



**Inter-American Convention for the
Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
7th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts
Gulfport, Florida, USA
June 4-6, 2014**

CIT-CCE7-2014-Doc. 4

Report of the 7th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts

Day 1, June 4TH, 2014

Welcome and Opening Remarks

1. The Seventh Meeting of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE7) was held in Stetson University College of Law Campus in Gulfport, Florida. The welcoming remarks were delivered by **Ms. Theresa J. Pulley Radwan**, Associate Dean for Administration & Business Affairs and Professor of Law Stetson University College of Law. CCE Chair Mr. Paul Hoetjes (Caribbean Netherlands representative) thanked Stetson University College of Law's Institute of Biodiversity for hosting this meeting.

Introduction of participants and Selection of Rapporteur

2. The meeting was attended by delegates from the following Contracting Parties: Argentina, Brazil, Caribbean Netherlands, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and the United States. Seven other sector members were also present at the meeting along with the Chair of the Scientific Committee: three non-governmental organizations, three members of the scientific community, two members of the private sector (Ms. Hodgson participated remotely). The Sargasso Sea Alliance (SSA), Stetson University College of Law, the Ramsar Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and other accredited observers participated to the meeting (Annex I).
3. Ms. Emma Harrison (NGO sector representative) volunteered as rapporteur with the assistance of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat.

Adoption of the Agenda

4. The Agenda (Annex II) was adopted with one change: **USA** requested an update on the progress of the legal working group in agenda item number 19. Specifically in relation to the nomination process of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat and the establishment of a permanent location for the Secretariat.

Summary of the 6th Consultative Committee Meeting

5. CCE's Chair gave a summary of the 6th CCE meeting. It was a teleconference attended by 15 participants in March 2013. He noted that this mechanism worked well on meetings with a few items in the agenda, as it allows larger participation from Member Countries. During the meeting the CCE6: i) analyzed the level of Parties' compliance with IAC resolutions based on 2011-2012 IAC's annual reports; ii) consolidated SC and CCE findings into a final draft recommendations on Exceptions for COP6; iii) prepared the technical document CIT-CCE5-2012-Tec.3, "*Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtles (Dermochelys coriacea): a Summary of Current Conservation Status, Challenges and Opportunities*" Report and Recommendations for compliance with the Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP6-2013-Inf.4); and iv) finalized as CIT-CCE5-2012-Tec.4, "*Guidelines for Preparing Sea Turtle Action Plans for IAC Party Countries*".

Secretariat Pro Tempore report on 2013-2014 activities

6. **Ms. Veronica Caceres** summarized the activities carried out by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat. She highlighted i) adherence of countries to the Convention (Bermuda, Colombia, Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua); ii) international cooperation through the MOU (Ramsar, ICCAT, CPPS, CITES, Sargasso Sea Alliance) iii) building capacity of Member Countries through 3 technical workshops; in Honduras (September, 2013) with the workshop on monitoring techniques on nesting beaches with support from DIBIO-SERNA, in Curaçao with the establishment of the first national monitoring program of beaches with assistance from the Caribbean Netherlands, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, Carmabi, and the Government of Curaçao (March, 2014), and in Guatemala the best-practices workshop on handling sea turtles captured incidentally was organized with assistance from the Fisheries Department of Guatemala and NOAA (May, 2014); iv) financial assistance through the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (MTCF-USFWS) to support the 7th meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee (June, 2014) and the approval of a second proposal on the characterization of fishing gear that will have an impact on the capture of leatherback turtles in artisanal fisheries in Chile that will be implemented with the support of the Chilean Government.
7. Mr. Diego Amorocho (NGO Sector) highlighted that the Colombian Government signed a technical cooperation agreement with WWF- Colombia aimed at carrying out workshops with coastal communities to talk about the IAC and the conservation of sea turtles. This would be a first step towards Colombia's ratification of the IAC. The 10 workshops planned are almost completed.

8. **Ecuador** reported, with respect to the MoU between IAC and the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS in Spanish or Lima Convention), that the Ecuadorian IAC delegate participated in a workshop that CPPS organized on electronic repositories.
9. **Caribbean Netherlands, USA** and **Ecuador** congratulated the Secretariat on their efforts and hard work reflected in the activities for the 2013-2014 period.

10th Scientific Committee Meeting Summary

10. The Chair of the Scientific Committee Mr. Jorge Zuzunaga (Perú) provided a summary of the SC10 meeting including the update on the activities of the SC working groups - fisheries, stranding, nesting beaches, and climate change that convened during the intersession period. He stressed the need to prioritize functions of the SC that directly support IAC in accomplishing its objectives and include these functions in the work plan of the SC.
11. **USA** asked why the stranding WG was created. The SC Chair noted that the topic was brought up during SC10 presentations, due to the stranding events reported in Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua in the previous year.
12. **USA** and Mr. Alejandro Fallabrino (NGO Sector) suggested the stranding WG should include countries in the Atlantic. **Argentina** and **Ecuador** underlined that the working group is open to all Member Countries' inputs. Furthermore, Ecuador highlighted the need of a multidisciplinary group that can review existing protocols.
13. Ms. Neca Marcovaldi (Scientific Sector) offered to share protocols and other tools on stranding events in Brazil.
14. **Panama** reported that they have organized workshops on how to handle stranding events in the country. Mr. Fernando Medrano (Private Sector) mentioned the importance of including this topic in workshops for fishermen to raise awareness.
15. **USA** clarified that stranding may have lots of causes and sometimes it is difficult to determine the cause in places with no reliable data. Therefore, it would also be important to determine the focus of the stranding working group and to communicate the agenda of the SC meetings in advance in order for countries to send a person with the appropriate expertise. The US mentioned that it is important that the president of the SC knows the topic of the agenda in advanced of the focal points of IAC so that they can send the appropriate experts to meetings.

Analysis on Resolution Compliance Working Group

16. **Mr. Joca Thome (Brazil)**, CCE Vice Chair, presented the report on IAC Technical Resolution Compliance (Annex III). The report included the information provided by the IAC Parties in their 2013 and 2014 Annual Reports (until May 23rd, 2014). It provided an analysis on the general compliance of IAC technical Resolutions, an inter-annual compliance analysis of each Resolution for the 2011-2014 period, and highlighted the activities with most and least compliance. The Vice Chair also highlighted the collaboration of the TAMAR project and the Secretariat *PT* in the analysis.

17. **Ecuador, Caribbean Netherlands and USA** thanked Mr. Thome and the WG for the report. Also stressed the importance of identifying the components in the IAC Resolutions in the IAC Annual Report that should be analyzed on the short-term from those that could be analyzed in a medium term. The **USA** proposed that the working group provide a recommendation to COP 7 to focus on looking at the compliance data of the most important components of the Resolutions in order to assess progress. Ms. Neca Marcovaldi (Scientific sector) supported this proposal and stressed the importance of identifying long-term priorities to be addressed in the resolution compliance report.

Report on Eastern Pacific Leatherback task force (2013-2014)

18. Mr. Diego Amorocho (NGO Sector) summarized the work undertaken by the Leatherback task force during the inter-sessional period. The task force developed a draft grant proposal to obtain funding to reduce sea leatherback by-catch in Chile, Peru and Ecuador. The grant proposal was used as a reference to prepare one for Chile only and it was submitted to MTCF by Chile and the IAC and it was approved in June 2014. The grant will be implemented with support of the Government of Chile, the NGO Pacifico Laud and IAC Secretariat *PT*. Mr. Alejandro Fallabrino (NGO Sector) congratulated Chile for the approval of their proposal and the inclusion of the NGO sector in its implementation.

19. Ms. Joanna Alfaro (NGO Sector) mentioned on-going regional projects led by NGO's in Peru, Ecuador and Chile on the mitigation and estimation of leatherback's by-catch and offered to become a member of the task Force.

20. The CCE Chair highlighted the collaboration of NGO's and IAC Country Members as an example on how to work together to solve common conservation issues.

Results of Regional Workshop: Standardization of research methodology focus on *D. coriacea*

21. Ms. Joanna Alfaro (NGO Sector) summarized a capacity building workshop held in Perú. The workshop allowed government and NGO representatives from Ecuador, Chile and Peru to exchange experiences. Over two dozen people attended and the topics covered included: satellite tracking, data management, regional databases, stranding, and mitigation of by-catch.

Wetlands of International Importance and Sea Turtles Conservation

22. The Secretariat *PT* introduced the Technical Document on Wetlands of International Importance and their contribution to Sea Turtles Conservation. The document was prepared in collaboration between the IAC Scientific Committee and Ramsar Secretariat. The first table in the document was based on the Ramsar Secretariat official Database and Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS). The second table developed by the IAC's Scientific Committee members highlighted potential Ramsar Sites important for sea turtle conservation.
23. Ms. Joanna Alfaro (NGO Sector) asked if additional Ramsar Sites could be added to table one since not all important Ramsar Sites for sea turtles, like the Mangroves of San Pedro Del Vice in Peru and the Estero Padre Ramos in Nicaragua, were listed. The Secretariat explained that one of the document's benefits is to identify Ramsar Sites with missing sea turtles information so that the Ramsar focal point in each country would update their site information sheet (RIS).
24. Mr. Gardner (Ramsar-STRP Chair) congratulated the IAC Scientific Committee on this document. He proposed to organize a webinar using a case study of a Ramsar Site with a successful sea turtle conservation program. The **Caribbean Netherlands** seconded this proposal.
25. **Ecuador** proposed organizing meetings between IAC and Ramsar Focal point in order to review the document's information to help update the RIS. **Costa Rica** will meet with their Ramsar counterpart in the upcoming weeks. **Argentina** mentioned they were updating the Bahia Samborombon RIS to include the sea turtle information, and the sites identified in Table No. 2 were in process of designation. The Scientific Committee Chair (Peru) and Ms. Joanna Alfaro (NGO Sector) will contact the Ramsar National Coordinator to coordinate the inclusion of missing information.

26. **The CCE agreed that the IAC Consultative Committee members will review the IAC-Ramsar Document and make final edits in a period of one month and to identify activities to be organized within the IAC-Ramsar MoU. Afterwards the Secretariat *PT* will circulate the document with IAC Member Countries and it should be posted on IAC Website.**

Review recommendations from the Scientific Committee

A. Marine debris and sea turtles

27. Mr. Diego Albareda (Argentina, Scientific Committee Member) introduced the Marine Debris Information Document CIT-CCE7-2014-Inf.2, in light of the increasing scientific information on marine debris and its negative effects on sea turtles in the Americas. He drew CCE7's attention to the issue to be discussed.
28. Mr. Alejandro Fallabrino (NGO Sector) supported the petition to address the marine debris issue due to its threat to sea turtles in Uruguay, sometimes higher than the fisheries interaction threat.
29. **USA** and Ms. Joanna Alfaro (NGO Sector) concurred that marine debris is becoming a major threat for sea turtles. **USA** further highlighted the need of reviewing existing legal frameworks that could be used to help in addressing this topic. They mentioned the importance of knowing the origin of the debris in order to determine specific actions to mitigate this problem. The U.S. delegation also stressed that the IAC should understand its role in solving this issue in order to work with other international conventions on this issue. Argentina mentioned that, at the moment, the SC is only reviewing the literature on this topic to create a concrete definition. They suggest that a definition on marine debris, its classifications, and sources should be part of the information included in a technical document for the next SC meeting.
30. Mr. Fernando Medrano (Private Sector) mentioned that Mexico has highlighted the importance of training fishing fleets in how to manage their debris and waste water treatment especially with fisheries industry, through a project called "Clean fleet".
31. **Brazil** underlined the importance of the topic, and mentioned a number of groups and other Conventions working on it. Sea turtles could be used as icons to raise awareness about the impact of marine debris. IAC should focus on these efforts instead of drafting a marine debris resolution as IAC needs to work together with other stakeholders. **Brazil** further reminded the need to focus IAC's scarce resources in those areas that are more strategically effective. **Argentina** stressed that involvement of IAC countries would be helpful in managing the problem and proposes to contact CMS focal points to consult on the implementation of their

Marine Debris Resolution. Joanna Alfaro (NGO Sector) also emphasized the seriousness of this threat to sea turtles and the need to take action.

b. Climate change resolution compliance reporting

32. The CCE Chair reported that there are changes made to the format of IAC 2014 Annual Report that relate to the climate change resolution.
33. Mr. Diego Amorocho (NGO Sector) highlighted WWF's willingness to provide technical support on climate change to the Secretariat *PT* and the Parties. The WWF "Tool-kit" and other resources could help the Parties implement the climate change Resolution. Hedelvy Guada (Scientific Sector) suggested the inclusion of the WWF handbooks in training workshops.

Day 2, June 5TH, 2014

Exceptions

a. Presentation of Costa Rica's Exception

34. Ms. Jenny Asch from Costa Rica's National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) and the IAC Focal Point in **Costa Rica** presented the Exceptions of Costa Rica in Ostional Beach. The exceptions were presented in the 2014 Annual Report, which also included the five-year management plan on the usage of *L. olivacea* in Ostional which is available on the IAC web site. **Costa Rica** stated their willingness to provide all the required additional information and participate in the Exceptions WG.
35. **Ecuador** asked if there were any individual quotas for egg extraction. **Costa Rica** replied such quotas exist as they work with a local management council, where the community monitors and regulate the commercialization and tourist activities with SINAC's support.
36. **Panama** inquired if the extraction takes place on the 3 nesting sites in Ostional beach and asked about the implementation of the 5 year-plan to manage the exceptions. Panama requested Costa Rica's aid in developing a management plan for the exceptions in Panamá. **Costa Rica** noted that egg extraction is only allowed on the main nesting site and said they would be willing to help Panama.
37. Ms. Emma Harrison (Scientific Sector) requested further information on how the Ministry of Environment (MINAE) controls egg poaching and legal egg harvesting in the area. Hedelvy Guada (Scientific Sector) congratulated Costa Rica on the

preparation of the five-year plan. She asked whether Costa Rica has attempted to quantify illegal poaching as called for the IAC Resolution on the Procedures for Exceptions. **Costa Rica** mentioned a decrease in egg poaching activities due to MINAE monitoring activities. However, surveillance is not 24 hours a day so egg poaching is present. Furthermore, they have the clear need and commitment to quantify illegal poaching but the information is not available at this moment.

38. **USA** congratulated Costa Rica for starting the Exception process and requested further information on the legal and illegal usage and its quantification.

39. **Brazil** asked what is the financial value gained by the community for the use of these eggs. **Costa Rica** replied that the value received by the communities is about USD 248,000, which is given to the community to support the protected areas. From 2007-2011 more than 1.5 million USD were collected, the rest is invested in community development projects such as (schools, transportation means and police) and payments are managed by the community and eggs collectors.

b. Report on Panama's progress on the implementation of IAC recommendations

40. Mr. Rafael Muñoz provided a summary of the activities undertaken by Panama in response to Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1. Panama stated the need to create their management plan. Panama mentioned that in 2009 ANAM modified the law, making the extraction of *L. olivacea* eggs on Isla Canas illegal. At this moment, Isla Canas residents have a moratorium on the extraction of eggs, instituted by ANAM. However it is not clear if under Panamanian legislation, the extractive activities on the site are legal or illegal. Panama must clarify this ambiguity regarding its exception since IAC cannot approve an Exception that declared illegal by national law.

41. Ms. Hedelvy Guada inquired about the availability of information on illegal poaching and its source. Panama mentioned that despite patrolling efforts in the area, there is no official data on the amount of illegal poaching.

42. Mr. Alejandro Fallabrino asked if there were NGO's and/or academic institutions working with the local association as they may be of help in the relation with the ANAM. **Ecuador** mentioned a participatory construction of local legislation and capacity building as a way to minimize conflict with the community.

43. **The CCE instructed the Secretariat to set up a meeting, within the next two months, between ARAP and ANAM on the exception and review the current legislation in order to assure IAC is backing a legal initiative in Panama. The CCE supports Panama's intention.**

44. Ms. Joanna Alfaro underlined the importance of knowing each Member Country's legal framework regarding sea turtles. The Secretary *PT* mentioned that students from Stetson University College of Law are putting together the existing laws and regulation regarding sea turtles in the IAC area to make them available on the IAC web site.
45. **CCE7 also recommends Panama to report at the next SC meeting in September 2014 on the legality of egg harvest in Isla Canas and the current sea turtle population status so that the CCE can re-evaluate the COP recommendation.**
46. Ms. Anne Meylan gave a presentation on the importance of Bocas del Toro Province and the Comarca Ngöbe-Buglé in Panamá for Sea Turtle Conservation and her research work.

Collaboration with other International Organizations

a. Results of the participation of IAC member countries in the *Caretta caretta* meeting in Brisbane (Single species action plan –CMS)

47. Ms. Joanna Alfaro (NGO Sector) summarized Peru's participation in the CMS single species action plan for *Caretta caretta* workshop in Brisbane, Australia. The common threats highlighted at the meeting were: interaction with fisheries, marine debris and climate change, and the importance of promoting research for the future conservation of this species was identified.
48. **Ecuador** underlined its participation in the meeting, and mentioned IAC Secretariat *PT's* support to all attending IAC countries by preparing informative documents on the compliance of IAC Resolutions in English and Spanish. Ecuador's Technical Focal Point will formally request CMS to circulate the draft action plan on *C. caretta* prior to the next Scientific Committee meeting on September 2014. The Secretariat *PT* will also approach CMS colleagues in order to follow up on the revision of the draft plan for its discussion with the upcoming Scientific Committee. **CCE7 agreed that each of IAC Parties should contact their CMS counterpart to establish an appropriate communication with IAC Secretariat and coordinate this topic.**

b. Progress report on IAC-CITES consultancy on Status of Hawksbill Turtles in the Wider Caribbean/Western Atlantic and Eastern Pacific

49. Dr. Cathi Campbell, participating via Skype, provided a progress report on her consultancy on the Status of Hawksbill Turtles in the Wider Caribbean/Western Atlantic and Eastern Pacific.

50. **Panama** clarified that the country has total protection for Hawksbill Turtles. **USA** inquired on the availability of data to support population trend assessments in some countries and highlighted that the only legal take allowed in Guatemala is Olive-Ridleys.

51. **Caribbean Netherlands** and Ms. Hedelvy Guada (Scientific sector) stressed the importance of raising awareness in Caribbean countries to stop the legal take of Hawksbill. SPAW member states were particularly important to contact as they are obligated to protect all sea turtles. The Caribbean Netherlands delegate recommended that as part of the SPAW-IAC collaboration, this concern should be raised with the SPAW Secretariat. The **Caribbean Netherlands** and **USA** will provide IAC Secretariat *PT* with recommendations on how to communicate with European Union and British overseas territories and the SPAW Protocol on the ongoing legal take and usage of sea turtles.

52. **CCE7 recommended all IAC Member countries to present their Exceptions to IAC.**

c. Presentation “The Sargasso Sea Commission- An innovative approach to intergovernmental collaboration to conserve the Sargasso Sea”

53. Ms. Kate Morrison (Sargasso Sea Alliance) explained the transition from the Sargasso Sea Alliance to the Sargasso Sea Commission and its future structure. It highlighted the importance of the collaboration with IAC within this alliance. The **USA** inquired about the timeline expected for the Commission to enter into force. SSA responded that this depends on the meeting to be held in August 2014 in Bermuda.

d. Presentation of draft document on the Importance of Sargasso Sea for Sea Turtles

54. The Secretariat introduced a concept note to highlight the importance of scientific and technical collaboration between the IAC and SSA and opened the discussion. Mr. Diego Amorocho stated that WWF Caribbean Alliance was willing to support IAC and SSA in this work. **USA** recommended that both Secretariats should determine a process to review and circulate the draft concept note for further comments from the IAC scientific committee.

Update the CCE Work Plan (2014-2015)

55. The CCE7 Chair introduced the proposal to change the format of the Workplan. Ms. Joana Alfaro recommended the inclusion of some progress indicators into the table and **USA** suggested using links to cross reference and make the workplan a more user friendly tool for its revision at COP7. The WG should work on this proposal and present their inputs for the Committee's approval (Annex IV).

Formation of Working Groups

56. The following working groups were formed in order to develop the topics:

Working Group: IAC Resolution Compliance

Members: Brazil, USA and Neca Marcovaldi (Scientific Sector)

Working Group: Exceptions

Members: Costa Rica (could not be connected during the plenary), Panama, USA, SC Chair (Jorge Zuzunaga), Joanna Alfaro (NGO Sector), Hedelvy Guada (Scientific Sector), Emma Harrison (Scientific Sector), and Stetson College of Law.

Working Group: Marine debris and IAC-Ramsar Technical document

Members: Argentina, Ecuador, USA, Alejandro Fallabrino (NGO Sector), Fernando Medrano (Private Sector), Ramsar STRP.

Working Group: CCE Workplan

Members: Caribbean Netherlands and USA

Working Group: Sargasso Sea and Sea Turtles

Members: USA (Earl Possard, Ann Meylan, Steve Wilger) and Kate Morrison (SSA)

Working Group: Leatherbacks

Members: USA, Joanna Alfaro (NGO Sector), Diego Amorocho (NGO Sector)

FRIDAY JUNE 6TH, 2014

CCE7 Agreements and Recommendations

57. CCE7 WGs final recommendations are:

IAC Resolution Compliance

58. The Leatherback Resolution CIT-COP2-2004-R1 is considered to apply only to Member Countries with Eastern Pacific Leatherbacks populations. CCE7 requested the Secretariat *PT* to communicate this to the Focal Points during the intercessional period and include this clarification in the 2015 annual report format.
59. CCE7 agrees to modify the Resolutions' table on the annual report format in order to avoid duplication of the fisheries information. The WG will provide the Secretariat with recommendations on how to modify the annual report's table.
60. CCE7 agrees that the WG on Resolution compliance will identify the most important questions in the Annual Report Table to evaluate compliance and report to COP. The WG should also identify the questions that are of little value for the resolution compliance evaluation.
61. CCE7 agrees that the WG will draft the necessary text for COP7 in order to request the elimination of the Climate Change Resolution reporting and instead gather this information in other sections of the annual report.
62. The CCE7 recommends COP to evaluate any updates needed to the existing resolutions to improve conservation and recovery of sea turtles in IAC area, such as the elimination of Climate Change Resolution.

Working Group Report: Exceptions

63. CCE7 instructs the Secretariat to send Costa Rica's Exception document to the Scientific Committee CC11 for a technical review and recommendations. These recommendations will be reviewed on the next CCE meeting to provide Recommendations to COP7. CCE7 noted the missing information on illegal trade in the submission of Costa Rica's Annual Report and suggest Costa Rica to provide this information within the current 5 year plan.
64. CCE7 recommends that Member Countries report their Exceptions after careful review of their national legal frameworks.

Working Group: Marine debris and IAC-Ramsar Technical document

Marine debris

65. CCE7 recommends that the document CIT-CCE7-2014-Inf.2 serves as basis for the creation of a working document on marine debris for the upcoming SC11. Argentina, aided by Ecuador will lead this working group. They will complete the working document based on information from Parties, scientific papers, and a review of available legal instruments. The document created for SC11 should be sent for consideration to CCE8. CCE7 requests the Secretariat to help the WG in contacting other International Conventions and IAC Parties on this issue.

IAC-Ramsar Technical document

66. CCE7 asks that within a month of CCE7, Focal Points meet their Ramsar homolog to review the document CIT-CC10-2013-Doc. Tec.6. (Final Document Annex V)
67. CCE7 recommends inclusion of a third table in the document which shows those Ramsar Sites that have turtles but which information is not included on the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS).
68. CCE7 requests the Secretariat *PT* to include a third table in this document with sea turtle information on existing Ramsar Sites with the previous consent from the Ramsar Secretariat. It is also recommended to make enquiries with the Ramsar Secretariat about to possibility for a side event on wetlands and sea turtles at the Ramsar COP in 2015.
69. CCE7 with help of Alejandro Fallabrino, will inquire whether Uruguay can host this side-event on wetlands and sea turtles. After consultation with the Ramsar Secretariat on this topic the recommendation was to discuss this further between Secretariats since the COP for both Conventions will be held in June 2015 and there are times and budget constrains for this activity.
70. CCE7 agreed that its members will schedule a meeting with Ramsar National Coordinators, to discuss the document and identify activities that may be carried out in Ramsar Sites for the conservation of sea turtles and their habitats.

CCE Workplan

71. The Working Group will work during the intercessional period to update the workplan for 2015 and prepare a proposal for COP7.

Sargasso Sea and Sea Turtles

72. The CCE7 recommends that the goal of the "Concept Note on the importance of *Sargassum* and the Sargasso Sea for Atlantic Sea Turtles" is to serve as a statement of overlapping and mutual interest between the IAC and Sargasso Sea Commission, and it will be published as a joint technical document on both the IAC and Sargasso Sea Commission websites. Authorship will be shared by both organizations. The document will be written in English and Spanish.
73. IAC Secretariat *PT* will begin a review of the "Concept Note on the importance of *Sargassum* and the Sargasso Sea for Atlantic Sea Turtles" among the IAC Consultative

- Committee of Experts and the IAC Scientific Committee over a 60 day period (July-August approximately).
74. The United States (Stephen Wilger and Anne Meylan) will receive and make final edits of any comments, and will reach out to regional experts to fill some key gaps. Additions may also include graphical representations of turtle tracks of sea turtle species, as well as a change to the last section heading.
 75. IAC Secretariat PT will submit the revised Concept Note to the Sargasso Sea Alliance Commission Director by **15 August 2014**, for Sargasso Sea Commission review.
 76. Sargasso Sea Alliance will come back to IAC Secretariat PT in late August 2014, or as soon as possible with further comments, after rules and procedures are agreed-to by the forthcoming Sargasso Sea Commission. (Final Document Annex VI)

Working Group: EPO Leatherbacks

77. CCE7 requests the Secretariat *PT* to approach NOAA and the US State Department in order to schedule the leatherback task force working group for a video conference call in October 2014. The next meeting will focus on identifying additional steps needed that IAC and member countries can implement based on priorities and recommendations of the EP Leatherback Action Plan.
78. CCE7 with support of Mr. Diego Amorocho will expedite completion of a proposal to be submitted to the USFWS – MTCA by IAC Secretariat for funding. This proposal would support efforts to reduce leatherback sea turtle bycatch in Peru and Ecuador. The goal would be to have the proposal ready for the next October 1 deadline.
79. CCE7 requests Secretary *PT* to discuss with Mexico the possibility of inviting key government officials from Peru, Chile and Ecuador to the major leatherback nesting beaches in Mexico. This fieldwork would increase official understanding on the conservation work in nesting beach, and the critical situation to protect this specie. It was agreed that the Mexican delegate (L. Sarti) will determine the extent to which Mexico can cover the cost of this invitation as IAC does not have the funding.
80. CCE7 recommends Ms. Joanna Alfaro (NGO sector) to join this working group for future meetings.

Propose COP7 agenda items and draft resolutions

81. IAC Secretary *PT* will draft the agenda items for COP7 based on recommendations by the Working Groups. CCE7 shall have a month to review the report and make the necessary adjustments.

Other Business

a. Update on Legal WG

82. CCE7 requested an update on Member Countries' intentions to host the Secretariat *PT*. **Caribbean Netherlands** reported they are seeking an endorsement letter from the island government of Bonaire to continue with the process. **Ecuador** stated that the proposal elaborated by Galapagos National Park and the Environment Ministry has been submitted to Foreign Affairs to obtain their legal opinion on some aspects. Stetson University maintained their interest but mentioned their situation was different as they were not a

Member Country. CCE7 provided interested Member countries with a month extension to send their information before setting up a meeting of the WG.

83. CCE7 requested that the legal working group discuss and propose solutions for the renewal of Secretary *PT* current contract, given that her visa will need to be renewed shortly. The working group should deliver its recommendations to IAC Focal Points by November 2014.

b. Espirito Santo, Brazil - Mining port (Puerto de Capixaba) on important nesting area

84. Mr. Alejandro Fallabrino (NGO sector) mentioned the impact of the construction of a mining port (Porto Capixaba) in the Espirito Santo area in Brazil, which will pose a threat to the most important a unique Leatherback population in Brazil, which is important regionally. He proposed that CCE7 draft a letter to the Brazilian Government/ IAC Focal Point to call his attention to the threat posed by this mining development. This area sustains approximately 30 nesting females (*D. coriacea*) that are genetically linked to the Gabon and Caribbean populations. The Brazilian Government is currently doing an Environmental Impact Assessment. The delegate from Brazil J. Thome seconded this proposal of sending the letter to support the case. He noted that this would be in the spirit of the IAC Convention's objectives. The Brazilian delegate reminded the CCE7 that the Consultative Committee had previously sent a letter on a Brazilian coastal development project at the first meeting of this committee.
85. USA expressed its concerns with the Secretariat sending letters to Focal Points on domestic issues, as this may deteriorate Parties' relation with IAC and its Secretariat. The USA stressed that it is a sensitive issue that requires further discussion and should have been included in the agenda of the meeting. The USA said they support the concern of the NGO Sector and Brazil, and that clearly the protection and conservation of this species is important. However, the IAC Parties and the Secretariat need to establish a proper mechanism to express their concerns in topics of regional interest.
86. **The Caribbean Netherlands and Argentina** noted that these concerns should be reflected in the CCE7 meeting report, and that the request for the Secretary to send the letter should wait until further consultation.
87. **CCE7 approved a visit by the Secretariat *PT* to Brazil to discuss the issue and to express the CCE7's concerns about the implications of developing a mining port in the Espirito Santo area on the South Atlantic *D. coriacea* population. After the CCE meeting, using the intercessional consultation process the CCE agreed to send a letter signed by the CCE Chair to the Brazilian Focal Point. The letter stated CCE7's concerns about the mining port and requested additional information on the case. The letter can be found in Annex VII.**

c. Illegal trade of Hawksbill sea turtle parts

88. Mr. Diego Amorocho (NGO Sector) expressed his concerns with regards to the increasing Hawksbill's shell trafficking in the Colombian Caribbean and other countries such as Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Venezuela.

89. USA suggested that this topic be included in COP7 agenda to be drafted in a language that can be sent to CITES COP. Dr. Cathi Campbell's report could potentially help on raising awareness on this issue.

Election on Chair and Vice Chair

90. USA proposed Mr. Paul Hoetjes of the Caribbean Netherlands and Mr. Joca Thomé of Brazil continue as Chair and Vice-Chair of the CCE respectively, due to their good work. The proposal was seconded and adopted by the plenary. Mr. Hoetjes and Mr. Thomé accepted their appointments and expressed their gratitude.

91. Next CCE meeting will be a videoconference organized by the US Department of State, logistics will be coordinated with Mr. Steven Wilger for March 2015.

Closing Remarks

92. After completing all agenda items, the meeting was adjourned with closing remarks from Caribbean Netherlands, Ecuador, USA, SSA, Stetson University and several sectoral members. Stetson University was extensively thanked for hosting the meeting and supporting the Skype and video conference participation. The side activities provided to the delegates in the Gulfport area and the visit to the aquarium as field trip were greatly appreciated.

ANNEX I PARTICIPANTS LIST

País/Country	Nombre/Name	Institución/Institution	Correo electrónico/Email
Delegados/Delegates			
Argentina Videoconferencia	Jorgelina del Pilar Oddi Debora Winter Diego Albareda	Grupo de trabajo de asuntos acuáticos Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación Zoológico de Buenos Aires	joddi@ambiente.gob.ar dwinter@ambiente.gob.ar dalbareda@zoobuenosaires.com.ar
Brasil	João Thomé	Coordinador Nacional do Centro Tamar- Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservacao da Biodiversidade	joao.thome@icmbio.gov.br
Costa Rica Via skype	Jenny Asch	SINAC	jenny.asch@sinac.go.cr
México Via skype	Laura Sarti	Delegada del Comisionado Nacional de Areas Protegidas - CONANP	lsarti@conanp.gob.mx
Ecuador	Eduardo Espinoza	Parque Nacional Galápagos	eespinoza@galapagos.gob.ec
Estados Unidos/ USA	Earl Possardt Alexis Gutierrez Stephen Wilger Anne Meylan Ann Marie Lauritsen Dennis Klemm Mike Barnette	US-FWS Division of International Conservation NOAA Office of Marine Conservation (OES/OMC), U.S. Dept. State FWRI/FWC FWS NOAA NOAA	Earl.Possardt@fws.gov Alexis.Gutierrez@noaa.gov wilgersj2@state.gov Anne.Meylan@myfwc.com annmarie_lauritsen@fws.gov dennis.klemm@noaa.gov michael.barnette@noaa.gov
Países Bajos/ The Netherlands	Paul Hoetjes Chair Consultative Committee	Policy Coordinator Nature EL&I National Office for the Caribbean Netherlands	paul.hoetjes@rijksdienstcn.com
Panamá	Rafael Muñoz	Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá (ARAP)	ramm03@hotmail.com; rmunoz@arap.gob.pa

Miembros Sectoriales/Sectorial Members			
Comunidad Científica/Scientific Community			
Brazil	Neca Marcovaldi	Fundacion Tamar	neca@tamar.org.br
Costa Rica	Emma Harrison	Scientific Director Sea Turtle Conservancy	emma@conserveturtles.org
Venezuela	Hedelvy Guada	Presidente, CICTMAR - centro de investigación y conservación de tortugas marinas	hjguada@gmail.com
Organizaciones No-Gubernamentales/Non-Governmental Organizations			
Colombia	Diego Amorocho	WWF	dfamorocho@wwf.org.co
Perú	Joanna Alfaro	Pro delphinus	jas_26@yahoo.com
Uruguay	Alejandro Fallabrino	Karumbe	afalla7@gmail.com
Sector Privado y Productivo/Private Sector			
Mexico	Fernando Freeman	Cámara de Pesca México	fmedrano@opmaritima.com.mx
USA Via skype	Les Hogdson	Marco Sales, Inc.	MsShrimp@aol.com
Comité Científico/ Scientific Committee			
Perú	Jorge Zuzunaga Chair Scientific Committee	Instituto del Mar de Peru- IMARPE	jzuzunaga@imarpe.gob.pe
Secretaría CIT / IAC Secretariat			
	Verónica Cáceres	Secretaria pro tempore	secretario@iacseaturtle.org
	Sofía Méndez Castillo	Asistente Técnico Secretaría	Smendez.cit@gmail.com
IAC Observers and International Organizations			
USA	Kate Morrison	Sargasso Sea Alliance	kmorrison@sargassoalliance.org
USA	Royal C Gardner	Chair Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel - Stetson University	gardner@law.stetson.edu
USA	Jaclyn Lopez	Stetson University	jlopez@biologicaldiveristy.org

ANNEX II AGENDA CIT-CCE7-2014-Doc.1

Time	AGENDA ITEM	Presenter
Day 1		
8:45 am	Meeting registration	
9:00 am	1. Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Ms. Theresa J. Pulley Radwan, Associate Dean for Administration & Business Affairs and Professor of Law Stetson University College of Law</i>	
	<i>Mr. Paul Hoetjes, Director of Policy Caribbean Netherlands. Consultative Committee Chair</i>	
	2. Introductions of participants and election of meeting Rapporteur	Paul Hoetjes, CCE Chair
	3. Adoption of the Agenda <i>CIT-CCE7-2014-Doc.1</i>	
	4. Summary of 6 th Consultative Committee Meeting	
10:15	Coffee break	
10:30	5. Report on 2013-2014 Activities of the Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>	Secretary <i>Pro Tempore</i>
10:45	6. Summary of the 10 th Scientific Committee Meeting	Jorge Zuzunaga, SC Chair
11:00	7. Presentation on IAC Resolution Compliance -Review 2013-2014 IAC Annual Reports. <i>CIT-CCE7-2014-Doc.2</i>	Joao Thome, CCE Vice Chair
12:00	Lunch	
1:00	8. Activities in the framework of Resolution Conservation of <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> a. Report <i>D. coriacea</i> task force (2013-2014) b. Results of Regional Workshop: Standardization of research methodology focus on <i>D. coriacea</i>	Secretary <i>Pro Tempore</i> Joanna Alfaro, Pro-Delphinus, Sectorial delegate CCE
1:45	9. Wetlands of International Importance and Sea Turtles Conservation <i>CIT-CC10-2013-Doc. Tec.6</i>	Secretariat <i>PT</i>
2:30	10. Review recommendations from Scientific Committee a. Marine debris and sea turtles <i>CIT-CCE7-2014-Inf.2</i>	Diego Albareda, SC delegate- Argentina IAC Secretariat
	b. Climate change resolution compliance reporting	
3:30	Coffee break	

3:45	11. Presentation of Exceptions a. Presentation of Costa Rica exceptions included in the 2104 IAC Annual Reports b. Report progress on implementation of IAC recommendations on exceptions by Panama	Jenny Asch- Costa Rica Rafael Muñoz-Panama
4:30	12. Importance of Bocas del Toro Province and the Comarca Ngöbe-Buglé, Panama, for Sea Turtle Conservation	Anne Meylan, FWRI
5:00	Adjourns	
5:30	Welcome Reception	
Day 2		
9:00 am	13. Collaboration with other International Organizations Summary of activities with, Ramsar, SSA, CPPS ICCAT and next steps a. Progress report on IAC-CITES consultancy on Status of Hawksbill Turtles in the Wider Caribbean/Western Atlantic and Eastern Pacific. b. Results of the participation of IAC member countries in the <i>Caretta caretta</i> meeting in Brisbane (Single species action plan –CMS) c. Presentation “The Sargasso Sea Commission- An innovative approach to intergovernmental collaboration to conserve the Sargasso Sea” d. Presentation of draft document on the Importance of Sargasso Sea for Sea Turtles- <i>CIT-CCE7-2014- Doc.3</i>	Cathi Campbell (IAC Consultant) Joanna Alfaro, Pro- Delphinus, Sectorial delegate CCE Kate Morrison, Deputy Executive Director, Sargasso Sea Alliance (SSA)
10:30	Coffee Break	
10:45	14. Update the CCE Work Plan (2014-2015) <i>CIT-CCE7-2014-Doc.3</i>	CCE Chair / Plenary
12:00 pm	Lunch	
1:00	15. Working Group formation by topic: a. Topic 1: IAC Resolution Compliance. Chair of the group J. Thome b. Topic 2: Exceptions c. Topic 3: Marine debris and IAC- Ramsar Technical document d. Topic 4: Workplan e. Topic 5: Sargasso Sea and Sea Turtles f. Topic 6: Baula Task Force Coffee break 3:00 pm	
4:00	16. Groups present their preliminary recommendations for Discussion	WG Rapporteurs/Plenary Plenary

5:00	Adjourns	
Day 3		
9:00 am	17. Reports from working groups with final recommendations <i>The rapporteurs present their reports to the plenary. The meeting is invited to make recommendations to COP as necessary.</i>	WG Rapporteurs/Plenary
10:30	Coffee break	
10:45	18. Propose COP7 agenda items and draft resolutions	Plenary
11:30	19. Other business a) Update on Legal WG b) Port Capixaba in Brazil (NGO)	
12:00 pm	Lunch	
1:30	20. Adoption of Recommendations and Agreements of CCE7	Plenary
2:30	21. Preparation of next meeting (CCE8) -Election on Chair and Vice Chair -Dates and logistics for Video Conference	Plenary
3:00	22. Closing remarks	CCE Chair
3:15-6:pm	Visit to Florida Aquarium - Sea Turtle Rehabilitation facilities and exhibits. Sponsored by Florida Aquarium and Stetson University	

ANNEX III CIT-CCE7-2014-Doc.2 Resolution Compliance review

Analysis of IAC's Resolution Compliance and the implementation of the Convention in its Member Parties

The IAC Consultative Committee of Experts in accordance with its Terms of Reference (CIT-COP5-2011-R1) analyzed the degree of compliance of the IAC's Technical Resolutions with basis of the information provided by the Members Countries in their 2011,2012, 2013 and 2014 annual reports. For 2014, the report includes the information of 8 annual reports received before May 23th, 2014. Table No.1 list the countries whose annual reports are included in each year's analysis.

Table No. 1- Countries per year whose annual reports information is included in the Compliance Report.

Year	Total number of included countries	Name of the IAC's Member Party
2011	13	Belize, Brazil, Caribbean Netherlands, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, United States and Venezuela.
2012	13	Argentina, Brazil, Caribbean Netherlands, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.
2013	15	Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Caribbean Netherlands, Chile, Curaçao, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela
2014	8	Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Curaçao, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru

This report analyzes the degree of compliance of the Party Members on 4 of IAC Technical Resolutions, these are:

Resolution CIT-COP2-2004 R1: Conservation of leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*);

Resolution CIT-COP3-2006 R-1: Hawksbill turtle conservation (*Eretmochelys imbricata*);

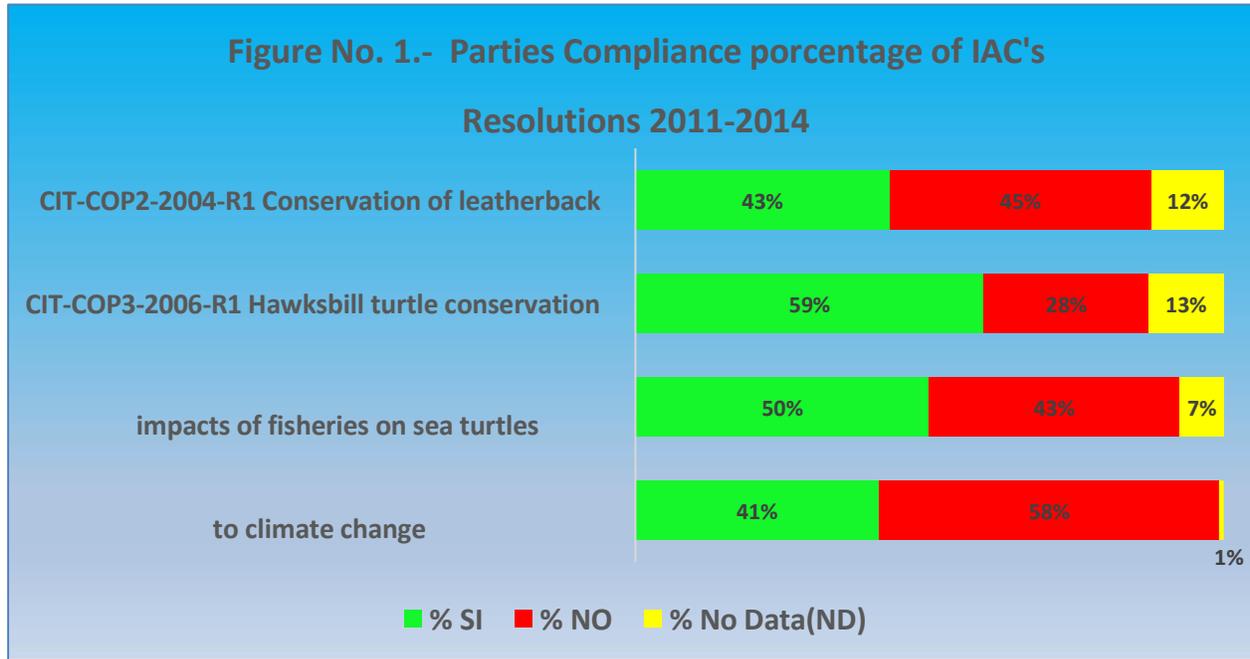
Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R2: Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles;

Resolution CIT-COP4-2009-R5: Adaptation of sea turtle habitats to climate change

The units analyzed were the activities prioritized as compliance indicators for each of the Resolutions and included in the tables within Part II (c.1) of the annual report. The excel annex provides the members of the consultative committee of experts the database extracted from each Parties Annual report and used as the basis for this report.

A.GENERAL COMPLIANCE OF IAC RESOLUTIONS

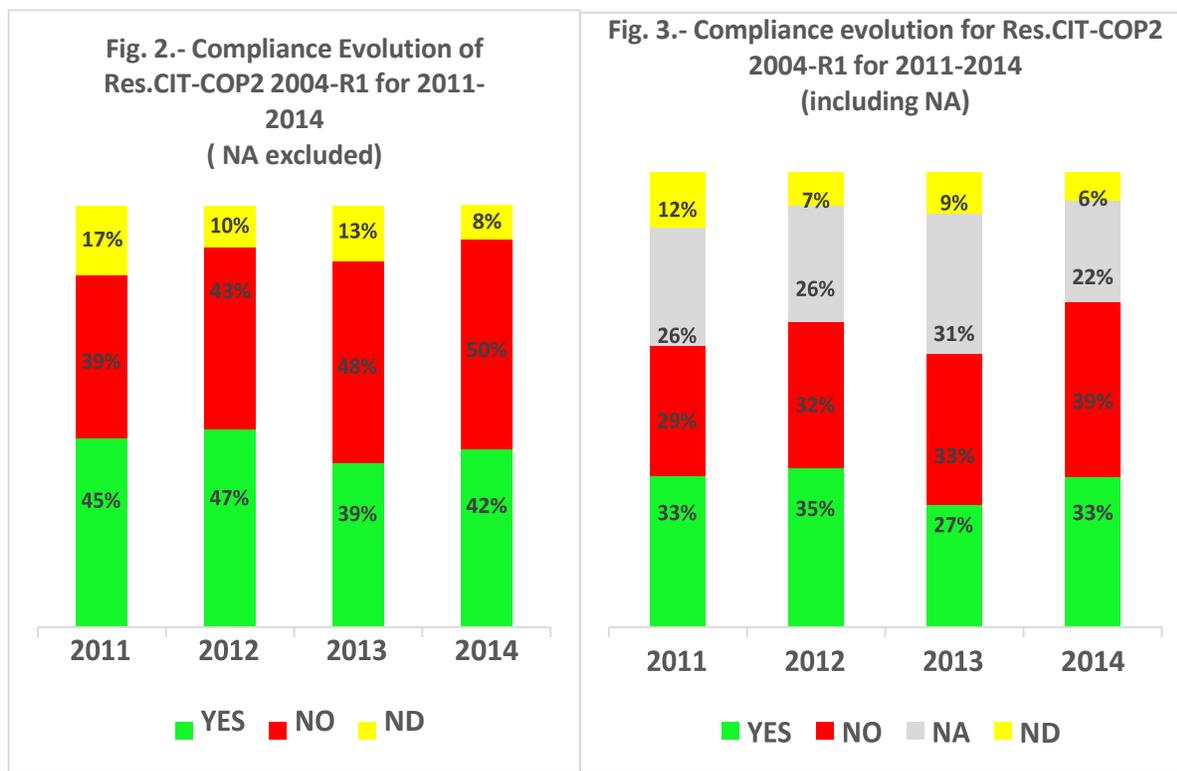
This section includes the inter-annual evolution of the compliance of the Technical Resolutions for the period 2011-2014. This section contains two parts: first, it presents the general compliance results of all the four technical Resolutions for the 2011-2014 period (Figure No.1). In this first observation the Not Apply or "NA" data were excluded.



B. COMPLIANCE EVOLUTION FOR EACH RESOLUTION

1.- Inter-annual evolution of the compliance on Resolution CIT-COP2-2004-R1 on the conservation of Leatherbacks

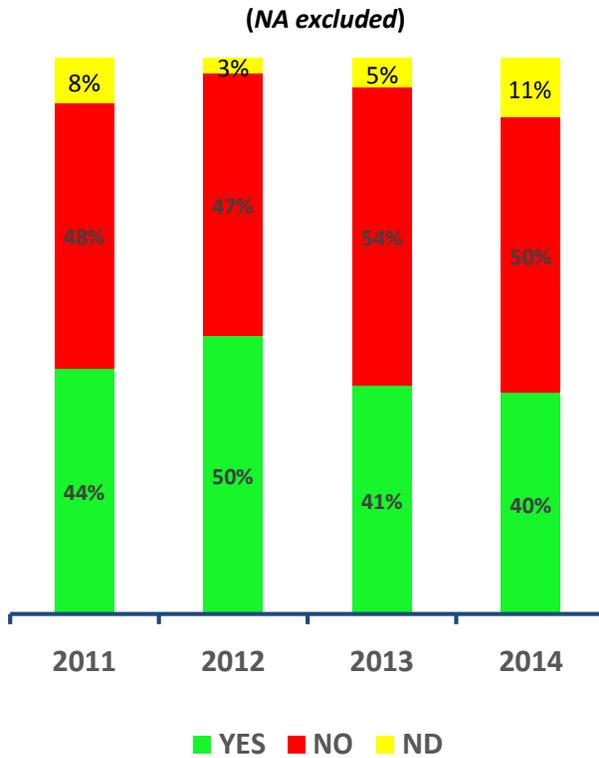
The member countries compliance to Resolution **CIT-COP2-2004-R1** has changed within period 2011-2014. Figures 2 and 3, illustrates the general compliance for the activities within this Resolution and the possible reasons for the evolution. Figure No.2 excludes the NA data and Fig. 3 includes it.



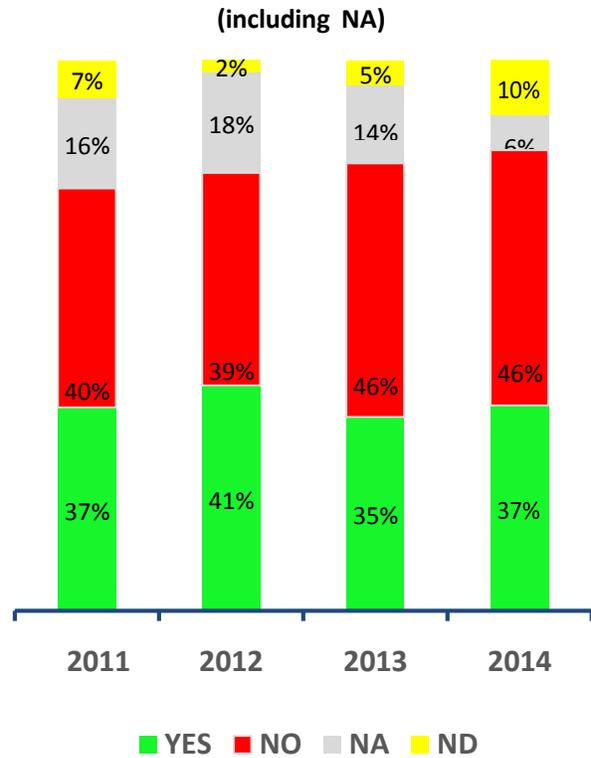
For this Resolution, the NA data influences the compliance percentage. This can be attributed to the specific reference to the Eastern Pacific (EP) leatherback populations on the first activities of the Resolution. This could have elevated the number of countries which considered that the Resolution didn't apply because of their geographic location. On this topic, IAC made a timely clarification that the first questions within this Resolution targeted the Eastern Pacific leatherback population due to its critical conservation status, but the second part of the table referred to all the specie. However, it is likely that this difference may have caused an error while completing the annual reports.

In light of the above and due to the critical status of the Eastern Pacific leatherback, this report also includes the compliance percentage for the Parties with coast in the Eastern Pacific in order to see if the degree of compliance would be same. The compliance is illustrated in figure 4 and 5.

**Fig. 4.- Compliance of Res.CIT-COP2
2004-R1 for 2011-2014 period in Eastern
Pacific Member Countries**



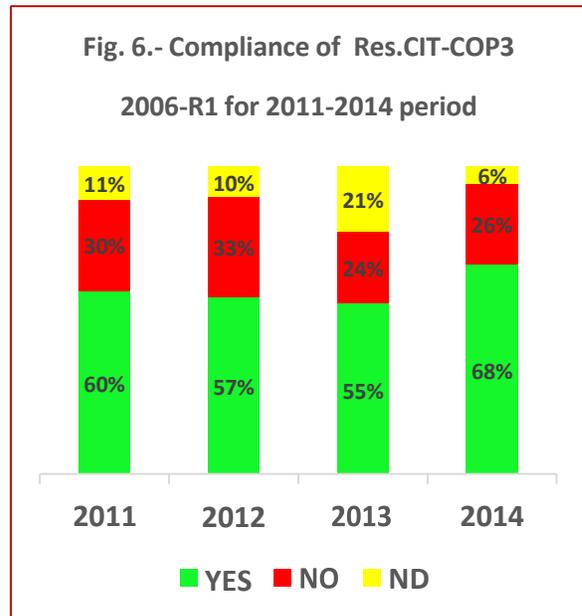
**Fig. 5.- Compliance of Res. CIT-COP2
2004-R1 for 2011-2014 period in Eastern
Pacific Member Countries**



2.- Inter-annual evolution of the compliance on Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R1 on the conservation of Hawksbill turtle

The compliance of **Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R1** has been sustained by the IAC Member Countries over the 2011-2014 period. For this Resolution the NA data does not have any incidence in the percentage of compliance for the activities found under this Resolution. Figure 6 illustrates the percentage of compliance.

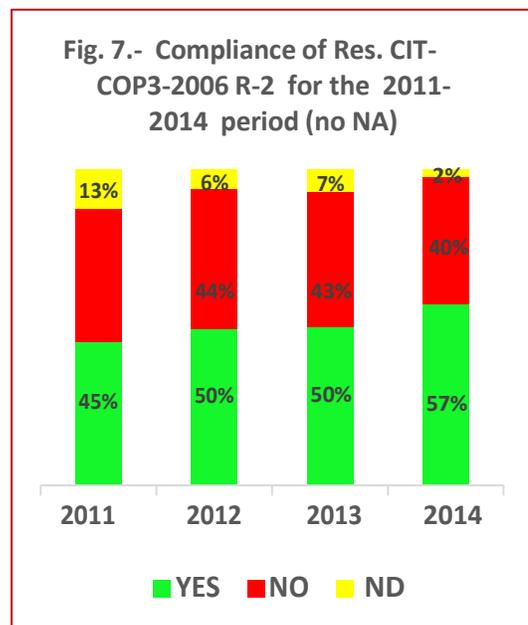
A minor increased in compliance was observed for 2014. However, once the information on the remaining annual reports is included, the percentage might come down to the 2011-2013 57% average.



3.- Inter-annual evolution of the compliance on Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R2 on the Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles

The compliance of Resolution **CIT-COP3-2006-R2** has been sustained by the IAC Member Countries over the 2011-2014 period. For this Resolution the NA data does not have any incidence in the percentage of compliance for the activities found under this Resolution. Figure 7 illustrates the percentage of compliance.

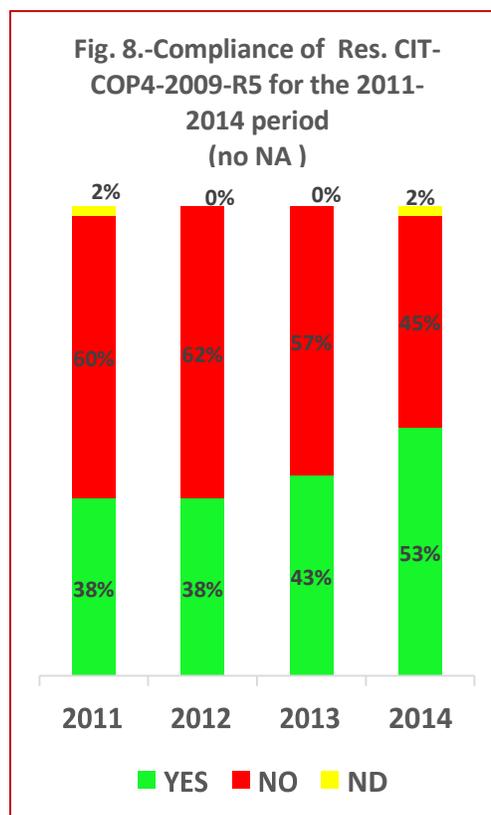
Similarly to Resolution on the conservation of Hawksbill (CIT-COP3-2006-R1), a slight increase in the percentage of compliance was observed for 2014. However, once the information on the remaining annual reports is included, the percentage might come down to the 2011-2013 48% average.



4.- Inter-annual evolution of the compliance on Resolution CIT-COP4-2009-R5 on the Adaptation of sea turtle habitats to climate change

The compliance of Resolution **CIT-COP4-2009-R5** has been sustained by the IAC Member Countries over the 2011-2014 period. Figure 8 illustrates the percentage of compliance for the 2011-2014. For this Resolution the NA data does not have any incidence in the percentage of compliance for the activities found under this Resolution for the 2011-2013. However, the 2014 data shows that the compliance and NA data increases.

The increase in the compliance and NA data for 2014 is attributed to the changes in the table for this Resolution in the annual report format. These changes were recommended by the Scientific Committee on its tenth meeting (SC10). They entail having more detailed and distinct activities indicating compliance for this Resolution. Therefore, allowing the Member Countries to provide more yes and NA answers. The CCE is waiting for the complete 2014 data to better visualize how the changes in format affect the percentage of compliance for this Resolution. We recommend that CCE should decide how to perform the analysis from 2014 onwards in order not to lose the 2011-2013 information.



C.COMPLIANCE ON THE ACTIONS OF IAC RESOLUTIONS

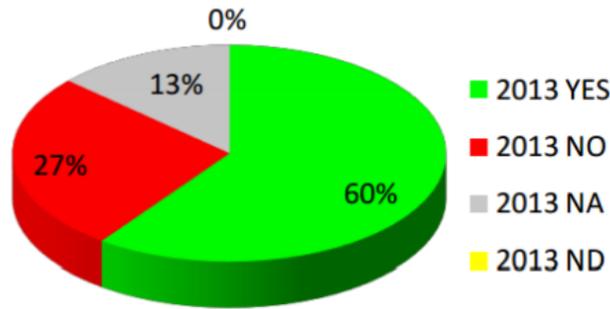
The CCE highlights below the specific actions with the highest compliance (>50%) on each of the Technical Resolutions for 2013. Similarly, actions with least compliance for each IAC Resolution are identified. Although 2014 data are available, this year's information was not included since they do not clearly identify the activities with highest and lowest compliance.

1.- Resolution CIT-COP2-2004 R1: Conservation of leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*).

The graphs include all countries

a) Actions reporting higher compliance

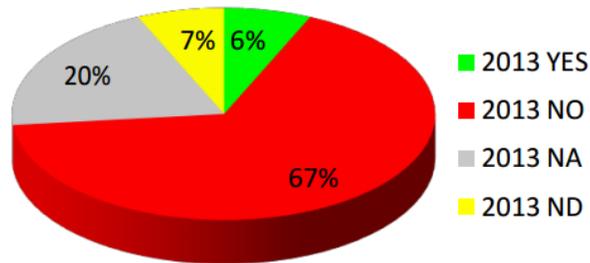
- 4- Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species? (Fig.9)



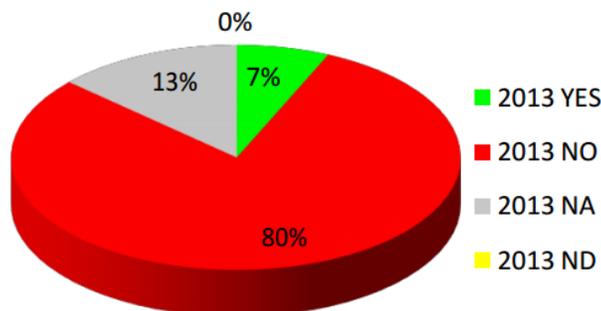
Different to previous years, the number of actions with compliance >50% lowered from 4 in 2012 to 1 in 2013.

b) Actions reporting lowest compliance

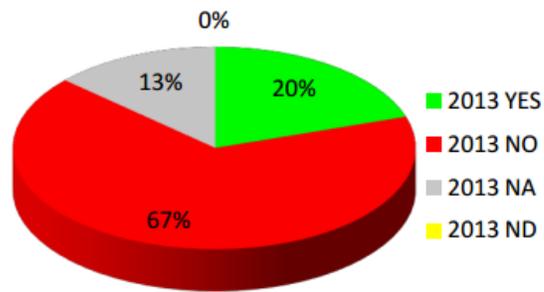
- 6. Have you established agreements and/or understandings with countries fishing within international waters to adopt fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture of leatherback turtles? (Fig.10)



- 7. Have you encouraged other non-Party states to the IAC, carrying out activities that affect leatherback turtles, to adopt measures in favor of their conservation, by means of bilateral, multilateral or regional contacts?? (Fig.11)



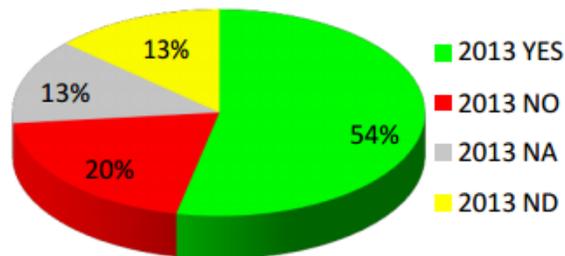
- 8. Have any cooperative agreements or alliances been established with pertinent organizations? (Fig.12)



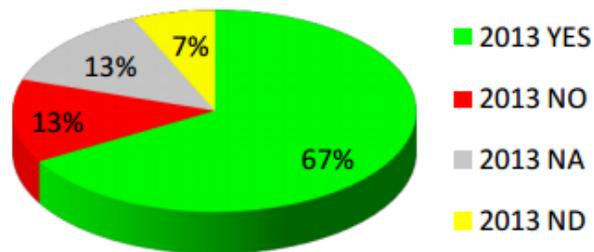
2. Resolution CIT-COP3-2006 R-1: Hawksbill turtle conservation (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

a) Actions reporting higher compliance

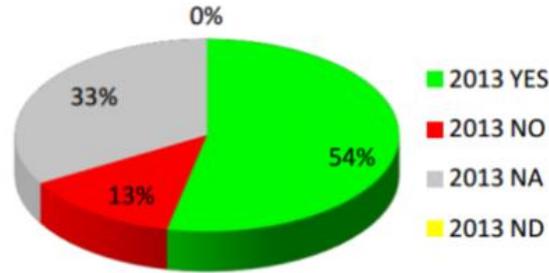
- 1.-Has your country promoted synergies with other Conventions, treaties, international organizations, and/or regional fisheries bodies on the management and conservation of hawksbill turtles and their habitats? (Fig.13)



- 2 b) Are you enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation? (Fig.14)

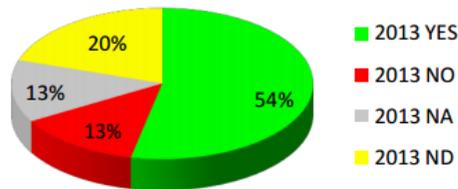


- 2 c) Are activities being carried out in order to stop illegal trade of hawksbill products? (Fig.15)

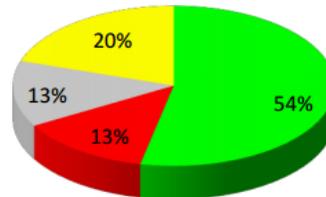


- 3. Does your country support and strengthen the research and monitoring activities required to improve the scientific basis of conservation measures for the hawksbill turtle?, Especially in:

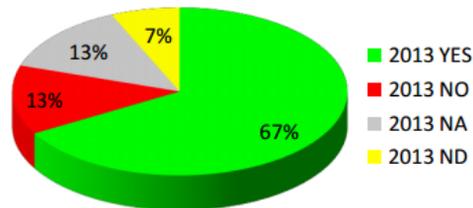
i) Genetics (Fig. 16)



iii) Location and conservation status of foraging hab Fig.17

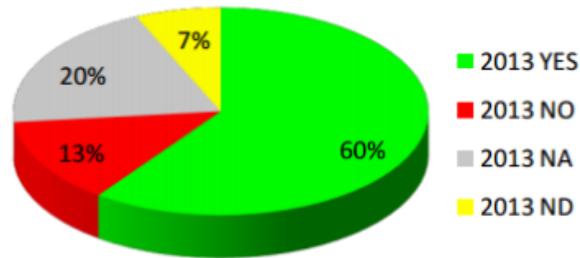


vi) Integrity of nesting habitats (Fig.18)

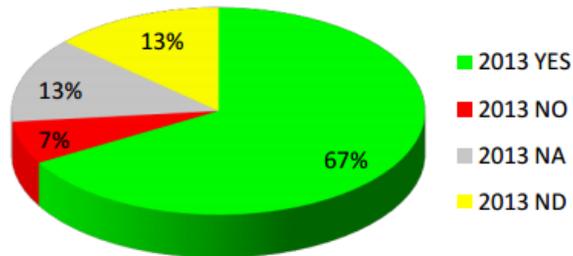


- 6. Indicate if your country is strengthening the protection of important nesting and foraging habitats by declaring protected areas and regulating anthropogenic activities that adversely impact these habitats.

a) Protection of nesting habitats (Fig.19)

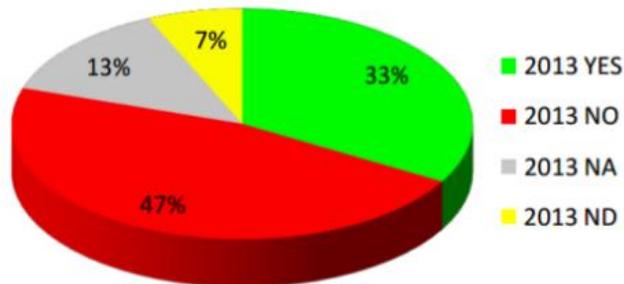


b) Protection of feeding habitats (Fig.20)



b) Actions reporting lowest compliance

- 7. ¿ Does your country promote exchange of technical capacity and collaborative research on hawksbill habitats among Parties as well as non-Parties and other involved organizations in the Area of the Convention? (Fig.21)



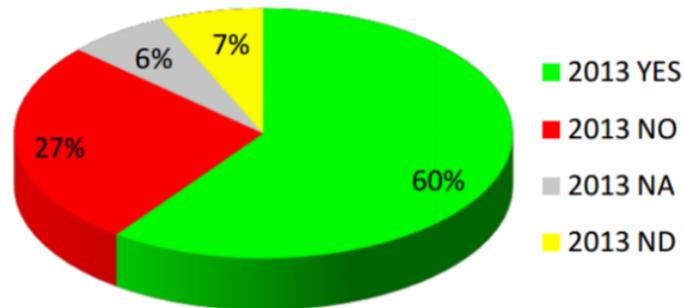
3.- Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R2 Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles

a) Actions reporting higher compliance

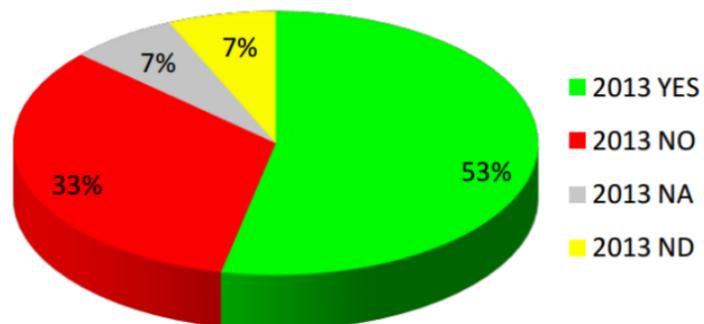
- 1. Adopted the “Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality induced by fisheries operations”, of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), including:

A. Research and monitoring of adverse impact of fisheries on sea turtles

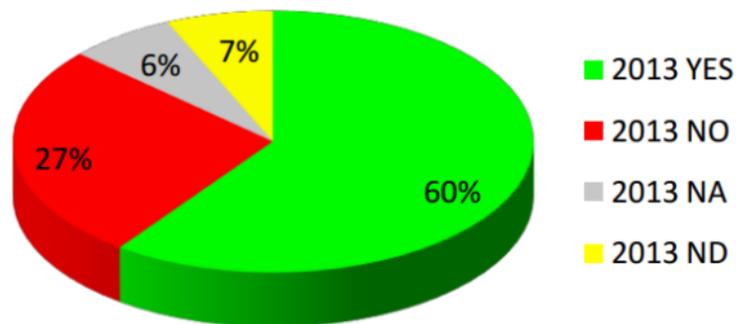
- Collect information by fishery (Fig.22)



- Observer programs (Fig.23)

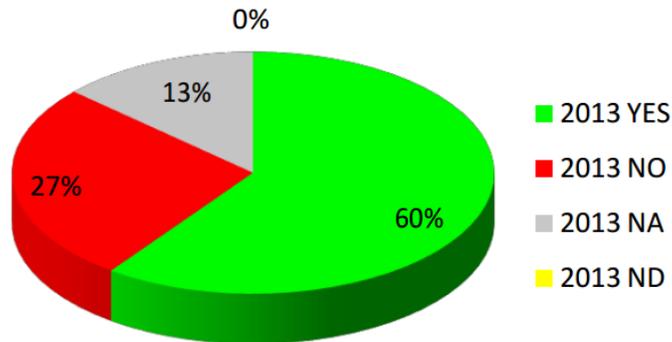


- Research on sea turtle/fishery interactions (Fig.24)



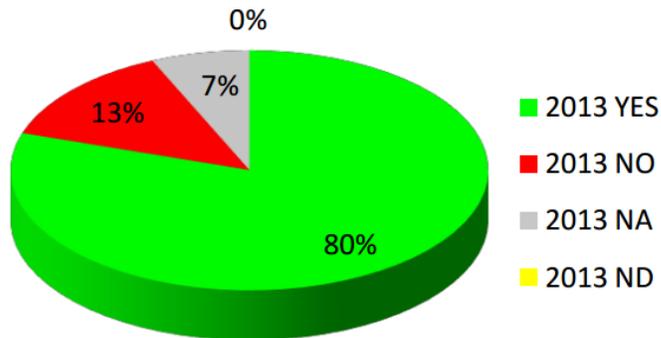
B. Mitigation measures for the following fisheries:

i) Long-line (Fig.25)



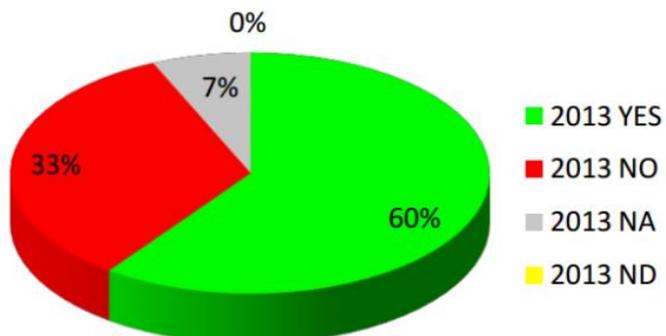
C. Training, education and dissemination

- Training, education and dissemination activities (Fig.26)



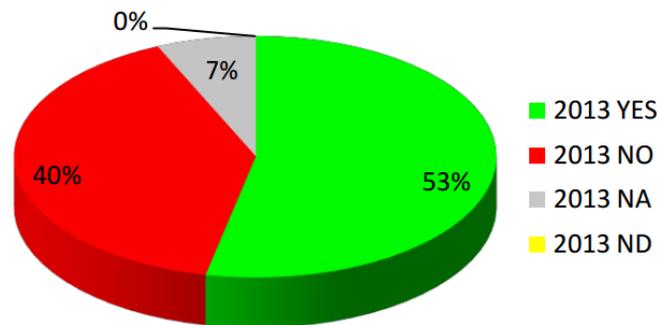
E. Capacity building

- Creation of a national sea turtle committee/network (Fig.27)



F. Financing (Fig.28)

- Financial support obtained to implement guidelines in this resolution

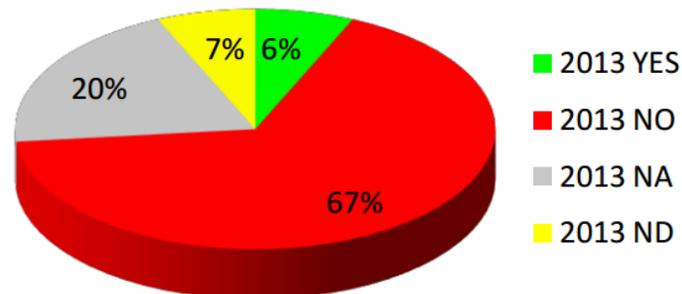


b) Actions reporting lowest compliance

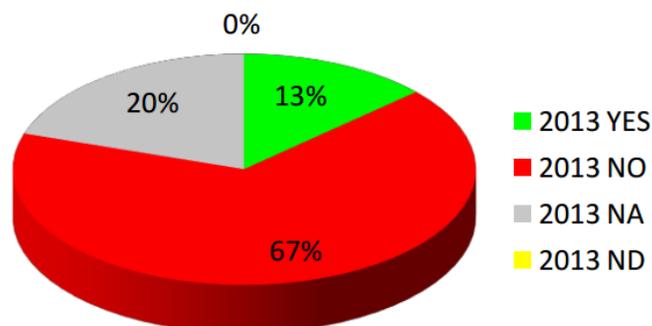
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A. Research and monitoring of adverse impact of fisheries on sea turtles

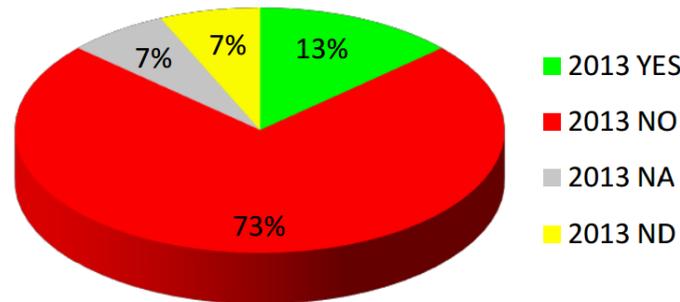
- Information on non-Party vessels (Fig.29)



- Cooperation with non-Party states to obtain information (Fig.30)



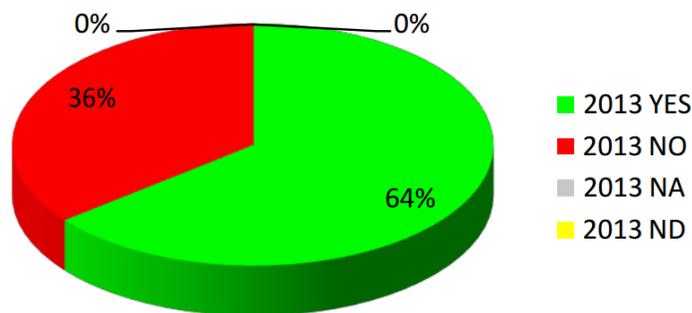
- 3. Initiated activities that assist the Convention Secretariat in contacting non Party States through established mechanisms, especially in the area of the Convention, so that they may provide, in a cooperative spirit, the Secretariat with available data on incidental sea turtle catches in their fisheries? (Fig.31)



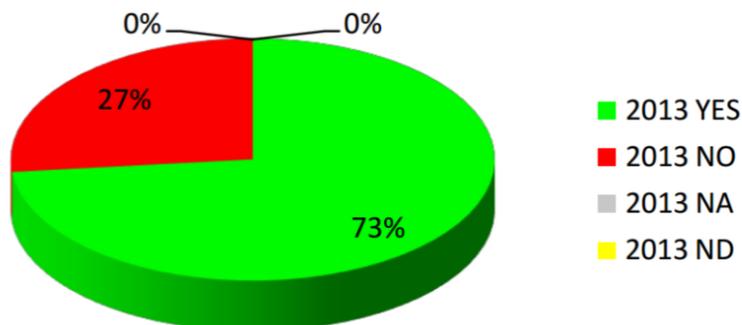
4.- Resolución CIT-COP4-2009-R5: Adaptation of sea turtle habitats to climate change

a) Actions reporting higher compliance

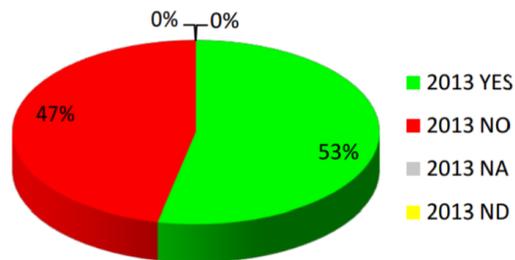
- 1 a) Have marine and coastal habitats on which sea turtles depend been included in national plans and programs for adaptation to climate change? Specify habitats and plans (Fig.32)



- 3. Have you identified any organizations or pertinent expert groups as possible partners to work on the topic of adaptation by sea turtles to Climate Change? Please list (Fig.33)

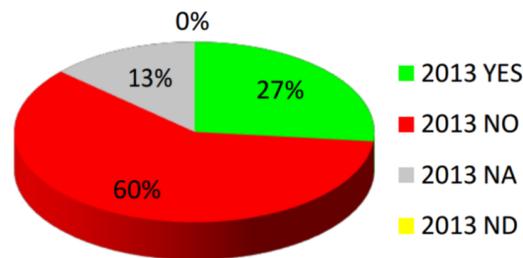


- 4. Have you carried out research and monitoring to improve knowledge of the effects on, and vulnerability of sea turtles and their habitats, to climate change? (Fig.34)

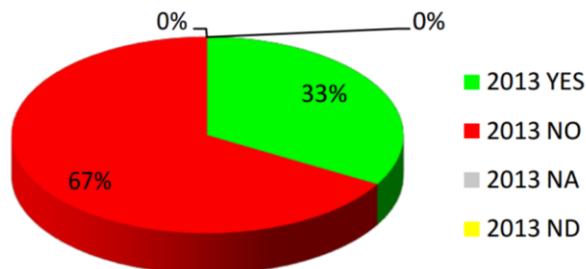


b) Actions reporting lowest compliance

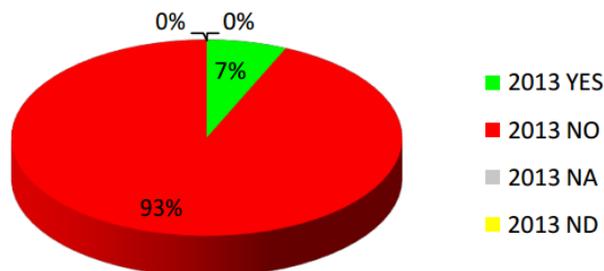
- 1 b) Are these plans for adaptation to climate change being implemented? (Fig.35)



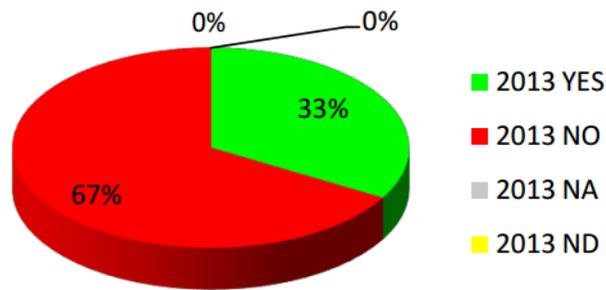
- 2 a) Are corrective measures and measures on adaptation to climate change included within management plans and/or protection and conservation programs for sea turtles and their habitats? (Fig.36)



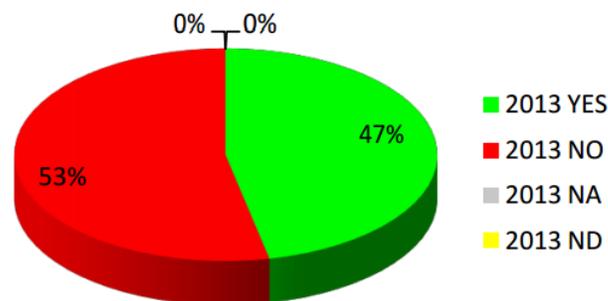
- 2 b) Are you evaluating the corrective measures and measures on adaptation to climate change included within management plans and/or protection and conservation programs for sea turtles and their habitats? (Fig.37)



- 5. Has your country hosted capacity building workshops for monitoring techniques and/or adaptation to climate change? (Fig.38)



- 6. Has your country implemented mitigation measures for non-climatic threats as a way to improve the resilience of populations to the impacts of climate change? Specify which ones. (Fig.39)



D.- CCE7 Recommendations on IAC Resolution's Analysis of Compliance

- CCE7 recommends that Resolution CIT-COP2-2004-R1 on Leatherbacks applies only to Member Countries with Eastern Pacific Leatherbacks populations. CCE7 requested the Secretariat *PT* to consult with Focal Points during the inter-session period and include this clarification in the 2015 annual report format under this Resolution.
- CCE7 agreed that the Resolution Compliance Working Group (WG) will send recommendations on the Resolution's and annual report most important areas for evaluating compliance.
- CCE7 agreed to modify the Resolutions' table on the annual report format in order to avoid duplication on the fisheries information.
- CCE7 agreed that the WG will draft the necessary text for COP7 in order to request the elimination of the Climate Change Resolution and gather this information in other sections of the annual report.
- CCE7 recommends the COP to evaluate any updates needed to the Resolutions in order to improve conservation and recovery of sea turtles in the IAC Convention area.

Report prepared by Joca Thome, Vice-chair of IAC Consultative Committee of Experts with support of the *Pro Tempore Secretariat*.

ANNEX IV CIT-CCE7-2014-Doc.3 Work Plan

Consultative Committee Work Plan Format (2015-2016)

Objective¹: Advise and guide the Conference of the Parties to comply with the mandate of the Convention in order 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.

Based on this objective and taking into consideration the opinions and recommendations of the Scientific Committee and any expert groups established to advise it, in accordance with Article VII (4), and taking into account the opinions of its multi-sectorial members, the CCE has been assigned a number of functions. To implement those functions the following workplan has been developed:

Function 1:

Prepare and update a Work Plan, pursuant to the guidelines of the Convention, and the accords and resolutions of the Conferences of the Parties (COP's).

Activity (Responsible)	Expected Result (s)	
	2015	2016
1. Preparation of workplan (CCE)	Biennial Consultative Committee work plan with actions to be performed, timeline, and responsible entity	Biennial Consultative Committee work plan with actions to be performed, timeline, and responsible entity

Function 2:

Present to the COP, through the Secretariat, opinions and recommendations that promote the objective of the Convention, on the following issues, inter alia:

- a. On resolutions, amendments, creation of additional annexes and complementary protocols to the Convention;
- b. On the actions of one or more Parties that in any way affect the objectives of the Convention (e.g. actions related to the compliance with the convention);
- c. On agenda items for the COP;
- d. On measures to promote synergy and cooperation with international organizations, conventions and other international organisms pertinent to the objectives of the Convention and;
- e. On measures to promote mechanisms of cooperation with the private sector, scientific community, and nongovernmental organizations (NGO's).

¹ From Terms of Reference for CCE

Activity (Responsible)	Expected Result (s)	
	2015	2016
2.1. work with the Secretariat to promote IAC objectives by submitting recommendations, draft resolutions, and advice to the COP (CCE -WG & Secretariat pt)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report with recommendations and/or draft resolutions, presented at the COP7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reconsideration of Climate Change Resolution. b) Recommend COP7 to revise and update Resolutions Present agenda items for the COP7 	
2.2. Facilitate outreach to non-member countries and promote alliances and synergies with other international organizations related to IAC objectives. (CCE -WG, and Secretariat pt)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations for promoting synergies and coordination mechanisms with entities associated to the IAC 	Recommendations for promoting synergies and coordination mechanisms with entities associated to the IAC

Function 3:

Analyze the economic and social impacts of the different proposals and measures adopted to reduce incidental or directed capture and mortality of sea turtles, in order to recommend corresponding actions to the Parties.

Activity (Responsible)	Expected Result (s)	
	2015	2016
3. Review of annual reports, specifically regarding impacts of measures to reduce incidental or directed capture of sea turtles. WG on the Annual Report (Scientific Committee), CCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis by WG to CCE8 Recommendations to COP7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis by WG to CCE9

Function 4:

Review and analyze the annual reports, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee, in particular for the purpose of compliance with the obligations of the Convention.

Activity (Responsible)	Expected Result (s)	
	2015	2016
4.1. Review Annual Reports, specifically regarding compliance with resolutions. (Resolution Compliance Working Group, Secretariat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation on the Resolution's and annual report most important areas for evaluating compliance. • Report to CCE8 on 2014 and 2015 compliance with recommendations • Report to COP7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to CCE9 on compliance with recommendations
4.2. Analyze the exceptions submitted by the Parties. (Exceptions Working Group, Secretariat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on Exceptions with recommendations to CCE8 and SC12 • Report to COP7 on Recommendations on Costa Rica exception and update to Panama and Guatemala 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on Exceptions with recommendations to CCE9 and to SC13

Function 5:

Support the Secretariat in creating and maintaining an up-to-date directory of scientists and/or experts in fields related to the Convention, which will be available to the Parties and for whoever else requests it.

Activity (Responsible)	Expected Result (s)	
	2015	2016
5.1. Review directory (CCE members w Secretariat, ongoing)	Update Directory	Updated directory

Function 6:

Periodically evaluate, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee, the format of the Annual Report for the Parties, in accord with Annex IV of the Convention.

Activity (Responsible)	Expected Result (s)	
	2015	2016
6.1. Review format of the Annual Reports (AR) (Annual report WG, as needed)	Recommend to COP7, after consultation with SC: a) Changes in 2015 AR Format (leatherbacks Res., Fisheries)	

Function 7:

Support the Parties with specialized information relevant to the Convention.

Activity <i>(Responsible)</i>	Expected Result (s)	
	2015	2016
7.1. Review recommendations from Scientific Committee (CCE)	Recommendations for COP7 based on SC11. Comments on technical documents for SC12	Comments on technical documents for SC13
7.2. Review status of Eastern Pacific Ocean Leatherbacks in accordance with document CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc.04 <i>(CCE, Eastern Pacific Leatherbacks task force)</i>	Proposal submitted to the USFWS – MTCF for funding support Peru and Ecuador in specific actions to work with its fisheries sector to reduce leatherback by catch. (deadline: October 1, 2014). Reviewed status of leatherbacks' to COP7	
7.3. Evaluate Marine Debris document during CCE8 <i>(CCE, Marine debris WG-SC)</i>	Reviewed SC11's Document on Marine Debris Recommendations for COP7	
7.4. Evaluate Ramsar document <i>(CCE)</i>	Meeting held with the Ramsar Convention counterparts to: a) Review Doc. CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.6 (intersessionally; deadline: mid august 2014) b) Identify activities to promote under existing MoU.	
7.5. Evaluate Sargasso Sea document <i>(CCE, Sargasso Sea Commission and WG)</i>	Comments on document CIT-CCE7-2014-Doc.3 provided intersessionally. (deadline: August 10, 2014)	

ANNEX V CIT-CC10-2013-Doc. Tec.6 Wetlands and Sea turtles

Find final document on the IAC web site on this link:

<http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/publicaciones/humedales-tortugas-marinas-ing-peq.pdf>

ANNEX VI CIT-CCE7-2014-Tec.9 Sargasso Sea and Sea Turtles

Find final document on the IAC web site on this link:

<http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/tecnicos/Mar-Sargasos-Tortugas%20Marinas-ing.pdf>

ANNEX VII Letter Porto Norte Capixaba

Letter CCE Chair to Brazil Focal Point

July 01, 2014

Consejero Saulo Arantes Ceolin
Director of Environment Division - IAC Focal Point
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Esplanada dos Ministerios, Bloco H, Anexo I
Brasilia 70170-900

Dear Mr. Arantes Ceolin,

On behalf of the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) Consultative Committee, I write to you concerning the project called Porto Norte Capixaba. At the June 2014 IAC 7th Consultative Committee Meeting (Committee), we received information from the sectorial members about a proposal to build a mining port, called Porto Norte Capixaba. This port will be located in a high priority area for sea turtle conservation in Brazil. For more than thirty years Brazil has been a regional leader in promoting the recovery of these sea turtle nesting populations.

The Brazilian delegate to the Committee informed us that this project is being analyzed by the relevant environmental and federal agencies. As required by Brazilian law, currently there are public hearings being held to discuss the project.

The Committee is observing with interest the situation in the north of the state of Espirito Santo, since this is the only nesting ground for leatherback turtles (*Tartaruga de Couro ou Gigante*) (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in the entire South Atlantic. This nesting population is genetically different than the other populations and hence fundamental for the global recovery of these species. Also this is the second most important nesting site for loggerheads (*Tartaruga cabeçuda*) (*Caretta caretta*) in Brazil and South America.

As a member of the IAC Convention, Brazil is committed under Article IX of the Convention to the conservation of the aforementioned nesting sites. These nesting sites are considered as “index” sites at a national and international scale. Therefore, they are globally important for monitoring this population, which are shared among our countries. We recognize and applaud the efforts by the Brazilian Government to promote conservation activities and research to comply with the implementation of this Convention.

We ask the Brazilian representative in this Convention, to convey our concern to the agencies conducting the environmental impact analysis.

This Committee advises the Conference of Parties on the compliance of Parties with the Convention’s objectives. To this end, we respectfully request information on the status of the license of the Porto Norte Capixaba prior to the next IAC Consultative Committee meeting to inform the COP.

The Consultative Committee and the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* is available to provide any technical support that the government of Brazil may need about sea turtles in the Convention area.

Sincerely,