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## Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Fourth Conference of the Parties

*April 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – San José, Costa Rica*

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**CIT-COP4-2009-R6**

### **Memorandum of Cooperation between the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) and the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS)**

**CONSIDERING** that the **Permanent Commission of the South Pacific** (1952, hereinafter CPPS) acts as the Executive Secretariat of the **Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific** (1981, hereinafter **Action Plan**) that was adopted by the governments of Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru;

**CONSIDERING** that the objective of the **Action Plan** is to protect the marine environment and coastal areas, in order to promote the preservation of the health and well-being of present and future generations, and marine biodiversity is within its jurisdictional framework, for that reason the Regional Program for Sea Turtle Conservation in the South-East Pacific was created;

**CONSIDERING** that the objective of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (2001, hereinafter 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 Parties;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that international cooperation between the instruments and the active participation of their Contracting Parties is necessary to achieve the objectives of both agreements;

**AWARE** that it is necessary to develop joint efforts to avoid sea turtles becoming further endangered with extinction, by protecting their feeding grounds, migration and reproductive habitats;

**NOTING** that the feeding, migration and nesting habitats of sea turtles fall within areas where industrial, commercial and artisanal fishing take place;

**RECOGNIZING** that sea turtles play an important role in the different sectors of the society within the region for their economic, cultural and ecological value; and,

**AWARE** that the formal arrangement established through this Memorandum should be carried out within the framework of each Instrument and comply with their established norms, rights and obligations;

#### **RESOLVE TO:**

1. Establish cooperative linkages within the framework of their general objectives and work plans through specific activities arranged and executed through their Secretaries.



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2. Share information which will be mutually beneficial in identifying opportunities for cooperation between the Contracting Parties, Secretariats, and subsidiary bodies of both, focused on the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitats.
3. Recognize the importance of attending, in the form of observers, meetings organized by each organization in areas of common interest, including Conferences of the Parties and meetings of each Instruments subsidiary bodies.
4. Periodically examine the implementation of this Memorandum and adopt the necessary measures to facilitate and expand their mechanisms for cooperation.

None of the clauses of this Memorandum of Cooperation can be considered a renunciation of the rights, privileges and immunities of the Contracting Parties of each Convention, or imply the modification of the rights and obligations of its Signatories, CPPS and IAC. Additionally, this Memorandum does not prejudice the position of Party States to CPPS or to the IAC with respect to their decision to adhere to the other instrument.

The results of the joint collaborative activities carried out within the framework of this Agreement, may be published or used commercially only with the consent of the Secretariats of CPPS and IAC, by means of specific contracts and in conformity with existing relevant international agreements.

This Memorandum can be modified or terminated by mutual agreement of the CPPS and IAC Secretariats.

In the event of controversies on the interpretation or application of this Memorandum, they should be resolved by mutual agreement between the CPPS and IAC Secretariat.

The Secretariats sign four originals of this Memorandum of cooperation, of which one is in English and the other in Spanish, a copy intended for each one of them.

FOR CPPS,

FOR THE IAC,

Gonzalo Pereira Puchy  
CPPS General Secretary  
Executive Secretary of the  
Plan of the South-East Pacific

Marco Solano  
Pro Tempore Secretary  
Inter-American Convention on the Action  
Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles