



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

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

**Part II**

**CIT-COP10-2022-Doc.6**

**PANAMA CITY, PANAMA**

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## REPORT IAC COP10-PART II (2022) CIT-COP10-2022-Doc.6

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

**Venue:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama – Palacio Bolívar

**Date:** June 15-17, 2022

**COP 10 Chair:** Sr. Rotney Piedra, Costa Rica – Director of the Protected Wildlife Areas, Tempisque Conservation Area, Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica

**COP 10 Vice chair:** Sr. Marino E Abrego, Panama – Director of the Department for the Management of Coastal and Marine Resources of the Ministry of Environment of Panama.

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Digna Barsallo – Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Panama and Ms. Rebecca Regnery – Member of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts/ Humane Society International.

### ITEM 1. OPENING CEREMONY COP10-PART II

1. The Tenth Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (COP10) was held in Panama City, Panama on June 15-17, 2022 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama. The COP reached quorum with representatives from 11 Parties.
2. Mr. Rotney Piedra was the Chair of the meeting with the support from IAC Secretary, Ms. Verónica Cáceres.
3. Mr. Milciades Concepcion, Minister of Environment of Panama, welcomed the participants and reiterated the Country's commitment with the Convention's objectives. The opening ceremony ended with the remarks of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Erika Mouynes, who referred to the importance of environmental education for the conservation of sea turtles. The COP10 Chair referred to the celebration of the IAC 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which, to the date, has adopted more than 40 resolutions, and signed five memoranda of understanding with regional organizations working for the conservation of biodiversity and on fisheries management. The Secretariat congratulated the collaborative work among the members, which have strengthened over the last two decades, making the IAC a successful and effective treaty.

### ITEM 2. INTRODUCTION OF THE IAC PARTIES DELEGATIONS, OBSERVERS, AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

4. The parties' delegations introduced themselves, confirming quorum with the participation of 11 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the United States, and Uruguay). Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, and Colombia representatives of observer countries, and the IAC accredited observers, non-government organizations and academy attended the meeting. Participants also included the IAC Consultative Committee Chair, and members from this Committee, as well as representatives of the Panamanian Government, for a total of 50 participants. The Delegation from Chile that had registered to attend the meeting sent their apologies for not being present due to health issues.

Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras and Belize did not attend the meeting. (Annex I – List of Participants CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.1).

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

5. The agenda was adopted with the consensus of the participants. The Secretariat communicated to COP10 that the item on the IAC Membership Status that was scheduled to be presented by Venezuela as depositary of the Convention, will not be presented because Venezuela's Delegation did not attend the meeting. The COP10 Chair, Mr. Rotney Piedra, proposed for this item of the agenda that the observers from non-IAC parties Canada and Trinidad and Tobago provide an update on their countries process to review the IAC, with the view towards a potential accession to the treaty. (Annex II. Agenda CIT-COP10-2022-Doc1).
6. The COP10 rapporteur was Ms. Digna Barsallo, technician of the Ministry of Environment of Panama for Spanish language, and Ms. Rebecca Regnery from Humane Society International and member of the Consultative Committee of Experts for English language.

### **ITEM 4. IAC SECRETARIAT REPORT 2020-2022 AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PLAN**

7. Ms. Verónica Cáceres, IAC Secretary, presented the report prepared in collaboration with the COP10 Chair. The presentation included all the activities implemented, and the report used the format approved at COP9, which resembles traffic light colors to visualize progress on the implementation of the IAC work plan. This is the first time this format is used. The Scientific, and Consultative Committees used this format as well. (Annex III – Secretariat, Scientific and Consultative Committees Report CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.2).
8. The topics included are:
  - Efforts to increase membership
  - Memoranda of Understanding and collaboration with international organizations
  - World Sea Turtle Day Activities in Member Countries
  - Status of the members' financial contributions to the IAC
  - Organization of meetings of the Scientific and Consultative Committees, the COP
  - Organization of meetings of the IAC Committees Working Groups
  - Technical documents with recommendations from the Scientific and Consultative Committees
  - IAC Annual Report and the Parties status of compliance
  - Online reporting platform to streamline the submission of the Annual Report
  - Challenges for the IAC Secretariat operation to consider, including that the Secretariat staff is composed of two members and that there has been increased amount of activities in the last biennium, with more working groups operating, increased activities in collaboration with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), and the lack of funding to sustain all the activities and operation of the treaty, that are included in the work plan.

## 9. Comments from the Parties

The delegations thanked and recognized the work of the Secretariat with limited resources and a small team, even during the COVID-19 crisis, the activities did not stop. The following comments are noted:

- Peru: thanks the IAC support on the exchange of experiences between Peruvian fishermen that use gillnets with potential to interact with leatherback turtles, and leatherback turtle protection projects in the coasts of Mexico, this was followed by a second part where Peruvian fishermen shared what they learned in Mexico, on the conservation of this species, with their communities in Peru, to increase their knowledge and awareness in the areas of Peru where the species is found. With regards to Peru's financial contribution to the IAC, this has been considered by the pertinent national authorities, and they have responded positively to process the payment of Peru's voluntary contributions to the IAC that are pending.
- Brazil: states their concern regarding the Convention's limited financial resources, and enquires if there are any activities being carried to obtain external funding, and if there have been any additional challenges due to the pandemic.
- United States: acknowledges the dedication of the Scientific and Consultative Committees working groups, even during the pandemic difficult times, as it shows their commitment to the IAC. Encourages the countries to continue participating.
- Dominican Republic: mentioned that they submitted their Annual Report to the IAC in June using the online platform, and that some changes in the work team caused the delays.
- Ecuador: informs that were unable to submit their Annual Report in May due to complications compiling nesting data as the nesting season has just finished, they expect to present the Annual Report in July.
- Panama: states that their IAC Annual Report is almost ready, they expect to submit it soon.
- Mexico: acknowledge that the interactions with fisheries and ghost nets are a threat to sea turtles, therefore they have joined the Global Ghost Gear Initiative.
- Chair: appreciates the remarks from delegations in support of the Secretariat work, these tasks are supported by the Parties. The Chair recognizes the efforts of the countries to obtain information for the IAC Annual Report. The results will be visible in the technical documents and working group reports that are included in the COP's informative documents and will be presented by the Scientific and Consultative Committees.

## ITEM 5. REPORT ON PROGRESS TOWARDS INCREASING THE IAC MEMBERSHIP

10. Report from the Depositary – Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. This report was not presented as the delegation of Venezuela did not attend the COP10-II meeting.
11. The Chair opened the floor to IAC Non –Party observers representing the Governments of Canada and Trinidad and Tobago to provide information on their progress towards the membership.
  - Canada: the head of delegation Mr. Justin Turple from the Direction of Fisheries and Oceans, mentioned that Canada has been an IAC observer for various years now. About three and a half years ago they began a new evaluation at the national level to analyze the potential to access the Convention, however, this was put on hold due to the pandemic, and resumed recently. They thanked the Secretariat and the delegation of the United States for meeting

with them on several occasions. They have made extensive consultations with different sectors in Canada, and have made a comprehensive assessment of the fisheries that may impact sea turtles. This process may take some time, but they are working thoroughly to make progress. The Canadian Government has invested a significant amount in protecting the oceans. As observers, they will continue increasing their direct and indirect participation in IAC activities.

- Trinidad and Tobago: the head of delegation, Ms. Danielle Lewis-Clark, from the Environmental Management Authority (EMA), indicated that, since March 2020, they have held discussions with the Secretariat about joining the IAC. To this date, they have attended at least three meetings of the Convention. Additionally, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has implemented a multidisciplinary working group for sea turtles, including governmental and non-governmental organizations. This working group is advocating for the need of the country to join the IAC, and the Minister has always supported this initiative. They are working on data collection to make sure they have robust information to prepare a proposal to seek the Cabinet approval. They hope to have the documents ready within the next two months for the Cabinet review.

## **ITEM 6. REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS (CCE)**

12. Dr. Eduardo Ponce, CCE Chair, presents the activities of the term 2020-2022, with 11 actions in progress. The report is presented using the traffic light format for monitoring progress. The CCE has reviewed and made text recommendations to all the resolutions proposals that are being analyzed at COP10. Regarding the resolutions implementation, the Eastern Pacific leatherback Task Force has collaborated with the IATTC, developing a model of the vulnerability of the species and conservation measures, presented later. The report of the Northwest Atlantic leatherback working group on compliance with the resolution was presented, requesting non-Parties for information to help developing the important areas map. Regarding the interaction between sea turtles and fisheries, there is not enough information, however, this subject is a priority. The CCE is trying to implement, a pilot project on bycatch in artisanal fisheries in Southern Peru and Northern Chile, but it is subject to financial resources that are not available. The CCE will prepare an analysis of compliance with the resolutions based on information from the IAC Annual Report to present it to the CCE in 2023 (Annex III – Secretariat, Scientific and Consultative Committees Report CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.2).
13. The COP10 Chair congratulates the CCE Chair and the Parties that participated in the working groups of the Consultative Committee, the result seen in this report, this is evidence of the compliance with this Convention's objective. He highlights that two years ago, Costa Rica committed to carry out a communication strategy to improve the IAC visibility, one of the results, is the video that was showed during this COP breaks, which highlights the 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the IAC, includes information sent by the Parties. The video is available at <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/videos/cop10.mp4>
14. United States congratulates the CCE Chair and recognizes the amount of work that has been done to address the issue of sea turtle bycatch in fisheries. The IAC decision-making process is scientifically informed and it is addressing key threats to sea turtles. There have been collaborations with Regional Management Fisheries Organizations (RFMOs) and other countries to continue to reduce this critical threat. They also congratulate Dr. Bryan Wallace's work as a



member of the Consultative Committee and as Coordinator of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Working Group with the IATTC, in the building of the model previously mentioned.

#### ITEM 7. REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC)

15. Dr. Heriberto Santana, Vice chair of the Scientific Committee, presents the report virtually. The Chair of the SC, Ms. Leslie Bustos, could not attend the COP10 because she had an accident; and sent a message to the IAC Secretariat to share in the plenary. The vice chair provides an update on the last biennium activities. Some activities have not been implemented, such as the collaboration with the IUCN specialists, and the identification of activities to implement within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). He emphasizes that the SC uses the information in the Parties Annual Reports to prepare their technical documents regarding nesting, and the interactions of longline fisheries and sea turtles. He requests the Parties to submit their Annual Reports on time, recalling that the deadline is April, 30<sup>th</sup> because their data is needed. Upon the COP request, the SC prepared a document on the critical areas for the Northwest Atlantic leatherback turtle including the protection of nesting beaches, reduction of bycatch, and the use of international instruments to increase the protection of this population. The SC Climate Change Working Group, prepared a Technical Document on techniques to measure temperature in beaches. Lastly, he highlights Peru's report to the SC about the pilot Project on the release of leatherback turtles from gillnets, carried out by the *Instituto del Mar del Perú* (IMARPE) together with the artisanal fisheries sector, who are doing a great job in releasing leatherback turtles bycaught by fisheries in Lambayeque. The SC encourage Peru to replicate this project in other areas, and to IAC Parties to implement it in a similar way in their countries. The Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS in Spanish) was consulted on possible support to the SC to prepare a manual on best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles bycaught in fisheries. The Vice chair highlights that the SC meetings have been held virtually and this year there is no host country, he encourages the Parties to consider hosting the SC meeting in 2022 or 2023. If hosting is not available, virtual meetings will continue this year. (Annex III – Secretariat, Scientific and Consultative Committees Report CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.2).
16. Dr. Santana read the recommendations from the Scientific Committee Technical Documents prepared so that IAC Parties take them into account to support the implementation of the IAC Resolutions. The technical documents and recommendations are available in the IAC website links below:

Recommendations from the Scientific Committee Technical Documents:

- Critical areas for the conservation of the Northwest Atlantic leatherback CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.16 and current Conservation Status CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.17 [http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/publicaciones/CIT-CC17-2020-Tec16\\_Critical\\_Areas\\_NWA\\_Leatherback.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/publicaciones/CIT-CC17-2020-Tec16_Critical_Areas_NWA_Leatherback.pdf)
- Best practices for monitoring temperature in nesting beaches CIT-CC17-2021-Tec.18 [http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/publicaciones/CIT-CC18-2021-Tec\\_18%20Temperature\\_Best\\_Practices\\_ENG\\_Final\\_WEB\\_24jan2022.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/publicaciones/CIT-CC18-2021-Tec_18%20Temperature_Best_Practices_ENG_Final_WEB_24jan2022.pdf)
- Analysis of nesting data in index beaches CIT-CC17-2021-Tec.19 [http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/publicaciones/CIT-CC18-2021-Tec.19\\_Index\\_Beaches\\_2009-2021\\_4\\_Nov\\_ENG\\_Final\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/publicaciones/CIT-CC18-2021-Tec.19_Index_Beaches_2009-2021_4_Nov_ENG_Final_WEB.pdf)

17. Comments from the Parties

- Peru thanks the remarks regarding on IMARPE and the artisanal fishing sector efforts in their country, in Peru they implement a series of conservation actions for emblematic species in Peru. They formed a leatherback turtle rescue team with the support of local fishermen. They released more than 15 critically endangered turtles back to the ocean. They hope for other countries to adopt similar measures.
- The COP Chair highlights the importance of the compliance with the Parties Annual Reports. The information that the Parties report is used to meet the objective of the IAC, establish the conservation status of sea turtles, and visualize progress on the compliance with the IAC Resolutions. The SC technical documents are based on the Annual Reports information and show the results from the conservation efforts shared by the Parties. We recognize Peru's effort and progress in the conservation of a critically endangered species, such as the Eastern Pacific Leatherback turtle. We thank the SC for the time and effort involved in preparing the technical documents and urge countries to consider their recommendations and implement them.

**ITEM 8. PROCESS FOR ANALYSIS OF RESOLUTIONS ON EXCEPTIONS (PANAMA, GUATEMALA, AND COSTA RICA)**

18. The CCE Chair, Dr. Ponce explained the timeline of the process of analysis of the exceptions under IAC, that started in 2011 with the approval of the procedure to request an exception to IAC. In 2013 Panama and Guatemala presented their exception in their Annual Report and a resolution was adopted in 2013 for these two countries. Later Costa Rica presented its exception and a resolution was adopted in 2014. The three countries presented a report five years after the implementation of their resolutions, in 2019 and 2020. To date, the SC and CCE, after analyzing the progress reports of each country in 2021-2022, made recommendations to Panama and Guatemala, to prepare a management plan for the exception. For Costa Rica, that already have a five-year management plan in place, the recommendation is to continue with its implementation. (Annex IV – Timeline of the Exceptions Process)
19. Following the process described above, Panama, Guatemala and Costa Rica delegations prepared their Resolutions proposal, which are presented to the COP10. These were reviewed and edited at the 18th Scientific Committee meeting in 2021, and the 15th Consultative Committee meeting in 2022. The texts in these resolutions considered the items of 2013 Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1 on the exception in Panama and Guatemala, and the 2015 Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R1 on the exception in Costa Rica. The updated text includes the SC and CCE recommendations to the five-year implementation of the exception report presented by the Panamanian Government in 2019, and the reports presented by the Governments of Guatemala and Costa Rica in 2020. The delegations of the three countries, in agreement with the exceptions working group of the SC and CCE recommended preparing one resolution on the exceptions for each country independently to update and replace the previous resolutions on exceptions.
20. Panama's Delegate, Mr. Marino Abrego, presents their exception case. Panama submitted a request for the advice from IAC experts, in order to organize, regulate, and follow up, in a responsible manner, the situation regarding the extraction of *L. olivacea* eggs at Isla Cañas Wildlife Refuge, activity historically carried out by the local community for subsistence consumption. The request was made in 2011 for this site and for this species only, so that this

activity do not cause harm to the turtle population nesting in the site. Panama, has received IAC experts support since 2013, and Panama has 80% of progress on the compliance with the Exception Resolution. The country is in a final stage of adoption of the management plan, with the support of Isla Cañas local community. There are challenges the Government needs to address, the main one the lack of personnel for the implementation of the exception management plan, because the Refuge Isla Cañas only has one park ranger with a 12 hour shift to work on data collection with the support of the environmental police. Panama needs support to obtain reliable data, protection where the arribada takes place, and to prevent eggs selling; as it is prohibited by law. The only place in Panama where subsistence consumption is allowed is Isla Cañas. They have worked with surrounding communities to improve the hatchery and the community is interested on collaborating. Panama still have pending to conduct research in synergy with the University of Panama, and provide students with opportunities to carry out their thesis projects.

21. The Head of Delegation from Costa Rica, Ms. Ingrid Picado, and Ambassador of Costa Rica in Panama, presents their situation in Ostional. She states that they have committed to comply with the five-year plan for the use of *L. olivacea* eggs, applying necessary technical criteria under the supervision of the Ministry of Environment and private researchers. Costa Rica continues to implement their exception management plan accordingly.
22. The COP Chair indicates that Guatemala is not attending the COP10-II however their Resolution on exceptions has been reviewed with the Focal Point, and they agree with the text. Any changes that are made at the Conference of the Parties will be forwarded to Guatemala for further review.
23. Brazil notes that their country has a supportive position in relation to the exceptions, however, these must be managed according to the text and objectives of the IAC. The Chair emphasizes that this is indeed the case and the three resolutions have been updated to be more effective and improve the compliance.
24. The Chair explained the process to analyze the documents in plenary. The resolutions were presented in a format named “plenary” with each paragraph numbered in Spanish and English, to facilitate the discussion. The process is to read paragraph and if there was no disagreement, the paragraph was adopted, and the Chair moved to the next one.

#### **Analysis of the Proposal for the Resolution on Exceptions in Panama CIT-COP10-2022-R3**

25. The Caribbean Netherlands, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, and Peru had suggestions. Panama thanks the CCE, the SC, and the Parties for their support and contribution, and confirms the commitment of the country to keep working to implement the recommendations and continue to work in the Isla Cañas Wildlife Refuge.
26. The plenary adopted Panama Resolution on the Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eggs in Panama (Annex V – Resolution on the Exception in Panama CIT-COP10-2022-R3).

#### **Analysis of the Proposal for the Resolution on Exceptions in Guatemala CIT-COP10-2022-R4**

27. The Chair stated that, although Guatemala is not attending the COP10-II, the text of the resolution has already been agreed with the country. COP10 -II agreed that if there are any additional changes suggested in the plenary they will be sent to Guatemala, with a 30-day deadline for review and adoption.
28. Brazil, USA, Costa Rica and Dominican Republic discussed annex II in the resolution, regarding the management of hatcheries. It was suggested to consider to the extent possible provide a report of the nests left *in situ*. It was recognized that collecting data *in situ* represents a significant effort to the country, because they would have to guarantee personnel for beach monitoring, different than in a hatchery. To address Brazil and the US comments regarding *in situ* monitoring, Costa Rica proposed a change to the original text of the resolution, the proposal was drafted by these three countries to send for consultation to Guatemala. The COP Chair clarifies that the Resolution language came from the SC recommendations, reviewed by the CCE,
29. The Chair clarified that the resolution cannot be adopted in its entirety until we receive Guatemala's comments to the proposed paragraph. It was agreed that the Resolution with editions from the plenary will be transmitted to the IAC Focal Point of Guatemala for adoption within the 30 days after the COP.
30. Guatemala submitted their approval to the IAC Secretariat on July 19. Therefore, the Resolution on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and 3b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eggs in Guatemala was adopted (Annex VI – Resolution on the Exception in Guatemala CIT-COP10-2022-R4).

#### **Analysis of the Proposal for the Resolution on Exceptions in Costa Rica CIT-COP10-2022-R5**

31. The delegate from Costa Rica, Ms. Ingrid Picado, summarized their Resolution and the five-year report on the exception at Ostional Wildlife Refuge. She emphasized that the IAC Focal Point was notified of the SC and CCE recommendations and together with the Ostional Wildlife Refuge Advisory Committee made up of governmental institutions of Costa Rica, the academy, the civil society prepared this resolution.
32. After the review by the plenary where some texts were standardized with those in the Resolutions for Guatemala and Panama, the Resolution on the Exceptions under Article IV (3a and 3b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eggs in Costa Rica was adopted (Annex VII – Resolution on the Exception in Costa Rica CIT-COP10-2022-R5)

#### **ITEM 9. ANALYSIS OF THE RESOLUTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE EASTERN PACIFIC LEATHERBACK TURTLE CIT-COP10-2022-R6**

33. Dr. Bryan Wallace, Coordinator of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle Working Group, provided the background for this resolution noting that the 2015 version of the resolution for this species, included a five-year work plan, which implementation of the priority activities was assessed by the working group. Simultaneously, the Eastern Pacific Leatherback network started updating their work plan, and along with the collaborative work with IATTC, contributed to this updated resolution, which improves, clarifies, and strengthens actions and implementation for the

next five years. This was a two-year work and the commitment of the working group to this resolution is greatly appreciated.

34. The plenary made edits to the Resolution Annex I Strategic Action 1, regarding the use and meaning of the term “incidental capture” and its translation to English “bycatch”. It was agreed that in Spanish the term incidental capture includes interaction with fishing gear that may or may not cause mortality, however, there was concern from some countries regarding the removal of the term “mortality” in some paragraphs of the resolution, because the goal of the mitigation measures is to reduce the mortality. Finally, it was interpreted that in Spanish “incidental capture”, involves post capture mortality. In English, “incidental capture” only refers to interaction that do not imply post capture mortality, whereas “bycatch” refers to interactions that include or not mortality (includes non-lethal and lethal interactions). For the translation of this terms, and to have the proper meaning in the Resolution, it was agreed to use “*captura incidental*” in Spanish and “incidental capture (bycatch)” in the English text, to ensure they have same meaning.
35. The plenary discussed the need and importance of monitoring incidental captures in fisheries, understanding that intention of the resolution is to increase and strengthen the on board observers (human and/ or electronic monitoring) and port observers monitoring.
36. The importance of standardizing the information collected was highlighted, for it to be comparable. In addition, it was suggested to review the information requested in the Annual Reports to avoid duplication between the Eastern Pacific leatherback and the fisheries Resolutions.
37. The USA delegation suggested that the item referring to leatherback turtle retentions on board, to be clarified that this is an illegal activity, and to clarify the use of the term “retained”. The Secretariat noted that the delegates from Peru and Chile from the Scientific Committee who suggested the text, wanted to make this practice evident, and although it is not a directed capture, it is equally being used for consumption or illegal trade of sea turtle products. USA suggests to use “illegally retained for consumption”. Dominican Republic stated that the approach of this paragraph is the data collection on the condition of the animal and the causes that it was captured, the item on consumption or retention should be in a different paragraph, Ecuador agreed. Brazil stated that retaining turtles onboard is not illegal therefore, the term cannot be used. It was agreed that it is important to compile and analyze information on the fate of incidentally captured turtles that are retained. The plenary adopted the text suggested by the Chair: “identify and report the fate of incidentally captured sea turtles and retained onboard vessels”.
38. Ecuador requested clarification in the Resolution Annex I Strategic Action 2 referring to the identification of critical sites in international waters that are important for the species because the IAC has no effect in international waters, it wouldn’t be possible to implement it. Costa Rica, states that by saying identifying we are not taking any direct action in areas outside of the IAC jurisdiction. Mexico agrees with Ecuador and Costa Rica and emphasizes that this is the importance of the MoUs with the RFMOs that can provide support regarding the topic of international waters.

39. Ecuador recommends to avoid the duplication of information in two sections of the IAC Annual Report. It was suggested that the IAC Committees review the Annual Report content, considering the resolutions adopted at the COP10 to avoid duplication, as is the case for fisheries information that is being requested in two sections of the Annual Report. Ecuador suggests that everything related to fisheries is included in the fisheries section. To address this, a mandate to the IAC SC and CCE was included in the Resolution referring to the need to revise and harmonize the information in the Annex II of the Resolution to be included in the IAC Annual Report.
40. The plenary adopted the Resolution for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback (Annex VIII – Resolution for the Conservation of the EP Leatherback CIT-COP10-2022-R6).
41. The participants noted the importance of this Resolution, since it will allow to promote actions to protect this species, and thanked the Parties for this big step towards the conservation of the species. USA adds that this is a celebration of the World Sea Turtle Day, showing the commitment of the Parties with the protection, conservation, and recovery of this critically endangered species. Dr. Wallace, on behalf of the Leatherback working group, expressed his gratitude to the delegates for this resolution, as out of all the turtles in the treaty; the leatherback is the one that needs our actions, the most. Brazil congratulates the Parties and will gladly participate in this process. Peru joins the congratulations. Dominican Republic congratulates the effort of the countries; may this be a base for management recommendations for the Atlantic region. Panama indicates that this resolution adds to the efforts to accomplish concrete actions towards the recovery this endangered species. Mexico joins the congratulations, and on behalf of the CCE thanks all the parties their input to the Resolution, which is a result of dozens of meetings and shows the commitment of all countries.

#### **ITEM 10. ANALYSIS OF THE RESOLUTION TO REDUCE ADVERSE IMPACTS OF FISHERIES ON SEA TURTLES CIT-COP-10-2022-R7**

42. There was a discussion about the need to include a footnote in the Resolution with reference to the FAO's better practices report. It was decided to do not include any reference as footnotes in the Resolutions.
43. The United States and the Dominican Republic discussed a paragraph that only mentions longline fisheries, where USA, with Ecuador's and Netherlands' support, argue that it should not be that exclusive and it should include all fisheries. The Dominican Republic position is that the intention of the Resolution is to highlight key fisheries that affect sea turtles, therefore in this case it is important to highlight longline fisheries. Also, the IAC Annual Report includes specific information on this type of fisheries. It was agreed not to be specific to only one fishery.
44. There was a discussion regarding the onboard observers programs and/or fisheries monitoring and data collection with other methods such as port surveys, to collect information on incidental capture of sea turtles. USA and Netherlands prepared a text to separate the item of onboard observers and the item about port surveys, as each idea states specific actions for the IAC Committees. This Resolution recognizes the importance of strengthening onboard observers' programs, and in the case that they don't exist, establishing them, as well as the importance to use other fisheries data collection means to increase fisheries monitoring through port surveys. The plenary adopted the proposed texts.

45. Brazil, Ecuador, USA, Dominican Republic, and the Secretariat discussed the text related to communication with non-Parties and the data on incidental capture they provide. The delegations enquire how will the Secretariat get data from non-Parties. The COP Chair and Brazil suggest deleting this paragraph. Ecuador explains that the Secretariat interacts with non-Parties on specific subjects to increase the membership, and with MoUs and RFMOs, to possibly obtain this data. Ecuador also suggests deleting this paragraph, since the Secretariat already has a lot on their hands. The Secretariat agrees with the fact that it's a challenge to request data from non-Parties, and adds that it is not necessary to keep the paragraph, but states that these communications are happening either way, given that this activity is part of the Secretariat's mission with the MoUs. Netherlands considers there should be a text highlighting that the Secretariat needs to keep contact with other nations to increase the membership, and recommends to keep the paragraph with some changes. Finally, Brazil and the Dominican Republic suggest to include a paragraph in the preamble recognizing the Secretariat's work on this matter, in addition, they recognize the authority that the Secretariat has to initiate or continue conversations with other organizations to sign Memoranda of Understanding.
46. The plenary adopted the Resolution for the Reduction of Adverse Impacts of Fisheries on Sea Turtles (Annex IX – Resolution on Fisheries and Sea Turtles CIT-COP10-2022-R7).

#### **ITEM 11. WORLD SEA TURTLE DAY CELEBRATION**

47. Panama presented the video “Our Turtles, Natural Heritage that Unites Us” – Conservation and Protection Activities for sea turtles in Panama.  
Video: <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/videos/VideoMiAmbientePanama.mp4>
48. The IAC and CPPS, two years celebrating June 16 together was a presentation by Ms. Zuleika Pinzon, Coordinator of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the Southeast Pacific (CPPS). Ms. Pinzon provided a summary of the collaboration with IAC under the MOU in 2021 and 2022, and the material prepared to raise awareness about Sea Turtle Day can be found at IAC and CPPS website. <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/publicaciones-eng.htm#>
49. The Secretariat had invited COP10 participants to voluntarily bring a small sea turtle inspired item to do a symbolic exchange among the meeting participants to celebrate Sea Turtle Day. The Secretariat mentions that the World Sea Turtle Day slogan “Our Sea Turtles, Natural Heritage that Unites Us” is from the authorship of Panama's Technical Focal Point, Mr. Marino Abrego, who is the COP vice chair. A post card designed with the support from the CPPS to remember this day, was handed to all participants. (See in Annex XIV).

#### **ITEM 12. ELECTION OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS SECTORIAL MEMBERS 2022-2026**

50. The objective of the CCE is to advice and guide the COP with the goal of promoting protection, conservation, and recovery of sea turtle populations and the habitats which they depend on, based of the most reliable scientific evidence available and taking into consideration environmental, socioeconomic and cultural characteristics of the parties. As it was established in the terms of reference of the CCE, three representatives with the necessary knowledge in matters relevant to the Convention, from three different groups (scientific community, private sector, and non-

governmental organizations – NGOs), have to be elected to support and contribute with the Convention's objective. Sectorial members are elected for a two-COP period and can be renewed by the parties. For each sector, the parties also have to designate three alternates, which can replace a CCE member in their corresponding sector in the case of their absence, retirement or death.

51. Previous to the COP10, the Parties had a period of 90 days to review the profiles of 14 candidates, six for the scientific sector, three for the private/productive sector, and five for the NGO sector, considering their knowledge, expertise on the Convention relevant matters, as well as on the geographic area of the hemisphere where turtles occur. At COP10-II a voting package was handed to each delegation; the package included instructions and voting ballots. With the purpose of maintaining anonymity, and with approval from the plenary, Canada, in collaboration with Trinidad and Tobago (non-Party observers) proceeded with the counting of the votes. Once the process was finalized, Canada announced the results of the election.
52. In the first round of results there was a tie in the third position in the NGO sector between Dr. Daniel Evans from Sea Turtle Conservancy, and Monica Gamboa from Costa Rica por Siempre. Per suggestion of the delegation from Mexico, Canada was asked to convene a new vote asking directly to each delegation the candidate which they would want to vote to break the tie and to obtain the third member for this sector and the alternate.

53. Results of the election of the CCE Sectorial Members:

NGO Sector:

- Rebecca Regnery from Humane Society International.
- Diego Amorochio from Centro de Investigación para el Manejo y Desarrollo.
- Monica Gamboa from Asociación Costa Rica por Siempre.
- Alternate: Daniel Evans (Sea Turtle Conservancy)

Scientific Sector:

- Bryan Wallace from Ecolibrium
- Maria Angela Acevedo from Fundacao Centre de Brasileiro de Proteccao e Pesquisa das Tortugas Marinhas – Fundacao Projecto Tamar
- Laura Prosdocimi from Laboratorio de Ecología, Comportamiento y Mamíferos Marinos (LECyMM) Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales (MACN-CONICET) - Argentina
- Alternate: Nelly de Paz ACOREMA-Perú

Private Sector:

- Nina Pardo from Sociedad Nacional de Pesquería.
- Eduardo Kantz from PRUMO.
- Miguel Angel Chaidez from CANAINPESCA

The elected sectorial members term is June 2022-June 2026. A new election will be held at the COP12 in 2026.



### **ITEM 13. REPORT OF THE LEGAL WORKING GROUP FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE IAC SECRETARIAT**

54. Mr. Victor Chocho, delegate from Ecuador, presented the report including the summary of the background of the Legal Working Group to establish the IAC permanent Secretariat. Several meetings have been held to discuss this. As a result, the WG presented two Resolutions to the COP10-I, adopted in 2021, and formed a finances sub-group. The USA offered to host the Secretariat in USFWS through Resolution CIT-COP10-2021-R1. The Resolution on Finances CIT-COP10-2021-R2 includes the tasks of the Legal WG to propose mechanisms to provide funds for the treaty and to address the challenges to receive contributions from the Parties, and where the Resolution on Finances makes no reference to voluntary contributions, but to contributions goals. These Resolutions include tasks for the Legal WG, that will be working on new Resolution for the COP11. To comply with the tasks the Legal WG prepared a work plan and a strategy for the finances sub group with specific objectives. The Legal WG will presents the following to the COP11: a) text for Annex III of the Finances Resolution, which was not presented in this meeting as the finances sub group was formed recently. The new text for this annex should be drafted and presented at COP11, and b) a draft resolution for the continuation of the United States as host of the IAC Secretariat without time limit.
55. The COP Chair states the need to highlight the financial mechanisms identified by the sub group on finances as alternatives for the IAC sustainability. He thanks the USA for their support as hosts of the Secretariat and for offering to continue this arrangement. The finances resolution was adopted in the first part of this COP10-I.
56. COP10 plenary adopted the Legal WG recommendations on their report CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.3 and agreed on including the activities proposed by the Legal WG and the finances sub group in the Secretariat work plan under items Legal WG and Permanent Secretariat (Annex X – Legal Working Group Report CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.3).

### **ITEM 14. COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER BODIES**

57. Proposal of a Memorandum of Collaboration with Stetson University College of Law (CIT-COP10-2022-Doc.5). The proposal was presented by Professor Royal Gardner. He appreciates the opportunity to support the IAC in the past, hosting two meeting, one of the Consultative Committee and one of the Scientific Committee in 2019. Stetson University also appreciates the opportunity that the IAC has given to the students to participate and learn from this Convention; to see the functioning of a Convention and to understand how it really operates. It is important for the students to understand that it is not just words on a piece of paper, but a Convention composed by people dedicated to the mission, goals, and objectives. Stetson thanks the opportunity to work with the IAC in the future and look forward to support and collaborate within the framework of the Memorandum of Collaboration.
58. Proposal of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sargasso Sea Commission (CIT-COP10-2022-Doc.4). The Secretariat reads a letter from the Executive Director, explaining that the role of the commission is to act as administrator of the ecosystem in the Sargasso Sea, supporting the Parties (10 countries) of the Hamilton Declaration. It indicates that many of the sea turtles nesting in the American continent spend the first stages of their lives in the Sargasso Sea, therefore the

IAC and the Commission objectives have great synergy, hence the IAC can be of great value for the commission and vice versa. In the past, the IAC and the SSC worked together on a Concept Note on the importance of the Sargasso Sea for sea turtles, back then it was called Alliance vs Commission. The SSC have two common Parties with the IAC, the United States and The Dominican Republic. USA and Dominican Republic.

59. Argentina suggests deleting the word “obligation” in title 3 since it is a non-binding document. The suggestion was adopted.
60. Argentina states the importance of including the following text, in the COP10 report: “the approval of this MoU proposal between the IAC and the SSC, does not mean to give recognition to the Sargasso Sea Commission a specific mandate on the conservation of biodiversity beyond National jurisdiction”.
61. The plenary agreed for the IAC Secretary to sign the Memorandum of Understanding IAC-SSC and the Memorandum of Collaboration IAC-Stetson MoU with the texts approved at the COP10 (Annex XI– Memoranda adopted by the COP10-II)
62. Collaboration with the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) to renew the Memorandum of Understanding. The Secretariat presents ACAP proposal. The first IAC –ACAP MoU was signed in 2016, for a term of six years, and it expires in 2022 November. The ACAP Secretariat agreed to the renewal. ACAP has stated that their practice for MoUs is not to make reference to a time frame of number of years that the MoU will be valid. There is a clause stating that any of the Parties can finalize the MoU with a six-month notice to the other Party. The proposal is that the text of the MoU remains the same as the previous one, only two changes removing the reference to the timeframe, and updating ACAP’s Executive Secretary name.
63. It was agreed by the IAC Conference of the Parties that the IAC Secretariat prepares the text to renew the MoU with ACAP with the changes suggested by ACAP Secretariat and proceed to sign it after the IAC Parties review.
64. Recommendations from collaboration with CITES: Recommendations from CITES report in collaboration with the IAC, and CMS-IOSEA “Status, scope and trends of the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles, its conservation impacts, management options and mitigation priorities”. Netherlands considers it as informative document, and that it is not necessary that the COP10 adopt recommendations, as these have been adopted at CITES COP. The plenary acknowledges the CITES report and its recommendations have been noted. Brazil recalls that the CITES COP will be in Panama on November, which another opportunity to collaborate. The COP Chair informed that a Resolution on sea turtles will be presented at CITES COP, which might be a challenge for the Focal Points to discuss. Panama expresses that they revised the sea turtle Resolution to make connections with the IAC. USA thanks parties that have supported the draft resolution submitted to CITES by the United States, and that this document will support the collaboration between IAC and CITES.

## **ITEM 15. REPORT ON THE COLLABORATION WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)**

65. Dr. Bryan Wallace, member of the Scientific Sector of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts and, attending virtually from Australia, Dr. Shane Griffiths, member of the IATTC Scientific Staff, presented a summary of the collaborative work between the IAC and the IATTC that was prepared in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding. The collaboration took place in two-phases and resulted in the document *Vulnerability Status and Efficacy of Potential Conservation Measures for The East Pacific Leatherback Turtle Stock Using the EASI-Fish Approach* that was included as an informative document for the COP10. The document was finalized in May, 2022. Dr. Griffiths expresses that this is one of the most successful collaborations that he has participated in. There were some technical challenges to overcome working with ESI-Fish, as it is something novel to work, however the method had advantages as the approach worked well with a species with limited data as it is the Est Pacific Leatherback due to its low abundance. Dr. Jon Lopez, from IATTC Scientific Staff, is another key collaborator in the development of the new model on the habitat distribution of the EP leatherback. The IATTC Parties and the IAC Parties, collaborated providing information on the EP leatherback bycatch, and presence and absence, according to the fisheries report from the observers available. This is usually information that is restricted access and difficult to obtain. Information from the IATTC database was also included in the model. Dr. Griffiths, stated that it was a good experience to work with this team of more than 20 people from different countries that provided the best data available. Data from artisanal fisheries effort was a considerable information gap regarding incidental capture, and the team was able to make a significant contribution with this data, this improved the quality and results of the model. More than 70 Conservation Management Measures (CMM) scenarios were tested to determine the most effective. The CMM were taken from the IATTC Resolution to Mitigate Impact on Sea Turtles C-19-04. The results from model are to inform the IAC and IATTC Parties on the CMM that with full implementation could be more effective in reducing the vulnerability of the leatherback turtle. Dr. Wallace added that it is the first time they are able to gather information at a regional level from all the countries fisheries with a single objective, to inform the implementation of priority conservation measures to mitigate bycatch of this critically endangered species based on IAC and IATTC Resolutions.
66. The Secretariat thanks Dr. Shane Griffiths and Dr. Jon Lopez, from the IATTC and Dr. Wallace from CCE IAC. Two papers will be prepared for scientific publications. The COP10 Chair recognized that it was a challenge to obtain information from different sources. The papers resulting from this collaboration are very valuable to further and strengthen the collaboration between IAC and IATTC.

## **ITEM 16. IAC SECRETARIAT AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES WORK PLAN 2022-2024**

67. A revision of the Secretariat, Scientific and Consultative Committees 2022-2024 work plans was done, with emphasis in the new activities proposed by the IAC Legal Working Group. The Secretariat and each Committee presented their recommendations of activities to be included in their work plan the first day of this meeting. Caribbean Netherlands suggested changes to the dates for completion for some of the activities.
68. Brazil requested to review the topic on cooperation with other organizations and entities, and explained that the delegation was not in agreement with the use of the word synergy in this

context, because in their view, when this word is used the consequences are not the best, it could cause duplication of efforts between conventions, including budgets and commitments. Brazil suggests to use the word “complementarity” instead of “synergy” in order to avoid confusion and the loss of specific objectives. Brazil intention is to support the joint work of IAC with others, but always in line with the mandates and objectives of each entity. Ecuador supports Brazil in this position.

69. Dominican Republic, Peru and USA, consider that the word synergy should be maintained, as this can have a positive view to avoid duplication or inadequate use of resources, this is a commonly used term to describe joint actions in the search for the same goal. Dominican Republic stated that for them working in synergy has the meaning to complement what one already has to produce a better result. Peru states that the concept of synergy can be understood one plus one equal three, you create something with greater benefit, and this is a revolutionary concept, as there is a leap forward.
70. The Secretariat proposed to seek consensus to replace the word “synergy” for “collaborative work”. Brazil agrees with this proposal. The United States noted that this document is not a resolution, it is a work plan, and to move forward and taking into account Brazil position regarding the word synergy, they agreed with the proposal by the Secretariat that is in line with the IAC spirit of collaboration. Dominican Republic said that to promote collaborative work means the IAC is not walking alone but with others, they join the consensus. The plenary agreed to use the term “collaborative work” in the work plan of the Secretariat and Committees. From the plenary discussion, it is worth noting that some countries accepted this proposal to do not break the consensus, they consider the need for cautious with this type of changes because the meaning is not the same meaning for all countries.
71. The delegation of Dominican Republic requests to consider establishing a new working group for the sub regions of the Caribbean and South West and Central Atlantic, including the countries that have coasts both in the Caribbean and in the Pacific, the objective is to address the concern that in the Caribbean region, the increased tourism development and its recreational activities in coastal areas have a direct impact on sea turtles due to collision with boats, and aquatic recreational vessels. Dominican Republic suggested that a resolution might be needed to address this threat, in particular for *Caretta caretta*, one of the species more impacted, although this really should apply for all species. Dominican Republic considers that this threat is not included in the existing working groups and it should be addressed. The United States appreciates this proposal and suggest to review the current IAC Resolutions to determine if indeed this threat has not been considered. Dominican Republic continues to say that for them it is very important what happens in their coastal areas with the tourism development and the impacts in water including swimming with sea turtles that is affecting hawksbills and green turtles. They are in the process of drafting regulatory framework to mitigate this threat and request IAC for advice to develop the regulations, and perhaps it might be necessary to draft an IAC resolution on this matter.
72. The COP Chair suggests that Dominican Republic presents a proposal regarding coastal development and the increase of touristic activities and their impacts to sea turtles, and present this at the next IAC Scientific Committee meeting to follow the procedures to ask for recommendations to this subsidiary body. Should this is not enough a proposal could be presented to the Consultative Committee of Experts to be analyzed in the light of the IAC Resolutions, and

if needed a working group can be established to prepare a resolution to be presented at next COP. Ecuador suggest support from the committees to identify actions that could be included in the work plans to address the threat. Ecuador agrees to prepare a resolution if needed. The United States agrees that collisions with boats are a matter of concern, and suggest to move forward that a recommendation from IAC COP to include this discussion in the IAC Scientific Committee agenda presented by Dominican Republic. Dominican Republic thanks the delegations for their support and states that they will follow the procedure and will present this topic of concern at the next meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee.

73. The Secretariat, Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee Work Plans were adopted CIT-COP10-2022-Doc.3. (Annex XII – COP10 Work Plan CIT-COP10-2022-Doc.3)

#### **ITEM 17. PROPOSAL OF A VENUE AND DATES FOR COP11**

74. The COP Chair states that two proposals for venue were received: Ecuador and Peru. The countries came to an agreement.
75. Peru announced that Ecuador will host the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IAC Conference of the Parties (IAC COP11) in June 2024, and Peru will host the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IAC Conference of the Parties COP12 in June 2026. (Annex XIII- COP11 Hosting proposal from Ecuador)

#### **76. Election of Chair and Vice chair**

The Government of Ecuador offers to Chair COP11 and asked Peru to be Vice chair. Peru offered to Chair COP12. This was adopted by the plenary.

COP10 Chair thanked all delegations for their collaboration that allowed the adoption of five resolutions at the COP, and noted how impressive it is to have hosts for the next two COP, this clearly shows significant commitment from IAC members. The delegations expressed their gratitude and congratulation to the COP10 Chair Mr. Rodney Piedra for his excellent performance and support during his term.

#### **77. Closing Remarks COP10**

Mr. Jose Julio Casas, IAC Focal Technical Point in Panama and Coasts and Seas Director of the Ministry of Environment of Panama provided closing remarks for IAC COP10.

## ANNEXES

### Annex I - Participants List (COP10-II) CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.1

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5	ECUADOR	ZULEIKA PINZÓN	Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (CPPS)	<a href="mailto:zpinzon@cpps-int.org">zpinzon@cpps-int.org</a>
6	USA	KATHERINE PRATT	Stetson University	<a href="mailto:kpratt2@law.stetson.edu">kpratt2@law.stetson.edu</a>
7	USA	ROYAL GARDNER	Stetson University	<a href="mailto:Gardner@law.stetson.edu">Gardner@law.stetson.edu</a>
8	USA	GEORGE SHILLINGER	UPWELL	<a href="mailto:george@upwell.org">george@upwell.org</a>
9	COSTA RICA	GRETTEL DELGADILLO	Humane Society International	<a href="mailto:gdelgadillo@hsi.org">gdelgadillo@hsi.org</a>
<b>SECRETARIA CIT/IAC SECRETARIAT</b>				
1	SECRETARIADO	VERÓNICA CÁCERES CHAMORRO	SECRETARIA CIT	<a href="mailto:secretario@iacseaturtle.org">secretario@iacseaturtle.org</a>
2	SECRETARIADO	ADRIANA NG	ASISTENTE DE SECRETARIA	<a href="mailto:asistentecit@gmail.com">asistentecit@gmail.com</a>
3	PANAMÁ	FERNANDO GARUZ	MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES PANAMÁ – Sistemas de Información	
4	PANAMÁ	ROGELIO E. GARCIA INTÉRPRETE	ALLIED CONFERENCE – Panamá	<a href="mailto:regboyd@gmail.com">regboyd@gmail.com</a>
5	PANAMÁ	INTÉRPRETE 2	ALLIED CONFERENCE – Panamá	

(11 Countries) (34 Delegates from Parties) (9 Observers) (3 Consultative Committee) **(50 Participants)**

### Opening Ceremony

	Country	Name	Position
1	Panamá	S.E. Milciades Concepción	Ministro de Ambiente de Panamá
2	Panamá	S.E. Erika Moynes,	Ministra de Relaciones Exteriores de Panamá

## Annex II. Agenda COP10 – Part II

CIT-COP10-2022-Doc.1

### Venue of the Meeting

Palacio Bolívar – Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama

**Address:** Calle 3, San Felipe – Casco Antiguo - Ciudad de Panamá

### Agenda

#### IAC Tenth Conference of Parties - (COP10) Part II

<b>Day 1 – Wednesday, June 15th</b>
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<b>08:30 – 09:30</b>	<b>Register</b>  <b>Salón Bolívar – Palacio Bolívar</b>
<b>09:00</b>	<b>Opening Remarks</b>
09:30 – 10:00	His Excellency Milciades Concepción – Ministry of Environment of Panama. Ms. Verónica Cáceres Chamorro – IAC Secretary Mr. Rotney Piedra - IAC COP10 Chair Her Excellency Erika Mouynes – Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama Group Photo
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 – 11:00	Introduction of the IAC Parties delegation's members and observers <a href="#">CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.1</a>  Verification of quorum
11:00 – 11:10	Adoption of the agenda and election of the Rapporteur COP10 <a href="#">CIT-COP10-2022-Doc.1</a>
11:10 – 11:40	IAC Secretariat report 2020 – 2022 and implementation of Work Plan ( <a href="#">CIT-COP10- 2022-Inf.2</a> ) – <i>M. Sc. Verónica Cáceres, Secretary, M. Sc. Rotney Piedra, COP10 Chair.</i>
11:40 – 12:00 p.m.	Report on progress towards increasing the IAC membership – Report from the Depositary. <i>Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela</i> (report not presented)  Report from the Observers of non-party countries, Canada and Trinidad and Tobago.

12:00 – 01:00 p.m.	Lunch
01:00 – 01:30 p.m.	Report of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) ( <a href="#">CIT-COP10- 2022-Inf.2</a> ). <i>Dr. Eduardo Ponce</i>
01:30 – 02:30 p.m.	Report of the Scientific Committee (SC) ( <a href="#">CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.2</a> ). <i>Mr. Heriberto Santana – CC Vice Chair</i>
	Recommendations from the Scientific Committee Technical Documents and reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical areas for the conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.16, and Conservation Status CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.17</li> <li>• Best Practices to monitor Temperature in nesting beaches CIT-CC17-2021-Tec.18</li> <li>• Data analysis of IAC Index Nesting Beaches CIT-CC17-2021-Tec.19</li> <li>• Analysis of observer data regarding interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries in the IAC Parties.</li> <li>• Report on EP Leatherback conservation program with fishing sector in Peru.</li> </ul>
02:30 – 03:00 p.m.	Consideration of Resolutions proposals and recommendations by the Contracting Parties and the Scientific and Consultative Committees.  Process for analysis of the implementation of Resolutions on Exceptions in Panama, Guatemala, and Costa Rica – <i>SC and CCE Chairs</i>
03:00 – 03:30 p.m.	Coffee Break  <b>Examination of Resolutions proposal on Exceptions</b> Proposal of Resolution on Exceptions in Panama ( <a href="#">CIT-COP10-2022-R3</a> ) Proposal of Resolution on Exceptions in Guatemala ( <a href="#">CIT-COP10-2022-R4</a> ) Proposal of Resolution on Exceptions in Costa Rica ( <a href="#">CIT-COP10-2022-R5</a> )
04:30 p.m.	End of session
06:00 p.m.	Transportation from <b>Hotel Central Panamá</b> to the Welcome Event organized by Panama at the Universidad Marítima.

Day 2 – Thursday, June 16	
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08:30 – 09:30	Proposal to modify the Resolution for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle ( <a href="#">CIT-COP10-2022-R6</a> )
09:30 – 10:30	Proposal to modify the Resolution to Reduce Adverse Impacts of Fisheries on Sea Turtles ( <a href="#">CIT-COP10-2022-R7</a> )
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 11:40	<i>World Sea Turtle Day Celebration</i>  -COP10-II host country presentation on sea turtle conservation and protection activities in Panama.  - IAC and CPPS, two years celebrating June 16 - <i>Ms. Zuleika Pinzón, Coordinator of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the Southeast Pacific.</i>
11:40 – 12:30 p.m.	Election of the Consultative Committee of Experts Sectorial Members ( <a href="#">CIT-COP10-2022-Doc.2</a> )
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
01:30 – 02:00 p.m.	Announcement of the Consultative Committee of Experts Sectorial Members 2022-2024
02:00 – 02:30 p.m.	Report of the Working Group for establishment and operation of the IAC Secretariat (Legal WG) – <i>Mr. Victor Chocho, Delegate from Ecuador.</i> ( <a href="#">CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.3</a> )
02:30 – 03:00 p.m.	Collaboration with International Organizations and other Bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal of Memorandum of Understanding with the Sargasso Sea Commission (<a href="#">CIT-COP10-2022-Doc.4</a>)</li> <li>• Collaboration with ACAP – Proposal to renew the Memorandum of Understanding</li> <li>• Recommendations from collaboration with (CITES) (<a href="#">CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.6</a>)</li> </ul>
03:00 – 03:30 p.m.	Coffee Break
03:30 – 04:30 p.m.	World Sea Turtle Day – Exchange “Our sea turtles, natural heritage that unites us”
04:30 p.m.	End of session

<b>Day 3 – Friday, June 17</b>
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08:30 – 10:00	Collaboration with International Organizations and other Bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal of Memorandum of Collaboration with Stetson University (<a href="#">CIT-COP10-2022-Doc.5</a>)</li> <li>• Report on the collaboration with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) (<a href="#">CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.4</a>) (<a href="#">CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.5</a>)</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 – 12:30 p.m.	IAC Secretariat and subsidiary bodies Work Plan 2022- 2024 ( <a href="#">CIT-COP10-2022-Doc.3</a> )
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
01:30 – 02:30 p.m.	COP10-II documents wrap up
02:30 – 03:00 p.m.	Other business
03:00 – 03:30 p.m.	Coffee Break
03:30 – 03:50 p.m.	Proposal of a venue and dates for COP11
03:50 – 04:00 p.m.	Election of the Chair and Vice Chair
04:00 – 04:30 p.m.	Closing remarks
	Mr. Jose Julio Casas – Panama IAC Focal Point Director of Coasts and Seas Ministry of Environment of Panama

### **Annex III. IAC Secretariat and Committees Report**

**CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.2**

#### **REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IAC WORK PLAN 2020-2022**

The following document is presented by the COP10 Chair and the IAC Secretary, the Chairs of the Scientific Committee, and the Chair and Vicechair of the Consultative Committee of Experts. The report lists the activities of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles biennial Work Plan 2020-2022. The report includes the proposed activities and the status of implementation where **green** is “completed”; **yellow** is in progress, and **red** is no execution/no action.

The format of this report using the color code was adopted at the IAC 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties where it was agreed to present the first report at COP10-2022.

This document includes the implementation status of:

- The IAC Secretariat
- The IAC Consultative Committee of Experts
- The IAC Scientific Committee

## IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF IAC SECRETARIAT WORK PLAN 2020-2022

Activity Proposed		Status – June 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
<b>IAC Membership</b>					
1.	<b>Continue efforts to achieve the adhesion of new Parties to the IAC.</b>	<p>The IAC Secretariat established a Working Group (WG) to approach countries within the range of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback.</p> <p><b>Objective of the WG:</b> Support the implementation of Resolution <a href="#">CIT-COP9-2019-R2</a>.</p> <p><b>Members of the WG:</b> WWF Canada, Guyana and Suriname, SeaLife Law, WIDECAS, and the French Guyana Sea Turtle Network.</p> <p>The group meets every 2 to 3 months since 2019, for a total of <u>9 meetings</u> to this date.</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <p>The WG prepared the technical document <a href="#">CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.17</a> “Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtles (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>): A Summary of Current Conservation Status, Challenges, and Opportunities”.</p> <p>One of the members of the group is a member of the IAC Consultative Committee Working Group on the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback.</p> <p>The members of the WG have identified key people in their countries' governmental agencies, who participated as observers of IAC meetings (See number 3)</p> <p>The 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of WG will be in October 2022.</p>			
2.	<b>Send informative bulletins to non-Party countries to keep them updated on the IAC's activities.</b>	<p>6 bulletins in 2020 – 2021 shared with Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, France, and El Salvador.</p> <p>1 bulletin in 2022</p>			
3.	<b>Inform and invite non-Party countries to the Conference of the Parties and IAC's committee meetings.</b>	<p>Participation in meetings 2020-2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Canada (6 meetings - CCE14, CCE15, CC17, CC18, COP10.1, COP10.2)</li> <li>•Trinidad and Tobago (3 meetings -CCE14, CC18, COP10.1)</li> <li>•Guyana (1 meeting - CCE15)</li> <li>•France (2 meetings CCE15, CC17 as French Guiana)</li> </ul>			
4.	<b>Representation of the Secretariat in meetings of regional organizations to share information about the IAC, and networking with non-Party country delegates to invite them to collaborate and join the IAC objectives.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation of the IAC at the 26th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (November 18-25, 2019 – Palma de Mallorca)</li> <li>• Participation of the IAC at the 27th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (November 15-22, 2021 – Virtual)</li> <li>• Participation in the SPAW Protocol Pre-STAC (March 1, 8, and 9, 2021)</li> <li>• Participation in the Cartagena Convention and its SPAW Protocol COP 11 (August 2021)</li> <li>• Participation in ACAP's Advisory Committee meeting (August 2021)</li> <li>• Participation in ACAP MOP7 – Meeting of Parties (May 9-12, 2022 -Virtual)</li> </ul>			

Activity Proposed		Status – June 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
5.	Follow up on the steps already undertaken in collaboration with IAC Parties to recruit new members to the IAC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three meetings between the IAC Secretariat and representative of Canada's Government.</li> <li>• Two meetings between the IAC Secretariat and representative of Trinidad and Tobago's Government.</li> <li>• A meeting between the IAC Secretariat and a representative of France's Government.</li> <li>• Sent the three countries information on the benefits to be a member of the IAC.</li> <li>• Several email communications were sent to representatives of the Ministry of Environment of El Salvador, but no response has been received.</li> </ul>			
6.	Parties support the IAC Secretariat from their Chancelleries and other relevant authorities, approaching non-member countries identified in COP9 (Nicaragua, Colombia, El Salvador, Canada, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Suriname) and new countries identified, towards increasing the membership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IAC Secretariat meeting with Trinidad and Tobago Environmental Management Authority (EMA) on March 10, 2020.</li> <li>• Meetings between the United States Focal Point and representatives of Canada's Government.</li> <li>• Meetings between the United States Focal Point and representatives of Trinidad and Tobago's Government.</li> <li>• A presentation about the IAC Convention to Trinidad and Tobago Sea Turtle Task Force.</li> </ul>			
7.	The Parties consider carrying out parallel events within the framework of other meetings to promote the IAC.	Activity restricted by the COVID – 19 pandemic.			
Communication and Training					
8.	Countries will send relevant news to the Secretariat to be included in the IAC Bulletin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 bulletins in 2020</li> <li>• 2 bulletins in 2021</li> <li>• 1 bulletin in 2022</li> <li>• Bulletins in the IAC Website <a href="http://www.iacseaturtle.org/boletin-eng.htm">http://www.iacseaturtle.org/boletin-eng.htm</a></li> </ul>			
9.	Countries will share audiovisual material on sea turtle day activities and other events, to compile it as the Convention's outreach material.	The Secretariat has a folder including videos, infographics, and posts shared by the Parties. These were used to prepare the IAC 20th anniversary video, with support from the Government of Costa Rica.			
10.	Establish the IAC communication strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication strategy prepared by Mr. Christian Díaz – to support the making of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IAC video.</li> <li>• Panama, the COP10 host, designed the IAC Convention 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo.</li> </ul>			
11.	Publish and disseminate the recommendations and decisions adopted at the COP.	COP9 and COP10.1 Resolutions adopted and reports are available on the IAC website. Resolutions adopted at COP10.2. Resolutions uploaded in the IAC website after the meeting in 2022.			



Activity Proposed		Status – June 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
Collaboration with International Organizations and Strategic Partnerships					
12.	Promote synergies with other relevant conventions and international and regional organizations	<p><b>Collaboration IAC-IATT</b></p> <p><b>Project EASI-Fish – Leatherback PHASE I</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> develop an Eastern Pacific Leatherback Vulnerability EASI-Fish model to support IAC Parties in the implementation of IAC and IATTC resolutions applicable to reduce sea turtle bycatch.</p> <p><b>Members WG IAC-IATTC:</b> Multidisciplinary team with members from IATTC scientific staff and members of IAC Committees comprised of the following countries: Chile, Costa Rica, Panamá, Perú, Ecuador, México, The United States, and Laúd OPO.</p> <p>–Phase I- (Presentation to Committees on March 20, 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IATTC-IAC Working Group meetings (First meeting on December 18, 2020)</li> </ul> <p><b>Project EASI-Fish – Leatherback PHASE II</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> develop a species habitat distribution model to complement the EASI-Fish model. Presented results to IAC COP10 and IATTC Bycatch WG meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>12 Meetings</u> –Phase II- for the EASI-Fish model starting in January 2021 to this date.</li> <li>• Meeting to present the EASI-Fish Model preliminary results – Phase II (February 17, 2022).</li> <li>• Support preparing and translating the final document on the EASI-Fish Model (March 2022)</li> <li>• Review and comments to draft documents by WG IAC-IATTC in the final stage with the results from the EASI-Fish and the EP Leatherback Distribution Model.</li> <li>• Presentation of final product: presentation of two documents to the IATTC Bycatch WG (May 2022) and IAC COP10 (June 2022).</li> </ul> <p><b>Collaboration IAC-CPPS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting to plan joint activities with CPPS's Sea Turtle Technical Scientific Committee (March 30, 2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea turtle day 2021 activities with CPPS</li> <li>• Sea Turtle day 2022 activities with CPPS</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
13.	Promote the signature of at least one cooperation agreement with an organization related to the IAC's objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewal of MoU with Ramsar (November, 2020)</li> <li>• The signing of the MoU with ICCAT (March 21, 2022)</li> <li>• Renewal of MoU with ACAP in November 2022.</li> </ul>			
14.	Prepare draft MoU (when needed).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewal of MoU with ACAP in November 2022.</li> <li>• Preparation of MoU with the Sargasso Sea Commission (March 2022). MOU to be signed second semester of 2022</li> <li>• Preparation of MoC with Stetson University (2020). MoU to be signed second semester of 2022.</li> </ul>			
15.	The Secretary will participate in the IATTC annual meeting, and any other relevant meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the IATTC 10th Meeting of the Working Group on Bycatch (June 04, 2020) – Presentation of the EASI-Fish Model</li> </ul>			

Activity Proposed		Status – June 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
	<b>of this Organization, to present recommendations as needed.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IATTC Working Group on Bycatch (2021) – Presentation on EASI-Fish II progress.</li> <li>• Participation in the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IATTC Working Group on Bycatch (May 2022) – Presentation on EASI-Fish II and EP Leatherback distribution model.</li> <li>• Participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on Electronic Monitoring Systems in the EP (13-15 December 2021).</li> <li>• Participation in the 1st IATTC Circle Hook Workshop (March 7-8, 2022).</li> </ul> <p>All meetings in virtual format</p>			
16.	<b>Promote activities with organizations that have signed MOUs with the IAC and other multilateral agreements.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint activities with IATTC and CPPS (See numbers 12 and 19)</li> <li>• Review of CITES document (See number 17)</li> </ul>			
17.	<b>Assist in preparing technical documents and joint publications.</b>	<p><b>CITES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination with the Scientific Committee to review the document “Status, scope, and trends of the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles, its conservation impacts, management options, and mitigation priorities”</li> <li>• The Scientific Committee selected the recommendations from this document, relevant to the Convention and will present them to the COP10.2.</li> </ul>			
18.	<b>Attend technical meetings and workshops.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on Panama's progress and compliance with commitments at the workshop “Information standardization and Actions Strengthening for the Sea Turtle Resource Conservation and Management, for Technical and Regional links of DICOMAR and MiAMBIENTE” October 27, 2020.</li> <li>• Presentation on the implementation of the IAC Climate Change Resolution, at the Ecosocialist Week, to Avoid Climate Change of the Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism (MINEC) of Venezuela. October 29, 2020.</li> <li>• Joint participation with Panama and Costa Rica in the Environmental Week of Costa Rica’s Embassy in Panama (November 27, 2020).</li> <li>• Regional Virtual Workshop of the LaudOPO Network (March 17, 2020)</li> <li>• Workshop to Assess and Update Ecuador’s National Plan for Sea Turtle Conservation (November 15-22, 2020 - Virtual)</li> <li>• Workshop to Update the EP Leatherback Action Plan – Political Incidence (August 24, 2021)</li> <li>• Presentation at WIDECAS annual meeting (March 2022)</li> <li>• IAC Secretary participation as invited lecturer in Stetson University Biodiversity law course.</li> <li>• Judge at Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition on April 7-8, 2022.</li> <li>• <b>May 31 – June 3, 2022</b> Participation in ICCAT’s 2022 Intersessional Meeting of the Sub-Committee On Ecosystems</li> </ul>			

Activity Proposed		Status – June 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
		<p>where its Executive Secretary informed the members of the subcommittee about the recently signed MoU between the IAC and ICCAT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>June 1 -2, 2022</b> IAC Presentation at the Workshop on Methods to Record Sea Turtle Bycatch, organized by the CPPS. Presented by Dr. Heriberto Santana, IAC SC Vice Chair, Ms. Leslie Bustos, SC Chair, Ms. Luz Rodriguez, IAC Assistant, and Ms. Veronica Cáceres, the IAC Secretary.</li> </ul>			
19.	<b>Promote the celebration of World Sea Turtle Day each year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize (3) virtual talks to celebrate World Sea Turtle Day (<b>June 16</b>) by the governments of Peru, Panama, and Ecuador in 2020.</li> <li>• Virtual talks (9) in collaboration with CPPS 2021.</li> <li>• Design of e-cards with CPPS in 2021.</li> <li>• Panama designed WhatsApp stickers for sea turtle day 2021.</li> <li>• Workshop “Actions to record the impact of climate change on sea turtles” jointly organized with the Climate Change WG and with the support of the CPPS Action Plan for the Marine Environment on June 16, 2021.</li> <li>• Outreach activities in Chile, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, and Guatemala (2020 and 2021)</li> <li>• 2022 Sea Turtle Day: CPPS prepared a sea turtle day post card for Sea Turtle Day shared at IAC COP10.</li> <li>• 2022 Sea Turtle Day: IAC and CPPS co-organized a presentation titled: The impact of plastic on sea turtles in Latin America. With speakers from Karumbe and the citizen science project “los científicos de la basura”</li> </ul>			
<b>Financial Resources</b>					
20.	<b>Identify external funding for projects and activities identified by the IAC Scientific Committee and/or the Consultative Committee as a high priority.</b>	No external source of funding was identified by the Parties or Committees.			
21.	<b>Prepare and negotiate project proposals.</b>	Approval of proposal presented by the IAC Secretariat to the MTCF-USFWS of USD 40,000 per year for 5 years to partially support IAC meetings, the IAC assistant contract, and capacity building activities.			
22.	<b>Identify financial sources to implement the IAC Annual Report Online.</b>	The contract for the IAC Online Annual Report was funded with the MTCF-USFWS grant.			
23.	<b>Implementation of funded projects and activities.</b>	<p>For the time being, the IAC administrative operation, contract of IAC assistant, SC, CCE, and COP meetings, are sustained with funding from the MTCF that the Secretariat has secured until 2024. IAC countries hosting meetings provide in-kind support.</p> <p>There is no other funding to implement projects.</p>			

Activity Proposed		Status – June 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
24.	Prepare reports of projects implemented.	Progress report (3 of them) to the MTCF-USFWS prepared by the Secretariat (Annually from 2019- 2022)			
<b>Meetings Organization</b>					
25.	<p><b>Organize the COP meetings</b></p> <p><b>Organize SC and CCE Committees meetings</b></p> <p><b>Organize meetings of working groups established.</b></p>	<p><b>Seven (7) IAC meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COP 10.1 – June 30, 2021</li> <li>• CC17 – October 20-22, 2020</li> <li>• CC18 – November 3-5, 2021</li> <li>• CCE13 – April 14, 2020</li> <li>• CCE14 – March 4-5, 2021</li> <li>• CCE15 – March 3-4, 2021</li> <li>• COP 10. 2 – June 15-17, 2022</li> </ul> <p><b>Preparatory meetings and WG meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 preparatory meetings for COP10 I and COP10 II</li> <li>• 7 meetings of the Legal Framework Working Group</li> <li>• 3 preparatory meetings with the Chair for each, the CCE14 and CCE15 (6 meetings total).</li> <li>• 7 preparatory meetings of working groups the CCE14 and CCE15 (Fisheries, EP Leatherback, NW Atlantic Leatherback)</li> <li>• 4 preparatory meetings with the Chair for each, the SC17 and SC18. (8 meetings total)</li> <li>• 13 meetings of working groups in preparation for the SC17 and SC18 (Exceptions, Fisheries, Nesting, and Climate Change)</li> </ul>			
<b>Establishment of a permanent Secretariat</b>					
26.	Support activities for the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat and Legal Personality Working Group under COP8 agreements. Report updates on this process to COP10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated by COP10 Chair, Mr. Rotney Piedra, the Convention Legal Framework and Permanent Secretariat Working Group (Legal-WG) resumed activities in 2020.</li> <li>• <b>Members IAC Legal -WG:</b> Costa Rica, The United States, Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil, and Peru.</li> <li>• The Legal WG met seven times.</li> <li>• The Legal WG formed a Working Group (finances sub-group) to identify the financial mechanism for the Convention's operation with the support of the Parties. The members of the financial matter WG are: Brazil, Ecuador, and Perú</li> <li>• A report of the Legal – WG will be presented at COP10.2.</li> </ul>			
27.	Implement the strategy to fund the IAC operation	<p>The finances sub-group will implement a strategy to fund the IAC Operation, based on their work plan, and including the analysis of the annual contribution, raising of in-kind contributions, and fundraising of pending contributions.</p> <p>This activity was included in the Legal WG Work plan and the sub-group on finances will report at COP11.</p>			
<b>COP Resolutions and Recommendations</b>					
28.	Address COP requests and draft recommendations and resolutions accordingly.	<p><u>Adopted Resolutions at the COP10.1 (2021)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CIT-COP10-2021-R1: Extension of the Secretariat</li> <li>2. CIT-COP10-2021-R2: IAC Finances 2022-2024</li> </ol> <p><u>Resolutions adopted in COP10.2 (2022)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Resolution on Exceptions in Panama (CIT-COP10-2022-R3)</li> </ol>			

Activity Proposed		Status – June 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
		2. Resolution on Exceptions in Guatemala (CIT-COP10-2022-R4) 3. Resolution on Exceptions in Costa Rica (CIT-COP10-2022-R5) 4. Resolution for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback (CIT-COP10-2022-R6) 5. Resolution on fisheries (CIT-COP10-2022-R7) <u>Election of the Consultative Committee Sectorial delegates</u> <u>Adoption of IAC Secretariat and Committees Workplan</u>			
<b>Informe Anual de la CIT</b>					
29.	<b>Each Party sends the Secretariat its Annual Report.</b>	2022: <b>10</b> countries have submitted their annual report thus far ( <i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, the United States, Dominican Republic and Uruguay</i> ) 2021: <b>13</b> countries submitted their annual report ( <i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica, Ecuador, United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and the Dominican Republic</i> ) 2020: <b>11</b> countries submitted their annual report ( <i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Panamá, Caribbean Netherlands, Peru</i> ). 2019: <b>11</b> countries submitted their annual report ( <i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Caribbean Netherlands, Peru, and Venezuela</i> ).			
30.	<b>IAC Secretariat continues working with WCMC and Parties to ensure compliance in submitting the IAC Online Annual Report.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of online questionnaire and translation to Spanish (2020) – <u>30 meetings Secretariat - WCMC</u></li> <li>• Seven (7) workshops on the use of the online report were carried out with representatives of 16 countries.</li> <li>• Online report test in 2020 (Brazil, Costa Rica, United States)</li> <li>• First online report submitted – 2021</li> <li>• Active second online report (2022) – deadline for submission, April 30, 2022.</li> </ul>			
<b>Work Plan</b>					
31.	<b>Prepare a biennial work plan.</b>	• Work Plan presented to COP10.2			
32.	<b>Report on Secretariat and Committees activities presented at COPs.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities report presented to COP10.1 (20 years IAC report)</li> <li>• Activities report updated presented to COP10.2 (<b>CIT-CO10-2022-Inf.2</b>)</li> </ul>			

# IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WORK PLAN 2020-2022

Presented by Dr. Eduardo Ponce CCE Chair (Mexico)

Activity Proposed		Implementation Status - Junio 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
<b>Exceptions</b>					
1.	Follow up on the progress of the implementation of recommendations for Panama's exception.	1. The CC presented their recommendations to the Consultative Committee. 2. A meeting with the committees' chairs and Panama's delegation was convened to discuss the recommendations. The final recommendations document was officially sent to Panama in December 2020, for implementation. The proposal for a new Resolution on the exception in Panama approved by the SC18 was adopted by the CCE and presented to the COP10.2		✓	✓
2.	Follow up on the progress of the implementation of recommendations to Guatemala exception.	1. Follow up on the Secretary and the Scientific Committee's request to Guatemala to present the 5-year report on the exception. 2. Guatemala submitted its report to the Scientific Committee in 2020. 3. Guatemala did a presentation of the report and is waiting for the CC recommendations. The final recommendations document was officially sent to Guatemala's IAC Focal Points in June 2021. The proposal for a new Resolution on the exception in Guatemala approved by the SC18 was adopted by the CCE with subsequent submission to the COP10.2		✓	✓
3.	Review and submit comments on the Exception 5-year report presented by Guatemala to the SC	1. The Scientific Committee will submit the comments within 60 days after this CCE14 meeting on May 19, 2021.		✓	
4.	Review and submit comments on the Exception 5-year report presented by Costa Rica to the SC	The Scientific Committee submitted comments to the CCE on April 1, 2021.  The proposal for a new Resolution on the exception in Costa Rica approved by the SC18 was adopted by the CCE with subsequent submission to the COP10.2		✓	✓
5.	The Exceptions WG will prepare a proposal of a form to assess the exceptions management plans every five years.	CCE15 approved that the IAC Exceptions WG (SC and CCE members) prepare a form to assess Panama, Guatemala, and Costa Rica's management plan for the Exception.  The working group will prepare the for to asses the management plan for the exceptions to be presented at CCE 2022-2023.			
6.	Report to COP on the use of sea turtles or their products in the Exceptions for Parties (when new exceptions are presented).	No exceptions have been requested.		✓	✓
<b>Website and IAC News Bulletin</b>					
7.	Every month, the Parties will send relevant news for the IAC's Newsletter to Secretariat.	Two IAC news bulletins were prepared in 2021. The CCE15 requested the Parties to be more proactive in sharing their national news with the Secretariat.		✓	
<b>Implementation of the EP Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP7-2015-R2)</b>					
8.	Implement MoU IATTC-IAC	IATTC: The Members of the Consultative Committee (B. Wallace and B. Regnery) and the Secretariat, provided technical information, participated in meetings, and supported the adoption of a resolution to mitigate sea turtle bycatch at the IATTC (2019).		✓	



Activity Proposed		Implementation Status - Junio 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
9.	Implement MoU IATTC-IAC	IATTC: B. Wallace worked along with IATTC scientific staff, on the EP Leatherback vulnerability to fisheries model which was presented at the IATTC 2020 bycatch working group meeting.		✓	
10.	Implement MoU IATTC-IAC	IATTC: The IAC-IATTC working group is working on the second phase of the EP leatherback vulnerability to fisheries model, which will be presented at the IATTC 2021 bycatch working group meeting and the IAC COP10. A progress report was presented at the CCE14 and SC18, and the CCE15. The group met in 2020 and 2021 to prepare the leatherback distribution model -Phase II of the EASI-Fish model. Final objective: Present the EASI-Fish Phase II to the IATTC and the IAC COP in 2022			
11.	Carry out annual meetings of the Leatherback Task Force.	An annual meeting was held to review the document on the EP Leatherback vulnerability analysis (April 2020), and frequent meetings (1 / month) of this working group members (Peru, Chile, USA, Ecuador, Costa Rica) participating in the second phase of this analysis (2021)		✓	✓
12.	The Leatherback Task Force will prepare an assessment of compliance with the EP Leatherback Resolution strategic actions to present it to the COP10.	A report to support the proposal to modify the Resolution for the conservation of the EP Leatherback was presented at the CCE14. Report on the assessment of the implementation of the Resolution for the conservation of the EP Leatherback presented and adopted by the CCE14. A proposal to modify the Resolution for the Conservation of the EP Leatherback was presented to the CCE for a final review and adopted by CCE15 and presented to COP10.2 and it was adopted.			✓
<b>Implementation of Resolution Northwest Atlantic Leatherback (CIT-COP9-2015-R2)</b>					
13.	Prepare a map of important areas to establish those critical for the species and which are protected	A progress report on the preparation of the Technical Document to map important protected areas of distribution of the species, with the collaboration of the Scientific Committee and regional experts in satellite telemetry was presented to the CCE15. Delegates were requested to submit information about NWA high-use protected areas that were not included in the report not later than June 1, 2022.			
14.	Collaborate with the outreach working group to approach countries that are non-IAC parties that are within the range of the species	The WG is exchanging information through a SPAW Protocol representative (Dr. Olga Koubrak) of the outreach WG to countries that are no members of the IAC members WG, relevant for the NWA Leatherback. The WG objective is to support that Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, France, and Suriname have an interest in becoming IAC members. Because this takes time this activity remains yellow.  In 2021 Canada and Trinidad and Tobago participated as observers in the CCE14, CC18, and COP10.1 meetings. In 2022 Canada and Trinidad and Tobago participated as observers in the CCE15 and COP10.2 meetings.  In 2022 by request of a representative from the Government of Canada they will be a member of the NWA Leatherback WG.  In 2022 France participated as an observer of the CCE15 meeting and presented a report on Ramsar sites important for sea turtles.  In 2022 Guyana attended as observer the CCE15 meeting.			

Activity Proposed		Implementation Status - Junio 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
<b>Fisheries</b>					
15.	Review form proposed by the SC to record interactions with artisanal gillnet fisheries to be included in the annual report.	<p>WG progress report presented to the CCE14</p> <p>The Scientific and Consultative committees working groups involving fisheries will work together to enhance the proposed form to request data on interactions between sea turtles and gillnet fisheries.</p> <p>The CCE delegate will answer the survey on minimum data to characterize fisheries (observed and no-observed) interacting with sea turtles, as proposed by the WG at the CCE15-2022.</p> <p>The results will be presented at the CCE16-2023.</p>			
16.	Prepare a proposal to assess the possibility of recording information on artisanal longline fisheries.	<p><b>Agenda Item CCE14</b></p> <p>The Consultative Committee agrees with the Artisanal Longline Fisheries WG proposal to implement their Fisheries approach, in the characterization of artisanal longline fisheries in the countries represented in the group and in the binational pilot project <i>“Harmonization of methods to collect sea turtles’ bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in southern Peru and northern Chile CIT-CCE14-2021 -Doc.7”</i> Activity subject to funding. The WG will present a progress report at the CCE16-2023.</p>			
<b>Annual Report and Resolutions Compliance</b>					
17.	Each country's CCE delegate supports the Focal Point to prepare the IAC Annual Report.	<p>2022: 10 countries have submitted their annual report thus far (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, the United States, Dominican Republic and Uruguay)</p> <p>2021: 13 countries submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and United States</i>)</p> <p>2020: 11 countries submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and the United States</i>).</p> <p>2019: 11 countries submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, Guatemala, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, the Dominican Republic, the United States, and Venezuela</i>).</p> <p>2018: 11 countries submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, México, Peru, the United States, and Venezuela</i>).</p>			
18.	Assess the current Annual Report form	<p>A form on longline fisheries proposed by the Scientific Committee is included in the IAC Annual Report.</p> <p>Together with the Scientific Committee, prepare modifications in the sections relevant to the 2023 IAC Annual Report, according to the new resolutions adopted at the COP10.2 (Exceptions, fisheries, and EP Leatherback). These new questions will be review in 2023 by CCE16.</p>		✓	
19.	Review the table on compliance with the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Resolution.	A table to monitor the implementation of the NWA Leatherback Resolution is included in the IAC Annual Report 2020.		✓	
20.	Prepare a report on compliance with Resolutions for the COP	The assessment of the EP Leatherback Resolution CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.5 was presented at the CCE14.		✓	✓
21.	Acknowledge the report on industrial longline fisheries in the IAC Parties to present it to the COP10	The report on interactions between longline industrial fisheries and sea turtles was reviewed by the CCE14.			



Activity Proposed		Implementation Status - Junio 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
		The SC Chair informed the CCE15 about the updates to the analysis on interactions between industrial longline fisheries and sea turtles, including data in the 2020 and 2021 annual reports, this was presented at COP10.2			
22.	Review proposal to modify the text of the Resolution to the Reduce Fisheries Adverse Impacts COP3/2006/R-2 prepared by the Scientific Committee	A proposal to modify the Resolution on fisheries was presented. The proposal was adopted by the CCE15 and it was presented and adopted at COP10.2			
<b>Collaboration with International Organizations</b>					
23.	Prepare and review MoUs with relevant international organizations identified.	<b>RAMSAR:</b> The Secretariat signed the MoU renewal with RAMSAR.		✓	
24.		<b>STETSON UNIVERSITY:</b> 1. Proposal of MoU with Stetson University adopted at the CCE13. 2. The MoU proposal was adopted at COP10.2		✓	
25.		<b>IAC-ICCAT:</b> 1. The Secretariat sent the MoU draft proposal IAC- ICCAT approved by the IAC Focal Points and the ICCAT Secretariat in March 2020 to be considered at ICCAT's annual meeting in 2021. 2. The Secretariat presented the MoU to the 27 <sup>th</sup> ICCAT meeting in November 2021 that it was signed in 2022.	✓	✓	
26.		<b>IAC-ICCAT</b> The CCE will identify priority activities to implement them jointly within the framework of the MoU IAC-ICCAT. Brazil's delegate to CCE offered to be an advisor to represent the IAC in ICCAT meetings and support IAC Secretariat in this collaboration. Brazil has yet to offer a final response to the CCE Chair and the Secretary.			
27.		<b>IAC-IATTC:</b> The Memorandum of Understanding is being implemented (see number 10 on the EASI-Fish project)			✓
28.		<b>IAC-SARGASSO SEA COMMISSION</b> The CCE15 (2022) approved the proposal for an MoU and it was adopted at COP10.2			
29.	Recommend and promote alliances and collaboration with relevant international organizations to accomplish the IAC objectives.	<b>LAUDOPO:</b> The IAC participates in the LaudOPO Network through the CCE Sector Delegate (B. Wallace) and the Secretariat, to promote this network support to the IAC in technical collaborations. The IAC Secretariat coordinated the working group on the political incidence and organized the workshop to update the strategic plan of the LaudOPO Network in August 2021.	✓	✓	
30.		Participation of the Secretariat -with the support of the delegate from Mexico (Ms. Laura Sarti) and Costa Rica's delegate in the Sea Turtle Regional Symposium in Morelia Mexico.		✓	
31.		<b>SPAW Protocol:</b> 2020 – Participation of the Consultative Committee Chair (P. Hoetjes) at Cartagena Convention COP (2019), supporting the inclusion of a recommendation for the SPAW Protocol to work with the IAC in the implementation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback with non-parties of the IAC – CCE13. 2021 – The NWA Leatherback WG (USA-CCE) is working along with a SPAW representative to establish their work plan and has invited an expert from Canada's Government to become part of this group. A verbal progress report was presented at the CCE14.		✓	

Activity Proposed		Implementation Status - Junio 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
		2022 – IAC Secretariat sent SPAW Secretariat the appointment of Ms. Ann Marie Lauritsen to participate in SPAW's Species WG. SPAW Secretariat included the IAC delegate in the species Working Group.			
32.	Identify potential sources of funding to implement training workshops on sea turtle handling and release in the IAC region.	<p>The CCE will identify potential funding sources for training (2021)- No action</p> <p>A working group was established to seek financial support. Chile's delegate offered to participate in the WG in 2022. Expressions of interest by the CCE members will be submitted to the CCE Chair and the Secretariat.</p>			
<b>Recommendations from COP and CCE</b>					
33.	Address COP requests and draft Resolutions and recommendations accordingly.	<p>A technical document on critical areas for the conservation of the NWA Leatherback was presented to the CCE14 and will be presented to COP10.2 – 2022.</p> <p>The Consultative Committee acknowledges the SC Technical Document on nesting beaches 2009-2020 (See number 34-3)</p>		✓	✓
<b>IAC Technical Documents</b>					
34.	Prepare technical documents as needed.	<p>1. Update the technical document “<i>Green Turtle (Chelonia mydas) Nesting Trends in the Eastern Pacific Ocean: Status Update and Conservation Priorities</i>” on the IAC website – 2020”.</p> <p>2. The document on critical areas for the NWA Leatherback mentioned above was presented and adopted at the CCE14 meeting to be presented to the COP10 (see number 33).</p> <p>The Consultative Committee adopted the Scientific Committee technical documents recommendations:</p> <p>3. “IAC Index Nesting Beaches Data Analysis (2009-2020)”</p> <p>4. “Best Practices to Monitor Sand Temperature in the IAC Nesting Index Beaches”</p> <p>5. Progress report “Analysis of data from observers on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline fisheries in the IAC countries (IAC Annual Reports 2020 and 2021)”- final report in 2025.</p>		✓	✓
<b>IAC Directory of Experts</b>					
35.	Update the IAC Expert Directory.	<p>Experts Directory updated on the IAC website to April 20, 2021.</p> <p><a href="#">Directorio de Expertos 2021</a> <a href="#">Directory of Experts 2021.pdf</a> (<a href="#">iacseaturtle.org</a>)</p>		✓	✓
<b>Consultative Committee of Experts Work Plan</b>					
36.	The CCE delegates will provide sea turtles outreach material to Costa Rica to use in the Convention's communication strategy.	<p>The Secretariat received multimedia material from Argentina, Brazil, the United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Uruguay, and the Dominican Republic, which was used during the COP10.1 in June 2021.</p> <p>Costa Rica prepared a video in 2022 presented to COP10.2 to celebrate 20 years of IAC.</p> <p>Costa Rica will continue to support with preparing audiovisual/ outreach material in 2022-2023.</p>			✓
<b>Consultative Committee of Expert Work Plan</b>					
37.	Update the CCE Work Plan	<p>Work Plan Updated CCE13, 2020</p> <p>Work Plan Updated CCE14, 2021</p> <p>Work Plan Updated CCE15, 2022</p>		✓	✓
38.	Report on the implementation of COP recommendations and CCE work plan activities.	<p>Implementation Status of the Consultative Committee of Experts Work Plan 2020-2021 presented at the CCE14.</p> <p>Implementation Status of the Consultative Committee of Experts Work Plan 2020-2022 presented at the CCE15 and COP10.2 (this report CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.2)</p> <p>Responsible: CCE Chair</p>		✓	✓

<b>Activity Proposed</b>		<b>Implementation Status - Junio 17, 2022</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
39	Convene working groups meetings to follow up on work plan	Number of meetings of the CCE working groups in 2022: Fisheries WG (7), EP Leatherback WG(5), Exceptions WG (2), NWA Leatherback (6) CCE Chair and IAC Secretariat (3 meetings)			

# IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF IAC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

2020-2022

Presented by Ing. Lezlie Camila Bustos SC Chair and Dr. Heriberto Santana

Proposed Activities		Status – June 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
Exceptions					
1	Panama presents its 5-years report on the implementation of the exception to the COP9 and the Scientific Committee SC16 Meeting in 2019.	Panama presented its 5-year report on the implementation of its Exception at the COP9 and SC16-2019.	✓		
2	The Exceptions Working Group (WG) submits recommendations to Panama's 5-years report to the Consultative Committee. Due Date: May 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2020.	Exceptions WG submitted recommendations to CCE and subsequently to Panama. Submission Date: September 3rd, 2020.	✓		
3	Meeting with Panama Focal Point from the Ministry of Environment and Focal Point from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the IAC Chairs of the SC, CEE, and COP, and a representative of Exceptions WG, to discuss the recommendations on exceptions and answer questions from Panama related to the next steps to prepare the Exception Management Plan.	The meeting took place on October 12, 2020.	✓		
4	Panama will prepare a work plan including how they will implement the recommendations from SC and CCE, the opportunities, and challenges. This Work plan will be shared with the Exception working Group by December 2020.	Work plan included in the draft Resolution for the Exception in Panama presented to the CC18-2021		✓	
5	Panamá presents the exception management plan to the Scientific Committee.	Panama reported to the SC16 that the preparation of the management plan is still in progress. Panama presented an update to the SC18 2021 and COP10.2. Panama reported to COP10.2 that their Exception Management Plan is in the process to become official by the Ministry of Environment.			
6	Panama presents a Draft Resolution on its Exception considering the recommendations from the Scientific and Consultative Committee to the Exceptions WG and the SC18 for their approval.	Draft Resolution on the exceptions in Panama presented for adoption by the SC18.		✓	

Proposed Activities		Status – June 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
7	Guatemala presents its management plan and the 5-years report on the implementation of the exception for reviewing by the Scientific Committee SC17-2020.	Guatemala presented the following document to the SC17 on August 20, 2020: 1) 5-years progress report on the implementation of the resolution on exceptions CIT-COP6-2013-R1 Report 2016-2019 2) PRODUCT 2: Olive ridley ( <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> ) on Guatemala's Pacific Coast. 3) PRODUCT 3: Proposal on economic alternatives to meet subsistence needs to reduce the harvest of olive ridley's eggs to a sustainable level. 4) PRODUCT 5: Assessment of items in Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1	✓		
8	Exceptions WG reviews the documents submitted by Guatemala to assess compliance with the Resolution's requirements.	The exceptions WG did not present recommendations to Guatemala at the SC17 or CCE14. Recommendations were submitted in June 2021 to the Consultative Committee and Guatemala. Responsible: Delegates from Argentina, Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, Brazil, Panama, Guatemala, and Mexico (CCE).		✓	
9	Guatemala presents a Draft Resolution on its Exception considering the recommendations from the Scientific and Consultative Committees to the Exceptions WG and the SC18 for their approval.	Draft Resolution on the exceptions in Guatemala presented for adoption by the SC18.		✓	
10	Costa Rica presents its 5-year report on the implementation of the exception for reviewing by the Scientific Committee SC17-2020.	Costa Rica presented the document "Costa Rica progress report on the exceptions resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R1" on July 20, 2020, to the SC Chair and the Secretary. The report was submitted to the Exceptions WG.	✓		
11	Exceptions WG reviews Costa Rica's 5-years progress report on the implementation of the exceptions Resolution, to assess compliance with the Resolution's requirements.	Exceptions WG presents recommendations to Costa Rica at the 17th Scientific Committee meeting CC17-2020.  The Exceptions WG did not present recommendations to Costa Rica at the SC17 or CCE14. Recommendations were submitted in May 2021 to the Consultative Committee and Costa Rica.  Responsible: Delegates from Argentina, Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, Brazil, Panama, Guatemala, and Mexico (CCE).		✓	
12	Recommendations to the Exceptions five-year report will be submitted to Guatemala and Costa Rica Focal Points through the Secretary <i>PT</i> and discussed in two meetings, one for each country.	The final document was submitted and discussed with the Focal Points from Costa Rica, in May 2021, and from Guatemala, in August 2021.		✓	
13	Costa Rica presents a Draft Resolution on its Exception considering the recommendations from the Scientific and Consultative Committees to the Exceptions WG and the SC18 for their approval.	Draft Resolution on the exceptions in Guatemala presented for adoption by the SC18.		✓	

Proposed Activities		Status – June 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
14	The SC Chair presents the three Exceptions draft resolution with a preamble on the reviewing process of the implementation of the exception in Panama, Guatemala, and Costa Rica to the Consultative Committee and the IAC 10th Conference of Parties in 2022.	The SC Chair prepares a presentation of the process in each country to the SC18, CCE15, and COP 10.2. SC Chair presented the draft resolutions from the three countries to the COP10.2.		✓	
IAC Website and News Bulletin					
15	Monthly, the Scientific Committee will provide news relevant to IAC Parties to the Secretary for the IAC Newsletter.	News updated on the website. Four news bulletins were posted in 2020, two in 2021 and one in 2022.	✓	✓	
Fisheries					
16	Develop a method to analyze data on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline (Fisheries section of 2020 IAC Annual Report)	Fisheries WG prepared a presentation and recommendations on the method to analyze data included in the Annual Report for the consideration of the Scientific Committee SC17 Products: Database to analyze the IAC Annual Report longline data. Responsible: Delegate from Mexico	✓		
17	The Scientific Committee reviews the report and database to analyze the Annual Report Fisheries section data (Interactions between sea turtles and longline) proposed by WG. The Fisheries WG member and delegate from Mexico will prepare the report on industrial longline data analysis for the CCE14.	The SC provides recommendations to Fisheries WG on the method to analyze the Annual Report Fisheries data at the Scientific Committee 17 <sup>th</sup> Meeting SC17-2020. Report presented to the Consultative Committee CCE14-2021.	✓	✓	
18	The Fisheries WG delegate from Mexico will update the report on longline fisheries data analysis including 2020 and 2021 Annual Report data.	First update of the graphs and data was presented to the SC17 (2020). Second update was presented to SC18 (2021) to then present it to the COP10.2 (2022).	✓	✓	
19	Develop a data collection form and a method to analyze data on the interaction between sea turtles and gillnets.	Fisheries WG prepared a report and presentation for the consideration and recommendations from the SC17. Product: <b>Form</b> to collect data on gillnet interactions with sea turtles and <b>Database</b> to analyze gillnets data. Responsible: Delegate from Ecuador	✓		
20	The Scientific Committee reviews the form, database, and methodology to analyze data on interactions between sea turtles and gillnets at the SC17-2020.	The Scientific Committee (USA, Caribbean Netherlands, and Guatemala) provided recommendations to Fisheries WG regarding the form and database for gillnets data at the SC17-2020.	✓		

Proposed Activities		Status – June 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
21	Fisheries WG reviews recommendations to adjust the gillnets database and data form to present them to the CCE in 2021	Fisheries WG (Chile and Ecuador) presented the form and database for gillnets to the CCE14, and it was not adopted. An alternative of joint work between Scientific and Consultative committees was decided.	✓	✓	
22	The SC and CCE Fisheries WGs will prepare a methodological proposal to gather information on interactions between sea turtles and gillnets.	The SC Fisheries in agreement with the Consultative Committee should indicate the deadline and time frame for this activity.			
23	Review the IAC Annual Report table to monitor Fisheries Resolution and prepare a list of priority information and recommendations.	SC Chair presented recommendations from Mexico and Chile fisheries WG delegates to the SC, which were included in the SC16 report - CIT-CC16-2019-Doc.10 to the COP10.2-2022	✓		
24	Fisheries WG presents a proposal to update IAC Resolution COP3/2006/R-2 to the Scientific Committee on the Reduction of Adverse Fisheries Impacts in 2021.	Draft to update the IAC Resolution prepared preparation by the Fisheries WG, considering the SC16 report - CIT-CC16-2019-Doc.10 to present it at the SC18 - 2021 Scientific Committee and the Consultative Committee 2022. Responsible: Delegate from Chile.		✓	
25	Fisheries WG proposes to draft the IAC Manual for best practices in the safe handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught in fishing operations.	Discussion at SC18 on how to carry out the drafting of the IAC Manual for best practices in safe handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught in fishing operations, by an analysis of manuals that already exist. The proposal from the WG is to prepare a first draft of the manual for SC19. Responsible: Delegate from Ecuador The WG, comprised of Ecuador and Chile, met twice in 2022 to follow up on the preparation of the document.			
<b>Index Beaches Conservation Status</b>					
26	Collect information on annual nesting in the IAC Parties index beaches and analyze it every 5 years	The WG was formed by the IAC Scientific Committee. Dr. Jeff Seminoff (USA Delegate) and the Secretariat have been preparing the updates of the Technical Document “IAC Index Beach Data Analysis” since 2014. The WG presented the Technical Document update on IAC index beaches nesting 2009-2020 to the Scientific Committee 2021 and the COP 10 – 2022.		✓	
<b>Climate Change</b>					
27	Climate Change WG, and delegates in charge of the pilot project implementation from the Caribbean Netherlands, USA, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Panama held their 1st meeting on August 12, 2020, to present their progress and challenges in the implementation of the Pilot Project on environmental data to monitor climate change impacts.	WG presents a progress report on the implementation of the pilot project and the next steps resulting from the meeting with the project implementation team at SC17 - 2020.	✓		
28	The United States, Costa Rica, and Mexico begin collecting information on environmental parameters in the second half of 2020.	The United States, Costa Rica, and Mexico present a progress update at the WG 2nd meeting in 2020.	✓		



Proposed Activities		Status – June 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
29	The second WG meeting on the implementation of the pilot project is scheduled for the third week of January 2021.	Climate Change WG prepares a 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting report with recommendations to begin the project implementation in the first quarter of 2021.		✓	
30	WG will present a progress report on the implementation of the Pilot Project at the SC18. WG prepares a technical document on temperature and beach profiles, with feedback from the exchange of experiences workshop held on June 16, 2021, in collaboration with the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific.	Climate Change WG presented a technical document on beach temperature measurement for adoption by the SC18. (2021)  The recommendations from the Technical Document to measure temperature on nesting beaches was presented to the COP10.2		✓	
<b>Eastern Pacific Leatherback <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i></b>					
31	Members of the Scientific Committee and the EP Leatherback Task Force from Costa Rica, the United States, Mexico, and Peru provide comments to the document under the IAC-IATTC MoU “Vulnerability status and efficacy of potential conservation measures for the East Pacific leatherback turtle ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> ) stock using the EASI-Fish approach”. Coordination: Dr. Bryan Wallace Activity following Resolution IATTC C-19-04 to mitigate impacts on sea turtles which includes components provided by the IAC.	Document “Vulnerability status and efficacy of potential conservation measures for the East Pacific leatherback turtle ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> ) stock using the EASI-Fish approach ( <b>Phase one</b> ) presented at the IATTC Bycatch working group meeting on June 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2020.	✓		
32	The Scientific Committee recommends the implementation of the EASI-Fish model second phase on habitat distribution. It is recommended to present the results at the COP10.	The delegates from Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and the USA, shared information from their national fisheries agencies to include in the EASI-Fish second phase through the IAC Secretariat.  A working group with members from the SC, CCE, and IATTC technicians was formed to implement the <b>Second Phase</b> . The group has met in 2020 and 2021 to prepare a -Leatherback habitat distribution model and -the EASI-Fish Phase II.  The WG coordinator has provided updates to the CCE14 and the SC18.  Objective: The EASI-Fish Phase II was presented at the IATTC and IAC COP10.2 in 2022.	✓	✓	✓
33	Prepare a stranding and necropsy standard protocol adapted to the Eastern Pacific leatherback.	The SC delegate from Peru prepared a stranding and necropsy protocol and presented it to the SC17. Available on the IAC Website.	✓	✓	✓



Proposed Activities		Status – June 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
34	Peru develops a project to measure the number of leatherbacks released from gillnet fisheries for a year in the region of Lambayeque. Following the implementation of the EP Leatherback Resolution.	SC Delegate from Peru presented this activity's report to the SC17 to recommend the implementation of similar activities in the countries where the EP leatherback resolution is applicable. The SC Peru's delegate presented an update of the report including 2021 data to the SC18. The recommendations of this report were presented to the COP10.2. Recommends that IAC countries within the EP Leatherback range consider implementing similar strategies within the framework of the EP Leatherback Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2 Baula OPO.	✓	✓	✓
35	Develop a strategy for training on sea turtle handling and release in small-scale fisheries, which will be replicated in the EP Parties within the framework of the EP Leatherback Resolution, and the IAC Fisheries Resolution.	As part of the strategy, the Fisheries WG will update the technical document on Handling Sea Turtles Onboard Fishing Boats (Tec.8). Responsible: Ecuador's delegate. An update of this activity was presented at the SC18 (2021). The Secretariat will make available on the IAC website all documents referenced in the technical document (References for best practices on sea turtle handling and release).	✓		
<b>Northwest Atlantic Leatherback <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i></b>					
36	Scientific Committee prepares a table with on compliance with the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Resolution for adoption at the SC16 and inclusion in the IAC annual report.	Table with questions to follow up on the implementation of the NWA Leatherback resolution prepared by the SC16. Table adopted by CCE and included in the IAC Annual Report.	✓		
37	SC prepares a form to report data of Northwest Atlantic Leatherback bycatch in longline fisheries for adoption at SC16 and inclusion in the IAC Annual Report.	The delegate from the US prepared a form report data on longline fisheries bycatch which was adopted by the SC and the CCE including all sea turtle species. The form is available in the IAC Annual Report fisheries section since 2020.	✓		
38	The Scientific Committee identifies areas critical for the protection of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback and recommends those areas' protection to the IAC Parties.	SC prepare the Technical Document CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.16 on critical areas for the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback. The recommendations of this document were presented at the COP10.2.	✓	✓	
39	NW Atlantic Leatherback WG Leatherback prepares a technical document based on document CIT-CCE5-2012-Tec.3, to be used as a tool to approach countries that are not IAC members within the range of the NWA Leatherback.	Document prepared by SeaLife Law and WWF Canada adopted by the SC17 as Technical Document CIT-CC17-2020-Tec.17 and available on the IAC website.	✓		
<b>Green Turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i></b>					
40	Technical Document CIT-CC15-2018-Tec.15 "Green Turtle ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> ) Nesting Trends in the Eastern Pacific Ocean: Status Update and Conservation Priorities" prepared by WG formed by Ecuador, Chile, United States, and Peru.	The technical document on Green Turtles' status was presented and adopted by the CCE and is available on the IAC website.	✓	✓	✓

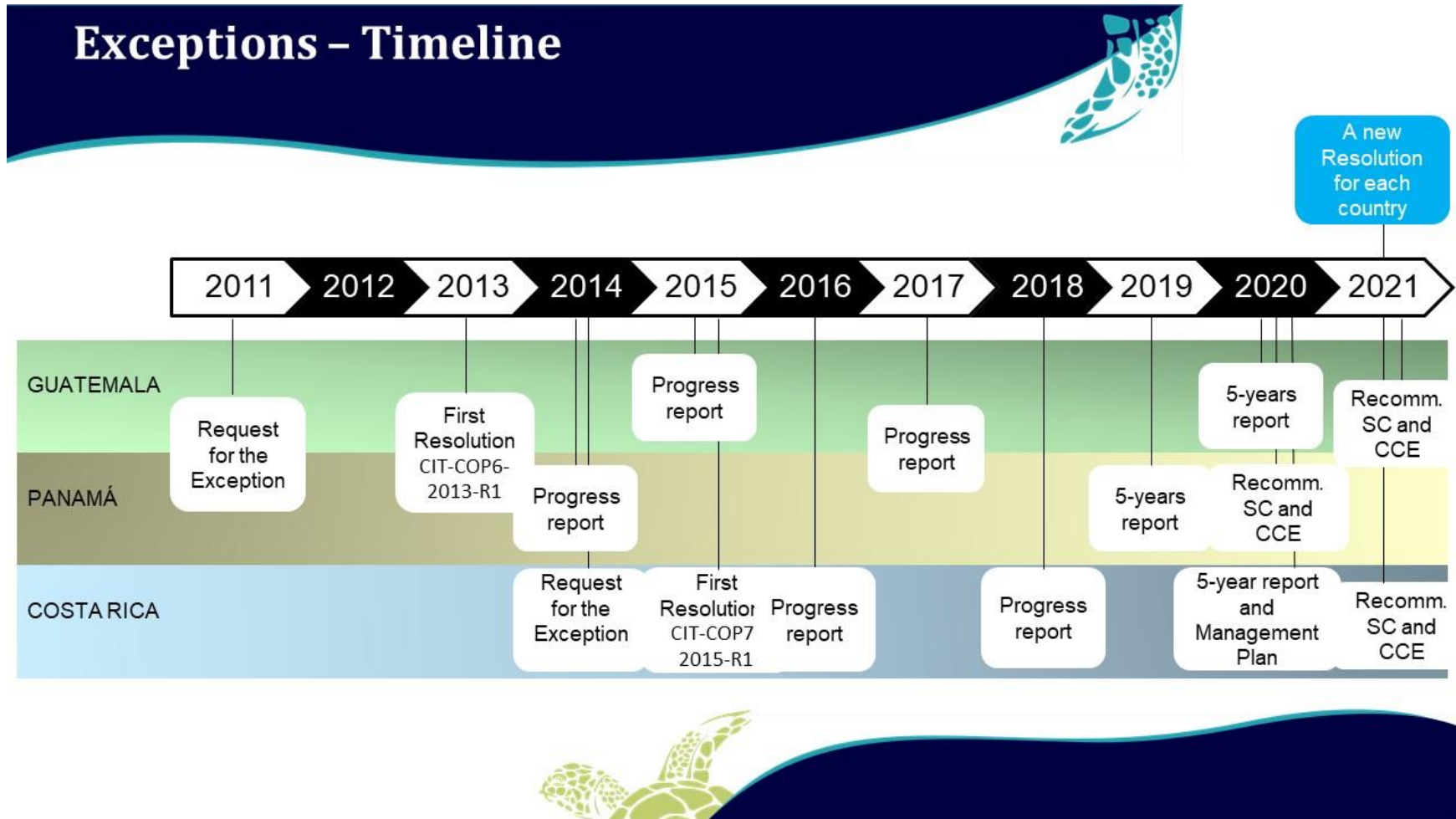
Proposed Activities		Status – June 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
Sea Turtle Conservation Status					
41	Propose an IAC technical documents standard form guideline.	The SC Chair presents a draft form for adoption at the SC18 meeting. This item was eliminated from the work plan as technical documents have all different formats.			
42	Update report CIT-CC13-2016-Tec.13: Status of Loggerhead Turtles in IAC countries. According to the IAC Resolution, this report is updated every 4 years. Working Group: Mexico, Brazil, Belize, USA. Coordinator USA and Belize.	The <i>Caretta caretta</i> WG provided an update on the status of this report to the SC18. This deadline was extended to the SC19 (2022), to allow for the working group to complete the document.			
43	Members of the Scientific Committee that belong to the MTSG-IUCN promote an approach for joint work between the IAC and MTSG-IUCN, SWOT, or other organizations related to the convention, to collaborate with information on sea turtle's conservation status that allows the SC to make recommendations to the COP.	The delegate from Argentina will establish a procedure to collaborate with IUCN MTSF and SWOT. The US delegate suggested the potential to collaborate with SWOT on the IAC index beaches report. No action on this item for the last two years, this was reported to the COP10.2 Responsible: Delegate from Argentina			
44	Delegate from Argentina sends a communication to the MTSG Chair.	No action			
45	Collect available information on sea turtle conservation status.	The SC Chair reported to the COP10.2 that among the SC functions, the committee prepared and updated technical documents that provide information on sea turtles' conservation status since 2011, such as: -Index nesting beaches data analysis -Longline bycatch data analysis. -Conservation status of <i>Caretta caretta</i> , <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> , <i>Chelonia mydas</i> , and <i>EP</i> and NW Atlantic <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> . These technical documents are prepared by request of the COP and the SC as needed.	✓	✓	
Collaboration with Other Organizations and Strategic Alliances					
46	Work topics within the IAC-ACAP MOU	Work topics IAC-ACAP presented by the delegate from Argentina and adopted at the SC17.	✓		
47	Establish a Working Group at the SC17, responsible for developing a strategy to implement activities with ACAP.	The Working group recommends a specific activity to implement the IAC-ACAP MoU. Working Group: Argentina, Chile, Peru, Mexico, and Ecuador. Coordinator: Argentina			
48	Implementation of IAC -ACAP MoU according to topics proposes at the SC17 (2020). See the meeting report doc.15.	Working Group reports on the results from the collaborative activity with ACAP that was implemented. (No implementation in 2020-2021) The WG Coordinator had a meeting with ACAP's delegate and identify priority activities that were presented to the SC18 2021 to include them in the work plan. Responsible: Delegate from Argentina			

Proposed Activities		Status – June 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
49	Present to COP the results from the joint activity implemented along with the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)	SC Chair presents results to COP No action on this item since 2020			
50	Proposal by COP Chair: Scientific Committee identifies a collaborative activity based on the Wetlands Convention Sea Turtle Resolution. The IAC scientific committee identifies a collaborative activity.	The Dominican Republic presented recommendations. Responsible: Ms. Cristiana de la Rosa delegate from The Dominican Republic.  The Dominican Republic presented its data for sharing with Ramsar Secretariat and establish updating the information and maps in technical document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.6 “Wetlands of International Importance and Sea Turtle Conservation”. The IAC Secretariat consulted feasibility with Ramsar’s Secretary obtaining a favorable response. Ramsar and IAC Secretariat will update the document in 2022-2023.	✓		
51	Proposal for activities to develop with the SPAW Protocol at SC17-2020.	Belize and Caribbean Netherlands prepared recommendations of the activities to carry out under IAC-SPAW MoU, included in the SC17 work document (Annex 12). Responsible: Kirah Forman, delegate from Belize.	✓		
52	The SC and CCE members who are part of the NWA Leatherback working group will present a report on the joint work with SPAW delegates.	The Scientific Committee delegates will participate in this IAC collaborative working group along with the USA delegate to the CCE and SPAW delegate Ms. Olga Koubrak. SPAW included the IAC delegate from CCE (USA) in the SPAW Species WG. This activity will be monitored by the CCE Work Plan no longer included in the SC work plan.			
53	ICCAT: Review the 2013 MoU proposal with ICCAT and adjust it to present it to the CCE.	Secretary presented the MoU proposal to CCE, editions were made, and the draft is under ICCATs Secretariat review (2020) MoU IAC –ICCAT was adopted in Nov 2021 and signed in 2022	✓	✓	✓
54	Scientific Committee will make a recommendation to the Conference of Parties on conservation actions in the region based on the CITES document which was prepared with the participation of the IAC SC technicians – “ <i>Status, scope, and trends of the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles, its conservation impacts, management options, and mitigation priorities</i> ”	The WG CITES-IAC will prepare the <b>SC18 recommendations to the COP10.2</b> based on the Inter-American subregion recommendations on the CITES report on sea turtle trade, and on decisions 17.222 and 17.223 on hawksbill -aligned with Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R2- and other sea turtles, including implementation mechanisms in all the IAC Convention countries as they are all, CITES members.	✓		
55	Coordinator (SC Vice-chair and Leatherback WG) will follow up on the strategy to work with RFMOs adopted by the SC14 to inform the Scientific Committee and the IAC Parties.	Refer to No. 31 (Document EASI-Fish)	✓	✓	✓

Proposed Activities		Status – June 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
56	Review Scientific Committee Work Plan to include items that improve and activate cooperation with international organizations.	Topics of Cooperation 2020-2022: IAC-IATTC: Project “Vulnerability status and efficacy of potential conservation measures for the East Pacific leatherback turtle ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> ) stock using the EASI-Fish. IAC-CPPS: Sea Turtle day celebration	✓	✓	
IAC Annual Report					
57	Analyze technical information in IAC Annual Reports.	*Refer to Number 18. The following documents result from this analysis: *Analysis of interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline in the IAC Parties (2020-2021). *Data Analysis of IAC index nesting beaches (2009-2020) *Loggerhead turtle conservation status ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> ) in the IAC Countries.	✓	✓	
58	Document with suggestions for WCMC regarding Annual Report tables adaptation to the online system. Responsible: Annual Report WG (Brazil, Mexico, USA, and Chile), working with the Secretary for the system development and implementation.	Online report 2021 adapted, following the WG suggestions.	✓	✓	
59	United States, Chile, Brazil, and Mexico work with the Secretariat PT and WCMC to adapt fisheries data collection tables to the IAC Annual Report online system.	Tables on interactions with industrial longline adapted to the online report. The online system has been tested by 14 IAC countries. Five training workshops on the use of the online platform have been carried out (2020, 2021): Brazil, Costa Rica, and the United States (Workshop 1), Peru and Ecuador (Workshop 2), Chile, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, and Venezuela (Workshop 3), Argentina, Uruguay, and Mexico (Workshop 4), and Caribbean Netherlands and Belize (Workshop 5). 11 online Annual Reports were submitted in 2021.	✓	✓	
Projects					
60	<b>Recommendation from COP:</b> Prepare recommendations for high-priority projects to obtain funding, and other activities required to meet the IAC objectives.	The second phase of the IAC-IATTC project on the EASI-Fish model was recommended.	✓		
IAC Experts Directory					
61	<b>Recommendation from COP:</b> Update the directory of experts on the IAC areas of interest.	Experts Directory updated on the website to April 20, 2021. <a href="http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/Directorio_de_Expertos_2021_Directory_of_Experts_2021.pdf">http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/Directorio_de_Expertos_2021_Directory_of_Experts_2021.pdf</a>	✓	✓	
Capacity Development					
62	Technical support from SC members in workshops and training on subjects that the Parties identified and for which funding is available.	Climate Change WG workshop: Exchange of experiences: Actions to record the impact of climate change on sea turtles, perspectives from the beach. A workshop was carried out by the Climate Change WG on June 16, 2021.		✓	
Recommendations from COP and Consultative Committee of Experts					

Proposed Activities		Status – June 17, 2022	2020	2021	2022
63	Address the COP and Consultative Committee of Experts requests and make recommendations accordingly.	Refer to the numbers indicating recommendations from the COP and/or the CCE in this document.			
<b>IAC Technical Documents</b>					
64	Prepare technical documents as needed.	Technical document CIT-CC15-2018-Tec.15 on Green Turtles (See. No. 40) on the IAC website. Documents for adopted SC18 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on index beaches</li> <li>• Best practices to measure temperatures at the nesting beach</li> <li>• Update on <i>Caretta caretta</i> (pending)</li> </ul>	✓		
<b>Scientific Committee Work Plan</b>					
65	Update the Scientific Committee Work	Work Plan updated at the 17th Scientific Committee meeting, 2020 Work Plan updated at the 18th Scientific Committee meeting, 2021 Work Plan updated 2022-2024 adopted at COP10.2	✓	✓	
66	Report on the implementation of the SC Work Plan	Report with the implementation of the SC work plan 2020-2021 presented to SC 17. Report with the implementation of the SC work plan 2020-2022 presented to SC18 and IAC COP10.2 (this report CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.2) Responsible: IAC SC Chair			
67	Convene working groups meetings to follow up on work plan	Number of meetings of the CCE working groups in 2022: Fisheries WG (7), EP Leatherback WG(5), Exceptions WG (2), Climate Change (1 via e-mail), CC Chair and IAC Secretariat (3 meetings)			

## Annex IV. Timeline of the Exceptions Process



## **Annex V. Resolution on the Exception in Panama**

### **Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R3**

#### **Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eggs in Panama**

**RECALLING** that Article IV of the Convention, paragraph 2a requires Parties to prohibit the intentional capture, retention or killing of, and domestic trade in, sea turtles, their eggs, parts or products;

**FURTHER RECALLING** that Article IV, paragraph 3a states that each Party may allow exceptions to satisfy economic subsistence needs of traditional communities, taking into account the recommendations of the Consultative Committee of Experts established pursuant to Article VII, provided that such exceptions do not undermine efforts to achieve the objective of this Convention;

**NOTING** that the fifth Conference of Parties, adopted the procedures for cases where exceptions exist (CIT-COP5-2011-R2);

**CONSIDERING** that *Lepidochelys olivacea* is classified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as vulnerable;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that all other species of sea turtles classified as “endangered, vulnerable and critically endangered” by IUCN, must be protected from any negative impacts resulting from an exception;

**RECOGNIZING** that *Lepidochelys olivacea* on the beaches of the Eastern Pacific (Mexico to Panama) is the only turtle species that can withstand a carefully controlled amount of egg harvesting, and only when the population to be harvested has demonstrated the status of “recovered or verifiably stable”;

**CONSIDERING** that these extraction activities existed prior to Panama becoming a Party to the IAC, and today continue to be regulated by the relevant governmental organizations;

**RECOGNIZING** that Panama has informed, in its IAC Annual Reports over the last five years, sustained efforts in the implementation of the recommendations in Resolution CIT-COP6-2013- R1 on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eggs in Guatemala and Panama;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the recommendations to Panama by the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts at the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts (Meeting Report CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.9), regarding Panama’s five year report on the implementation of the Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1, that indicates that some measures in Panama have already been implemented, while others need to be evaluated for feasible implementation, and that it is necessary to develop specific Resolutions to the exception, that are in accordance with the national reality of each country included in the initial Resolution;

**CONSIDERING** that to support the continuous implementation of conservation measures for the species in the exception, Panama has to finalize the process of preparing and establishing a management plan for the exception in accordance to IAC Article IV (3a and b) of IAC.



**THE TENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES THE FOLLOWING MEASURES TO PANAMA TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE IV (3) REGARDING EXCEPTIONS:**

1. The Government of Panama commits to formally establish an Exception Management Plan for the Harvest of *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eggs on Cañas Island within a maximum of three (3) additional years, from the date this resolution is approved, in accordance with this resolution.
2. The Exception Management Plan should include the recommendations from the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts adopted at 14<sup>th</sup> Consultative Committee of Experts Meeting in Annex I of this resolution.
3. Recommend that Panama applies the precautionary approach, in the interim, by implementing the protection measures in Annex 1 to be included in the Exception Management Plan, in accordance with the national laws, and continue to consult with the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts while the country establishes its Exception Management Plan so that the exception meets the requirements of Article IV (3) of the Convention.
4. Panama must continue to report on its exception in the IAC Annual Report.
5. The IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees will continue to review the progress of the implementation of this resolution and will report to the Conference of Parties on this progress, every five years.
6. Panama will present a draft of its Exception Management Plan to the IAC Scientific Committee in 2022. This should be consulted with the Consultative Committee of Experts. Both Committees should provide a final review on the Exception Management Plan within the following four (4) months. Panama will take into account any final recommendations and modify the Exception Management Plan as applicable.
7. The Exception Management Plan should be assessed every 5 years by the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts; thus Panama must prepare an Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan including the status of implementation and compliance with the plan and report timely any modifications to the information presented.
8. The IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts will develop a form with the minimum information and data contents to be included in the Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan.
9. Urge the Government of Panama to secure and assign in the short term, the human and financial resources necessary for the implementation of the Exception Management Plan for Cañas Island.

This resolution repeals and replaces the IAC Resolution on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs in Guatemala and Panama CIT- COP6-2013-R1 in its entirety.



**ANNEX I: The Exception Management Plan for the harvest of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs on Cañas Island should include:**

1. Objectives and indicators for the monitoring of the population of *Lepidochelys olivacea* and the actions of the harvest of its eggs in Cañas Island for the bodies of this Convention, to obtain reliable data that allow the population trend analysis to be used in establishing an adaptative management program to have the best scientific information for decision making for the management of the exception.
2. A description of the criteria for the selection of the natural nesting protected area (1 km of the beach where most nesting is concentrated, which would be assessed to increase it or change its location, to consider the variability of the nesting process), describe the selection criteria for the nests that are protected and those that are harvested by the community, include an analysis of data of population trends using the selected indicators, and the implementation of measures to reduce in water threats such as bycatch of sea turtles.
3. A nesting survey protocol that includes standardized monitoring of sea turtle nesting activity (nesting and hatching success), and the number of hatchlings produced in protected nests in hatcheries and *in situ*). The data should be used to analyze nesting trends, in order to demonstrate the sustainability of the harvesting and assess the stability of the population over the long-term. This protocol must be evaluated every five years, and changes made as needed.
4. An egg harvest protocol that includes monitoring of the nesting population and the level of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs being harvested and those levels should prove to be sustainable, and therefore, monitoring protocols must be in place to assess the stability of the population over the long-term. This protocol must include the criteria for assigning eggs to the community (family census, IDs, among others). The level of sea turtle eggs harvested should prove to be sustainable.
5. Actions to strengthen the co-management of the harvest with the Cañas Island community, including training of participants.
6. Efforts to increase activities to strengthen sea turtle protection efforts, through alternative livelihood productive activities for non-consumptive use, nest and nesting female protection, and best practices for the hatcheries operating in communities surrounding Cañas Island.
7. The recommendations from the Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee in the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Committee included in report CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.9.

## **Annex VI. Resolution on the Exception in Guatemala**

### **Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R4**

#### **Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eggs in Guatemala**

**RECALLING** that Article IV of the Convention, paragraph 2a requires Parties to prohibit the intentional capture, retention or killing of, and domestic trade in, sea turtles, their eggs, parts or products;

**FURTHER RECALLING** that Article IV, paragraph 3a states that each Party may allow exceptions to satisfy economic subsistence needs of traditional communities, taking into account the recommendations of the Consultative Committee of Experts established pursuant to Article VII, provided that such exceptions do not undermine efforts to achieve the objective of this Convention;

**NOTING** that the fifth Conference of Parties adopted the procedures for when exceptions exist (CIT-COP5-2011-R2);

**CONSIDERING** that *Lepidochelys olivacea* is classified as vulnerable, by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that all other species of sea turtles classified as “endangered, vulnerable and critically endangered” by IUCN must be protected from any negative impacts resulting from an exception;

**RECOGNIZING** that *Lepidochelys olivacea* on the beaches of the Eastern Pacific (Mexico to Panama) is the only turtle species that can withstand a carefully controlled amount of egg harvesting, and only when the population to be harvested has demonstrated the status of “recovered or verifiably stable”;

**CONSIDERING** that these extraction activities existed prior to Guatemala becoming a Party to the IAC, and today continue to be regulated by relevant governmental organizations;

**RECOGNIZING** that Guatemala has informed in its IAC Annual Reports over the last five years, sustained efforts in the implementation of the recommendations in Resolution CIT-COP6-2013- R1 on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eggs in Guatemala and Panama;

**RECOGNIZING** that Guatemala has laws and regulations in place to support the implementation of the IAC resolution on exception, including the update to the Resolution on the Conservation quota of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs, that established a conservation quota of 20% of the eggs in each nest, based on the recommendation from the IAC Scientific Committee, and that Guatemala has expressed its intention to gradually increase this quota according to what the country’s conditions allow;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the recommendations to Guatemala by the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts at the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts (Meeting Report CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.9), regarding Guatemala’s five year report on the implementation of the Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1, that indicates that some protection measures in Guatemala have already been implemented, while other measures need to be evaluated for feasible implementation, and that

it is necessary to develop separate Resolutions to the exceptions that are in accordance with the national reality of each country included in the initial Resolution;

**CONSIDERING** that to support the continuous implementation of conservation measures for the species in the exception, Guatemala has to finalize the process of preparing and establishing a management plan for the exception in accordance to IAC Article IV (3a and b) of IAC.

**THE TENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES THE FOLLOWING MEASURES TO GUATEMALA TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE IV (3) REGARDING EXCEPTIONS:**

1. The Government of Guatemala (Protected Areas National Council – CONAP) commits to formally establish an Exception Management Plan for the Harvest of *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eggs, within a maximum of three (3) additional years, from the date this resolution is approved, based on the outline in Annex I of this resolution.
2. The Exception Management Plan should include the recommendations from the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts adopted at the 14<sup>th</sup> Consultative Committee of Experts Meeting in Annex II of this resolution.
3. Recommend that Guatemala applies the precautionary approach, in the interim, by implementing the protection and monitoring measures in Annex III of this resolution, in accordance with the national laws, and to Continue consulting with the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees while the Country establishes its Exception Management Plan so that the exception meets the requirements in Article IV (3) of the Convention.
4. The level of *Lepidochelys olivacea* sea turtle eggs being harvested under an exception has to be proven to be sustainable; therefore, the monitoring protocols included in the Exception Management Plan, must be in place to assess the stability of the population in the long-term. These protocols must include nesting trends in order to support the sustainability of the harvesting proposed.
5. Guatemala must continue to report on its exception in the IAC Annual Report.
6. The IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees will continue to review the progress of the implementation of this resolution and will report to the Conference of Parties on this progress, every five years.
7. Guatemala will present a draft of its Exception Management Plan to the IAC Scientific Committee in 2022. This proposal should be consulted with the Consultative Committee of Experts. Both Committees should provide a final review on the Exception Management Plan within the following four (4) months. Guatemala will take into account any final recommendations and modify the Exception Management Plan as applicable.
8. Once the Exception Management Plan is finalized and approved, it should be assessed every 5 years by the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts; thus Guatemala must prepare an Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan with the status of implementation and compliance with the plan and report timely any modifications to the information presented.

9. The IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts will develop a form with the minimum information and data contents to be included in the Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan.

10. Urge the Government of Guatemala to according to their capabilities, secure and assign human and financial resources necessary for the implementation of the Exception Management Plan.

This resolution repeals and replaces the IAC Resolution on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs in Guatemala and Panama CIT- COP6-2013-R1 in its entirety.

## **ANNEX I – Recommended outline for Guatemala’s Exception Management Plan**

1. State of knowledge (regarding the exception)
2. Area of implementation of the exception (study area)
  - a. Map with location of nesting beaches and hatcheries.
3. Species description (Biology and ecology)
  - a. Including nesting season, nesting peaks, size of nests (maximum, minimum, average), the month to month and annual register of nests, hatching success in hatcheries, among other data considered relevant.
4. Conservation status and threats in Guatemala
5. Conservation measures
  - a. Legal framework
  - b. Hatcheries
  - c. Conservation quota
6. Strategic Plan
  - a. Management plan objectives
  - b. Criteria to assess compliance with the objectives.
  - c. Best practices in hatcheries management
  - d. Olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) monitoring program in Guatemala Pacific Coast (Product 2 prepared by CONAP) – Include goals, timeline, and strategies.
  - e. Traceability program - Include goals, timeline, and strategies.
  - f. Current and future financial mechanisms
  - g. Success/sustainability indicators (environmental and socioeconomic)

## **ANNEX II – Recommendations from the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts**

### **1. On the Exception Management Plan**

It is recommended that, to manage the exception on Guatemala's Pacific Coast, the Protected Areas National Council organize and complete the information to be presented to the IAC, by the establishment of the Exception Management Plan, including at least the structure in Annex I, to be presented in one year at the 2022 Scientific Committee meeting.

### **2. On the Conservation Quota**

It is recommended to report the production of hatchlings in hatcheries and using this as a base to estimate the percentage of hatching success to monitor what is happening at an embryonic scale with the 20% of the eggs from each nest, which is the conservation quota.

### **3. On Management of Nesting Beaches and the Population Monitoring Program**

It is recommended to establish a method to monitor the indicators that determine the status of the *Lepidochelys olivacea* nesting population for enough time that allows for detection of variations in recruitment due to egg harvest. Two of the best indicators for population trends are the counting of nests, and counting of females, this is what needs to be monitored. If resources for monitoring all nesting beaches are not sufficient, index beaches with higher nesting should be prioritized.

It is recommended to ensure that the minimum data collection methods are standardized annually, so that data can be compared among years. Similarly, there should be an effort to differentiate between nests (with eggs inside) and false crawls on the index beaches.

It is recommended to continue the activity described above monitoring nesting tracks on the index beaches for at least another five years, with daily nesting surveys in established areas within the reproductive season.

It is requested that, for both the Exception Management Plan and the Assessment Report on the Exception Management Plan presented to the IAC, include an analysis of the nest and egg collection effort with the variables that influence it, such as the availability of financial resources, increased effort of volunteering, an increase in the purchase of eggs from hatcheries, among other reasons.

It is recommended to establish management measures for the conservation quota and for hatcheries for the period between January and June, as during these months, outside the peak in nesting activity there is an almost total collection of eggs by the community.

It is recommended, to the extent possible to include in the Exception Management Plan a strategy where entire nests are protected and monitored *in situ* on a feasible protected section of the beach, prioritizing those beaches with higher nesting numbers (south-east section of the coast). As an alternative, it is recommended to carry out *in situ* nest protection during the rainy months, when temperatures are favorable for hatching success, as a measure to offset harvest along the coast.

### **4. On Hatcheries Management**

It is recommended that the number of nests collected per collector is recorded and used as a condition for *parlameros* (collectors) to receive their payment for the eggs, and to then obtain an estimate of the number of nests harvested on the different beaches.

It is recommended that the Exception Management Plan and the progress report, include the following indicators: hatching success, and the total number of hatchlings released to the marine environment.

It is recommended to record a representative sample of temperature data in nests (two or more years) to compare *in situ* temperatures with *ex situ* (nests relocated in hatcheries) temperatures in the nests in the rainy and dry seasons.

It is recommended to estimate the ratio of females to males produced in the hatcheries, using dead hatchling and an incubation temperature analysis to determine a correlation between mortality and sex, if there is bias to one of the sexes, apply mitigation measures.

## **5. On Social and Economic Sustainability and the search for economic alternative activities to sea turtle eggs harvest**

It is recommended to include in the exception management plan and the exception progress report to the IAC, the social and economic income trends over time (sustainability indicators).

It is recommended to design a budget indicating the resources required to keep control and surveillance of *arribada* events, harvest, and trade of eggs.

## **6. On Traceability**

It is recommended to include in the exception management plan a traceability procedure for both the eggs collected for consumption and the eggs going to hatcheries, to establish the number of clutches and the number of eggs commercially traded.

It is recommended to maintain a record of sea turtle eggs seizures and a temporal analysis using indicators (for example: number of eggs seized due to poaching, number of sanctions, inspection coverage, percentage of prosecutions, and others) to estimate the number of eggs illegally traded and to assess how this impacts *Lepidochelys olivacea* population.

It is recommended to engage in an Exchange of experiences between the technical personnel in charge of exceptions in Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala to share protocols on the subject of traceability of eggs collected within the framework of the exception.

### **ANNEX III – Recommendations presented by the Protected Areas National Council – CONAP**

- Continue monitoring nesting tracks on the Pacific coast of Guatemala in the seven beaches monitored. If, due to financial constraints, it is not possible to maintain nesting tracks monitoring at all sites, nesting monitoring of Hawaii should be maintained, as it is the site with the longest time frame of monitoring, from which useful extrapolations can be made.
- Assess the relationship between the movements of the Central American Thermal Dome with respect to the observed gradient of greater nesting in the eastern Pacific coast of Guatemala.
- Strengthen management of the hatcheries on the Pacific coast as they prove to be an effective conservation tool for sea turtles in the country.
- Update the conservation quota receipts that should include a section identifying the number of eggs, the number of nests from which the eggs were collected, the means of obtaining (purchase, exchange), the collection beach, and other relevant information.”
- CONAP must ensure that the minimum conservation quota of 20% is met throughout the year and not only during the nesting season (July-December), in those sites where nesting occurs throughout the year. For this, it is essential that the hatcheries can receive eggs throughout the year, or at least those hatcheries managed directly by CONAP, as well as the hatcheries of El Banco and Hawaii. Other hatcheries administrators should report the nests that they receive during the year.
- CONAP should provide training in the management of the hatcheries, so that they properly fill out the conservation quota receipts for olive ridley eggs use in all their three sections.
- CONAP must verify at the final point of sale (restaurants, ceviche eateries, etc.) of olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) eggs that sellers have their respective proof of final delivery that ensures the legal source of the eggs.
- Considering that the annual amount allocated by the hatcheries to purchase eggs for conservation is around Q500,000 -USD 64,880 (estimated)- it would be feasible for CONAP to negotiate a conservation incentives program for the collectors, which funds are exclusively for hatcheries to purchase eggs for conservation. This would bring several benefits since that money would start an economic spillover effect among the coastal communities of the Pacific Coast and would enable hatcheries to invest their income from hatchling releases and donations in improving and maintaining hatchery infrastructure, purchasing priority equipment for monitoring, and investing in other sea turtle conservation activities.
- The implementation of these recommendations must be documented and analyzed to be included as part of the Annual Report to the IAC.



## **Annex VII. Resolution on the Exception in Costa Rica**

**Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R5**

### **Exceptions under Article IV (3a and 3b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eggs in Costa Rica**

**RECALLING** that Article IV of the Convention, paragraph 2a requires Parties to prohibit the intentional capture, retention or killing of, and domestic trade in, sea turtles, their eggs, parts or products;

**FURTHER RECALLING** that Article IV, paragraph 3a states that each Party may allow exceptions to satisfy economic subsistence needs of traditional communities, taking into account the recommendations of the Consultative Committee of Experts established pursuant to Article VII, provided that such exceptions do not undermine efforts to achieve the objective of this Convention;

**NOTING** that at the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties, adopted the procedures for cases where exceptions exist were adopted (CIT-COP5-2011-R2);

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that all species of sea turtles classified as “endangered, vulnerable and critically endangered” must be protected from any negative impacts resulting from an exception;

**CONSIDERING** *Lepidochelys olivacea* is classified as vulnerable, by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN);

**RECOGNIZING** that *L. olivacea* on the beaches of the Eastern Pacific Ocean (Mexico to Panama) is the only turtle species that can withstand a controlled amount of egg harvesting, and only when the population to be harvested has demonstrated to be in a status of “recovered or verifiably stable;”

**CONSIDERING** that these extraction activities existed prior to Costa Rica becoming a Party of the IAC, and today continue to be regulated by different relevant governmental organizations;

**CONSIDERING** that the IAC Conference of the Parties approved the exception in Costa Rica by resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R1;

**CONSIDERING** that Costa Rica has a Five-Year Plan for the Management and Conservation of Olive ridleys turtle in the Ostional Wildlife Refuge (Management Plan), that is evaluated, updated and authorized by the Costa Rican State every five years;

**CONSIDERING** that Costa Rica has selected and implements the sampling method to monitor indicators that allow the determination of the population status of Olive ridleys (*Lepidochelys olivacea*);

**CONSIDERING** that the technical information presented by Costa Rica in its Progress Report on the implementation of the exception for 2015-2020 reviewed by the IAC Scientific Committee in their 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) in their 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, determined that Costa Rica has fulfilled the four measures established in Resolution CIT-COP7- 2015-R1;

**CONSIDERING** that the Scientific and Consultative Committees recommended new measures to improve the implementation of the Exception in Costa Rica.

**THE TENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES THE FOLLOWING MEASURES TO COSTA RICA TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE IV (3) REGARDING EXCEPTIONS:**

1. The Government of Costa Rica will continue managing its exception according to their five- year plan Management Plan. This Exception Management Plan includes the recommendations given by the Scientific Committee, and the Consultative Committee of Experts in its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting (CCE Meeting Report CIT-CCE14-2021-Doc.9) and Annex I in this resolution.
2. The Exception Management Plan should be assessed every 5 years by the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee; thus Costa Rica must prepare an Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan with the status of implementation and compliance with the plan and report timely on any modifications.
3. Costa Rica when pertinent, will prepare data analysis of population trends, and the population indexes addressed, and will provide recommendations and conclusions regarding the exception management in its five-year Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan to present to IAC.
4. In order to determine the status of the nesting population of *L. olivacea* in Ostional and the impact of the egg harvest, Costa Rica will continue to monitor additional indicators including: estimate of the number of hatchlings, and hatching success/reproductive output of the clutches. Costa Rica will implement a five-year evaluation and make the pertinent adjustments to ensure the egg harvest is sustainable.
5. In order to maintain its social and health responsibility, as *L. olivacea* eggs are sold for human consumption, Costa Rica will undertake every five years, a microbiological and biochemical study about the sanitary viability of *L. olivacea* eggs for human consumption.
6. Costa Rica must continue to report on its exception in the IAC Annual Report.
7. The IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees will continue to review the progress of the implementation of this resolution and will report to the Conference of Parties on this progress, every five years.
8. The IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts will develop a form with the contents and minimum data to be included in the Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan.
9. Urge the Government of Costa Rica to continue to secure and assign human and financial resources necessary for the implementation of the Exception Management Plan.

This resolution repeals and replaces the IAC Resolution on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs in Costa Rica CIT-COP7-2015-R1 in its entirety.

**ANNEX I: Recommendation from the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts regarding the management of the Exception in Costa Rica**

1. The Exception Management Plan must include a budget and a cost analysis to ensure the implementation of the Plan.
2. The Exception Management Plan must include the description of selection criteria for the *arribadas* and nests that can be harvested, with estimated number of nests that can be harvested, and the implementation of measures to reduce in water threats such as bycatch of sea turtles.
3. To prevent illegal trade of eggs from other *L. olivacea* populations and other sea turtle species, Costa Rica must continue with the process of development, implementation, and evaluation annually of the traceability plan from the beach to the final distributor.
4. In its Assessment Report for the Management Plan Costa Rica will report on the investment of the economic resources generated by the commercialization of eggs on the human wellbeing, improvements to the community, and the total number of beneficiaries that are involved in the *arribada* process, as well as the requirements for participation and compliance with the established measures in the exception Management Plan.

## **Annex VIII. Resolution on the Conservation of the EP Leatherback**

**Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6**

### **Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)**

**WHEREAS** leatherback sea turtles have existed on Earth for millions of years and are an important component of marine ecosystems of the Pacific Ocean;

**RECOGNIZING** the critical ecological importance of the leatherback sea turtle and its cultural, socioeconomic, and scientific value;

**CONSIDERING** that the Eastern Pacific leatherback population is listed as *Critically Endangered* by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and that this species is listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), and Appendices I and II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), and furthermore, is considered among the conservation priorities of various intergovernmental organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

**RECOGNIZING** that the nesting data obtained along the coast of the Eastern Pacific has shown a decrease in the population of more than 90% since the mid-1980s, and the population's status in the Eastern Pacific is dire and may be near the point of irreversibility;

**CONSIDERING** that the principal threats to leatherback turtles have been identified as bycatch in fishing activities, unsustainable exploitation of eggs and turtles, as well as the destruction or alteration of nesting habitats;

**RECOGNIZING** that the countries where nesting occurs make extensive efforts to prevent egg exploitation and that the regional fisheries management organizations in the IAC Convention area have adopted measures to better understand the impact of their fisheries on sea turtles but that the decline of the Eastern Pacific population has continued;

**CONSIDERING** that the adoption and implementation of additional bycatch mitigation measures such as gear modifications and closed areas are necessary to protect leatherback sea turtles;

**CONSIDERING** the Memorandum of Understanding between the IAC and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) to collaborate on sea turtle conservation, and the approval of the IATTC Resolution C-19-04 directly relating to sea turtle conservation, which was created during the 94<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IATTC, carried out in 2019;

**CONSIDERING** that the decline in leatherback sea turtle populations is undermining the ecological stability and the cultural and socioeconomic benefits to coastal communities;

**CONSIDERING** that the recommendations by the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts working group and the Scientific Committee aim to reverse the aforementioned decline in leatherback sea turtle populations.

**THE 10<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES:**

**URGE all the IAC Parties whose fishing fleets operate in the Eastern Pacific to prioritize and implement**

in their work programs the following conservation actions that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback sea turtle in the Eastern Pacific:

- a. Systematically collect statistically reliable data on leatherback bycatch.
- b. Implement systematic data collection on stranded leatherback turtles to provide supplementary information on mortality sources.
- c. Strengthen existing fisheries monitoring programs gathering information on leatherback bycatch through on-board observers and/or electronic monitoring. Consider using alternative methods with interviews in port, in case that onboard observers or electronic monitoring are not available. Include this information in their corresponding IAC Annual Reports.
- d. Establish and implement monitoring programs with on-board observers and/or electronic monitoring in fisheries not currently observed that impact the leatherbacks, considering economic and practical feasibility.
- e. Strive to implement or improve measures to reduce bycatch and mortality of leatherback sea turtles in the Eastern Pacific fisheries, based on the best scientific information available.
- f. Establish and evaluate national programs on safe handling and release of sea turtles bycaught in all fisheries that could impact leatherbacks, training fishermen on best handling and release practices.
- g. Strengthen actions for the identification and protection of leatherback nests in the Eastern Pacific for the enhanced survival of hatchlings, as well as take measures to protect their habitat, and urge non-Party countries to collaborate with the IAC by strengthening actions to protect nests, females, and hatchlings, and providing information on the conservation measures implemented on their nesting beaches.

That all IAC Parties implement the strategic actions in Annex I and submit the information on the implementation in the corresponding sections of the IAC Annual Report.

**REQUEST** that the IAC Scientific Committee and the Consultative Committee of Experts review and harmonize the information in Annex II to be included in the format of the Annual Report of the Parties to the IAC, and request the Secretariat include it in the IAC Annual Report.

The IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts will analyze the information provided in the IAC Annual Report required in this resolution and will provide recommendations to the Parties.

**REQUEST** the IAC's Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts, in cooperation with the Secretariat and the other IAC Parties to:

- a. Determine methods to assess the impacts of conservation activities at the regional scale.
- b. Evaluate every five years the implementation of the conservation measures and strategic actions in Annex 1. The working group designated by the Scientific Committee and the Consultative Committee of Experts will prepare an evaluation report every five years to be presented to the Committees and subsequently to the COP. The first evaluation report will be presented in 2027.
- c. That the Secretary and the Parties of the Convention, using appropriate means, encourage

collaboration with non-IAC Parties, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), and other relevant multilateral organizations and entities to implement measures for the conservation of the East Pacific leatherback turtle.

- d. That the Parties, and the Scientific and Consultative Committee of Experts, through the Secretariat, work to identify potential technical and financial collaboration to implement the conservation measures in this resolution, considering the strategic action in Annex I, using all available instruments.
- e. The IAC Secretariat will provide copies of this resolution to other relevant Conventions and those organizations with which the IAC has a Memorandum of Understanding.

This resolution repeals and replaces the IAC Resolution on Conservation of Leatherback Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) CIT-COP7-2015-R2 in its entirety.

## Annex I

### Strategic Actions for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle

The Regional Action Plan for Reversing the Decline of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback (<http://savepacificleatherbacks.org>) was used as a basis for many of the strategic actions and activities below. These are divided into four strategies focused on mortality reduction in marine habitats and protection of nesting sites and nesting females to increase reproductive productivity.

#### Strategic Action 1: Reduce incidental capture (bycatch) of adult and juvenile leatherback turtles in fisheries

##### Activities

- a) Make efforts to, establish, implement and/or strengthen the application of bycatch reduction measures for leatherbacks in fisheries, based on the best scientific information available.
- b) Conduct research on viable bycatch reduction measures, considering innovation in fishing gear and methods, and the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, which will be used by type of fleet and gear with emphasis in the zones with the most probability of interaction between fisheries and leatherback turtles to reduce harm or injury and mortality.
- c) Establish and promote the implementation of best practices for safe handling and release of incidentally caught sea turtles, in order to reduce harm or injury and mortality. Conduct workshops to disseminate this information, and improve communication among fishermen to implement these practices.
- d) Continue bycatch monitoring at ports and with on-board observers, among others, increase and strengthen it when possible and appropriate, and ensure that the information collected for inclusion in the Annex 2 table is standardized.
- e) Establish and improve communication with fishing fleet in order to promote best practices for handling and releasing of incidentally captured turtles and bycatch reporting.
- f) Promote exchanges between fishermen of the IAC Region to share experiences on how to reduce and mitigate bycatch.
- g) Compile, to the extent possible, country specific data on bycatch on each fishing fleet that interacts with the Eastern Pacific leatherback, including characterization of fisheries. This information should be shared in the Annual Report of the Parties.
- h) Identify critical areas in the distribution range of the leatherback turtle that require spatial and temporal management to reduce leatherback bycatch.
- i) Identify and report the fate of sea turtles bycaught and retained on board.

Strategic Action 2: Define and protect important areas for survival of different life stages of the leatherback.

Activities:

- a) Identify adult and juvenile aggregation sites, migration routes, and other potential sites of importance or conservation priorities in national waters which could be subjected to appropriate measures for spatial and temporal management of threats.
- b) Identify critical locations in international waters that are important for the conservation of the species.

Strategic Action 3: Strengthen existing prohibitions on the consumption and use of the leatherback turtle, including parts and derivatives, as well as all kinds of capture, transportation, and trade.

Activities:

- a) Identify and characterize areas where poaching and illegal use occurs, quantify the frequency of occurrence, and prioritize efforts to reduce this threat.
- b) Carry out awareness and enforcement campaigns to stop consumption and illegal use of sea turtles, in the areas identified in (a) above.

Strategic Action 4: Nesting sites protection

Activities:

- a) Promote and ensure the protection of nests, females, and hatchlings and promote comprehensive and thorough biological monitoring throughout the nesting season at index nesting beaches and other known leatherback nesting beaches.
- b) Identify, and include new nesting beaches for the species in the existing programs for the protection of nests, females, and hatchlings, and biological monitoring within IAC Parties.
- c) Maximize efforts to ensure that all nests of the species are identified and protected, and develop and implement strategies to ensure an increasing hatching success and hatchling production.
- d) Implement economic alternatives in local communities in areas adjacent to nesting beaches, reducing pressure on the species and supporting the ecosystems services provided by sea turtles.

It is recommended that the Secretary and the Parties invite non-Parties, using appropriate means, including RFMOs and multilateral agreements, to participate in the development and implementation of the activities outlined in the preceding strategic actions.



## Annex II

Information proposed by the EP Leatherback Task Force requested to assess the implementation of the strategic actions in this Resolution and their impact on the conservation of the EP Leatherback. For those countries reporting nesting of EP Leatherback, all the beaches monitored (index and non-index) will be included in Part V “*Nesting Information*” in the IAC Annual Report. The following information will be included in the IAC Annual Report in the format available in the online platform.

**Table 1.** Information regarding **monitoring and bycatch reduction** of the EP Leatherback, according to the indicators suggested in this resolution strategic actions.

EP LEATHERBACK MONITORING AND BYCATCH REDUCTION			
Country		Year	
<b>Fisheries Information</b>			
In your country, there are interactions of fisheries with leatherback (yes / no)			
Choose the fishing area (Coastal up to 12 miles; Oceanic, further than 12 miles)			
Choose the fishing gear interacting with leatherbacks <i>Note: information regarding industrial longline is currently included in the IAC Annual Report (Part VI – Fisheries Information).</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Artisanal longline <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial longline <input type="checkbox"/> Gillnet <input type="checkbox"/> Bottom trawl net <input type="checkbox"/> Trawl nets <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Indicate target species <i>Note: Information on industrial longline is included in the IAC Annual Report (Part VI – Fisheries Information).</i>			
Fishing efforts (e.g., fleet size; number of the fleet total trips) <i>Note: Information on industrial longline is included in the IAC Annual Report (Part VI – Fisheries Information).</i>			
<b>Monitoring Activities</b>			
Choose the monitoring method.		<input type="checkbox"/> Onboard observers <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews <input type="checkbox"/> Radio communication <input type="checkbox"/> Stranding reports <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Monitoring effort (with metrics) <b>Example:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of trips with onboard observers</li> <li>Number of observers at port</li> <li>Number of fishermen logbooks recorded in the year</li> <li>Number of self-reporting sheets registered</li> </ul>			
Leatherback bycatch (total or estimated number of animals captured)			
Number of turtles released alive and dead		Live:          Dead:	
<b>Measures to Reduce Bycatch Impacts</b>			
Fishermen training on best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles (yes/no)			
Indicate the type of training			
Number of fishermen registered in the country			
Number of fishermen trained this year			
Choose the types of fishing gear modification utilized and indicate if its use is mandatory or voluntary  <i>Countries wishing to provide additional information on the type of fishing gear modification by fishery, can do it attaching the information.</i>		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> TEDs  <input type="checkbox"/> Large Circle Hooks  <input type="checkbox"/> Bait  <input type="checkbox"/> LED lights  <input type="checkbox"/> Spatial and or/time closures  <input type="checkbox"/> Soaking time reduction  <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____               </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary  <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary  <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary  <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary  <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary  <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary               </div> </div>	
Number of vessels using this type of fishing gear modification			

**Table 2. Information regarding monitoring and protection of the EP leatherback nesting beaches,** according to the indicators suggested in the strategic actions in this resolution.

The following questions refer to totals by country, resulting from the addition of the values from each of the beaches monitored.

MONITORING AND PROTECTION IN MONITORED NESTING BEACHES	
Monitoring Activities	
Number of leatherback beaches monitored during the year reported in this Annual Report	
Which methods are used to assess nesting in beaches (choose all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Nest/tracks count <input type="checkbox"/> Nest/tracks and nesting females count <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial census of tracks <input type="checkbox"/> Other, which _____
Have you reported the information for all the EP leatherback nesting beaches, new and historical, in the nesting beaches section (Part V)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Protection Activities in Beaches Monitored	
Percentage of the total of nests protected in the beaches monitored in the nesting season, and protection technique (including protected areas; relocation in hatcheries and other) If the value is unknown, write "not available"	
Total number of nests <i>in situ</i> ( <i>In situ</i> = nests left where the turtle laid the eggs)	
% of average hatching  <i>In situ</i> = nests left where the turtle laid the eggs % of hatching = total of hatchlings that hatched/total eggs  If the total of hatchlings hatches is not available % of hatching = total of shells/total of eggs  If the country uses another way to calculate % of hatching, please describe it	
% of average hatching in nests relocated using the following methods in the beaches monitored	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer those that apply with the %</li> <li>• If data is not available write "not available"</li> <li>• If the method is not used write "not applicable"</li> </ul>	
Hatcheries	
Boxes	
Same beach	
Other Which and percentage?	
Activities to control nest predation (choose all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Population control of feral, domestic, and introduced animals. <input type="checkbox"/> Protection mesh /screen <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> None
Activities to control nest poaching (choose all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Beach patrols by police authorities <input type="checkbox"/> Beach patrols by organized community groups <input type="checkbox"/> Nest relocation <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring and research during the nesting season <input type="checkbox"/> System to address environmental complains <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> None

## **Annex IX. Resolution on Fisheries**

### **Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7**

#### **Reduction of the Adverse Impacts of Fisheries on Sea Turtles**

**RECOGNIZING** that bycatch in fisheries is a considerable source of sea turtle mortality at sea, and the need for all IAC Parties to take and promote actions to reduce bycatch, including interactions and mortality, of these species in fishing operations;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that some Parties of the IAC Convention are also members of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), which have adopted measures to reduce the impact of fisheries on sea turtles, including the IATTC: Resolution (C-19-04) to Mitigate Impacts on Sea Turtles, noting also C-04-05 (Modified) of the year 2005, and C-04-07 of the year 2004; ICCAT: Recommendation on the Bycatch of Sea Turtles Amending Recommendation 10-09 (Rec. 13-11), Recommendation on the Bycatch of Sea Turtles in ICCAT Fisheries (Rec.10-09), and Resolution on Circle Hooks (Res. 05-08); WCPFC CCM 2018-04 Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles, and NAFO Resolution to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in NAFO Fishing Operations (NAFO/FC Doc. 06/7);

**TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION** that the above mentioned Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) report incidental capture of sea turtles and their mortality in fisheries;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that the Fisheries Committee (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) endorsed the Technical Consultation on sea turtle conservation and fisheries during their 26<sup>th</sup> session held in Rome in 2005, and urged their members and the RFMOs to immediately apply the recommendations outlined in the document “Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations”;

**CONSIDERING** that IAC Parties have established the mandatory use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) and other measures for shrimp trawling in their respective regulations and that the use of such devices and said measures has been effective in reducing incidental capture of sea turtles in trawl fisheries;

**CONSIDERING** that some of the Parties are carrying out experiments with circle hooks and baits in longline fisheries, that have shown to be effective in reducing incidental capture and mortality of sea turtles;

**CONSIDERING** that these actions are in line with the objective of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles;

**CONSIDERING** that in the IAC Annual Report, the Parties provide information on sea turtle bycatch in longline fleets operating in the IAC Area, with the goal of analyzing the impacts of longline bycatch, to inform the development of bycatch reduction recommendations to IAC Parties;

**BEARING IN MIND** the importance of non-Party States, especially those whose fishing fleets operate in the IAC area, to provide reliable and continuous data on sea turtle bycatch in their fisheries and

recognizing the effort of the Secretariat of the Convention in obtaining this data.

**THE 10<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES TO:**

**INCORPORATE** the “Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations”, of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to reduce the mortality of sea turtles in fisheries operations, and consider, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Scientific and Consultative Committees of the Convention.

**REITERATE** the importance of the IAC Parties to provide the information required in the data collection forms approved by the Scientific Committee and the Consultative Committee of Experts, that are included in the IAC Annual Report, with the purpose of obtaining quantitative information that allows for the measurement of the interactions and impacts of fishing gear on sea turtles.

**ENCOURAGE** all IAC Parties whose fisheries have interactions with sea turtles prioritize the following actions to monitor and mitigate sea turtle bycatch:

- a. Systematically collect statistically robust data to estimate sea turtle bycatch in fishing operations.
- b. Implement systematic data collection on stranded sea turtles to provide supplementary information on mortality sources.
- c. Establish and/or strengthen fishery monitoring programs to collect information on sea turtle bycatch through, if appropriate, on board observers and/or electronic monitoring.
- d. Implement and increase at port and/or community surveys, compilation of fisheries reports, and capacity development for the data collectors, in order to augment the fisheries monitoring programs, taking into consideration the financial and practical feasibility.
- e. Make efforts to implement or improve the application of mitigation measures to reduce sea turtle incidental capture and mortality in fisheries, based on the best scientific information available in agreement with each country’s regulations in place.
- f. Promote the establishment and evaluation of national programs for safe handling and release of bycaught sea turtles through capacity strengthening and training in the fishery sector based on the best practices to reduce the mortality of sea turtles.
- g. Promote research to identify new techniques and/or measures to reduce sea turtle bycatch and post-capture mortality of sea turtles in different fishing gears.
- h. Consider new research that evaluates post – capture mortality of sea turtles in different fishing gear.

**REQUEST** that the Scientific Committee and the Consultative Committee of Experts, in collaboration with the Secretariat and other IAC Parties, prepare standardized forms for data collection to be incorporated in the IAC Annual Report, define methodologies to measure the impacts of fisheries on sea turtles, and

provide recommendations as appropriate on the implementation of the measures. The Scientific Committee will prepare a report every five

(5) years with the fisheries information provided by IAC Parties in the Annual Report for consideration of the Parties.

**URGE** IAC Parties, and the Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee of Experts through the Secretariat, to work to identify opportunities for technical and financial collaboration to implement measures to help reduce the bycatch and mortality of sea turtles in fishing operations.

**SUPPORT** the Secretariat in commencing or continuing, with the participation of the Parties, discussions with regional fisheries management organizations, regional fishery bodies, international organizations, and other entities relevant to the work of the IAC, with the possibility of developing and signing Memoranda of Understanding.

This resolution repeals and replaces the IAC Resolution COP3/2006/R-2 Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles, in its entirety.

**Work Plan proposed the IAC Convention Legal Framework and Permanent Secretariat  
Working Group (Legal WG) 2021-2026**

**Introduction**

The IAC Convention Legal Framework and Permanent Secretariat Working Group (Legal WG) resumed activities in January 2021, with the participation of Brazil, Costa Rica, the United States, México, and Peru. Ecuador joined the group after presenting their request to be a member at the COP10.1 in June 2022.

The following Legal WG Work Plan was prepared throughout seven meetings held between 2021 and 2022. Some activities were presented to COP10.1, and have been completed since then. The Work Plan considers IAC Resolution CIT-COP4-2009-R2 intended to enhance the implementation of both the WG and the IAC Resolutions regarding the establishment and operation of the IAC Secretariat. The Legal WG tasks mainly deal with but are not limited to, strengthening communication, cooperation, and guidance to IAC Parties in the process for the establishment of a Secretariat, as in the IAC text.

Given the need to address the financial operation of the IAC discussed at COP10.1 a subgroup dealing with financial matters was formed at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Legal-WG (October 4, 2021) with the task of developing a financial strategy for the IAC. The strategy was discussed at the Legal WG 6<sup>th</sup> meeting (December 14, 2021) and it is included in Annex I of this document. The activities to implement the strategy were included in the Work Plan (Number 2.8).

The Work Plan activities completed to this date May 2022 are highlighted in green. New activities included since the COP10.1 are in yellow.

**Recommendation to IAC COP10.2:** To include in the IAC Work Plan the activities of the Legal – WG that have been identified since IAC COP10.1.

**IAC Convention Legal Framework and Permanent Secretariat Working Group  
Work Plan 2021-2026**

Tasks	Reference	Responsible	Status
1. Elect Legal WG chair for the timeframe until the next IAC COP	Legal WG 2nd meeting	Legal WG, supported by Secretariat PT	Completed The Chair is Costa Rica
2. Adopt a task list/work plan and review it before each COP. Include the task list in COP Workplan.	2nd, 3rd, and 4th meeting of legal WG	Legal WG, supported by Secretariat PT	Completed
2.1. Propose deleting the qualifier <i>Pro Tempore</i> from the Resolution on the Secretariat hosting and the Secretary contract to be discussed at the COP10.			June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2021- Recommendation adopted at COP10.1  Completed
2.2. Analyze the relevance of deleting the word “voluntary” from the Resolution text referring to the contributions, as the term is not included in the IAC Text (Finances Resolution).			June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2021- Recommendation adopted at COP10.1  Completed
2.3 Prepare a new text for the footnote in Annex III of the Finances Resolution CIT-COP10-2021-R2 adopted at the COP10.1 to present it to the COP10.2 in 2022.	Requested by COP10.1	Legal WG	June 2022, COP 10.2 Request and extension
2.4 Prepare a list of advantages and disadvantages of having a legal status, analyzing existing reports from the Legal WG (2014-2015).		Brazil – IAC Secretariat	Report prepared by Brazil and the Secretariat – Presented in October 2021 to the Legal WG. Completed
2.5. Analyze the possibility of a change in the amount of the current minimum contribution to be adopted from COP12 applicable.			To analyze at the COP12 - 2026

Tasks	Reference	Responsible	Status
2.6 Work on strengthening financial funds raised from the membership to support the IAC operation. Form a working subgroup on financial matters. working subgroup.	5 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Legal WG	Legal WG	Working group formed in October 2021. Completed
2.7. Finance working subgroup will prepare the first draft of their working strategy	5 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Legal WG	Legal WG	By December 2021, the working group identified and analyzed financial options for the IAC operational sustainability. The finance subgroup coordinator presented the first draft of the work strategy for feedback  Completed
2.8. Execution of the finances working subgroup strategy	6 <sup>th</sup> meeting of Legal WG	Legal WG	90% of the activities proposed have been fulfilled by 2026.
<b>2.8.1. Actions to improve fundraising for financial contributions:</b>			
a. Letter from the Secretariat and the COP Chair to Focal Points urging countries to work internally to make contributions.		IAC Secretary/ Chair of the COP10.2	The letter will be sent to Focal Points by 2022, before COP10.2.
b. Coordinate follow-up meetings with the Focal Points that received the letter for inquiries related to contributions.		IAC Secretariat	At least one meeting per country has been coordinated by 2024



Tasks	Reference	Responsible	Status
<b>2.8.2. Actions to improve raising of in-kind contributions:</b>			
a. Identify and prioritize the activities for the IAC operation that require funding and that could be provided in kind		IAC Secretariat	By 2022, there is a detailed listing of activities for the IAC operation
b. Send a letter to the IAC Focal Points, inquiring about the possibility of funding any of the activities on the above-mentioned list.		IAC Secretariat/ COP11 Chair	<p>Before each COP, the IAC Secretariat will send a letter inquiring the Parties about their support in hosting the next COP.</p> <p>After each COP, a letter will be sent to the IAC Focal Points asking for their in-kind /financial support to carry out for other activities or projects.</p> <p>Keep a record of activities with and without funding.</p>
<b>2.8.3. Raising funds from other sources</b>			
a. Identify potential donors.			By 2022, coordinate a meeting with the CCE delegates to determine a strategy to get resources, according to with the activities proposed (a,b,c,d,e)
b. Prepare and present project proposals: suggest the IAC Focal Points to include the IAC in funding proposals already allocated, or in funding about to be allocated, within the countries. Establish a person responsible for monitoring fundraising from other sources.			
c. Work with the Consultative Committee of Experts private sector of the Advisory to secure support for IAC activities.			
d. Identify new strategic partnerships that will be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding			
e. Within the framework of the MoU, identify activities in place that support the fulfillment of the IAC objectives.			

Tasks	Reference	Responsible	Status
<b>2.8.4 Analyze the feasibility of increasing the annual contributions to the IAC.</b>			
a. Study to determine the % to increase IAC contributions.		IAC Finances Subgroup	By 2024, prepare a study about increasing the IAC minimum contribution. By March 2025, present the results of the study to the CCE
b. Consult IAC Parties on the feasibility of increasing their country's contribution.			By 2026, the proposed Finance Resolution is submitted to the CCE, and IAC Parties are consulted.
c. If the outcome of the previous consultation is positive, the Legal WG will draft the IAC finances resolution including the updated contributions to the IAC.			By 2026, there is a draft Finances Resolution ready to present to the COP12.
3. Report on the implementation of the task list at each COP.	Progress report	Legal WG	By June 2022, a progress report is presented to the COP10.2
4. Prepares a letter of support from IAC Parties to the United States IAC Focal Point regarding the extension of hosting of IAC Secretary PT in USA FWS from June 2021 to Dec 2025. This letter was sent by IAC COP Chair to IAC Focal Points.	1st meeting of legal WG	Legal WG	Completed
5. Prepares draft resolution for IAC COP10 regarding the hosting and operation of the Secretariat PT and the contract of the Secretary 2021- 2025	2nd meeting of Legal WG	Legal WG	Completed
6. Submit a proposed Resolution to the COP11 (2024) on the Extension of the US-based Secretariat, including language for the Secretariat to continue being hosted by the USFWS in the USA, with a simpler mechanism for extension or renewal	5 <sup>th</sup> meeting of Legal WG	Legal WG	By December 2023 there is a proposed Resolution to be submitted to the CCE in 2024.

Tasks	Reference	Responsible	Status
<b>Legal WG communication and coordination</b>			
7. Convene meetings of the Legal WG before COP to report progress on the tasks.	4 meetings before the COP10. 1 27Jan 2021 24Feb 2021 17Mar2021 12May2021 3 meetings before the COP 10.2 04Oct2021 14Dec2021 03May2022	Legal WG Chair supported by Secretariat	Completed
8. Preparing the meetings written reports.	7 meetings minutes	Legal WG Chair	Completed
9. Exchange and discuss information relevant to the Legal WG.		Legal WG	
<b>Recommendations to IAC Parties</b>			
9. Jointly prepare draft resolutions as pertinent.	Resolutions presented at IAC COP10.1	Legal WG	Completed at COP10.1
10. Members of the Working Group present any relevant materials at the IAC COP meetings.	June 1st Informative document submitted to COP10.1	Legal WG, Secretariat	Completed

**ANNEX**  
**Report from the IAC Working Group on Financial Matters**

Date: 14. December. 2021

WG Participants: Rotney Piedra (Costa Rica), Victor Chocho (Ecuador), Alejandra Paz y Joaquín Correa (Perú), Joao Thome (Brazil), and Secretaría CIT

Following the implementation of the recommendation at the 5<sup>th</sup> IAC Legal WG meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup> 2021, the WG on Financial matters was established with the following task: prepare a report /proposal including: The WG objectives and a strategy to carry out its activities, the WG report is to be presented to the IAC -Legal WG for feedback. The WG report was discussed and edits were made on December 14<sup>th</sup> at the meeting with the IAC Legal Working Group, and it was adopted.

**Objectives of the WG on Financial Matters:**

**Objective 1:** present to the Legal-WG and COP, specific proposals on financial and related aspects to help define/strengthen the financial future of the operation of the IAC, taking into account Article VI numeral 2 of the IAC Text that establishes that "The Parties shall define the financing mechanisms necessary for the Secretariat to perform its functions, Article XIII of IAC Text, Financial resources of the Convention, for Parties to review and support the urgent need for financial resources for the operation of the Convention itself and its Secretariat.

**Objective 2:** Taking into account Resolution COP3/2006/R-5, the WG should consider providing a strategy with specific proposals on the following: • Financial mechanisms to provide resources to the Special Fund of the IAC, including contributions from Parties and other resources from other sources. • Based on financial availability, analyze the budget and resources necessary to carry out planned activities. • Specific analysis of needed resources by type of activity; among others on the establishment of a permanent Secretariat, support to Member Country, and requirements for concrete actions in the Work Plan of the IAC Committees, and meetings of the IAC subsidiary bodies. Propose to the IAC membership options to make in-kind contributions/money (while countries find the mechanism to make their annual contribution to the IAC) that will address the IAC's operation expenses. Resolution of 2006 in this link: <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP3CT/COP3-2006-R5-Res.Finance-group.pdf>

**Work Strategy of the Finances WG:**

Mechanisms for providing financial resources to the IAC Special Fund:

- (a) Contributions of IAC Parties in money
- (b) Contributions from IAC Parties in kind
- (c) To obtain resources from other sources
- (d) Analyze the possibility of increasing annual contributions to the IAC special fund. The table of current contributions is in the Resolution for Finances 2021 in this link:

[http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP10CIT/CIT-COP10-2021-R2\\_Finances\\_2022-2024\\_30.Jun.21\\_ENG\\_ADOPTED\\_Web.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP10CIT/CIT-COP10-2021-R2_Finances_2022-2024_30.Jun.21_ENG_ADOPTED_Web.pdf)

#### Items needed for the Operation of IAC

- Contract of Secretariat staff (2 people)
- Translations for meetings and documents
- Communications, maintenance of the IAC website, and IAC online report
- Travel expenses
- Cost of IAC Meetings: COP (One meeting every 2 years), IAC Subsidiary Bodies (2 meetings each year). The costs of the meetings include: Transportation Airfare tickets, lodging, and food for 25 people, rental of a meeting room for 3 days, rental of sound equipment, and simultaneous interpretation, among others.
- Administrative Overhead: National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

#### IAC Current Operation expenses

- IAC budget adopted at COP10 Financial resolution in this link: [http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP10CIT/CIT-COP10-2021-R2\\_Finances\\_2022-2024\\_30.Jun.21\\_ENG\\_ADOPTED\\_Web.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP10CIT/CIT-COP10-2021-R2_Finances_2022-2024_30.Jun.21_ENG_ADOPTED_Web.pdf)
- Current Resources – IAC Financial Report prepared by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation was sent to IAC Focal Points in June 2021.
- Grant Contributions/ USFWS-USA Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (MTCF) Grant secured by the IAC Secretariat, for the implementation of IAC operations – Annex I Table with IAC membership contributions and MTCF funds (in blue) for the year 2010-2021.

## **Recommendations for each Financial Mechanism**

### Contribution of IAC Parties in money

Actions to improve the receipt of financial contributions from IAC members that have not contributed to the IAC Special Fund.

a) Letter from the Secretariat and COP Chair to the Focal Points of countries that have not contributed to date, referring to the changes to the text of the new finances resolution. The letter urges the country to work internally to provide the contributions from now on. The letter should be sent before COP10.2 - 2022. The WG agreed to prepare a draft letter to be shared with the Legal WG for feedback by January 2022.

b) Coordinate follow-up meetings with the Focal Points that received the letter to address questions related to contributions.

### Contributions from IAC Parties in kind

a) Identification and prioritization of the activities of the IAC operation that require financing that could be provided in kind.

Preliminary List - IAC Expenses with which the Parties could collaborate in kind in addition to their annual contribution:

- Costs of IAC Meetings: COP (One meeting every 2 years), and Subsidiary Bodies (2 meetings each year). The costs of the meetings include: Transportation Airfare tickets, lodging, and food for 25 people, rental of a meeting room for 3 days, rental of sound equipment, and simultaneous interpretation, among others.
- Simultaneous interpretation for meetings
- IAC documents translation for meetings
- IAC Website and Online Report Platform maintenance.
- Contract consultants / preparing technical documents as needed by the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committee.
- Participation of IAC in relevant meetings of the organizations that IAC has a Memorandum of Understanding.

b) Send a letter to the Focal Points of IAC countries, asking if they can contribute by financing any of the activities of the previous list, in follow-up to what is indicated in Resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R1. This letter should be sent before COP10.2 – 2022 so that countries have the possibility to offer support to the 2022 IAC meetings.

Resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R1 provides recommendations to IAC Parties for in-kind contributions, Link to the Resolution below

[http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP9CIT/CIT-COP9-2019-R1\\_Financial\\_Guidelines\\_Adopted.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/resolucionesCOP9CIT/CIT-COP9-2019-R1_Financial_Guidelines_Adopted.pdf)

To obtain resources from other sources (financial and in-kind)

a) Identify potential donors.

b) Prepare and present project proposals: it is suggested to the Focal Points to include IAC activities in their project proposals that are in execution, or that are about to be awarded- for Example, GEF projects, IKI among others, and the identification of regional projects that require multilateral participation to access funds. It is recommended to work with the sectorial members of the Consultative Committee of Experts of the NGO sector, to prepare project proposals. It is recommended that at IAC COP 10.2 when the appointment of sectoral members takes place, they be informed that their support is expected for the preparation of project proposals for donors. A coordination meeting with NGO delegates from the Consultative Committee is recommended afterward to determine the strategy to prepare project proposals.

Implement a strategy to work with NGOs that do not participate in the Consultative Committee of Experts, but that have relevant cooperation with IAC countries Example: CI, WILDAID, etc., to work with them within the framework of projects that they are carrying out in the member countries of IAC that are relevant to sea turtles.

For this, it is important to define a person in charge of monitoring the strategy obtention of resources from other sources.

c) Support with the private sector: it is recommended to work with the private sector of the Consultative Committee to seek support in the IAC activities. A coordination meeting with private sector delegates from the Consultative Committee is recommended after their nomination at CO10.2 to agree on a strategy.

d) Identify new strategic alliances through Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) in support of IAC operations and to achieve IAC objectives.

e) Identify within the framework of the MoU in place (CPPS, RAMSAR, IATTC, OSPESCA, ACAP) activities that support the objectives of the IAC. It is recommended that the COP, Consultative and Scientific Committees identify activities according to the work plans of IAC and those of the aforementioned organizations, to execute joint work, strengthen alliances and optimize resources. It is recommended that the IAC Focal Points encourage the implementation of the activities within the framework of the other Conventions of which their country is a member. (These could be in-kind contributions)

Analyze the possibility of increasing annual contributions to IAC

a) Study to determine the % increase in the contribution to IAC, considering that the current contribution dates from 2009, and is insufficient to maintain the current operation of the IAC (see contributions in Annex I). From this study, a new proposal of contributions by country should be proposed. Include in this study the periodicity for the increase in the contributions, and that the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation will be asking for an increase in their administrative overhead, and this has to be addressed. It is necessary for a volunteer who can perform this study

and provide this calculation. The Financial WG (Ecuador, Perú, Costa Rica, and Brazil) will follow up with this strategy and will report to IAC COP on the situation.

b) Consult IAC Parties, based on the recommendation of the previous study, on the feasibility of an increase in their country's contribution.

c) If the previous consultation brings a positive result, the Legal-WG will draft the IAC finance resolution with the updated contributions for consideration at IAC COP in 2024.

*Additional Recommendations:*

- The IAC Financial Working Group (Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, and Brazil) will invite members outside the IAC Legal – Working Group to join the WG. The work of this WG will be presented at the Consultative Committee to use the opportunity to invite other members.
- It is important to focus on the first strategy in this report to try collecting the financial contributions of all IAC Parties.
- The Financial WG will follow up on the implementation of objectives and the strategy in this report to report to IAC COP on the situation.
- It was agreed to include on the COP10.2 agenda a presentation of the report from the Legal-WG and the Financial WG.



**Annex I: Financial Support for implementation of IAC operations with support from IAC Parties and MTCF – USFWS**  
**IAC PARTIES CONTRIBUTIONS 2010-2021 AND GOALS 2021 (\$US Dollars)**

N/A: The Country was not a member yet

Contribuciones recibidas/IAC Parties Contributions Received													TOTAL	Contributi on Goal
Member Country	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		2021
Argentina	N/A												\$ 0.00	\$ 2,000.00
Belize													\$ 0.00	\$ 3,500.00
Brazil													\$ 0.00	\$ 7,056.00
Costa Rica			4,238.70	2,013.21	1,797.35	2,055.97	1,904.33	1,937.69	1,997.87	1,891.99	2,096.0	1,976.00	<b>\$ 21,909.20</b>	\$ 2,000.00
Chile		16,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00			8,000.00	<b>\$ 80,000.00</b>	\$ 8,000.00
Dominican Republic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		2,000.00			5,903.21	<b>\$ 7,903.21</b>	\$ 2,000.00
Ecuador													\$ 0.00	\$ 2,000.00
Guatemala													\$ 0.00	\$ 2,000.00
Honduras	1,915.00	1,986.3		1,890.00	1,930.00	2,048.61			2,158.00	8,700.		2,340.00	<b>\$ 22,968.00</b>	\$ 2,000.00
Mexico	\$ 15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000.	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	<b>\$ 180,000.00</b>	\$ 15,000.00
The Netherlands		4,970						\$ 29,980	\$ 4,980	\$ 4,980	\$ 4,980	\$ 4,980	<b>\$ 54,870.00</b>	\$ 5,000.00
Curacao													\$ 0.00	\$ 5,000.00
St Marteen													\$ 0.00	\$ 5,000.00
Panamá					\$ 10,000		\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000		\$ 4,000	\$ 2,000		<b>\$ 24,000.00</b>	\$ 2,000.00
Perú													\$ 0.00	\$ 2,000.00
The United States	113,200	125,000	178,000	\$ 95,000	153,802	150,000	\$ 150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	156,818.	125,000.	<b>1,696,820</b>	\$ 65,000.00
Uruguay													\$ 0.00	\$ 2,928.00
Venezuela													\$ 0.00	\$ 3,653.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>130,115</b>	<b>162,956.39</b>	<b>205,238.70</b>	<b>121,903.21</b>	<b>190,529.35</b>	<b>177,104.58</b>	<b>178,904.33</b>	<b>208,917.69</b>	<b>184,135.87</b>	<b>184,571.99</b>	<b>180,894.09</b>	<b>158,219.21</b>	<b>2,083,490.41</b>	<b>136,137.00</b>

Grants/Subvenciones obtenidas por la Secretaría de CIT 2010-2021

<b>MTCF FWS/USA</b>	<b>26,000</b>	<b>68,435</b>		<b>\$ 24,310</b>	<b>\$ 92,700</b>	<b>43,636</b>	<b>16,818.00</b>	<b>\$ 24,716</b>	<b>\$ 52,409</b>	<b>48,034</b>	<b>\$ 59,794</b>	<b>\$ 70,432</b>	<b>\$ 542,874.00</b>	
<b>CITES_CIT</b>				<b>\$ 12,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,590</b>									

**Memorandum of Understanding**

**Between the Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and the Secretariat of the Sargasso Sea Commission**

**Background**

This proposal for a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was prepared by the Secretariat of the Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC). The format of this proposed MoU closely follows MOUs adopted by the IAC with other international bodies. The proposed MoU presents an opportunity for the IAC to formalize the technical collaboration with the Sargasso Sea Commission, taking into consideration that both bodies successfully worked together in the past and produced a technical document “Concept Note on the Importance of Sargassum and the Sargasso Sea for Atlantic Sea Turtles” (2014). The proposed MoU was edited at the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts, where the CCE recommended to be considered by IAC COP10. This document includes edits received from Argentina.

**Recommendation to the IAC COP10:**

1. Consider the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between IAC and SSC and provide the COP decision on the matter to IAC Secretariat.

**Reference Document:**

Concept Note on the Importance of Sargassum and the Sargasso Sea for Atlantic Sea Turtles

<http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/tecnicos/Mar-Sargasos-Tortugas%20Marinas-ing.pdf>

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

### **Between the Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and the Secretariat of the Sargasso Sea Commission**

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into by and between the Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (hereinafter “IAC”), and the Secretariat of the Sargasso Sea Commission (hereinafter “SSC”), jointly called “the Participants”;

WHEREAS, that the objective of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) is to promote the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and the habitats on which they depend, based on the best available scientific evidence, taking into account the environmental, socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the IAC Parties;

WHEREAS, the mandate of the Sargasso Sea Commission, established pursuant to the 2014 Hamilton Declaration on Collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea (the “Hamilton Declaration”) is to exercise a stewardship role for the Sargasso Sea and keep its health, productivity and resilience under continual review, in collaboration with all who share a vision for the protection of the marine ecosystem of the Sargasso Sea;

UNDERSTANDING that, based on the best available scientific data, species of sea turtles in the Americas are threatened or endangered and that some of these species could face an imminent risk of extinction;

AWARE that the feeding and other habitats of some sea turtle species coincide with areas in the Sargasso Sea that are within the geographical area of collaboration defined by the Hamilton Declaration and that those habitats may be subject to activities that could cause a negative impact on habitat conservation or negatively affect sea turtles from performing their unique role in marine ecosystems;

RECALLING that Article XII of the IAC text states that the IAC “Parties shall promote bilateral and multilateral cooperative activities to further the objective of this Convention”;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Sargasso Sea Commission is mandated to promote collaboration and to keep the health, productivity, and resilience of the high sea ecosystem of the Sargasso Sea under review and that it seeks, wherever appropriate, to cooperate with competent international or regional bodies;

NOTING that two of the Contracting Parties to the IAC are also Signatories to the Hamilton Declaration;

Considering the desire of both Participants to formalize their relationship for working together towards the conservation and sustainable use of sea areas containing habitats vital

for sea turtles and to maintain such area's biodiversity and health, both Participants undertake to strengthen their co-operation in the spirit of an efficient and effective partnership as follows:

## **I. Objective**

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter "Memorandum") is to provide a framework for collaboration in the work of the IAC and the Sargasso Sea Commission in order to promote, within their respective mandates, the more effective conservation of sea turtle species and the habitats that they utilize and upon which they depend, as well to promote the dissemination of the best available scientific evidence regarding their important ecosystem role.

## **II. Areas of Cooperation**

The activities to be undertaken under this Memorandum will be set out in a joint work plan elaborated by both Secretariats and subject to applicable approvals. The work plan is to be reviewed to assess progress and make adjustments as needed and may, amongst others, include:

(a) Regular exchange of information on relevant activities and actions of the IAC and the Sargasso Sea Commission set out in the joint work plan that are of mutual interest and benefit as well as exchange of information, databases, and other materials to enable early detection of threats to sea turtles and to facilitate the necessary studies and analyses to identify measures for the mitigation of such threats, issues and needs;

(b) Cooperation and mutual support, where appropriate and practical, in the collection of data and relevant information; including activities such as:

- a. exchanging reports of meetings of relevance to each other;
- b. sharing relevant contacts for scientific research and training.

(c) Co-ordination and collaboration in the development of joint programs and projects on issue of mutual interest and concern, and working together to mobilize resources for implementing such programs and projects;

(d) Support each other in promotion, outreach, and communications activities of mutual interest;

(e) Informing, and inviting each other's participation, as appropriate, in scheduled meetings, studies, field visits to sites, the design, organization and carrying out of training programs, public awareness, education and information dissemination activities, and other activities to promote the awareness of the synergies between

the work of the two bodies. The results of the joint collaborative activities carried out within the framework of this MOU may be published or used with the consent of the Participants.

### **III. Review, modification and discontinuation**

The Memorandum may be reviewed at the request of either Participant. Any modification must be in writing by mutual decision of both Participants.

The Memorandum may be discontinued, unilaterally by either Participant upon giving advance notice of 90 days (3 months).

### **IV. Legal Status**

This Memorandum is not intended to be binding under international law. Nothing in this Memorandum is intended to constitute a legal or financial obligation.

### **V. Disagreements**

Both Participants intend to resolve, by mutual decision and negotiation any disagreement that may be generated in the interpretation and/or application of this Memorandum.

### **VI. Effective Date**

This Memorandum is to take effect upon the date of the signatures of the Secretary of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and the Executive Secretary of the Sargasso Sea Commission.

Signed in duplicate in the English and Spanish languages at [location] on [date], both texts being equally authentic.

Secretary

IAC

Executive Secretary

SSC

## **MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION**

**between**

### **THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES AND STETSON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW**

#### **Background**

This proposal for a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) is presented by Stetson University College of Law. The format of this MoC is similar to other MoC adopted between the IAC and other bodies. This draft has been reviewed and edited by the IAC Secretariat, this collaboration has been recommended by the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts for the consideration of the COP10. Stetson University College of Law has cooperated with the IAC since 2011 through their Institute for Biodiversity. Stetson has hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> Consultative Committee Meeting (2014), and the 14<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee Meeting in 2019. Students from Stetson's College of Law have supported research on legal instruments regarding sea turtles, and are accredited observers of the IAC, participating in several meetings. The Memorandum of Cooperation will provide the foundation for the Institute for Biodiversity of the University of Stetson College of Law to continue supporting the IAC and its Secretariat on issues such as support with consultations on matters requiring legal experience, support with future research, and hosting IAC conferences and meetings. This relationship will contribute to further the IAC objectives and will benefit Stetson's students who will have the opportunity to observe and learn how an environmental regional agreement operates.

**Note:** The document includes edits from the United States and Costa Rica delegation.

#### **Recommendation to the IAC 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties:**

1. Consider the University of Stetson proposal on a Memorandum of Cooperation with the IAC and inform its decision on the matter to the IAC Secretariat.

**PROPOSAL OF MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION**

**between**

**THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE  
PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES AND  
STETSON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW**

The Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (hereafter IAC) and Stetson University College of Law (hereafter SUCOL) (hereafter jointly called “the Participants”),

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that the objective of the IAC is to promote the protection, conservation, and recovery of sea turtle populations and the habitats on which they depend, based on the best available scientific evidence, taking into account the environmental, socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the IAC Parties;

**RECALLING** that Article XII of the IAC text states that “Parties shall promote bilateral and multilateral cooperative activities to further the objective of this Convention”;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that one of SUCOL’s core values is environmental responsibility and that this value is supported through its Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy, which serves as an interdisciplinary focal point for education, research, and service activities related to global, regional, and local biodiversity issues;

**RECOGNIZING** that SUCOL has contributed significantly to the work of the IAC Convention since 2011 and has hosted the meetings of the two IAC subsidiary bodies, including the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts and the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee, and recognizing further that SUCOL students, faculty, and staff have supported the work of the IAC Secretariat, by collecting a digital archive of the laws and regulations of all IAC Parties that are relevant to sea turtles, and that this information is currently available on the IAC web site;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** SUCOL’s extensive experience contributing to other international entities, such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, through research and analysis of their implementation, and further acknowledging that SUCOL hosts every year the Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition, which highlights global environmental challenges including those associated with sea turtles, as it was the case in

2013–2014 when the competition focused on the topic of exceptions based on the IAC and the IAC Secretary served as a final round judge;

**NOTING** that IAC and SUCOL recognize the importance of integrating law and policy considerations into sea turtle conservation efforts;

**RECOGNIZING** that IAC and SUCOL will benefit from cooperation and collaboration in areas of mutual interest, and that this cooperation will enhance the conservation of sea turtles and their habitats;

**DESIRING** to put in place mechanisms to promote cooperation and enhance synergies and partnerships to achieve common goals;

**Therefore, the IAC Secretariat and SUCOL JOINTLY agree to the following:**

## **I. OBJECTIVE OF THIS MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION**

The objective of this Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) is to facilitate cooperation between the IAC and SUCOL (“the Participants”) with a view to supporting efforts to maintain a favorable conservation status of sea turtles by integrating law, policy, and science considerations.

## **II. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

The IAC and SUCOL intend to cooperate and collaborate on areas of common interest that are directly or indirectly relevant to the recovery and conservation of sea turtles, which may amongst others include:

- (a) SUCOL faculty, staff, Biodiversity Fellows, and other SUCOL students working under the direction of Stetson faculty to conduct research related to sea turtle conservation, law, and policy, and compiling a periodic bibliography of scientific articles discussing the IAC or sea turtle related management and policies;
- (b) SUCOL advising on IAC Resolutions, including draft Resolutions, and analysis of their implementation by the Parties;
- (c) Hosting IAC Meetings at SUCOL, and participation of SUCOL students, faculty, and staff in IAC meetings as observers;
- (d) IAC Secretariat staff delivering guest lectures to SUCOL students;



- (e) IAC Secretariat and SUCOL providing each other with details of their annual work plans to identify possible areas of collaboration.

The extent to which the joint collaboration and conservation activities are implemented will be subject to the availability of resources.

### **III. REVIEW AND MODIFICATION**

The implementation and results of this MoC may be evaluated every five (5) years to define actions for improvement, and it may be reviewed or modified at any time by the mutual written consent of both Participants. The modifications are to be done in writing, specifying the date they become effective.

### **IV. LEGAL STATUS**

The Participants acknowledge that this MoC is not legally binding between them.

### **V. EFFECTIVE DATE AND DISCONTINUATION**

- (a) Either Participant may discontinue this MoC by giving six months' written notice to the other Participant.
- (b) This MoC takes effect on signature on behalf of both Participants.

### **VI. SIGNATURE**

Signed at the [city, country], on the [day] of [month] [year] in four originals, in English and Spanish languages, both texts equally authentic.

Verónica Cáceres Chamorro  
Secretary  
IAC Secretariat

Dean & Professor of Law  
Stetson University College of Law

## Annex XII. Work Plans

### IAC SECRETARIAT WORK PLAN 2022-2024

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
<b>IAC MEMBERSHIP</b>				
IAC Secretariat	Increase IAC membership	1) Continue efforts to achieve ratification of new Parties to the IAC and report on the progress to COP. 2) Send IAC informative bulletin to non-Party countries. 3) Invite non-Party countries to the Conference of the Parties and IAC's committee meetings. 4) Attend meetings of regional organizations to share information about the IAC, and networking with non-Party country representatives 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

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 with non-member countries identified (Nicaragua, Colombia, El Salvador, Canada, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and France - French Guiana, Guadeloupe and Martinique) to encourage their ratification. 2) Identify new countries for outreach. 3) IAC Focal Points consider carrying out parallel events within the framework of other meetings to talk about the IAC.	Increased IAC membership.	Permanent
<b>COMMUNICATION AND TRAINING</b>				
IAC Secretariat, Scientific and Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC's website and Informative Bulletin Communication and Training	1) On a monthly basis, the Focal Points and the Committees delegates will send relevant news to the Secretariat to include them in the IAC Bulletin. 2) Countries will share outreach material on Sea Turtle Day activities and other events with the Secretariat. 3) Continue with implementation of the IAC communication strategy with Costa Rica.	1) IAC's website updated with relevant news and an IAC Bulletin available every three months. 2) IAC countries outreach material repository. 3) Communication strategy designed by Costa Rica.	Permanent
IAC Secretariat, Parties	Communication	1) Publish and disseminate the recommendations and decisions adopted at the COP.	1) Report COP10 available on IAC web site.	2021-2022

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
<b>COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS</b>				
IAC Secretariat	Collaboration with international organizations and strategic partnerships	1) Promote collaborative work 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 objective. 3) Prepare draft MoU (when needed). 4) The Secretary 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. Signed: MoU ICCAT (2022) and renewal MoU Ramsar (2020) 3) To be signed in 2022: Renewal MoU with ACAP, MoU Sargassum Commission, MoC Stetson University	2022
Secretariat, Committees, Parties	Collaboration with international organizations and strategic alliances	1) Promote activities with organizations that have signed MOUs with the IAC and other multilateral agreements. 2) Assist in preparing technical documents and joint publications. 3) Attend technical meetings and workshops.	1) Technical documents and joint publications available on IAC web site to promote information exchange, and lessons learned. 2) Report to IAC Committees and COP on implementation of Phase 1 and 2 of the EP Leatherback EASI-Fish project with the IATTC.	1) Permanent 2) 2022
Secretariat, Committees, Parties	Collaboration with international organizations and strategic alliances	Promote the celebration of World Sea Turtle Day June 16th each year.	1) Activities in celebration of World Sea Turtle Day carried out by each IAC Party. 2) World Sea Turtle Day 2022 and 2023 jointly celebrated with CPPS.	1) Permanent 2) 2022-2023
<b>FINANCIAL RESOURCES</b>				

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
Committees, Parties	Financial Resources	1) Identify external funding for projects and activities identified by the IAC Scientific Committee and/or the Consultative Committee as high priority.	1) Funding for projects available.	Permanent
Secretariat, Committees, Parties, Legal working group or interested NGOs	Financial Resources	1) Prepare and negotiate project proposals. 2) Implementation of funded projects and activities. 3) Prepare reports of projects implemented.	1) Funding proposal presented to potential sponsors. 2) Technical and financial reports presented in a timely manner to the funding agencies.	2022-2024
<b>ORGANIZATION OF MEETINGS</b>				
Secretariat, Chairs of COP and Committees	Meetings organization	Organize the COPs and Committees Meetings, as well as meetings of working groups established.	COP (Bi- annual), Consultative Committee CCE (annual), and Scientific Committee SC (annual).	2022-2024
<b>PERMANENT SECRETARIAT</b>				
Legal Working Group, Parties	Permanent Secretariat	1) Support activities for the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat and support to the IAC Legal Working Group. 2) Report updates on this process to COP11.	1) Permanent Secretariat established. 2) Progress report presented to COP11	1) Ongoing 2) 2024
Legal Working Group, Parties	Financial Sustainability	The sub group on finances will implement the strategy to fund the IAC operation. Activities include analyzing annual contributions, raising in-kind resources, and fundraising of pending contributions from Parties.	The IAC operation is financially covered and does not need external sources of funding.	2022-2026
<b>COP RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
Secretariat, 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.	2022-2024
<b>IAC ANNUAL REPORT</b>				
IAC Parties	IAC Annual Report	1) Each Party sends the Secretariat its Annual Report each year. 2) IAC Parties will send their pending Annual Reports when applicable.	IAC Online Report submitted by the Parties.	Permanent
Secretariat and Parties	IAC Annual Report	1) IAC Secretariat will continue to work with WCMC to manage the online report platform. 2) Support IAC Parties with the use of the online report platform.	IAC Annual Reports are available on the IAC website to be analyzed by the Committees.	Permanent
<b>WORK PLAN</b>				
Secretariat, Committees, Parties	Work Plan	1) Prepare a biennial work plan.	1) Secretariat and subsidiary bodies biennial work plan updated with activities, timetable, and responsible approved at COP	2022-2024
Secretariat and IAC COP Chair	Implementation of Work Plan	2) Prepare report on the implementation of the work plan for the Secretariat and Committees presented at COPs.	2) Report on implementation of the Work Plan 2022, 2023, and 2024 presented to COP11.	Permanent

## PLAN DE TRABAJO DEL COMITÉ CIENTÍFICO 2022-2024

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Results	Time Frame
<b>EXCEPTIONS</b>				
Exceptions WG	Assessment of Panama, Costa Rica and Guatemala exception management plan every five years.	1) The Exceptions WG prepare a form to assess each country exception management plan every five years. The assessment form is presented in 2022 to the SC19.	1) Form to assess the exception management plan in every country, approved by the SC and agreed with the countries with exceptions.	1) 2022-2023
Panama and Guatemala	Exception Management Plan	2) Panama and Guatemala presents their exception management plan to the IAC Scientific Committee according to Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R3 and CIT-COP10-2022-R4 no later than June 2025.-Progress report presented as needed	2) Exception Management Plan Guatemala and Panama Progress report presented to SC19 and SC20 (2022 and 2023)	1) 2022-2025 2) 2022 and 2023
<b>IAC WEBSITE AND NEWS BULLETIN</b>				
Scientific Committee, and Secretariat	IAC website and news bulletin	1) Every month, the SC will provide news relevant to IAC Parties to the Secretary for the IAC News Bulletin.	1) Updated news in the IAC website, and regular publication of the IAC's News Bulletin	Permanent
<b>FISHERIES</b>				
Fisheries WG	Interactions with industrial longline fisheries	1) Analysis of observer data on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longlines based on IAC Annual Report data from 2020-2025. Responsible: Mexico - Dr. Heriberto Santana.	1) Recommendations from the SC regarding interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline (2020-2025). 2) Report and recommendations presented to the COP.	1) 2022-2025

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Results	Time Frame
		2) Present Report to COP with data from annual reports (2020 -2025)		
Fisheries WG SC and CCE	Interactions with gillnets	3) The SC and CCE Fisheries WG Will develop a proposal to include information on interactions between sea turtles and gillnets in the IAC Annual Report.	3) Proposal to the Scientific and Consultative committees to include information on interactions between sea turtles and gillnets in IAC Annual Report according to the Resolution on Fisheries CIT-COP10-2022-R7	3) 2022-2023
Fisheries WG SC and CCE (Uruguay and Brazil)	Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7; IAC Annual Report	4) Prepare questions to follow up on implementation of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 in IAC Annual Report	4) Questions in IAC Annual Report to follow up with implementation of fisheries resolution.	2022-2023
Fisheries WG; Ecuador's delegate	Manual for best practices for safe handling and release for sea turtles that interact with fishing gear	5) Prepare IAC Manual for best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles that interact with fishing gear.	5) Preliminary version of the IAC Manual on best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles incidentally captured in fisheries, for review by the Scientific Committee in 2022.	5) SC19 - 2022
<b>CONSERVATION STATUS IN INDEX NESTING BEACHES</b>				
Nesting Beaches WG (Coordinator Jeff Seminoff USA, Ecuador and Secretariat)	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	1) Technical Document IAC Index Beach Data Analysis 2009-2022 using the latest data from IAC Annual Report 2023, to present to the Scientific Committee (2023) and the COP.	1) SC20 -2023



Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Results	Time Frame
		Index Beaches is updated every 5 years. Next update in 2023.		
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>				
Climate Change WG (Coordinator Julia Horrocks Caribbean Netherlands, USA, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and Dominican Republic).	Climate Change; Pilot Project	1) Monitor and support the countries that are implementing the pilot project. 2) Organize two annual meetings to assess progress and keep electronic communications. 3) Present the final report on the implementation of the Pilot Project to the Scientific Committee 2025.	1 y 2) Coordinator of WG presents progress report from countries implementing. 3) Report on 5 year implementation of the pilot project.	1) 2021-2023 2) Permanent 3) SC - 2025
<b>EASTERN PACIFIC LEATHERBACK <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i></b>				
Fisheries and EP Leatherback WG	EP Leatherback, IATTC, and EASI-Fish	1) The Scientific Committee review the articles to be presented to journals regarding the EASI-Fish model and a habitat distribution model.	1) Publication in journal with the results from the EASI-Fish model and the habitat distribution model.	2022
EP Leatherback WG	Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6; IAC Annual Report	2) Prepare questions to follow up on implementation of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 IAC Annual Report	2) Questions on implementation of IAC Resolution EP Leatherback included in IAC Annual Report.	2022-2023
<b>SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION STATUS</b>				
<i>Caretta caretta</i> WG (Mexico, Belize, Brazil, and USA).	<i>Caretta caretta</i> ; conservation status report; Update 2021	1) Update report CIT-CC13-2016-Tec.13: Status of Loggerhead Turtles ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> ) Within Nations of the IAC every 4 years according to Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R3.	1) Reported updated in 2021 to present it to the CCE18 and the COP10.2. The deadline was extended to the CC19 (2022) for the working group to complete the task.	2021-2022

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Results	Time Frame
Scientific Committee Chair	Sea turtle's conservation status	2) Prepare recommendations on sea turtle's conservation status using technical documents to the COP when applicable.	2) Recommendations on sea turtle conservation status as technical documents presented to COP. 3) Conservation Status of <i>Caretta caretta</i> to be presented to COP11	Permanent 3) 2024
<b>COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS</b>				
Argentina - Coordinator(Victoria Gonzalez) Working Group (Chile, Peru, Mexico, and Ecuador).	Collaboration MoU with ACAP	1) Resume activities with the working group to implement activities identified in SC18 jointly with ACAP.	1) Collaboration activity with ACAP implemented by the Scientific Committee WG. The WG Coordinator (Argentina) will present a progress report to SC19.	1) 2022-2024
Argentina (Coordinator) and WG Fisheries	Establish the guidelines for electronic monitoring for sea turtle bycatch.	2)Review ACAPs guidelines on fisheries electronic monitoring (SBWG10 Doc 14 Rev 1) 3) Prepare electronic monitoring guidelines for sea turtles captures. 4)Meeting between ACAP and IAC specialists.	2-4) Technical document with guidelines for Electronic Monitoring for sea turtle bycatch. SC19 Meeting (2022)	2-4) 2023-2024
Argentina (Coordinator)	Identify potential geographic areas of common interest and relevant to ACAP and the IAC.	5) Work meetings and review of the IAC - ACAP documents.	5) Report on geographic areas of common interest for ACAP and the IAC, presented to the SC19 (2022).	5) 2022-2023
Scientific Committee and Secretary	Collaboration MoU with Ramsar; Recommendation	6) RAMSAR: Based on the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Resolution on	6) Document on wetlands of importance for sea turtles IAC-RAMSAR updated when RAMSAR is available to do it.	6) 2022-2023

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Results	Time Frame
	from COP; joint activity.	Sea Turtles, the Scientific Committee identifies a collaborative activity.		
Scientific Committee	Collaborative work with International Organizations.	7) Include topics that improve and activate collaboration with international organizations.	7) Recommendations on collaborative work identified.	7) Permanent
<b>ANNUAL REPORTS</b>				
Scientific Committee	Annual Reports	1) Analyze the IAC Annual Report technical information.	1) Report on the analysis of technical information from the IAC Annual Reports with recommendations to the Parties when needed.	1) Permanent
Scientific Committee	Annual Report Format	2) Assess the Annual Report current questionnaire. 3) Prepare with the CCE the new questions to IAC Annual Report Format according to COP10.2 adopted resolutions.	2) Recommendations of changes to the Annual Report questionnaire as needed. 3) Annual Report questionnaire updated accordingly with the new resolutions adopted at the COP10.2	2) Permanent 3) 2022
<b>PROJECTS</b>				
Scientific Committee	High priority projects; Recommendations	1) Recommend high priority projects to apply for funds and other resources needed to achieve the IAC objectives.	1) Projects proposals developed by the Scientific Committee when needed. Recommendations on high priority projects when needed.	Permanent
<b>EXPERTS DIRECTORY</b>				
Scientific Committee, Secretary	IAC Experts Directory	1) Review and update the IAC Expert Directory.	1) Updated directory available on IAC's website.	Permanent

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Results	Time Frame
<b>CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT</b>				
Scientific Committee	Capacity development	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
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS COP AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE</b>				
Scientific Committee	Recommendations from COP and CCE	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
<b>TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS</b>				
Scientific Committee	Technical documents	1) Develop technical documents as needed 2) IAC Best practices Manual for safe handling and release of sea turtles, draft presented to SC19.	1) Technical documents available at the IAC's website and shared with IAC Parties. 2) <i>Caretta caretta</i> technical document updated, and Draft of manual best practices for sea turtles presented to SC19	1) Permanent 2) 2022
<b>SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN</b>				
Scientific Committee Chair	Implementation status of SC Work Plan	1) Prepare an annual report with the implementation of the SC work plan and present to SC meeting. 2) Prepare a report on the implementation of the SC work plan bi annual and present to IAC COP11.	1) Implementation of SC WP report presented to SC 19, and SC20. 2) Report on implementation of SC work plan presented to COP11 (2022, 2023, 2024).	1) 2022 - 2023 2) 2024

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Results	Time Frame
Scientific Committee	SC Work Plan	3) Update the SC Work Plan following IAC guidelines and the COPs Resolutions.	3) Scientific Committee biennial work plan including actions, timetable, and responsibilities.	Permanent
Scientific Committee Chair, Secretariat	SC Working Group meetings	4) Convene working groups meetings to follow up on work plan	4) Number of meetings of the CC working groups in 2022: Fisheries WG (7), EP Leatherback WG(5), Exceptions WG (2), Climate Change (1 via e-mail), CC Chair / Vicechair and IAC Secretariat (3 meetings)	2022

# CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WORK PLAN 2022-2024

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
<b>EXCEPTIONS</b>				
Consultative Committee of Experts	Exceptions	<p>1) Follow up on the progress of Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Panama exceptions, and other cases presented.</p> <p>2) The CCE and CC Exceptions Working Group will prepare a draft form to assess the exception management plan every five years.</p> <p>3) The Consultative Committee of Experts will prepare a report to the COP on the exceptions for the use of sea turtles or their products (when new exceptions are presented).</p>	<p>1) Form to assess Costa Rica, Panama, and Guatemala management plan every five years.</p> <p>2) Report on new exceptions presented for COP for consideration.</p>	<p>1,2) 2022-2023</p> <p>3) Permanent</p>
<b>EASTERN PACIFIC LEATHERBACK</b>				
Eastern Pacific Leatherback Working Group	Eastern Pacific Leatherback	<p>1) Follow up on the implementation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP10-2022-R6).</p> <p>2) Conduct annual meetings of the Leatherback Task Force.</p>	<p>1) Questions to follow up on the implementation of Resolution EP Leatherback CIT-COP10-2022-R6 included in IAC Annual Report</p>	<p>1) 2022</p> <p>2) 2023</p>

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
<b>NORTHWEST ATLANTIC LEATHERBACK</b>				
NWA Leatherback Working Group	NWA Leatherback	<p>1) Promote technical collaborations with the SPAW Protocol, WIDECAST and WWF, and other organizations working on the protection of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback.</p> <p>2) Promote and support the IAC Secretariat with outreach and collaboration to countries in the range of the species such as Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, and France.</p> <p>3) Include information from IAC Parties, non IAC Parties and other International Treaties on areas important for the conservation of the NWA leatherback and prepare final technical document.</p> <p>4) Collaboration with France in the framework of MoU with Ramsar to promote technical information exchange among countries relevant to NWA leatherback and others.</p>	<p>1, 2) Progress report presented at CCE16 regarding collaborative work with the outreach to IAC's non-parties working group and the SPAW protocol.</p> <p>3) Technical Document with Map of the NWA Leatherback high use areas that are.</p> <p>4) Activity implemented in collaboration with France, Ramsar and NWA leatherback WG.</p>	<p>1) 2023</p> <p>2) Permanente</p> <p>3) 2022-2023</p> <p>4) 2022-2023</p>
<b>FISHERIES</b>				
Artisanal Fisheries Working Group	Resolution COP10-2022-R7 Fisheries and interactions with sea turtles CIT- and with	<p>1) Work with the fisheries WG in the Scientific Committee to prepare questions for the implementation of the fisheries resolution in the annual report</p>	<p>1) Questions for the fisheries resolution COP10-2022-R7 to be included in the Annual Report</p>	<p>1) 2022-2023</p>

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
Artisanal Fisheries Working Group	Fisheries and interactions with sea turtles; Characterization	<p>2) Design survey to characterize fisheries and present at CCE15 as a method to collect information on small-scale fisheries that have sea turtle bycatch.</p> <p>3) The countries represented in this Working Group will classify and characterize the domestic Fisheries interacting with sea turtles, considering as descriptive criteria (indicators) captures/mortality indexes and fishing effort of each management unit, meaning each Fishery.</p> <p>4) The Consultative Committee members will classify and characterize their fisheries using the survey prepared by the Fisheries WG. Information will be submitted not later than June 1, 2022.</p> <p>5) Implementation of the pilot project "Harmonization of methods to collect sea turtles' bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in southern Peru and northern Chile" according to funding available.</p>	<p>2) Survey to characterize fisheries presented to the CCE15</p> <p>3 and 4) Report with classification and characterization of fisheries interacting with sea turtles with data provided by the Consultative Committee, presented to the CCE16.</p> <p>5) Progress report on the implementation of the Pilot Project in Peru and Chile at the CCE16-2023.</p>	<p>2)2022 3,4)2023 5) 2023</p>
<b>IAC ANNUAL REPORT</b>				
Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Annual Report	1) CCE delegates from each country will provide support to the Focal Point to prepare the IAC Annual Report.	1) Informe Annual de CIT presented annually.	1)Permanent



Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
Consultative Committee Experts of	IAC Annual Report Form	2) Assess current Annual Report form. 3) Together with the Scientific Committee, prepare modifications in the sections relevant to the 2023 IAC Annual Report, according to the new resolutions adopted at the COP10.2 (Exceptions, fisheries, and EP Leatherback).	2) Recommendations for changes to the Annual Report format as required. 3) IAC Annual Report 2023 updated according to the new resolutions adopted at the COP10.2	2) Permanent 3) 2022-2023
<b>COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>				
Consultative Committee Experts of	Collaboration with International Organizations	1) Promote alliances and collaborative work with relevant international organizations (IO) to accomplish the IAC objectives. 2) Provide technical guidance to IAC Secretariat PT and attend IO meetings, as needed.	1) Identification of collaborative work with similar organizations to share information (CITES, SPAW, CIAT, CPPS, WIDECAST, ACAP, ICCAT, OSPESCA, OLDEPESCA, RAMSAR, SWOT, ICAPO, ASO, WWF, CBD, and CMS). 2) Report to CCE on meetings attended when applicable.	1)Permanent 2)Permanent
Consultative Committee Experts of	Implementation of MoUs	3) Develop and review MoU drafts with relevant organizations identified. 4) Identify, prioritize, and implement related joint activities established in the MoU. 5) Identify collaborative work with SSC. 6) Identify collaborative work with Stetson University. 7) Identify areas of work with the ICCAT, as well as a CCE representative as the IAC advisor for this RFMO.	3) MoU Documents presented to COP for consideration – 4) List of priority activities being implemented within the MoU frameworks. 5) Activities with Sargasso Sea Commission identified to present to CCE16. 6) Activities with Stetson University identified presented to CCE16. 7) Activities with ICCAT identified to present at the CCE16-2023.	3) Permanent 4) 2023 5) 2023 6) 2023 7) 2023

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat	Sources of funding	8) Identify potential sources of funding to implement training on best practices for sea turtle safe handling and release in the region.	8) Financial support working group has funding available to implement training activities on best practices for sea turtle safe handling and release in the IAC region.	8) 2023
<b>DRAFTING RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP</b>				
Consultative Committee of Experts	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.	1) Permanent
Compliance with Resolutions Working Group (Mexico)	Resolution compliance	2) 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, based on the information reported by the IAC countries in their Annual Report. Responsible: WG Resolution compliance - Mexico	2) Working group present report on resolution compliance to the CCE16 (2023) and the COP when necessary.	2) 2022-2023
<b>IAC TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS</b>				
Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Technical Documents	1) Develop technical documents as needed. 2) Review recommendations from the Scientific Committee Technical Documents when necessary.	1,2) Technical documents available on the IAC website and shared with IAC Parties.	Permanent

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
<b>IAC EXPERTS' DIRECTORY</b>				
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat	IAC Experts Directory	1) Review and update the IAC Experts Directory.	1) Updated directory available on IAC's Website.	Permanent
<b>IAC INFORMATION BULLETIN</b>				
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat	IAC Website & Newsletter	1) Every month, the CCE members will send to Secretariat Pro Tempore relevant news for the IAC Bulletin.	1) IAC website updated with the IAC Bulletin and other documents of interest.	Permanent
<b>IAC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY</b>				
Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Communication Strategy	CCE delegates will provide to Secretariat news and outreach material to be used in the IAC Communication strategy.	Outreach material produced by IAC Parties included in the Convention Communication strategy portfolio.	Permanent
<b>WORKPLAN</b>				
Consultative Committee Chair	Implementation of CCE Work Plan	1) Prepare an annual report with the evaluation of the activities in the work plan for the CCE. 2) Prepare a bi-annual report on implementation of the CCE work plan to present to COP11.	1) Report presented to CCE15 and CCE16. 2) CCE report on implementation of the Work Plan 2022, 2023, and 2024 presented to COP11.	1) 2022 - 2023 2) 2024
Consultative Committee of Experts	Work plan	3) Update the CCE work plan following the recommendations from the Parties.	3) CCE biennial work plan updated with activities, timetable, and responsible.	Permanent
Consultative Committee Chair, Secretariat	CCE Working Group meetings	4) Convene working groups meetings to follow up on work plan	4) Number of meetings of the CCE working groups in 2022: Fisheries WG (7), EP Leatherback WG(5), Exceptions WG (2), NWA Leatherback (6) CCE Chair and IAC Secretariat (3 meetings)	2022

### Annex XIII. COP11 Host – Official letter from Ecuador



República  
del Ecuador

#### Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana

Embajada de Ecuador en Estados Unidos

Nota 4-3-20/2022

16 de agosto de 2022

A la Doctora  
Verónica Cáceres Chamorro  
**Secretaria Pro-Témpore CIT**  
Virginia, Estados Unidos de América

*Estimada Secretaria Pro-Témpore:*

Es un honor para mí transmitirle la confirmación del Gobierno ecuatoriano para acoger la 11ª Conferencia de las Partes (COP11) de la Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas, que tendrá lugar en junio de 2024, como había sido propuesto por la Delegación ecuatoriana que participó en la COP10 (Panamá). Asimismo, el Gobierno ecuatoriano está honrado de asumir la Presidencia de la COP11, con las funciones correspondientes.

La designación del funcionario ecuatoriano que asumirá la Presidencia de COP11 está siendo analizada por el Ministerio de Ambiente, Agua y Transición Ecológica de la República del Ecuador; esta selección culminará en breve, para trabajar oportunamente con miras a la Conferencia. Me será grato comunicarle la decisión adoptada en un futuro próximo.

A fin de mantener una adecuada coordinación, en lo relativo a la COP11, le encarezco remitir todas las comunicaciones que se refieran a la Conferencia a los siguientes buzones electrónicos:

[dads@cancilleria.gob.ec](mailto:dads@cancilleria.gob.ec)  
[gochoa@cancilleria.gob.ec](mailto:gochoa@cancilleria.gob.ec)  
[victor.chocho@ambiente.gob.ec](mailto:victor.chocho@ambiente.gob.ec)  
[internacional@ambiente.gob.ec](mailto:internacional@ambiente.gob.ec)

[juan.saltos@ambiente.gob.ec](mailto:juan.saltos@ambiente.gob.ec)  
[michelle.sanchez@ambiente.gob.ec](mailto:michelle.sanchez@ambiente.gob.ec)  
[embassy@ecuador.org](mailto:embassy@ecuador.org)

Aprovecho la ocasión para reiterarle mis sentimientos de consideración y estima.

  
Ivonne A-Baki  


Embajadora de Ecuador en los Estados Unidos de América

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+1 202 234 7200

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t: EmbajadaEcuUSA

f: EmbajadaEcuadorEnEstadosUnidos

#### Annex XIV. COP10-II Photos



Opening Ceremony – COP10-II – Her Excellency Erika Mouynes – Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama. Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Panama



Opening Ceremony – COP10-II – His Excellency Miliciades Concepción – Minister of Environment of Panama. Photo Ministry of Foreign Affairs Panama





Mr. Rotney Piedra Chacon COP10-II Chair - Costa Rica and Ms. Veronica Caceres Chamorro, Secretary of the IAC Convention. Picture: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Panama



Mr. Rotney Chacon, Chair COP10; HE. Milciades Concepción, Minister of Environment of Panama; HE. Erika Mouyines, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama; Ms. Veronica Caceres, IAC Secretary; Ms. Carmen Ávila, Director of Entities and Conferences of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama. COP10-II Opening Ceremony. Photo Ministry of Foreign Affairs Panama.



COP10-II Group Photo. Picture: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Panama



Plenary COP10-II. Photo: IAC Secretariat





Delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica and Ecuador. Photo: IAC Secretariat



Delegation from the United States of America



Delegation from Mexico



Delegations from Panama and Peru

Delegations from 11 countries attending IAC COP10-II 1. Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Panamá.





Delegations from Peru, Dominican Republic and Uruguay. Photo: IAC Secretariat.



Delegations From Mexico, Caribbean Netherlands, IAC Secretary and IAC COP Chair



Observer States: Delegation from Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, and Colombia. Photo: IAC Secretariat



Plenary IAC COP10-II, Panama 2022. Photo: IAC Secretariat



World Sea Turtle Day postcard for the participants of the COP10-II on June 16, 2022.  
Design: CPPS (MoU IAC-CPPS). Slogan Mr. Marino Abrego IAC Technical Focal Point  
Panama.