



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

## 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee

The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IAC Scientific Committee (SC) took place on September 28-30, 2011 in San José, Costa Rica. During the meeting, 29 participants worked together on a number of different topics including the final edits to the IAC Manual for Sea Turtle Management and Conservation Techniques in Nesting Beaches, the Conservation Status and Habitat Use of Sea Turtles in the Eastern Pacific, analysis of the IAC 2011 Annual Reports and field forms to collect information on sea turtle interactions with gillnets. Among the Scientific Committee's agreements and recommendations are:

- ❖ Recommend that the Document on the **Conservation Status and Habitat Use of Sea Turtles in the Eastern Pacific** be presented as an informative document to the IAC Parties as well as the International Organizations that the IAC has signed MOU's.
- ❖ To provide the **Manual for Management Techniques for Sea Turtle Conservation at Nesting Beaches** as a tool for IAC member countries to use as a guide. The document will be posted on the IAC webpage for general public use.
- ❖ Proceed with the **Data Collection Forms to record information on the interaction between gillnets and sea turtles** by testing them in IAC Party countries in 2012. This will help to better understand these interactions that will allow future management actions.
- ❖ Prepare a technical report with the results of the **analysis of the IAC 2011 Annual Reports including recommendations to those Parties that reported exceptions** and present the information to the IAC Focal Points.
- ❖ Begin working on the **IAC Database** to better manage information received in the IAC Annual Reports.
- ❖ Evaluate the feasibility of preparing a **multinational proposal for a regional program for the hawksbill turtle in the Pacific**.
- ❖ Follow up with the activities and inter-sessional work according to the Scientific Committee's 2012-2013 updated **Work Plan**.



For more information and meeting documents are available at:  
<http://www.iacseaturtle.org/comciendocs.asp>

We would like to thank all of the meeting participants for their hard work and efficient results and the Government of Costa Rica for their generous hospitality during the meeting. We look forward to sharing these results and continuing our efforts in favor of sea turtle conservation in the region.



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## Good News for Sea Turtles from around the Americas!!

### USA

**Increased protection for Pacific Loggerhead Sea Turtles.** On September 16, 2011, the Obama Administration classified the Pacific loggerhead sea turtle as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, which will offer the species more protection. More on this news can be found at: [http://us.vocuspr.com/Newsroom/Query.aspx?SiteName=FWS&Entity=PRASSET&SF\\_PRASSET\\_PRASSETID\\_FO=128375&XSL=PressRelease&Cache=True](http://us.vocuspr.com/Newsroom/Query.aspx?SiteName=FWS&Entity=PRASSET&SF_PRASSET_PRASSETID_FO=128375&XSL=PressRelease&Cache=True)

### Brazil

TAMAR reported that over **3,200 green turtle nests** were identified and more than three hundred thousand hatchlings were released in Brazilian islands during the 2010-2011 nesting season. These islands are important nesting sites for the green turtle. More information about this news and Tamar can be found here: <http://tamar.org.br/noticia1.php?cod=285>

### Mexico

The Governments of Mexico and The United States signed a Letter of Intent and the **Binational Plan for the Recovery of the Kemp's Ridley** in September 2011. The complete article on this wonderful news for this species can be found here: [http://www.conanp.gob.mx/difusion/comunicado.php?id\\_subcontenido=1417](http://www.conanp.gob.mx/difusion/comunicado.php?id_subcontenido=1417)

### Trinidad & Tobago

The IAC's Secretariat *Pro Tempore* on behalf of its 15 member countries congratulates and applauds the efforts of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in the approval of the new legislation in the amendment to the Fisheries Act, referred to as the **Protection of Turtle and Turtle Eggs (Amendment) Regulations, 2011**, that now "prohibits the killing, harpooning or selling of turtle." This is a very important and significant contribution to the region's sea turtle conservation efforts on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and it sends a clear and positive message to all nations of the world to join efforts to preserve these endangered sea turtles. More on this news can be found here: <http://www.guardian.co.tt/news/2011/10/01/govt-ends-all-turtle-hunting>

### Guyana

The Government of Guyana officially declared **Shell Beach as a Protected area** as of October 20<sup>th</sup> 2011. This is one of the most important nesting beaches in Guyana and we celebrate this big achievement. More information can be found here: <http://www.gina.gov.gy/archive/daily/b111020.html#3>

## Upcoming Meetings

### V Regional Symposium on Sea Turtles in the Southeastern Pacific

The symposium will take place in Panama City from December 1-2, 2011 at Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI)'s Earl S. Tupper Convention Center. We invite the IAC member countries to participate. The objective of this symposium is to exchange and increase knowledge and experiences with sea turtle work in the region by sharing scientific advances and achievements with regards to actions implemented to manage, educate, protect and conserve sea turtles. For more information <http://www.arap.gob.pa/Simposio.html> or contact [vsimposiotortugas@arap.gob.pa](mailto:vsimposiotortugas@arap.gob.pa)

