



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

Celebrating 10 years...

In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, the IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretariat has prepared a special report entitled "Cooperating to Conserve Sea Turtles: The Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Celebrates it's 10th Anniversary" to recognize and applaud the efforts and achievements carried out by IAC Party countries to conserve and protect the six species of sea turtles found in the region. This report tracks the progress of the Convention over the past decade, from increased regional cooperation to the commitment of each Party to implement the Convention's objectives. It is a testament to the extraordinary efforts taken to preserve these ancient animals, and inspires everyone to keep up the good work and continue to address the many challenges sea turtles still face. Cooperation and collaboration at all levels are imperative to the success of the Convention and to ensure the survival of these imperiled species.

The Secretariat exists to facilitate the effective implementation of the Convention and we encourage all Party and non-Party countries to strengthen their commitment to fulfill the objectives of the IAC so that the region's sea turtles will prosper well into the future.



Verónica Cáceres Ch.
IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretary

The IAC 10th Anniversary report is available at <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/English/download/Revista10yearsEnglishLR.pdf>



Argentina ratified the Convention on June 7, 2011, becoming the IAC's 15th member country. We welcome them to the IAC and look forward to working together to protect the region's sea turtles.

Welcoming a New Member!!!

Reaching out to new friends...



Meeting with Environment Minister of the Dominican Republic

On January 28, 2011, the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat presented the Convention and an update of IAC activities to Environment and Natural Resource Ministers, Vice-ministers from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic. The meeting took place in Washington D.C. through the efforts of the US Focal Point, Ms. Alexis Gutierrez and Ambassador David Balton, US State Department Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries. The Vice-minister of Nicaragua expressed interest in working together with the IAC since Nicaragua is already a signatory country of the Convention. As a result, Nicaragua participated as an observer at the IAC's 5th Conference of the Parties. This meeting enabled the IAC to continue outreach efforts with Nicaragua, El Salvador and Dominican Republic.

As part of the outreach efforts in the Caribbean the PT Secretary visited **the Dominican Republic** in February 2011 where she meet with the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Dr. Jaime Fernández, and the Vice-minister of Biodiversity, Mr. Bernabé Mañón and his team. Meetings were also held with the Executive Director of CODOPESCA, Mr. Ricardo Colón, and the Director of Grupo Jaragua, an NGO working with sea turtles in the country. As a result of these visits, on May 13, 2011, the Secretariat received a letter from the Minister stating the Dominican Republic's willingness to begin the process of ratifying the Convention!



Meeting with Director of CODOPESCA



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

Sharing and learning others...

OFCE-JAPAN-IATTC Informative Meeting

From January 18-19, 2011, the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat participated in an informative meeting held in La Jolla, San Diego with regards to a project initiated in June 2008 by OFCE-Japan and the IATTC to help develop ways to reduce the capture and incidental mortality of sea turtles as a result of artisanal fishing in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. The main objective of the meeting was to report on the results of the project's activities to the fishing authorities of IATTC member countries in which artisanal fishing takes place.

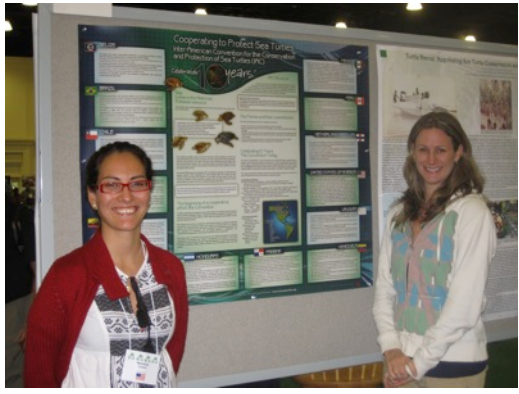


WIDECAST Annual Meeting

The Annual WIDECAST meeting took place from April 11-12, 2011 in San Diego, California. Continuing outreach efforts in the Caribbean as well as to increase communication with colleagues, recent IAC activities were presented. Representatives from Guyana and Suriname expressed interest in supporting the ratification of the IAC in their countries.

31st Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation

The IAC participated in the 31st Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation which took place in San Diego, California from April 12-15, 2011. A poster on the IAC's 10th Anniversary that included information on member Parties' activities was presented. Participating in this event not only promoted the Convention, but fostered synergies with other international organizations. The next symposium will be held in 2012 in Mexico.



2nd Meeting of the Caribbean Wetlands Initiative

The RAMSAR Convention organized the 2nd Meeting of the Caribbean Wetlands Initiative which took place from July 4-9, 2011 in Bonaire. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat presented the Convention's activities in the Caribbean and their relation to Ramsar sites associated with sea turtle nesting beaches and foraging grounds in the Americas and Caribbean region. The RAMSAR Parties attending the meeting recommended signing an MOU between the two Conventions.



Working together to protect sea turtles

4th IAC Consultative Committee Meeting

The 4th meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee (CCE) took place on March 22-23, 2011 in Bahia, Brazil with the objective of making recommendations to be submitted at the next IAC Conference of the Parties (COP5) on the 10th anniversary of the IAC, to finalize CCE documents to be presented at the COP5, and to review documents from the 7th meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee. A new Chair and Vice Chair were elected, Mr. Paul Hoetjes (Chair), and Mr. Joao Thome (Vice Chair). View the full report at http://www.iacseaturtle.org/English/download/CIT_CCE4_2011_Doc.2_Informe_CCE4_ENG.pdf



5th IAC Conference of the Parties

The 5th Conference of the IAC Contracting Parties took place June 1-3, 2011 in Bonaire. Nine member countries were present, in addition to observers from SPAW and the IATTC and a representative from a signatory country, Nicaragua. A number of topics were evaluated including the 10th anniversary report, the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between IAC and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), a new format for IAC Annual Reports and the extension of the current PT Secretary's contract and the current location of the PT Secretariat in the United States by two years. Ms. Alexis Gutierrez (USA) was elected as Chair for COP6 and Mr. Eduardo Espinoza (Ecuador) was elected as Vice Chair. Meeting documents available at: <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/English/cop5citdocs.asp>



MOU signed between the IAC and IATTC

As part of the implementation of IAC resolution "Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles," a memorandum of understanding was signed with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) on June 16, 2011. Among the joint activities included in the MOU are systems for collecting and analyzing data and the exchange of information regarding sea turtle conservation. Full document is available: <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/English/download/MOU.pdf>

Good news from Uruguay...

Cerro Verde and Islas de la Coronilla, an important feeding habitat for green turtles in Uruguay, have officially been declared a protected area through Resolution N°285/11 as of August 10, 2011!!

Next for the IAC...

8th IAC Scientific Committee Meeting

Meeting scheduled for September 28-30, 2011 in San José, Costa Rica.