

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

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

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

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CONTENT

REPORT IAC COP9	5
ITEM 1. OPENING CEREMONY	5
ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR CIÓN DE LA AGENDA Y ELECCIÓN DEL RELATOR DE LA COP9.....	5
ITEM 3. HOST COUNTRY PRESENTATION ON THE CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	5
ITEM 4. SECRETARY <i>PRO TEMPORE</i> REPORT 2017 – 2019.....	6
ITEM 5. RESOLUTION PROPOSAL FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE GUIDELINES FOR FINANCING THE OPERATION OF THE IAC.....	8
ITEM 6. REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS	8
ITEM 7. REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE IAC RESOLUTIONS BASED ON THE IAC PARTIES ANNUAL REPORTS	9
ITEM 8. RESOLUTION ON THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC LEATHERBACK TURTLE (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	10
ITEM 9. REVIEW OF PROPOSALS TO CHOOSE THE IAC SECRETARY <i>PRO TEMPORE</i> CONTRACTOR.....	10
ITEM 10. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COP8.....	10
ITEM 11. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC) REPORT	11
A. Work Plan 2017-2019	11
B. Report on the Implementation of the Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1 Exceptions under article IV (3A and B) for subsistence harvesting of <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> eggs in Panama.....	11
ITEM 12. PROPOSAL FOR AN ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM FOR THE IAC ANNUAL REPORT	12
ITEM 13. IAC FINANCES 2019-2021 (BUDGET PROPOSAL AND PARTIES CONTRIBUTIONS)	13
ITEM 14. RESOLUTION PROPOSAL ON MECHANISMS FOR THIRD PARTIES TO REQUEST DATA FROM THE IAC.....	13
ITEM 15. GREEN TURTLE (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>) INDEX NESTING BEACHES STATUS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PACIFIC	14
ITEM 16. IAC WORK PLAN 2020.....	14
ITEM 17. COLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	14
A. Collaboration with Ramsar and update on the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding. 14	
B. Collaboration with CITES for the preparation of the report on sea turtle traffic.	15
C. Collaboration with the SPAW Protocol	15
D. Collaboration with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) at the 9 th Meeting of the Bycatch Work Group.	15

E. Updates on the declaration from IAC on the Promotion of the conservation of sea turtles and its relation to United Nations General Assembly 69/292-CIT-COP8-2017-Doc.3 16

TEMA 18. EAST PACIFIC LEATHERBACK TURTLE (*Dermochelys coriacea*) POPULATION MODEL. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT STEPS. 17

ITEM 19. COP10 HOST AND DATES 17

ITEM 20. COP10 CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR ELECTION 17

ANNEXES 18

REPORT IAC COP9

Meeting: Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) Ninth Conference of Parties (COP9)

Venue: Crowne Plaza Santo Domingo Hotel, the Dominican Republic

Date: June 12-14, 2019

COP9 Chair: Antonio De Nichilo, Argentina

Rapporteur: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic

ITEM 1. OPENING CEREMONY

1. The Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Ninth Conference of Parties (COP9) was held in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic on June 12-14, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Santo Domingo. A quorum was reached with the participation of 12 Parties (Argentina, Brazil, the Caribbean Netherlands, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and the United States of America). Participants included the IAC Scientific Committee Chair, and accredited observers for a total of 65 people attending the opening ceremony. (Annex I – List of Participants CIT-COP9-2019-Inf.1)

2. Mr. Antonio de Nichilo was the Chair of the meeting with the support of the Secretary *Pro Tempore*, Ms. Veronica Caceres. Ms. Ydalia Acevedo Vice Minister of Coasts and Seas from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic welcomed the participants, and acknowledge the presence of Ms. Idelisa Bonelly de Calventi, a pioneer in sea turtle conservation in the country. The Vice Minister highlighted the country efforts towards the conservation of the three species of sea turtles occurring in these waters and beaches, including laws and regulations enforced by the government to ensure their protection, and the participation of several academic organizations and volunteers working to reverse their decline and to ensure these species survival.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR CIÓN DE LA AGENDA Y ELECCIÓN DEL RELATOR DE LA COP9

3. The agenda was adopted including the presentation of the Report on Implementation of Recommendations from COP8 by the COP Chair, in the other business discussion. (Annex II – Agenda CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.1)

4. Ms. Ana Carolina Hernández and Andreina Valdez, technicians from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Res were the Rapporteurs for this meeting.

ITEM 3. HOST COUNTRY PRESENTATION ON THE CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

5. Ms. Cristiana de la Rosa, the Dominican Republic Focal Point of to the IAC, described the Island of Santo Domingo, located in the Greater Antilles archipelago and shared by the Dominican Republic and the Republic of Haiti. The Dominican Republic has 31 provinces, of which 16 are coastal. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

and other organizations have developed a Program for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and a manual for the protection and conservation of sea turtles. The sea turtle's species nesting in the Dominican Republic are: *Dermochelys coriacea* (tinglar/leatherback), *Chelonia mydas* (green) and *Eretmochelys imbricata* (hawksbill). *Caretta caretta* (loggerhead) has been reported in the country's waters, but there is no nesting. Important nesting beaches include Playa El Valle, Playa Vacama, among others. Threats to sea turtles in the country are habitat loss, natural predation, illegal trade of meat, human predation of nests, pollution by solid waste, noise and light pollution, fishing nets, manufacture of handicrafts and consumption products such as moisturizers and the mamajuana drink which ingredients include sea turtle organs. Within the national protection program, monitoring of nesting beaches is carried out, including species identification, shell measurements, temperature recording, protection of nests *in situ*, relocation of nests, transfer of nests to the National Aquarium for assisted incubation, and hatchlings release. Environmental education days are provided to park rangers and fishermen. There have been confiscations of handicrafts made with hawksbill shells, especially in tourist areas.

6. The delegate explained that as a result of the protection measures for sea turtles, during the period 2012-2018, they recorded 1,166 nests, 20,870 leatherback hatchlings, 20,131 hawksbill and 12,020 green turtle hatchlings. The number of nesting reported in 2012-2018 increased in the number of hawksbill nests in 2015, it decreased in 2016 and 2017 and increased again in 2018. The leatherback reports increased in 2015 and decreased from 2016-2018. There was an increase of hawksbill and green hatchlings released in 2013, but a downward trend from 2014 to 2016. The number of leatherback hatchlings released, and the number of nests has decreased. Storms Irma and Maria in 2018 destroyed several nests.

ITEM 4. SECRETARY *PRO TEMPORE* REPORT 2017 – 2019

7. Ms. Verónica Caceres, the IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore*, presented the activities carried out by the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* in the last biennium in compliance with the Convention's Work Plan.

8. The Secretary *PT* expressed that efforts have been made to increase the membership of the convention. Invitations to the COP were sent to non-Party countries, and Colombia participated as observer of the meeting. There was a follow up to the conversations with El Salvador, Colombia, Nicaragua, and Canada:

- El Salvador: there were two meetings in September 2018 with Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Fisheries Directorate (CENDEPESCA in Spanish), both agreed on the importance of belonging to the IAC. The Vice Minister of Environment agreed on sending a request to me Ministry of Foreign Affairs to assess El Salvador's participation in the IAC. No reports on the progress of this request have been received thus far.
- Colombia: A videoconference was held in December 2018 to resume the 2012 conversations with the Colombian authorities. The meeting was held with representatives of the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The IAC was informed that Colombia must conduct consultation processes with its indigenous and Afro-descendant communities. At the end of 2013, the Ministry of the Environment carried out socialization workshops with the

communities regarding the IAC. The Ministry of Environment informed that there are 8 consultation processes more pending and although the IAC is one of them is not a priority given the time and resources these consultations take. Colombia expressed interest in better understanding the exceptions considered by the IAC, and in working together with the IAC within the framework of the Memorandums of Understanding that exist with organizations of which Colombia is a member.

- Canada: e-mail communications were sent in 2018 and 2019 to the Direction of Fisheries and Oceans in Canada, but no answer has been received to this date.
- Nicaragua: a communication from the Ministry of Foreign affairs was received in April 2018 expressing interest on resuming conversations with the IAC in a visit to Nicaragua, but it has not been possible to arrange it with the Nicaraguan authorities.
- The Secretary *PT* requested support from the IAC Parties negotiating memberships by sending communications to the above-mentioned countries chancelleries to keep the conversations going.

9. The Secretariat *PT* obtained good results seeking external funds to support activities in the countries and the IAC operation. Every year the Secretary *PT* prepares a proposal for the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund. Eight grants have been approved since 2010. The implementation of grant 7 (24,000 USD) finished recently, and included three workshops in the IAC Countries, meetings with authorities of the Fisheries Under Secretariat in Chile and the Ministry of Environment in Ecuador, to determine actions for the implementation of the IAC Eastern Pacific leatherback Resolution. The IAC participated as a presenter in Chile's Sea Turtle Symposium, Ecuador's Sea Turtles Symposium, and in the IATTC Bycatch Working Group Meetings. Grant 8 (55,134 USD) is still in implementation and supports the COP9 and the Consultative Committee (CCE12) meetings organization, the workshops to identify crafts made of hawksbill in 2017, and the visit to the sea turtle project in Punta Chame, both in Panama. It is expected that these funds are also used to hire a consultancy for the platform of the Convention's annual report. This year the Secretariat *PT* will present a five-years proposal for Grant 9, we expect to get awarded to continue supporting the activities for the operation of the IAC. Fund seeking is required as the contributions coming from the IAC Parties are not enough to comply with our work plan.

10. Regarding the IAC Annual Reports, 13 reports were submitted in 2017, 11 in 2018, and 10 in 2019. There was a call to the countries that have not submitted their national report to do it send it to the Secretariat *PT*.

11. The IAC participated in international meetings such as the IATTC 92nd Meeting of the Commission, the 38th International Sea Turtle Symposium, the 24th Meeting of Sea Turtle Specialists, and Ecuador's Sea Turtle Symposium.

12. Regarding capacity building, the IAC supported the construction of "El Chapetón" hatchery in Guatemala; the training of Ecuador's Ministry of Environment technicians in Mexico on leatherback turtles nesting, and a veterinary expert was funded to provide workshops on sea turtles first aid and necropsies to Ecuador's National Parks rangers.

13. The Secretary *PT* concluded her presentation the collaboration with international organizations, highlighting:
- CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), a collaboration to prepare the document Analysis of the Status of Sea Turtles Legal and Illegal Traffic, which will be presented as an informative document to CITES COP.
 - Ramsar (Convention on Wetlands) has followed up on the process to renew of the memorandum of understanding.
 - IATTC (Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission), participation in the meetings of the Commission, the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the bycatch working group, where the IAC presented information on mitigation measures for sea turtle bycatch in longline fisheries and the status of the Eastern Pacific leatherback turtle, which after three years of collaboration between the IAC and IATTC helped on the approval of a resolution for the mitigation of sea turtle bycatch in the IATTC fisheries.
14. The COP9 Chair emphasized, to the participant delegations, on the need for rapprochement with non-party countries to join the Convention, considering the wide distribution of sea turtles, which may undermine the effort of the IAC Parties, if these other countries do not join. He invited the Parties to facilitate the process of increasing the IAC membership by sending diplomatic notes from the Foreign Affairs Ministries to the countries which the Convention want to work.
15. Panama's delegate, Mr. Marino Abrego, congratulate the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* for the presentation and efforts made to support the Parties.

ITEM 5. RESOLUTION PROPOSAL FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE GUIDELINES FOR FINANCING THE OPERATION OF THE IAC

16. The plenary agreed on amending the 2007 Resolution CIT-COPE1-2007-R2 Guidelines for Financing the Operation of the IAC. It was agreed that guidelines for the Parties to report in-kind contributions would be included in the amendment. A working group formed by Costa Rica and Ecuador drafted the instructions within the operative section, paragraph 21. The Resolution with the aforementioned modification of financial guidelines was adopted and is included in Annex III, Resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R1 and on the IAC website: http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP9CIT/CIT-COP9-2019-R1_Financial_Guidelines_Adopted.pdf
17. It was agreed that the Secretary *PT* together with the COP chair will define the way to include the modifications in Resolution CIT-COPE1-2007-R2 according to what was adopted in Resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R1.

ITEM 6. REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

18. The Secretary *PT*, Ms. Veronica Caceres, presented the Consultative Committee of Experts report on behalf of the CCE Chair, Mr. Paul Hoetjes. The CCE meetings are held annually via videoconference, which enables greater attendance of participants from the 16

IAC countries. In the last biennium meetings, CCE11 and CCE12, the CCE has implemented the following activities in its work plan:

19. Three Resolutions drafts were prepared for the COP9 consideration: Modification of the IAC Financial Guidelines, Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback, and the Resolution on the IAC Data Access and Usage.

20. Dr. Bryan Wallace (Scientific Sector Representative), has represented the IAC in the strategy to increase collaboration with the RFMOs (Regional Fisheries Management Organizations) especially the IATTC. All through participation in the IATTC bycatch working group meetings.

21. The CCE has followed up on the renewal of the IAC-Ramsar MoU with the support of the delegates from Argentina and Costa Rica, who included a text on the importance of renewing the IAC-Ramsar MoU in Resolution XIII.24 at Ramsar COP13 in 2018 (Strengthening the Conservation of Coastal Habitats of Sea Turtles and the Designation of Important Sites as Ramsar Sites). The IAC-Ramsar MoU is under review by Ramsar's secretariat. Also, the CCE Chair from the Caribbean Netherlands, supported the adoption of a Resolution of the SPAW protocol, to collaborate with the IAC regarding conservation actions for the Northwest Atlantic leatherback.

ITEM 7. REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE IAC RESOLUTIONS BASED ON THE IAC PARTIES ANNUAL REPORTS

22. The assistant of the Secretary *Pro Tempore*, Ms. Luz Helena Rodriguez, presented a summary of the information provided by the IAC Parties in their Annual Reports 2015-2018 regarding compliance with the Resolutions for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback (CIT-COP7-2015-R2), the Conservation of the Hawksbill Turtle (CIT-COP3-2006-R1), the Conservation of the Loggerhead Turtle (CIT-COP7-2015-R3) and the Reduction of Adverse Impacts of Fisheries (CIT-COP3-2006 R2).

23. Compliance results from 2017 were used as a reference for this Resolution compliance analysis, as this was the year with the highest number (86%) of Annual Report submitted to the Secretary. The Resolution Compliance general average 2015-2018 showed that the EP Leatherback Resolution has the highest compliance (58%), followed by the Hawksbill Resolution (52%), the Fisheries Resolution (37%), and the Loggerhead Resolution (35%), respectively. Only eight countries where the EP Leatherback Resolution applies were considered for the corresponding analysis, same as for the Loggerhead Resolution not applicable in the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica.

24. Some of the most recent activities developed by the Parties to reach this levels of compliance were presented, include the development of management and action plans for the protection of each species, establishment of protected areas and strengthening monitoring in non-protected areas, use of new technologies to reduce bycatch in different fishing gear, and training of crews on handling and release of individuals incidentally caught (Annex IV – CIT-COP9-2019-Inf.4).

ITEM 8. RESOLUTION ON THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC LEATHERBACK TURTLE (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

25. The COP9 agreed that strengthening of actions regarding nesting beaches protection, monitoring and tagging were included in the operative section, as well as a reference to the use of the United Nations Food and Agriculture (FAO) Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations.

26. The workgroup comprised of Costa Rica, the United States and Chile drafted the texts, including a new paragraph to link the mechanisms to request sensitive data such as bycatch information in Resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R4, explained below. The final text was adopted in plenary (Annex V, Resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R2). http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP9CIT/CIT-COP9-2019-R2_%20NWALeatherback_ENG_Adopted.pdf

ITEM 9. REVIEW OF PROPOSALS TO CHOOSE THE IAC SECRETARY *PRO TEMPORE* CONTRACTOR

27. The COP9 analyzed Ocean Associates Inc. and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation proposal and decided that Ocean Associates Inc. continues as manager of the Secretary *Pro Tempore*. Ms. Veronica Caceres contract, given their legal capacity to guarantee the IAC Secretary can remain in the United States if the person in charge is not a US Citizen.

28. The COP Chair and the Secretary PT will give notice and justification on the decision to Ocean Associates Inc. to work on the Secretariat *PT* contract.

ITEM 10. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COP8

29. The COP Chair presented a form with red, green, and yellow indicators to follow up on the progress of the COP8 recommendations implementation using the Scientific Committee activities as an example. It was agreed that this form will be used by the Committees Chairs and the Secretariat *PT*, to present their progress reports. (Annex VI, CIT-COP9-2019-Inf. 5).

ITEM 11. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC) REPORT

A. Work Plan 2017-2019

30. The IAC Scientific Committee Chair, Mr. Diego Albareda, presented the Work Plan including the technical document CIT-CC15-2018-Tec.14 “IAC Index Nesting Beach Data Analysis (2009-2018)” where a decreasing trend of green turtles nesting in Ecuador and Costa Rica was detected. As a result, the SC will present a technical document with probable causes to the COP8.

B. Report on the Implementation of the Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1 Exceptions under article IV (3A and B) for subsistence harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs in Panama

31. The delegate from Panama, Mr. Marino Abrego, presented the progress made during the implementation of short and mid-term actions recommended in Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1.

32. At Isla Cañas, the 14 km of natural hatchery strip have been segmented, signaled and defined. Most of nest are kept in this area and there is an effort for relocation of nests in artificial hatcheries involving the community and minimizing periods of exposure. These actions have resulted in hatching success above 80%. A total of 15811 nests have been recorded in the period 2015-2018, and 314 sea turtles have been tagged, while keeping constant communication with neighboring beaches to exchange information on tags recovery.

33. Conservation and monitoring efforts have involved students, members of the community, volunteers, Peace Corps and the Environmental Police continuously patrolling the beaches and ensuring control and surveillance of natural hatcheries. Other partnerships involving organizations and educational institutions (schools, universities and NGOs) are being developed to support sea turtle’s protection and conservation and beach cleanups. Also signing of work agreements is in progress as well as collaboration with organized members of the community.

34. An eggs Harvesting Protocol with the list of families included in the activity is being developed. Existing manuals to apply an appropriate methodology are always used during monitoring, hatcheries operation, biometric data gathering, information management, species identification, among other. Likewise, a training and Environmental Education Plan, is being developed to improve management and reduce consumption of eggs.

35. A Cooperation Agreement between ANAM (today Ministry of Environment) and the *Cooperativa de Isleños Unidos, R.L.* to harvest sea turtle eggs and protect the species in Isla Cañas Wildlife Refuge (RVS) was signed between 2003 and 2009. After this experience the actions are aimed to train members of the community and students to support the protected area staff on sea turtle research, management and monitoring techniques, fisheries threats, and the presentation and consultation on the Sea Turtle Eggs Harvesting Protocol, in process of approval by Panama’s environmental agencies.

36. Among the efforts on protection and non-consumptive use is the project “Oysters Cultivation, Fattening and Commercialization” in Isla Cañas, implemented jointly with Isla Cañas Aquaculture, Fishing and Agriculture Association (ACPAT) with the support and training provided by the staff of ARAP Research and Development General Direction.

37. Funds raising has allowed to purchase equipment, cover collaborators expenses and appointing the RVSIC Chief. Human and financial resources are still required to support protection and conservation in Isla Cañas Wildlife Refuge.

38. On what has not yet been accomplished, although occurrence of *Chelonia mydas* and *Eretmochelys imbricata* has been observed at the beach and in the mangrove, respectively, no closures have been established. On the other hand, data collected thus far does not yet enable to establishing trends, therefore day and night monitoring will continue yearly.

ITEM 12. PROPOSAL FOR AN ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM FOR THE IAC ANNUAL REPORT

39. The IAC Secretary *PT* assistant, Ms. Luz Helena Rodriguez, presented the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) proposal to develop the IAC Online Reporting System (ORS).

40. WCMC is an organization specialized in the development of Online Reporting Systems for international intergovernmental agreements such as RAMSAR and CMS-IOSEA (Sea Turtle MoU). These organizations have similar needs those of the IAC regarding annual reporting from their countries. The IAC Secretariat requested advice from the IOSEA coordination with whom they discussed their experience with WCMC, which has met their needs.

41. The IAC Secretariat held two teleconferences with the products representative of the WCMS Biodiversity Informatics department, it explains the needs of the IAC report. Based on these conversations, WCMC presented the proposal that has been submitted for the IAC COP9 for the consideration of the Parties (Annex VII - CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.4).

42. The COP9 plenary discussed the benefits of the ORS, and the 15,000 USD price offered by WCMC. The IAC Countries approved the proposal, authorizing the IAC Secretariat *PT* to manage the contract with WCMC through the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF), and including the work with WCMC in the IAC 2019-2020 work plan. The COP9 also included a line in the Finance Resolution IAC budget for the online report services contract and the annual maintenance charge.

43. The IAC Secretariat *PT* specified that the funds to implement the ORS and the contract with WCMC will come from the IAC-USFWS-MTCF Grant (*Marine Turtle Conservation Fund*) that the Secretariat has secured for this purpose.

44. The IAC Secretariat *PT* received instructions from the COP9 to work with NMSF in the implementation of the ORS with WCMC.

45. The Parties agreed that no later than 30 days after this meeting, they would inform if their governments agreed on the possibility to partially fund this project implementation.

ITEM 13. IAC FINANCES 2019-2021 (BUDGET PROPOSAL AND PARTIES CONTRIBUTIONS)

46. During the review of the IAC Finances Resolution, Argentina asked how the budget deficit is addressed given that not every year all the countries send their contributions. The Secretary clarified that some countries contribute with more than what is requested in the contributions table, such as the case of the United States which contributions are higher to what has been agreed. Additionally, to help funding the operation of the IAC, the Secretary present projects proposals to the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund to obtains external funds that significantly reduce the expenses of the COP, Scientific and Consultative committees meetings, as well as to cover the Secretariat *PT* assistant, these expenses could not be covered with only the contributions from eight countries (Annex VIII - CIT-COP9-2019-R3) http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP9CIT/CIT-COP9-2019-R3_Finances_2019_2021_Adopted.pdf

47. It was agreed that the Parties interested in bringing their contributions up to date the Secretary will send an e-mail with the years in which the contribution has not been received as well as per country contributions current statement.

ITEM 14. RESOLUTION PROPOSAL ON MECHANISMS FOR THIRD PARTIES TO REQUEST DATA FROM THE IAC

48. Mexico expressed that the process proposed in the Resolution on mechanisms to request data from the IAC could be simplified considering that the data included in the annual report is already public in the IAC website, and proposed that in the case that someone requires other type of information not available in the annual reports the Secretariat *PT* should facilitate contact with each country Focal Point from which the information is required.

49. Binding and no-binding language included in the text was discussed and the requirement to be IAC accredited observer to request data was removed. The work group comprised of Costa Rica, Chile and the United States drafted a text to address the COP9 suggestions and with this the Resolution to request data from the IAC was adopted in plenary. (Annex IX – CIT-COP9-2019-R4) http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP9CIT/CIT-COP9-2019-R4_IAC%20Data%20access_Adopted.pdf

ITEM 15. GREEN TURTLE (*Chelonia mydas*) INDEX NESTING BEACHES STATUS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PACIFIC

50. The Scientific Committee Chair presented the background of the informative document on the status of green turtle nesting beaches in the IAC region, based on the results in technical document CIT-CC15-2018-Tec.14 IAC Index Nesting Beach Data Analysis (2009-2018). The Scientific Committee is working on a final technical document to determine the causes of the decline in nesting values. (Annex X – CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.3).

ITEM 16. IAC WORK PLAN 2020

51. Items implemented were removed from the IAC Committees work plans. Specific tasks corresponding to the implementation of the Resolution for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback were included in the Scientific Committee Work Plan, as well as strengthening the development of partnerships sea turtle experts groups relevant to the IAC such as the IUCN Sea Turtle Specialists group. The IAC work plan was adopted with the COP9 edits.

52. The IAC work plan adopted is in Annex XI - CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.5

ITEM 17. COLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

53. The COP9 Chair stated that collaboration with international organizations has been presented to the plenary in the Secretary *PT* report and in the three IAC work plans and subsidiary organs.

A. Collaboration with Ramsar and update on the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding.

54. The Chair informed about the need to renew the MoU with RAMSAR, that expired in 2017. There has been an Exchange of information between the IAC Secretary *PT* and Ramsar's Advisor for the Americas, and an answer regarding the MoU renewal is expected at any moment.

55. As for the text, the Secretary *PT* recommended adding a reference to the technical document on important Ramsar sites for sea turtles prepared by the IAC and Ramsar in the preamble of the MoU. The document of the MoU will be circulated among the Focal Points for final review and if there is no disagreement, it will be signed with the Ramsar Secretariat. The Ramsar secretariat requests that the signature of the MoU is in person, so the occasion will be sought for it. The Secretariat *PT* will update the Parties as soon as Ramsar reviews are received and appreciates the collaboration of the IAC Parties that have supported the process.

B. Collaboration with CITES for the preparation of the report on sea turtle traffic.

56. The Secretary *PT* informed that the Scientific Committee and the Secretariat have collaborated with CITES in the preparation of a report on the legal and illegal trade of turtles that includes countries of the IAC region. CITES requested help from the IAC to develop the Terms of Reference for the consultancy that would conduct the research in the IAC region, and WWF Latin America was recommended to execute it. The assessment was carried out in Panama, Nicaragua, and Colombia. CITES Secretariat sent a preliminary report to be reviewed by the IAC's Scientific Committee. It is expected that the document resulting from this collaboration and its recommendations are available for the CITES COP18 and to provide recommendations to both conventions countries.

C. Collaboration with the SPAW Protocol

57. The Secretariat reported that during the SPAW Protocol COP10, the importance of strengthening the collaboration between the IAC and SPAW was highlighted, within the framework of their MoU, calling on SPAW countries to collaborate with the mitigation of threats of the Northwest Atlantic leatherback, wherever implementing the Resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R2 for the conservation of this population is appropriate.

58. Panama added that the presentation by the IAC CCE Chair, Mr. Paul Hoetjes, to the SPAW meeting of Parties highlighting the work with the IAC, was unanimously adopted by the 26 countries of the Cartagena Convention. He stated that coalitions between countries are important to avoid replicating efforts for the conservation of these species of turtles protected by both agreements. This collaboration will be used to implement the IAC resolution on the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback adopted at this COP9.

D. Collaboration with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) at the 9th Meeting of the Bycatch Work Group.

59. The Secretary *PT* informed that the IAC has been participating in the IATTC meetings, represented by Dr. Bryan Wallace, delegate to the Consultative Committee of Experts, contributing to building confidence and strengthening the implementation of the IAC-IATTC MoU, which has allowed the IAC to present recommendations that have been adopted at the 9th meeting of the IATTC Bycatch Working Group. She added that these recommendations are expected to lead to more concrete actions to mitigate sea turtles' bycatch in the IATTC member countries longline fisheries.

60. Chile added that an important recommendation from the IATTC bycatch group was to increase the coverage of scientific observers on tuna vessels, from 5% to 20%, however the IATTC Scientific Advisory Committee meeting did not reach an agreement on this matter. The IATTC committed to develop a bycatch analysis by 2020 where countries will

submit a report including sea turtles, birds, mammals, etc. This is important to strengthening cooperation within the framework of the MoU between both agreements.

E. Updates on the declaration from IAC on the Promotion of the conservation of sea turtles and its relation to United Nations General Assembly 69/292-CIT-COP8-2017-Doc.3

61. Costa Rica summarized the process at the IAC COP8 to support the United Nations resolution on the conservation and use of marine biodiversity outside jurisdictional waters. He presented the efforts at the United Nations urging the Parties to make contributions to the work carried out that may be relevant to the objectives of the IAC.

62. The observer, Ms. Yokasta Valenzuela, added that the biologically important areas of the world with potential for use were presented at the UN Biodiversity COP11. Some areas of the Central Atlantic, including the Caribbean, and their importance to sea turtles, were mentioned. The observer asked if in this proposal that is being prepared on biological areas beyond national jurisdiction, the areas that already exist will be modified, and if those areas of importance for sea turtles nesting will be included. She suggested contacting the agency in charge and emphasize on the conservation of sea turtles and their habitats.

63. Costa Rica explained that after 20 years of discussing the issue of marine areas outside of national jurisdiction, the negotiations have finally started. It is a process of negotiating relevant issues and it is a historic moment that will allow the global community to comply with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), guaranteeing the conservation of biodiversity by managing threats in a comprehensive manner. The agreement also addresses legal issues and access to sustainable use of resources. This requires that the IAC provides the best available scientific information about the Parties, including social and economic aspects, to share with these negotiators and allow them to make the best decisions regarding important marine ecosystems that are outside the area of the IAC member countries.

64. The observer Valenzuela emphasized the importance of the IAC to ensure that, within the framework of the Convention on Marine Biodiversity in Areas outside of National Jurisdiction, the protection of marine biodiversity is guaranteed. Several countries did not ratify the agreement since the negotiations have focused on the riches that are in the seabed. The priority for the IAC is the conservation of the marine environment, not the use of the goods that can be obtained from it.

65. The Caribbean Netherlands explained that it is important to understand that, although the negotiations of the treaty involve the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), the treaty itself will not establish them. The negotiations also include Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), but not species and fisheries protection, as it is argued that intergovernmental authorities for fisheries already exist. He suggested that it is much more important that delegates from the IAC parties advocate for their countries to emphasize the importance of sea turtles. He stressed that the BBNJ negotiations are being conducted under the Convention on the Law of the Sea, and there are some countries of the IAC that have not ratified this legally binding treaty. The delegate stressed that this treaty will only affect

territories outside of national jurisdiction, which is why the Caribbean does not apply since all waters are territorial.

TEMA 18. EAST PACIFIC LEATHERBACK TURTLE (*Dermochelys coriacea*) POPULATION MODEL. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT STEPS.

66. Dr. Bryan Wallace, the IAC EP Leatherback Task Force coordinator, presented opportunities for the conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback, including a model developed by the LaudOPO Network to determine the status of the population and simulate conservation impacts. The results showed the population is in severe danger. Although there are information gaps in some coastal areas and in the high seas regarding interactions with fishing gears, which requires more coverage of onboard observers to focalize mitigation measures, there is still time to save the species. The model shows that mortality reduction must reach 20% or more in the following five years to avoid the extinction of the species, and that nesting beaches protection is still critical.

67. Dr. Wallace pointed out that this information was shared during the last meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) bycatch working group, where the IAC recommended developing conservation measures to reduce bycatch in areas highly used by the leatherbacks, improve data quality and data reporting of leatherback and other endangered, threatened and protected species bycatch, as well as verify and document that fishermen on vessels within the area of the Convention follow the guidelines for sea turtle handling and release.

ITEM 19. COP10 HOST AND DATES

68. Panama and Peru will consult with their governments the probability to host the next COP10, that would take place in June 2021.

ITEM 20. COP10 CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR ELECTION

69. Mr. Rotney Piedra, delegate from Costa Rica was elected as the new COP Chair, replacing Mr. Antonio de Nichilo, delegate from Argentina who was the Chair for the last four years. The Vice Chair will be determined as the COP10 host.

ANNEXES

Annex I

List of Participants (COP9) - CIT-COP9-2019-Inf. 1

COUNTRY/PAÍS	NAME/NOMBRE	INSTITUTION/ INSTITUCIÓN	E-MAIL
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Annex II
Agenda COP9 - CIT-COP9-2019-Doc 1

Day 1 - Wednesday, June 12th
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08:00	Participants Registration	Hotel Crowne Plaza Santo Domingo
09:00	Start of the Meeting	
09:00 – 10:00	<p>Welcome remarks</p> <p>Ms. Veronica Caceres, IAC Secretary <i>Pro Tempore</i> Mr. Antonio de Nichilo, IAC COP9 Chair Ms. Ydalia Acevedo, Vice Minister of Coastal and Marine Resources from the Dominican Republic Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources</p>	
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30 – 10:45	Introduction of IAC Parties delegations and reading of the list of organizations participating as observers / CIT-COP9-2019-Inf.1	
10:45 – 11:00	Adoption of the Agenda and Election of the COP9 Rapporteur CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.1	
11:00 – 11:30	Presentation by host country about sea turtle conservation activities in the Dominican Republic.	
11:30 – 12:00	IAC Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> activities report 2017 – 2019. CIT- COP9-2019-Inf.2	
12:00 – 01:00 p.m.	Lunch	
01:00 – 01:40	Resolution Proposal for the amendment of the Guidelines for Financing the Operation of the IAC / CIT-COP9-2019-R.1	
01:40 – 02:30 p.m.	<p>Report from the Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) CIT- COP9- 2019-Inf.3</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a.) Results of 2017-2019 work and recommendations.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">b.) Report on Resolution Compliance based on IAC Annual Reports.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">c.) Presentation of the Work Plan 2019 – 2020</p>	

- 02:30 – 03:30 p.m. Resolution on the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) / [CIT-COP9-2019-R.2](#)
- 03:30 – 04:00 p.m. Coffee Break
- 04:00 – 04:45 p.m. Review of proposals for the selection of the IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore* contractor/ [CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.2_AB](#)
- 04:45 – 05:00 p.m. Other business and summary of the day
Presentation of the Report on Implementation of Recommendations from COP8 – *Mr. Antonio de Nichilo, Chair COP9*
- 07:00 p.m. Welcome Cocktail by the Dominican Republic Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

Day 2 - Thursday, June 13th

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 9:00 – 10:00 | <p style="text-align: center;">Report from the Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC)</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a.) Results of 2017-2019 work and recommendations from the SC.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">b.) Technical Document on Sea Turtle Nesting in the IAC Index Beaches 2014 – 2018. – CIT-CC15-2018-Tec.14</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">c.) Presentation of the Work Plan 2019-2020.</p> |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | <p>Report on the Implementation of the Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1 Exceptions under article IV (3A and B) for subsistence harvesting of <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> eggs in Panama. - <i>Mr. Marino Abrego, Panama Delegate</i></p> |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee Break |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | <p>Proposal for an Online Reporting System for the IAC Annual Report / CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.4 - <i>IAC Secretariat PT, Luz Rodriguez</i></p> |
| 12:00 – 01:30 p.m. | Lunch |
| 01:30 – 02:30 p.m. | <p>IAC Finances 2019-2021 (Budget proposal and Member Countries contributions)/ CIT-COP9-2019-R.3</p> |
| 02:30 – 03:30 p.m. | <p>Resolution proposal on mechanisms for third parties to request data from the IAC / CIT-COP9-2019-R.4</p> |
| 03:30 – 04:00 p.m. | Coffee Break |
| 04:00 – 05:00 p.m. | <p>Green Turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>) index nesting beaches status in the Southeastern Pacific / CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.3</p> |

Day 3 - Friday, June 14th

- 09:00 – 10:30 Work Plan of the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* and subsidiary bodies 2019 – 2020 / [CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.5](#)
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00 – 12:00 Collaboration with International Organizations
- a. Collaboration with Ramsar and updates on the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding.
 - b. Collaboration with CITES on the sea turtle traffic document preparation.
 - c. Collaboration with SPAW Protocol.
 - d. Collaboration with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) during the 9th Meeting of the Working Group on Bycatch.
 - e. Updates on the declaration from IAC on the Promotion of the conservation of sea turtles and its relation to United Nations General Assembly 69/292 - CIT - COP8-2017-Doc.3 – *Mr. Rotney Piedra, Costa Rica Delegate.*
- 12:00 – 01:30 p.m. Lunch
- 01:30 – 02:30 p.m. Presentation on East Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) population model results. Recommendations for next steps. *Dr. Bryan Wallace – Laud OPO*
- 02:30 – 03:00 p.m. Review and edits of meeting documents
- 03:00 – 03:30 p.m. Coffee Break
- 03:30 – 04:00 p.m. Other business
- 04:00 – 04:40 p.m. Proposal on place and dates for the IAC COP10
- Election of next Chair and Vice Chair
- 04:40 – 05:00 p.m. Closing Remarks

Annex III

CIT-COP9-2019-R1

Resolution to Amend the Guidelines for the Financing of the Operation of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles

Recognizing that Resolution CIT-COPE1-2007-R2 on the Guidelines for Financing the Operation of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles urges Parties to make “in-kind” contributions in addition to voluntary contributions;

CONSIDERING that no further guidance is provided regarding the mentioned “in-kind” contributions;

CONSIDERING that Parties have in the past provided in-kind contributions;

CONSIDERING that amendments to the IAC’s Financial Rules that relate to in-kind contributions can help to ensure enough operating funds for the Convention;

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

DECIDES to amend the Guidelines for Financing the Operation of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles as approved by the 1st Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties and appended as Annex I of this resolution, by inserting the following two new paragraphs after Rule 18 of the Financial Rules, and renumbering the subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

19. In-kind contributions should not be made towards settling arrears or in lieu of contributions pursuant to the indicative scale referred to in paragraph 2 (a) above unless approved by the Conference of the Parties and the Secretariat on a case-by-case basis. To aid the Conference of the Parties in its deliberations on such a matter, the Secretariat shall advise the Conference of the Parties on whether the use of in-kind contributions would undermine the Special Fund of the Inter-American Convention (SFIC) as the operating funds of the Convention. This approval can occur at a meeting of the Conference of Parties or inter-sessional.

20. In-kind contributions may include, *inter alia*, the hosting of in-country workshops and meetings of the Convention, the provision of consulting services for projects carried out under the Convention, or the hiring of researchers and other qualified technical personnel for projects carried out under the Convention.

21. The Party will submit an official notification to the Secretary *Pro Tempore* including the amount of the in-kind contribution invested in the activities mentioned in section 20.

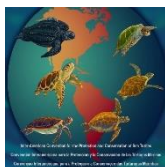
Annex IV

CIT-COP9-2019-Inf.4

SUMMARY OF IAC RESOLUTIONS COMPLIANCE 2015-2018

CONTENT

<u>IAC RESOLUTIONS GENERAL COMPLIANCE</u>	30
<u>A. COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION CIT-COP7-2015-R2 FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE EAST PACIFIC LEATHERBACK TURTLE</u>	32
<u>B. COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION CIT-COP3-2006-R1 FOR CONSERVATION OF THE HAWKSBILL TURTLE</u>	36
<u>C. COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION CIT-COP7-2015-R3 FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE LOGGERHEAD TURTLE (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)</u>	41
<u>D. COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION CIT-COP3-2006-R2 FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE ADVERSE IMPACTS OF FISHERIES ON SEA TURTLES</u>	45
<u>D.1. INTERACTION WITH FISHERIES PER SPECIES</u>	47
<u>E. RECOMMENDATIONS</u>	51



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

SUMMARY OF IAC RESOLUTIONS COMPLIANCE 2015-2018

The IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* has summarized information provided by IAC Country Parties (Table 1) in their Annual Reports from 2015 to 2018, 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-COP7-2015-R3 Loggerhead 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.
2017	13	Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the United States, and Venezuela.
2018	11	Argentina, Brazil, Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Dominican Republic, the 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
2017	2	Chile and Uruguay
2018	5	Belize, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama 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 turtle's conservation in the Parties. This edition includes the questions to follow up on the Resolution for the conservation of the loggerhead which were included in the Annual Report 2018 (Report CCE11 - CIT-CCE11-2018-Doc.5).

Data refers to percentages of "Yes" and "No" answers according 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 as "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		LOGGERHEAD RESOLUTION		FISHERIES RESOLUTION	
	Applicable	Not Applicable	Applicable	Not Applicable	Applicable	Not Applicable	Applicable	Not Applicable
ARGENTINA		XX		XX	XX		XX	
BELIZE		XX	XX		XX		XX	
BRAZIL		XX	XX*		XX		XX	
CHILE	XX			XX	XX		XX	
COSTA RICA	XX		XX			XX	XX	
CURAÇAO		XX	XX*		XX			XX
ECUADOR	XX		XX		XX		XX	
UNITED STATES	XX		XX		XX		XX	
GUATEMALA	XX		XX		XX		XX	
HONDURAS		XX	XX		XX		XX	
MEXICO	XX		XX		XX		XX	
CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS PANAMA		XX	XX*		XX			XX
PERU	XX		XX		XX		XX	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		XX	XX			XX	XX	
URUGUAY		XX		XX	XX		XX	
VENEZUELA		XX	XX		XX		XX	

* Resolution includes specific questions on fisheries that are not applicable

IAC RESOLUTIONS GENERAL COMPLIANCE

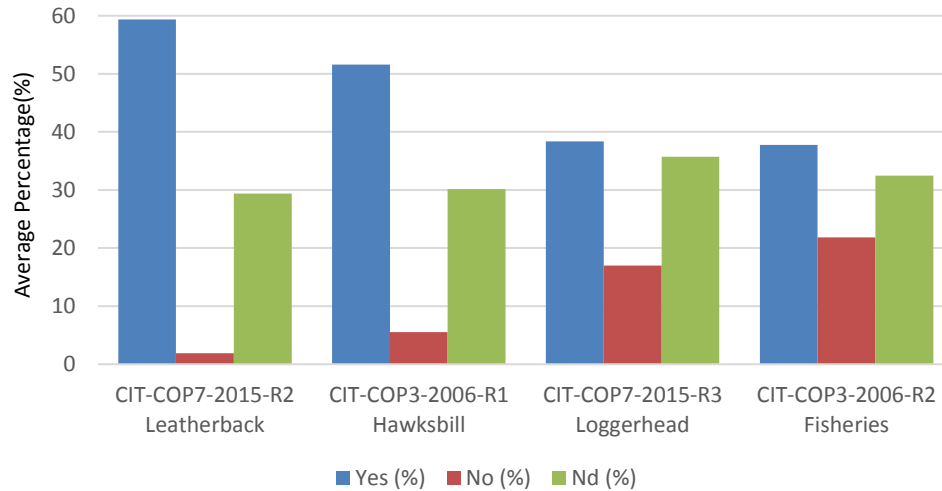
The following data and figures depict the results from the analysis on the compliance of the IAC resolutions for the Conservation of the Leatherback Turtle (CIT-COP7-2015-R2), the Conservation of the Hawksbill (CIT-COP3-2006-R1) and for the Reduction of the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries (CIT-COP3-2006-R2). Also, this document includes the first results on the implementation of the Resolution for the Conservation of the Loggerhead Turtle (CIT-COP7-2015-R3) according to the table adopted by the Scientific and Consultative Committees since 2018 (CIT-CCE11-2018-Doc.2).

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 loggerhead resolution requests information on management plans designed for the conservation of the species, levels of regulations to protect the species, conservation measures in nesting beaches such as light pollution control, protection of associated habitats, standardized data collection, and bycatch. 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 2015-2018 period (Figure 1) shows that the Leatherback Resolution has the highest compliance (58%) followed by the Hawksbill Conservation Resolution (52%), the Fisheries Resolution (37%) and the Loggerhead Turtle Resolution (35%). In the case of the Leatherback Resolution, this summary only considers eight countries of the Eastern Pacific where this Resolution is applicable. The same is applicable for the Loggerhead Resolution as the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica informed that this resolution is not applicable in their countries. Table 3 presents a summary of the answers average percentage included in the Resolution for the last four years.

Results from 2017 were used as the reference for this analysis on resolutions compliance, considering that this was the year in which more (86%) Annual Reports were submitted.

Figure 1. Average percentage of compliance with IAC Resolutions from 2015 to 2018



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

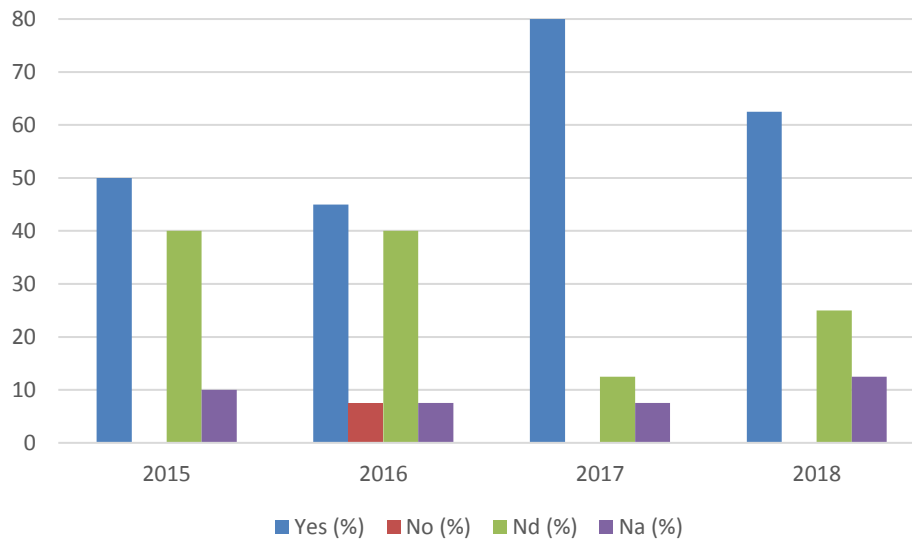
Table 3. Summary of general percentages of compliance with each resolution from 2015 to 2018 (No = the resolution is not implemented; ND = no data; NA = not applicable)

General Percentage					
Leatherback	Yes (%)	No (%)	Nd (%)	Na (%)	
2015	50	0	40	10	
2016	45	8	40	8	
2017	80	0	13	8	
2018	63	0	25	13	
General average	59	2	29	9	
Hawksbill	Yes (%)	No (%)	Nd (%)	Na (%)	
2015	39	5	40	16	
2016	49	7	36	8	
2017	75	1	13	11	
2018	44	9	31	16	
General average	52	6	30	13	
Loggerhead	Yes (%)	No (%)	Nd (%)	Na (%)	
2018	38	17	36	9	
Fisheries	Yes (%)	No (%)	Nd (%)	Na (%)	
2015	33	19	42	5	
2016	38	16	36	10	
2017	47	25	18	10	
2018	33	27	34	7	
General average	38	22	32	8	

A. 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 their Annual Report from 2015 to 2018, showing that compliance increased in 2017. The results are related to the fact that this was the year when most of the countries (13) submitted their Annual Report enabling a more robust characterization.

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 4 (below) were considered as the most relevant. Increasing compliance with the resolution in comparison with the previous year is shown in green and a reduction in red.

According to the values observed in 2017, when 86% of the Annual Reports were submitted, the implementation of the resolution increased notoriously in comparison with previous years.

Below is the list of the **most representative** actions undertaken by each country in the last four years.

Table 4. Percentage of compliance with specific actions (most relevant) in the Resolution for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback reported from 2015 to 2018 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				2017				2018			
	%Yes	%No	%Nd	%Na	%Yes	%No	%Nd	%Na	%Yes	%No	%Nd	%Na	%Yes	%No	%Nd	%Na
(1b) Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?	63	0	37	0	50	12	38	0	88	0	12	0	75	0	25	0
(3) 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?	25	0	50	25	38	0	38	24	50	0	12	38	25	0	25	50
(4) Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?	50	0	38	12	38	0	50	12	88	0	12	0	75	0	25	0

CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION PLANS IN NESTING BEACHES

- Conservation measures to protect the leatherback nesting sites increased in 2017
- Costa Rica
 - Las Baulas National Marine Park has a Management Plan since 2017.
 - Establishment of *Santa Elena* Marine Management Area (732,1 ha) where inter-nesting movements of the species are frequent.
 - *Lepidochelys olivacea* traceability plan in Ostional, also reduces the impact on leatherbacks eggs.
 - Management of nesting sites outside protected areas through the action plan based on the “Initiative for planning and development of best practices of tourism related to sea turtle sightings outside Protected Wildlife Areas and other conservation elements with participation and strengthening of local communities”
 - Second year in a row of the project to recover the Leatherback EP enhancing hatchlings production and protecting index and secondary nesting beaches in Mexico, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.
- Mexico
 - Prioritizes female monitoring and embryonic development *in situ*.
 - Inspection and surveillance actions in nesting beaches, during the nesting season.
 - Inspection and Surveillance Operative Program for the Protection of Sea Turtles in Nesting Beaches.
 - Protocol for Surveillance Operatives in land and at sea, linked to the protection of species at risk at Ulloa Bay, South Baja California.
- United States
 - The Species in the Spotlight Initiative was launched in 2016, highlighting the Eastern Pacific Leatherback.
 - In 2016, NOAA Fisheries released a five-year action plan for Western and Eastern Pacific leatherbacks.
- Guatemala
 - Relocation of Leatherback nests in authorized hatcheries
- Panama
 - Panama’s National Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles was adopted on January 27, 2017.

- As the question on nesting beaches (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 50% of compliance almost reaches the total expected value (63%).
- Peru
 - The National Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles of Peru is on its approval process.

TECHNIQUES TO REDUCE BYCATCH

- The implementation of techniques to reduce bycatch increased in 2017.
- Panama
 - Prosecution procedure for having or possess for commercial purposes and/or consumption of sea turtles' products and by-products (eggs, meat, products made with hawksbill, among others) with a USD \$2000 fine.
- Peru
 - Satellite transmitter placed on leatherbacks for establishing overlapping with fishing areas in the north of the country.
 - Project on the mitigation of bycatch using LED light in nets with the support of the United States.
 - Monitoring of gillnets and incentives provided to discourage retention of individuals captured incidentally, at ports with a high demand for sea turtle meat.
 - Sea Turtle Release Field Guide in net fisheries is being developed
 - IATTC national vessels should make the necessary efforts to avoid fencing in sea turtles as much as possible.
- Costa Rica
 - Fishing gears tagged on commercial fishing vessels (middle and advanced scale)
 - Record of fishing operations including interaction with sea turtles
- The United States
 - The United States has declared Critical Habitat for leatherback turtles along the U.S. West Coast to further limit anthropogenic impacts to leatherback turtles in the region.
- Chile will begin implementing circle hooks shortly

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

Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R1 on the conservation of Hawksbill has an average percentage of compliance of 52%, after the Leatherback Resolution (Figure 3) as reported in the Annual Reports 2015 to 2018. Although the species does not occur in waters of Chile, Uruguay, and Argentina, these countries are included in the analysis, as question 3 on actions to prevent Hawksbill products traffic is applicable to all the countries in the region. In fact, Argentina report following up on this issue within CITES framework. Table 6 depicts the percentages of compliance with the most relevant questions, showing that there was a significant increase in compliance with the actions in 2017.

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

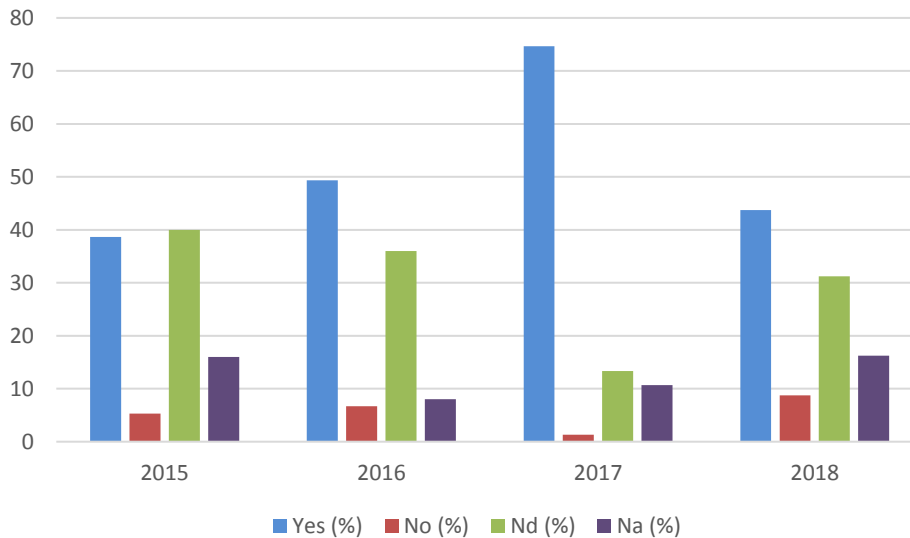


Table 5. Percentage of compliance with specific actions (most relevant) in the Resolution for the Conservation of the Hawksbill Turtle reported from 2015 to 2018 in the Annual Reports. Green = Increase or equal. *Questions (1 and 3) are not applicable to Brazil and the Caribbean Netherlands

CIT-COP3-2006-R1 CAREY		2015				2016				2017				2018			
		%Yes	%No	%Nd	%Na	%Yes	%No	%Nd	%Na	%Yes	%No	%Nd	%Na	%Yes	%No	%Nd	%Na
(1) Are you strengthening monitoring of the illegal use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products?		27	7	40	27	40	7	40	13	60	7	13	20	38	6	31	25
(2) Are you enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation?		47	0	40	13	53	7	33	7	80	0	13	7	50	6	31	13
(3) Are activities being carried out in order to stop illegal trade of hawksbill products?		40	0	40	20	47	7	40	7	73	0	13	13	44	6	31	19
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	40	7	40	13	53	0	33	13	73	0	13	13	38	13	31	19
	b) Protection of feeding habitats	40	13	40	7	53	13	33	0	87	0	13	0	50	13	31	6

MONITORING OF HAWKSBILL ILLEGAL TRADE

- The good number of Annual Report submitted in 2017, allowed to notice that there is wide compliance with all the activities monitored regarding this resolution.
- Argentina only allows hawksbill products exports with a certificate showing they were obtained before CITES adoption by the country. This measure is applicable for Governmental agencies such as the Ministry of Culture.
- 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 during Easter religious celebrations when in 2015 Costa Rica recorded an important confiscation at Punta Arenas.
- Costa Rica's SINAC looks out for reports of illegal trade made by NGOs such as LAST, working on the matter. As a product of one of this report, an operation to find illegal sales of products made of hawksbill carapace seized 800 pieces including rings, earrings, and bracelets. Similarly, LAST and SINAC developed a workshop on illegal and legal trade in 2017, and an activity that is part of the strategy, therefore, it will have several replicates.
- 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. The Wildlife Trafficking Act was adopted in 2017 authorizing the operation of the corresponding task force.
- Places for hawksbill commercialization have been identified in Peru in Tumbes and Piura. The country is coordinating the authorities to finish the activity.

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.
- Brazil launched its "Licensing Guide" to illustrate the environmental licensing procedures in sea turtle habitats.

- Costa is working in the development of an Acting Protocol. This document or procedure would be a standardized baseline on how government officials should act in case of environmental crimes.
- Panama enforces administrative and criminal proceedings on those commercializing sea turtle products and by-products, including the hawksbill. In specific cases, a fine of USD \$2000 applies.

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.
- Brazil declared a new MPA in March 2018 in the waters of the Islands *Trindade* and *Martim Vaz* (449.550 km²) and the São Pedro and São Paulo (471.532 km²) archipelago, where there is evidence of potential feeding grounds for this species, although more research is required. Satellite telemetry is being used to study the adult's migratory routes.
- Ecuador is monitoring the recently discovered "*Playa Rosada*" nesting beach in *El Pelao* Marine Reserve. There is also monitoring of feeding ground identified in Galapagos.
- 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 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.
- Through its members, Belize Sea Turtle Conservation Network is monitoring nesting beaches, identifying threats and working with communities to mitigate threats in nesting sites.
- Costa Rica declared two new Management Areas: Cabo Blanco Marine Management Area, at the Nicoya Peninsula, and 732,1 ha at Santa Elena Bay. The latter

established by Cuajiniquil, El Jobo, and Puerto Soley communities at Cruz de Guanacaste.

- Peru is carrying out research to identify feeding habitats in Tumbes and the north of Piura; research on main threats for aggregations; sea turtle rehabilitation when stranding occurs; and works with fishermen on releasing sea turtles captured incidentally.
- Venezuela carries out operations to protect beaches during the nesting season at Isla Aves Wildlife Refuge (Federal Dependencies), Peninsula de Paria National Park (Sucre State) and Waraira Repano National Park (Vargas Estate).

C. COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION CIT-COP7-2015-R3 FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE LOGGERHEAD TURTLE (*Caretta caretta*)

As the table on the compliance with Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R3 for the conservation of the loggerhead turtle was implemented in 2018, this is the first analysis of the information (Figure 4) showing compliance of 38% and considering that at the moment of this analyses 64% (n=9) of the 14 countries where the resolution applies, have submitted their Annual Report 2018. This resolution does not apply in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. Table 7 depicts the values of compliance with the activities included in the table in 2018.

Figure 4. Percentage of compliance with Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R3 on the conservation of the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*).

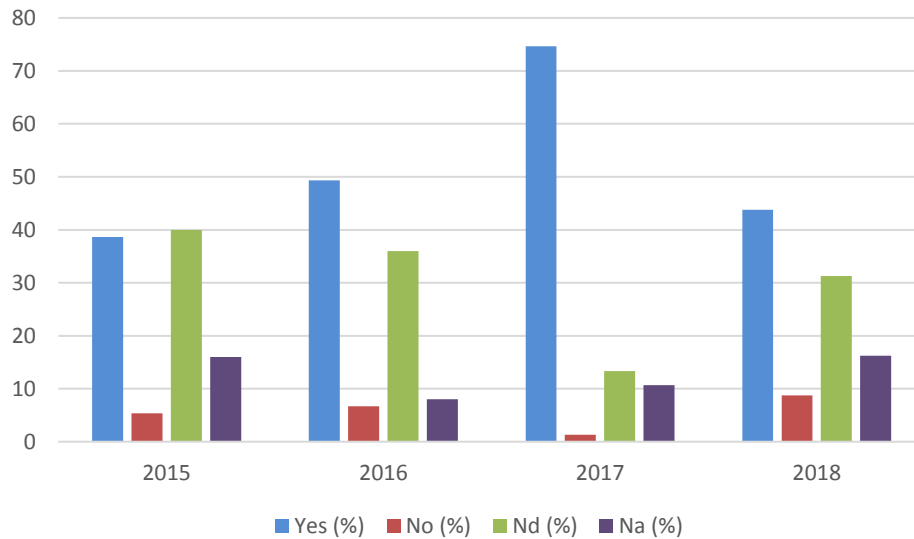


Table 7. Percentage of compliance with actions in the Resolution for the Conservation of the Loggerhead Turtle according to the 2018 Annual Report.

CIT-COP7-2015-R3 LOGGERHEAD	2018			
	%YES	%NO	%ND	%NA
1. Has your country created national action plans or monitoring programs to promote loggerhead sea turtle conservation?	57	7	36	0
2. State if there are plans or recovery programs, or bilateral or regional cooperation.	43	21	36	0
3. Are these action plans or monitoring programs being implemented?	50	14	36	0
4. Is there protection of the species at a state or federal level?	64	0	36	0
5. If your country has loggerhead turtles nesting beaches:				
5a. Has your country taken conservation actions to protect nesting beaches and their associated habitats?	36	7	36	21
5b. Are there laws on turtle-friendly lighting in areas impacted by coastal development?	21	21	36	21
5c. Is there long-term (minimum 10 years) standardized data available for population trend studies?	29	14	36	21
6. Is there exploitation or direct harvest of loggerhead sea turtles in your country?	7	50	36	7

CONSERVATION PLANS

- 57% of the 14 countries where this resolution applies has action plans or national programs implemented in 50% of the cases, to protect the loggerhead turtle. 43% of the Parties state that these are bilateral and regional plans, and in 64% of the Parties this are supported by regulations that ensure the protection at a state or federal level.
- Argentina has a National Action Plans to reduce Sea Turtle interactions with Marine Debris and Fisheries, within the framework of the National Action Plan.
- The United States has recovery plans for Northwest Atlantic loggerheads and Pacific loggerheads. The North Pacific loggerhead DPS was listed on the Endangered Species Act.
- Mexico has the Loggerhead Turtle Action Program for Species Conservation (PACE in Spanish), to promote projects to reverse threats to the loggerheads.
- The National Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles of Peru is in the process to be approved. Also, a project to increase loggerheads post-capture survival rates is being developed.
- Venezuela channels all the protection activities through the National Project for Conservation of Sea Turtles.
- As part of cooperation programs, Brazil belongs to the Southwestern Atlantic Sea Turtle Network (ASO) and the South Atlantic Sea Turtle Network (SASTN). Chile is part of the South Pacific Permanent Commission (CPPS in Spanish) and the United States is part of a trinational recovery developed along with Mexico and Japan.
- All countries have Laws and Regulations protecting all sea turtle species, including the loggerhead. In countries such as Brazil and the United States, these regulations include ordinances to protect sea turtles from inappropriate lighting at nesting beaches. In 21% there are regulations for lighting in areas with coastal development, and in 29% standardized data is collected to develop long-term studies on population trends.

PROTECTION IN NESTING BEACHES

- 21% of the countries don't have loggerhead nesting beaches, and 36% of those that have them implement measures to protect nesting sites and associated habitats
- In the USA the federal law protects the Northwest Atlantic loggerheads nesting

beaches, and there is a significant amount of data to assess long-term trends. There is no nesting in the Pacific.

- Mexico has regulations establishing guidelines for the protection, recovery, and management of sea turtles' populations in their nesting habitats, including declaring protected areas for their conservation. Quintana Roo beaches, especially those in the center of the State, have been monitored for more than 15 years, enough data to assess population trends.
- As part of their plan to protect all sea turtle species, nesting beaches are completely protected in the Caribbean Netherlands, and monitoring is constant.

LOGGERHEAD DIRECT CATCHES

- Peru and Mexico report illegal takes of loggerheads. In Mexico, this activity is mainly recorded in South Baja California.

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 2017 Annual Report (Figure 5). This Resolution is not applicable to the Caribbean Netherlands. Table 8 depicts the average values of compliance with the most relevant activities. According to the agreements of the Scientific and Consultative Committees, a column showing the species involved in the reduction of impacts of fisheries was added in 2018, four countries where the resolution applies (Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, and Peru) provided the information, and the results are presented in Figure 6.

Figure 5. Percentage of compliance with Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R2 for the reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles

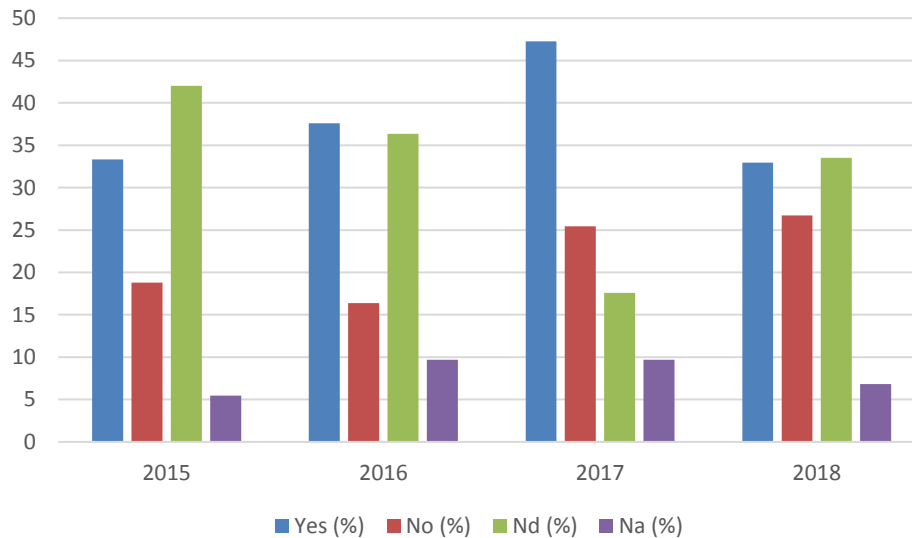


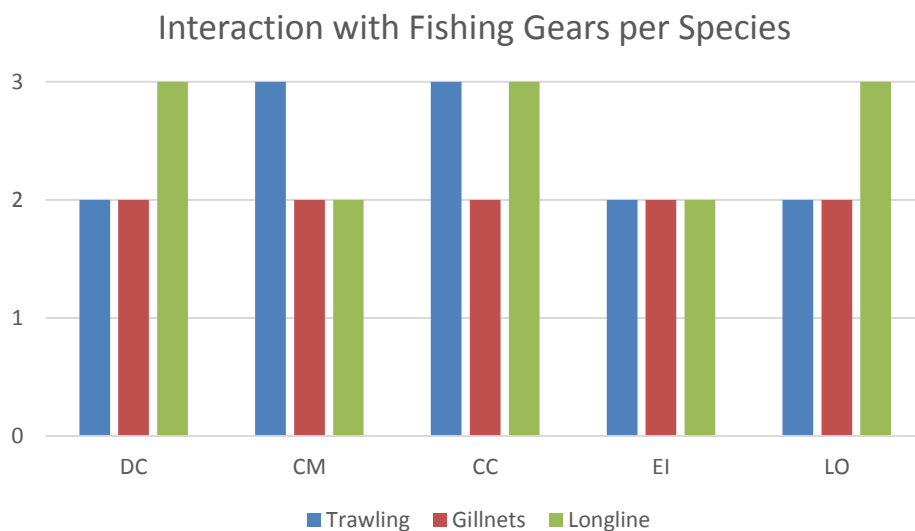
Table 8. Percentage of compliance with specific actions (most relevant) in the Resolution for the reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles from 2015 to 2018. Green = Increase or equal; Red = Reduction.

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				2017				2018			
	%Si	%No	%Nd	%Na	%Si	%No	%Nd	%Na	%Si	%No	%Nd	%Na	%Si	%No	%Nd	%Na
Collect information by fishery	47	13	40	0	53	13	33	0	67	20	13	0	50	19	31	0
Observer programs	47	7	40	7	53	7	33	7	60	20	13	7	38	25	31	6
Research on sea turtle/fishery interactions	40	13	40	7	47	7	40	7	53	20	20	7	38	25	31	6
Information on non-Party vessels	13	40	40	7	20	27	33	20	20	40	20	20	6	56	31	6
B. Mitigation measures for the following fisheries (1b):																
Long-line	40	7	47	7	40	13	33	13	60	13	20	7	44	19	31	6
Gillnets	27	20	47	7	27	27	33	13	40	33	20	7	38	19	38	6
Trawling	40	7	47	7	60	0	33	7	67	0	13	20	44	13	31	13
Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))	27	20	47	7	27	13	53	7	40	20	27	13	13	25	44	19
C. Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles	27	27	40	7	27	20	40	13	33	40	20	7	25	31	38	6

D.1. INTERACTION WITH FISHERIES PER SPECIES

Four countries (Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, and Peru) filled out the information in the column “Species” showing there are management actions to mitigate bycatch. Information was first requested in the Fisheries form of 2018 Annual Report (Figure 6). Therefore, this non-conclusive preliminary information could be enhanced if all countries fill out the form completely.

Figure 6. Number of countries where there is interaction of fishing gears with species of sea turtles.



Although the results are not conclusive, as a group it can be observed that in these four countries, the fishing gear with the highest number of interactions is the longline mainly involving *Lepidochelys olivacea*, *Caretta caretta* and *Dermochelys coriacea*, followed by the gillnets involving all of the species in at least two countries.

FISHERIES INFORMATION GATHERING

- Compliance regarding fisheries information increased in 2017 (67%).
- Brazil is collecting information per species and fisheries as well as biological, spatial and temporal data.
- Argentina is using satellite information compared with fishing effort and is assessing large vertebrates' bycatch by their coastal fleet.

- Multiple types of research are carried out in the Parties, in some case through their observer's programs.
- The United States has a research program on technologies to reduce bycatch.
- The Caribbean Netherlands carries out fishing monitoring throughout the whole island.
- Costa Rica has installed satellite tracking devices to monitor their vessels.
- Ecuador is producing information on sea turtle interaction with longline, trawling and purse seine fleet.
- Mexico is monitoring fisheries interacting with sea turtles. Three-Year research has documented and proved that the fisheries are not causing the mortality of sea turtles recorded in the West Coast at South Baja California.
- Peru reports several research projects to produce fisheries information and data on interactions of sea turtles with fisheries.

OBSERVERS PROGRAMS

- Belize, Brazil, and Venezuela point out not having observers' programs currently.
- This question does not apply to the Caribbean Netherlands, given the fishing practices in their territory.
- Guatemala reported a pilot program in 2015, but currently, there is none implemented.
- In 2015, Costa Rica started the implementation of an observer's program including fishermen training in best practices to handle sea turtles on board. Costa Rica also requires the presence of observers in foreign vessels to report interactions with sea turtles
- Guatemala, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and the United States report training of fishermen and crews to guarantee post-capture survival.
- In Argentina, observers don't cover all the fisheries.
- Chile observers operate in industrial fisheries only.

- The Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP in Spanish) is developing an observer's program.
- Ecuador has three observer programs enforced by the Fishing Resources Undersecretary (SRP in Spanish).
- Honduras observers program enforced by the fisheries authority is supporting regional coastal bodies.
- Mexico has 100% coverage of observers on tuna vessels, and a smaller percentage on shrimp and shark longlines fisheries. There is also a program in the artisanal fleet, covering 50% of the operation in the west coast of Baja California, specifically on vessels with permits to catch finfish and shark.
- Peru has an onboard program called "*Bitácoras de Pesca*" and is assessing a volunteer's pilot program involving artisanal fishermen in the longline fishery at Paita's port.

MITIGATION OF FISHERIES/TURTLES INTERACTIONS

- Argentina is collecting historical and current information on the interaction of sea turtles with trawling nets.
- It has been found in Brazil, that the use of gillnets during the night, reduces sea turtle bycatch and increases target species catches.
- Chile has protocols for releasing sea turtles captured incidentally, within the framework of their program to monitor Highly Migratory Resources (SRAM in Spanish) and their Scientific Observers Program.
- 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. The country does not have data on bycatch in gillnets.
- All fishermen in Belize need a fishing permit. Any infringement will result in suspension or cancellation of the permit.
- 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, the Caribbean Netherlands and Venezuela report that trawling is completely banned in their territorial waters.

- Costa Rica states that no more permits will be issued for trawling 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. Also, a guide called “Handling and Release of Sea Turtles in Longline Fisheries” has been developed and a similar one is being validated for nets.
- 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 mandatory. Also, the use of less attractive bait for sea turtles is being implemented.
- 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

In 2017, there was an increase (33%) in compliance with the **support to social and economic activities** is noteworthy in:

- Honduras, where there are training programs about tourism, productivity, management, and cooperatives capacity strengthening. Crab crops in cages are being tested as a productive alternative.
- 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. There is also financial support and temporal employment during closures of shark and shrimp fisheries.

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 turtle's 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.

It is recommended that countries submit their Annual Report at least every two years, to ensure a good amount of updated information available to present this review to the COP.

Annex V

CIT-COP9-2019-R2

Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

RECOGNIZING that there are seven leatherback turtle Regional Management Units (RMU) and that the Northwest Atlantic RMU is one of them;

CONSIDERING that the study *Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle (Dermochelys coriacea) Status Assessment*, reported declining annual nest/female counts in the Regional Management Unit from 1990 to present;

CONSIDERING the recommendations from the aforementioned study to address the decline;

RECOGNIZING that the foraging grounds and nesting beaches for Northwest Atlantic leatherbacks overlap with part of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) area of application;

NOTING that conservation actions are already being implemented by IAC Parties;

RECOGNIZING that important habitats for the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback are located in countries that are currently not Parties, but that are eligible to be Parties, such as French Guiana, Guyana, Surinam, Trinidad & Tobago, and Canada;

RECOGNIZING that to recover the Northwest Atlantic leatherback population, collaboration on critical conservation actions is necessary by all of the countries in its range;

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

1. The Secretariat *Pro Tempore* and the Parties will reach out to Canada, Guyana, French Guiana (and France on its behalf), Trinidad & Tobago, and Suriname to inform on the critical situation of the population.
2. The Secretariat *Pro Tempore* and the Parties will encourage them to accede the treaty, as well as partner with the IAC on priority conservation activities, in particular, related to reducing fisheries bycatch, protecting key nesting beaches, and improving in-water and nesting beach monitoring programs.
3. The IAC Parties should strengthen their existing fishery observer programs or develop them if none exist, in order to improve monitoring Northwest Atlantic leatherback interactions and use the minimum standards for scientific observer coverage that have been established by pertinent Regional Fishery Management Organizations.

4. The IAC Parties commit to implement the “Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations” of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), through measures to mitigate bycatch and ensure safe handling and release of Northwest Atlantic leatherbacks.
5. The IAC Parties will endeavor to increase enforcement of laws and regulations related to Northwest Atlantic leatherback conservation, particularly related to fisheries bycatch and marine protected areas.
6. The IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore*, in consultation with the Parties, will endeavor to establish a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) to improve cooperation between the two agreements.
7. The IAC Scientific Committee will develop a data sheet for the IAC Parties with fleets that interact with the Northwest Atlantic leatherbacks to report their interactions. To the extent possible, this data sheet should be harmonized with existing data reporting requirements in ICCAT. This data sheet shall be incorporated into the IAC Annual Report in time for the 2020 report. Sensitive information will be kept confidential. For additional information, the procedures defined in Resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R4 should be followed.
8. The IAC Scientific Committee, according to the best scientific information available, will identify new areas critical to the NWA leatherback in the Convention area, and will recommend, through the Consultative Committee, that the Parties consider the protection of these areas.
9. The IAC Parties should increase and strengthen the protection on their NWA leatherback nesting beaches from poaching and other threats.
10. The IAC Parties should increase and strengthen their monitoring and tagging programs on the nesting beaches of the NWA leatherback.

Annex VI

CIT-COP9-2019-Inf.5

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COP8 AGREEMENTS

The following document is presented by the COP Chair and the Secretary *PT*, and lists the activities adopted during the COP8 of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles included in the IAC subsidiary bodies and Secretary *Pro Tempore* Work Plan, and the actions required according to the progress indicators where **green** is “completed”; **yellow** is in progress; orange is planned but pending for funding and **red** is no execution/no action. The list is organized by theme and divided in two columns one for the activity and the other to explain the reason of the current status shown by the respective color.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC)

Activity Proposed		Status – June 12 2019
Exceptions		
1.	Follow up on compliance with recommendations on exceptions to Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama.	Guatemala and Panama will present their 5-year implementation of Exceptions report during the SC16 Scientific Committee in 2019.
2.	SC submitted recommendations to Honduras FP in technical information to include in the exception request to be reviewed again by the SC.	Honduras requested more time to collect the data required to present the exception.
3.	The SC will carry out a status and trend analysis of <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> in the region.	Information required for this analysis could not be collected as it involves no-IAC countries. The SC agreed on removing the item from the agenda.
4.	The SC will send a letter to Guatemala, Panama and Costa Rica FP with recommendations on their 2016 reports.	Recommendations were sent to FP by the Secretary <i>PT</i> .
Website and IAC News Bulletin		
5	Every month the Scientific Committee will provide news relevant to IAC Parties to the Secretary <i>Pro Tempore</i> for the IAC Newsletter.	News updated in the website. Three news bulletins were posted. More proactivity from the Parties sending their national news to the Secretary <i>PT</i> is required.
Fisheries		
6	Update the Sea Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) list used in each country.	List of TEDs used along with corresponding regulations updated and in the website

Activity Proposed		Status – June 12 2019
		http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/dets/CIT-CC15-2018-Doc.3 TEDs 2018 ENG Web.pdf
7	Develop a report with the results from the survey on trawl fisheries targeting non-crustacean species interacting with sea turtles	Report on trawl fisheries targeting non-crustacean species interacting with sea turtles presented at the SC15 (CIT-CC15-2018-Doc.7 – Annex III)
8	Define common topics to work within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding IAC - ACAP.	There was no action
9	Continue supporting the item on EP Leatherback and Fisheries.	SC Members from Peru, Chile y Mexico have provided recommendations within the framework of the GT Task Force to present them during the IATTC Working Group on Bycatch meeting 2018 and 2019
Index Beaches Conservation Status		
10	Collect information on annual nesting in index beaches using the form developed by the SC, and the IAC Annual Report and report periodically (every 5 years).	Technical document on the analysis of index beaches 2009-2018 CIT-CC15-2018-Tec.14 presented to COP9 (CIT-CC15-2018-Tec.14)
Climate Change		
11	The SC will develop a form to collect environmental data in nesting index beaches to send it to the IAC FP inviting them to participate in the pilot project.	Form developed and sent to Focal Points by the IAC Secretary <i>PT</i> in 2019 (CIT-CC14-2017-Doc.06 – Annex VII)
12	The SC will send a periodic request to the Parties of the environmental data collected in index nesting beaches to the Parties.	An invitation was sent in 2019 to FP to become part of the Pilot Project- Formal answer accepting to participate has been received from Ecuador.
Work Plan		
13	Update the Scientific Committee Work Plan following IAC guidelines and COPs Resolutions.	Work Plan updated at the 15th Scientific Committee meeting in Tegucigalpa, 2018 (CIT-CC15-2018-Doc.7)
Collaboration with Other Organizations and Strategic Alliances		
14	Review the Scientific Committee Work Plan to include items and mechanisms to improve the collaboration with focal Points and other organisms.	There was no action

Activity Proposed		Status – June 12 2019
15	Costa Rica and Honduras will develop and informative document on across-borders trafficking of <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> in <i>Golfo de Fonseca</i> to inform the CCE for recommendations on working with CITES and other relevant conventions.	Not carried out due to information involving non-IAC countries. The SC requested removing the subject from Work Plan.
16	Work with ACAP to develop an informative document to be presented to ACAP Parties in 2018.	There was no action
Annual Reports		
17	Analyze technical information included in the IAC Annual Report.	Annual Reports were used to develop: A. TEDs list B. Report on index nesting beaches C. Analysis of compliance with resolutions.
Projects		
18	Develop and analyze recommendations about high priority projects to apply for funds and other resources needed to achieve the IAC objectives.	No action required
Recommendations from COP and CCE		
19	Address COP and Consultative Committee of Experts requests and make recommendations accordingly.	Jointly with the CCE, develop ACAP's informative document and MoU edits presented to ACAP's MOP in 2018 – There was no action
IAC Technical Documents		
20	Develop technical documents as needed.	Technical document on the analysis of index beaches 2009-2018 updated CIT-CC15-2018-Tec.14
21	Develop technical document on sea turtles foraging sites in at IAC Parties.	In discussion with the CCE it was determined that this information is not relevant to the Parties as its use is not clear. Therefore, this will not be developed.
IAC Expert Directory		
22	Review and update the IAC Expert Directory.	Experts Directory updated in website to April 16, 2018. http://www.iacseaturtle.org/directorioExpertos-eng.htm
Eastern Pacific Leatherback <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>		
23	Continue supporting the implementation of the EP Leatherback Resolution	A document presented by Ecuador on the leatherback status in that country

Activity Proposed		Status – June 12 2019
		is under revision (CIT-CC15-2018-Doc.7 – Annex VIII) Update on the EP Leatherback important sites near nesting beaches. Is not clear if the implementation of this activity is related to the EP Leatherback Task Force.
Loggerhead Turtle <i>Caretta caretta</i>		
23	Present the loggerhead technical document to the CCE including the COP8 suggestions.	Final document reviewed and on the website (CIT-CC13-2016-Tec.13)
24	Develop a draft with questions on the loggerhead Resolution for the IAC annual report.	The SC developed the questions to follow up on <i>Caretta caretta</i> Resolution (CIT-COP7-2015-R3), which were included in the IAC Annual Report with the approval of the CCE since 2018.
Hawksbill Turtle <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>		
25	Work with CITES on the revision of the document on hawksbill products illegal trafficking in the region.	Recommendations and comments submitted to CITES Secretary.
26	Provide recommendations on an expert to be hired as a consultant for CITES to review hawksbill products illegal trafficking in the region.	The Scientific Committee recommended WWF Latin America for the consultancy.
27	Revise CITES consultancy resulting document and recommend the Conference of Parties on conservation actions required in the region.	The document is being reviewed by CITES Secretary.
Capacity Building		
28	Technical support of SC members in a multidisciplinary working group to follow up on the Artisanal Fisheries Facilities Project in Puerto Lopez, Manabí, Ecuador.	There was no action
29	Develop a report on sea turtle populations conservation status for the COP.	There was no action

Annex VII

CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.4

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

Streamlining national reporting to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles through deployment of the Online Reporting System

Summary

The reporting cycle for the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles continues in 2020, providing a good opportunity for the Convention to begin using an online reporting process, capitalizing on the advantages and efficiencies which electronic preparation and submission of national reports can bring, building on the experience of several other biodiversity-related conventions.

1 Objectives and outcomes

There are three major objectives for this work:

1. To provide the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles with a system that will allow countries to report online by creating a new installation of the Online Reporting System for the Minamata Convention.
2. To create and set up the first online national reporting questionnaire, based on the Convention's reporting requirements.
3. To provide support to the Convention Secretariat that will allow them to fully make use of the Online Reporting System's features.

Outcomes:

1. By using the ORS, the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles will be able to receive and collect information from reporting countries in one centralized and secure location.
2. Reporting countries will have a simple online tool to

manage the completion of their national reports to the Convention, leading to more streamlined reporting and increased response rates.

3. The Convention will have a centralized mechanism to manage and monitor the distribution of, and responses to, their first online reporting cycle.
4. The Convention will be better placed to allow access to reported information both on its own website, and through other channels.
5. The Convention will be well placed to take advantage of online reporting for future reporting cycles and could extend this to cover other data collection activities.

2

Context and justification

The reporting cycle for the Inter-American Convention for the protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles continues in 2020. It is desirable for the treaty to have one centralized online system, offering the advantages of online reporting where reporting is streamlined, and information received from countries is consolidated. The Secretariat is exploring existing online survey options but are in need of a solution that specifically meets MEA reporting needs.

The Online Reporting System (ORS) was originally developed by UNEP- WCMC working with the CMS family of agreements, and is already being used by a number of MEAs (African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Ramsar, Bern Convention) several of which are already benefitting from more streamlined reporting compared to previous offline reporting systems.

The Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles has expressed interest in potentially using the ORS as a way of receiving reports from Contracting Parties, and as a tool for centrally storing reported information. The ORS provides both the multi-language support and the user management features required by the Convention.

Moving to an online reporting system would reduce the administration burden for the Convention during their reporting cycle, as well as making it easier for reporting countries to submit information. As a result, more up-to-date and comprehensive information will be made available to the Convention, in turn leading to improved efforts and impact in conserving turtles in the region.

In late 2019 work on a new evolved and improved version of the Online Reporting System is expected to begin. The new system will retain all the current benefits of the system, but have improved user interface design, an increased ability to visualize reporting information and enhanced methods for extracting and distributing data from the system. The Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles would be one of the first MEAs to use the new system, helping test features with real live reporting, benefitting the development of the system for all users.

3

Activities and outputs

Activities:

1. Implementation of Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles branding
2. Training of Secretariat and country focal points:
 - Preparation
 - Deliver training via webinars, online meetings or face-to-face
 - Webinar/screencast made available
 - Supporting materials made available
3. Creation, and support of creation, for initial questionnaire:
4. Setting up the application:
 - Deployment
 - Database Back-up
 - Hosting, Analytics and Server Monitoring for first online reporting cycle
5. Management
6. Support to Secretariat during first 12 months of online reporting

Outputs:

1. Demo instance set up on current ORS with example questions added
2. Convention branded full instance of ORS set-up and deployed.
3. ORS Instance hosted on secure WCMC servers. Data stored safely with regular back-ups in place.
4. Key Convention staff and country focal points trained on how to use ORS
5. Initial questionnaire for the first online reporting cycle created and working.
6. Reporting countries using the ORS in developing and delivering reports.

Expected timing of activities												
	2019-2020											
	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July
Activity												
1. Implement first reporting format into new ORS												
2. Training												
3. Questionnaire creation												
4. Setting Up												
5. Management												
6. Hosting & Support												

Expected timing of activities continued												
	2020-2021											
	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr			
Activity												
1. Implement first reporting format into exist ORS												
2. Training												
3. Questionnaire creation												
4. Setting Up												
5. Management												
6. Hosting & Support												

4

Budget

The total cost of the project will be USD \$15,295. From the second year onwards, there is an estimated annual fee of USD \$600.

Activity	Total (USD)
1. Implementing Convention branding on ORS	\$824
2. Training	\$5,652
3. Questionnaire creation	\$2,112
4. Setting up application	\$2,939
5. Management	\$3,168
6. Hosting & support for first year	\$600
TOTAL	15,295

5

Assumptions and risks

It is assumed that the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and reporting countries have the appropriate computer equipment at their disposal, possess the basic-level IT skills required to create and submit a questionnaire, and have internet access.

6

Collaborators

The project would be carried out as a direct collaboration between UNEP-WCMC and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, ideally with the involvement of selected reporting countries and other experts in testing the implementation before all reporting countries are then informed and asked to report via the online system.

Proposal submitted by:

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Annex VIII**CIT-COP9-2019-R3****IAC Finances 2019 - 2021**

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-R2 adopted by the First Conference of Parties established the IAC Special Fund;

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

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

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

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

1. Adopt 2019, 2020 and 2021 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 III.
3. Recognize that countries have different abilities to make financial contributions.

CIT-COP9-2019-R3

ANNEX I

IAC 2019-2021 Budget (Amounts in US\$)			
Items	2019	2020	2021
1- Staff	162,176	167,152	172,302
Secretary <i>Pro Tempore</i> * (base salary \$91,728 - depends on host country, in this case, USA- and costs for dental, health insurance, retirement, cost of contracting agency, and 3.5% annual increase in the cost of living)	142,176	147,152	152,302
IAC Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> Technical assistant full time estimated cost	20,000	20,000	20,000
2- Other Professional Services	17,700	3,000	3,000
Translations	2,300		
Contract for IAC Online Reporting System	15,400		
3- Communications	2,300	3,000	3,000
Website Maintenance/ Computer /Software		2,300	2,300
Maintenance IAC Online Reporting System		700	700
4- Travel	10,000	10,000	10,000
5- IAC Meeting Support	57,000	60,000	60,000
Scientific Committee (SC)**	34,000	34,000	34,000
Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE)***	3,000	26,000	6,000
Conference of the Parties (COP)	20,000		20,000
Subtotal	249,176	243,152	248,302
6- Overhead Costs (12%) ****	29,901	29,178	29,796
TOTAL	279,077	272,330	278,098

*Budget based on the contract for the Secretary *Pro Tempore* with Ocean Associates Inc. as decided at COP9.

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

*** Budget for 2019 for the CCE is for a meeting held via videoconference (before the COP). The values for 2020 are for an 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 via videoconference depending on funds available.

**** Administrative services provided by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) for a value of 12% as stated in MOU between IAC COP and NMSF signed at COP8 (CIT-COP8-2017-Inf.2).

CIT-COP9-2019-R3

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 2019 budget adopted in the Dominican Republic, the budget for 2020 and 2021; 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, and COP9 in the Dominican Republic;

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 2019 presented in the Dominican Republic, 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 2019	
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

Annex IX

CIT-COP9-2019-R4

**PROCEDURE FOR THE ACCESS TO, USE AND REQUEST OF DATA
COMPILED BY THE IAC**

CONSIDERING the importance of proper management of the data submitted to the IAC by the IAC Parties, governments, private and non-governmental organizations;

CONSIDERING that some of the information submitted to the IAC is not public, and it merits a certain level of protection;

RECOGNIZING the need for greater protection for the data submitted by the Parties through the IAC Annual Report;

EMPHASIZING that the IAC is committed to transparency about data use;

CONSIDERING that data provided by IAC Parties through the IAC Annual Report are published on the Convention's web site and are available to anyone.

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

AGREES to adopt the following:

PROCEDURE TO REQUEST AND USE DATA COMPILED BY THE IAC

This document addresses the procedure for third parties to request and use data compiled by the IAC. The procedure is as follows:

1. The applicant should submit a physical letter addressed to the IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore* and a digital copy to the e-mail address secretario@iacseaturtle.org.
2. The content of the letter of data request or data use must include:
 - a. What data or datasets are requested and explicit details about how the data will be used, and any subsequent products (i.e. peer-review paper, IUCN Red List status review, etc.).
 - b. The rationale for the request.
 - c. Name of the research project that will use the data.
 - d. Expected output.

The data may only be used for one research project at a time; a new request should be submitted if the information is required for a different project. The data should not be

used for commercial purposes, and all authorship should be recognized for each individual, private or non-governmental organization that has provided information.

3. The IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore* shall submit the request to the focal point for each country whose data is included in the request. The focal point will address the request in accordance with its country procedures.
4. The IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore* will inform the President of the Consultative Committee of Experts and the Scientific Committee about the request.
5. The focal point should share any follow-up products with the IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore* for subsequent forwarding to the President of the Consultative Committee of Experts and the Scientific Committee.

Annex X

CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.3

Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) index nesting beaches status in the Southeastern Pacific**Executive Summary**

In 2018, the Scientific Committee of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) developed the technical document [CIT-CC15-2018-Tec.14](#) "IAC Index Nesting Beach Data Analysis (2009-2018)". This is an update to an earlier nesting beach report that provided data from 2009-2013 (CIT-CC11-2014-Tec.7). Whereas green turtle nesting in Pacific Mexico is robust and increasing, we found a predominantly decreasing trend at the index beach of Quinta Playa in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, and similar but less-dramatic declines in green turtle nesting in northwest Costa Rica. The reason(s) for the disparity in nesting trends between Pacific Mexico and the southeastern Pacific (Costa Rica, Ecuador) are unclear. However, in response to the apparent declining trends in the southeastern Pacific Ocean, the IAC Scientific Committee (via a Working Group of representatives from Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and United States) developed an IAC Technical Document (In Preparation) that summarizes nesting trends at three regions in the eastern Pacific (Mexico, Costa Rica, Galapagos) and elaborates on 10 potential reasons for the observed declining trends in the southeastern Pacific.

The completion of this document was not possible prior to the IAC Conference of Parties, and for the Galapagos green turtle nesting beaches we are currently determining if a) the declining trend is due to changes in monitoring effort, b) the declines are only due to natural annual nesting abundance variations, as observed for this species in previous years, and/or c) the declines are due to anthropogenic impacts in the southeastern Pacific Ocean. Also, as part of this analysis, the IAC Scientific Committee is considering literature and datasets relating to bycatch rates in continental coastal waters of Ecuador and Peru, illegal green turtle consumption rates in Peru, and potential climate change effects on foraging habitat quality. Although the reasons for the declining trend is unclear, the IAC Scientific Committee believes it is appropriate to give greater attention to green turtle conservation in the southeastern Pacific Ocean.

We, therefore, recommend the following:

1. Characterize historic monitoring effort (e.g. start date/finish date/survey hours) for all nesting seasons and all beaches in the Galapagos. It is also important to clarify the number of monitoring staff and length of nesting beach monitored.
2. Maintain robust monitoring efforts at the primary index beaches in the Galapagos and Costa Rica over the course of the entire green turtle nesting season.
3. Maximize nest success and hatching production in the Galapagos. Strategies to achieve this may include predator abatement and nest protection.
4. Conduct national and local efforts to develop programs that quantify sea turtle bycatch and mortality in artisanal fisheries of the eastern Pacific.
5. Implement mitigation measures to reduce sea turtle bycatch mortality in artisanal fisheries of the eastern Pacific.

6. Develop and implement local regulations and enforcement to reduce sea turtle consumption by humans near the main foraging areas in the eastern Pacific.
7. Develop research on green turtle genetics in foraging areas to establish their nesting beaches

Annex XI

CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.5

WORK PLANS 2020-2021

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Time Frame
Exceptions Working Group and delegates from Panama and Guatemala	Exceptions	<p>1) Following the Exceptions Resolution, Guatemala and Panama develop a Management Plan for their Exceptions including the elements in Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1 and its Annex 1.</p> <p>2) Delegates from Guatemala and Panama present their countries Exception Management Plan at the SC16.</p> <p>3) The Exceptions Working Group reviews the Management Plan and provides recommendations to the Parties and the CCE.</p>	<p>1) Management Plans on IAC Exceptions developed by Panama and Guatemala, including results from the last 5 years of implementation of Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1.</p> <p>2) Recommendations from the Scientific Committee on the Management Plans and the compliance with activities of the exception Resolution presented at SC16 meeting, for the CCE and the Parties involved.</p>	2019
Scientific Committee, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>	IAC Website & Newsletter	<p>1) Every month the SC will provide news relevant to IAC Parties to the Secretary <i>Pro Tempore</i> for the IAC Newsletter.</p>	<p>1) Updated news in the IAC website, and regular publication of the IAC's Newsletter.</p>	Permanent

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2019-2021
CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.5

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Time Frame
Fisheries Working Group	Fisheries	1) Define common topics to work within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding IAC - ACAP. 2) Review 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
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) Pending information submitted by Ecuador and Costa Rica	Inter-session 2019
Scientific Committee	Work Plan	1) Update the SC Work Plan following IAC guidelines and the COPs Resolutions.	1) Scientific Committee biennial work plan including actions, timetable, and responsibilities.	Permanent

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2019-2021
CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.5

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Time Frame
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.	1) Identification of synergies with similar organizations to share information (CITES, SPAW, CIAT, CPPS, WIDECAS, ACAP, ICCAT, RAMSAR, SWOT, ICAPO, ASO, WWF, CBD, CMS, IOSEA, and TLT -The Leatherback Trust). 2) Scientific and Consultative Committee coordinators report on the activities carried out within the strategy to work with RFMOs presented in the next SC.	1) Permanent 2) Permanent
Scientific Committee and IAC Annual Report Working Group	Annual Reports	1) Analyze 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 the analysis of technical information from the IAC Annual Reports with recommendations to the Parties when needed. 2) List of priority information of the Annual Report which will be used to produce technical documents and/or recommendations for the Parties presented in the SC16.	1) Permanent 2) September 2019
Scientific Committee	Projects	1) Develop and analyze recommendations about high priority projects to apply for funds and other resources needed to achieve the IAC objectives.	1) Recommendations on high priority projects when needed.	Permanent
Scientific Committee	COP and Consultative Committee of	1) Address the COP and Consultative Committee of Experts requests and make recommendations accordingly.	1) Recommendations submitted to the COP and the Consultative Committee of Experts, as needed.	Permanent

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2019-2021
CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.5

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Time Frame
	Experts Recommendations			
Scientific Committee	IAC Technical Documents	1) Develop technical documents as needed.	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) Develop recommendations to the CCE, COP and the Party (Ecuador) on the current situation of Galapagos Green Turtles. Responsible: Delegates from USA, Chile, Peru, and Ecuador.	2) Technical document on Galapagos Green Sea Turtles presented in the Scientific Committee SC16.	2019
Scientific Committee and Working Group	Northwest Atlantic Leatherback <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	1) Develop a table to monitor the implementation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Resolution, to include it in the annual report. 2) Develop a table to collect data on interactions with fisheries harmonized with the IATTC forms, to include it in the annual report. 3) The Scientific Committee will identify areas critical for the protection of the NWA leatherback and will recommend the protection of these areas to the Parties.	1) Table on compliance with the resolution to be presented at the Consultative Committee 2020. 2) Table to collect data on interactions with fisheries for the presented at the Consultative Committee 2020. 3) Areas critical for the Conservation of the NWA Leatherback identified along with recommendations to the Parties.	2019

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2019-2021
CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.5

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Time Frame
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 template 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 fisheries to identify other threats. 5) Review 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 members. 2) Eastern Pacific Leatherback stranding and necropsies protocol. 3) Template for the report on the status of occurrence and threats to the Leatherbacks in countries which are part of the Leatherback TF. 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, 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 WORK PLAN 2019-2021
CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.5

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Time Frame
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	Climate Change	The Scientific Committee will address the questions of those countries participating in the pilot study to facilitate the collection of the information required.	Participant Parties submit the data from the first year of implementation of the pilot study along with their Annual Report in 2020.	2020
Scientific Committee Working Group	Sea turtle conservation status	1) The Scientific Committee members who are also part of MTSG-IUCN, approach these group to promote a collaboration between MTSG-IUCN, SWOT, and the IAC, or other organization related to the Convention, to collaborate with information on sea turtle conservation status that could become recommendations to the COP. 2) Compile information available on sea turtle's conservation status.	1) Partnerships established with organizations 2) Documents compiled and recommendations on sea turtle conservation status developed for the IAC Parties.	1) 2021 2) Permanent

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WORK PLAN 2019-2021
CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.5

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

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 new exceptions presented for COP considerations.	2019, 2020 Permanent
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>	IAC's Website & Newsletter	1) Every month the Parties will send to Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> relevant news 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) The 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.	2019, 2020
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

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WORK PLAN 2019-2021
CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.5

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
Resolution Compliance Working Group	IAC Annual Report and Compliance with Resolutions	1) Assess the current Annual Report format. 2) Revise the table on compliance with the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Resolution.	1) Recommendations for changes to the Annual Report format as required.	2020
Consultative Committee of Experts	Work plan	1) Update CCE work plan following the recommendations of the Parties.	1) CCE biennial 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 Memorandums 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 relevant international organizations to accomplish the IAC objectives.	1) Identification of synergies with similar organizations to share information (CITES, SPAW, CIAT, CPPS, WIDECAS, ACAP, ICCAT, OSPESCA, OLDEPESCA, RAMSAR, SWOT, ICAPO, ASO, WWF, CBD, and 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, 2021
Consultative Committee of Experts	Collaboration with International Organizations	1) Develop and review MoU drafts with relevant organizations identified.	1) Documents presented to COP for consideration.	Permanent

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WORK PLAN 2019-2021
CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.5

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.	Permanente
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	1) 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.	1) Report on resolution compliance presented at COP when necessary.	Permanent

SECRETARIAT *PRO TEMPORE* WORK PLAN 2019-2021
CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.5

SECRETARIAT *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

SECRETARIAT *PRO TEMPORE* WORK PLAN 2019-2021
CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.5

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 COP9 (Nicaragua, Colombia, El Salvador, Canada, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Suriname) to encourage their ratification. 2) The Secretary <i>Pro Tempore</i> carries out outreach visits in new countries identified, together with a delegation formed by IAC member countries in accordance with COP agreements. 3) The Parties consider carrying out parallel events within the framework of other meetings to talk about the IAC.	Increased IAC membership.	Permanent
Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Scientific and Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC's website and newsletter Communication and Training	On a monthly basis, countries will send relevant news to the Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> to include them in the IAC Newsletter.	IAC's website updated with relevant news and an IAC Newsletter available every three months.	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 is available on the IAC website.	2019

SECRETARIAT *PRO TEMPORE* WORK PLAN 2019-2021
CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.5

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 signature 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 the process to be signed. 2) Documents presented to the COP for consideration.	2019, 2021
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 the IAC website to promote the exchange of information, technical knowledge, and lessons learned.	2019, 2021
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 each IAC Party.	Permanent / Ongoing

SECRETARIAT *PRO TEMPORE* WORK PLAN 2019-2021
CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.5

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Committees, Parties	Financial Resources	1) Identify external funding support for projects and activities identified by the IAC Scientific Committee and/or the Consultative Committee as a high priority. 2) Identify financial sources to implement the IAC Annual Report Online.	1) Identified and prioritized projects. 2) Implementation of the IAC Annual Report Online project.	2019, 2021
Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Committees, Parties, Leatherback working group or interested NGOs	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 potential sponsors. 2) Technical and financial reports presented in a timely manner to the funding agencies.	2019, 2021
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, 2021
Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Chairs of COP and Committees	Execution ability - Meetings organization	Organize the COPs and Committees Meetings as well as the working groups established.	COP, CCE and SC meetings held.	2019, 2020

SECRETARIAT *PRO TEMPORE* WORK PLAN 2019-2021
CIT-COP9-2019-Doc.5

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
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, 2021
Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> and Parties	IAC Annual Report	1) Each Party sends the Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> its Annual Report. 2) IAC Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> continues working with WCMC to implement the IAC Annual Report Online System 3) Focal Points and IAC Secretariat PT training to use IAC Annual Report Online System.	1) IAC Annual Reports are available on the IAC website to be analyzed by the Committees. 2) IAC Online Report Implemented 3) IAC Focal Points received training to use the IAC Annual Report online system to present the first report of this kind in 2020.	2019, 2020

Annex XII
PHOTOS COP9



Group Photo – 9th IAC Conference of Parties



Conference of Parties Chair, Mr. Antonio de Nichilo; Secretary *Pro Tempore*, Ms. Veronica Caceres; the Dominican Republic Vice Ministry of Coasts and Seas of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Ms. Ydalia Acevedo.



Delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador and México



Delegations from Peru, the Dominican Republic and the United States



Delegations from the Caribbean Netherlands, Honduras, Panamá, Peru and Rapporteurs of the IAC COP9



IAC COP10 elected Chair (2019-2021)
Mr. Rotney Piedra delegate from Costa Rica