

Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
5th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts
Sheperdstown, West Virginia USA
May 30-June 1, 2012

CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc.08

Report of the 5th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts

1. The Fifth Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) of the IAC took place in the city of Sheperdstown, West Virginia, on May 30th –June 1st, 2012. The meeting venue was the National Conservation Training Center of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
2. The objectives of this meeting were to review the 2011 Annual Reports and provide recommendations to the IAC Conference of the Parties (COP) on the compliance with the IAC Resolutions, review exceptions presented, review and update the CCE work plan for the next year, provide guidelines to develop national action plans for sea turtles, generate recommendations to aid the recovery of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback and to review the documents resulting from the 8th meeting of the Scientific Committee (Annex I, Agenda).
3. The meeting began at 8:30 a.m. on May 30th with welcome remarks by Earl Possardt, United States delegate to the CCE, followed by the CCE Chair, Mr. Paul Hoetjes and the IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore* Veronica Caceres Chamorro. The participating countries were Brazil, the Netherlands, United States of America, Mexico, Ecuador and Honduras, as well as five members representing the productive, scientific and NGO sectors, the Scientific Committee Chair Jorge Zuzunaga, the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat and accredited observers (Annex II, Participant List).
4. NGO sector representative Marydele Donnelly was appointed meeting rapporteur. The meeting agenda was adopted immediately thereafter with one modification to move up the Eastern Pacific leatherback presentation to the first day.

Summary of 4th Consultative Committee Meeting

5. The first order of business was the Chairman's synopsis of the results and recommendations of the 4th meeting of the Consultative Committee (CCE4). Accomplishments included the adoption of a new IAC annual report format; the approval of 2011-2013 work plan; the merging of two bycatch working groups, the one for turtle excluder devices (TEDs) with that of fisheries interactions [originally one in CCE and one in the Scientific Committee (SC)]; reviewed and modified the terms of reference (ToR) for the CCE which allows the committee to meet without the need for a quorum; and reviewed recommendations from the Parties with regard to the guidelines for reporting exceptions (these guidelines for reporting exceptions are now incorporated into the annual report format). There was discussion about preparing a GEF (Global Environmental Fund) proposal with a climate change component; the Secretariat and USA agreed to work together on making the necessary consultations as to the feasibility of such a proposal, although it was also agreed that the writing of such proposal cannot be accomplished by the IAC

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Secretariat and a consultant will need to be hired if this is something that the Parties would want to realize. The Secretariat distributed the 10-year anniversary report.

Report on 2011 Activities of the Pro Tempore Secretariat and COP5

6. The *Pro Tempore* Secretary summarized the activities and progress in compliance with the recommendations of the COP and IAC subsidiary bodies, namely: a) to increase IAC membership with the announcement of the ratification of Chile and Argentina bringing the total IAC membership to 15, b) activities in the framework of the MOUs including participation at the IATTC Advisory Committee meeting with the technical document from the IAC Scientific Committee titled Conservation Status and Habitat use of Sea turtles in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, participation in other regional meetings like: Ramsar Convention-Pan-American Meeting, Conference of the Parties of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), OLDEPESCA, Meeting of the Parties of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS); c) to promote the signing of an MOU with RAMSAR; d) results from the COP5; e) support IAC working groups; and f) produced a special report to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Convention.
7. The PT Secretary highlighted that in 2010, 100% of the countries submitted their annual reports and 92% did so in 2011. The Secretariat expressed her gratitude to the 30 experts on the CCE and SC helping to make the IAC successful.
8. Interest in the IAC also has been expressed by Nicaragua; El Salvador; Colombia; Suriname; Jamaica; Dominican Republic and Cuba and the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat is currently following-up on these possible new additions. The Secretary has recently conducted outreach to Cuba, which has expressed interest in becoming an observer and would like to learn more about the Convention.
9. In the last four years the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat has organized seven IAC meetings and provided logistical and organizational support to the various working groups of the SC, CCE and COPs, in addition to holding a regional hawksbill meeting. The PT Secretariat has managed funds through the MTCF to help support travel funds for IAC delegates, which have been used so far to support delegate participation in the COP5 and CCE5. It was announced that the COP 6 will be held in June 2013, in Ecuador.
10. The Secretariat is currently finalizing the hosting of the next Scientific Committee meeting in Argentina.
11. The office of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat will remain at its temporary headquarters in Virginia, USA until 2013. A permanent headquarters is currently being sought, which will be needed by 2013.

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12. The delegate from Ecuador stated that his country is considering whether they can provide the permanent headquarters for the IAC and managing its funds with participation of CPPS. CPPS Director is consulting with its Parties on this issue.
13. The delegates from the United States, Mexico, Brazil and Honduras congratulated the Secretariat, Chair and Vice Chair CCE and SC and the Parties on their excellent work. The USA asked the Secretariat to distribute information on potential Party countries so that the IAC Focal Points could assist and support, through their office of international affairs, in expanding Convention membership. It was also suggested the French Caribbean departments would be good additions to the IAC. A suggestion was made to also make use of the various embassies in Washington DC, to promote adhesion to the Convention.
14. The delegate from Mexico congratulated the IAC PT Secretariat for their efforts and noted that over the past 10 years, the IAC has grown enough to resolve its funding problems, which is crucial to the stability of the IAC. Therefore, currently having 15 members, it is time to talk and resolve pending issues like the crucial annual financial contributions that each IAC member should make and the organizational and legal status of the IAC Permanente Secretariat to provide the necessary legal status and administrative continuity in the long term.
15. Honduras proposes that the Secretariat takes into consideration the CCAD (Central American Commission for Environment and Development), an alternative at a regional level for the Central American countries, even SICA (System for Central American Integration) can be contacted in terms of outreach efforts; the IDB (Inter-American Development Bank), which has environmental programs and may be interested in the topic of sea turtles, may also be contacted as well.
16. Brazil added the Guyana's have been invited to join the IAC and suggested the Convention on Biological Diversity would be a good partner. The Chair suggested that Parties use all opportunities to promote the IAC in other fora.

Summary of the 8th Scientific Committee Meeting and documents

17. The Scientific Committee (SC) Chair, Mr. Jorge Zuzunaga, summarized the 8th SC meeting held from 28-30 September 2011 in Costa Rica; the meeting was attended by 14 countries. He highlighted the following topics: informative document on the Conservation Status and Habitat Use of Sea Turtles in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, which was presented to the 3rd Meeting of the IATTC Advisory Committee; the Manual of Management Techniques for Sea Turtle Conservation at Nesting Beaches, which is in its final stage of design and will be published in English and Spanish online; the State of Knowledge on Sea Turtle Interactions with Gillnets, for which four formats were created for data collection that will be sent to focal points for their testing and to make any necessary changes or improvements so that

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according to the results, they may be applied in 2013; fisheries working group formed by delegates from both Committees (Chile, Costa Rica, Peru, USA, Chair CCE and WWF-observer) need to prepare a list of TEDs used by the Party countries; based on a review of the application of the new IAC Annual Report format approved by the COP5, the SC agreed that the Chair would prepare a technical report on the results of the analysis of the 2011 annual reports. To conclude, the SC Chair mentioned that more information on these topics can be found in the Report on the 8th Meeting of the Scientific Committee.

18. He also noted that a Multinational Proposal for a Regional Hawksbill Program was discussed during the SC8 and the SC identified the need for a regional workshop on Eastern Pacific leatherback conservation similar to the workshop for that region's hawksbills. The SC 2012-2013 Work Plan was approved and included 5 additional activities. The next meeting will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in October of this year.
19. Mr. Wallace, representative of the NGO sector, congratulated the SC on its work and asked that IAC use all resources available, including the SWOT database because IAC countries contribute to it. It was suggested SC and CCE make this an official recommendation to the COP.
20. The delegate from Mexico noted that they are fine with the annual report format and have additional information to include in the IAC database, including data on sea turtles in gill nets and on Eastern Pacific hawksbills, and noted an agreement might be needed with the countries if this information is put in public domain. Furthermore, he suggested the SC provide the regional proposal for Eastern Pacific hawksbills. The delegate from Ecuador agreed and noted that a hawksbill proposal for the Atlantic as well as the Pacific is needed.
21. Hedelvy Guada, representative of the scientific sector, congratulated the SC and noted the Parties could use a recommendation to include more details on nesting beaches in their annual reports and the sectorial representative, Bryan Wallace, suggested looking at the information on priority nesting beaches and also mentioned that the quality of data being reported in the IAC annual report is very important.
22. The SC Chair answered that the important nesting sites and their abundance reported by the Parties will be analyzed before the next meeting and, as for the preparation of a multinational proposal for a regional hawksbill program, it would be done by holding an expert workshop that would be in charge of preparing the actual proposal, which would then be submitted for approval by the IAC committees.
23. The PT Secretary clarified that Annex II of the IAC Annual Report Form asks that countries report on the nesting sites they consider to be important and that it is the

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responsibility of each country to specify the reason as to why it is considered important. A lot of data has been collected here, however, we don't have any type of database or information analyzed that would be useful for countries (like population trends), so we need to find out if trends could be achieved from this information and estimate nesting abundance. If this is not possible, we need to change the information being requested from the countries so that the committee can get the information they need to do so. This analysis will be done by the USA delegate and based on this analysis, the SC would make a recommendation to the Parties on what information is missing or does not need to be included or requested. As for the hawksbill topic a working group was formed and within the framework of the MOU with CITES we are checking to see if they would provide us with funding to hold a one day meeting of experts before the next meeting SC meeting. We are still waiting for a response. Brazil (Tamar) has provided the IAC Secretariat with a small database in Access which is currently being tested and will initially serve as a place to store information from the annual reports; the PT Secretariat thanks Brazil for this important contribution. This will hopefully facilitate the analysis of the Annual Reports by the committees. The PT Secretariat announced that the IAC will be celebrating Sea Turtle day with the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, D.C., on June 8th.

24. In regard to the topic of databases, the sectorial representative Bryan Wallace suggested that since SWOT has compiled so much information on the topic of nesting beaches, it would be a good resource to use and back up what the committees are doing. Standard minimum data collected on nesting beaches has also been determined and many of the people involved in these efforts are also on the IAC committees and these can be used to help analyze trends. As for populations: information on genetic stocks, satellite tagging, etc. which is being used to determine populations at a global level is available online for use by the Committees.
25. The scientific sector representative Neca Marcovalidi agreed that these efforts by other specialist groups should be used and stated that when the SC analyzes the nesting data from the IAC annual reports it would be interesting to compare it with what is being done by SWOT database for example, she further asked if this type of comparison would be possible for the IAC. The SC Chair suggested that they think about making some kind of an MOU with SWOT.
26. The PT Secretary clarified that the SC has mentioned this before so maybe step number 2 would be to propose it to the IAC Parties and enquire if they agree that SWOT data is used as official information to be included in IAC analysis of the abundance, trends, etc. We would need to clarify that the IAC still needs to collect information in annex II of the annual report. The question is can we partner with and use SWOT information? A presentation of what SWOT is would need to be

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made to the COP along with the recommendation. The scientific sector representative Neca Marcovalidi mentioned that we should review what IAC Party countries are already reporting to SWOT.

27. The delegate from Mexico mentioned 3 topics to summarize the previous discussions: Topic 1 is related to the Annual Report: since gillnet formats will first be sent to the focal points to be tested, and then later returned to the SC to be modified and re-sent to the Parties, this might be a very long process. The best thing would be for the SC to go directly to the Annual Reports and review them since information on sea turtle interactions with gillnets might already be available inside these reports. Compiling this information will help identify any legislative progress being made and help cut back the amount of time to get the information needed. Topic 2 Hawksbill: agrees the while the pacific hawksbill population is important to study and address, we can't forget the Gulf of Mexico population. We need to update the information that was given in 2009 in order to propose a regional program. Topic 3 Database: IAC should be able to use a public dataset like SWOT and if there is any information a country or delegate feels is skewed it can be reviewed by the committee. He wants to ensure that the information collected by the IAC is also shared and publicly available. It not only needs to be used to make decisions within the IAC, but it also needs to be available to any outside organization working with turtles.
28. The delegate of Ecuador clarified that the regional hawksbill proposal would take into consideration the recommendations and project proposals of the 2009 meeting, realizing that both populations are highly threatened and it is important to begin taking actions for their recovery. As for the IAC nesting beach manual, he was asking for clarification as to where it is in its final process and emphasizes the need to distribute it.
29. The CCE chair reiterated that each country has a responsibility to look after the turtles within its borders and thus the importance of annual reports. We need to maintain the Convention's reporting process even though there may also be reporting to other conventions or SWOT, ect.
30. The delegate of Honduras stated that guidelines for use within each nation would help with preparing budgets and specific research.
31. The delegate of the US congratulated the SC Chair and the entire SC for their impressive work and recommended that the COP ask the Secretariat to pursue an MOU with ICCAT. She also noted the importance of producing a proposal on gill nets interaction with sea turtles.
32. Mr. Wallace reported he was leading a population scale assessment of turtle capture in trawls, longlines and gill nets. Preliminary results will be available, by request,

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in July 2012. With regard to nesting estimates, he stated the IUCN subregional approach is useful.

Review 2011 IAC Annual Reports. Analyze the level of compliance with IAC Resolutions by the Parties.

33. Joca Thome, CCE Vice Chair, provided a synopsis on resolutions and annual reports 2011. A working group was formed.
34. The working group prepared document CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc.02 which was approved by CCE5 and the coordinator, Joca Thome, presented a summary. In 2011, 95% of Parties submitted their reports; Costa Rica was the only Party not included since they did not submit a report their report. Argentina was not included either since it joined after the 2011 deadline. The resolutions tables from the annual report with information on Party implementation of the four IAC Resolutions passed to date were discussed. Less has been done on the climate change resolution than on the others. This information will be available on the IAC website at a later date.
35. The delegate from Mexico believed that it was a very helpful exercise and recommended that caution be used when preparing the recommendations, providing all of the Parties with an opportunity to address all questionable entries before posting the resulting document on the website. The delegate from Ecuador also thought it would be appropriate to wait for the responses from the Parties.
36. The PT Secretariat reminded the meeting that since this is the first time the CCE will be making recommendations or comments on the exceptions and compliance with resolutions, it is important to find the most appropriate way to present these results and recommendations to the COP.
37. The US delegate mentioned that the use of the resolution compliance excel table that Mr. Thome mentioned is a great tool to be used in a positive manner to promote cooperation and collaboration in areas Parties might need to improve.
38. The CCE Vice-Chair mentioned that he agreed in posting the results of the analysis on the IAC website, after the Focal Points have seen it.
39. CCE Chair stated that information on annual reports should not be made public yet, the findings of the CCE will be sent to the parties to address specific topics of their report and then it will be sent to the COP in a report for final approval.

Review of Exceptions presented in the 2011 IAC Annual Reports

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40. The CCE Chair read document CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc.03 and explained that two countries, Panama and Guatemala, have reported exceptions. A working group was formed.
41. There was a brief discussion about the process for exceptions submitted by Panama and Guatemala. When the eight meeting of the reviewed these documents, it asked for additional clarification. Guatemala has responded, but Panama has not. These documents are all available for the working group to help their analysis.

Conservation of Eastern Pacific Leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

42. Mr. Wallace's presentation on the Eastern Pacific leatherback was a concise overview of this regional population, which is one of the world's most threatened sea turtle populations. Despite a decade or more of protection, populations continue to decline. Since the 1980s, declines have exceeded 90% in Mexico, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. The highest density nesting is in Mexico and Las Baulas in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and then other dispersed sites. In addition to ongoing egg collection and bycatch, climate change and habitat loss are newer threats. Annual female loss on nesting beaches appears to be 30% and some beaches are reporting 30-40% of their turtles as first time nesters. At the last ISTS meeting in Mexico in March 2012 experts from the US through Latin America came up with concrete detailed strategies (timelines, actions, funding) for a draft plan which will soon be available. The experts are taking the IUCN approach of looking at regional subpopulations: start with nesting, then moving on to distribution using tag and movement data and genetic studies and, lastly, an evaluation of status regarding risks and impacts. Nesting beaches must be protected and hatchling production increased, bycatch must be reduced and international instruments like the IAC utilized. What is most needed across the region is good communication, the sharing of information and experience, publication of results and collaboration among projects.
43. More work is needed for Eastern Pacific leatherbacks, similar to the hawksbill WG.

Working Group formation by topic: Topic 1: Annual Reports and Topic 2: Exceptions

44. The members broke into the following working groups. Participants in the Annual Report/Resolutions working group: Joca Thome (Coordinator), Belinda Dick, Bryan Wallace, Eduardo Espinoza, Jorge Zuzunaga, Marydele Donnelly, Rafael Garcia, Marlene Menard, Verónica Cáceres and Hedelvy Guada.
45. Participants in the Exceptions working group: Earl Possardt, Barbara Schroeder, Paul Hoetjes, Neca Marcovaldi, Luis Fueyo, Les Hodgson, Rebecca Regnery and Leigh Henry.

Day 2

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Review Guidelines for preparing sea turtle recovery or management plans.

46. Hedelvy Guada, scientific sector representative, briefly presented the document CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc.05, which was circulated for comments prior to the CCE5 meeting and the comments were submitted to the working group for their consideration.

Working Group formation by topic: Topic 3: Conservation of *D. coriacea* and Topic 4: Guidelines to sea turtle recovery action plans

47. The members broke into the following working groups. Members of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback group were: Bryan Wallace – Coordinator, Marydele Donelly – rapporteur, Earl Possardt, Rebecca Regnery, Luis Fueyo, Eduardo Espinoza, Paul Hoetjes, and Leigh Henry and members of the Guidelines to Sea Turtle Action Plans group were: Hedelvy Guada - Coordinator, Neca Marcovaldi, Eduardo Espinoza, Jorge Zuzunaga, Rafael Amaro, Marlene Menard and Les Hodgson.

Update the CCE Work Plan (2012-2013 and 2014)

48. The Secretariat PT proposed extending the Work Plan to also include 2014. The meeting proceeded to work on document CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc.06.
49. Document CIT-CCE5-2013-Doc.06– CCE Work Plan was approved with the comments from the participants.

Day 3

Present reports from working groups.

Annual Reports (Resolutions) Working Group:

50. The group coordinator, CCE Vice-Chair Joca Thome, presented the results of the working group and their analysis of Parties compliance with the four IAC resolutions. He mentioned that the group noticed some confusion in the answers to the leatherback Resolution CIT-COP2-2004-R1 in relation to the geographical scale of the species in question. Therefore, the PT Secretariat, the CCE Vice-Chair and Chair reviewed the minutes of the First and Second Conference of the Parties (the resolution was approved at the second COP) as well as the first report of the Scientific Committee and did not find any evidence indicating that the resolution only refers to the Pacific leatherback and, therefore, considers that the resolution applies in general to all leatherbacks. Document CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc.02 was approved in plenary session and it was agreed that the PT Secretariat and coordinator will do the final editing of the document and then circulate it for review by the entire CCE.

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Exceptions Working Group:

51. Document CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc.03 was approved with the changes suggested by the CCE.

Eastern Pacific Leatherback turtle Working Group:

52. Document CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc.4 was approved with the recommendations it was agreed that the CCE would finish and circulate the technical document CIT-CCE5-2012-Tec.3 within one week of finishing the meeting (after its translation) and it will be sent to the SC for their comments.

Guidelines for Sea Turtle Action Plans Working Group:

53. Document CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc.05 was approved.

Other business

54. The Chair briefly mentioned the nomination process to elect new 2013 sectorial members since the terms will be over next year before COP6. The PT Secretariat will make a call for nominations for the 9 sectorial members and their replacements in September this year and voting will take place at the COP6.

Adoption of Meeting Recommendations and Agreements

55. The CCE agreements and recommendations were drafted, which are compiled in document CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc.07 (Annex III).

Propose locations and preliminary dates for next meeting (CCE6)

56. Honduras offered to host the next CCE6 meeting.

Closing remarks

57. Mexico and USA thanked the Chair and PT Secretariat for a very productive meeting.
58. The CCE Chair thanked all of the delegates for a successful meeting and their participation and proceeded to conclude the meeting.

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ANNEX I

Agenda of the Fifth Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts

<i>Hour</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Presentor</i>
	Day 1	
8:30 am	Participant registration	
9:00	1. Welcome and opening remarks	Earl Possardt, USFWS Paul Hoetjes, CCE Chairman Verónica Cáceres, PT Secretary
	2. Presentation of participants and election of meeting rapporteur	CCE Chairman
	3. Adoption of the agenda	
10:00	4. Summary of 4 th Consultative Committee Meeting	
11:00	5. Report on 2011 activities of the <i>Pro Tempore</i> Secretariat and COP5	PT Secretariat
11:30	6. Summary of the 8th Scientific Committee Meeting and documents	Jorge Zuzunaga, SC Chairman
12:30 pm	Lunch	
2:00-6:00 pm	7. Review 2011 IAC Annual Reports. Analyze the level of compliance with IAC Resolutions by the Parties. CCE recommendations to the IAC Parties.	Joca Thomé, CCE Vice-Chair
	8. Review Exceptions presented in 2011 IAC Annual Reports CCE recommendations on the exceptions report.	CCE Chairman
	9. Conservation of Eastern Pacific Leatherback turtles (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>) CCE recommendations to the IAC Parties.	Bryan Wallace Oceanic Society
	10. Working Group formation by topic: -Topic 1: Annual Reports (item 7) -Topic 2: Exceptions (item 8)	CCE Chairman
	Day 2	
8:30 am	11. Review Guidelines for preparing sea turtle recovery plans. Recommendation to the COP for approval of the guidelines on preparing recovery plans.	Hedelvy Guada, CICTMAR
	12. Working Group formation by topic: -Topic 3: Conservation of <i>D. coriacea</i> (item 9) -Topic 4: Guidelines to recovery plans (item 11)	
12:30 pm	Lunch	
2:00-4:00 pm	Continue working groups by topic.	
4:00-6:00 pm	13. Update the CCE Work Plan (2013-2014)	CCE Chairman

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Day 3		
8:30 am-4:00 pm	14. Present reports from working groups.	CCE Chairman and WG rapporteurs
	15. Propose COP6 agenda items and draft resolutions.	CCE Chairman
	16. Other business 16.1 Nomination process to elect 2013 sectorial members 16.2 Any other issues relevant to the scope of the meeting	PT Secretariat
12:30 pm	Lunch	
2:00 pm	17. Adoption of Recommendations and Agreements Review and approve recommendations to the IAC Parties and CCE agreements of the meeting.	CCE Chairman
	18. Preparation of next meeting (CCE6) Propose locations and preliminary dates for next meeting (CCE6)	
4:00 pm	19. Closing remarks	

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ANNEX II – Participant List

País/Country	Nombre/Name	Institución/Institution	Correo electrónico/Email
Delegados/Delegates			
Brasil	João Thomé	Analista ambiental –Coordinador Regional, Projeto Tamar-ICMBIO	joca@tamar.org.br
Ecuador	Eduardo Espinoza	Parque Nacional Galápagos, Ministerio del Ambiente	eepinoza@spng.org.ec
Estados Unidos/ USA	Earl Possardt	US-FWS Division of International Conservation	Earl-Possardt@fws.gov
Estados Unidos/ USA	Barbara Schroeder	NMFS National Sea Turtle Coordinator	Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov
Estados Unidos/ USA	Marlene Menard	Office of Marine Conservation (OES/OMC), U.S. Dept. State	MenardMM@state.gov
Honduras	Rafael Amaro García	Secretaría de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente (SERNA)	rafaelamarog@yahoo.com
México	Luis Fueyo	Comisionado-Comisión Nacional de las Áreas Naturales Protegidas	lfueyo@conanp.gob.mx
Países Bajos/ The Netherlands	Paul Hoetjes (Presidente CCE/CCE Chair)	Policy Coordinator Nature EL&I National Office for the Caribbean Netherlands	paul.hoetjes@rijksdienstcn.com
Perú	Jorge Zuzunaga (Presidente CC/SC Chair)	Instituto del Mar del Perú (IMARPE)	jorgezuzunaga@hotmail.com
Miembros Sectoriales/Sectorial Members			
Comunidad Científica/Scientific Community			
Brazil	Maria Angela Marcovaldi	Presidente Fundación Tamar y Coordinadora Técnica Nacional , Centro Tamar-IBAMA	neca@tamar.org.br
Venezuela	Hedelvy Guada	Presidente, CICTMAR - Centro de Investigación y Conservación de Tortugas Marinas	hjpguada@gmail.com
Organizaciones No-Gubernamentales/Non-Governmental Organizations			
USA	Marydele Donnelly	Sea Turtle Conservancy	marydele@conserveturtles.org
USA	Bryan Wallace	The Oceanic Society	wallace@oceanicsociety.org
Sector Privado y Productivo/Private Sector			
USA	Les Hogdson	Marco Sales, Inc.	MsShrimp@aol.com
Observadores/Observers			
USA	Rebecca Regnery	Humane Society International	rregnery@hsi.org
USA	Leigh Henry	WWF	Leigh.Henry@WWFUS.org
Secretaría/Secretariat			
USA	Verónica Cáceres	Secretaria/Secretary	secretario@iacseaturtle.org
Costa Rica	Belinda Dick	Secretaría/Secretariat	contact@iacseaturtle.org

ANNEX III

Summary of the Agreements and Recommendations of the 5th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts

1. Revision of the Resolutions in the 2011 IAC Annual Reports

a) The Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) analyzed the 2011 annual reports in regards to the level of compliance with IAC Resolutions by the Parties (Part II: Policy and Management of the annual report). The results of this analysis and recommendations approved by this committee can be found in the document CIT-CCE-2012-Doc.02 and will be sent by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to Focal Points.

b) Working groups were formed within the CCE with the objective of analyzing on a yearly basis, the information provided in each resolution of the annual report in preparation for the CCE meetings. Furthermore, the CCE identified that it is necessary to have an appropriate mechanism for evaluating the level of compliance with the resolutions and, therefore, agreed that the same working groups would develop a mechanism with clear indicators so that the Committee and the Parties may monitor compliance with the resolutions and also to be able to provide the Parties with recommendations on how to improve implementation of the Resolutions. The following working groups were formed:

- Fisheries Resolution: Joca Thome
- Hawksbill Resolution: Eduardo Espinoza and Hedelvy Guada
- Leatherback Resolution: Bryan Wallace, Laura Sarti, Earl Possardt, Jorge Zuzunaga and WWF-Observer (Diego Amorocho)
- Climate Change Resolution: Jorge Zuzunaga and Rafael Amaro

It was agreed that the working groups would carry out their work inter-sessional, before the next meeting committee meeting (CCE6) with support from the Coordinator (Joca Thome) and *Pro Tempore* Secretariat. Each working group would analyze the information reported by the Party countries on the resolutions in the 2012 annual reports and develop their own mechanism with clear indicators on how to evaluate the level of compliance with these resolutions. Each working group will send their report to the Coordinator and the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat 6 weeks before the next CCE meeting so that the document may be compiled and translated into both languages in order for it to be analyzed during the meeting and later make recommendations to the Parties.

2. Revision of the Exceptions Presented in the 2011 IAC Annual Reports

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The CCE reviewed the exceptions presented by Panama and Guatemala, the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee on the same exceptions in their 8th meeting and the document presented by Guatemala in response to the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee. Taking into consideration the information available, the CCE approved document CIT-CCE-2012-Doc.03 containing their preliminary recommendations. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat is asked to submit this document to the Scientific Committee (SC) for their information. The CCE will make its final recommendations to the COP6 during its next meeting (CCE6), taking into consideration the final report on exceptions produced at the 9th SC meeting.

It was agreed that technical assistance would be offered to Panamá and Guatemala in order to discuss the preliminary recommendations made on the exceptions. To provide this assistance, the Pro Tempore Secretariat will extend an invitation to Guatemala and Panamá to attend the 9th meeting of the SC one day early and meet with the delegates from Brazil, México and Ecuador who have offered their technical assistance for this purpose. The CCE agreed that since holding a meeting beforehand would incur additional costs, depending on the budget and if necessary, the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat may request financial support from the countries invited.

It was also agreed that the Pro Tempore Secretariat request that those countries that have exceptions to report, but have not yet submitted their Annual Report, do so as soon as possible since the deadline for submitting the 2012 annual reports has already passed.

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

The CCE reviewed document CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc.04 and the resolutions CIT-COP3-2006-R1 and CIT-COP2-2004-R1 and approved document CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc.04. A summary of the recommendations and agreements contained in the document are provided below:

- Urge Parties to fully implement the specific recommendations of the Resolution CIT-COP2-2004-R1.
- Establish a joint inter-sessional working group of experts focused on Eastern Pacific leatherbacks with members from Scientific and Consultative Committees for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of resolution CIT-COP2-2004-R1. The CCE members of this working group are: Bryan Wallace (interim Coordinator), Laura Sarti, Earl Possardt, Jorge Zuzunaga, Eduardo Espinoza and WWF (Diego Amorocho); however, the working group is open to any other experts that Parties might propose. The working group will have the following responsibilities:
 - a) Finalize the technical document CIT-CCE5-2012-Tec.3 within a one week timeframe after which it will be sent to the Scientific Committee and they will

have one month to make any comments on it. This document may be used for outreach activities.

- b) Review compliance with the existing resolution using the IAC Annual Reports as a resource; develop measureable outcomes for each recommendation of the Resolution to permit effective monitoring of compliance with the Resolution and progress toward successful population recovery of EP leatherbacks and incorporate priority actions in the IAC work plan as described in the forthcoming EP leatherback Action Plan, currently under development by IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group East Pacific Ocean regional members.
- c) Develop an outreach strategy for embassies in Washington, DC in order to create awareness on the current situation of EP leatherbacks to be implemented by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat. As a part of this strategy, meetings will be held in the Washington, DC-based embassies using materials that the working group will be providing to the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat.
- d) Identify specific activities for EP leatherbacks to be carried out under the framework of existing MOUs.
- e) Explore the possibility of new MOUs with other organizations as work progresses.
- f) Prepare a report on the results of the working group for the COP6 and request that the COP include this report as an item of the agenda at the COP6 so that Parties may take appropriate actions based on this information.
- g) Urge IAC Party countries that are also Parties of the IATTC to support the establishment of a joint working group with the IATTC on this topic. In this working group, data can be shared and analyzed to assess impacts of bycatch on EP leatherbacks throughout the region and identify priority areas to target bycatch monitoring and reduction of fishing efforts.
- h) Urge the Parties within the range of the EP leatherback to cooperate in preparing a regional characterization of fisheries that interact with leatherbacks for which IAC would be the central clearinghouse, and would allow for eventual prioritization of targeted bycatch assessment and/or bycatch reduction efforts in specific fisheries in Party countries.

4. Guidelines to Preparing Sea Turtle Action Plans

The CCE approved document CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc.05 and request that the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat send the document to the Scientific Committee for their comments (1 month). After which this document will be submitted to the COP6 for its approval.

5. Work Plan

The CCE biannual work plan was updated; document CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc.06, including its objectives and more detailed and specific activities for 2012 and 2013 as well as provided ideas for the 2014 work plan.

6. Agenda Items for the COP6

The Consultative Committee asks that the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat consult with the Parties as to the possibility of including the following topics on the COP6 agenda for their review:

- a) Guidelines for Preparing a Sea Turtle Action Plan
- b) 2014 Consultative Committee of Experts Work Plan
- c) Presentation of the results of the EP leatherback working group
- d) Status of the IAC legal personality and permanent host of the IAC Secretariat CIT (proposal by Peru). The Focal Point of Peru will present a proposal through an executive agreement. Peru is asked to send their proposal before the COP6 so that it may be reviewed by the Parties prior to the meeting.
- e) Presentation of the recommendations on the exceptions presented by Guatemala and Panamá.
- f) Analysis of compliance with IAC Resolutions.

7. Other Topics of Interest to the CCE

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the IAC and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT): Brazil will support/strengthen outreach activities with the ICCAT Secretariat to promote the signing of an MOU.

-Recommend that the Scientific Committee prepare for their next meeting, a technical document on the status of sea turtle populations in the Atlantic. The document would be similar to the one produced for the Eastern Pacific (CIT-CC8-2011-Tec.1) in order to be used in the outreach with ICCAT and to promote a possible MOU. The delegate of Brazil offered their assistance with preparing the draft version of this document.

- Recommendation to the Scientific Committee on preparing an artisanal gillnet fisheries project proposal: to follow-up on the work of the Scientific Committee in preparing gillnet data collection forms with the goal of collecting initial data on the extent and characteristics of sea turtle bycatch in artisanal gillnet fisheries, the CCE recommends that the Scientific Committee prepare a project proposal to collect data on sea turtle interactions with gillnets. The project results will assist in the development of a strategy for recommendation to the Parties to assess and reduce sea turtle bycatch in artisanal gillnet fisheries. The project proposal should define objectives; identify measurable outcomes expected; specify the project time length, location and budget; outline data collection methods; provide other guidelines for project implementation and execution, including recommendations on advertising the project proposal and criteria for participants. The

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project should include an initial phase using the current gillnet interactions forms developed by the Scientific Committee to evaluate the form's effectiveness and efficiency and recommend modifications if necessary for review/approval by the Scientific Committee. This initial phase should be completed prior to the start of data collection for analysis. The project proposal should be presented to the Consultative Committee for comments prior to presentation to COP6 for approval and funding (either direct funding from the IAC budget or by grant application to be made by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat).

-A notification from Peru was received, referring to their participation in the IAC legal framework working group and that mentioned that they will be presenting a proposal in the form of an executive agreement in order to search for a viable solution to this issue.

8. Methodology for Approving the Documents of the 5th CCE Meeting

The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat will circulate the documents generated during the 5th meeting among the CCE members that participated in the meeting for their review and comments. A period of 15 calendar days will be given for this review and any changes received during that time will be incorporated into the documents. After the 15 days has passed, the documents will be considered final and may be sent to the CCE and the IAC Parties.

9. Proposed Location for the 6th CCE Meeting

Honduras offered to host the 6th meeting of the CCE and they also offered to collaborate on outreach efforts with the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) as the regional body for environmental matters in Central America. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat must send a formal note to the Focal Point of Honduras and their delegate of the Consultative Committee expressing the agreement reached at this meeting as well as providing the logistical needs to hold the meeting in Honduras.