



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

10th Conference of the Parties
June 30th, 2021- Videoconference

CIT-COP10-2021-R1

EXTENSION OF THE SECRETARIAT

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

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

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

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

THE 10th CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES

RESOLVE:

1. To accept the United States of America's proposal to continue to host the *Secretariat* through December 31, 2025, as detailed in Annex I.
2. To authorize the extension of the contract of Ms. Verónica Cáceres Chamorro, the current Secretary, as IAC Secretary until December 31, 2025, notwithstanding and without prejudice to Annex I of Resolution CIT-COPE1-2007-R1.
3. Convene an intersessional COP session in June 2025, to discuss and decide matters related to the accommodation of the Secretariat and the contract of the IAC Secretary.

ANNEX I

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

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