



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

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



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**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND
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REPORT IAC COP10 – PART I (2021)

Meeting: Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) Tenth Conference of the Parties (COP10)

Venue: Videoconference Platform Zoom Pro

Date: June 30th, 2021

COP10 Chair: M.Sc. Rotney Piedra - System of National Protected Areas - Government of Costa Rica

Rapporteur: Ministry of Environment of Panama and IAC Secretariat

ITEM 1. OPENING CEREMONY COP10-PART I

1. The Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Tenth Conference of Parties (COP10) was held by videoconference on June 30th, 2021, due to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. COP10 -Part I reached a quorum with the participation of 15 IAC Parties (Argentina, Brazil, Belize, the Caribbean Netherlands, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, the United States of America, and Venezuela). Participants included the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committee Chairs, and observers from the governments of Canada, and Trinidad and Tobago, for a total of 64 people. (Annex I – List of Participants CIT-COP10-2021-Inf.1)
2. Mr. Rotney Piedra IAC Focal Point for Costa Rica was the COP10 Chair, with the support of the Secretary, Ms. Veronica Caceres. To celebrate the IAC Convention's 20 years, Panama delegation in their capacity as COP10 Vicechair presented a video of a traditional dance entitled *Paloma Titibú*, performed by the Francisco De León Folkloric Dance Academy of Panama.
3. The Chair provided welcome remarks, which began by thanking the first responders of the fight against COVID-19, pandemic and acknowledged with a message of solidarity, strength and peace to those who have suffered with the disease, or have lost a loved one. He continued to say that even though the IAC is a small Convention, it has made great progress for the conservation of sea turtles in the region its 20 years of existence. This has been possible thanks to the effort and commitment of each of the countries, strategic partners, and the Secretariat. The Chair also mentioned that there are still great challenges for the Convention, among them that the sea turtle populations go back to levels of stability; that we can resolve outstanding administrative, legal and financial challenges, and that we continue with the outreach using the diplomatic channels with non-member countries, to invite them to join the Convention. The Chair ended thanking all IAC parties present, the representatives of the Governments of Canada and Trinidad and Tobago for their attendance, and the Government of Panama for its continuous offer to host COP10-Part II.
4. Ms. Verónica Cáceres, Secretary of the IAC, presented the Convention's 20th Anniversary logo designed by Panama to celebrate the occasion. She continued to present a report of the activities that the Secretariat and the IAC countries have carried

out in the last biennium. The report focused on the implementation of the IAC Resolutions. (IAC Secretariat Report in Annex II)

ITEM 2. INTRODUCTION OF IAC PARTIES HEADS OF DELEGATIONS, CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM AND READING OF THE LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING AS OBSERVERS

5. The heads of delegation of the 15 countries introduced their delegations, and the quorum was confirmed. Observers from the governments of Canada and Trinidad and Tobago also introduced their delegations.

ITEM 3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ELECTION OF THE COP10 RAPPORTEUR.

6. The agenda was adopted after including an item proposed by the COP Chair, which was the presentation of the Consultative Committee of Experts and the Scientific Committee Chairs of topics that will be presented for the consideration at COP10 Part II in June 2022. Panama appointed the rapporteur Ms. Digna Barsallo from the Ministry of the Environment of Panama, together with the IAC Secretariat. (Annex III - Agenda COP10 CIT-COP10-2021-Doc.1)

ITEM 4. REPORT OF THE CONVENTION'S LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND PERMANENT SECRETARIAT WORKING GROUP. CIT-COP10-2021-Inf.2

7. The Chair read the report of the Working Group on the legal framework of the Convention and the Secretariat (Legal-WG) comprised of Brazil, Costa Rica (coordinator), Peru, Mexico, and the United States. The Legal-WG was formed at the COP4 (2009), with the objective of analyzing alternatives for the establishment of the Secretariat and finding the most appropriate formulas to address issues related to the operation of a permanent Secretariat, including its legal status, contracting of personnel, and the contributions from the Parties. The Legal-WG was reactivated by the COP10 Chair. The report addresses the drafting of Resolutions CIT-COP10-2021-R1 and CIT-COP10-2021-R2, presented to the COP, as well as the proposed work plan of the Legal-GT for the next biennium, which will be included in the Convention's Work Plan. (Annex IV - CIT-COP10-2021-Inf.2)
8. The Legal-WG recommendations regarding IAC Resolution on Finances 2022-2024 were to remove the term "voluntary" from the text referring to the contributions of the IAC countries. Regarding the Resolution on the Extension of the Secretariat, the recommendation was to remove the modifier "*pro tempore*" when referring to the IAC Secretariat.
9. COP10 agreed on including the Legal-WG activities in the Convention's Work Plan. The delegation of Ecuador requested to be included as member of the Legal-WG from now on.

ITEM 5. RESOLUTION ON THE EXTENSION OF THE IAC SECRETARIAT CIT-COP10-2021-R1

10. The Chair noted that the Resolution is the result of a request made by the COP10 Chair on behalf of the IAC Parties to the United States Focal Point, asking to consider the extension of the hosting the Convention's Secretariat office in the current location at US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Headquarters, and the consultation by the COP10 Chair to the IAC Parties regarding the contract of the Secretary *Pro Tempore*. The Chair reminded the plenary as a reference that IAC Parties adopted Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R1 at the COP8, for the United States to host the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* for four years. This opportunity is presented again by the Government of the United States proposal to continue hosting the IAC Secretariat for four more years, until December 2025. The Chair thanked the United States for their generous offer.
11. The Chair presented the recommendation from the Legal-WG, supported by the United States, that follows the rationale that considering that the IAC Secretariat has been successfully fulfilling all the functions in *Article VI – Secretariat*, for almost 20 years, and seeking to have titles according to this status, the United States proposes that the titles of Secretary and Secretariat no longer include the modifier "*Pro Tempore*". The body will be simply "*the Secretariat*", different from "*Permanent Secretariat*", which requirements are in Resolution CIT-COPE1-2007-R1 *Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat*.
12. The Chair read the Resolution that asks parties to consider the endorsement of the extension of the arrangement to host the IAC Secretariat in the United States until December 31, 2025, and the extension of the contract of Ms. Verónica Cáceres Chamorro as Secretary until December 31, 2025. Caribbean Netherlands endorsed the Resolution and thanked the United States for its continued support hosting the Convention's Secretariat. Ecuador joined in the acknowledgement to the United States.
13. The United States thanked the IAC Parties, and the Legal-WG for their support providing the letter asking the USFWS to continue hosting the IAC Secretariat and added that the Resolution intends to reflect the continuous work of the Secretariat in service of the IAC Parties, and that the change of this title is in alignment to this work.
14. The Resolution on the extension of the IAC Secretariat CIT-COP10-2021-R1, for the IAC Secretariat to continue to be hosted in the United States, the extension of the Secretariat's contract until December 2025, and the elimination of the modifier *Pro Tempore*, were adopted by consensus. (Annex V - Resolution CIT-COP10-2021-R1)

ITEM 6. RESOLUTION ON THE IAC FINANCES 2022 -2024 (BUDGET AND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PARTIES) CIT-COP10-2021-R2

15. The Chair presented the Resolution on Finances, noting the editions suggested by the Parties which are aligned with the recommendation from the Legal-WG. The first edit es to delete the term “voluntary”, referring to the contributions from the Parties, to make it consistent with the text of this resolution that refers to “contribution goals”. The second edit is to include text that reflects the COP10 authorization to extend the Memorandum of Understanding with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF).
16. Brazil agreed with the edits proposed and asked the plenary if it would be possible to remove the footnote in Annex III of the Resolution.
17. Caribbean Netherlands supported removing the term voluntary and the footnote. Also suggested that the language “Recognize that countries have different abilities to make financial contributions" be moved to the preamble of the Resolution. The second item was agreed by the plenary.
18. The United States agrees on removing the term voluntary, but requested that the footnote in Annex III is retained, as it is an important element to justify the voluntary nature of the contributions made by the government of the United States.
19. Chile agrees on removing the term voluntary, as the contribution by the countries should be prioritized. Also supports deleting the footnote in Annex III, however considering the United States' comment, suggested to modify the footnote to make it explicit that the amount of the contribution is voluntary and to facilitate for countries to make their contributions.
20. Argentina and Ecuador agreed with the edits to the Resolution, and support keeping the footnote in Annex III. Suggested that further discussion is to be held regarding edits to the footnote.
21. Ecuador stated its concern regarding the Convention’s legal status, as it makes it difficult for the country to make its contributions. Ecuador expressed its interest in participating and contributing to the IAC Legal Working Group
22. Brazil withdrew the proposal to delete the footnote in Annex III considering the difficulties to discuss the issue in a virtual meeting.
23. Mexico, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Venezuela supported the drafting and review of new text for the footnote that highlights the voluntary nature of the contributions.
24. The United States proposed that the Legal-WG prepare an appropriate text to facilitate contributions from the countries. Chile suggested that the new text is be understood that all countries should make their contributions with voluntary amounts.

Considering the current deficit and that each year the Secretariat must look for external financial sources to supply what the countries that do not contribute could cover. This is a situation presents a risk in the operation of the Convention, because obtaining funds from external sources is not guaranteed every year. Mexico requested that the new text is shared with the Parties in advance to carry out the necessary consultations to have results at the COP10 Part II in 2022.

25. Panama suggested to consider the following text for the footnote: “The contribution must be consistent and responsible, in accordance with the financial capabilities of each Party”. This text will be considered by the legal working group.
26. There was consensus to delete the term “voluntary” from the Resolution. The plenary agreed with the text suggested by the Chair to reflect the discussions of the plenary to be included in the Resolution as follows: “Request the IAC Legal Framework and Permanent Secretariat Working Group to review and consider the development of a proposed text for the footnote in Annex III of this Resolution, to present it at the COP 10.2 in 2022”. The Resolution Finances CIT-COP10-2021-R2 was adopted by consensus. (Annex VI - Resolution CIT-COP10-2021-R2).
27. The IAC Secretary, Ms. Caceres, presented the status of contributions from the IAC Parties (2010-2021) in **Annex VII** of this document. The shaded area in the table of contributions 2010-2021 shows that the country was not a member of the Convention that year. The total of contributions in 2021 is 156,243 USD, these are contributions from five countries (Chile, Mexico, Honduras, The United States, and The Dominican Republic). The numbers in blue, are the external funds obtained by the Secretariat through grants, mainly from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for 2021 (70,432 USD). These grants are key support to compensate the budget deficit, and for items in the IAC budget such as the contract of the Secretariat assistant, and the organization of the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees every year, and the Conference of Parties, every two years (Annex VII - Summary of 2010-2021 IAC Countries Contributions)
28. Chile highlighted that there is a potential for activities that could be accomplished if there was a commitment from all countries to contribute annually to the Convention, hence the importance of the changes that have been adopted in the Finances Resolution. The delegate emphasized the responsibility of the countries, and agrees with the idea that Panama suggested for text to the foot note in the Finances Resolution, that the IAC Parties should be motivated to commit to the best of their capacities, to support the conservation work carried out in the Convention, as well as the commitment of the Secretariat to continue working to reduce the financial constraints that are well known. Chile hopes that the recommendations that will be provided by the Legal Working Group will emphasize the importance of the contributions from all the IAC countries, which benefit the Contracting Parties and their sea turtle conservation programs.
29. The Chair thanked Chile’s comment and emphasized the importance of having access to the financial resources required to guarantee the Convention’s sustainability for

another 20 years, as well as to address the issues that for this purpose have been adopted in each one of the Resolutions. He asked the delegates to bear in mind that the access to external funds from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund, available up to now, is not guaranteed every year, and that this should be considered for the need to ensure the IAC sustainability.

ITEM 7. RENEWAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION CIT-COP10-2021-DOC.2

30. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IAC and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) that calls for the extension until December 31, 2025 was reviewed.
31. The Caribbean Netherlands suggested to consider specifying in the first paragraph of the MoU, where the signatory parties are mentioned, that the MoU is signed between the Foundation and the IAC, and the document is signed by the IAC COP Chair.
32. The United States suggested keeping the original text, because the language in this MoU has been in place since 2009, and a change would need consultation with the Department of State. She suggested to include this discussion as assignment for the Legal-WG.
33. The renewal of the MoU with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to continue to be IAC fiscal agent, and manage the IAC special fund, document CIT-COP10-2021-Doc.2 was adopted. The COP10 Chair will contact NMSF Vice-president to proceed with the signature. (Annex VIII - IAC-NMSF MoU).

ITEM 8. ORGANIZATION OF COP10 PART II IN PANAMA, VENUE AND DATES IN 2022

34. Mr. Marino Abrego, delegate from Panama and member of the COP10 Vicechair team expressed that it is an honor to host the meeting and reiterated their continued support to the Chair and the Secretariat in the organization of the of the second part of the Conference of Parties in Panama City in June 2022. Mr. Abrego welcomed all the delegates from IAC Parties to attend.
35. Panama presented the video of a traditional dance prepared for the IAC COP10 by the Francisco De León Folklore Dance Academy, a piece titled “El Poncho”.

ITEM 9. REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE CHAIRS ON THE ACTIVITIES TO PRESENT AT THE IAC COP10 PART II (2022)

36. The Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE), Dr. Eduardo Ponce, presented the topics that have been discussed within the Committee, including the exceptions for Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Panama. These countries received recommendations after presenting their progress reports. The working groups

established at the CCE are discussing methods to measure the interactions between sea turtles and longlines, and gillnets in industrial and artisanal fisheries, including a pilot project that will take place in Peru and Chile. These activities are being carried out together with the Scientific Committee with the aim of preparing a standardized form that facilitates gathering information in all countries. Progress reports are expected to be submitted to the COP in 2022.

37. A proposal to modify the Eastern Pacific leatherback Resolution, and the progress in the implementation of the Northwest Atlantic leatherback resolution, will be presented to the COP10-II.
38. The Chair of the Scientific Committee, Ms. Lezlie Camila Bustos, presented the Committee's main themes of work. On the subject of exceptions, draft Resolutions for Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Panama to update the existing ones will be presented to the COP10 - II. Regarding bycatch, the fisheries working group will present the preliminary analysis of sea turtles' interactions and bycatch with longline vessels longer than 20 meters. Peru will present an initiative addressing safe handling a release of sea turtles, that has been in implementation for a number of years, and that has resulted in the safe release of 19 sea turtles, this intended to be replicated in other countries. This presentation will be given by IMARPE in the person of Javier Quiñones Dávila (IAC Scientific Committee Delegate) and David Sarmiento, field observer from IMARPE-Santa Rosa, Lambayeque, San José There will be a discussion on progress regarding the interactions between sea turtles and gillnets, as the Scientific Committee is trying to find the best mechanisms to begin collecting this information.
39. Regarding sea turtle species status, there will be a presentation of the results of the collaboration between the IAC and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) in the EASI-Fish project. The technical document on critical areas for the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback, and an update of the loggerhead turtle conservation status.
40. There will be a report regarding partnership with other organizations, such as progress on the work strategy with the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), and the recommendations from the collaboration with CITES on sea turtles legal and illegal trade.
41. Mr. Joca Thome, delegate from Brazil, requested the Scientific Committee to present a progress report on the IAC index nesting beaches next year, as this is an important indicator of the sea turtles populations status, and it is important to raise it to the attention of the COP10-II. The SC Chair pointed out that the IAC index beaches update is included in the Committee's work plan, and although it is scheduled for 2023, the Committee will discuss presenting a progress report at the COP10 in 2022.
42. The Chair thanked and acknowledged the leadership of the SC and CCE Committees Chairs, who have recently been appointed to their positions and are now presenting important steps forward.

ITEM 10. IN MEMORIAM PAUL C. HOETJES (CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS FORMER IAC FOCAL POINT)

43. The delegate from Brazil, Mr. Joao Thome, shared a tribute to Dr. Paul Hoetjes, who served as Chair of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts and Focal Point of the Caribbean Netherlands, until his professional retirement in 2020.

“Saddened by the passing of Dr. Paul Hoetjes, we share a tribute to his legacy, leadership and advice that greatly contributed to the protection of sea turtles and all the marine ecosystems of the Caribbean Sea. Paul was Focal Point to the IAC Convention for more than 10 years. In 2011, was elected Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE), a position for which his colleagues re-elected him until his professional retirement in 2020. In 2019, Paul supported the strengthening of the IAC-SPAW MoU to reinforce joint work emphasized on the conservation of the Northwest Atlantic leatherback turtle. The diplomacy, and commitment of Dr. Hoetjes to make the IAC stronger will always shine in the achievements of the Convention. We will always hold him dearly in our memory”.

ITEM 11. COP10 – PART I ADJOURNMENT

44. The Chair thanked the participation in the meeting with numerous attendees, of 15 countries and observers. The Chair wishes an equally successful second part of the IAC COP10 in 2022.
45. The IAC COP10 Vicechair, Mr. Jose Julio Casas, thanked the delegates participation, and reassured Panama’s commitment to the conservation of sea turtles with the activities carried out locally, and as host of the second part of the COP10. He thanked on behalf of Panama and the Ministry of the Environment and invited the delegations to attend the meeting in Panama City next year.

ANNEXES

Annex I

Participants List (COP10) - CIT-COP10-2021-Inf. 1

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	PAUL SCHIFTAN	INTERPRETER	
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Annex II

Click on the link to the Secretariat activities report – COP10.1

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/7hu7nk1b02hqmog/02%20Actividades%20COP10.pdf?dl=0>

Annex III
Agenda COP10 – Part I

CIT-COP10-2021-Doc 1

Date: June 30th, 2021

Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM – Time in Washington, DC

Platform: Zoom Pro– The link to access the meeting will be sent to registered participants

Agenda
IAC Tenth Conference of Parties (COP10) Part I

10:00 AM (Washington DC)

1. Opening of the Meeting

Panama Delegation cultural tribute to IAC 20th Anniversary

Mr. Rotney Piedra, COP10 Chair

Ms. Verónica Cáceres, IAC Secretary PT – IAC 20th Anniversary message

2. Introduction of IAC Parties heads of delegations, confirmation of quorum and reading of the list of organizations participating as observers. CIT-COP10-2021-Inf.1
3. Adoption of the Agenda and election of the COP10 Rapporteur. CIT-COP10-2021-Doc.1
4. Report of the IAC Legal Framework and Permanent Secretariat Working Group. CIT-COP10-2021-Inf.2
5. Resolution on the Extension of the Secretariat CIT-COP10-2021-R1

12:30 Health break (30 min)

6. Resolution on the IAC Finances 2022 -2024 (budget and contributions from Parties) CIT-COP10-2021-R2, and Renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation CIT-COP10-2021-Doc.2
7. Organization of COP10 Part II meeting. Presentation by host country Panama, venue, and dates in 2022.
8. Report of Consultative and Scientific Committee Chairs with the activities planned to present at the IAC COP10.2 (2022)
9. Other business:

In Memoriam Paul C. Hoetjes (Former IAC Focal Point -Caribbean Netherlands)

10. Adjournment COP10 Part I

For reasons of public health and safety associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, COP10 Part I meeting is being convened virtually. Delegates are kindly requested to access all meeting documents that will be sent to your email for download as necessary.

Annex IV

CIT-COP10-2021-Inf.2

Report from the Convention Legal Framework and Permanent Secretariat Working Group (Legal WG) to the COP10

The Chair of the 10th Conference of Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, Mr. Rotney Piedra reconvened the Convention's Legal Framework and Permanent Secretariat Working Group comprised of Brazil, Costa Rica, the United States, Mexico, and Peru to resume activities on January 27th, 2021, at the 1st of four inter-sessions meetings to discuss the IAC Secretariat status towards establishing a permanent Secretariat, and to discuss other issues relevant to the WG objective. This WG was established in 2009 with the purpose of finding appropriate mechanisms to address issues related to a permanent Secretariat operation, including a legal status, contracting personnel, and contributions from the IAC Contracting Parties.

The official reactivation of the working group was agreed upon during this first meeting of 2021, as well as the appointment of Mr. Rotney Piedra, as coordinator, and the establishment of the main WG activities to follow up on Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R1 EXTENSION OF THE SECRETARIAT PT and the Secretariat headquarters. The first agreement was drafting a letter to the USA Focal Point, in support of the interest of the IAC Parties for the United States to continue hosting the Secretariat. The letter approved by the IAC Focal Points members was transmitted to the United States Focal Point, Mr. Earl Possardt (USFWS) to support the internal consultations with his government to continue hosting the IAC Secretariat Pro Tempore. The second agreement was the drafting the Resolution proposal addressing the IAC Secretariat hosting agreement in the United States, and the Secretary PT contract according to the results from the consultation lead by the COP Chair with the IAC Parties in December 2020

The Legal WG agreed to recommend to the IAC COP10 keeping the Secretariat Pro Tempore status quo without any specific legal status. Therefore, the Secretariat PT will continue operating as it has been for the past eleven years, with the support of a foundation that carries out the tasks requiring legal status (contracts, fiscal agent etc.) through a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF). The IAC Special Fund is managed by this Foundation (NMSF), in charge of receiving the IAC Parties contributions, also acting as the fiscal entity, and enabling the IAC Secretariat to perform all its functions. Also, it was agreed that the Legal WG will prepare a work plan with activities to continue searching for a mechanism to establish the Permanent Secretariat.

For the 2nd meeting of the WG, on February 24th, 2021, the United States informed on their government approval to continue hosting the Secretariat Pro Tempore. This was presented in the draft Resolution CIT-COP10-2021-R1 which also establishes that recognizing the work of the Secretariat fulfilling complying with and fulfilling all the duties during the last 20 years, the modifier "*Pro Tempore*" would no longer apply and could be removed from the Secretariat title, maintaining the status quo, as previously agreed, and without leaving aside the objective of establishing a permanent Secretariat, according to Resolution [CIT-COPE1-](#)

[2007-R1: Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat](#). The draft Resolution presented by the United States was approved by the Legal WG and has been presented to the COP10-Part I in June 2021.

The Legal-WG prepared the work plan with the activities for the Legal WG to carry out in the following years, and it will be presented to the COP10 – Part I for consideration.

During the 3rd meeting of the Legal WG, held on March 17, the group refined the work plan (in Annex II), which led to the discussion on the Secretariat finances and the challenges to support its operation and how to receive the contributions from all the Parties. There was a debate regarding the difficulties some countries face when trying to include contributions to IAC in their national budget, as the word “voluntary” is used in the text of Resolution CITCOPE1-2007-R2: Guidelines for Financing the Operation of the IAC, this is because governmental agencies in charge of payments to conventions do not consider this type of contributions in the budget, this means that the funds must be obtained from external sources, this is a limitation for the Parties to obtain the funds.

The IAC operations include the Secretariat, and the meetings of IAC subsidiary bodies, which depend on the Parties contributions that have not been enough to cover the costs. Therefore, these activities have been subsidized by external financial sources, as it is the case of the Grants from USFWS Marine Turtle Conservation Fund. It is important to understand that the funds from the grants are not guaranteed, this means that if the IAC does not have contributions from the members presents a challenge to the operation and to carry put its activities. The external funding from grants should be used for the execution of activities such as capacity building, research etc., to fulfill the IAC objective.

The Legal WG agreed on preparing a preliminary analysis to present options to the COP10 regarding the language used regarding the contributions, as shown in the previously mentioned resolution and the IAC Finances Resolutions, the WG considers a good way forward to explore the possibility to remove the word “voluntary” from these Resolutions, as this term/language is not included in the IAC text. This will facilitate the process for some countries to provide their contribution. The WG also considers suggesting a mechanism to increase the contributions in the future, and present to the Parties the real picture of the Convention expenses, which cannot be entirely covered with the current contributions from the countries.

At the 4th Legal -WG meeting the workplan was revised one final time, including the member responsible of some of the activities, others are pending to address. Brazil with support of IAC Secretariat PT will review the previous report from this Legal WG regarding the legal personality and present their findings to the WG. This report to COP10 was also agreed.

The Legal WG coordinator, Mr. Rotney Piedra, or the person that the WG suggest will present at the COP10 the Resolutions prepared by the Legal -WG, this report and the work plan, with recommendations to move forward. Each meeting of the Legal -WG prepares the minutes to help monitoring the agreements.

Recommendations

The IAC legal working group recommends removing the term “voluntary” from the IAC Finances Resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R3, as it is not included in the Text of the Convention, but without including the term “mandatory”.

The IAC legal working group recommends removing the modifier “*pro tempore*” from the Secretariat Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R1, without altering the Secretariat *status quo*.

Annex I

Work Plan Proposed by the IAC Legal WG

The Legal WG tasks will be included in the IAC COP10 Workplan. It takes into consideration the IAC Resolution CIT-COP4-2009-R2 intended to enhance the implementation of both the WG and the IAC Resolutions regarding the establishment and operation of the IAC Secretariat. The Legal WG tasks mainly deal with but are not limited to, strengthening communication, cooperation, and guidance to IAC Parties in the process for the establishment of a Secretariat, as in the IAC text.

IAC Convention Legal Framework and Permanent Secretariat Working Group: Tasks List 2021-2025

Tasks	Reference	Responsible	Status
1. Elect Legal WG chair for the timeframe until the next IAC COP	2nd meeting of legal WG or COP	Legal WG, supported by Secretariat PT	Completed
Adopt a task list/work plan and review it before each conference of the parties COP, or as instructed by the COP. Include the task list in COP Workplan.	2nd, 3rd, and 4th meeting of legal WG	Legal WG, supported by Secretariat PT	Completed
2.1. Propose deleting the qualifier <i>Pro Tempore</i> from the Resolution on the Secretariat hosting and the Secretary contract to be discussed at the			June 30 th , 2021- Item to be considered at COP10.1
2.2. Analyze the relevance of deleting the word “voluntary” from the Resolution text referring to the contributions, as the term is not included in the IAC Text (Finances Resolution).			June 30 th , 2021- Item to be considered at COP10.1
2.3 Prepare a list of advantages and disadvantages of having a legal status, analyzing existing report from the Legal WG (2014-2015).			December 31 st , 2022 – prepare report for CCE 2023.

Tasks	Reference	Responsible	Status
2.4. Analyze the possibility of a changing the amount of the current minimum contribution to be adopted from COP11.			To analyze at the COP11 - 2024
3. Report on the implementation of the task list at each COP.	Progress report	Legal WG	Progress report presented June 2022 at COP10.2
4. Prepares a letter of support from IAC Parties to the United States IAC Focal Point regarding the extension of hosting of IAC Secretary PT in USA FWS from June 2021- Dec 2025. This letter was sent by IAC COP Chair to IAC Focal Points.	1st meeting of legal WG	Legal WG	Completed
5. Prepares draft resolution for IAC COP10 regarding the hosting and operation of the Secretariat PT and the contract of the Secretary 2021-2025	2nd meeting of Legal WG	Legal WG	Completed
Legal WG communication and coordination			
6. Convene meetings of the Legal WG before COP to report progress on the tasks.	4 meetings before the COP10. 1 27Jan 2021 24Feb 2021 17mar2021 12may2021	Legal WG Chair-supported by Secretariat PT	Completed Future meetings: July 2021 – COP10 recommendations follow up and work plan adjustments. September 2021: Discuss legal status advantages and disadvantages. Meeting calendar will be decided as of September 2021.
7. Preparing the meetings written	4 reports	Legal WG Chair	Completed
8. Exchange and discuss information relevant to the Legal WG.		Legal WG	

Tasks	Reference	Responsible	Status
9. Review the first paragraph of the MoU with National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation, regarding signing parties, to assess the need of specifying that the MoU is signed between the Foundation and the IAC, and signed by the COP Chair.	Request by the COP10.1	Legal-WG	
10. Prepare a text proposed for the IAC Finances Resolution Annex III, showing the contributions voluntary nature, and facilitating the parties' contributions. Present this proposal to the COP10.2. Consider the text proposed by Panama: "The contribution must be consistent and responsible, in accordance with the financial capabilities of each Party"	Request by the COP10.1	Legal-WG	
Recommendations to IAC Parties			
9. Jointly prepare draft resolutions as pertinent.	Resolutions presented at IAC COP10.1	Legal WG	Completed
10. Members of the Working Group present any relevant materials at the IAC COP meetings.	June 1st Informative document submitted to COP10.1	Legal WG, Secretariat	Completed

Annex V

CIT-COP10-2021-R1

COVER PAGE
RESOLUTION EXTENSION OF THE SECRETARIAT

The Resolution was reviewed and endorsed by the IAC Working Group on the legal framework and establishment of the IAC Secretariat comprised of Costa Rica, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, and the United States. The Resolution is the result of the consultation with the United States regarding the hosting of the IAC Secretariat, and the result of the consultation process led by IAC COP Chair with IAC Parties regarding the Secretary *Pro Tempore* contract.

Note from the United States on the Resolution to extend the Secretariat hosting arrangement in the United States and extend Ms. Verónica Cáceres Chamorro's contract

On June 30, 2017 (COP 8), the IAC Parties adopted Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R1, which accepted the United States of America's offer to continue to host the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* for an additional four years and authorized the extension of the contract of the current Secretary *Pro Tempore* until December 31, 2021.

The United States Government proposes to continue to host the IAC Secretariat as reflected in Annex I of the attached proposed Resolution.

Taking into account that the IAC Secretariat has been successfully fulfilling all of the functions set forth in the Convention's Article VI – Secretariat for nearly 20 years and seeking to have titles that are commensurate with this status, the United States further proposes that the titles of the Secretary and Secretariat no longer include the “*Pro Tempore*” modifier. The entity would simply be the “Secretariat”, as distinguished from a “Permanent Secretariat”, requirements for which are set forth in Resolution *CIT-COPE1-2007-R1 Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat*.

The United States asks the IAC COP to consider extending the hosting arrangement in the United States through December 31, 2025, and Ms. Verónica Cáceres Chamorro's contract until December 31, 2025.

CIT-COP10-2021-R1

RESOLUTION EXTENSION OF THE SECRETARIAT

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

CONSIDERING that the Government of the United States of America has been hosting the Secretariat since 2009;

RECOGNIZING that since established in 2002 at the first Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat has been successfully fulfilling all of the functions set forth in the Convention's *Article VI-Secretariat*;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the need to provide the appropriate means for the functioning of the Secretariat, as well as the quality of the work of the current Secretary.

THE 10th CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES

RESOLVE:

1. To accept the United States of America's proposal to continue to host the *Secretariat* through December 31, 2025, as detailed in Annex I.
2. To authorize the extension of the contract of Ms. Verónica Cáceres Chamorro, the current Secretary, as IAC Secretary until December 31, 2025, notwithstanding and without prejudice to Annex I of Resolution CIT-COPE1-2007-R1.
3. Convene an intersessional COP session in June 2025, to discuss and decide matters related to the accommodation of the Secretariat and the contract of the IAC Secretary.

ANNEX I

Proposal of the United States to the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) for the United States to Continue to Serve as Host of the Secretariat

A. Proposed/Current Location: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Division of International Conservation, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia 22041. USFWS will provide office space at this location at least through December 31, 2025. In the event that USFWS is no longer able to provide space after that date, it will assist in the search for a new location.

B. Office Space: 11 square meters with locking door.

C. In-Kind Support: Desk, desktop computer, printer, and scanner, filing cabinets, phone with unlimited free international telephone calls, and access to meeting rooms with international video conferencing capability.

D. Financial Support: USFWS provides annual funding of approximately \$60,000 from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund to support part-time administrative and technical support, delegates' attendance at the Conference of the Parties (COP) and subsidiary committee meetings, translation services, and regional workshops.

E. Financial Management: The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, which currently provides financial management services to the IAC, is expected to continue to do so, subject to appropriate arrangements with the IAC.

Annex VI

CIT-COP10-2021-R2

IAC FINANCES 2022 - 2024

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 that countries have different abilities to make financial contributions;

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

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

THE 10th CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES TO:

1. Adopt 2022, 2023 and 2024 budgets included in Annex I.
2. Authorize the Secretariat to forward an invoice to each of the Parties for an amount equal to the contribution goal identified in Annex III.
3. Authorize the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.
4. Request the IAC Legal Framework and Permanent Secretariat Working Group to review and consider the development of a proposed text for the footnote in Annex III of this Resolution to present it at the COP 10.2 in 2022.

ANNEX I

IAC 2022-2024 Budget (Amounts in US\$)			
Items	2022	2023	2024
1- Staff	171,637	176,944	182,437
Secretary* (base salary \$101,090 - based on host country, in this case USA- costs for dental, health insurance, retirement plan, cost of contracting agency, and 3.5% annual increase in the cost of living)	151,637	156,944	162,437
IAC Secretariat Technical assistant full time estimated cost	20,000	20,000	20,000
2- Other Professional Services	3,000	3,000	3,000
Translations			
3- Communications	3,000	3,000	3,000
Website Maintenance/ Computer /Software	2,300	2,300	2,300
Maintenance IAC Online Reporting System	700	700	700
4- Travel	10,000	10,000	10,000
5- IAC Meeting Support	58,000	38,000	58,000
Scientific Committee (SC)**	34,000	34,000	34,000
Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE)***	4,000	4,000	4,000
Conference of the Parties (COP)	20,000		20,000
Subtotal****	245,637	230,944	256,437
6- Overhead Costs (12%) *****	33,496	31,492	34,969
TOTAL	279,133	262,437	291,406

*Budget based on the contract for the Secretary with Ocean Associates Inc. as decided at COP9 and renewed at COP10

**Budget for the SC based on funding (airfare, lodging, and meals) for 20 participants.

***Budget for the CCE is for a meeting held via videoconference.

****Projected amounts subject to change depending on the total of actual funds received by IAC.

*****Administrative services provided by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) for a value of 12%, these are projected amounts subject to change depending on the total of actual funds received by IAC. The values for 2023 and 2024 are estimated subject to be revised as stated in MOU between IAC COP and NMSF signed at COP10 (CIT-COP10-2021-Doc.2).

CIT-COP10-2021-R2

ANNEX II

Invoice for financial contribution

In accordance with:

1. The financial rules (CIT-COPE1-2007-R2) adopted in 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 2022 budget adopted in COP10, the budget for 2023 and 2024; 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, COP8 in Argentina, COP9 in the Dominican Republic, and COP10;

The IAC Secretariat 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 2022 presented in COP10, the IAC Secretariat 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 2022	
Member Country	Contribution Goal¹
Argentina	\$2,000
Belize	\$3,500
Brazil	\$7,056
Costa Rica	\$2,000
Chile	\$8,000
Dominican Republic	\$2,000
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	\$136,137

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 VII

Summary of 2010-2021 IAC Countries Contributions

N/A: No aplica el país no era miembro de la CIT en ese año														
	Contribuciones recibidas/IAC Parties Contributions Received												TOTALES/ TOTALS	Meta de Contribución /Contribution Goal
País Miembro/ Member Country	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		2019
Argentina	N/A												\$ 0.00	\$ 2,000.00
Belize													\$ 0.00	\$ 3,500.00
Brasil													\$ 0.00	\$ 7,056.00
Costa Rica			\$ 4,238.70	\$ 2,013.21	\$ 1,797.35	\$ 2,055.97	\$ 1,904.33	\$ 1,937.69	\$ 1,997.87	\$ 1,891.99	\$ 2,096.09		\$ 19,933.20	\$ 2,000.00
Chile		\$ 16,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00			\$ 8,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
República Dominicana	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		\$ 2,000.00			\$ 5,903.21	\$ 7,903.21	\$ 2,000.00
Ecuador													\$ 0.00	\$ 2,000.00
Guatemala													\$ 0.00	\$ 2,000.00
Honduras	\$ 1,915.00	\$ 1,986.39		\$ 1,890.00	\$ 1,930.00	\$ 2,048.61			\$ 2,158.00	\$ 8,700.00		\$ 2,340.00	\$ 22,968.00	\$ 2,000.00
Mexico	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
The Netherlands		\$ 4,970.00						\$ 29,980.00	\$ 4,980.00	\$ 4,980.00	\$ 4,980.00		\$ 49,890.00	\$ 5,000.00
Curacao													\$ 0.00	\$ 5,000.00
St Marteen													\$ 0.00	\$ 5,000.00
Panamá					\$ 10,000.00		\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 24,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Perú													\$ 0.00	\$ 2,000.00
The United States	\$ 113,200.00	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 178,000.00	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 153,802.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 156,818.00	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 1,696,820.00	\$ 65,000.00
Uruguay													\$ 0.00	\$ 2,928.00
Venezuela													\$ 0.00	\$ 3,653.00
Total	\$ 130,115.00	\$ 162,956.39	\$ 205,238.70	\$ 121,903.21	\$ 190,529.35	\$ 177,104.58	\$ 178,904.33	\$ 208,917.69	\$ 184,135.87	\$ 184,571.99	\$ 180,894.09	\$ 156,243.21	\$ 2,081,514.41	\$ 136,137.00
Grants/Subvenciones obtenidas por la Secretaria de CIT														
MITCF-FWS	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 68,435.00		\$ 24,310.00	\$ 92,700.00	\$ 43,636.00	\$ 16,818.00	\$ 24,716.00	\$ 52,409.00	\$ 48,034.00	\$ 59,794.00	\$ 70,432.00	\$ 542,874.00	
CITES CIT				\$ 12,000.00	\$ 3,590.00									

Annex VIII**CIT-COP10-2021-Doc.2****Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF), and the Chair of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC).**

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation has been providing services as fiscal agent and financial manager for the IAC Special Fund since 2009 by means of this Memorandum that has a time frame of four years, and that has been extended at the COP. The current MoU expires in July 2021, and it needs to be extended.

The COP10 agreed on the extension of the MoU with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation NMSF through December 31st, 2025.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into effective this 1st day of September 2021 by and between the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (Foundation), a nonprofit corporation, and the Chairperson of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) on behalf of the COP.

BACKGROUND

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with extensive experience in managing special events and conferences on ocean issues. For the past twenty years, the Foundation has coordinated Capitol Hill Ocean Week, a multi-day symposium that brings together members of academia, government, industry, and non-profits to discuss ocean issues. The Foundation also works closely with partners to advance priorities for the ocean, coasts, and watersheds, through three key mission areas: conservation and restoration, science and technology, and education and outreach.

The Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles is the only legally binding convention in the world for the protection of sea turtles. As of the date of this MOU the IAC has been ratified by 16 Parties (the United States, Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Uruguay, Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Chile, Kingdom of the Netherlands (Caribbean Netherlands), and the Dominican Republic. The IAC's objective is promote the protection, conservation, and recovery of sea turtle populations and of the habitats, on which they depend, based on the best available scientific evidence, taking into account the environmental, socioeconomic, and cultural characteristics of the Parties.

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation provided the financial management services for the IAC since April 2009 following the approval of CIT-COP4-2009-R4, which authorized the COP to negotiate such an arrangement. The MOU was renewed in 2015, 2017, and again in 2021 following authorization by the IAC COP in CIT-COP-Inter-session-2015-R1, CIT-COP8-2017-R3, and CIT-COP10-2021-R2, respectively.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to carry out the COP's intent expressed in CIT-COP10-2021-R2 by establishing and facilitating the Foundations' role in the financial administration of the Secretariat's work. To this end, the COP (working through the Chair of the COP, as appropriate) and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (hereinafter referred to as "Participants") have reached the following mutual understanding.

ACTIONS

1. Engagement/Scope of Services. The Foundation is to act as fiscal agent for the Secretariat. These services should include managing the IAC's Special Fund, entering into contracts in order to facilitate the work of the COP, assisting with financial logistics of special events as needed, and performing annual audits of the IAC's Special Fund.
2. Responsibilities of the Foundation:
 - a. Prepare a contract with Oceans Associates for the hiring of a Secretary.
 - b. Establish a restricted account to receive contributions from the IAC Parties and other sources such as non- governmental organizations, and other Foundations. Such contributions should form part of the IAC Special Fund.
 - c. Carry out at the request of the Secretary the necessary financial aspects of procurement activities for convening the COP and subsidiary meetings such as the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee meeting.
 - d. Execute the approved budget and work plan (see attachments) according to the guidance of the Chair of the COP and the Secretary.
 - e. Provide the Secretariat with quarterly accounting statements reflecting the expenditure of the funds and receipt of contributions and any donations.
 - f. Provide these fiscal agent services for a 12% fee on the total (gross) amount of the IAC Special Fund. This fee may be deducted immediately upon the receipt of any grant or other payment of funds to the Foundation for the IAC Special Fund. The fee is to be maintained at the percentage indicated above for 2021 and 2022, after that it could be revised with the possibility of an increase, subject to the negotiation between and mutual decision of the Foundation and the COP, once the Foundation completes its evaluation of its management expenses.
3. Responsibilities of the COP working through the Chair of the COP or the Secretariat as appropriate
 - a. Provide the Foundation with the approved budget each year and the corresponding work plan.
 - b. Provide the necessary information to the Foundation to execute contracts necessary to carry out the work of the COP.
 - c. Identify the necessary vendors to carry out the COP's work.
 - d. Facilitate provision by outside organizations of resources to the IAC Special Fund.

4. Special Terms and Conditions

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following special terms and conditions are to apply:

- a. Whenever possible, all contracts are to be in the name of the Foundation and not the Secretariat.
- b. The Foundation is to have no obligation to pay contracts or invoices or to make any grants unless it has been first instructed in writing to do so (using such authorization forms as the Foundation may develop) by either the Secretary or the Chair of the COP. The Secretary can authorize contracts and grants, except for the Secretariat employment contract which can only be authorized by the Chair of the COP. The Foundation is to have no liability to the COP for payments that it makes from the IAC Special Fund that were authorized by the Secretary or the Chair of the COP.
- c. Under no circumstance is the Foundation to be obligated to expend funds that have yet to be contributed to the IAC Special Fund, nor may the Secretariat incur expenses in excess of funds currently existing within the IAC Special Fund that have not already been committed to a specific use.
- d. Under no circumstance may the Secretariat incur expenses or enter into arrangement of any kind in the name of the Foundation without the Foundation's prior written consent.
- e. All grants and other payments of funds by the IAC members and other parties to the Foundation for the use of the IAC Special Fund are to be made in United States Dollars.

5. Periodic Reports, Oversight, and Ownership

- a. Subject to the protocols of the Chair of the COP, of the IAC Secretary and the President/CEO of the Foundation they intend to regularly confer and update each other as needed.
- b. The Secretariat may review and approve in advance the content of all materials of any kind disseminated by the Foundation to third parties pertaining to the COP or the Foundation's services for the COP.
- c. The COP and the Secretary are to keep confidential and not disclose to any third party without the written consent of the Foundation any information identified as confidential or proprietary information about the Foundation that may come into the possession of the COP during the performance of this MOU. This confidentiality clause is to indefinitely survive the discontinuance of this MOU.
- d. To the extent practicable, the Foundation is to keep confidential and not disclose to any third party without the written consent of the COP, Chair of the COP, Secretariat, or IAC Party, as appropriate, any information

identified as confidential or proprietary information about these entities that may come into the possession of the Foundation during the performance of this MOU. This confidentiality clause is to indefinitely survive the discontinuance of this MOU.

6. Term

- a. Unless sooner discontinued by either Participant without cause in accordance with paragraph 8 below, the term of this MOU is to be four (4) years, through December 31, 2025.
- b. The term of this MOU may be extended by a period of up to two years by mutual consent of the Participants.

7. Budget

- a. The Foundation is to draw resources from the IAC Special Fund in accordance with the budget approved by the COP.
- b. Except as provided in paragraph 4.b above, the Foundation is to work with the Chair of the COP and the Secretary in carrying out the financial contracts necessary for executing the COP budget and work plan, as approved by the COP.

8. Modification and Discontinuance. This MOU may be modified only by mutual concurrence of the Participants in writing. This MOU may be discontinued by either Participant without cause by providing written notice to the other Participant. Upon discontinuance for any reason, the Foundation is to forward any remaining funds in the IAC Special Fund to the COP or to such other person or entity as the COP may designate.

9. Notice. Any notice from one Participant to the other may be delivered by electronic mail, facsimile, hand delivery or overnight delivery service and is to be effective upon receipt. The address for notice is to be as follows:

If to the Foundation:
 Kristen Sarri
 President & CEO
 National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
 Address: 8455 Colesville Road, Ste. 1275
 Silver Spring, MD 20910
 Email: ksarri@marinesanctuary.org.
 Phone: (301) 608-3040
 FAX: (301) 608-3044

If to the IAC:
Rotney Piedra Chacón
Chair of the IAC COP
Address: Ministerio de Ambiente y
Energía
Sist. Nacional de Áreas de Conservación
Área de Conservación Tempisque
Dirección de Áreas Silvestres Protegidas
Oficina Regional – Costado Sur Iglesia
Católica Nicoya, Guanacaste, Costa Rica
Email: rotney.piedra@sinac.go.cr
Phone: 2686 4968 / 2686 4967

Verónica Cáceres
Secretary
Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea
Turtles
c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation
5275 Leesburg Pike, U.S.A.
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
secretario@iacseaturtle.org
Phone: (703) 358-1828

10. No Joint Venture. The Participants are independent contractors, and this MOU is not intended to create any agency, partnership, or joint venture relationship of any kind.
11. No Assignment. The Participants should not assign their rights or delegate their duties under this MOU to any other party.
12. Legal Effect: This MOU is not intended to create legally binding obligations under international or other law, and it does not create any obligation for an individual State Party to the IAC.
13. Attachments. All attachments to this Arrangement are incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this Arrangement.

THEREFORE, the parties, by their authorized representatives, have entered into this MOU effective as of the date first written above.

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NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

By: Kristen Sarri

Its: President & CEO

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

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

By: Rotney Piedra Chacón

Its: Chair, IAC Conference of the Parties

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution CIT-COP10-2021-R2 IAC Finances 2022 - 2024

Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R3 IAC Finances 2017-2019

Resolution CIT-COP-Inter-sesion-2015-R1

Annex IX PHOTOS COP10 – PART I



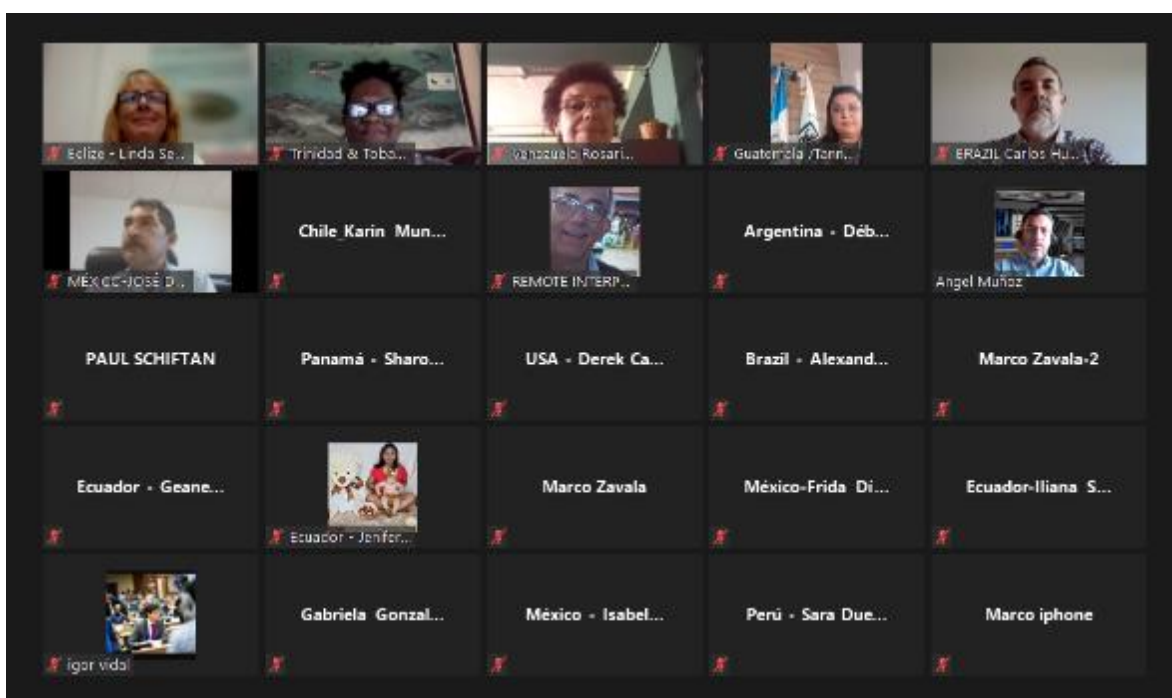
Mr. Rotney Piedra – Chair of the COP10 / Government of Costa Rica



Group Photo 1 – COP10.1 Delegations from: Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, The United States, Caribbean Netherlands, Chile, Uruguay, Panama, Belize, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Argentina, Peru, Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago and Canada.



Group Photo – COP10.2



Group Photo 3 – COP10.1



Mr. Jose Julio Casas – Vicechair COP10 – Government of Panamá COP10-Part II (2022)
host country.



Traditional Dance “Paloma Titibú”
Folkloric Dances Academy
Francisco De León, Panamá.

Celebration of the IAC 20th
Anniversary

Traditional Dance “El Poncho”
Folkloric Dances Academy
Francisco De León, Panamá.

Celebration of the IAC 20th
Anniversary

