



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

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

**CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.5**

**MANTA, ECUADOR**

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

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## **REPORT IAC COP11 (2024) IAC-COP11-2024-Doc.5**

**Meeting:** Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) Eleventh Conference of the Parties (COP11)

**Venue:** Hotel Mantahost - Manta, Ecuador

**Date:** June 11-14, 2024

**COP11 Chair:** Minister Juan Diego Stacey, Director of Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility - Ecuador

**Rapporteurs:** Mr. Alberto Proaño, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition.

**Host Country:** Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MATTE) – Ecuador

### **ITEM 1. OPENING CEREMONY COP11**

1. The Eleventh Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC COP11) was held in the city of Manta, Ecuador, on June 11 to 14, 2024 at the Hotel Mantahost.
2. The opening ceremony was presided by the Minister of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition Ms. Sade Fritschi Naranjo, Vice Minister of Environment Mr. Edgar Heredia, the Mayor of Manta Mrs. Marciana Valdivieso, and Mrs. Verónica Cáceres, Secretary of the IAC.
3. The Mayor of Manta, Mrs. Marciana Valdivieso, welcomed the participants to Manta and provided an overview of the beautiful natural and cultural values of the city of Manta, and its commitment to taking care of the city sea turtle habitats. A video prepared specially for COP11 by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MATTE) was presented showcasing the protection of the natural resources and the commitment and actions to protect sea turtle habitats in Ecuador and Manta. Mrs. Verónica Cáceres, Secretary of IAC, thanked Ecuador authorities for the warm welcome in Manta, shared a review of the history of the IAC and the active participation of Ecuador since its beginnings, highlighted the celebration of sea turtle day this week and the important work carried out by the IAC and its member countries to implement the Convention that will be presented at COP11. The opening ceremony concluded with the remarks of Ms. Sade Fritschi Naranjo, Minister of the Environment, who officially inaugurated COP11.

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

4. Mr. Juan Diego Stacey, COP11 Chair, welcomed the participants to the plenary. The Vice Minister of the Environment of Ecuador welcomed the delegations of the IAC Parties. The heads of delegations provided their introductions and COP11 quorum was confirmed with the participation of 12 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, the

United States, Guatemala, Honduras, the Caribbean Netherlands, Panama, Peru, and the Dominican Republic). The representatives of the governments of observer countries Canada and France were introduced, followed by the accredited observers to the IAC from the South Pacific Permanent Commission (CPPS), the non-governmental organizations WildAid -Ecuador, Conservation International, Project Save the Blue Five (GIZ), JUVIMAR Foundation, Charles Darwin Foundation, Contamos Contigo Ecuador, The Leatherback Project, Equilibrio Azul among others. The Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC) of the IAC also attended, and representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition (MATTE), for a total of 45 participants. (Annex I - List of Participants CIT-COP11-2024-Inf.1).

### **ITEM 3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ELECTION OF COP11 RAPPORTEUR**

5. The agenda was adopted with the consensus of the participants. (Annex II - Agenda CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.1).
6. Ecuador proposed Mr. Alberto Proaño, of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MATTE) as rapporteur.

### **ITEM 4. REPORT OF THE IAC SECRETARIAT 2022-2024 AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PLAN**

7. Mrs. Verónica Cáceres, IAC Secretary, presented the report with the implementation of the Work Plan of the last biennium summarizing the most relevant activities. (Annex III - IAC Work Plan Implementation Report 2022-2024 CIT-COP11-2024-Inf.2). The presentation showed the progress made in the execution of tasks assigned by the Parties, in the benefit of time the presentation focused on the activities that are in green in the report (implemented) and those in yellow (in process); highlighting that some of the latter are long-term activities and take more time to execute. The only activity that had no progress the identification of external financing sources to support IAC operations, this activity was assigned to IAC Parties.
8. The topics presented were:
  - Efforts to increase IAC membership: Canada, France, Trinidad and Tobago-France presented their Formal Letter of Intent to accede the IAC in February 2023, the letter was received by the IAC Secretariat from the French Ambassador to Canada at a ceremony held at the Consulate of France in Vancouver, Canada.
  - Activities in collaboration with France: two side events at RAMSAR COP (2022) and CMS COP (2024). Activities in collaboration with Canada as member of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Working Group
  - Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Collaboration with International Organizations 2022-2024: 4 were signed (until May 2024) - Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC),

Stetson University, International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT). The Letter of Intent with the SPAW Protocol is to be discussed at COP11.

- World Sea Turtle Day Activities in the IAC Countries
  - Status of members' financial contributions to the IAC
  - Secretariat effort to secure financial resources from external sources / grants Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (MTCF)
  - Organization of meetings of the Scientific Committee, Consultative Committee, COP10, COP11 and Working Groups (150+ meetings in two (2) years)
  - Technical Documents with recommendations from the Scientific and Consultative Committees: Index Nesting Beaches, Conservation of the *Caretta caretta* sea turtle, Important Sites for the North-West Atlantic Leatherback sea turtle, Analysis of IAC Annual Reports 2015-2022 (presented at COP11)
  - IAC Annual Report (2022-2024) and the Parties status of compliance
  - Topics to consider to optimize the operations of the Secretariat including: small Secretariat staff (two people), the increase in activities in the last biennium with the formation of more working groups, the increase in the number of (virtual) meetings of the working groups, increase in collaboration activities with the organizations with which IAC has MoU, and the lack of funds to sustain all activities and operation of the IAC included in the work plan.
9. The delegations thanked and recognized the work carried out by the Secretariat with limited resources and a very small team. The following comments were stated:
- Brazil: Delegate Mr. Angelo Paulo Sales dos Santos raised concerns regarding the Convention's limited financial resources, and asked if activities are being carried out to obtain external financing, and if there have been additional challenges caused by the pandemic. Considers that it is important that for the next two years to focus on searching for financial support for the Secretariat. He mentioned that GEF have funds for biodiversity and that the IAC Parties must find them and make them accessible to IAC.
  - Caribbean Netherlands: Delegate Mr. Yoeri De Vries congratulated on the work of the Secretariat and shares Brazil's concern regarding the financial sustainability of the Convention. He mentioned that the Secretariat has a reduced staff, "*we as IAC Parties must support the Secretariat to seek external financing funds.*"
  - The Secretariat requests support from the Parties with experts to carry out the process to apply for funding, and highlighted that the Secretariat has tried to optimize resources through alliances with organization that IAC has MoU. Highlighted that to have access to external funds it is necessary to write complex project proposals depending on the entity to which it is going to be presented; for this, consultants are needed to write these proposals.
  - Costa Rica: Delegate Mr. Rotney Piedra indicated that this proposal for support for financial resources was presented at COP10 by the Legal Working Group (Legal WG) and that the Legal WG has proposed the mechanisms for access to external funds with specific activities. He invited countries that are not members of the Legal WG to join these efforts.

- Ecuador: Delegate Mr. Edgar Heredia indicated that some of the IAC countries are also members of CPPS, and the Saving the Blue Five (GIZ) project is going to began implementation and alliances could be made to optimize the funding for some activities or projects.

10. Regarding the topic of the IAC financial sustainability the following agreements were made:

- a. Brazil: offers support with their experience to be at the service of the IAC Secretariat to develop/present projects proposals for the search for international financing.
- b. Ecuador: offered its technical and resource management experience to be available to the IAC to prepare project proposals.

11. The plenary provided the following comments on other topics in the Secretariat report:

- Peru: Delegate Mr. Carlos Ríos Segura appreciates IAC support for the project about experiences sharing with Peruvian fishermen who work with gillnets that could have interactions with leatherback turtles, with leatherback turtle protection projects in the coast of Mexico, and that the second part of the project the Peruvian fishermen shared the experiences learned in Mexico, about the conservation of this species with their communities in Peru, to increase knowledge and awareness in the areas of Peru where this species is found. Regarding Peru's financial contributions to the IAC, he mentioned that the pertinent national governmental agencies have responded favorably with the payment of Peru's pending voluntary contributions to the Convention.
- United States: Delegate Ms. Ann Marie Lauritsen recognizes the dedicated work of the IAC Committees, even during the difficult time of the pandemic, which represents the commitment to the IAC. Encourages countries to continue participating.
- Dominican Republic: Delegate Mr. Enrique Bienvenido Marchena indicates that they have submitted their Annual Report to the IAC in June using the online format, and that the delay was due to changes in the team.
- Ecuador: indicates that they were unable to submit their Annual Report in May, as they had challenges in compiling nesting data due to the nesting season that has just ended. They hope to present the Annual Report in July.
- Panama: Delegate Mr. Marino Ábrego indicated that their IAC Annual Report is almost ready, and that he hopes to submit it soon.
- Chair COP11: appreciated the remarks in support of the work of the Secretariat, recognizing that these activities are supported by the Parties, and recognizes the efforts of the countries to obtain the information for the IAC Annual Report. The results will be noticed in the technical documents and reports of the working groups presented in COP11 technical documents. He highlighted that from the presentation of the Secretariat he identified two words: passion and commitment, which is the identity and describes the Secretariat and all the members inside and outside the committees and their working groups who do admirable work, all focused on the passion and commitment to the protection of sea turtles.



## **ITEM 5. REPORT ON PROGRESS TOWARDS INCREASING THE IAC MEMBERSHIP / REPORT FROM OBSERVER COUNTRIES**

12. Report from the Depositary– Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. This report was not presented as the delegation of Venezuela did not attend COP11. The Secretariat reported that, to date, there are no new ratifications to the Convention.
13. The Chair opened the floor to IAC Non-Party Governments attending as observers representing Canada and France to provide their report on their progress in the process of accession to the IAC.
  - Canada: Delegate Ms. Robynn Laplante of the Directorate of Fisheries and Oceans, mentioned that Canada has been an Observer State of the IAC for many years and that it is committed to the protection and conservation of sea turtles. Canada contributes to significant science and research initiatives; has implemented training in its Atlantic fisheries with 22,000 hours of training in Canadian waters for sea turtle rescue. It has also reinforced policies to mitigate bycatch and improve post-release survival of sea turtles at the international level, specifically in regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs). *“Although we are not in a position to provide an update on a change in level in our participation in the IAC, we want to make it clear that we greatly value the work of the IAC and its members.”* Canada recognizes and appreciates the letters of support that the IAC Member Countries sent to the Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans in 2023, these are valued and have been taken into account.
  - France: Delegate Mr. Cyrille Barnerias, Director of International and European Relations of the French Biodiversity Agency, shared that France has been committed for years to the protection of sea turtles. There are several reserves to protect marine life and their habitats, and as part of the conservation commitment related to sea turtles, good practices have been developed for safe handling and release sea turtles incidentally caught in fisheries. He shared that France has collaborated with the IAC Secretariat in two side events highlighting the conservation of sea turtles that took place within the framework of the RAMSAR COP in 2022, and the most recent at the CMS COP in Uzbekistan in February 2024. France is in the process of internal consultations in the framework of the European Union for accession to the IAC.
14. The delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands Mr. Yoeri De Vries, thanked France for its efforts towards the ratification of the IAC and mentioned that it is important to work together to collect data that allows us to provide information and fill the gaps in the migratory route of sea turtles in the Caribbean.

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

15. Mr. Eduardo Ponce, Chair of the CCE, was not able to attend COP11. The CCE report was presented by the IAC Secretary. Details of CCE activities in the biennium are in

Annex III. (Annex III - Report of the Secretariat and the Scientific and Consultative Committees CIT-COP11-2024-Inf.2). The Secretary provided a summary of the recommendations of the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CCE, such as:

- CCE 17 agreed to carry out the Analysis of the implementation of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 on the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific (EP) Leatherback Sea Turtle, which states: “*Evaluate every five years the implementation of conservation measures and strategic actions of the Annex I*”. The EP Leatherback working group comprised of members from the Scientific and Consultative Committees of Experts will prepare a five-year evaluation report, which will be presented to both committees and to the COP. In 2025 it was agreed that the EP Leatherback WG will review the answers to the questionnaires on the implementation of the EP Leatherback Resolution and Fisheries Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 presented by the IAC Parties in their Annual Reports to IAC 2023 and 2024. The WG will present a preliminary report on this review to CCE18 in 2025. This activity is in the CCE Work Plan.
- CCE17 agreed to present the draft Letter of Intent IAC and the SPAW Protocol for consideration at COP11.
- The *Ad hoc* regarding the Terms of Reference for the Consultative Committee of Experts Working Group composed of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives from Mexico, Costa Rica and Argentina (Coordinator) will review the selection process for CCE sectorial representatives. This WG will present their work plan to COP11 for approval.

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

16. Ms. Lezlie Camila Bustos, delegate of Chile and Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC), highlighted the most relevant achievements in the SC Work Plan in the last biennium (below), including the preparation of three technical documents with recommendations to the IAC Parties that are being presented at COP11. The details of her report are in the document Annex III - Report of the Secretariat and the Scientific and Consultative Committees CIT-COP11-2024-Inf.2.

- SC20 adopted the contents and preliminary text of the technical document Manual for handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught in fishing operations. The Fisheries Working Group will prepare the final version with selection of images and pictures. The document is included in the COP11 agenda.
- The Fisheries WG subject to availability of funds and based on the Manual above will prepare field charts for anglers to use on board fishing vessels.
- SC20 adopted the technical document “IAC Index Nesting Beach Data Analysis (2009-2023)”. The recommendations were presented to COP11.
- SC20 adopted technical document CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.21 “Status of Loggerhead Turtles (*Caretta caretta*) within Nations of the IAC” updated 2009-2022. The recommendations were presented to COP11.

- SC20 agreed that the Exceptions WG will provide technical assistance to Guatemala in the preparation of the 2023-2024 Exception Management Plan. Guatemala's preliminary Exception Management Plan will be reviewed at SC21-2024.
  - SC20 recommended the WG-EP Leatherback Task Force prepare a preliminary evaluation report in 2025 on the “Implementation of conservation measures and strategic actions in Annex 1 of Resolution [CIT-COP10-2022-R6](#)” (Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle Resolution).
  - SC20 agreed to provide more time to the Fisheries WG to determine if it is feasible to develop a data collection format and methodology for analysis of sea turtle interactions with gillnets.
  - The Working Group Collision of Vessels and Sea Turtles will prepare a technical document on guidelines.
  - SC20 formed a new WG on the impacts of Sargassum on sea turtles with members from Costa Rica (coordinator), Belize, The Caribbean Netherlands, Honduras and Panama. The activity of the WG is a technical document describing the problem and recommendations to the IAC Parties to address it.
  - The Working Group IAC-ACAP will prepare a Technical Document on Electronic Monitoring (EMS) Systems of Fisheries, and their importance for the collection of information for the conservation of sea turtles.
  - Presentations of relevant Research from IAC countries: The presentations included in SC21 agenda will be by Belize and Ecuador in 2024.
17. The delegate of Guatemala, Mrs. Airam López, highlighted the importance of presenting research carried out by the IAC Parties in the agenda of the IAC Committees. It is wise that this has been included in the recent meetings of the Scientific Committee, as it allows us to learn about the progress and information from other IAC Parties and to make new alliances.
18. The delegate of Brazil congratulated the tremendous progress in the technical documents of the Scientific Committee. The delegate of the United States, Mrs. Ann Marie Lauritsen, congratulated the Scientific Committee for all the work, for the meetings, the collaborations, and mentioned, *“I see that the information that the Parties provide to the IAC is used to inform management decisions”*.
19. Panama congratulated the SC efforts implement its work plan. Panama recognizes the efforts of the working groups to comply, it has not been easy but we are all committed to making an effort that provides tangible results for the conservation of sea turtles.
20. The SC Chair thanked the SC Vice-Chair Dr. Heriberto Santana, for his leadership last year, during her time of medical leave, the work done by the Vice-Chair was greatly appreciated.

## **ITEM 8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM IAC SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS**

### **Technical Document: Areas used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population and Recommendations to Leatherback Conservation in these Areas. CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.20**

21. The Technical Document CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.20 “Areas used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population and Recommendations to Leatherback Conservation in these Areas” (Annex IV: [CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.20](#)) was presented by the United States delegate Ann Marie Lauritsen and Government of Canada observer Robynn-Bella Smith-Laplante, both members of the North-West Atlantic Leatherback Working Group (WG-NWA Leatherback) of the IAC Consultative Committee (CCE). The document provides recommendations to the Parties for the implementation of the North-West Atlantic leatherback Resolution ([CIT-COP9-2019-R2](#)) especially: a) increase collaboration with non-Party Countries that are in the range of this population, b) promote collaboration with International Organizations to increase efforts in conservation and protection of areas of importance for the North-West Atlantic Leatherback, c) the need to increase collaboration with fisheries government agencies, as well as the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) such as the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), and, d) promote the importance of monitoring fisheries in these areas to determine their impact on the population. The Technical Document highlights efforts using tagging and satellite tracking to identify critical habitats important as nesting areas.
22. The delegate of the United States stressed that the identification of important areas is key, either to protect these areas and/or to determine if they are already protected under national and/or regional regulations to reduce bycatch of the North-West Atlantic Leatherback, and that this is what the Technical Document contains. There are key areas near Portugal and Africa that are outside the jurisdiction of the IAC Countries, these are opportunities to initiate IAC outreach to these countries and center our collaborative efforts.
23. The delegate of Canada indicated that IAC Countries are members of other treaties, which makes it possible to seek collaboration alternatives. She mentioned that the Working Group identified the need to take into account the actions and results of the efforts of the Parties with other species in other agreements. The United States mentioned that there is an example of this with the implementation of the IAC – IATTC Memorandum of Understanding, this was a 2-3 year collaboration project carried out for the East Pacific Leatherback. The result of this collaboration were two scientific publications and recommendations to the IAC and IATTC Parties to improve the implementation of their resolutions in reducing sea turtle bycatch. Something similar may be the result with the North-West Atlantic Leatherback WG.
24. For the implementation of the Technical Document recommendations, the North-West Atlantic Leatherback WG proposed to COP11 to change the focus of this Working Group

to focus on supporting the IAC Secretariat in the collaboration with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) those that a Memorandum of Understanding has already been established. This collaboration could be to prepare technical documents and recommendations to present at RFMO meetings and carry out joint projects.

25. Brazil indicated that a new leatherback turtle population is being studied for which there is not much data, therefore Brazil is interested in joining the North-West Atlantic Leatherback WG to share experiences. The IAC Secretariat thanked the efforts of the United States and Canada members of the WG, and highlighted how the Resolutions that the COP adopts gives the opportunity of working for turtles with IAC Parties and non-Parties.
26. Agreement: COP11 agreed to change the objective of the North-West Atlantic Leatherback Working Group to focus on supporting the IAC Secretariat with the work and collaboration with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). The activities to implement this agreement are included in the work plan of the North-West Atlantic Leatherback WG such as: promoting collaboration within the framework of the IAC-ICCAT Memorandum of Understanding, RAMSAR and the Sargasso Sea Commission, and the development of a work plan focused on international collaboration to address threats on nesting beaches and in the water, in particular the reduction of bycatch of sea turtles during fisheries operations.

**Technical Document: Status of Loggerhead Turtles (*Caretta caretta*) within Nations of the IAC. CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.21**

27. The Technical Document CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.21 “Status of Loggerhead Turtles (*Caretta caretta*) within Nations of the IAC” (Annex IV: CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.21-Link to document in IAC website) was presented by the delegate of the United States to the IAC Scientific Committee Dr. Jeffrey Seminoff, his participation was by videoconference. The evaluation of the status of the Loggerhead Turtle began at COP7 with the adoption of the Resolution on the Conservation of the Loggerhead Turtle (CIT-COP7-2015-R3), which recommends to the IAC Scientific Committee to prepare an evaluation on the status of *Caretta caretta* every 4 years. The Working Group – *Caretta caretta* was formed for this purpose. To date, two updates have been done. The Technical Document recommendations are to maintain monitoring efforts on the species' nesting beaches, increase the effort to reduce bycatch and determine the sites that have the greatest impact, maintain collaboration in the working group and increase participation of more members. Dr. Seminoff, Coordinator of the WG presented a recommendation of the WG that the next updates of the Technical Document be carried out every 5 years, instead of every 4 years, like the Technical Document for IAC Nesting Beaches, this request is because there is information that is used in both technical Documents. The WG coordinator asked COP11 for approval to change the timing of the updates to have harmonization.
28. Brazil suggests exploring with the IAC Scientific Committee the possibility of joining the Nesting and *Caretta caretta* Working Groups to harmonize the preparation of both documents.

29. Agreement: COP11 agreed to change the timing of the update of the Technical Document “Status of Loggerhead Turtles (*Caretta caretta*) within Nations of the IAC” to be done every 5 years. The next update will be in 2028.

**Technical Document: IAC Index Nesting Beach Data Analysis (2009-2023). CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.22**

30. Technical Document CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.22 “IAC Index Nesting Beach Data Analysis (2009-2023)” (Annex IV: Link to Technical Document CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.22 in the IAC website) was presented by Dr. Jeff Seminoff. This document includes 10 years of data collection effort on index nesting beaches shared by IAC countries. This Technical Document aims to understand the patterns/trends of sea turtle populations at a regional level. In this document, data provided by the IAC countries in the Annual Report was analyzed, and in some cases, it is direct information provided by the IAC Focal Points from 2009 to 2022. From the analysis, we concluded that there are 24 nesting sites where it is observed that the population abundance is decreasing, 11 sites where the abundance it is growing, 10 stable sites and 32 sites without data to know the trends. In the recommendations of the Technical Document IAC countries are asked to continue monitoring these population trends, and it is recommended to provide accurate nesting data instead of nesting data projections to maintain consistency in the index beaches. If this has a change due to issues such as logistics, economic resources available for monitoring, etc., it is important that countries inform the IAC Secretariat to maintain consistency in this analysis.
31. Costa Rica highlights that, to the extent possible, countries should not only collect trend data for index beaches but for all beaches, as secondary beaches could become index beaches in the future. Dr. Seminoff commented that one of the challenges is that not all beaches are being included, however, this is an issue that has to do with the monitoring capacity and location of some sites that make data collection difficult. He mentioned that with the East Pacific leatherback in Mexico and Costa Rica, it will be important for both countries to report data on secondary beaches, or declare these as index beaches, since this is a highly vulnerable population each nest and information available about it is important.
32. The United States mentions that IAC parties must take this report as a starting point, hence starting with the index beaches as a snapshot to understand the population trend / status and/or to know where the threats to sea turtles need to be analyzed more closely and pay more attention.
33. Dr. Seminoff indicated that the Technical Document is a living document that will continue to be updated and serves to provide an alert to understand where more efforts should be made. In 2018, thanks to the information in this Technical Document an alert was observed about the decrease in nests of a green turtle population in Quinta playa with the green turtle. After an analysis of data carried out by the Scientific Committee, and exchange of information with Eduardo Espinosa, delegate of Ecuador to the IAC Scientific Committee, we realized that the decline was not due to a reduction in



the population, but rather a reduction in the effort of monitoring which had an effect in the historical data.

34. The advisor from Brazil commented that IAC has to be careful not to change the Annual Reports too often as not to lose historical information, and suggests that, if countries have scientific articles, their information should be included in the Technical Document. Dr. Seminoff agrees that historical data is important, and proposes increasing the membership of the IAC Nesting Beach working group (there are two members only United States and the IAC Secretariat) to compile historical data from scientific documents and status reports to have a better context. The Secretary, Ms. Verónica Cáceres, suggests that at the next Scientific Committee meeting a call for new members for WG-Nesting is done to participate in these analyzes. It was proposed to bring this proposal to the SC so that it could be considered for inclusion in the work plan.
35. Agreement: The COP11 plenary adopted the following agreements for the Technical Documents of the Scientific Committee:
  - a) It was agreed that the update of the Technical Document “Status of the Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) in the IAC Nations will be carried out every five (5) years, the same as the Technical Document on IAC Index Nesting Beach Data Analysis.
  - b) The Scientific Committee is requested to include in the SC21 agenda, develop a one-page document with the review of the instructions for filling out the nesting data section of the IAC Annual Report (make the instructions simpler) and to indicate to the Parties what is the important and necessary information for the WG-Nesting to carry out the analyzes of nesting beaches.
  - c) SC21 will analyze whether there is a need to increase the WG - Nesting with more members to analyze historical data and scientific publications for the Technical Document on nesting index beaches. A call will be made for members of the SC who want to participate in these analyses. This proposal will be presented to the SC to be considered for inclusion in the work plan in 2024 and to determine if they can be included into the analysis of index beaches.
  - d) The Scientific Committee will consider whether is feasible to join the nesting and *Caretta caretta* working groups to harmonize the preparation of both Technical Documents.

## **ITEM 9. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION IN THE COAST OF ECUADOR**

36. Mr. Manuel Bravo, Director of Wild Aid-Ecuador, gave a presentation on the activities that have been carried out for the conservation of sea turtles on the Ecuadorian coasts.
37. Costa Rica congratulates the efforts and work of WILDAID, as they are helping to make decisions not only at the country level but at the regional level. He extended the recognition to community groups, park rangers, data collection personnel and technicians, because without them the work would not be possible. Panama joins the recognition, appreciates the efforts and mentioned that they take home this message of strengthening the efforts with the communities. The Secretary joins the recognition and

mentioned that many activities supported by WILDAID were presented at the Sea Turtle Symposium in 2018 in Ecuador.

## **ITEM 10. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUP FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE IAC SECRETARIAT (LEGAL-WG)**

### **Work Plan Legal – WG**

38. Mr. Rotney Piedra, delegate of Costa Rica and Coordinator of the Legal-WG presented a summary of the work. The Legal-WG was reactivated in 2020, and from that time to now 2024, 13 meetings were held and important issues for the operation of the IAC Secretariat have been identified and resolved. The WG proposed solutions through resolution proposals presented at COP10 and those that are for consideration at COP11. One of the recommendations of the WG that was adopted at COP10 is was to delete the term voluntary from the Finances Resolution, this was done in order to facilitate to IAC Party to make their contributions to the Convention, the Resolution to continue the hosting the IAC Secretariat office in the United States that was adopted by COP10. The WG Coordinator also mentioned that the finance subgroup of this WG identified 4 financial mechanisms to support the IAC special fund (Contributions from the Parties in money/Contribution from the Parties in kind/Obtaining resources from other sources/Analyzing the possibility of increasing IAC contributions). Mr. Piedra explained the Work Plan of the Legal-WG work for the next 2 years and asked the COP11 for approval.
39. Brazil thanked the Coordinator of the Legal – WG and recognized the constructive work with a spirit of collaboration and advancement carried out highlighting that the WG had many meetings, all of which were very productive, and that it has been a for Brazil a delight to participate in the WG. The United States thanked Mr. Piedra and the WG for the work carried out that has allowed them to find solutions to IAC operational issues.
40. COP11 adopted the Work Plan of the Legal - WG (Annex V: WG-Legal Work Plan)

### **Work Plan Ad hoc – Working Group – Analysis of Terms of Reference of IAC Subsidiary Bodies**

41. The delegate of Argentina, Mr. Adrián Viotti, presented the Work Plan of the Ad hoc-WG Terms of Reference (ToR) of the IAC Subsidiary Bodies document CIT-COP11-2024-Inf.3. He thanked the Secretariat for coordinating the first meeting of the WG and thanked the WG colleagues Mexico and Costa Rica. Through the IAC Secretariat the WG has access to information on good practices used in other International Organizations (IATTC, ICCAT, ACAP, IOSEA, SPAW Protocol), this will be the input for the WG to fulfill its assignment of recommending a mechanism for the selection of the sectoral representatives to the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE). The WG is committed to present a proposal for terms of reference with emphasis on the selection of sectoral representatives to the CCE in January 2026, and it will be presented to COP12 for consideration.
42. The plenary reviewed the activities proposed by the Ad hoc-WG Terms of Reference in its work plan and provided the following comments: The United States asked if the changes to the CCE terms of reference are to be presented to COP12, and it is expected



that there will be a selection of sectorial representatives also at COP12, then the question is whether IAC COP will be ready with a new procedure for this selection to adopt at COP12, and at that same meeting select the sectorial representatives of the CCE. Costa Rica and Argentina members of the WG indicated that the question from the United States regarding the timing of adoption of the new ToR at COP12, will be considered at and the WG will propose a solution.

43. Regarding the selection of CCE sectorial representatives at COP12, the Chair of COP11 proposed to agree to continue with the procedure that the IAC Secretariat has implemented in the past years for the selection of the sectorial representatives before COP12 takes place, as contingency plan that will allow to arrive to COP12 with proposals of sectorial representatives presented by IAC Parties. On the first day of COP12, the new procedure proposed by the Ad-Hoc WG will be analyzed to seek if it can be adopted. If the new procedure is not adopted, then the selection of CCE sectorial representatives be carried out at COP12 with the same procedure that the IAC Secretariat has implemented in the past years until no other alternative method is adopted. The COP11 plenary agreed with this proposal.
44. COP11 adopted the Work Plan of the Ad hoc WG (Annex VI: Ad hoc WG- Work Plan Terms of Reference of the Subsidiary Bodies of the IAC CIT-COP11-2024-Inf.3.)

#### **ITEM 11. ANALYSIS OF RESOLUTION PROPOSAL EXTENSION OF THE IAC SECRETARIAT CIT-COP11-2024-R1**

45. COP11 Chair presented the Resolution on the Extension of the Secretariat prepared by the Legal - WG. There were no requests for changes to the text.
46. Agreement: The COP11 plenary adopted Resolution Extension of the Secretariat [CIT-COP11-2024-R1](#) (Annex VII: Resolution Extension of the Secretariat).
47. The delegate of the Netherlands congratulated and thanked the United States for continuing to host the IAC Secretariat. The United States delegate thanked COP11 for accepting the United States' proposal to continue hosting the IAC Secretariat and indicated that it is a privilege for the United States to be able to carry out this activity.
48. Regarding the renewal of the contract of the Secretary, Mrs. Verónica Cáceres, the delegate of Peru said that it is a fair recognition to the work of the current Secretary, he considers that implementing many projects and convening meetings of working groups and subsidiary bodies with responsibility and efficiency is challenging with such limited financial resources. Brazil joined in thanking the United States, and adds to the sentiment expressed by Peru regarding the high-quality and efficient work of the current Secretary. Guatemala thanked the United States for hosting the Secretariat, and the current Secretary for her dedicated work. Chile thanked the United States for hosting the Secretariat, and joined the other delegates in congratulating the Secretary on the continuation of her work. Chile continues to say that without the IAC Secretary commitment the IAC Work Plan could not be successfully carried out. Chile recommends evaluating the need for support

that the Secretariat needs to avoid losing efficiency, as well as looking for mechanisms within the Parties that to provide additional support. Costa Rica thanked the United States, and offered assistance to the IAC Secretariat with personnel for whatever the Secretariat needs to successfully continue this work following Chile's remarks, and highlighted how impressive are the results obtained at the IAC and that Costa Rica is very grateful to the current Secretary. Panama expressed respect and gratitude to the United States, to Ms. Verónica Cáceres for her work, commitment and passion, she being the driving force behind this Convention and thanked the assistant to the Secretariat for her efforts with the work of the Convention.

## **ITEM 12. ANALYSIS OF RESOLUTION PROPOSAL FINANCES 2025-2027 CIT-COP11-2024-R2**

49. COP11 Chair presented the proposal for the IAC Finances Resolution 2025 – 2027 prepared by the Legal-WG. The Chair highlighted that the WG in compliance with the task assigned at COP10, proposes deleting the footnote in this resolution with a reference that contributions to the IAC are not mandatory. The result of the Legal-WG analysis is that this reference makes it difficult for some countries to provide their financial contribution to the IAC.
50. The United States mentioned that the Finances Resolution is consistent with our previous discussions on this issue; there is no need to have any footnote in the Resolution indicating that contributions are voluntary. The Resolution includes language referring to "suggested" contributions and "contribution goals," which is important to the United States. The delegate also indicated that the United States' decision to accept the removal of the footnote depended on retaining a reference to this discussion in the COP11 report indicating that contributions are not mandatory.
51. The United States requested that in Annex II of the Resolution, in the budget line item for personnel consideration be given to revising the 3.5% annual increase in the cost of living to 5.31% to reflect recent inflation rates and a cost of living commensurate with them. The Netherlands appreciated the comment from the United States and especially for including the increase in the percentage of the cost of living due to inflation because it must be taken into account. The delegate requested that in order to adopt the Resolution, the new budget totals in Annex II are to be presented. The Secretariat presented to the plenary the updated values in Annex II – Budget for consideration.
52. Agreement: The COP11 Plenary agreed to delete the footnote of the Finances Resolution, and agreed for Annex II the new values suggested with the 5.31% increase in the cost of living for 2025 - 2027 budget. Resolution [CIT-COP11-2024-R2 IAC Finances 2025-2027](#) was adopted (Annex VIII: IAC Finances Resolution 2025-2027)

### **ITEM 13. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FOR MITIGATION OF IMPACT FROM VESSEL STRIKES ON SEA TURTLES IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

53. From the Dominican Republic attending by videoconference, Ms. Dannerys Baez, representative from the Ministry of the Environment of the Dominican Republic gave a presentation on the actions implemented to mitigate the impact of vessel strikes with tourist boats and sea turtle populations in the Republic. Dominican. She shared that frequent issues with vessel strikes were taking place in the eastern part of the country, which was a threat to sea turtles in the area, this is the reason why at IAC COP10 the Dominican Republic expressed this concern and the need to create a Working Group in the Scientific Committee (SC) to consider the issue. The Dominican Republic presented a report on this threat to the 19<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting in 2020, a WG to address vessel strikes was created with Dominican Republic, the Caribbean Netherlands, Belize, Mexico and Costa Rica. The WG held the first meeting in May 2023. The WG with the IAC Secretariat support prepared a proposal for Dominican Republic Ministerial Resolution for Bavaro reef Lagoon to mitigate vessel strikes with sea turtles. This collaboration with the IAC was extremely successful, the Ministerial Resolution recently was adopted, and a marine protected area was created in which recommendations are given to mitigate and reduce the impact of tourist vessel strikes with sea turtles in the area. Ms. Baez thanked the IAC and the WG members who contributed to prepare this Ministerial Resolution.
54. Chile congratulated the Dominican Republic for bringing to the attention to the IAC Scientific Committee this issue and for the successful work of the WG-Vessel strikes to prepare the Ministerial Resolution. She highlighted the important role that the Scientific Committee plays in providing technical advice to IAC Parties this leaves a legacy that all Parties achieve the same. Brazil also congratulates the Dominican Republic and offered support with Brazil domestic regulations on speed restrictions in port areas. The Secretary acknowledged Dominican Republic efforts, as they have been proactive in seeking the support of the IAC to mitigate the threats identified for sea turtles in their country and proposing solutions.

### **ITEM 14. WORK PLAN SECRETARIAT AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES 2024 – 2026**

55. The IAC Secretary presented the Secretariat Work Plan 2024-2026 document CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.3. The work plan has 9 topics such as: Increase IAC Membership, Communication and Capacity Development, Collaboration with International Organizations (IO) and Strategic Alliances, Financial Resources, Organization of Meetings, Permanent Secretariat, Resolutions and Recommendations for the COP, Annual Report, and the update of the IAC Work Plan. Comments from the plenary below.
56. The Netherlands general suggestion is that in the future consider structuring the Work Plan by separating permanent biennium activities from activities with specific dates.

57. Regarding the increase of IAC membership, Brazil indicated that there are important populations of sea turtles in Cuba, therefore their participation in the IAC is relevant. Brazil asked the Secretariat if there have been any attempt to begin dialogue with Cuba. The Secretariat indicated that there was a visit in 2011 to Cuba and a meeting with government biodiversity authorities, there was no response from Cuba since then. Ecuador suggests that letters of support be sent from IAC countries to support the outreach work of the Secretariat. Brazil offers support to continue communications with Cuba, and Panama mentions that with their new government there may be an opportunity to resume the dialogue with Cuba.
58. Agreement: Panama and Brazil will provide support to the IAC Secretariat efforts to resume the dialogue and outreach with Cuba.
59. The plenary discussed the need to be more specific in the activities that Parties can carry out to support the Secretariat in efforts to increase membership. The Chair mentioned that the work of the IAC Parties to increase the membership is included in the Work Plan, and it is recognized that there is a need to continue discussing the mechanisms for obtaining new members, and specific actions that can be carried out by the IAC Parties. He stressed that it is important to maintain communication with countries such as Canada, France, Trinidad and Tobago that there is already an effort by the Secretariat so that those countries can indicate some strategies that can help them to get closer to the ratification of this Convention.
60. On the topic of communication and capacity development, the Secretary mentioned that support is needed to implement the activity in which the Focal Points share information to the IAC on news and material for the preparation of the IAC bulletin. The Secretary asked for the support of countries on a monthly basis for providing news for the IAC Bulletin. Given the wide range of tasks and activities that the Secretariat already have, it will be a good opportunity for IAC Parties to offer support as previously suggested. The United States suggests that the number of bulletins published by the IAC be two per year instead of three or more. This was accepted and included the change in the Work Plan.
61. On the topic of collaboration with International Organizations, Brazil shared that it is important to have cooperation with International Organizations (IO) according to their objectives, to promote alliances, and even more so if it involves migratory species such as sea turtles. Brazil indicated that they were very pleased to see the IAC participate in a side event at the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) COP in Uzbekistan in 2024, this allows visibility to the work and efforts of the IAC. He mentioned that Brazil will host the next CMS COP, and proposed a side event or poster about the IAC at the CMS COP to make IAC visible. The Netherlands mentioned that it is important to have coordination with the marine biodiversity conventions and with the Caribbean cooperation mechanisms such as the Memorandum of Understanding Enabling the Creation of a Coordination Mechanism to Support integrated Ocean Governance in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems. The United States mentioned that it is important to attend the IO meetings, however, the Secretariat is quite full with the IAC meetings already included in the Work Plan, the United States suggests balancing the participation of the Secretariat and considering the many activities that

already IAC carries out, that this participation is according to the possibilities of the Secretariat to attend to those IO meetings that have objectives relevant to the IAC.

62. Agreement: The IAC Secretariat, in coordination with the Government of Brazil, explore the possibility of convening a side event to highlight the IAC at the CMS COP to be held in Brazil in order to give visibility to the CIT. Brazil as organizer of CMS COP can support the organization of side event.
63. On the topic of Organization of meetings, the Netherlands suggested to consider COP meetings in a hybrid format (in-person/virtual), this will improve the quorum. The Secretariat asked the countries their opinion to convene the IAC COP in a hybrid format, and indicated that the annual meetings of the Consultative Committee (CCE) are virtual, the Scientific Committee (SC) is held in person, due to the lack of budget to be able to hold 2 in- person meetings a year. The SC meetings are in person because it is more complicated for scientists to carry out technical discussions in virtual format. Regarding the COP, the concern is that, being a small convention of 16 countries, opting for a hybrid meeting could create difficulties for all countries to have good representation for the discussions. The United States agrees that the CCE meeting be held virtually and that to be mindful of the limited budget, it can be considered that the Scientific Committee Meeting be held virtually every other year. While for the COP she considers that it is important that these meetings be in person, and that technology can be used to participate remotely to provide a presentation. She indicated that virtual meetings of the COP can be complex and could reduce the coordination and communication efforts that are achieved at in - person meetings, in addition to maintaining the commitment of the Parties to participate and continue with the efforts to carry out the activities proposed in the work plans.
64. Brazil mentioned that after the experience of meetings during the pandemic, the difficulties in carrying out activities virtually became evident; some countries also have difficulties in having access to the technology to stay connected virtually at all times during a meeting. Chile, mentioned that the Scientific Committee meets virtually throughout the year to carry out the work of the working groups, and considering that the value of the discussions and that some topics are of delicate nature such data sharing, it is better to do keep the SC meetings it in person to keep the focus. She said if it was to be considered to use virtual technology for he COP, she suggests that there be a minimum number of Parties that are allowed to participate virtual (no more than 2) in this way flexibility could be given to those countries that for reasons of austerity cannot participate in person, but without increasing this number, so that the COP meeting does not have a majority of virtual participants.
65. The plenary agreed for the IAC COP to be held in person as they are vital for exchanging ideas, the discussions are enriched, and they are held every 2 years. The Chair of the COP mentioned that a window must be open so that if necessary due to financial issues, there is flexibility for the COP in situations where they cannot be present in person. The Netherlands, expressed that it is its preference for in – person meetings, and agrees to keep open the possibility of virtual participation if necessary.

66. On the topic of the IAC Annual Reports, there was a reminder that the deadline for turning in the reports to the IAC Secretariat is April 30 of each year, and that turning in the IAC Annual Report on time is valuable for the preparation of the Technical Documents done by the Scientific and Consultative Committee.
67. COP11 plenary adopted the Secretariat Work Plan. (Annex IX: Work Plan CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.3)
68. The IAC Secretary presented the Work Plan of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) document IAC-COP11-2024-Doc.3 on behalf of the CCE Chair as he could not attend COP. The Work Plan include the following topics: Exceptions, East Pacific Leatherback, Northwest Atlantic Leatherback, Fisheries, IAC Annual Report, Collaboration with International Organizations (IO) and Strategic Alliances, Proposals for Resolutions for COPs, Technical Documents, Directory of Experts, IAC Bulletin, Communication Strategy and the CCE Work Plan update.
69. On the topic of Exceptions, Brazil asked whether the evaluation reports on the implementation of the Exceptions Management Plan should first be reviewed by the Scientific Committee and after analyzed by the Consultative Committee, the Secretariat answered that indeed that is the process.
70. On the topic of the East Pacific Leatherback, the United States suggested adding details in the results of the activity, therefore the Work Plan for EP Leatherback was modified with the following: The EP Leatherback WG will review the activities that are being carried out in the IAC Parties and the non-governmental organization (NGO) sector, and will make a list of those that exist, identifying the gaps in protection and highlighting those that should be carried out or should be strengthened to prepare recommendations to IAC Parties. The results will be included in the preliminary report of this WG that will be presented to CCE18-2025.
71. Regarding the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback, at the request of the United States, activity #3 was edited as follows: "Promoting collaboration under the MOU with ICCAT, RAMSAR and the Sargasso Sea Commission", and activity #4 was included as follows: "The NWA Leatherback WG will prepare a work plan focused on international collaboration to address threats on nesting beaches and in the water, in particular the reduction of bycatch".
72. With respect to the fisheries section in the work plan, the SC Chair said that the Chile-Peru Working Group made progress preparing a pilot project proposal, however, there are no funds to implement the project and the WG needs to look for funding. Contributions in kind have been coordinated by government institutions and support from local universities in Chile, this activity has been kept in the Work Plan in the hope that funding can be secured and it can be implemented. The SC Chair said that this project was created with the objective of searching for relevant information on sea turtles incidental capture in the artisanal fisheries of Chile and Peru (vessels up to 12 meters in length) in which there are no on board observer programs and the information of the

interaction with sea turtles is not available. If the project is implemented, the information collected can help to understand the situation in artisanal fisheries taking into account the realities of both countries.

73. In the topic on collaboration with IO related to Sea Turtle Day, the United States asked what support is expected from CCE delegates. The Secretariat indicated that in case of holding a virtual workshop or presentation, the Secretariat requests the support of the CCE and the SC. The United States mentioned that, although this day of celebration is important, it is timely to explore opportunities to expand the visibility of the IAC on social media networks and use them as mechanisms for outreach and promote future collaborations. The United States mentioned the need for support from some IAC Parties to the Secretariat in this activity, because there are constraints in Secretariat's budget and staff. The delegate mentioned as an example, exploring opportunities with universities and offering internships that can provide support. This activity was added to the Work Plan.
74. Regarding the frequency of IAC newsletters, the United States suggested reducing the number to 1 or 2 per year vs. 4 to 5 newsletters, to reduce the workload somewhat and provide more comprehensive information on relevant topics.
75. Regarding the Communication Strategies, Costa Rica suggested regarding the support from the Parties to increase IAC membership, a technical document can be prepared on this topic, the document can be prepared with inputs from the IAC Parties, the document can be shared with the Foreign Ministries of the countries. This activity was included in the Work Plan.
76. COP11 adopted the Consultative Committee Work Plan. (Annex IX: Work Plan CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.3)
77. The Vice Minister of Environment of Ecuador and Head of the Delegation apologized as he has to leave the city of Manta due to work commitments, but reaffirmed Ecuador's commitment to the conservation and protection of sea turtles. He indicated that on behalf of the Ecuadorian delegation, Mr. Jácome, Undersecretary of Natural Heritage, will be de head of delegation along with the other members of the Ecuador delegation who will be helping the logistics team. He thanked the delegations for their participation in COP11 to discuss important conservation issues for all our countries and the ways to collaborate. He mentioned that as a reminder of Ecuador hosting IAC COP11, the Government of Ecuador presents as a gift to the IAC Secretariat, the table flags made in Ecuador for each of the IAC countries of this Convention, this way Ecuador will always be present at each IAC meeting and the activities that are carried out by the Secretariat. The Secretary of the IAC deeply appreciated the gift and all the attention and details with which the IAC Parties were warmly welcomed by the entire Ecuadorian team, both from the Central Government and from the offices in Guayaquil and the local authorities of the city of Manta.
78. Costa Rica thanked the Vice Minister of Environment of Ecuador and mentioned that the progress will continue to be made to fulfill the objectives that the Convention has set for

the country's actions. Brazil thanked Ecuador for its hospitality, and the participation of the Vice Minister in most of the COP meeting is a clear sign of Ecuador's commitment to address the issues of conservation and protection of sea turtles in the region.

79. The Chair of the Scientific Committee, Ms. Lezlie Camila Bustos, delegate of Chile, presented the Work Plan of the Scientific Committee (SC) in document CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.3. The Work Plan includes the following topics: Exceptions, Fisheries, Conservation Status of Index Beaches, Climate Change, Eastern Pacific Leatherback, Sea Turtles Conservation Status, Collaboration with International Organizations (IO) and Strategic Alliances, IAC Annual Report, Projects, Capacity Development, Recommendations for COP, Technical Documents, IAC Bulletin, Directory of Experts, and update of the SC Work Plan.
80. On the topic of fisheries, the *Manual for handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught in fishing operations* was presented. Canada congratulated the preparation of this Manual and suggested that it be shared with the RFMOs. The Netherlands asked if the Manual was only for RFMOs or to be used by other interested parties. The Chair indicated that the idea for this Manual is to be implemented by IAC Countries that need it, and for it to be available to other entities. The United States asked if an updated version of the Manual was available on the IAC website, to which the Chair of the Committee indicated that it was not yet available because the Manual will be presented to COP11 in the next item on the agenda for adoption, and that it had already been approved by the SC and the CCE.
81. The delegate from the United States indicated that she did not believe that the Manual had been reviewed by the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) and requested that verification be done because if not, it should be reviewed by the CCE as well. The Secretariat indicated that the Manual has not been reviewed by the CCE, however some CCE members were involved in the team that reviewed the Manual in the Fisheries WG of the Scientific Committee. The Secretary mentioned that some CCE members reviewed the texts, images, and illustrations. The CCE delegates from Argentina and Uruguay, and the sectorial representative Dr. Bryan Wallace, participated in the preparation of the Manual. The Manual final version has not been presented to the CCE; the graphic design of the Manual in Spanish was completed ten days ago, and there is no English translation available. The Secretariat consulted the COP for its recommendation for approval of the Manual, and for an indication of whether it is necessary for the CCE to review and approve it, or if only this will be done at the level of the Scientific Committee and the fisheries working group that developed the Manual.
82. Ecuador indicated that it is necessary to carry out the consultation process with the CCE before the Manual is approved by the COP, since it is a technical document of the Convention that will be transmitted to the Parties. The delegate of the United States indicated that the review process by the CCE should be done. The Scientific Committee Chair asked that, in order not to delay the work, the CCE should review and approve the Manual by electronic correspondence, as well as the approval of the COP.



83. Agreement: COP11 included in the Scientific Committee's Work Plan the steps to follow regarding the review of the IAC *Manual for handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught in fishing operations*, which will be shared with the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) for review and approval via email. After this the Manual will be shared with the IAC Focal Points for final approval via email. The date for this activity was agreed for 2024-2025. The IAC Secretary indicated that she will transmit the Manual (Spanish version) to the CCE in July 2024. Every effort will be made to ensure that the timelines are expedited, taking into account that the Manual must be translated into English.
84. On the topic of the conservation status of Index Nesting Beaches and the Conservation Status of Sea Turtles, the SC Chair indicated that at COP11 two technical documents were presented by Dr. Jeff Seminoff, the delegate of the USA to the SC: IAC Index Nesting Beach Data Analysis 2009-2023 and the Status of Loggerhead Turtles (*Caretta caretta*) within Nations of the IAC. Both require information from the IAC Annual Reports for their update.
85. Agreement: COP11 agreed that the update of the Technical Document IAC Index Nesting Beach Data Analysis and the Technical Document Status of Loggerhead Turtles (*Caretta caretta*) within Nations of the IAC be carried out every five years. The next update of both will be in 2028, this will be included as a reference in the SC Work Plan.
86. The Netherlands recommended including an activity in the Work Plan on the topic of the conservation status of nesting index beaches for 2024-2026, that is, that the working group continue to collect nesting information from the 2024-2026 Annual Reports to include in the IAC database in order to prepare the update of the technical document in 2028.
87. Brazil suggested to analyze the relevance of including secondary beaches in the Technical Document Index Nesting Beach Data Analysis that are important for critically endangered species, which are not necessarily index beaches. The Secretariat explained the process for including new beaches in the IAC Annual Report, mentioning that the IAC has a Technical Document on the selection of index beaches. Based on this, countries review the information on their beaches and indicate to the Secretariat which are the index beaches in the country and they are included in the IAC Annual Report. If the country wishes to change or include more beaches in the report, they must indicate this to the Secretariat in order to adapt the Annual Report to the information of the new beach. Focal Points can do this once a year during the Scientific Committee Meeting before the Annual Report questionnaire for the following year's is prepared. Ecuador considers that it is up to the IAC Parties to use the Technical Document and, based on this, determine their index beaches. Brazil views from the technical document is that there are some difficulties in understanding the trends due to changes in sea turtle populations, as it is something dynamic. Brazil suggests that the SC discuss the issue further and find a mechanism to take into account when there are climate changes, erosion, when the populations themselves, for reasons unknown, change their nesting areas. Countries have

research that can help understand trends; these are things that can be added to the technical document over time to understand trends. This is ongoing work; we must always be evaluating and making the necessary changes to better understand population trends, which is the objective of this Convention.

88. Costa Rica commented in reference to the East Pacific leatherback turtles and their critical status, the Scientific Committee could assess the relevance of including secondary beaches in the IAC Technical Document on nesting beaches. Costa Rica considers that these beaches are becoming more relevant in recent years, that even those that were considered index beaches, at least in Costa Rica, secondary beaches are becoming important sites from the point of view of the population. Costa Rica suggests evaluating the relevance of reporting data from beaches that we consider secondary sites and including them into the IAC Annual Report. The Secretary, in response to Costa Rica's comment, indicated that the East Pacific Leatherback Resolution adopted at COP10 includes one of the strategic actions related to the protection of nesting sites, the identification of new nesting beaches for the species within the programs for the protection of nests, females and hatchlings, as well as biological monitoring. Costa Rica and Ecuador indicate that the online format of the Annual Report of the IAC should clearly indicate a place for the country to include information on new beaches. The Secretariat indicates that the Annual Report of the IAC already has this option, but that it is necessary to highlight it and make it more evident.
89. The delegate from Guatemala, Ms. Airam López, considers it is important to highlight in the IAC Annual Report one place where this relevant information on secondary nesting beaches should be included. In Guatemala there are two index beaches, but they cannot include information on the EP leatherback that is being collected because it is not being collected on index beaches. The IAC Annual report will give the opportunity to include data that from Guatemala that is being collected systematically.
90. Brazil suggests that this discussion on index and secondary beaches be reviewed by the Scientific Committee. In Brazil, we do not call them secondary beaches because it gives the impression that they are not as important as index beaches. Now they are called areas with regular nesting. This makes it seem that they are the result of the conservation of other beaches, and that turtles are beginning to colonize other beaches. Brazil says it is important to keep the entire historical series of more than ten years with these index beaches, which are the results that we have. We recommend making the changes without losing everything that we have up to now. Costa Rica indicates that the IUCN makes regional reports on the status of sea turtle populations by country. They do not only consider index beaches, but also all nesting. This is very important for the EPO Leatherback. The United States thanks the Parties for the enriching dialogue and suggests that the SC contact the Parties and ask which beaches are representative for the trends in the country. It would not be a good idea to add more data to the IAC Annual Report. It is suggested that each country should carry out its own analysis.
91. The Chair of the SC commented that this can be resolved by including the option in the IAC Annual Report for those countries such as Guatemala and Costa Rica that wish to report more nesting beaches, and that the Nesting WG evaluate this new information.

This is independent from the analysis of the index beaches that is already in process. The Scientific Committee will discuss which terms to use (index beaches, secondary, other) and how this information will be analyzed. It is not an obligation for countries to begin monitoring other beaches that are not index, this is something optional that can be reported in the Annual Report.

92. Agreement: COP11 agreed to include a new activity in the topic of: Conservation status of nesting beaches which is “*Working together the SC with the CCE in the evaluation of the current format of the IAC Annual Report in relation to the information on index beaches.*”
  
93. The Netherlands requested that the study of sea turtle diseases such as fibropapilloma be taken into account in the Scientific Committee. The Chair of the SC indicated that to do this the recommendation should be to create a Working Group in the SC on the subject of Fibropapilloma. Brazil indicated that it is a broad topic that occurs throughout the world, and that the highest incidence is in the green turtle *C. mydas*. It is important to share the experience of how to give treatment to individuals with this disease. The Netherlands indicated that it is something that the IAC should have on its radar, and that it is a good start to exchange information in order to consider what results will be prepared on the subject and present progress to COP12.
  
94. Agreement: COP11 recommends creating a Working Group in the Scientific Committee on the topic of Fibropapilloma. The first activity will be to compile and exchange relevant information on the causes and treatments related to fibropapilloma in the range of the IAC Countries with respect to the green turtle (*C. mydas*) and other species that may be affected by this disease.
  
95. COP11 adopted the Scientific Committee Work Plan (Annex IX: Work Plan CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.3)

## **ITEM 15. COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER ENTITIES**

### **Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding with The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF)**

96. Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.2. For the presentation of this topic the Vice President of the NMSF, Ms. Allison Alexander (joined remotely/virtual), who thanked the IAC for the opportunity to participate in COP11 and highlighted that it has been an honor for the Foundation to be the fiscal representative of the IAC for more than 10 years and to support the Secretariat. The COP11 Chair presented the MoU for consideration by the plenary, indicating that edits were made only to the dates of the term of validity, and that the same text has been approved by previous COPs, the new dates for the MoU will be January 2026-December 2028.

97. The Netherlands asked that, if the IAC receives any additional or external funds from the ones the Parties provide, 12% administrative fees should be paid to the NMSF?. The Secretary responded that this is the procedure included in the MoU. She also indicated that the NMSF has maintained the same percentage of its administrative fee since 2010.
98. The United States thanked NMSF for the renewal of the MoU, and commented that the United States Federal Government uses 10% for administrative costs for grants, and that this is something that NMSF could consider. Ms. Allison Alexander indicated that 12% has been internal policy at NMSF, and that in the future they may consider the lower percentage established by the United States government, but the Memorandum of Understanding with IAC currently states 12%.
99. The Netherlands recommended a task to the Legal-WG to review whether the MoU is the necessary figure to enter into a contract with IAC, since the text of the MoU says that it is not legally binding, but we are talking about the management of funds, which is like a contract, which requires something legally binding. It is recommended that the Legal-WG analyze it.
100. Brazil recalled that the IAC does not have legal personality and therefore suggests to continue with the MoU as it is for now. Brazil agrees with the Netherlands that the Legal - WG should review the 12% administrative fee and suggests that the Legal -WG propose mechanisms so that this can be lower, perhaps having a maximum amount of funds for which this percentage applies, and that if more funds are received, the administrative percentage should be lower.
101. COP11 agreed to include in the work plan of the Legal - WG the tasks assigned by the Netherlands and Brazil, these being the analysis of the use of the MoU figure for the administration of IAC funds, and the analysis of the current 12% administrative cost and mechanisms to reduce it, or to define a maximum amount of funds for which this percentage applies. The Legal-WG will report to COP12 regarding these tasks.
102. The signing of the NMSF MoU by COP11 Chair was done at the COP11 plenary (Annex X: MoU IAC-NMSF)

## **ITEM 16. COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER ENTITIES**

### **Letter of Intent IAC – UNEP/SPAW Protocol**

103. The proposal for a Letter of Intent IAC-UNEP/SPAW, the SPAW Protocol was represented by Ms. Tamoy Singh Clarke, Programme Assistant for Management, Ecosystems Division, of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat. Ms. Singh joined the meeting remotely/virtual from Jamaica, she thanked the IAC Secretariat for the support in the process of preparing and revising the Letter of Intent with Coordination SPAW team, which replaces the MoU previously established between IAC and SPAW in 2006,

and which will allow for continued collaborative efforts between the two entities. The SPAW delegate indicated that due to UNEP internal procedures the letters of intent have a duration of three (3) years. After this time the Parties can review the implementation.

104. COP11Chair proceeded to read the Letter of Intent CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.4 and indicated that the document was reviewed by the IAC Secretariat and the UNEP Legal team and includes the comments of the United States and the Dominican Republic, which have already been reviewed by SPAW and agreed upon.

105. The Netherlands indicated that the Cartagena Convention includes several protocols that are worth exploring to broaden the scope of cooperation. Costa Rica agrees with the Letter of Intent, the United States welcomed the continuation of the collaboration, which is an important step in working for sea turtles, especially for the North-West Atlantic Leatherback turtle, and Panama is also pleased with the renewal. The SPAW delegate thanked COP11 and reiterated the interest in continuing to work with the IAC for the benefit of sea turtles.

106. The COP11 plenary adopted the Letter of Intent between the IAC and SPAW. The IAC Secretariat received the LoI signed by UNEP (Annex XI: Letter of Intent IAC-SPAW).

## **ITEM 17. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF IAC RESOLUTIONS ACCORDING TO THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE PARTIES.**

107. Technical Document [CIT-CCE17-2024-Tec.24 "Analysis of the IAC Annual Reports 2015-2023"](#) was presented by Dr. Katherine Pratt, Foreman Biodiversity Fellow at Stetson University of School of Law. The document is the result of the collaboration between IAC and Stetson University in the framework of their Memorandum of Cooperation signed in 2022. The document was prepared by a multidisciplinary group composed of colleagues from Stetson University, professors from the Faculty of Law and students, the IAC Secretariat team, in compliance with a recommendation of the Consultative Committee of Experts. The document is a compilation of information from the IAC Annual Reports submitted by the IAC Parties between 2015-2023. The objective of this Technical Document is to provide a summary of the implementation of the IAC Resolutions, how their implementation has changed over the years, and the identification of areas and opportunities for improvement. Dr. Pratt presented how the information from IAC Annual reports was analyzed, highlighting the value of the information provided by countries and the importance of countries submitting their Annual Reports to the Secretariat. She presented recommendations and opportunities in four interrelated categories: improve Parties participation in the Annual Reports submission process; improve the format of the questionnaire; improve the content of the questionnaire; and evaluate and use the data provided in the Annual Reports. Dr. Pratt thanked the students who participated, the opportunity and the support received from the Secretariat, and the

CCE that resulted in one of the first collaborations under the [Memorandum of Cooperation IAC-Stetson University](#). (Annex XII: Technical Document CIT-CCE17-2024-Tec.24).

108. Brazil thanked Stetson University for this report, and indicated that they have taken note of the recommendations, and that they should be followed up to contribute to improve the IAC Annual Reports and improving the quality of information collected. The Netherlands asked whether the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) should review this document to know how the recommendations are to be implemented. Brazil indicated that each IAC Party should review these recommendations to apply them as appropriate.
109. COP11 Chair suggests that the Consultative Committee (CCE) analyze how to implement the recommendations in the Technical Document CIT-CCE17-2024-Tec.24, and to this end IAC Parties should send their comments to the recommendations, and the questions in the IAC Annual Report on which there is no clarity to the Secretariat for consideration by the CCE. The United States suggested that the CCE analyze the questions in the Annual Report in the light of the views of the people who are required to answer them. The Netherlands recommended that the CCE undertake this analysis so as not to burden the Secretariat. The Secretariat indicated that there is good will to carry out more detailed analyses of the Annual Reports such as the one presented by Stetson, however this is subject to availability of financial resources and time of those entities and individuals who can collaborate. Dr. Pratt indicated that Stetson University is open to support the IAC in implementing the recommendations of the Parties and the IAC committees to continue the collaboration.

#### **ITEM 18. COLLABORATION WITH THE PERMANENT COMMISSION OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC (CPPS) – WORLD SEA TURTLE DAY 2024**

110. To celebrate Sea Turtle Day June 16, 2024 and highlight the collaboration between the IAC and the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS), Biologists Mónica Machuca (CPPS) and Haydeé Medina-assistant of the IAC presented the activities implemented together since 2019, they range from the holding of virtual workshops, producing infographic material such as videos, postcards, stickers, logo for Sea Turtle Day, and material to share on social networks that have been used to raise awareness to sea turtle conservation on this day. (Annex XIII: Sea Turtle Day Postcard 2024)
111. As part of the IAC-CPPS collaboration in 2024, the presenters introduced the Technical Document *Manual for handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught in fishing operations*, which was prepared by the Fisheries Working Group of the IAC Scientific Committee working since 2021, and that in its final stage the CPPS joined the team. The presenters showed excerpts from the Manual as the document is in its final review process, and after that it will be available to IAC and CPPS Parties. The document compiles information on methods implemented in different fishing gears to give care to sea turtles incidentally caught. The graphic design of this document and the illustrations were funded by the USFWS Marine Turtle Conservation Fund and CPPS with the Save the Blue Five project from GIZ. After the Manual is finished the second collaboration with CPPS and the Project Save the Blue Five is to prepare a field booklet

with information from the Manual to be used as training material on board fishing vessels. From the discussion of the Scientific Committee Work Plan the delegations of the United States and Ecuador requested that the Manual be reviewed by the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) before the adoption from IAC Focal Points. The Secretariat explained that there is not an established procedure for the review of technical documents prepared by the Committees, and as such the COP provides the guidance in this case. The COP11 agreed that the Manual in Spanish version will be translated to English and shared with the CCE for comments. The comments will be addressed by the Scientific Committee to prepare the final version of the Manual that will be shared with the IAC Parties.

112. Brazil commended the work done by IAC and CPPS and they look forward to use the Manual and translate it into Portuguese. The delegate of Panama congratulated the presentation and the Manual and looks forward to use it in Panama with fishing communities.
113. The Regional Coordinator of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific Action Plan, Captain Cristian Martis, acknowledged the IAC Secretariat for the work done in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the IAC and CPPS, in addition to the outreach activities for World Sea Turtle Day, it has been possible to support the technical review of the Manual, which is an opportunity to unite the work of the CPPS countries and allow a more regional approach with the scope that the IAC countries have. The collaborative work between both entities has been a great achievement and it is an opportunity to continue strengthening collaboration.

#### **ITEM 19. PRESENTATION OF PROJECT SAVE THE BLUE FIVE**

114. Mr. Jan Kleine Buening (GIZ) - Director Save the Blue Five Project thanked COP11 delegates for the opportunity to present the project, congratulated the presentation of progress in preparing the *Manual for handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught in fishing operations*, and he is pleased that the project will support the preparation of the final version of the Manual and the graphic design.
115. Mr. Klein presented the Save the Blue Five Project, which objective is the conservation of 5 marine megafauna: sharks, dolphins, whales, manta rays and sea turtles, which are representative species of the biodiversity of the Southeast Pacific, indicators of the health of the oceans and are species that through their migratory routes interconnect the countries that make up the Southeast Pacific. The project is funded through the German Ministry of Environment through the IKI Initiative and is being implemented by GIZ, Conservation International, MarViva and CPPS as a political counterpart and project partner. These 4 partners are implementing the project together with 6 countries in the region: Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile with a duration of 5 years until 2028. The project will support international, regional and national conventions on biodiversity and sustainable development such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The main drivers of

biodiversity loss such as overfishing, pollution, bycatch and collisions with vessels must be addressed from regional and national plans, it requires effort to make these transboundary measures take effect, therefore it is important to coordinate efforts among nations to achieve regional conservation goals.

116. The project has 4 components: governance, monitoring, public-private initiatives and financing, awareness-raising and communication mechanisms. The beneficiaries of the project are governmental agencies, Marine Protected Areas park rangers, research entities, NGOs and civil society and within the private sector such as fishing, tourism, among others. It is a policy and technical advisory project to facilitate policy-technical dialogues at the regional level, supporting the exchange of successful experiences and capacity building and small-scale pilot projects. Mr. Kleine invited Captain Martis, Director and Coordinator of CPPS Action Plan and one of the project partners to elaborate on the collaborations.
117. Captain Martis indicated that within the framework of the CPPS-IAC MoU, he invites the IAC as a strategic participant in the actions and lines of work related to sea turtles of the Saving the Blue Five project, reiterating that no one can work alone and that collaborative work is more beneficial and productive for all, as it has been shown in the collaborative effort between IAC and CPPS in the Manual mentioned before.
118. The delegate of Costa Rica, Mr. Rotney Piedra, indicated that IAC is a key strategic participant in the regional conservation of sea turtles, and that the IAC Parties participating in the project would like to present to COP11 a proposal for an agreement to continue to develop joint efforts by preparing a 5 year work plan in line with the components of the Saving the Blue Five Project, and the creation of a working group within the Consultative Committee of Experts, CPPS, and the Scientific Technical Committee on Sea Turtles (CPPS).
119. The activities in the framework of the Save the Blue Five Project mentioned by Costa Rica were presented to the plenary (below), adopted and included in the Work Plan of the Consultative Committee of Experts (Annex XIV: IAC Collaboration Agreements on the Saving the Blue Five Project)

Agreement: The 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the IAC (COP11), recognizes the need to continue developing joint efforts between the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS) and the IAC for the conservation of sea turtles, and agrees to develop a Work Plan within the framework of their Memorandum of Understanding, in line with the components of the Saving the Blue Five Project: Regional approach to the protection of migratory marine megafauna in the Southeast Pacific region.

Agreement: COP11 agreed that the Work Plan would have a duration of 5 years (2024-2028) as it will be implemented within the framework of the Saving the Blue Five Project. For the coordination and preparation of this Plan, the IAC will establish an Ad hoc Working Group in the Consultative Committee of Experts that will coordinate with CPPS.



120. The IAC Secretary thanked CPPS Action Plan Coordinator for the trust in the joint work and for the invitation to participate in the Saving the Blue Five Project, and confirmed the IAC agreement to collaborate within the framework of this project and within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding with CPPS.
121. Costa Rica and Ecuador thanked the IAC Parties for the approval of this initiative that will increase IAC visibility at the regional level, and to carry out joint activities between the two entities, while helping to continue the dialogue with Colombia, which is member of the project, and we hope will facilitate its future accession to the IAC. Chile congratulated the Parties and specially those who were visionaries to make the connections for this opportunity for collaboration between the IAC and the CPPS, this will strengthen the implementation of IAC Resolutions. Panama welcomed the collaboration that will strengthen the project's components in the countries where it will be implemented and that will be of great help to the local and regional conservation of marine turtles.

## **ITEM 20. OTHER BUSINESS**

122. The delegate of Brazil shared with the plenary that a few years ago there was a project to build a port in an area of Brazil of importance for the nesting of the Western South Atlantic leatherback turtle. He continued to say that with the efforts of the Brazilian Government it was possible to stop the permits for this construction, and that currently more work is being done on the designation of a protected area that will protect the area for leatherback turtles in that region of Brazil. He stressed that the IAC showed concern about the building of this port, and that the IAC Secretariat visited the site and met with the relevant authorities to support the protection of this area. Brazil recognizes the concern of the IAC and thanks the Convention for its participation, which was important to design a way forward for the protection of this area.
123. Panama congratulated Brazil on this initiative and recommended that the Secretariat send a letter of congratulations to Brazil in recognition of its efforts to protect and conserve sea turtles and their habitats. Panama indicated that they can relate with these efforts made by Brazil, because they are currently about to declare a new marine protected area, which extends to 54% coverage in marine protected areas of the country. Brazil thanked all IAC member states for their support and mentioned that a letter is a good recognition that helps them to continue with this project that is facing few oppositions, therefore a letter from the IAC is always welcome.
124. COP11 approved the preparation of a letter by the Secretariat to be shared with IAC Parties for their comments, and then sent to Brazil Focal Point with congratulations on the efforts made.

## ITEM 21. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COP11

125. COP11 Chair proposed that the COP11 report IAC-COP11-2024-Doc.5 that is being drafted by the Secretariat, the rapporteur and the COP Chair will be finalized after COP11 and transmitted to the Parties for review, comments and virtual approval through the non-objection of the minutes of the meeting.

## ITEM 22. ORGANIZATION OF COP12/ PRESENTATION FROM COP12 HOST COUNTRY PERÚ

126. Counsellor Carlos Ríos Segura, delegate of Peru, provided remarks highlighting that the IAC is clearly an important international legal instrument that allows the countries of the American continent to take action to protect the sea turtles of importance to all. The Convention and its subsidiary bodies play a very important role in the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtles and the habitats on which they depend. He continued to recognize the value of the scientific data that the countries are collecting and that they are committed to sharing through their Annual Reports. Peru has been implementing activities to give continuity to the mandates of the IAC such as the National Sea Turtle Plan 2019-2029 that includes all species of sea turtles, as well as the efforts by IMARPE to monitor stranding of sea turtles on beaches and collect data especially of *Caretta caretta* to determine the cause of the stranding (anthropogenic or natural). The sea turtle stranding plan was developed with the aim of reducing sea turtle mortality by 50% due to stranding in Peru by implementing 6 lines of action. Peru has ratified its commitment to the conservation of these species through other conventions such as CITES and CMS, among others, that seek the conservation, protection and proper management of the most threatened and endangered species.
127. Counsellor Carlos Ríos indicated that it is an honor for Peru to host the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the IAC (IAC COP12) in 2026. He continued to say that Peru is ready to cooperate to achieve this goal, and that in the *interim* Peru will coordinate the necessary activities for new multilateral conservation and protection actions to ensure the better implementation of a regional agenda that leads to the recovery of the species under the protection of this Convention.
128. COP11 Chair congratulated Peru for the commitment to host the next IAC COP12 in 2026, as COP11 Chair is Peru he asked the Parties for nominations for Vice-Chair for COP12. No nominations were received therefore, the Chair informed that this position will be chosen at COP12 Peru.
129. The delegate of Panama, Mr. Marino Ábrego, indicated that, although at the time of the COP11 he still has no official confirmation, he is taking steps to explore the possibility for Panama to present their offer to host IAC COP13 in 2028. He will share the result of this consultation process by official channels with the IAC Secretariat. At the time of the publication of the COP11 report (December 2024), the Minister of Environment of Panama handed in to the IAC Secretary the official letter with the formal offer of Panama

to be the host of IAC COP13-2028 (XV: Letter from the Ministry of Environment of Panama for hosting IAC COP13-2028).

### **ITEM 23. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

130. COP11 Chair gave his closing remarks, reiterating the passion and commitment that is the driving force of this Convention. He thanked all delegations for their cooperation in the discussions to reach agreements and addressing all topics in the agenda.
131. The Secretariat provided the summary of COP11 achievements: 2 new Working Groups were formed within the Scientific Committee (Fibropapilloma WG) and the Consultative Committee of Experts (Save the Blue Five WG), recommendations from five technical documents were presented to the Parties (IAC Nesting Beaches Report, Conservation Status of the Loggerhead, Areas for the protection of the Northwest-West Atlantic Leatherback Turtle, Analysis of the Annual Reports of the Parties, and the Manual for handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught in fishing operations), COP11 approved the signing of a IAC-NMSF Memorandum of Understanding, and the IAC-SPAW Letter of Intent, finally IAC COP11 and adopted an important Resolution on the operations and hosting of the IAC Secretariat in the United States, the IAC finances for the next biennium, the Secretariat and Committees Work Plan, and to conclude a new alliance was created for collaboration with the Save the Blue Five Project and CPPS.
132. The Host Country Ecuador, represented by MSc. Esteban Jácome the Undersecretary of Natural Patrimony from the Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition, thanked the delegations and reiterated Ecuador's commitment to the conservation of sea turtles. COP11 delegates thanked the Chair, host country, the Secretariat and her team. The Undersecretary declared the meeting closed. (Annex XVI: COP11 Group pictures)

## ANNEXES

### Annex I – Participants list

#### List of Participants (COP11) CIT-COP11-2024-Inf.1

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21	PERÚ	MINISTRO CONSEJERO CARLOS RÍOS SEGURA Jefe de Delegación	Sub Director de Aguas Internacionales Transfronterizas DIRECCIÓN DE ASUNTOS MARÍTIMOS, DE LA DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE SOBERANÍA, LÍMITES Y ASUNTOS ANTÁRTICOS	crios@rree.gob.pe
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24	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	ANN MARIE LAURITSEN Head of Delegation	INTERNATIONAL MARINE TURTLE/TFT CONSERVATION U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	annmarie_lauritsen@fws.gov
25	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	JEFFREY SEMINOFF IAC Scientific Committee Delegate (virtual)	Leader, Marine Turtle Ecology & Assessment Program NOAA (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration)	jeffrey.seminoff@noaa.gov
<b>OBSERVERS GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>				
1	CANADA	ROBYNN SMITH-LAPLANTE	International Fisheries Policy FISHERIES AND OCEANS - GOVERNMENT OF CANADA	Robynn-Bella.Smith-Laplante@dfompo.gc.ca
2	FRANCE	CYRILLE BARNERIAS	European and International Relations Director FRENCH BIODIVERSITY AGENCY	cyrille.barnerias@ofb.gouv.fr
3	CPPS	CAPITÁN CRISTIAN MARTIS	Coordinador Regional COMISIÓN PERMANENTE DEL PACÍFICO SUR	cmartis@cpps-int.org
4	CPPS	MÓNICA MACHUCA	COMISIÓN PERMANENTE DEL PACÍFICO SUR	mmachuca@cpps-int.org

	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>INSTITUTION</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
5	Protocolo SPAW	TAMOY SINGH CLARKE (virtual)	Programme Management Assistant Cartagena Convention Secretariat Ecosystems Division United Nations Environment Programme	tamoy.singh@un.org
<b>OBSERVERS</b>				
1	ECUADOR	XAVIER CHALEN	CONSERVACIÓN INTERNACIONAL - Ecuador	xchalen@conservation.org
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5	ECUADOR	JAN KLEINE BUENING	Director -SAVE THE BLUE FIVE-GIZ	jan.kleine@giz.de
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9	ECUADOR	KERLY BRIONES	Directora - CONTAMOS CONTIGO ECUADOR	mamitortuga2023@gmail.com
10	ECUADOR	AMANDA ROCAFUERTE	THE LEATHERBACK PROJECT	amanda@leatherbackproject.org
11	ESTADOS UNIDOS	KATHERINE PRATT (virtual)	Foreman Biodiversity Fellow STETSON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW	kpratt2@law.stetson.edu
12	ESTADOS UNIDOS	ROYAL GARDNER (virtual)	Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy STETSON UNIVERSITY	gardner@law.stetson.edu
13	ESTADOS UNIDOS	ALLISON ALEXANDER (virtual)	NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION	allison@marinesanctuary.org

	COUNTRY	NAME	INSTITUTION	E-MAIL
<b>IAC SECRETARIAT</b>				
1	SECRETARIAT	VERÓNICA CÁCERES CHAMORRO	SECRETARY IAC	secretario@iacseaturtle.org
2	SECRETARIAT	HAYDEE MEDINA	ASISTANT SECRETARIAT	contact.apoyo.cit@gmail.com
3	Interpreter 1	Eduardo Calderón	SGI Eventos - Ecuador	ventas@sgieventos.com
4	Interpreter 2			
5	Sound tech			

(25 IAC Countries delegates) (18 Observers) (2 Secretariat) **(Total 45 Participants)**

Note: Also in attendance the Ecuador Ministry of Environment Communications team.

**Participants VIP Welcome Ceremony - June 11**

	County	Name	Agency
1	Ecuador	MAGISTER SADE FRITSCHI NARANJO	Señorita Ministra de Ambiente MINISTERIO DEL AMBIENTE Y AGUA y TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA
2	Ecuador	MAGISTER EDGAR HEREDIA	Viceministro de Ambiente MINISTERIO DEL AMBIENTE Y AGUA y TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA
3	Ecuador	ING. MARCIANA VALDIVIESO	Alcaldesa MUNICIPIO DE LA CIUDAD DE MANTA



**Agenda**  
**Eleventh Conference of the Parties of the IAC – (COP11)**

<b>Day 1 – Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> 2024</b>
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<b>08:00 – 09:00</b>	<b>Registration of Delegations COP11 – Hotel MantaHost</b>
09:00-11:00 am	1) COP11 Opening Ceremony
11:00-12:30 am	2) Introduction of the IAC Parties delegation’s members, and reading of the list of observers <a href="#">CIT-COP11-2024-Inf.1</a> Quorum verification
	3) Adoption of the agenda and election of the COP11 Rapporteur <a href="#">CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.1</a>
<b>12:30-01:30 pm</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
01:30-02:30 pm	4) Report from the Secretariat and Chair of COP11 period 2022 – 2024 with the implementation of the Work Plan <a href="#">CIT-COP11-2024-Inf.2</a> – <i>MSc. Verónica Cáceres, IAC Secretary</i>
02:10-02:30 pm	5) Report of the Depositary on the increase in membership of IAC – <i>Government of Venezuela</i>
	Report of Observers from Non-Party Countries
02:30-03:00 pm	6) Report of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE). <i>Dr. José Eduardo Ponce G.</i> <a href="#">CIT-COP11-2024-Inf.2</a>
03:00-03:30 pm	7) Report of the Scientific Committee (CC). <i>Ing. Lezlie Camila Bustos</i> <a href="#">CIT-COP11-2024-Inf.2</a>
<b>03:30-04:00 pm</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
04:00-05:00 pm	8) Recommendations from IAC Subsidiary Bodies and Technical Documents of the Scientific and Consultative Committee of Experts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population and Recommendations on Conservation. <a href="#">CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.20</a></li></ul>

- Status of Loggerhead Turtles (*Caretta caretta*) within Nations of the IAC. [CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.21](#)
- IAC Index Nesting Beach Data Analysis (2009-2023). [CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.22](#)

05:00-05:30 pm 9) Activities in support of sea turtle conservation in the coast of Ecuador. WILDAID. *Mr. Manuel Bravo, Director WildAid.*

<b>Day 2 – Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup></b>
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**08:30am Registration**

09:00-10:00 am 10) Report from the Working Group for the establishment and operation of the IAC Secretariat Legal - WG). *WG Coordinator MSc. Rotney Piedra.*

- Work Plan Legal -WG
- Work Plan Working Group Ad hoc – Analysis of Terms of Reference of IAC Subsidiary Bodies [CIT-COP11-2024-Inf.3](#). *Delegation from Argentina -Minister Adrian Viotti*

**Analysis of the Resolution Proposals**

Presentation of Resolution proposals and recommendations presented by the Contracting Parties, Working Groups and the Scientific and Consultative Committees.

10:00-10:40 am 11) Resolution Proposal Extension of the Secretariat [CIT-COP11-2024-R1](#)

**10:40-11:10 am Coffee break**

11:10-12:00 md 12) Resolution Proposal Finances 2025-2027 [CIT-COP11-2024-R2](#)

**12:00-01:00 pm Lunch break**

01:00-03:00 pm 13) Actions implemented for mitigation of impact from vessel strikes on sea turtles in Dominican Republic. *Delegation from the Dominican Republic.*

**03:00-03:30 pm Coffee break**

03:30-04:00 pm 14) Work Plan Secretariat and Subsidiary Bodies 2024 – 2026 [CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.3](#)

**Collaboration with International Organizations and other Entities**

04:00-05:00 pm 15) Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation [CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.2](#)

**Day 3 – Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**

09:00-12:00 pm Continues Work Plan Subsidiary Bodies 2024 – 2026

**12:00-01:00 Lunch break**

2:00-07:00 pm Activities organized by the host country for COP11 delegates – Arts and crafts fair and Welcome Reception

**Day 4 – Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**

**08:30am Registration**

**Collaboration with International Organizations and other Entities**

09:00-10:00 am 16) Proposal for Letter of Intention with the SPAW Protocol  
[CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.4](#)

10:00-10:40 am 17) Report on Implementation of IAC Resolutions according to the Annual Reports of the Parties. [CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.24](#).  
*Dr. Katherine Pratt, Foreman Biodiversity Fellow Stetson University*

**10:40-11:10 am Coffee break**

11:10-12:00 md 18) Collaboration with CPPS- Sea Turtle Day 2024

**12:00-01:00 pm Lunch break**

01:00-01:30 pm 19) Presentation of Project Save the Blue Five. *Sr. Jan Kleine Büning, Project Director (GIZ)*

01:30-02:00 pm 20) Other business

02:00-03:30 pm 21) Adoption of recommendations from the COP11.

**03:30-04:00 pm Coffee break**

04:00-04:30 pm 22) Presentation of the COP12 host country: Peru definition of date of COP12 and election of the COP12 Vicechair

**04:30-05:00 pm 23) Closing of the meeting**

### **REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IAC WORK PLAN 2022-2024**

The following document was prepared by the IAC Secretariat, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Scientific Committee, and the Chair 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 2022-2024. The report includes the activities and the status of implementation where **green** is “completed”; **yellow** is in progress, and **red** is no execution/no action. Items in **blue** were presented for consideration at IAC COP11 and after the meeting, the current status was assigned.

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 and subsequent meetings after that.

This document includes the implementation status of activities in the work plan:

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

## IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF IAC SECRETARIAT WORK PLAN 2022-2024

Green: Activities that have been completed, Yellow: In progress, Red: Activities with no implementation

Activity Proposed		Status – June 17, 2022 - July, 2024	2022	2023	2024
<b>IAC Membership</b>					
1.	<b>Continue efforts to achieve the adhesion of new Parties to the IAC.</b>	<p>The IAC Secretariat established the Outreach 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> and outreach efforts.</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>Collaboration with Consultative Committee: One of the members of the WG 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 have been attending as observers at IAC meetings (See number 3).</p> <p>The group meet every 2 to 3 months since 2019, for a total of 9 meetings until 2022. It was decided that the WG will meet as needed to provide updates regarding the progress for new countries to join IAC.</p>			
2.	<b>Send informative bulletins to non-Party countries to keep them updated on the IAC's activities.</b>	IAC Secretariat shared IAC Bulletins (3) in 2022 and (5) in 2023 and one (1) in 2024 (May) with government representatives from non - member countries and IAC accredited observers.			
3.	<b>Invite non-Party countries to the Conference of the Parties and IAC's committee meetings.</b>	<p>Participation in meetings 2022-2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Canada (5 meetings – CCE16, CCE17, SC19, SC20, COP11)</li> <li>•Trinidad and Tobago (3 meetings CCE16, SC19, SC20)</li> <li>•Guyana (1 meeting SC19)</li> <li>•France (5 meetings CCE16, CCE17, SC19, SC20, and COP11)</li> </ul>			
4.	<b>Attend meetings of regional organizations, RFMOs and Conventions to share information about the IAC, and networking with non-Party country delegates to invite them to collaborate and join the IAC.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation of IAC Secretary at Ramsar COP14 -Meeting of the Parties (9<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> November, 2022-Geneva)</li> <li>• Participation of IAC Secretary at the 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress IMPAC 5 (9th February 2023 – Canada).</li> <li>• Participation of IAC Secretary in CMS COP14 – Conference of the Parties (12-17<sup>th</sup> February, 2023-Samarkand, Uzbekistan).</li> <li>• Participation of IAC Secretary in CMS COP14 – facilitator and co-organizer with the Government of France of side event: “Experiences and partnerships in the application of best practices to mitigate the incidental catch of sea turtles in fisheries” (14<sup>th</sup> February 2024-Samarkand, Uzbekistan).</li> </ul>			

Activity Proposed		Status – June 17, 2022 - July, 2024	2022	2023	2024
5.	<b>Follow up on the steps already undertaken in collaboration with IAC Parties to recruit new members to the IAC.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February 9th 2023, France Ambassador to Canada presented to IAC Secretary a formal Letter of Intention to join the IAC.</li> <li>Government of France invited IAC to co-organize 2 side events at Ramsar COP and at CMS COP14.</li> <li>March 2023, IAC Secretary meeting with representative from Colombia Ministry of Environment.</li> <li>June 2023, IAC Secretariat meeting with Trinidad and Tobago Environmental Management Authority (EMA). Provided updates in their accession to IAC process. They are working to recommend to cabinet the possible focal points. And are preparing a note for cabinet regarding their interest to become IAC members.</li> <li>Canada: Member of IAC working group help prepare a technical document on NWA leatherback.</li> <li>France: French Government invited IAC Secretariat to co-organize 2 side events at the COP-RAMSAR (2022) and in CMS COP14 (2024)</li> </ul>			
6.	<b>Parties Chancelleries and other relevant authorities support the IAC Secretariat approaching non-member countries (Canada, France - French Guiana, Guadeloupe and Martinique, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guyana and, Suriname), to encourage their ratification. As well as identify new countries for outreach.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2023 Focal Points from the Governments of Mexico, Chile, Guatemala, Panama, and Costa Rica sent official letters from their Ministries of Environments or Foreign Affairs, inviting Canada to join the ratification of the Convention. The letter was addressed to Honorable Mrs. Diane Lebouthillier, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and to the Coast Guards of Canada.</li> </ul>			
7.	<b>IAC Focal Points consider carrying out side events within the framework of other meetings to promote the IAC.</b>	<p>Activity restricted by the COVID – 19 pandemic 2021-2022 The Secretariat co-organized a Workshop with USA Focal Point at ISTS (see number 16 below)</p> <p>IAC Secretariat co-organized side events at Ramsar COP (see number 15 below)</p>			
<b>Communication and Capacity Development</b>					
8.	<b>The Focal Points and the Committees on a monthly basis will send relevant news to the Secretariat to be included in the IAC Bulletin.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 bulletins in 2022</li> <li>5 bulletins in 2023</li> <li>1 bulletin in 2024 (in May)</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> <p>The Secretariat included in the IAC Bulletin activities and</p>			

Activity Proposed		Status – June 17, 2022 - July, 2024	2022	2023	2024
		events shared from: 2022: Ecuador, Panama and Brazil. IAC Bulletin #44-45 2023: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico (CCE Chair), Costa Rica, Peru, Ecuador, Panama and Guatemala, Uruguay, the United States, Chile. IAC Bulletin # 47-51 2024: <b>COMPLETAR</b>			
9.	<b>Countries will share outreach material on Sea Turtle Day activities and other events with the Secretariat.</b>	The Secretariat has a folder including videos, pictures, infographics, and outreach material shared by the Parties			
10.	<b>Implementation of the IAC communication strategy with Costa Rica Focal Point.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication strategy prepared by Mr. Christian Díaz with support of Government of Costa Rica – to support the making of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IAC video for COP10 - 2022.</li> <li>• No further activity to report to date</li> </ul>			
11.	<b>Publish and disseminate the recommendations and decisions adopted at the COP.</b>	Resolutions adopted at COP10.2. Resolutions uploaded in the IAC website after the meeting in 2022. Resolutions adopted at COP11 uploaded in the IAC website after the meeting in June 2024.			
<b>Collaboration with International Organizations and Strategic Partnerships</b>					
12.	<b>Promote the signature of at least one cooperation agreement (MoU) with an organization related to the IAC's objective. The goal is to promote collaborative work with other relevant Conventions and International and Regional Organizations</b>	<b>MoU signed in 2022:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MoU IAC-ICCAT, March 2022</li> <li>• MoC Stetson University, November 2022</li> </ul> <b>MoU signed in 2023:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewal MoU IAC-ACAP, Jan - 2023</li> <li>• MoU IAC - Sargasso Sea Commission, Abril - 2023</li> </ul>			
13.	<b>Prepare draft MoU (when needed).</b>	<a href="#">Letter of Intent IAC-SPAW Protocol 2024 – Text of letter adopted at COP11. SPAW Coordination sent the signed letter to IAC Secretary July 2024.</a>			
14.	<b>The Secretary will participate in the IATTC annual meeting, and any other relevant meeting of this Organization, to present recommendations as needed.</b>	Participation in the IATTC 5 <sup>th</sup> Workshop on Electronic Monitoring Systems in the East Pacific (24-26 April, 2023). The Scientific Delegate from Argentina represented IAC in this workshop. Virtual meeting.			
15.	<b>Promote activities with organizations that have signed MOUs with the IAC and other multilateral agreements. The activities can include preparing technical documents and joint publications.</b>	<b>Collaboration IAC-IATTC</b> <b>Project EASI-Fish – Leatherback PHASE I and II</b> Two publications in Endangered Species Research Journal open access (2023-2024) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Publication:</b> Vulnerability of the Critically Endangered leatherback turtle to fisheries bycatch in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. I. A Machine Learning Species Distribution Model.</li> <li>• <b>Publication:</b> Vulnerability of the Critically Endangered leatherback turtle to fisheries bycatch in the eastern Pacific Ocean. II. Assessment of mitigation measures.</li> </ul>			

Activity Proposed		Status – June 17, 2022 - July, 2024	2022	2023	2024
		<p><b><u>Collaboration IAC-RAMSAR</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SIDE EVENT:</b> Participation of IAC Secretary as panelist: Interactive dialogue about the importance of wetlands, climate change and ecosystem services. Ramsar COP14 (7<sup>th</sup> November 2022-Geneva).</li> <li>• <b>SIDE EVENT:</b> Participation of IAC Secretary as panelist at side event “Ramsar sites and Marine Turtles along the American Coast” (12<sup>th</sup> November 2022-Geneva). Co-Organized by IAC-FRANCE and RAMSAR.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Collaboration IAC-Stetson University</u></b></p> <p>Technical document: Analysis of IAC Annual Reports (2015-2023) CIT-CCE17-2024-Tec.24</p>			
16.	<b>Attend technical meetings and workshops.</b>	<p><b><u>IAC-ICCAT</u></b></p> <p>Interessional Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems. Participation of IAC Secretariat and Sectoral Representative CCE as panelist (10th May, 2023 -virtual).</p> <p><b><u>IAC – SARGASSO SEA COMISSION (SSC)</u></b></p> <p>Workshop: “Strengthening the stewardship of an economically and biologically significant high seas area – the Sargasso Sea”. Participation of IAC Secretariat Assistant (October 18th 2022 - Virtual).</p> <p><b><u>WORKSHOPS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop: “Transboundary Marine Species at Risk Recovery in a Changing Climate.” Participation of IAC Secretary as panelist (3-4 November 2022-Washington DC).</li> <li>• Workshop “Strategy framework about solutions to address sea turtle traffic and direct take in the Caribbean central and South America”. Participation of IAC Secretariat as co-organizer with USA Focal Point and USFWS (20th March 2023 ISTS – Cartagena, Colombia).</li> <li>• Workshop: “Regional Implementation of Action Plan for NWA Leatherback”. Participation of IAC Secretary (16th June, 2023- virtual).</li> </ul> <p><b><u>SYMPOSIUM AND TECHNICAL MEETINGS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 41<sup>st</sup> International Sea Turtle Symposium (ISTS). Participation of IAC Secretariat staff. (18 - 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023 - Cartagena, Colombia).</li> </ul>			



Activity Proposed		Status – June 17, 2022 - July, 2024	2022	2023	2024
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WIDECAST Annual Meeting. Participation of IAC Secretary as panelist (19<sup>th</sup> March, 2023-Cartagena, Colombia).</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup> National Meeting of Sea Turtle Experts Mexico. Participation of IAC Secretary as key note speaker at (17<sup>th</sup> October 2023-Playa del Carmen, Mexico).</li> <li>• National Sea Turtle Committee Meeting – Honduras (21-23<sup>th</sup> May 2024). IAC Secretary guest speaker.</li> </ul>			
17.	<b>Promote the celebration of World Sea Turtle Day each year</b>	<p><b><u>COLLABORATION IAC-Permanent Commission of South Pacific (CCPS)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea Turtle day 2022 activities with CPPS: Presentation The impact of plastic on sea turtles in Latin America. With speakers from Karumbe and the Citizen Science Project-Virtual</li> <li>• Sea Turtle day 2023 activities with CPPS: IAC Secretariat and CPPS Marine Action Plan co-organized a video for social media.</li> <li>• Sea Turtle day 2024 activities with support of CPPS and Save the Blue Five: at IAC COP11 the IAC Secretariat and CPPS presented their collaboration in the publication CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.23 “Manual for best practices for sea turtles on board fishing vessels). Post card to share in social media.</li> </ul>			
18.	<b>IAC Focal Points and Committees to 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.			
19.	<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.			
20.	<b>Implementation of funded projects and activities and prepare reports of projects implemented.</b>	<p>For the time being, the IAC administrative operation, contract of IAC assistant, meetings of the Scientific Committee, Consultative Committee, and Conference of Parties, are sustained with funding from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund MTCF-USFWS) (that the Secretariat has secured until September 2024.</p> <p>Progress report to the MTCF-USFWS are prepared by the Secretariat and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation annually from 2019-2024.</p>			

Activity Proposed		Status – June 17, 2022 - July, 2024	2022	2023	2024
		<p>IAC countries hosting meetings provide in-kind support such as: simultaneous interpretation, meeting room rental, catering, sound equipment for meeting room and, local transportation</p> <p>IAC does not have other source of funding to implement projects.</p>			
<b>Organization of Meetings</b>					
21.	<p><b>Organize the COP meetings</b></p> <p><b>Organize Scientific (SC) and Consultative (CCE) Committee’s meetings</b></p> <p><b>Organize meetings of working groups established.</b></p>	<p><b>Six (6) IAC MEETINGS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COP 10. 2 - June 15-17, 2022 Panama</li> <li>• SC19 -November 7-9, 2022 (Virtual)</li> <li>• CCE16 -April 25-26, 2023 (virtual)</li> <li>• SC20 – October 12, 26 and 27 (virtual)</li> <li>• CCE17 - February 27-28, 2024 (virtual)</li> <li>• COP11 - June 11-14, 2024 Ecuador</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Preparatory meetings and WG meetings 2022-2024 (June)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 preparatory meetings for COP11</li> <li>• 13 meetings Legal Working Group</li> <li>• 1 meeting WG Ad hoc Terms of Reference</li> <li>• 8 &amp; 10 preparatory meetings with the Chair of CCE/ CCE16-17 (18 meetings total)</li> <li>• 72 preparatory meetings of working groups the CCE16 and CCE17 (Fisheries, EP Leatherback, NW Atlantic Leatherback)</li> <li>• 5 &amp; 3 preparatory meetings with the Chair for each, the SC19 and SC20. (8 meetings total)</li> <li>• 33 meetings of working groups in preparation for the SC19 and SC20 (Exceptions, Fisheries, Nesting, and Climate Change.</li> </ul> <p>Approximately 155 meetings (virtual) for 14 Working Groups coordinated by IAC Secretariat (last update June 2024)</p>			
<b>Establishment of a permanent Secretariat</b>					
22.	<p><b>Support activities for the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat and support the IAC Legal.</b></p> <p><b>Report updates on this process to COP10 and COP11</b></p>	<p><b><u>Working Group Legal Framework and Permanent Secretariat (Legal-WG).</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A report of the Legal – WG was presented at COP10.2</li> <li>• A report of the Legal – WG will be presented at COP11</li> <li>• 13 meetings of the Legal Working Group (2022-2024)- ((7) 2022, (3) 2023, (3)-2024 june))</li> <li>• Legal WG Coordinator: Mr. Rotney Piedra (Costa Rica)</li> <li>• Members IAC Legal -WG: Costa Rica, The United States, Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil, and Peru.</li> </ul>			
23.	<p><b>The finances sub-group of Legal – WG will implement the strategy to fund the IAC operation</b></p>	<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>			

Activity Proposed		Status – June 17, 2022 - July, 2024	2022	2023	2024
		This activity is included in the Legal WG Work plan and the sub-group on finances reported on it at COP11.			
<b>COP Resolutions and Recommendations</b>					
24.	<b>Address COP requests and draft recommendations and resolutions accordingly.</b>	<a href="#">Proposal for Resolutions COP11 (2024)</a> 1. CIT-COP11-2024-R1: Extension of the Secretariat 2. CIT-COP11-2024-R2: IAC Finances 2025-2026 3. Workplan IAC Secretariat and Subsidiary Bodies 2024-2026 4. MoU National Marine Sanctuary Foundation 5. Letter of Intent IAC-SPAW The Resolutions and documents above were adopted at IAC COP11.			
25.	<b>The Ad hoc WG for the review of the ToR of CCE will prepare a work plan. With the goal to prepare a Legal analysis of Terms of Reference for de CCE regarding the selection process for the sectorial representatives.</b>	Ad hoc ToR WG members: Mexico, Costa Rica and Argentina convened their 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting in March 2024. Argentina – Coordinator. Ad hoc ToR WG presented their work plan to IAC COP11 and it was approved.			
<b>Informe Anual de la CIT</b>					
26.	<b>Each Party sends the Secretariat its Annual Report.</b>	2024: 6 countries have submitted their annual report as of June 2024 ( <i>Argentina, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, the United States, and Dominican Republic</i> ).  2023: 12 countries have submitted their annual report thus far ( <i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, the United States, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Honduras and Caribbean Netherlands</i> ).  2022: 12 countries have submitted their annual report thus far ( <i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, the United States, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Caribbean Netherlands, Honduras</i> ).			
27.	<b>IAC Secretariat will continue to work with WCMC to manage the online report platform.</b>  <b>Support IAC Parties with the use of the online report platform.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(10) meetings for training on the use of the online report were carried out with (6) Parties representatives in 2023.</li> <li>(25 hours) Preparation of online questionnaire and (145) translation to Spanish/English of the Annual Reports (2023)</li> <li>(40 hours) Preparation of online questionnaire and translation to Spanish / English of the Annual Reports (2024)- pending</li> <li>(50 hours) of support on the use of the online report and troubleshooting were carried out with representatives of 11 countries in 2023.</li> </ul>			

Activity Proposed		Status – June 17, 2022 - July, 2024	2022	2023	2024
<b>Work Plan</b>					
28.	<b>Prepare a biennial work plan.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work Plan adopted at COP10.2</li> <li>Work Plan adopted at COP11.</li> </ul>			
29.	<b>Prepare report on Secretariat and Committees activities presented at COPs.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on the Implementation of the IAC Work Plan Activities updated presented to COP10.2 2020-2022 (CIT-CO10-2022-Inf.2)</li> <li>Report on the Implementation of the IAC Work Plan 2022-2024 presented to COP11 (CIT-COP11-2024-Inf.2)</li> </ul>			

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
WORK PLAN 2022-2024**

Green: Activities that have been completed, Yellow: In progress, Red: Activities with no implementation

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –February 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	2022	2023	2024
<b>Exceptions</b> (CIT-COP10-2022-R3, CIT-COP10-2022-R4, CIT-COP10-2022-R5)					
1	The IAC Exceptions Working Group (CCE and SC members) will prepare a format to evaluate the exception management plan every five (5) years.	<p>The WG prepared the Matrix with indicators to evaluate the implementation of the Exception Management Plan CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.4 for, and it was presented it to the IAC CCE Committees in 2022 and 2023, respectively.</p> <p>Guatemala, Panama and Costa Rica defined their evaluation indicators for the implementation of their Exception management plans and they are included in the matrix above.</p> <p>This matrix with the indicators was adopted after the CCE16 meeting by email by the Consultative Committee (CCE) and the Scientific Committee (SC) in 2023.</p> <p>The matrix with the indicators to evaluate the implementation of the Exception Management Plan for Panama, Guatemala and Costa Rica was transmitted to the IAC Focal Points of those countries by the IAC Secretariat in June 2023. This concludes this task for the Exception WG.</p>			
2	The IAC Exceptions WG (CCE and SC members) will support Guatemala in the review of the Management Plan of Exception	<p>The Exceptions WG will prepare recommendations to Guatemala to include in their Exception Management Plan as appropriate.</p> <p>This item is pending until Guatemala Focal Point share their Exception Management Plan.</p> <p>In 2023 the Exception WG provided feedback and edits to Guatemala Scientific Committee delegate for their draft Exception Management Plan.</p>			

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –February 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	2022	2023	2024
		Guatemala will share their Management Plan with the Exception WG in 2024 for further review.			
3.	Inform the COP about the use of sea turtles or their products in the Exceptions of the IAC Countries (when new exceptions are presented).	No new exceptions have been presented			
<b>Implementation of the EP Leatherback Resolution</b> (CIT-COP10-2022-R6)					
4.	Hold annual meetings for the Leatherback EP working group.	EP Leatherback WG reviewed the drafts of the EASI- Fish publications and provided comments to the authors.  The WG meet annually to follow with their work plan in 2022, 2023 and 2024.			
5.	Prepare questions to follow up on the implementation of the Leatherback Resolution EP CIT-COP10-2022-R6 included in the IAC Annual Report.	The WG prepared questions to present to the SC and CCE simultaneously.  The questionnaire was previously sent to the Focal Points and/or those in charge of filling out the annual report, who are also part of the CCE to evaluate it, and the results were taken to SC19. In SC19, sections 1 to 4 proposed by the EP Leatherback WG were adopted.			
		Table 1 Annex II from the EP Leatherback Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 was adopted at CCE16, and its contents were included in the IAC Annual Report 2024 in the fisheries section VI.			
<b>Implementation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Resolution</b> (CIT-COP9-2015-R2)					
6.	Prepare a map of important areas to define which areas are critical for the species and which are already protected.	The Working Group North West Atlantic Leatherback presented the progress report on the elaboration of the map of important areas for the species with the collaboration of the Scientific Committee and regional experts in satellite telemetry to CCE15.  Delegates were requested to submit information on protected or high-use areas for the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback that have not been mapped, to finalize the technical document by June 1, 2022.  El WG finalized the technical document “ <i>Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population and Recommendations to Leatherback Conservation in these Areas</i> ” CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.20. This was adopted at CCE16 and its recommendations were presented at COP11			

	Activity Proposed	Implementation status –February 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	2022	2023	2024
		The technical document can be found in IAC web site			
7.	Work in collaboration with the IAC outreach group to approach non-IAC parties that are in the range of the species	<p>The WG on Outreach to IAC –Non Member Countries has exchanged information with the WG North West Atlantic on relevant information about Leatherback of the Northwest Atlantic, through the representative of the SPAW Protocol (Dr. Olga Koubrak).</p> <p>The objective of the Outreach WG is to support countries such as Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, France, and Suriname to begin the process to becoming members of the IAC.</p> <p>The outreach WG has been meeting regularly from 2020 and as often as needed.</p> <p><u>Government Representatives from Non-Party Countries participating as observers in IAC meetings</u></p> <p>In 2021 Canada and Trinidad &amp; Tobago participated as observers in the meetings of CCE14, SC18, and COP10.1.</p> <p>In 2022 Canada and Trinidad &amp; Tobago participated as observers in the CCE15 and COP10.2 meetings.</p> <p>In 2022 France participated as an observer and presented the report on Ramsar sites important for sea turtles at the CCE15 meeting.</p> <p>In 2022 Guyana participated as an observer in CCE15.</p> <p>In 2023 Canada, France and Trinidad y Tobago attended as observers at the CCE16 and the SC20.</p> <p>In 2024 Canada and France attended as observers at the CCE17.</p>			
8.	<p>Collaborate with France in the framework of the MoU with RAMSAR to propose the exchange of technical information between relevant parties for the Leatherback of the Northwest Atlantic and others.</p> <p>Collaborate with France and CMS in 2024</p>	<p>Side event with Government of France was carried out within the framework of the RAMSAR COP in November 2022.</p> <p>In December 2023 the Government of France reached out to IAC Secretariat to invite IAC to co-organize and moderate a side event at CMS COP14 – Samarkand, Uzbekistan in February 14<sup>th</sup> 2024. The title for the side event was “<i>Experiences and partnerships in the application of best practices to mitigate marine turtles’s incidental catch in fisheries</i>”.</p> <p>The event showcased the partnership IAC-Laud OPO network with speakers from Laud OPO heroes’ program to recognize the commitment of fishing sector y communities’ efforts in conservation of endangered species.</p>			

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –February 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	2022	2023	2024
<b>Fisheries</b>					
9.	The Fisheries WG and EP Leatherback WG of CCE work with the Fisheries working group of the Scientific Committee on preparing a questionnaire to follow up on the implementation of the Resolution on Adverse Impacts of Fisheries (CIT-COP10-2022-R7)	<p>The Focal Points and/or those in charge of filling out the IAC Annual Report who are also CCE delegates filled out the first version of questionnaire for monitoring the implementation of the Fisheries Resolution, as a test, and reported their comments to the SC.</p> <p>The questionnaire prepared by the Fisheries and EP leatherback WG was presented for adoption at CCE16 2023, at the meeting editions were done and final version was prepared, that was adopted by CCE and SC by correspondence and included in the IAC 2024 Annual Report in the fisheries section VI. (See Annual Report section, Number 13).</p>			
10.	The members of the Consultative Committee will classify and characterize the fisheries that interact with sea turtles in their countries, using the survey prepared by the Fisheries WG. Send information to the WG on June 1, 2022.	<p>The WG presented a progress report to CCE14</p> <p>The Fisheries Working Groups of the Scientific and Consultative Committees will work together to improve the proposed format for requesting data on sea turtle interactions with gillnet fisheries.</p> <p>The CCE delegates provided answers to the minimum data survey to characterize the fisheries (observed and unobserved) that interact with sea turtles proposed by the WG at CCE15-2022. Preliminary report presented by the WG Coordinator Brazil in CCE15-2022.</p>			
		<p>The countries 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. The WG will use the information provided in a survey by its members in 2022 to prepare a report.</p> <p>Final Report with the Classification and characterization of fisheries that interact with sea turtles with the survey data provided in 2022 by delegates of the Consultative Committee (Brazil, México, Chile, Uruguay, Guatemala, Costa Rica) will be presented by the Coordinator Brazil to CCE16 in 2023.</p> <p>The Final Report was not presented at CCE16 and CCE17, and the task was not finalized by the WG. This activity was deleted from the CCE workplan as there was no execution in two years.</p>			



Activity Proposed		Implementation status –February 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	2022	2023	2024
		<p>CCE16 - 2023 the Coordinator of the WG Brazil changed announced that he will no longer participate in CCE and that the WG will appoint a new coordinator.</p> <p>CCE17 – 2024 agreed to merge the Fisheries WG from CCE with the Fisheries WG of the Scientific Committee as they share some members and they have similar tasks.</p>			
11.	Pilot Project to evaluate the possibility of information collection on artisanal longline fisheries (WG Chile -Peru)	<p>The CCE approved the draft pilot project (Chile and Peru) Title: “Standardization of formats to auto – report for Collection of Data of Incidental Catch of Sea Turtles for Implementation in Artisanal longline and Gillnet Fisheries of Southern Peru and Northern Chile”.</p> <p>The WG Chile-Peru prepared a draft of budget for this project. This needs to be further refined. The execution of this project is subject to availability of funds.</p> <p>In 2023 the Coordinator of the WG-Chile sectorial member MSc. Paula Salinas sent several email communications to other members in an effort to make progress on preparing a budget for this activity.</p> <p>In 2024 the WG convened a meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2024 where it was agreed that Peru will turn in their budget for the project, and Chile will revise its budget. The delegate from Chile is in charge of exploring the possibility of collaboration between Subpesca and IFOP in the capacity building component of the project.</p>			
<b>Annual Report and Compliance with Resolutions</b>					
12.	The CCE delegate will support the Focal Point of each country in preparing the IAC Annual Report.	<p><b>2024: Deadline for IAC Annual Report is April 30<sup>th</sup> 2024</b></p> <p>2023: 12 countries have submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, Honduras, Dominican Republic and Caribbean Netherlands</i>)</p> <p>2022: 12 countries have submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, the United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic</i>)</p> <p>2021: 13 countries submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, the Caribbean Netherlands, Peru, Uruguay, and the United States</i>)</p> <p>2020: 11 countries submitted their annual report (<i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, the Netherlands, and Peru</i>).</p>			



Activity Proposed		Implementation status –February 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	2022	2023	2024
		2019: 11 countries submitted their annual report ( <i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the United States, Guatemala, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, and Venezuela</i> ). 2018: 11 countries submitted an annual report ( <i>Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the Netherlands, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, the United States and Venezuela</i> ).			
13.	Prepare, together with the Scientific Committee, changes in the relevant sections of the IAC Annual Report for 2023 – 2025 according to the new resolutions adopted at COP10.2 (Exceptions, fisheries and Leatherback EPO).	<b>EP LEATHERBACK</b> – The CCE and the Scientific Committee prepared the new questions, changes were made including new questions to the questionnaire on Leatherback EP to follow up on Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 in the IAC Annual Report 2023.			
		<b>FISHERIES</b> – The questionnaires on the fisheries section (Annex II – Table 1) of the Leatherback EP Resolution and on the Fisheries Resolution were prepared by the WGs (EP Leatherback and Fisheries) and the questionnaire was adopted CCE16 2023 to be included in the IAC Annual Report between 2023-2025.  The IAC Secretariat with WCMC prepared the IAC Annual report format 2024 including the new questionnaire for the fisheries Resolution adopted CCE16.			
		<b>EXCEPTIONS</b> - The Exceptions WG prepared the indicator matrix to evaluate the implementation of the exception management plans it was adopted at CCE16 (see number 1).  In 2023 the IAC Secretariat sent the indicator matrix to the IAC Focal Points from Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama as agreed in the Exception Resolution.			
<b>Collaboration with International Organizations</b>					
14.	Identify, prioritize and work on the implementation of joint activities in the framework of the MoUs.	<b>RAMSAR:</b> In a parallel event at the COP14-Ramsar in Geneva in November 2022, the IAC Secretariat co-organized an event with the Ramsar Secretariat and Delegates from the France Government, where they presented the results of a poll prepared by IAC and Ramsar about the IAC Party Countries capacity to implement the Ramsar Resolution No. XIII.4 and opportunities to collaborate. It was recommended to update the technical document on important Ramsar sites for sea turtles, including IAC Party countries that are not yet included and the ones suggested by the participants on the poll.			
15.		<b>STETSON UNIVERSITY:</b> The CCE identified topics for collaborative work with Stetson University, within the framework of the MoC. This was the			

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –February 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	2022	2023	2024
		preparation of Report on Compliance with the IAC Resolutions with information form Annual Report to be presented at Committees and COP.			
		Stetson University prepared in 2023 a preliminary report on Compliance with the IAC Resolutions. The preliminary report was presented at CCE16. (See number 22). The CCE members (USA, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Mexico and Sectorial D. Amorocho) sent their comments to the preliminary report from Stetson according to information from their country Annual Reports. Each comment was included in the final version of Stetson report.			
		Stetson University prepared in 2024 the final report with the evaluation of compliance with IAC Resolutions report CIT-CCE17-2014.Doc.6 this changed to technical document CIT-CCE17-2014-Tec.23 titled: Analysis of the IAC Annual Reports 2015-2023. This report was presented and adopted at CCE17 (2024). <a href="#">The report CIT-CCE17-2014.Tec.23 was presented to COP11 (2024). This concludes this activity</a>			
16.		<p><b>IAC-ICCAT:</b> The CCE will identify priority activities to be implemented jointly within the framework of the MOUs of the IAC with ICCAT/CICAA.</p> <p>Pending to define within the Consultative Committee who would be the delegate to support the IAC Secretariat in the follow up with the collaboration with ICCAT. This has been discussed since 2022 and it is still pending.</p> <p><u>Activity 2023:</u> IAC CCE Scientific Sectorial Representative Dr. Bryan Wallace with IAC Secretariat presented at virtual meeting of the ICCAT Subcommittee on Ecosystems the EASI- Fish with EP leatherback model and the collaboration with the IATTC. The meeting was convened from May 31st - June 3rd, 2023.</p>			
17.		<p><b>IAC-IATTC:</b> Memorandum of Understanding is being implemented EASI-Fish Project for EP leatherback (see number 4) Project finalized.</p> <p><u>Activity 2023:</u> IAC CCE Delegate Bryan Wallace, IAC Secretariat and IATTC Staff continue to prepare edits to the two papers related to EASI-Fish submitted for publication to journals.</p>			

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –February 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	2022	2023	2024
		Two papers were accepted by the open access journal Endangered Species Research in 2023.			
18.		<b>IAC-SARGASSO SEA COMMISSION (SSC):</b> The signing of MoU between IAC and the SSC took place in the framework of the CCE16 meeting 26 April 2023.			
		The NWA Leatherback WG identified topics for collaborative work with the Sargasso Sea Commission, within the framework of the MOU and will prepare a work plan.  In 2023 the USA delegate to CCE convened two (2) meetings with SSC and IAC Secretariat to discuss areas of interest to collaborate. The preliminary topics are: SSC facilitates outreach with countries in European Union such as Portugal, share sea turtle critical areas in Sargasso Sea to look into the topics of collision of boats / vessel strikes with sea turtles and plastic pollution. Primarily information exchange. In 2024 the WG presented a progress report at CCE17 in 2024.			
19.	Provide recommendations, promote alliances and collaboration with related international organizations to meet the objectives of the IAC.	<b>LAUD OPO NETWORK:</b> The IAC Secretary is participating in the activities of the EP Leatherback Network, such as updating the action plan, communication strategy and regular meetings.  <u>Activity 2023-LAUD OPO Annual Meeting:</u> IAC delegates attended as presenters the LAUD OPO Annual Meeting on March 20 <sup>th</sup> in Cartagena at the ISTS 41.  <u>Activity 2023-Collaboration in Communication Strategy:</u> LAUD OPO Network will develop outreach related material about IAC to help IAC Secretariat promote the IAC Objectives and activities to a greater audience.- Pending to define communication material in 2024  <u>Activity 2024-Side event at COP14 CMS:</u> IAC presentation of Laud OPO heroes’ program, Samarkand, Uzbekistan February 14 <sup>th</sup> 2024.			
20.		<b>SPAW Protocol:</b> IAC Secretary sent Ann Marie Lauritsen as a delegate to participate in the Species WG on the SPAW Secretary.  2022-2023 IAC is a member of the Species WG of SPAW Protocol - Ann Marie Lauritsen (USA) is IAC Delegate.			

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –February 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	2022	2023	2024
		<p>2024 The CCE17 agreed to prepare a Letter of Intent to facilitate the technical collaboration between IAC – SPAW Protocol.</p> <p>The Chair of CCE together with IAC Secretariat and Legal WG prepared a draft letter to share with SPAW for review. <a href="#">The LoI was presented and adopted at IAC COP11-2024.</a></p>			
21.	Identify funding sources for small projects recommended by CCE	<p>A Working Group was established to raise financial support for small projects in 2022. The delegate from CCE Chile was the only member of this WG. Expressions of interest from other CCE members were received in at CCE16 – 2023.</p> <p>The members of the Fundraising WG are: Chile (Paula Salinas CCE delegate-Coordinator-Paula Salinas), CCE Sectorial Nina Pardo, and CCE Sectorial ONG – Costa Rica por Siempre (Luis Fonseca), Costa Rica (Rotney Piedra CCE delegate).</p> <p>Coordinator Chile presented in 2023 the update on the pilot project Chile-Peru “<i>Standardization of formats to auto – report for Collection of Data of Incidental Catch of Sea Turtles for Implementation in Artisanal longline and Gillnet Fisheries of Southern Peru and Northern Chile</i>”. (see #11 in this table), the fundraising WG will focus on small projects.</p> <p>In 2023 the WG Coordinator P. Salinas convened a meeting with the Coordinator of the Legal WG R. Piedra. The roles for collaboration were agreed.</p> <p>The meeting of the WG with CPPS to discuss possible collaboration it is pending until 2024.</p>			
<b>Recommendations of the COP and Consultative Committee of Experts</b>					
22.	The Consultative Committee will prepare a report to the COP on the compliance with the resolutions based on the information reported in the IAC Annual Reports.	<p>Stetson University analyzed IAC Annual Reports to evaluate compliance with the IAC Resolutions. They prepared a preliminary report that was presented at CCE16 – 2023 (see number 15).</p> <p>The CCE16 members from Argentina, USA, Uruguay, Mexico, Guatemala and Peru and sectorial member D. Amorcho provided feedback and revisions for accuracy to the PRELIMINARY REPORT presented by Stetson. IAC Secretariat provided to Stetson additional data from IAC Annual Reports 2023 to finalize the report.</p> <p>Stetson University presented the final report at CCE17-2024 with the compliance with the IAC Resolutions. The report is titled: ANALYSIS OF IAC ANNUAL REPORTS 2015 –</p>			

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –February 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	2022	2023	2024
		2023 CIT-CCE17-2014.Doc.6 this changed to technical document CIT-CCE17-2014-Tec.23.  The CIT-CCE17-2014-Tec.23 was presented to COP11 (2024). This activity has been concluded.			
23.	Resolution review for COP11	CCE17 - 2024 discussed the resolution proposals from Legal WG on amendment of terms of reference for CCE and SC. The CCE17 created the Ad hoc ToR WG (Argentina, Mexico and Costa Rica) to provide a legal review only regarding to the process for selection for CCE Sectorial Representatives. This WG reported to IAC COP11 with a work plan to carry out this activity.			
<b>IAC Technical Documents</b>					
24	Prepare technical documents as needed.	The Technical Document Titled: <i>Areas Used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population and Recommendations to Leatherback Conservation in these Areas</i> CIT-CCE16-2023-Tec.20 - was adopted at CCE16 (see number 6). The document is on the IAC website.  The recommendations from the technical document were presented to COP11 (2024). This concludes this activity.			
<b>IAC Directory of Experts</b>					
25.	Update the directory of experts in areas of interest of the IAC	Directory of Experts updated in June 2023 with information received from Mexico, Uruguay and Ecuador, and updated again in 2024 with information from USA. The directory can be found in IAC website. <a href="http://www.iacseaturtle.org/directorioExpertos-eng.htm">http://www.iacseaturtle.org/directorioExpertos-eng.htm</a>			
<b>Website and IAC Newsletter</b>					
26.	Send the Secretariat news from your country -every month- for the IAC Bulletin.	Three news bulletins published in 2022.  Five news bulletins published in 2023. (Bulletin 47, 48, 49, 50 and 51)  One news bulletin Jan-April 2024 will be the next one.  <b><u>New section in IAC Bulletin-Recognizing Fishing Sector: Sectorial – Industry Delegate</u></b> Nina Pardo is the editor of the new section in IAC bulletin to recognize the efforts of fishing sector in the conservation of sea turtles with best practices. The editor will send to IAC Secretariat news to be included in each edition of IAC bulletin (3-4 times / year). In 2023 the editor of this new section has provided news for 4 IAC Bulletins bulletin 48-51.			

Activity Proposed		Implementation status –February 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	2022	2023	2024
<b>Communication Strategy</b>					
27.	The CCE delegates will send outreach material on sea turtles to Costa Rica to be used in the Communication strategy of the Convention.	Costa Rica prepared a video on the 20th anniversary of the IAC and it was presented at COP10.2 - Finalized Costa Rica will continue to support the development of audiovisual material in 2022-2023 as needed.			
<b>Consultative Committee of Experts Work Plan</b>					
28.	Report on the implementation of the Consultative Committee work plan	Implementation status of the 2020-2022 Work Plan presented at the CCE15 meeting and COP10.2 (CIT-COP10-2022-Inf.2)  Implementation status of the 2022-2023 Work Plan presented at the CCE16 meeting 2023. (CIT-CCE16-2023-Doc.2)  Implementation status of the 2023-2026 Work Plan was presented at the CCE17 meeting (CIT-CCE17-2024-Doc.2). This will be presented at COP11 (2024).  Responsible: CCE Chair and Secretariat			
29.	Update the CCE Work Plan.	Updated work plan at the 15th Meeting of the Consultative Committee CCE15, 2022 Updated work plan at the 16th Meeting of the Consultative Committee CCE16, 2023 Updated work plan at the 17th Meeting of the Consultative Committee CCE17, 2024			
30.	Organize working group meetings to follow up on the CCE work plan	<u>Number of meetings of the CCE Working Groups in 2022, 2023 and until 29 February 2024:</u> Fisheries (9), EP Leatherback (7), Exceptions (5), Northwestern Atlantic Leatherback (8), Chair CCE and Secretariat (10). Meetings with Stetson (4). Small Projects /Fundraising WG (7). SSC WG (2).			

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IAC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
WORK PLAN 2022-2023**

Green: Activities that have been completed, Yellow: In progress, Red: Activities with no implementation

Proposed Activities		Status – October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	2022	2023	2024
<b>Exceptions</b>					
1.	<p>Assessment of Panama, Costa Rica and Guatemala exception management plan every five years.</p> <p>Prepare a form to assess each country exception management plan every five years.</p>	<p>Exceptions WG meet in July 2022 to discuss the steps to prepare a form with the minimum information and data contents to be included in the Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan. Other meetings were convened until the activity was finalized.</p> <p>Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala presented to CC19 (2022) their indicators to evaluate their exception for inclusion in the form, they were used by Exception WG to prepare the matrix with indicators to present it at CC20-2023.</p> <p>Exception WG presented the matrix with indicators for the evaluation of each country exception to the Consultative Committee (2023), edits were included. The IAC Secretariat shared the matrix with both SC and CCE Committees and it was adopted by email (June 2023). <b>This task assigned to SC and CCE in the Exceptions Resolutions has been executed and it will be deleted from both committees work plans for 2024.</b></p> <p>The IAC Secretariat in July 2023 sent the official communication to IAC Focal Points from Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala with the assessment form (matrix with indicators) to evaluate the exception management plan for their use to submit a report to the IAC every 5 years.</p> <p>Responsible: Delegates SC - Costa Rica (Coordinador), Guatemala (Coordinador), Caribbean Netherlands, Brazil, Panama, and Mexico. (CCE).</p>	Yellow	Green	
2.a	<p>Guatemala presents their Exception management Plan for review to the SC</p>	<p>Guatemala presents their Exception management Plan to SC no later than June 2025.</p> <p>Guatemala presented a progress report to SC19 (2022).</p> <p>Guatemala prepared a draft Management Plan (MP) and presented it to the Exception Working Group in August 2023. Exception WG provided comments (Costa Rica, Brazil and IAC Secretariat) to the draft MP.</p> <p>Guatemala presented a progress report of the draft MP to SC20 (2023). Guatemala will share their progress in the MP to the Exception WG and SC for final comments in February 2024.</p> <p>Guatemala will present the most updated draft MP to SC21 (2024).</p>	Yellow	Yellow	
2.b	<p>Panama presents their Exception management Plan to the SC</p>	<p>Panama reported to COP10.2 (2022) that their Exception Management Plan for Isla Cañas is included in the new law for the protection of sea turtles in Panama, this law is currently in review to be approved by Panama Congress. Once the law is approved, the Exception Management Plan will be official.</p>	Green	Green	



Proposed Activities		Status – October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	2022	2023	2024
		<p>Panama sent their Management Plan for review to SC exception WG on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022, the WG provided feedback to Panama Focal Point on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2023.</p> <p>At the SC20 (2023) Panama informed that their Exception MP is still in the process to seek final approval from the legal department at the Ministry of Environment.</p> <p><b>This concludes the task of the Exception WG for Panama and this will be deleted from SC work plan.</b></p>			
		<p>Panama will inform the IAC Secretariat and IAC subsidiary bodies when the Panama Exceptions Management Plan is officially adopted by the Minister of Environment.</p>			
<b>Fisheries</b>					
3.	<p>Fisheries WG delegate-Mexico will prepare the report on data analysis of observer data for longline fisheries including data 2020 - 2025 from IAC Annual Report.</p>	<p>The report was updated with longline data from 2020, 2021 and 2022 IAC Annual report. Pending update with 2023 data.</p> <p>The delegate from Mexico presented a progress report to SC19 (2022).</p> <p>The delegate from Mexico and IAC Secretariat will review the data submitted for 2023 and in May 2024, to check on which countries have submitted information on longline to update the technical document. It will be reported to SC each year the status of data available.</p> <p>The IAC Secretariat prepared a table with the status of long line data submission per year 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. This table is available in the SC20 (2023) report under the agenda item IAC Annual Report.</p> <p>The delegate from Mexico will prepare the Technical Document: Report of the analysis of observer data for longline fisheries data 2020-2025 to the IAC SC (2025).</p> <p>Responsible: Mexico's Delegate (SC)</p>			
4.	<p>Carry out a technical exchange (virtual meeting) focused on longline data collection, with participation of the fisheries WG, RFMOs staff with which the IAC has MoUs, and IAC countries interested (fisheries agencies).</p>	<p>Guatemala proposed this activity to be carried out in 2022 with the purpose to convey to the fisheries agencies in the IAC countries the need for the fisheries data collection in the IAC Annual Report. This is to help prepare the technical document or report and analysis of the Fisheries WG and to follow up with the Resolutions.</p> <p>This activity did not take place in 2022, the Fisheries WG did not indicate next steps.</p> <p>SC20 (2023) decided to extend the implementation time for this activity to the first trimester of 2024. The fisheries WG will report to SC21 (2024) on the results.</p> <p>Responsible: SC Fisheries WG</p>			
5.	<p>Develop a data collection form. Develop a method to analyze data on the interaction between sea turtles and gillnets according to Resolution on Fisheries CIT-COP10-2022-R7</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>No progress has been reported by the Consultative Committee</p> <p>Consultative Committee should indicate the deadline and time frame for this activity to be completed.</p>			



Proposed Activities		Status – October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	2022	2023	2024
		<p>SC20 (2023) decided that this activity will be coordinated by the delegate from Chile, whom will reach to the CPPS and their sea turtle committee to share the data collection form for gill nets developed by IAC SC in previous years. With the goal to prepare a minimum data requirement, format that works for IAC and CCPS. The results of this coordination will be presented at SC21 (2023).</p> <p>Responsible: Chile Delegate (SC)</p>			
6.	The Fisheries WG SC and CCE will prepare questions to follow up on implementation of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7 in IAC Annual Report	<p>The Fisheries WG prepared the questions to follow up on the implementation of Fisheries Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7.</p> <p>The questions were discussed at SC19 - 2022 but they were not adopted. The WG prepared a recommendation for CCE-2023 of revised questions.</p> <p>The questions were presented at CCE16 – 2023 by Coordinator of EP Leatherback WG with support of CCE Fisheries WG. Editions were included and final version of the questionnaire to follow up with CIT-COP10-2022-R7 was shared with CCE and SC by email, and it was adopted on June 2023. <b>This concludes the task assigned to IAC Committees in the resolution.</b></p> <p>The new questions for the fisheries section in IAC Annual Report will be included in the format for 2024.</p> <p>Responsible: Uruguay (SC) and Brazil (CCE) and WG Leatherback EP.</p>			
7.	Fisheries WG proposed to prepare IAC Manual for handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught in fishing operations.	<p>Discussion at SC18 on how to carry out the drafting of the <i>IAC Manual for handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught in fishing operations</i>, by an analysis of manuals that already exist.</p> <p>Two meetings in 2022 of the WG Ecuador and Chile.</p> <p>The Secretariat secured support from a volunteer to prepare the draft of the document under the guidance of the SC Working group.</p> <p>Ms. Isabel Rodriguez (Master’s student at Perdue University) prepared the draft of the manual and presented it to SC19-2022. The SC agreed to include Ms. Rodriguez in the WG to prepare the final version of the manual.</p> <p>Fisheries WG new coordinators of this activity to prepare this manual (Mexico and Ms. Rodriguez) meet in September 2023 to decide on next steps regarding the final review of text, selection of illustrations and authorship. Each section of the manual was distributed with WG members ARG, CHI, MEX, PE, ECU and URU. Edits were received and Mr. Isabel Rodriguez presented the updated draft manual at SC20 (2023) and the text and contest were adopted.</p> <p>Next steps: the WG will finalize the manual by selecting illustrations and pictures and produce a final version for graphic design by Mangrove Studio by the first week of March 2024. The manual was presented at IAC COP11-2024. <b>IAC COP11 recommended the manual to be shared with the Consultative Committee for edits</b></p>			

Proposed Activities		Status – October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	2022	2023	2024
		<p>and after this is done it will be shared with IAC Focal Points for adoption by email. The timeframe to produce final document was extended to 2025.</p> <p>Responsible: WG Fisheries ARG, CHI, USA, MEX, PE, ECU and URU.</p>			
<b>Index Beaches Conservation Status</b>					
8.	<p>Collect information on annual nesting in index beaches of IAC countries using the form developed by the SC, and the data from the IAC Annual Report.</p> <p>The Technical Document “IAC Index Beach Data Analysis” is updated every 5 years.</p> <p>Next update will be in 2027.</p>	<p>The WG has been updating the Technical Document IAC Index Beach Data Analysis since 2014.</p> <p>The SC19-2022 validated and made edits to the index beaches to be included in the IAC Annual Report 2023. The new list of beaches is included in the IAC Annual Report 2023 and IAC website.  <a href="http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/IAC_Index_Beaches_List_adopted_FP_November_15_Dec9.2021_ENG_SPA_FINAL.pdf">http://www.iacseaturtle.org/docs/IAC_Index_Beaches_List_adopted_FP_November_15_Dec9.2021_ENG_SPA_FINAL.pdf</a></p> <p>The Nesting Beach WG presented technical document updated “<i>IAC Index Beach Data Analysis 2009-2023</i>” was presented to SC20 (2023) and it was adopted. In 2024 the WG received data from countries and editions continued. <a href="#">The document recommendations were presented at COP11-2024.</a></p> <p>Responsible: USA Delegate and the Secretariat</p>			
<b>Climate Change</b>					
9.	<p>Follow up and provide support to countries implementing the “Pilot Project for IAC Parties to collect environmental data in their index nesting beaches”.</p> <p>Convene annual meetings of the WG.</p> <p>Final report on f the Pilot Project presented to SC in 2025.</p> <p>Pilot Project countries: Caribbean Netherlands, USA, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Dominican Republic and Panama</p>	<p>The WG Coordinator sent a survey in 2022 to the participant countries to follow up on their environmental data collection.</p> <p>The WG Coordinator presented a progress report on the implementation of the Pilot Project at SC19- 2022.</p> <p>Participating countries Ecuador, The United States, Costa Rica, México, Caribbean Netherlands, Panamá and Dominican Republic will continue to report / record the environmental data for the pilot study on July 30<sup>th</sup> of each year until completion of the study in 2025.</p> <p>The WG agreed to meet on December 2023 to check on updates on the pilot projects.</p> <p>Responsible: Delegate Caribbean Netherlands - Coordinator</p>			
<b>Eastern Pacific Leatherback <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i></b>					
10.	<p>The Scientific Committee review the articles for journal submission on EP leatherback EASI-Fish model and a habitat distribution model.</p>	<p>The delegates from Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and the USA provided comments to the draft publications on the IAC-IATTC EP leatherback EASI-Fish model and the species distribution model that will be submitted to scientific journals in 2022. It is still in review by journal Endangered Species Research title: <i>A machine learning species distribution model for the critically endangered east Pacific leatherback turtle (Dermochelys coriacea)</i>. <b>This concludes the task for SC and will be deleted from work plan 2024</b></p> <p>Result: in 2023 two papers were accepted for publication in scientific journals. Links to publications will be available on the IAC website.</p>			

Proposed Activities		Status – October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	2022	2023	2024
		Responsible: Leatherback Task Force Coordinator (CCE)			
11.	Prepare questions to follow up on implementation of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 EP Leatherback in IAC Annual Report	<p>The EP Leatherback Task Force prepared the questions to follow up on the implementation of the resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6.</p> <p>The questions section 1-4 was adopted at SC19 and included in IAC Annual report for 2023.</p> <p>Section 5 related to fisheries will be evaluated in the framework of the fisheries resolution in 2023. As result of the email consultations of the working groups fisheries and EP Leatherback the questions for this section were adopted in 2023 (see No. 7 above). The questions will be included in IAC Annual Report format in 2024. <b>This concludes the task for SC and CCE according to the Resolution.</b></p> <p>Responsible: Mexico (CCE) and Chile (SC) and EP leatherback WG.</p>			
<b>Sea Turtle Conservation Status</b>					
12.	<p>Update report CIT-CC13-2016-Tec.13: Status of Loggerhead Turtles in IAC countries. This report is updated every 4 years.</p> <p>Next update: 2027</p> <p>Working Group: Mexico, Brazil, Belize, USA. Coordinator USA and Belize.</p>	<p>The WG will presented the progress in the update of Technical Document Status of Loggerhead Turtles in IAC countries to the SC19 (2022).</p> <p>The <i>Caretta caretta</i> WG (Coordinator USA and Belize) presented the updated technical document with data from (2009-2022) at SC20-2023. The document was adopted and the new version is CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.21- <a href="#">It was presented to COP11 and received comments from Argentina. The final edition will be in September 2024.</a></p> <p>Responsible update 2023: Belize and USA Responsible update 2027: Brazil and USA</p>			
13.	Vessel Strikes and sea turtles. Working group to prepare recommendations to mitigate this threat.	<p>WG Vessel strikes with sea turtles was formed at SC19-2022, per request of Dominican Republic. The following activities were included in the work plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Select a WG Coordinator at first meeting. The coordinator is Dominican Republic. Coordinator will present a report at SC20.</li> <li>2. WG to support the review of Dominican Republic Ministerial Resolution to mitigate the threat of vessel strikes. The WG provided edits to first draft of Ministerial resolution prepared by DR. The draft resolution will be presented at SC20 as information document. The delegation of Dominican Republic will continue their process for adoption of the resolution. <b>This concludes this activity of the Vessel strikes WG.</b></li> </ol> <p>Responsible: Dominican Republic (Coordinator), Guatemala, Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, Belize, Mexico.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Prepare a Technical Document of Vessel strikes and sea turtles to present at SC20-2023.</li> </ol> <p>The WG prepared a list of topics to include in the technical document to be adopted at SC20-2023. The finalized technical document will be presented for adoption at SC21-2024.</p>			

Proposed Activities		Status – October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	2022	2023	2024
		Responsible: Dominican Republic (Coordinator), Guatemala (Coordinator), Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, Belize, Mexico, and Ecuador.			
14.	Sargassum Working Group	The Sargassum WG was organized by request from Costa Rica. Their objective is to prepare a technical document for 2024.  WG Members: (Coordinator) Costa Rica, Caribbean Netherlands, Belice, Panama, and Honduras.			
15.	Recommendations on sea turtle's conservation status using technical documents presented to the COP when applicable.	<b>The SC presented recommendations to COP11 (2024) from the following technical documents:</b> - CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.21: Status of Loggerhead Turtle ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> ) in IAC countries - CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.22: Nesting beach data analysis 2009-2023			
<b>Collaboration with Other Organizations and Strategic Alliances</b>					
16.	Resume activities with the working group to implement actions identified in SC18 under IAC-ACAP MoU	The coordinator of the WG – Argentina convened a meeting of the WG to begin the implementation of activities under IAC-ACAP MoU on December 1 <sup>st</sup> 2022, and a work plan was agreed. The coordinator presented a progress report to SC19.  The WG continued to meet in 2023 to implement the activities agreed.  Responsible: Argentina			
17.	Implementation of IAC - ACAP MoU	The WG Coordinator and ACAP's delegate identified at the SC18 as priority activities: Prepare guidelines for electronic monitoring for sea turtles, and identification of priority geographical areas of interest for ACAP and IAC species.  A progress report was presented at SC19-2022 to evaluate the feasibility of those activities.  The working group decided to explore more about the electronic monitoring.  WG presented work plan at ACAP Advisory Committee in 2023.  The WG agreed to implement the following activity in 2023:  The WG did a literature review for EM and prepared: -a) questionnaire about ME shared to SC members and the answers from 9 countries were received, and -b) report with their findings from literate review.  The WG presented a report and recommendations on electronic monitoring (EM) of fisheries at SC20-2023. <b>This concludes this activity of the WG and it can be deleted from work plan.</b>			
		At SC20 (2023) it was agreed for the WG to prepare a technical document: EM and lessons learned in the implementation from Chile and USA to be presented at SC21 (2024).  Responsible: Argentina			

Proposed Activities		Status – October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	2022	2023	2024
		Working Group: Argentina (Coordinador), Chile, Peru, Mexico, Ecuador and USA.			
18.	Implementation of IAC - Ramsar MoU - Update Technical Document Wetlands of International Importance and Sea Turtle Conservation	The IAC and Ramsar Secretariat will update the technical document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.6 “Wetlands of International Importance and Sea Turtle Conservation” with information from Dominican Republic and other sites in 2022-2023. We are waiting for a response from Ramsar Secretariat. Responsible: IAC and Ramsar Secretariats			
<b>IAC Annual Report</b>					
19.	Assess IAC Annual Report questionnaire -SC and CCE will prepare questions for IAC Annual Report 2023 to follow up on the implementation of the new resolutions adopted at the COP10.2	The SC19 (2022) discussed the following: -Progress on format to evaluate exceptions management plan (See #1). -Questions for implementation of Fisheries impacts Resolution (See #7) -Questions for implementation of EP Leatherback Resolution (See #12). Questions for section 1-4 adopted and included in IAC Annual Report 2023. Expected result: SC19 recommends IAC Annual Report questionnaire to updated with new questions EP leatherback 2023. <b>This is finalized the questions have been included.</b> Inter-session period 2022-2023: Expected result and implemented: New questions for resolution fisheries adopted and will be included in IAC Annual Report 2024.			
20.	Include in SC agenda every year a presentation of research from one or two IAC member countries reported in the IAC Annual Report.	Each year 2 countries will present a research project in alphabetical order: 2022 Research by Argentina and Brazil 2023 Research by Costa Rica and Chile 2024 Research by Belize and Ecuador <b>2025 Research by Guatemala and Honduras</b>			
<b>Projects</b>					
21.	Recommend high priority projects to apply for funds and other resources needed to achieve the IAC objectives.	No recommendation for new projects from the Scientific Committee to date. No color for the status			
<b>Capacity Development</b>					
22.	Technical support from SC members in workshops and training on subjects that the Parties identified and for which funding is available.	Nothing to report 2022 Activities 2023 -Workshop on illegal traffic at ISTS 2023 the results are in IAC Bulletin No.48.			
<b>Recommendations from COP and Consultative Committee of Experts</b>					
23.	Address COP and Consultative Committee of Experts requests and make recommendations accordingly.	The request from IAC COP10 has been addressed by the SC 2022 and 2023- Refer to number 19 of this document.			

Proposed Activities		Status – October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	2022	2023	2024
<b>Technical Documents</b>					
24.	Prepare technical documents as needed.	Technical documents 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of Loggerhead Turtles in IAC countries</li> <li>• Analysis of IAC Index Beaches 2009-2023</li> </ul>			
<b>IAC Website and News Bulletin</b>					
25.	The delegates of the Scientific Committee will provide to the IAC Secretariat news from their countries to include in the IAC Bulletin	News updated on the IAC website. 3 IAC bulletin published 2022. 3 IAC bulletin published in 2023. <a href="http://www.iacseaturtle.org/boletin-eng.htm">http://www.iacseaturtle.org/boletin-eng.htm</a>			
<b>IAC Experts Directory</b>					
26.	Update the directory of experts on the IAC areas of interest.	Experts Directory updated on the website December 2022 Experts Directory updated on the website June 2023 <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>			
<b>Scientific Committee Work Plan</b>					
27.	Report on the implementation status of the SC Work Plan	Report on the Implementation of the SC WP 2022 was presented to SC19. Report on the Implementation of the SC WP 2023 was presented to SC20. Responsible: IAC SC Chair and Vicechair			
28.	Update the Scientific Committee Work	Work Plan updated at the 19th Scientific Committee meeting 2022 Work Plan updated at the 20th Scientific Committee meeting 2023			
29.	Convene meetings of SC Working Group to implement the WP.	Number of meetings SC Working Groups <b>2022</b> : Exceptions WG (2), Fisheries WG (7), EP Leatherback WG (5), Climate Change WG (1), <i>Caretta caretta</i> (email exchanges), SC Chair / Vicechair and IAC Secretariat (3 meetings).  Number of meetings SC Working Groups as of September <b>2023</b> : Index Nesting beach (7), Vessel strikes (4), IAC -ACAP (3), Exceptions WG (2), <i>Caretta caretta</i> (1), Fisheries/Manual WG (5), EP Leatherback WG (1), SC Chair / Vicechair and IAC Secretariat (7 meetings).  Responsible: SC Chair / Vicechair, WG Coordinators with support of IAC Secretariat.			



## Annex IV – Technical Documents-Link to documents in IAC website

### Technical Document: Areas used by the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Population and Recommendations to Leatherback Conservation in these Areas

IAC WEBSITE: [http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/tecnicos/CIT\\_CCE16\\_2023\\_Tec\\_20\\_NWALeatherback\\_Map\\_importantsites\\_ENG\\_24May\\_2023final\\_web.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/tecnicos/CIT_CCE16_2023_Tec_20_NWALeatherback_Map_importantsites_ENG_24May_2023final_web.pdf)

### Technical Document: Status of Loggerhead Turtles (*Caretta caretta*) within Nations of the IAC

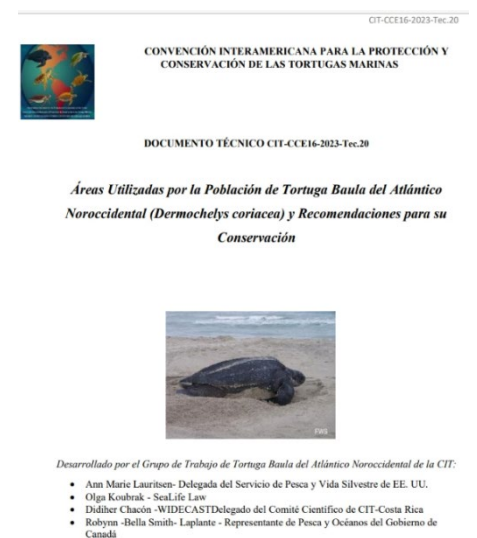
IAC WEBSITE: [http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/tecnicos/CIT\\_CC20\\_2023\\_Tec\\_21\\_Caretta\\_caretta\\_30\\_OCT\\_2023\\_ENG\\_ADOPTED\\_web\\_Cover\\_page.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/tecnicos/CIT_CC20_2023_Tec_21_Caretta_caretta_30_OCT_2023_ENG_ADOPTED_web_Cover_page.pdf)

### Technical Document: IAC Index Nesting Beach Data Analysis (2009-2023)

IAC WEBSITE: [http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/tecnicos/CIT\\_CC20-2023\\_Tec\\_22\\_Index\\_Beaches\\_2009\\_2023\\_ENG\\_coverage\\_Final\\_web.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/tecnicos/CIT_CC20-2023_Tec_22_Index_Beaches_2009_2023_ENG_coverage_Final_web.pdf)

IAC Technical Documents can be found in the IAC website:

<http://www.iacseaturtle.org/documentos-eng.htm>



## Annex V - Work Plan Legal – Working Group

### Work Plan Legal WG-IAC

The Work Plan proposed by the IAC Legal Working Group to IAC COP considers Resolution IAC-COP4-2009-R2 with the intention of strengthening the implementation of both the WG and the IAC Resolutions on the establishment and operation of the Secretariat of the IAC. The tasks of the Legal WG mainly focus on, but are not limited to, strengthening communication, cooperation, and guidance to the IAC parties regarding the process of establishing a Secretariat, according to the IAC text.

The tasks in the Work Plan were presented and adopted at IAC COP11. The WG will present a progress report at COP12.

#### Legal – WG: List of tasks 2024-2026

Tasks	Reference	Responsible	Goal
1. Adopt a task list/work plan and review it before each COP, or as instructed by the COP. Include the task list in COP Workplan.	Update of the Work Plan 2021-2024	GT Legal, with the support of the Secretariat	2024-2026
2. Follow up, analysis and determining the route to follow in relation to the report on the advantages and disadvantages of having a legal entity (document "IAC Legal – Working Group Discussion on IAC Legal Personality")		GT Legal, with the support of the Secretariat	Present a report in 2026
3. Analyze the possibility of a changing the amount of the current minimum contribution. Advances to present at COP12			Progress report at COP12 - 2026
4. Execution of the Work Strategy of the Finance Sub-Group	6th Meeting of the Legal WG	Legal WG	By 2026, xx% of the proposed activities have been fulfilled



Tasks	Reference	Responsible	Goal
<p>4.1 Actions to improve financial contributions:</p> <p>a Letter from the Secretariat and President of COP to the Focal Points urging the country to work internally to make contributions.</p> <p>b. Coordinate follow-up meetings with Focal Points that received the letter for inquiries related to contributions.</p>		<p>IAC Secretariat/ Chair of COP11</p> <p>Secretariat/ Chair of COP11</p>	<p>By 2026, prior to COP 12, a letter is sent to Focal Points.</p> <p>By 2026, at least one meeting per country Party has been coordinated</p>
<p>4.2 Actions to improve the capture of in-kind contributions:</p> <p>a. Identification and prioritization of the activities of the IAC operation that require financing that could be provided in kind.</p> <p>b. Send a letter to the Focal Points of the IAC Countries, consulting the possibility of supporting the financing of any of the activities in the previous list.</p>		<p>IAC Secretariat</p> <p>IAC Secretariat/ Chair of the COP12</p>	<p>By 2026 there is a detailed list of activities for the operation of the IAC.</p> <p>Prior to each Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat will send a letter in consultation of support for the COP and headquarters for the next Conference of the Parties.</p> <p>After each COP, a letter will be sent to the Focal Points of the IAC country Parties for consultation in support of other activities or projects.</p> <p>A record of activities with</p>

Tasks	Reference	Responsible	Goal
			and without fundings will be kept.
<p>4.3 Fundraising from other sources:</p> <p>a. Identify potential donors.</p> <p>b. Prepare and present project proposals: suggest to the Focal Points of the countries incorporate the IAC in funding proposals in execution, or that are about to be awarded within the countries. Define a person in charge of monitoring the fundraising with other sources.</p> <p>c. Explore opportunities with the Consultative Committee to support the implementation of IAC projects and activities.</p> <p>d. Identify new strategic alliances that will be formalized through the Memorandum of Understanding.</p> <p>e. Identify within the framework of the MoU that the IAC has, activities in place that support the fulfillment of the objectives of the IAC.</p>			By 2026 coordinate a meeting with delegates to the CCE to define a strategy for obtaining resources according with the proposed activities (a,b,c,d,e)
<p>4.4 Analyze the possibility of increasing annual contributions to the IAC.</p> <p>a. Study to determine the % increase in the quota for the IAC.</p> <p>b. Consult IAC Parties on the feasibility of an increase in their country's contribution.</p>		Sub-Grupo de Finanzas de la CIT	By 2026, a study on increase of the base quota will be prepared. As of March 2025, the results of the study will be presented to the CCE.

Tasks	Reference	Responsible	Goal
c. If the previous consultation is positive, the WG – Legal will draft the IAC finance resolution with the updated contributions to the IAC.			By 2026, the draft proposal for the Finance Resolution is submitted to the CCE and the IAC Parties consulted.  By 2026 there is a draft Finance Resolution ready to be presented to COP12.
5. Analyze if the use of the MoU IAC -National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is still the most appropriate way for the management of IAC Special fund, or another mechanism should be explored. <b>Recommendation COP11.</b>	MoU IAC -NMSF signed at COP11	GT- Legal	Result of analysis presented at COP12
6. Propose a mechanism to reduce the 12% admin fee that is currently in place for NMSF. Explore options to have a maximum amount for the 12% and above that the % will be less. <b>Recommendation COP11</b>		Financial Group	Mechanism to reduce the admin cost for IAC special fund
7. Report on the implementation of the lists of tasks /activities at each COP.	Progress report	Legal WG	By June 2026, a progress report to be presented to COP12  Progress report to CCE 2025 and 2026
8. Discussion of draft amendment to terms of reference to subsidiary bodies regarding the process of the election of sectorial members.	Tenth Meeting of the WG-Legal		By December 2024, there is a draft proposal to be submitted to the CCE in 2025.

<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Goal</b>
The Legal WG will consider the pertinence of including in the CCE and SC ToR a process for review of documents prepared by each Committee before they are presented to COP. If pertinent the Legal WG will prepare text to include in the ToR.			Recommendation to COP12 of ToR with a process for review of documents prepared by CCE and SC before they are presented to COP.
<b>Communication and Coordination Legal WG</b>			
9.Convine meetings of the Legal WG before COP to report progress on the tasks.	At least one meeting every quarter.	Coordinator of the Legal WG – with the support of the Secretariat	2024-2026
10.Preparing the meetings reports.		Coordinator of the Legal WG	2024-2026
11.Exchange and discuss information relevant to the Legal WG.		Legal WG	
<b>Recomendations to IAC Parties</b>			
12. Jointly prepare draft resolutions as pertinent.	Resolutions to be presented in COP 12	Legal WG	2026

## Annex VI - Work Plan Ad hoc - Working Group – Analysis of Terms of Reference of IAC Subsidiary Bodies

**CIT-COP11-2024-Inf.3**

### **Work Plan of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Terms of Reference of the IAC Subsidiary Bodies (ToR WG) 2024-2026**

*WG Members: Argentina, Costa Rica and Mexico*

#### **Introduction**

The IAC Consultative Committee of Experts in accordance with Article VII (1)(b) of the text of the IAC indicates that the Parties will appoint, by consensus, three (3) representatives of recognized experience in the matters that are the subject of this Convention from each of the following sectors: Scientific Community, Private Sector and Productive Sector and NGOs.

During the IAC COP10 (2022) in accordance with the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Subsidiary Bodies of the IAC the selection of the Sectoral Representatives of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) was carried out. In that COP, the mechanism that has been used in each previous COP was used; on that occasion, there were two (2) draws, which presented some difficulty that had to be resolved at the time.

As a result of the above, the IAC Legal WG considered it pertinent to include a procedure for selection through an amendment to the Resolution "CIT-COP5-2011-R1 Terms of Reference for the Subsidiary Bodies of the IAC" that was adopted by COP5 in Bonaire (2011), in order to present it to the Consultative Committee on Experts CCE17 (2024) and to the IAC COP11 (2024) for consideration. The proposal to amend the original Resolution was prepared by the IAC Legal Working Group, with support from the Secretariat. The intention of the changes to the original text has been to include a mechanism for the selection of the Sectoral Representatives of the Consultative Committee of Experts and to include the functions of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the subsidiary bodies. This proposed amendment to the Resolution was submitted to the 17th Meeting of the CCE (CCE17) for consideration.

During the comment period, the Delegation of Argentina submitted to the Secretariat and subsequently to the CCE17 its observations to document CIT-CCE17-2024-Doc.4 – Proposal for Amendment of the TOR of the Subsidiary Bodies. Here they stated that some elements and language used for the selection process of the Sectoral Representatives proposed in the document are not in line with the text of the Convention, where decisions are made by consensus. The text in the current proposal refers to a prior vote that the result is then adopted by consensus. Therefore, they recommended that a legal analysis be carried out to propose another language for the process for sectoral representatives selection that is in accordance with the rules of consensus. A pause was proposed in order to allow a more detailed evaluation of the document and to allow more time for Parties to make an assessment of the topic in question.

Thus, it was agreed during the 17th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts that:

"The CCE recommended the formation of a Working Group with the objective of conducting a Legal Analysis on the need to amend the Terms of Reference for the Subsidiary Bodies of the IAC only in relation to the selection procedure of the Sectoral Representatives of the Consultative Committee of Experts. Such analysis will take into account, inter alia, the experience and/or procedures adopted in other conventions that have the system of approval of experts from committees where the decision is taken by consensus. The WG will submit this proposed activity to COP11 2024 for consideration and inclusion in the 2024-2026 Work Plan.

At the CCE17 meeting, the WG was made up of representatives of the Foreign Ministries of Argentina, Mexico and Costa Rica. It was agreed that, in order to expand the membership of the WG, the Secretariat will invite the members of the Legal WG of the IAC who wish to join, who will have until March 8, 2024 to confirm their participation.

Once membership of the Working WG has been confirmed, the Secretariat will convene a meeting of the group no later than 15 March 2024, with the aim of preparing a work plan and present it to the consideration of the Parties at COP11.

### Tasks Performed

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Terms of Reference of the IAC Subsidiary Bodies (ToR WG) is comprised of the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Mexico and Costa Rica, and held its first meeting on March 25, 2024. The coordinator of the WG is Argentina.

The WG - ToR Work Plan was prepared at that meeting, and it was presented and adopted at COP11.

### Work Plan Ad Hoc Working Group on Terms of Reference of the IAC Subsidiary Bodies 2024-2026

Tasks	Reference	Responsible	Goal
1. 1st WG Meeting	1st Ad Hoc's WG Meeting	Secretariat	Completed March/25/2024
2. Election of the WG coordinator for the period that will be completed at COP12		WG with the support of the Secretariat	Completed March/25/2024
3. Adoption of the workplan to be revised at the COP	Between the 1st Meeting of the WG-ToR and the COP.	WG-ToR with the support of the Secretariat	Completed WG adopted the workplan
3.1 Contact Conventions where IAC has MoU (ACAP/ IOSEA, SPAW, CPPS, IATTC, CICAA, RAMSAR) with the purpose to obtain information regarding their procedures in order to use this material as reference for our document.	3.1 Documents and responses gathered by IAC Secretariat from ICCAT, ACAP, IOSEA, and IATTC.	Secretariat	Completed May/6/2024

Tasks	Reference	Responsible	Goal
4. Present the Workplan at COP11 and to include the list of activities in the Workplan activities.		Argentina	Completed COP11 adopted workpan June/14/2024
5. Conduct quarterly meetings to work on the text proposal.		WG-ToR with the support of the Secretariat	
6. Prepare a new text related to the selection process of the representatives of the IAC Subsidiary bodies, based on the IAC ToR proposal submitted by the Legal WG to the SCC17, document CIT-CCE17-2024-Doc.4		WG-ToR with the support of the Secretariat	January 2026, 90 days prior to the COP12

**Resolution CIT-COP11-2024-R1**

**Extension of the Secretariat**

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

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

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

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

**THE 11<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES**

**RESOLVE:**

1. To accept the United States of America's proposal to continue to host the *Secretariat* as detailed in Annex I.
2. To authorize the extension of the contract of Ms. Verónica Cáceres Chamorro, the current Secretary, as IAC Secretary until December 31, 2028, notwithstanding and without prejudice to Annex I of Resolution CIT-COPE1- 2007-R1.



## ANNEX I

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

- A. Proposed/Current Location: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Division of International Conservation, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia 22041. USFWS will provide office space at this location at least through December 31, 2025. In the event that USFWS is no longer able to provide space after that date, it will assist in the search for a new location.
- B. Office Space: 11 square meters with locking door.
- C. In-Kind Support: Desk, desktop computer, printer and scanner, filing cabinets, phone with unlimited free international telephone calls, and access to meeting rooms with international video conferencing capability.
- D. Financial Support: USFWS provides annual funding of approximately \$60,000 from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund to support part-time administrative and technical support, delegates' attendance at the Conference of the Parties (COP) and subsidiary committee meetings, translation services, and regional workshops.
- E. Financial Management: The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, which currently provides financial management services to the IAC, is expected to continue to do so, subject to appropriate arrangements with the IAC.

**IAC Finances 2025 – 2027**

**CONSIDERING** Article XIII of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) regarding financial resources;

**TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION** that resolution CIT-COP1-2002-R-2 adopted by the First Conference of Parties established the IAC Special Fund;

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

**RECOGNIZING** that countries have different abilities to make financial contributions;

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

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

**THE 11<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES TO:**

1. Adopt 2025, 2026 and 2027 budgets included in Annex I.
2. Authorize the Secretariat to forward an invoice to each of the Parties, in accordance with Annex II, for an amount equal to the contribution goal identified in Annex III.
3. Authorize the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

**ANNEX I**

<b>IAC 2025-2027 Budget (Amounts in US\$)</b>			
<b>Items</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
<b>1- Staff</b>	<b>198,573</b>	<b>204,773</b>	<b>211,196</b>
Secretary* (base salary \$118,031 - based on host country, in this case USA- costs for dental, health insurance, retirement plan, cost of contracting agency, and 5.31% annual increase in the cost of living)	174,073	180,273	186,696
IAC Secretariat Technical assistant full time estimated cost	24,500	24,500	24,500
<b>2- Other Professional Services</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
Translations			
<b>3- Communications</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
Website Maintenance/ Computer /Software	2,300	2,300	2,300
Maintenance IAC Online Reporting System	700	700	700
<b>4- Travel</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>5- IAC Meeting Support</b>	<b>47,000</b>	<b>67,000</b>	<b>47,000</b>
Scientific Committee (SC)**	42,000	42,000	42,000
Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE)***	5,000	5,000	5,000
Conference of the Parties (COP)		20,000	
<b>Subtotal****</b>	<b>261,573</b>	<b>287,773</b>	<b>274,196</b>
<b>6- Overhead Costs (12%) *****</b>	<b>35,669</b>	<b>39,242</b>	<b>37,390</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>297,242</b>	<b>327,015</b>	<b>311,586</b>

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

\*\*Budget for the SC based on funding (airfare, lodging, meals, meeting room rental, translation) for 20 participants.

\*\*\*Budget for the CCE is for a virtual meeting via video-conference.

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

\*\*\*\*\*Administrative services provided by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) for a value of 12%, as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding between IAC COP and NMSF signed at COP11 (CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.2). These are projected amounts subject to change depending on the total of actual funds received by IAC.

## ANNEX II

### Invoice for financial contribution

In accordance with:

1. The financial rules (CIT-COPE1-2007-R2) adopted in October 2007 by the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles in Lima, Peru;
2. The US\$2,000 suggested minimum financial contribution established during the first Conference of Parties in San José, Costa Rica;
3. The 2025 budget adopted in COP11, the budget for 2026 and 2027; as well as;
4. The table of contribution goals developed by the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties in San José, Costa Rica that was updated at COP5 in Bonaire, COP6 Ecuador, COP7 in Mexico, COP8 in Argentina, COP9 in the Dominican Republic, COP10 and COP11 in Ecuador;

The IAC Secretariat hereby presents this invoice to the Government of [insert country].

#### INVOICE

Party/Country	Year	Suggested Contribution (US\$)	Date

#### FINANCIAL HISTORY

[insert country] history of financial contributions to the IAC is included below for your reference.

Party/Country	Year	Suggested Contribution	Amount Contributed	Date Received

#### FUTURE CONTRIBUTIONS

In accordance with the budget for 2025 presented in COP11, the IAC Secretariat suggests the Government of [insert country] plan for and include in your [insert year] budget, a financial contribution for the IAC totaling US\$ [insert amount].

### ANNEX III

<b>IAC Contributions Goals for 2025</b>	
<b>Member Country</b>	<b>Contribution Goal</b>
Argentina	\$2,000
Belize	\$3,500
Brazil	\$7,056
Costa Rica	\$2,000
Chile	\$8,000
Dominican Republic	\$2,000
Ecuador	\$2,000
Guatemala	\$2,000
Honduras	\$2,000
Mexico	\$15,000
The Kingdom of the Netherlands	
Caribbean Netherlands	\$5,000
Curacao	\$5,000
St Maarten	\$5,000
Panama	\$2,000
Peru	\$2,000
The United States	\$65,000
Uruguay	\$2,928
Venezuela	\$3,653
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$136,137</b>

**IAC SECRETARIAT WORK PLAN 2024-2026**

This document was prepared by the IAC Secretariat. The activities included were adopted at IAC COP11 (2024).

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
<b>IAC MEMBERSHIP</b>					
1	IAC Secretariat	Increase membership IAC	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 International Organizations (IO), RFMOs and Conventions to share information about the IAC, and networking with non-Party country representatives to invite them to collaborate and join IAC. 5) Follow up on the efforts already initiated with Canada, Colombia, France, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, Nicaragua and El Salvador with the	Increase in IAC membership.	Permanent

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
			collaboration of IAC Parties to incorporate new members to the IAC.		
2	Países Parte IAC Parties	Adhesión de nuevos países a la CIT Adhesion of new parties to the IAC	1) The Parties Chancelleries and other relevant authorities from IAC Parties, support IAC Secretariat in the approaching non-member countries previously identified (Canada, France, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guyana and, Suriname) to encourage their ratification. As well as identify new countries for outreach.  2) IAC Focal Points consider carrying out side events within the framework of other meetings to promote the IAC.	Increase in IAC membership.	Permanent
<b>COMMUNICATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT</b>					
3	IAC Secretariat	IAC's website and Informative Bulletin Communication and capacity development	1) The Focal Points on a monthly basis 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) Implementation of the IAC communication strategy with Costa Rica Focal Point.	1) IAC's website updated with relevant news and 1 or 2 IAC Bulletin available every year.  2) IAC countries outreach material repository.  3) Communication strategy implemented as needed by Costa Rica.	Permanent

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
4	IAC Secretariat, Parties	Communication	Publish and disseminate the Resolutions and recommendations adopted at the COP.	COP11 and COP12 Report available on IAC web site	2024 -2026
<b>COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS</b>					
5	IAC Secretariat	Collaboration with International Organizations and strategic partnerships	<p>1) Promote the signature of at least one cooperation agreement with an organization related to the IAC's objective. The goal is to promote collaborative work with other relevant conventions and international and regional organizations.</p> <p>2) Prepare draft MoU (when needed).</p> <p>3) The Secretary will assess the relevance and possibility of attending in the IATTC annual meeting, and any other relevant meeting of this organization, to present recommendations as needed.</p> <p>4) The Secretariat will evaluate the importance and possibility of attending meetings of other international organizations relevant to the objectives of the IAC Convention. <b>Recommendation COP11.</b></p>	<p>1) Cooperation agreement or MoU signed or in the process to be signed.</p> <p>2) Documents presented to the COP for consideration.</p> <p>COP11: Letter of Intent IAC -SPAW Protocol agreed for signature in 2024.</p> <p>3 &amp; 4 ) Report to IAC COP on meetings attended by IAC representative.</p>	2024-2026



	<b>Actor</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Expected Result</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
6	Secretariat, Parties	Collaboration with International Organizations and strategic alliances	<p>1) Promote activities with organizations that have signed MoUs with the IAC and other multilateral agreements. The activities can include among others preparing technical documents and joint publications.</p> <p>2) Attend technical meetings and workshops.</p>	<p>1) Technical documents and joint publications available on IAC web site to promote information exchange, and lessons learned.</p> <p>2) Report on workshops attended as appropriate.</p>	<p>1) Permanent</p> <p>2) Permanent</p>
7	Secretariat, Parties	Collaboration with international organizations and strategic alliances	Promote the celebration of the World Sea Turtle Day June 16th each year.	<p>1) Activities in celebration of World Sea Turtle Day carried out by each IAC Party.</p> <p>2) World Sea Turtle Day activity carried out by IAC Secretariat in collaboration with IAC Parties, IO and/or strategic alliances.</p>	<p>1) Permanent</p> <p>2) 2024-2026</p>
<b>FINANCIAL RESOURCES</b>					
8	Parties	Financial Resources	Identify external funding for projects and activities identified by the IAC Scientific Committee and/or the Consultative Committee as high priority.	<p>1) Available funding for projects.</p> <p>2) Potential donors identified</p>	Permanent
9	Secretariat, IAC Legal working group, Parties	Financial Resources	<p>1) Prepare and negotiate project proposals.</p> <p>2) Implementation of funded projects and activities, and prepare reports of projects implemented.</p>	1) Project proposal presented to potential sponsors.	2024-2026

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
				2) Technical and financial reports presented in a timely manner to the funding agencies.	
<b>MEETING ORGANIZATION</b>					
10	Secretariat, Chairs of COP and Committees	Execution capacity- 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).	2024-2026
<b>PERMANENT SECRETARIAT</b>					
11	IAC Legal Working Group, Parties	Permanent Secretariat	<p>1) Support activities for the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat, and support to the IAC Legal Working Group.</p> <p>2) Report updates on this process to COP11.</p> <p>3) Report updates on this process to COP12.</p>	<p>1) Permanent Secretariat established.</p> <p>2) Progress report presented to COP11.</p> <p>3) Progress report presented to COP12.</p>	<p>1) Ongoing</p> <p>2) 2024</p> <p>3) 2026</p>
12	Legal Working Group, Parties	Financial Sustainability	The sub group on finances from Legal - WG 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 fully funded and does not need external sources of funding.	2024-2026

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
<b>RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COP</b>					
13	Secretariat, Consultative Committee of Experts, Parties	Drafting resolutions and recommendations to COP	Address COP requests and draft resolutions and recommendations accordingly.	Present draft resolutions and recommendations to COP as needed	2024-2026
14	IAC Legal Working Group, Parties	Terms of Reference for the Consultative Committee (CCE) regarding the selection process for the sectorial representatives.	<p>1) The Ad hoc WG for the review of the ToR of CCE will prepare a work plan, with the goal to prepare a Legal analysis of Terms of Reference for the CCE regarding the selection process for the sectorial representatives.</p> <p>2) The Ad hoc WG prepare the legal analysis with a proposal of process to select CCE Sectorial Representatives.</p> <p>3) The Legal WG will consider the pertinence of including in the CCE and SC ToR a process for review of documents prepared by each Committee before they are presented to COP. If pertinent the Legal WG will prepare text to include in the ToR. <b>Recommendation COP11.</b></p>	<p>1) Work plan presented to COP11.</p> <p>2) Legal analysis presented to COP12 with a proposal of process to select CCE Sectorial Representatives.</p> <p>3) Recommendation to COP12 of ToR with a process for review of documents prepared by CCE and SC before they are presented to COP. <b>Recommendation COP11.</b></p>	<p>1) 2024</p> <p>2) 2026</p> <p>3) 2024-2026</p>
<b>IAC ANNUAL REPORT</b>					
15	IAC Parties	IAC Annual Report	<p>1) Each Party sends the Secretariat its Annual Report each year.</p> <p>2) IAC Parties will send their pending Annual Reports when applicable.</p>	1 & 2) IAC Online Report submitted by the Parties.	Permanent

	<b>Actor</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Expected Result</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
16	Secretariat and WCMC	IAC Annual Report Online Platform	<p>1) IAC Secretariat will continue to work with WCMC to manage the online report platform</p> <p>2) Support IAC Parties with the use of the online report platform to submit the online Annual Report.</p>	<p>1) IAC Annual Reports are available on the IAC website to be analyzed by the Committees.</p> <p>2) IAC Parties received training to use and resolve issues with the online platform.</p>	2024-2026
<b>WORK PLAN</b>					
17	Secretariat, Parties	Work Plan	Prepare a biennial Work Plan.	Secretariat biennial work plan approved at COP	2024-2026
18	Secretariat and IAC COP Chair	Implementation of Work Plan	Prepare report on the implementation of the Work Plan for the Secretariat to be presented at COPs.	Report on implementation of the Work Plan 2024, 2025, and 2026 presented to COP12.	2024-2026

## IAC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WORK PLAN 2024-2026

This document contains the Consultative Committee of Experts Work Plan 2024-2026 prepared based on the activities agreed at the CCE16 in 2023 and CCE17 in 2024. This workplan was adopted at the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (2024).

ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME	
<b>EXCEPTIONS</b>					
1	Consultative Committee of Experts	Exceptions	<p>1) Follow up with the report for the evaluation of the implementation of the Management Plan for Exceptions of Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Panama, received from the IAC Scientific Committee.</p> <p>2) The IAC Exceptions WG will support Guatemala in the review of the Management Plan of Exception.</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 from the IAC Parties (when new exceptions are presented).</p>	<p>1) The WG for Exceptions (CCE and SC) will prepare a report for the evaluation of the implementation of their Management Plan for Exceptions of Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama, using the evaluation format provided to the Focal Points of the countries with the exception. Each country will report every 5 years. First report for Costa Rica 2026, Panama 2027 and Guatemala 2028.</p> <p>2) The Exceptions WG will prepare recommendations to Guatemala to include in their exception management plan as appropriate per request of Guatemala Focal Point.</p> <p>3) Reports about new exceptions presented to the COP for considerations, if applicable.</p>	<p>1) 2026-2028</p> <p>2) 2024-2025</p> <p>3) Permanent</p>

	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
<b>EASTERN PACIFIC LEATHERBACK</b>					
2	Eastern Pacific Leatherback Working Group	Eastern Pacific Leatherback	<p>1) Conduct annual meetings of the EP Leatherback Working group.</p> <p>2) Follow up on the implementation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP10-2022-R2).</p>	<p>1) Meetings of the Leatherback Working group.</p> <p>2) Prepare a preliminary report with the implementation of the EP Leatherback Resolution with information from IAC Annual reports 2023 and 2024 and present the report to CCE18 (2025). The EP Leatherback WG will review the activities that are being carried out in the Member Countries and the NGO Sector and will make a list of those in place and identify gaps in protection to highlight those that need to be conducted or strengthened to prepare recommendations to IAC Parties. Their findings will be included in the preliminary report to be presented to CCE18 2025. Recommendation from COP11</p> <p>3) Prepare the final report with information from IAC Annual reports 2023-2026 will be completed by 2026 to be presented at CCE in 2027.</p>	<p>1) Permanent</p> <p>2) 2024-2025</p> <p>3) 2026</p>

	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
<b>NORTHWEST ATLANTIC LEATHERBACK</b>					
3	NWA Leatherback Working Group	NWA Leatherback	<p>1) Promote technical collaborations with the SPAW, WIDECAS 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) Promote collaboration in the framework of MoU with IATTC, RAMSAR and the Sargasso Sea Commission. Recommendation COP11.</p> <p>4) The WG will prepare a work plan that focuses on international collaboration to address threats both on nesting beaches and in the water, in particular bycatch reduction. <b>Recommendation COP11.</b></p>	<p>1) Progress report presented at CCE as applicable</p> <p>2) Collaboration with the working group to reach out to IAC's non-party countries and with the SPAW protocol.</p> <p>3) Information exchange and develop a workplan for collaboration.</p> <p>4) The Work Plan will be presented at the CCE18 in 2025. <b>Recommendation COP11.</b></p>	<p>1) 2024-2026</p> <p>2) Permanent</p> <p>3) 2024-2026</p> <p>4) 2024-2026</p>
<b>FISHERIES</b>					
4	Working Group Chile -Peru	Fisheries and interactions with sea turtles	<p>1) Pilot project "<i>Standardization of formats to report sea turtles' bycatch data for implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in southern Peru and northern Chile</i>"- This is depending on availability of funds.</p>	<p>1) Progress report on the implementation of the Pilot Project in Peru and Chile. Provide update on budget and fundraising at CCE17-2024 and in subsequent meetings as needed.</p>	<p>1) 2024-2026</p>
<b>IAC ANNUAL REPORT</b>					
5	Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Annual Report	<p>1) CCE delegates from each country will provide support to the Focal Point to prepare the IAC Annual Report.</p>	<p>1) IAC Annual Report prepared each year.</p>	<p>Permanente</p>

	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
6	Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Annual Report Form	1) Assess current Annual Report form.	1) Recommendations for changes to the Annual Report format as required.	1) Permanent
<b>COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS</b>					
7	Consultative Committee of Experts	Collaboration with International Organizations	<p>1) Promote alliances and collaborative work with relevant international organizations (IO) to accomplish the IAC objectives.</p> <p>2) Provide technical guidance to IAC Secretariat and/or attend IO meetings and other relevant groups, as needed.</p>	<p>1) Collaborative work identified with similar organizations to share information (CITES, SPAW, IATTC, ICCAT, CPPS, RAMSAR, ACAP, CMS, CBD, OSPESCA, OLDEPESCA, Laud OPO, WIDECAS, SWOT, ICAPO, ASO, and other civil society organizations as appropriate).</p> <p>2) Report to CCE on meetings that CCE delegates attended when applicable.</p>	2024-2026



	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
8	Consultative Committee of Experts	Sea Turtle Day	<p>1) CCE members support activities to celebrate World Sea Turtle Day each year and when needed collaborate with other IO. <b>Recommendation COP11.</b></p> <p>2) Explore opportunities to increase visibility through social media platforms, such as interships with academia or other organizations. <b>Recommendation COP11</b></p>	<p>1) Support the IAC Secretariat in the Celebration of the World Sea Turtle Day activities, such as facilitating virtual meetings, educational outreach, support for communication in various social media platforms as applicable. <b>Recommendation COP11.</b></p> <p>2) Identify potential collaborations to increase IAC visibility through social media. Present progress at the CCE meetings, as needed. <b>Recommendation COP11.</b></p>	<p>1) Permanent</p> <p>2) 2024-2026</p>
9	Consultative Committee of Experts	Implementation of MoUs	<p>1) Develop and review drafts MoU with relevant organizations identified.</p> <p>2) Identify, prioritize, and implement activities in the framework of the MoU.</p>	<p>1.1) MoU Documents presented to COP for consideration</p> <p>1.2) Draft Letter of Intention with the SPAW Protocol prepared by CCE Chair and IAC Secretariat presented to COP11 for adoption.</p> <p>2) List of priority activities being implemented within the MoU frameworks. Activities identified with SSC, Stetson University, ICCAT and SPAW Protocol. Report to CCE18 in 2025, as needed.</p>	<p>1.1) Permanent</p> <p>1.2) 2024</p> <p>2) 2024-2026</p>
10	Consultative Committee of Experts, Sea Turtle	Implementation of IAC – CPPS MoU Save the Blue Five Project	<p>1) Meeting of the CCE IAC-CPPS working group with Project Director Save the Blue Five (GIZ), Coordination CPPS and Southeast Pacific Sea Turtle Scientific and Technical Committee, to</p>	<p>1) and 2) Work plan adopted by WG.</p> <p>3) and 4) Project report with results on the implementation of the workplan on sea</p>	<p>2024-2028</p>

	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
	Scientific-Technical Committee PAPSE (WG IAC-CPPS)		<p>identify activities and components of the project Save the Blue Five that they will collaborate. <b>Recommendation COP11.</b></p> <p>2) Preparation of the Work plan for a 5 year period with activities related to the project sea turtle component and other of the project areas as pertinent. Recommendation COP11.</p> <p>3) Collaboration and support of the CCE IAC-CPPS WG for the implementation of activities, and facilitate the coordination with experts of IAC Scientific Committee as necessary. <b>Recommendation COP11.</b></p> <p>4) Prepare preliminary and final report. <b>Recommendation COP11.</b></p>	<p>turtle component also including if pertinent the IAC resolutions that were implemented with support of the activities of the Save the Blue Five Project. Presentation of preliminary and final report of the collaboration IAC-CPPS-GIZ to COP12 (preliminary) and COP13 (final report). <b>Recommendation COP11.</b></p>	
	Fundraising Working Group	Fundraising for small projects	<p>1) Identify sources of funding to implement small projects recommended by CCE</p>	<p>1.1) The Working Group will identify funding sources to apply for financial support to implement small projects. At the moment the project identified by CCE in the topic of “Fisheries” is the pilot project “<i>Standardization of formats to report sea turtles’ bycatch data for</i></p>	1.1) 2024-2026

	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
11				<p><i>implementation in artisanal longline and gillnet fisheries in southern Peru and northern Chile</i>". Progress report presented as needed.</p> <p>1.2) The WG will convene a meeting with CPPS to explore collaborative work.</p> <p>1.3) The fundraising WG will continue to work with the Legal WG to find opportunities to finance projects.</p>	<p>1.2) 2024</p> <p>1.3) 2024-2026</p>
<b>DRAFTING RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COP</b>					
12	Comité Consultivo de Expertos	Drafting Resolutions and Recommendations to COP	1) Address COP requests and draft Resolutions and recommendations accordingly.	<p>1.1) Draft Resolutions and recommendations presented to COP as needed.</p> <p>1.2) Prepare/review Resolution proposal for COP11-2024</p> <p>1.3) Prepare/review Resolution proposal for COP12</p>	<p>1.1) Permanent</p> <p>1.2) 2024</p> <p>1.3) 2025-2026</p>
13	Implementation of Resolutions Working Group (Stetson University and CCE)	Resolution Implementation	1) The Consultative Committee of Experts will prepare a report to the COP on the implementation of the Parties with the IAC Resolutions, based on the information reported in the IAC Annual Report (2015-2023).	1) Final report CIT-CCE17-2024-Doc.6 on resolution implementation presented to CCE17 (2024) prepared by Stetson University within the framework of IAC-Stetson MoC. The final report is technical document number: CIT-CCE17-2024-Tec.23 presented to COP11 (2024).	1) 2024
<b>IAC TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS</b>					
14	Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Technical Documents	1) Prepare technical documents as needed.	1) Technical documents available on the IAC website and shared with IAC Parties.	<p>1) Permanent</p> <p>2.1) 2024</p>

	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
			2) Review recommendations from the Consultative Committee Technical Documents prepared in 2024-2026.	2.1) Technical documents with recommendations presented to COP11 as appropriate.  2.2) Technical documents with recommendations presented to COP12 as appropriate.	2.2) 2026
<b>IAC EXPERTS' DIRECTORY</b>					
15	Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat	IAC Experts Directory	1) Update the IAC Experts Directory as often as needed.	1) Updated directory June 2024 available on IAC's Website.	Permanent
<b>IAC BULLETIN</b>					
16	Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Newsletter	1) Every month, the CCE members will send to Secretariat relevant news for the IAC's Newsletter.	1.1) IAC's Newsletter updated in IAC Website (1-2 Bulletin per year). <b>Recommendation COP11</b>  1.2) New section in IAC Bulletin-Recognizing Fishing Sector included in 2023 editor Nina Pardo – CCE Sectorial Representative.	Permanent
<b>IAC COMMUNICATION STRATEGY</b>					
17	Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Communication Strategy	1) Implementation of the IAC Communication Strategy with support from Costa Rica, as needed.  2) Prepare a technical document to support the increase the IAC membership with input from the member states. Recommendation COP11	1) Outreach material produced by IAC Parties included in the Convention Communication strategy portfolio.  2) Technical document to support increase IAC membership presented to CCE. <b>Recommendation COP11</b>	2024-2026

	ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	EXPECTED RESULT	TIMEFRAME
<b>WORKPLAN</b>					
18	Consultative Committee Chair	Report on Implementation of CCE Work Plan	1) Prepare report on the status of implementation of the CCE Work Plan. Annual report with the activities in the work plan presented to CCE. 2) Prepare a biannual report and present COP11(2024). 3) Prepare annual report and present to CCE18. 4) Prepare a biannual report of implementation of the CCE Work Plan for CCE and COP12.	1) Report presented to CCE17. 2) Report 2022, 2023 y 2024 presented at the COP11 (2024). 3) Report presented to CCE18 4) Report 2024, 2025, 2026 presented at COP12.	1) 2024 2) 2024 3) 2025 4) 2026
19	Consultative Committee of Experts	Work plan	1) Update the CCE work plan following the recommendations from the Parties.	1) CCE biennial work plan updated with activities, timetable, and responsible.	Permanent
20	Consultative Committee Chair and Working Groups	CCE Working Groups	1) Convene working groups meetings to follow up on work plan.	Number of meetings of the CCE working groups-2024 (from June 2024)  Number of meetings of the CCE working groups 2025 - 2026	2024-2026

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2024 – 2026

The following document was prepared by the IAC Secretariat, the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) and the Scientific Committee (SC). The activities included were agreed at the SC20 (2023), CCE17 (2024) and it adopted at COP11.

	Actor	Topic	Proposed Activity	Expected Result	Timeframe
<b>EXCEPTIONS</b>					
1	Exceptions WG	Assessment of Panama, Costa Rica and Guatemala exception management plan every five years.	<p>1) The Exceptions WG will review the “<i>Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan</i>” presented by Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala in accordance to the time frame in their exception Resolution (2022-2027).</p> <p>2) The Exception WG will prepare a report on the progress in the implementation of the exception Resolution for each country to present to IAC COP every 5 years, as applicable</p> <p>3) Exception WG provides technical support to prepare Guatemala Exception Management Plan.</p>	<p>1) The SC together with CCE will provide comments and recommendations based on the “Assessment Report for the Exception Management Plan” for each country as applicable.</p> <p>2) SC and CCE will present report to IAC COP on the progress in the implementation of the exception resolutions as applicable.</p> <p>3) Recommendations from Exception WG to the draft management plan presented to SC21-2024, and next meetings as needed until Management Plan is completed.</p>	<p>1)2024-2026</p> <p>2) 2026 (COP12).</p> <p>3) 2024-2026</p>
2	Guatemala	Exception Management Plan	<p>4) Guatemala presents their Exception Management Plan to the Scientific Committee (Exception WG) review according to Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R4 no later than June 2025.</p>	<p>4) Exception Management Plan for Guatemala.</p>	<p>4)2024-2025</p> <p>5)2024-2026</p>

			5) Progress report presented by Guatemala as needed.	5) Progress report presented to SC21 (2024), and in the subsequent years as applicable.	
<b>FISHERIES</b>					
3	Fisheries WG	Interactions with observed longline fisheries Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R7	<p>1) Analysis of observer data on interactions between sea turtles and industrial longlines based on IAC Annual Report data from 2020-2025. Coordinator: Mexico - Dr. Heriberto Santana.</p> <p>2) Present Report to COP12 with data from Annual Reports 2020 -2025.</p>	<p>1) Recommendations from the SC to the report regarding interactions between sea turtles and industrial longline (2020-2025).</p> <p>2) Report and recommendations presented to the COP12 (2026).</p>	<p>1)2024-2026</p> <p>2)2026</p>
4	Fisheries WG	Technical Exchange	3) Carry out a technical exchange (virtual meeting) focused on longline data collection, with the participation of the fisheries WG, RFMOs technicians with which the IAC has MoUs, and IAC countries interested (fisheries agencies).	3) Virtual meeting with the participation of the fisheries WG and technicians from RFMOs and the IAC.	3)2024-2026
5	Fisheries WG SC and CCE	Interactions with gillnets	<p>4) 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. Coordinador: Chile-SC Member</p>	4) Proposal to the Scientific and Consultative committees to include information on interactions between sea turtles and gillnets in IAC Annual Report	4)2024-2026





			2. Work with the CCE in the evaluation of the current Annual Report regarding to the index nesting beaches information. <b>Request from COP11.</b>	latest data from IAC Annual Report 2028, to be presented to the Scientific Committee (2028) and the COP.  Timeframe to present the technical document: 2027-2028  2. IAC Annual Report format Nesting Data updated as applicable.	
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>					
8	Climate Change WG Coordinator Julia Horrocks (Caribbean Netherlands, USA, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and Dominican Republic).	Climate Change; Pilot Project	1) Follow up and support the countries that are implementing the pilot project and organize two annual meetings to assess progress and follow up via email.  2) Present the final report on the implementation of the Pilot Project to the Scientific Committee 2025.	1) Coordinator of WG presents progress report from countries implementation (2021-2025).  2) Report on 5-year implementation of the pilot project.	1)2024-2026  2) SC22 - 2025
<b>EASTERN PACIFIC LEATHERBACK <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i></b>					
9	EP Leatherback WG	Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6	1) The EP Leatherback WG will prepare an <i>“Evaluation report on the implementation of the conservation measures and strategic actions in Annex 1 of Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6”</i> ,	1) Evaluation report on the implementation of the Resolution CIT-COP10-2022-R6 (5-year report) presented to SC, CCE and COP in 2027.	1)2026-2027

			every five years. The first report is to be presented to the Committees SC and CE in 2027 and to the subsequent COP.		
<b>SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION STATUS</b>					
10	Caretta caretta WG (Mexico, Belize, Panama, and USA).	<i>Caretta caretta</i> ; conservation status report. Coordinator Brazil and USA Delegates	1) Report: Status of Loggerhead Turtles ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> ) Within Nations of the IAC. The report is updated every 5 years according to Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R3.  <b>Next update of technical document in 2028</b>	1.1) The updated Technical document CIT-CC20-2023-Tec.21 adopted at SC20 in 2023 was presented to COP11 in 2024.  1.2) Updated Technical document presented to SC 2028 and COP.	1.1)2024
11	WG Vessel strikes recreative and fishing vessels with sea turtles (Dominican Republic/Coordinator, Guatemala, Caribbean Netherlands, Mexico, Belize and Costa Rica)	Threats: Vessel strikes and sea turtles	2)The WG will prepare an IAC Technical Document with general guidelines to mitigate this threat, for each country to implement as appropriate, and will present it at the SC21 2024.	2) Technical document compiling regional information (IAC countries and other) adopted at SC21.	2)2024-2026

12	WG Sargassum (Costa Rica – Coordinator, Caribbean Netherlands, Belize, Honduras, and Panama)	Threats to sea turtles due to increased Sargasso accumulation on beaches in the Caribbean	3) The WG will prepare an IAC Technical Document including the impact from the increased Sargassum on the beaches, the problem with the removal of it, and recommendations to IAC Parties to manage and mitigate the impacts.	3) Technical document adopted at SC21 2024.	3) 2024-2026
13	WG Fibropapilloma	Fibropapilloma virus	1) Compile and exchange pertinent information about the cause and treatment regarding fibropapilloma within the range of the IAC Parties with respect to the green turtle ( <i>C. mydas</i> ) and any other species that may be affected by this disease. <b>Request COP11</b>	1) Document with the compiled information presented to COP12.	2024-2026
14	Scientific Committee Chair	Sea turtle's conservation status	4) Prepare recommendations on sea turtle's conservation status using technical documents to the COP when applicable.	4.1) Recommendations on sea turtle conservation status as technical documents presented to COP. 4.2) Presentation of following documents to COP11-2024: •IAC Index Beach Data Analysis 2009-2023. •Conservation Status of <i>Caretta caretta</i> 4.3) Presentation of following documents to COP12: Fibropapilloma	4.1) Permanent 4.2) 2024 4.3) 2026

**COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

15	Scientific Committee	Sea Turtle Day	1) SC members will provide support to activities to celebrate Sea Turtle day on June 16 <sup>th</sup> and as needed they will work with other IO.	1) Support to IAC Secretariat on activities to celebrate World Sea Turtle Day such as facilitate virtual workshops with experts, outreach material educational material, communications in social media as applicable. <b>Recommendation COP11.</b>	1) Permanent
16	Working Group (Coordinator- Argentina, Chile Peru, Mexico, Ecuador, and USA).	Collaboration with ACAP	1) Implementation of activity proposed by WG with ACAP.	1) Collaboration activity with ACAP implemented by the Scientific Committee WG with a technical document on electronic monitoring of fisheries and lessons learned.	1)2024-2026
17	Scientific Committee and Secretary	Collaboration MoU with Ramsar; Recommendation from COP; joint activity.	2) RAMSAR: Based on the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Resolution on Sea Turtles, the Scientific Committee identifies a collaborative activity.	2) Document on wetlands of importance for sea turtles IAC-RAMSAR updated when RAMSAR Secretariat is available to work on it.	2)2024-2025
18	Scientific Committee	Collaborative work with International Organizations.	3) Include topics that improve and activate collaboration with international organizations.	3) Recommendations on collaborative work identified.	3) Permanent

**ANNUAL REPORTS**

19	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	1)Permanent
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				with recommendations to the Parties when needed.	
20	Scientific Committee	Annual Report Format	2) Assess the Annual Report current questionnaire.	2) Recommendations of changes to the Annual Report questionnaire as needed.	2) Permanent
21	Scientific Committee	Research reported in the IAC Annual Report	3) Include in the agenda of the Scientific Committee meeting a presentation of a research reported by two or three countries in their IAC Annual Reports.	3) Research presentations from IAC Countries during the Scientific Committee meetings 3.1) Presentation Belize and Ecuador in SC21. 3.2) Presentation Honduras and Guatemala in SC22. 3.3) Presentation Mexico and Peru in SC23.	3) Permanent 3.1) 2024 3.2) 2025 3.3) 2026
<b>PROJECTS</b>					
22	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) Project's proposals developed by the Scientific Committee when needed. Recommendations on high priority projects when needed.	Permanent
<b>CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT</b>					
23	Scientific Committee	Capacity development	1) Support from Scientific Committee members in workshops and training on	1) Strengthening capacities on topics related to sea turtles in the IAC Parties.	Permanent

			topics identified by IAC Parties and those for which funding is available.		
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS COP AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE</b>					
24	Scientific Committee	Recommendations from COP and CCE	1) Address the COP and Consultative Committee of Experts requests and make recommendations accordingly.	1) Recomendaciones remitidas a la COP y al Comité Consultivo de Expertos según proceda.  1) Recommendations submitted to the COP and the Consultative Committee of Experts, as needed.	Permanent
<b>TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS</b>					
25	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 SC20. <b>Per request of COP11 it is in review by CCE in 2024.</b>  3) Technical Document on vessel strikes presented at SC21.	1) Technical documents available at the IAC's website and shared with IAC Parties.  2) Final manual best practices for sea turtles adopted SC20-2023. The final version will be and available in IAC website in 2024 after review by CCE.  3) Technical Document on vessel strikes and sea turtles available IAC website in 2024.	1) Permanent 2) 2024 3) 2024

**IAC WEBSITE AND NEWS BULLETIN**

26	Scientific Committee	IAC website and news bulletin	<p>1) Every month, the SC will provide news relevant to IAC Parties to the Secretariat for the IAC News Bulletin.</p> <p>2) The SC will share outreach material on Sea Turtle Day activities and other events with the Secretariat.</p>	<p>1) Updated news in the IAC website, and regular publication of the IAC's News Bulletin.</p> <p>2) IAC countries outreach material repository.</p>	Permanent
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**EXPERT DIRECTORY**

27	Scientific Committee, Secretary	IAC Experts Directory	<p>1) Review and update the IAC Expert Directory.</p>	<p>1) Updated directory (June 2025) available on IAC's website.</p>	Permanent
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**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORK PLAN**

28	Scientific Committee Chair	Implementation status of SC Work Plan	<p>1) Prepare a report with the implementation of the SC work plan and present to SC meeting.</p> <p>2) Prepare report on the implementation of the SC work plan biennial and present to IAC COP11</p>	<p>1) Implementation of SC WP report presented to SC21, SC22, and SC23.</p> <p>2) Report on implementation of SC work plan presented to COP11 (2022, 2023, 2024).</p> <p>3) Report on implementation of SC work plan presented to COP12 (2024, 2025, 2026).</p>	<p>1)2024-2026</p> <p>2) 2026</p>
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			3) Prepare report on the implementation of the SC work plan biennial and present to IAC COP12.		
29	Scientific Committee	SC Work Plan	4) Update the SC Work Plan following IAC guidelines and the COPs Resolutions.	4) Scientific Committee biennial work plan including actions, timetable, and responsibilities.	Permanent
30	Scientific Committee Chair and WG	SC Working Group meetings	5) Convene working groups meetings to follow up on work plan	5) Number of meetings of the SC working groups in 2023: Index Nesting beach (5), Vessel strikes (4), IAC -ACAP (3), Exceptions WG (2), <i>Caretta caretta</i> (1), Fisheries/Manual WG (1), EP Leatherback WG (1), SC Chair / Vicechair and IAC Secretariat (5 meetings).  Number of meetings of the SC working groups in 2024 (begin from March 2024)  IAC-ACAP(2), Fisheries /Manual, Chair and Secretary (2)	2023-2026



Annex X- MoU National Marine Sanctuary Foundation 2026-2028  
CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.2

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

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation has been providing financial management services for the IAC Special Fund since 2009 by means of this Memorandum that has been extended at the IAC Conference of the Parties (COP). The current MoU expires on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2025, as this date is 6 months before the next IAC COP, to guarantee that the operations of the IAC will continue uninterrupted the IAC Secretariat and the NMSF recommends it to be extended at COP11. The NMSF agreed to continue providing this service to the IAC and to keep their administrative fee at the same percentage as previous years

We are not seeking for additional edits to this document as the MoU text does not have substantial changes from the one adopted at IAC COP10.1, the edits are in blue that we highlight for your information have to do with the new dates.

**During COP11 the MoU was adopted and signed by the COP11 Chair.**

CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.2

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into effective the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 2026 by and between the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (Foundation), a nonprofit corporation, and the Chairperson of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) on behalf of the COP.

**BACKGROUND**

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

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

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation provided the financial management services for the IAC since April 2009 following the approval of CIT-COP4-2009-R4, which authorized the COP to negotiate such an arrangement. The MOU was renewed in 2015, 2017, 2021 and again in 2024 following authorization by the IAC COP in CIT-COP-Inter-sesion-2015-R1, CIT-COP8-2017-R3, CIT-COP10-2021-R2, and CIT-COP11-2024-R2 respectively.

## OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to carry out the COP's intent expressed in CIT-COP11-2024-R2 by establishing and facilitating the Foundations' role in the financial administration of the Secretariat's work. To this end, the COP (working through the Chair of the COP, as appropriate) and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (hereinafter referred to as "Participants") have reached the following mutual understanding.

## ACTIONS

1. Engagement/Scope of Services. The Foundation is to act as fiscal agent for the Secretariat. These services should include managing the IAC's Special Fund, entering into contracts in order to facilitate the work of the COP, assisting with financial logistics of special events as needed, and performing annual audits of the IAC's Special Fund.
2. Responsibilities of the Foundation:
  - a. Prepare a contract with Oceans Associates for the hiring of a Secretary.
  - b. Establish a restricted account to receive contributions from the IAC Parties and other sources such as non- governmental organizations, and other Foundations. Such contributions should form part of the IAC Special Fund.
  - c. Carry out at the request of the Secretary the necessary financial aspects of procurement activities for convening the COP and subsidiary meetings such as the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee meeting.
  - d. Execute the approved budget and work plan (see attachments) according to the guidance of the Chair of the COP and the Secretary.

- e. Provide the Secretariat with quarterly accounting statements reflecting the expenditure of the funds and receipt of contributions and any donations.
- f. Provide these fiscal agent services for a 12% fee on the total (gross) amount of the IAC Special Fund. This fee may be deducted immediately upon the receipt of any grant or other payment of funds to the Foundation for the IAC Special Fund. The fee is to be maintained at the percentage indicated above for 2026 and 2027, after that it could be revised with the possibility of an increase, subject to the negotiation between and mutual decision of the Foundation and the COP, once the Foundation completes its evaluation of its management expenses.

### 3. Responsibilities of the COP working through the Chair of the COP or the Secretariat as appropriate

- a. Provide the Foundation with the approved budget each year and the corresponding work plan.
- b. Provide the necessary information to the Foundation to execute contracts necessary to carry out the work of the COP.
- c. Identify the necessary vendors to carry out the COP's work.
- d. Facilitate provision by outside organizations of resources to the IAC Special Fund.

### 4. Special Terms and Conditions

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

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

- e. All grants and other payments of funds by the IAC members and other parties to the Foundation for the use of the IAC Special Fund are to be made in United States Dollars.

#### 5. Periodic Reports, Oversight, and Ownership

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

#### 6. Term

- a. Unless sooner discontinued by either Participant without cause in accordance with paragraph 8 below, the term of this MOU is to be three (3) years, through December 31, 2028.
- b. The term of this MOU may be extended by a period of up to two years by mutual consent of the Participants.

#### 7. Budget

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

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

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

If to the Foundation:

Joel R. Johnson

President & CEO

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Address: 8455 Colesville Road, Ste. 1275

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Email: [jjohnson@marinesanctuary.org](mailto:jjohnson@marinesanctuary.org)

Phone: (301) 608-3040

FAX: (301) 608-3044

If to the IAC:

Juan Diego Stacey Chiriboga

Ministro

Director Environment and Sustainable  
Development

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human  
Mobility

Chair of the IAC COP11

Address: Ulpiano Páez N22-53 y Jerónimo  
Carrión. Quito, Ecuador.

Email: [jstacey@cancilleria.gob.ec](mailto:jstacey@cancilleria.gob.ec)

Phone: +(593 2) 299-3200

Ext. 11550

Verónica Cáceres

Secretary

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

c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of International Conservation  
5275 Leesburg Pike, U.S.A.

Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

[secretario@iacseaturtle.org](mailto:secretario@iacseaturtle.org)

Phone: (703) 358-1828

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

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

[Remainder of this page intentionally blank]

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION  
(FUNDACIÓN NACIONAL DE SANTUARIOS MARINOS)

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National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

By: Joel R. Johnson  
Its: President & CEO

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

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

By: Juan Diego Stacey Chiriboga  
Its: Chair, 11 IAC Conference of the Parties

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution CIT-COP11-2024-R2 IAC Finances 2025-2027  
Resolution CIT-COP10-2021-R2 IAC Finances 2022 -2024  
Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R3 IAC Finances 2017-2019  
Resolution CIT-COP-Inter-sesion-2015-R1

**CIT-COP11-2024-Doc.4**

**LETTER OF INTENT BETWEEN  
THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) AND THE  
INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND  
CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES (IAC), TO PROMOTE COLLABORATION  
FOR THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF SEA TURTLES AND  
THEIR HABITATS**

This Letter of Intent (LoI) was prepared by the SPAW Protocol Coordination and has been reviewed by UNEP's legal advisors. This document was presented to IAC COP11 June 11-14 2024 and the text was adopted by the plenary. This LoI has a period of three years.

IAC COP11 recommends to the IAC Secretary to continue with the efforts with the SPAW Protocol to carry out the signing of the IAC-SPAW Letter of Intent.

The document below is the letter that the Director of UNEP Ecosystem Division signed on July 15 2024 and sent to the IAC Secretariat.

**Reference: UNEP-CAR/RCU/2024**

**15 July 2024**

**LETTER OF INTENT  
BETWEEN  
THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) AND THE INTER-AMERICAN  
CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES (IAC) AND,  
TO PROMOTE COLLABORATION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF SEA  
TURTLES AND THEIR HABITATS**

Dear Verónica Cáceres Chamorro, Secretary, Inter-American Convention for the Protection of Sea Turtles,

This Letter of Intent (LoI) expresses the intention of UNEP through the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and in particular, the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (1990, hereinafter referred to as “**SPAW**”) of the Convention, to work cooperatively with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (2001, hereinafter referred to as “**IAC**”). SPAW and IAC are hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Participants”.

The Participants have reached the below understandings and intend to cooperate in accordance with their areas of responsibility and work plans:



1. Establish cooperative linkages to support activities aligned with shared goals for example, conserving the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*).
2. Develop and implement joint programmes, capacity building and projects to strengthen the conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback and other sea turtle species recognized by IAC and SPAW.
3. Exchange mutually beneficial information to identify opportunities for cooperation focused on the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitats.
4. Encourage range countries that are SPAW Contracting Parties to consider joining the IAC for unified conservation efforts in the Wider Caribbean Region.
5. Encourage Contracting Parties to the IAC to ratify the SPAW Protocol to strengthen conservation efforts in the Wider Caribbean Region
6. Recognize the importance of participating in each Convention's technical working groups as appropriate.
7. Urge reciprocal participation as observers in meetings organized by each Convention in areas of common interest.

The Participants will seek to develop the collaborative actions considered in this Letter of Intent, through the implementation of their workplans, in accordance with their respective areas of expertise. Likewise, the Participants will consult each other on a regular basis about the progress of the activities carried out within the framework of this Letter of Intent.

Nothing in this Letter of Intent shall be construed as a binding legal Agreement and as such this Letter of Intent does not have any legally binding effect between the Parties.

We would appreciate your acknowledgement of receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

Susan Gardner  
Director,  
Ecosystems Division

Annex XII- Technical Document Analysis of the IAC Annual Reports 2015-2023- Link to document in IAC website

This document was prepared in collaboration with Stetson University and it is available on the IAC website: [http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/tecnicos/CIT\\_CCE17\\_2024\\_Tec\\_24\\_ANALYSIS\\_OF\\_IAC\\_ANNUAL\\_REPORTS\\_06-Jun\\_final\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/tecnicos/CIT_CCE17_2024_Tec_24_ANALYSIS_OF_IAC_ANNUAL_REPORTS_06-Jun_final_WEB.pdf)



Annex XIII- Sea Turtle Day Post Card 2024



## Annex XIV - IAC Collaboration Agreements on the Saving the Blue Five Project

### Agreements COP 11-IAC / Project Saving the Blue Five / IKI Project / Executed by GIZ-CPPS- (Representatives of the governments of Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama) and Costa Rica

1. The 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IAC Conference of the Parties (COP11) recognizes the need to continue developing joint efforts between CPPS and IAC for the conservation of sea turtles, and agrees to develop a Work Plan within the framework of its Memorandum of Understanding, which is in line with the components of the Saving the Blue Five Project: Regional approach to the protection of migratory marine megafauna in the Southeast Pacific region.
2. IAC COP11 agreed that the Work Plan will have a timeframe of 5 years (2024-2028) as it will be implemented within the framework of the Saving the Blue Five Project. For the coordination and preparation of this Work Plan, the IAC will establish an ad hoc working group that will coordinate with CPPS.

#### Activities to be included in the Work Plan of the IAC Consultative Committee

ACTOR	TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	VERIFIER	EXPECTED RESULT	TIME
Members of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts, Sea Turtle Scientific-Technical Committee PAPSE (CPPS)	Collaboration in the Implementation of MoU and the IKI Regional Save the Blue Five Project	1. Meeting of the CCE IAC-CPPS working group with Project Director Save the Blue Five (GIZ), Coordination CPPS and Southeast Pacific Sea Turtle Scientific and Technical Committee, to identify activities and components of the project Save the Blue Five that they will collaborate.	List of activities identified and classified according to each of the approved components in the Saving the Blue Five Project.	Work plan adopted by WG.	2024-2028
		2. Preparation of the Work plan for a 5 year period with activities related to the project sea turtle component and other of the project areas as pertinent.		Project report with results on the implementation of the workplan on sea turtle component also including if pertinent the IAC resolutions that were implemented with support of the activities of the Save the Blue Five Project.	
		3. Collaboration and support of the CCE IAC-CPPS WG for the implementation of activities, and facilitate the coordination with experts of IAC Scientific Committee as necessary.	List of the experts of the Scientific Committee participating in the process	Presentation of preliminary and final report of the collaboration IAC-CPPS-GIZ to COP12 (preliminary).	
		4. Prepare preliminary and final report	Annual progress report submitted to the Consultative Committee.	Presentation of final report to COP13.	

Annex XV – Letter from Ministry of Environment Panama for Hosting IAC COP13-2028

GOBIERNO NACIONAL  
• CON PASO FIRME •

MINISTERIO DE AMBIENTE

Panama, 25 de noviembre de 2024  
DM-N-1061-2024

Respetada Senora Cáceres:

Sirva la presente para saludarle respetuosamente, así como para agradecerle por el tiempo y la atención que la misma amerite.

En seguimiento al ofrecimiento realizado por la delegación de Panamá durante la 11va Conferencia de las Partes de la Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas, que tuvo lugar en el año 2024 en Ecuador, nos complace anunciar oficialmente nuestra disposición para ser anfitriones de la 13va conferencia, evento programado para llevarse a cabo en junio de 2028.

Nos sentimos honrados de recibir a las delegaciones de los países miembros de esta convención y estamos comprometidos a ofrecer un espacio propicio para el dialogo y la colaboración en pro de la conservación de la biodiversidad.

Sin otro particular, me despido con mi acostumbrado respeto, y le reitero que estamos a sus órdenes, si requiere cualquier información adicional al respecto.

Atentamente,

**Juan Carlos Navarro**

Ministro

Señora  
**Verónica Cáceres**  
Secretaria de la Convención  
Interamericana para la Protección y  
Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas  
E. S. D.



JCN/OVB/1

Annex XVI - COP11 Pictures



COP11 Group Picture



Inaugural ceremony Left-Right: Ms. Verónica Cáceres (IAC). Ms. Marciana Valdivieso (Mayor of Manta), Ms. Sade Fritschi Minister of Environment Ecuador, Mr. Edgar Heredia (Viceminister of Environment Ecuador). Pictures credits: Ministry of Environment Ecuador





Plenary COP11 Welcome Ceremony



Plenary COP11



Above Left-Right Delegations: Peru, Panama, Guatemala, Ecuador, Costa Rica and Argentina







Left-Right Delegations: Brazil, Chile, USA, Honduras, Caribbean Netherlands, and the Dominican Republic



Observers: Permanent Commission of the South Pacific



Donation of flags of IAC Countries to the IAC Secretariat from the Government of Ecuador represented by IAC COP11 Chair Mr. Juan Diego Stacey and Mr. Edgar Heredia Viceminister of Environment Ecuador.



Observers: Government of Canada and France



IAC Countries Delegates and Observers last day IAC COP11