could also be identified:

- i. Ecuador: Crucita, Santa Rosa and Manta
 - ii. Peru: Tumbes, San José, Salaverry, Chimbote, Lima, Pampa Melchorita-Jahuay-Tambo de Mora-San Andrés
 - iii. Chile: Arica, Iquique, Antofagasta, Caldera, Coquimbo, Quintero, San Antonio and Lebu
- c. Work in coordination with local experts of IAC Parties and the IAC Scientific Committee especially in Mexico and Central America to broaden the knowledge about the impact of fisheries and mitigation measures for EP Leatherbacks in the region
 - d. Develop a mechanism to share successful experiences.
4. Create synergies to increase the EP Leatherback Conservation efforts along with other international agencies (e.g. CBD (Sustainable Oceans Initiative) CPPS, CMS, IATTC, OSPESCA, OLDEPESCA, and other RFMOs) and relevant groups.
- a. The IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* will participate in the IATTC 2017 Annual Commission meeting and any subsequent meetings where sea turtle conservation is discussed to present the recommendations of the IAC Parties.

Annex VI

CIT-COP8-2017-R2

Conservation of the Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

RECOGNIZING that the hawksbill turtle is an important component of many marine tropical ecosystems and is valued culturally, socio-economically, ecologically, and scientifically;

CONSIDERING that the hawksbill turtle has a broad distribution within the range of action of the Convention and maintains ecological connectivity with other regions;

RECOGNIZING that the hawksbill, like other sea turtles, has a complex life cycle that requires the protection of terrestrial, coastal and marine habitats, involving the jurisdictional waters of several countries;

CONSIDERING that although the species is classified globally as critically endangered by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), some populations in the Greater Caribbean and Western Atlantic are slowly recovering after several decades of implementing protective measures;

CONSIDERING that historically, captures of hawksbill turtles to use their scutes, meat and eggs for making products for human use, and the sale of those products in national and international markets have been one of the main causes for population decline;

RECOGNIZING the persistence of several other threats such as incidental and direct capture in fisheries and increasing disturbance of critical feeding and nesting habitats by coastal development, erosion, seismic surveys, pollution, diseases in prey species, coral bleaching, climate change, and eutrophication, among others;

CONSIDERING that it took many decades of intense research, conservation and management efforts to achieve a significant level of hawksbill nesting in the Yucatan Peninsula, and this effort needs to be sustained as a priority;

RECOGNIZING that although there is a greater knowledge about the trend in some hawksbill turtle populations in the region and that they have shown signs of resilience and adaptation to changing conditions, significant efforts will be required to mitigate the threats faced by the species;

NOTING that there is an important knowledge gap about the current status of the trade of hawksbill turtle products, particularly trade between countries;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the IAC Resolution on cooperation and synergy between the IAC and the Convention on the International Trade of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (COP1/2002/R-3), and CITES Decision 17.222, which urges collaboration with the IAC regarding sea turtle trade;

CONSIDERING the need for improving compliance with relevant instruments particularly CITES, which lists hawksbills in Appendix I and prohibits international commercial trade in the species

THE EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES TO:

EXHORT the Parties to promote IAC synergies with CITES, the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the *Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA)*, other treaties, international organizations, relevant regional fisheries management organizations, and regional initiatives such as the Eastern Pacific Hawksbill Initiative (ICAPO) with the purpose of facilitating a regional dialogue about management and conservation of hawksbill turtles and their habitats;

EXHORT the Parties to improve compliance with relevant regulations protecting hawksbill turtle and especially, to strengthen the efforts to address illegal trade of this species products and by-products (e.g. scutes, eggs, and meat) within and between countries, and to stop illegal trade;

URGE the Parties to strengthen protection of important hawksbill nesting and foraging habitats by the declaration of protected areas and the regulation of anthropogenic activities adversely impacting these habitats;

EXHORT the Parties to support and strengthen the research and monitoring activities required to improve the scientific basis of conservation measures for the hawksbill turtle, particularly in genetics, migratory behavior, location and conservation status of foraging habitats and prey species, population dynamics in feeding sites, interactions with fisheries, social and economic impacts of conservation measures, and integrity of its nesting beaches;

URGE the Parties to evaluate and mitigate incidental capture of hawksbill turtles in their jurisdictional waters in accordance with FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations and the IAC fisheries resolution (CIT-COP3-2006-R2);

EXHORT the Parties to apply the Precautionary Approach until possible impacts can be evaluated and mitigated on seismic surveys near priority marine habitats of the hawksbill turtle;

ENCOURAGE synergy between the Scientific Committee and hawksbill experts from the Pacific, the Caribbean and the Atlantic to develop recommendations for conservation based on the best available scientific information to inform the Conference of the Parties on the status of the species and its habitats in the Convention Area ;

PROMOTE the exchange of technical capacity, information and collaborative research on the hawksbill turtle on their habitats among Parties as well as non-Parties and other involved organizations in the Area of the Convention.

This resolution repeals and replaces the IAC Resolution on Conservation of hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) COP3/2006/R-1 in its entirety.

**PROMOTION OF THE CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES AND ITS
RELATION TO UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 69/292**

**THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND
CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES,**

Recognizes that oceans, seas and coastal areas form an integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are critical to sustaining it

Recalls, also in this regard, United Nations General Assembly ("UNGA") Resolution 69/292 of 19 June 2015 on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction,

Considers the need to better address the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction,

Acknowledges the rich discussions and exchange of views at the first three sessions of the Preparatory Committee established by Resolution 69/292,

Recalls that sea turtles spend an important part of their life on the open seas, migrating on routes through large oceanic basins, where they feed and breed,

Acknowledges the relevance of the objectives of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, to inform the debates being held at the Preparatory Committee established by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/292,

Notes the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/292 titled "Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction"

Informs that, at its 8th Conference of the Parties, has urged all the Parties to participate, as appropriate, in the Preparatory Committee established by Resolution 69/292 taking into account the objectives and experiences of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles.

Annex VIII

CIT –COP8-2017-R3

IAC FINANCES 2017 – 2019

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; and

THE 8TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES TO:

1. Adopt 2017, 2018 and 2019 budgets included in Annex I.
2. Authorize the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* 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

| IAC 2017-2019 Budget (Amounts in US\$) | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Items | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| 1- Staff | 171,242 | 176,535 | 182,014 |
| Secretary <i>Pro Tempore</i> (base salary \$85,280 - depends on host country, in this case USA- and costs for dental, health insurance, retirement, cost of contracting agency, visa process and 3.5% annual increase in cost of living) | 151,242 | 156,535 | 162,014 |
| IAC Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> Technical assistant full time estimated cost | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| 2- Other Professional Services | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Translations | | | |
| 3- Communications | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Website/ Computer and Software | | | |
| 4- Travel | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 5- IAC Meeting Support | 68,000 | 64,000 | 74,000 |
| Scientific Committee * | 38,000 | 38,000 | 38,000 |
| Consultative Committee of Experts ** | | 26,000 | 6,000 |
| Conference of the Parties | 30,000 | | 30,000 |
| Subtotal | 255,242 | 256,535 | 272,014 |
| 6- Overhead Costs (12%) *** | 30,629 | 30,784 | 32,642 |
| TOTAL | 285,871 | 287,319 | 304,656 |

*Budget estimated for the Scientific Committee is based on the attendance of 20 participants.

** Budget estimated for 2019 for the Consultative Committee is for a meeting held by video-conference (before the COP). The values for 2018 are for in-person meeting where IAC Funds will cover for expenses of 13 participants (9 Sectorial members and Secretariat PT). We will consider holding the meeting by videoconference depending on funds available.

*** Overhead for administrative services provided by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) for a value of 12%. The MOU between IAC COP and NMSF (CIT-COP8-2017-Inf.2) is renewed at the COP when the IAC budget is approved.

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 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 2017 budget adopted in Argentina, the budget for 2018 and 2019; as well as;
4. The table of contribution goals developed by the 4th Conference of Parties in San José, Costa Rica that was updated at COP5 in Bonaire, COP6 Ecuador, COP7 in Mexico and COP8 in Argentina;

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 budget for 2017 presented in Argentina, the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* suggests the Government of [insert country] plan for and include in your [insert year] budget, a financial contribution for the IAC totaling US\$ [insert amount].

ANNEX III

| IAC Contributions Goals for 2017 | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Member Country | Contribution Goal ¹ |
| Argentina | \$2,000 |
| Belize | \$3,500 |
| Brazil | \$7,056 |
| Costa Rica | \$2,000 |
| Chile | \$8,000 |
| Ecuador | \$2,000 |
| Guatemala | \$2,000 |
| Honduras | \$2,000 |
| Mexico | \$15,000 |
| The Netherlands | |
| Caribbean Netherlands | \$5,000 |
| Curacao | \$5,000 |
| St Maarten | \$5,000 |
| Panama | \$2,000 |
| Peru | \$2,000 |
| The United States | \$65,000 |
| Uruguay | \$2,928 |
| Venezuela | \$3,653 |
| TOTAL | \$134,137 |

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

Annex IX

CIT-COP8-2017-DOC.5

PLANES DE TRABAJO

Secretary Pro Tempore

| Actor | Topic | Proposed Action | Expected Result | Timeframe |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> | Adhesion of new parties to the IAC | 1) Continue efforts to achieve the adhesion of new Parties. 2) Send informative bulletins to non-Party countries to keep them updated on the IAC's activities. 3) Inform and invite non-Party countries to the Conference of the Parties and IAC's committee meetings. 4) Attend meetings of other regional organizations to share information about the IAC, and networking with non-Party country delegates to invite them to collaborate and join IAC objectives 5) Follow up on the steps already undertaken in collaboration with IAC Parties to recruit new members to the IAC. | Increased IAC membership. | Permanent / Ongoing |

| Actor | Topic | Proposed Action | Expected Result | Timeframe |
|---|--|---|--|---------------------|
| IAC Parties | Adhesion of new parties to the IAC | 1) The Parties Chancelleries and other relevant authorities support IAC Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> with non-member countries identified in COP8 (Nicaragua, Colombia, El Salvador, Canada, French Guyana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Suriname to encourage their ratification. 2) Identify other non-members to do outreach visits with the IAC Secretary <i>Pro Tempore</i> together with a delegation formed by IAC member countries in accordance with COP agreements. | Increased IAC membership. | Permanent / Ongoing |
| Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Scientific and Consultative Committee of Experts | IAC's website and newsletter Communication and Training | Countries will send to Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> relevant news on a monthly basis to be included in the IAC Newsletter. | IAC's website updated with relevant news and IAC Newsletter available. | Ongoing |
| Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Parties | Communication and Training | 1) Publish and disseminate the recommendations and decisions adopted at the COP. | 1) COP9 Report available on IAC website. | 2019 |

| Actor | Topic | Proposed Action | Expected Result | Timeframe |
|---|--|--|---|---------------------|
| Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> | Collaboration with international organizations and strategic alliances | 1) Promote synergies with other relevant conventions and international and regional organizations. 2) Promote the signing of at least one cooperation agreement with an organization related to the IAC's objectives. 3) Prepare draft MoU (when needed). 4) The Secretary <i>PT</i> will participate in the IATTC annual meeting, and any other relevant meeting of this Organization, to present recommendations as needed. | 1) Cooperation agreement or MoU signed or in process. 2) Documents presented to the COP for consideration. | 2019, 2020 |
| Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Committees, Parties | Collaboration with international organizations and strategic alliances | 1) Promote activities with organizations that have signed MOUs with the IAC and other multilateral agreements. 2) Assist in preparing technical documents and joint publications. 3) Attend technical meetings and workshops. | 1) Technical documents and joint publications available on IAC website to promote the exchange of information, technical knowledge and lessons learned. | 2019, 2020 |
| Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Committees, Parties | Collaboration with international organizations and strategic alliances | Promote the celebration of World Sea Turtle Day each year. | Activities in celebration of World Sea Turtle Day carried out by IAC Parties. | Permanent / Ongoing |
| Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Committees, Parties | Financial Resources | Identify external funding support for projects and activities identified by the IAC Scientific Committee and/or the Consultative Committee as a high priority. | Identified and prioritized projects. Implementation of project on IAC Annual Report Online System (If approved at COP9) | 2019, 2020 |

| Actor | Topic | Proposed Action | Expected Result | Timeframe |
|---|---|--|---|------------------|
| Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Committees, Parties, Leatherback working group or interested NGO | Financial Resources | 1) Prepare and negotiate project proposals. 2) Implementation of funded projects and activities. 3) Prepare reports on the implemented projects. | 1) Funding proposal presented to possible sponsors. 2) Technical and financial reports presented in a timely manner to the funding agencies. | 2019, 2020 |
| Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Committees, Parties | Work Plan | 1) Prepare a biennial work plan. 2) Report on Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> and Committees activities presented at COPs. | Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> and subsidiary bodies work plan approved at COP | 2019, 2020 |
| Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Chairs of COP and Committees | Execution ability - Meeting organization | Organize the COPs and Committee Meetings as well as the working groups established. | COP, CCE and SC meetings held. | 2019, 2020 |
| Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Parties | Permanent Secretariat | Support activities for the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat and Legal Personality Working Group in accordance with COP8 agreements. Report updates on this process to COP10. | Permanent Secretariat established. | Ongoing |
| Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Consultative Committee of Experts, Parties | Drafting resolutions and recommendations to COP | Address COP requests and draft recommendations and resolutions accordingly. | Present draft resolutions and recommendations to COP as needed. | 2019, 2020 |

| Actor | Topic | Proposed Action | Expected Result | Timeframe |
|--|-------------------|---|---|------------------|
| Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> and Parties | IAC Annual Report | 1) Each Party sends the Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> their Annual Reports. 2) IAC Secretariat PT continues working with WCSC to implement IAC Annual Report Online System (if approved by IAC COP9). 3) Focal Points and IAC Secretariat PT training to use IAC Annual Report Online System (If approved by Parties at COP9). | 1) IAC Annual Reports are available on the IAC website to be analyzed by the Committees. 2) IAC Focal Points received training to use IAC Annual Report online system to use for Annual report 2020. | 2019, 2020 |

Scientific Committee

| Actor | Topic | Proposed Action | Expected Result | Time Frame |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|
| Exceptions Working Group and delegates from Panama and Guatemala | Exceptions | 1) Following the Exceptions Resolution, Guatemala and Panama will develop a Management Plan for their Exceptions including the elements in Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1 and its Annex 1. 2) Delegates from Guatemala and Panama present their countries Exception Management Plan at the SC16. 3) The Exceptions Working Group review the Management Plan and provide recommendations to the Parties and the CCE. | 1) Management Plans on IAC Exceptions in Panama and Guatemala, including results from the last 5 years of implementation of Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1. 2) Recommendations from the Scientific Committee on the Management Plans and the compliance with activities of the exception resolution presented at SC16 meeting. | 2019 |
| Scientific Committee, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> | IAC Website & Newsletter | 1) On a monthly basis, the Scientific Committee will provide news relevant to IAC Parties to the Secretary <i>Pro Tempore</i> for the IAC Newsletter. | 1) Updated news in the IAC website, and regular publication of the IAC's Newsletter. | Permanent |
| Fisheries Working Group | Fisheries | 1) Define common topics to work within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding IAC - ACAP. 2) Revise the IAC Annual Report table on compliance with Fisheries Resolution and select priority information to be used in technical documents and/or for recommendations to the Parties. | 1) Activities identified within the framework of the MoU IAC-ACAP to prepare a workplan. 2) List of priority information in the IAC Annual Report table on compliance with Fisheries Resolution to produce recommendations for the Parties or used for technical documents. | Inter-session 2018 - 2019 |

| Actor | Topic | Proposed Action | Expected Result | Time Frame |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| Nesting Working Group | Conservation Status in Index Nesting Beaches | 1) Collect information on annual nesting in index beaches using the form developed by the SC, and the IAC Annual Report. The Technical Document on IAC Index Beaches is updated every 5 years. Next update is in 2023. 2) Finish the Technical Document on the analysis of index beaches 2009-2018 to submit it to the IAC Parties. | 1) IAC Annual Reports updated with nesting information that Parties and Scientific Committee delegates provide. 2) Final Technical Document with the analysis of nesting beaches 2009-2018 to be presented to COP9. | Inter-session 2019 |
| Scientific Committee | Work Plan | 1) Update the Scientific Committee Work Plan following IAC guidelines and the COPs Resolutions. | 1) Scientific Committee bi-annual work plan including actions, timetable, and responsibilities. | Permanent |
| Scientific Committee and the Coordinator of strategies to work with international organizations | Collaboration with Other Organizations and Strategic Alliances | 1) Review the Scientific Committee Work Plan to include topics and mechanisms towards improving cooperation with other organizations. 2) The coordinator (SC Vice Chair) will follow up on the strategy to collaborate with RFMOs, adopted in the SC14, to inform the Scientific Committee and the IAC Parties. 3) Develop a protocol for how external groups should request data from the IAC. Responsible: US delegate | 1) Identification of synergies with similar organizations to share information (ACAP, SPAW, IATTC, CPPS, WIDECAST, ICCAT, RAMSAR, SWOT, ICAPO, ASO, WWF, CBD, CMS, IOSEA, TLT -The Leatherback Trust, CITES). 2) Scientific and Consultative Committee coordinators report on the activities carried out within the strategy to work with RFMOs presented in the next SC. 3) Protocol for how external groups should request data from the IAC to be presented to the CCE. | 1) Permanent 2) Permanent 3) January 2019 |

| Actor | Topic | Proposed Action | Expected Result | Time Frame |
|--|---|--|--|------------------------------|
| Scientific Committee and IAC Annual Report Working Group | Annual Reports | 1) Review technical information included in the IAC Annual Report. 2) Review the IAC Annual Report and select priority information according to SC15 agreements, to be used in technical documents and/or for recommendations to the Parties. | 1) Report on technical information from the IAC Annual Reports when needed. 2) List of priority information in the Annual Report which will be used to produce recommendations for the Parties or technical documents presented in the SC16. | 1) Permanent 2) Sept 2019 |
| Scientific Committee | Projects | 1) Develop recommendations about high priority projects to apply for funds and other resources needed to achieve the IAC objectives. | 1) Recommendations for high priority projects when needed. | Permanent |
| Scientific Committee | COP and Consultative Committee of Experts Recommendations | 1) Address COP and Consultative Committee of Experts requests and make recommendations accordingly. | 1) Make recommendations to the COP and Consultative Committee of Experts as needed. | Permanent |
| Scientific Committee | IAC Technical Documents | 1) Develop technical documents as needed. | 1) Technical document on the analysis of index beaches 2009-2018 CIT-CC15-2018-Tec.14 updated. 2) Technical documents available at the IAC's website and shared with IAC Parties. | Permanent |
| Scientific Committee and Working Group | Galapagos Green Turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i> | 1) Prepare recommendations to the CCE, COP and the Party Ecuador on the current situation of Galapagos Green. Responsible: Delegates from USA, Chile, Peru, and Ecuador. | 1) Document (1-page summary) with recommendations on the population status of Galapagos Green Turtle according to the IAC index beaches 2009-2018 report results presented to Consultative Committee CCE12 and COP9. 2) Technical document on Green Sea Turtle Galapagos presented at SC16. | 2019 |

| Actor | Topic | Proposed Action | Expected Result | Time Frame |
|---|--|---|--|---------------|
| Scientific Committee and Working Group | Northwest Atlantic Leatherback <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> | 1) Prepare recommendations to the CCE and the COP, on the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback. Responsible: Delegates from Argentina, Costa Rica and the Caribbean Netherlands. | 1) Document with recommendations on the analysis of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback nesting status presented at CCE12. | 2019 |
| East Pacific Leatherback TF and Fisheries Working Group | Eastern Pacific Leatherback <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> | 1) Develop an inter-sessional communication mechanism for the EP Leatherback Task Force Work. 2) Develop a standardized stranding and necropsies protocol for the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtles. 3) Develop a model report for each Party member of the Leatherback TF (Peru, Chile, Mexico, and Ecuador) on the status of occurrence and threats to the EP Leatherback. 4) Collect bibliographic data on incidental catches of Leatherbacks in IAC Countries to identify other threats. 5) Revise the Annual Report table on fisheries and develop an updated report on the information required from the IAC Parties aiming for a comprehensive analysis of the compliance with the Resolution on Leatherbacks. | 1) Communication system established among the EP Leatherback Task Force. 2) Eastern Pacific Leatherback stranding and necropsies protocol. 3) Model report on the status of occurrence and threats to the Leatherbacks in countries part of the Fisheries WG. 4) Report on the analysis of bibliographic information on incidental catches of Leatherbacks in IAC Countries fisheries. 5) Report on the information required in the Annual Report aiming for a comprehensive analysis of the compliance with the Resolution on Leatherbacks. | 2019 |
| Scientific Committee, Secretary <i>Pro Tempore</i> | Hawksbill Turtle <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> | 1) Review CITES report on the sea turtle trade and submits recommendations and comments from the Scientific Committee to CITES Secretariat. | 1) Recommendations from the Scientific Committee submitted to CITES Secretariat on the sea turtle trade report. | December 2018 |

| Actor | Topic | Proposed Action | Expected Result | Time Frame |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|-------------------|
| Scientific Committee, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> | IAC Directory of Experts | 1) Review and update the IAC Expert Directory. | 1) Updated directory available on IAC's website. | Permanent |
| Scientific Committee | Capacity Building | 1) Support from Scientific Committee members in workshops and training on topics identified by IAC Parties, and those for which funding is available. | 1) Strengthening capacities on topics related to sea turtles in the IAC Parties. | Permanent |
| Scientific Committee Working Group | Sea turtle conservation status | 1) Develop the terms of reference for a consultancy on sea turtle conservation status. | 1) Terms of reference for a consultancy on the conservation status of sea turtles. | 2019 |

Consultative Committee of Experts

| Actor | Topic | Proposed Action | Expected Result | Timeframe |
|---|---|---|---|-------------------------|
| Consultative Committee of Experts | Exceptions | 1) Follow up on the progress of Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Panama exceptions, and other cases presented. 2) The Consultative Committee of Experts will prepare a report to the COP on the use of sea turtles or their products by the Parties Exceptions (when new exceptions are presented). | 1) Report to COP on the progress of Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala exceptions (if needed). 2) Report on exceptions presented for COP consideration. | 2019, 2020 Permanent |
| Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> | IAC's Website & Newsletter | 1) Parties will send to Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> relevant news on a monthly basis for the IAC's Newsletter. | 1) IAC website updated with the IAC's Newsletter and other documents of interest. | Permanent |
| Eastern Pacific Leatherback Working Group | Eastern Pacific Leatherback Working Group | 1) Follow up on the implementation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP7-2015-R2). 2) Carry out annual meetings of the Leatherback Task Force. 3) Leatherback task force will prepare a report with recommendations on urgent conservation actions to be presented to COP9. | 1) Report presented at COP with recommendations on urgent conservation actions. 2) Present Laud OPO results from East Pacific Leatherback model to COP9. | 2019, 2020 |
| Consultative Committee of Experts | North West Atlantic Leatherback | 1) Working group (Costa Rica, United States, Brazil, CCE Chair and Sectorial member), prepare draft Resolution on NWA Leatherback based on recommendations from IAC SC. | 1) Draft Resolution on NWA Leatherback presented to COP9. | 2019 |

| Actor | Topic | Proposed Action | Expected Result | Timeframe |
|---|---|---|---|------------------|
| Consultative Committee of Experts | IAC Annual Report | 1) CCE delegate from each country will provide support to the Focal Point to prepare the IAC Annual Report. | 1) IAC Annual Report submitted annually | Permanent |
| Resolution Compliance Working Group | IAC Annual Report and Compliance of Resolutions | 1) Assess current Annual Report format. 2) Evaluate Annual Report Online System proposal. | 1) Recommendations for changes to the format of the Annual Report as required. 2) Proposal on IAC Annual Report Online System presented to COP9. | 2019 |
| Consultative Committee of Experts | Work plan | 1) Update CCE work plan following the recommendations of the Parties. | 1) CCE bi-annual work plan updated with activities, timetable and responsible. | Permanent |
| Consultative Committee of Experts - Working Group (USA) | Collaboration with International Organizations | 1) Create a working group to follow up on the implementation of existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). | 1) The United States will propose ideas to work with the organizations with which the IAC has MoU. | 2019 |
| Consultative Committee of Experts | Collaboration with International Organizations | 1) Recommend and promote alliances and synergies with other international organizations to accomplish the IAC objectives. | 1) Identification of synergies with similar organizations to share information (SPAW, CIAT, CPPS, WIDECAST, ACAP, ICCAT, OSPESCA, OLDEPESCA, RAMSAR, SWOT, ICAPO, ASO, WWF, CBD, CMS). 2) Participation of IAC representative at Cartagena Convention COP in 2019 to discuss NWA leatherback recommendations with non-IAC countries. Caribbean Netherlands will facilitate the discussion. | 2019, 2020 |
| Consultative Committee of Experts | Collaboration with International Organizations | 1) Develop and review MoU drafts with relevant identified organizations. | 1) Documents presented to COP for consideration. | 2019 |

| Actor | Topic | Proposed Action | Expected Result | Timeframe |
|---|---|---|--|------------------|
| Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> | Drafting Resolutions and Recommendations to COP | 1) Address COP requests and draft Resolutions and recommendations accordingly. | 1) Resolutions and draft recommendations presented to COP as needed. 2) Draft Resolution on changes to guidelines for financing the IAC presented to COP9. 3) Draft Resolution NWA Leatherback presented to COP9. 4) Draft Resolution on data uses to be presented to COP9. 5) Recommendations on green turtle nesting in Galapagos presented to COP9. 6) Recommendation on IAC Annual Report Online System proposal presented to COP9. 7) Laud OPO East Pacific Leatherback Model report presented to COP9. | 2019 |
| Consultative Committee of Experts | IAC Technical Documents | 1) Develop technical documents as needed. | 1) Technical documents available on the IAC website and shared with IAC Parties. | Permanent |
| Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> | IAC Experts Directory | 1) Review and update the IAC Experts Directory. | 1) Updated directory available on IAC's Website. | Permanent |
| Consultative Committee of Experts Resolution Compliance Working Group | Resolution compliance | The Consultative Committee of Experts will prepare a report to the COP on the compliance of the Parties with the IAC resolutions and agreements made by the COPs, when necessary. | Report on resolution compliance presented at COP when necessary. | Permanent |

Annex X

CIT-COP8-2017-Doc.6

IAC 8th Conference of the Parties (COP8) Recommendations and Agreements

1) Resolution on Extension of the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* CIT-COP8-2017-R1

Given the United States Department of State negative to declare the IAC as an International Organization, the Secretariat continues to be *Pro Tempore* hosted by the United States. Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R1 was adopted and resolves:

1. To accept the United States of America's offer to continue to host the *Secretariat Pro Tempore* for an additional four years.
2. To authorize the extension of the contract of the current *Pro Tempore* Secretary until December 31st, 2021.
3. To explore potential avenues to provide for a permanent Secretariat in the United States after 2021.

Resolution adopted: http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP8CIT/CIT_COP8_2017_R1_%20Extension%20Secretariat%20PT_Adopted.pdf

2) Resolution on Conservation of Hawksbills CIT-COP8-2017-R2

Aiming to increase the efforts to reduce illegal trafficking of Hawksbill products and sub-products, it was agreed that the Resolution on Conservation of Hawksbills CIT-COP8-2017-R2 repeals and replaces the IAC Resolution on Conservation of Hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) COP3/2006/R-1 in its entirety.

Resolution adopted: http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP8CIT/CIT-COP8-2017-R2_Hawksbill_Adopted.pdf

3) Resolution on Finances CIT-COP8-2017-R3

Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R1 was adopted without amendments.

Resolution adopted: http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP8CIT/CIT-COP8-2017-R3_Finances_2017_2019_Adopted.pdf

4) Recommendations on the implementation of the Resolution for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback CIT-COP7-2015-R2 from the IAC Leatherback Task Force. CIT-COP8-2017-Doc.2

It was agreed to include in recommendation number four (4) that the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* will participate in the IATTC 2017 Annual Commission meeting and any subsequent meetings where sea turtle conservation is discussed to present the recommendations of the IAC Parties.

5) Declaration for the Promotion of the Conservation of Sea Turtles and its relation to United Nations General Assembly 69/292 CIT-COP8-2017-DOC.3

The COP8 developed a declaration to support sea turtle conservation in relation to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/292 on the “Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction”. It was agreed that the document will be developed inter-sessions, and sent to the Chair of the United Nations 69/292 Resolution Work Group through the UNCLOS Secretariat, with a copy to the United Nations Brazil delegation before July 14th, 2017.

6) Election of Sectorial Members CIT-COP8-2017-Doc.4

According to the votes, for the period 2017 -2019, the representatives of the NGO Sector are Ms. Rebecca Regnery, Mr. Diego Amorochó and Mr. Alejandro Fallabrino; the representative of the Scientific Sector are Ms. María Ángela Marcovaldi, Mr. Luciano Ponce, Mr. Eduardo Cuevas and as deputy Mr. Bryan Wallace; and the representative of the Productive Sector are Ms. Nina Pardo Antúnez and Mr. Humberto Becerra. It was agreed that the IAC Focal Point will carry an inter-session proposal and vote to fill the vacancy in the Productive Sector.

7) Work Plans 2017-2019 CIT-COP8-2017-Doc.5

Work Plans 2017-2019 of the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore*, Scientific Committee, and Consultative Committee of Experts (CIT-COP8-2017-Doc.5) were updated including intersession activities.

8) MoU with National Marine Sanctuary Foundation CIT-COP8-2017- Inf.2

The MoU with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation was renewed with amendments in the text CIT-COP8-2017-Inf.2.

9) Memorandum of Understanding IAC – ACAP/CIT-COP8-2017-Inf.4

It was agreed that the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees will collaborate with ACAP to develop the informative document proposed by this organization, and will edit the MoU including synergies, to be presented at ACAP's MOP in 2018.

10) Building Capacity in IAC Parties

It was agreed that the members of the IAC Committees will support the formation of a multidisciplinary group to monitor the development of the project “Artisanal Fishing Facilities in Puerto Lopez, Manabí” in Ecuador.

Brazil will send a formal proposal for the use of the Pic4Turtle App as part of the IAC communication strategy, with instructions of use for the IAC Parties.

11) New IAC Memberships

The Secretariat announced the incorporation of Dominican Republic as the 16th IAC Party; the documents are pending to be received by Venezuela as the IAC depositary.

Delegations from Guatemala, Panama, and Honduras extended their support to incorporate new members, and within the framework of Central America Regional Integration System and through their Chancelleries, will arrange the participation of non-member Parties as IAC COP9 observers, focusing on Nicaragua and El Salvador.

12) COP Chair and Vice-Chair Election

Mr. Antonio de Nichilo, Focal Point from Argentina, was re-elected as COP Chair and pending for acceptance, Guatemala is the vice-chair nominee. In case that Guatemala cannot accept the United States will fill the vacancy.

13) Venue of the 9th Conference of the Parties (COP9)

The Government of Guatemala offered to host the IAC COP9. The next meeting tentative date is June 2019. Dates will be agreed with the host country.

Annex XI

IAC COP8 PHOTOS



Group Photo – COP8



COP8 Chair, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina and the IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore*.



Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina Rabbi Sergio Bergman



Delegation from the Republic of Argentina – Hosts of COP8



Delegation from Costa Rica and Ecuador – COP8



Delegation from Panama, Peru, Uruguay, the United States and Venezuela – COP8



Delegation from Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, Panama and Peru – COP8