

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



Second Conference of the Contracting Parties - COP2IAC Isla Margarita, Venezuela Final Report 2004

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**INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE
PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES (IAC)**

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Introduction

The Second Conference of Contracting Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles took place in Isla Margarita from 16-18 November, 2004, following the Government of Venezuela's invitation, presented during COP1IAC. Thanks to the support of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) the event was a great success, both in terms of the organization and the achievement of the proposed objectives. We extend our gratitude to the numerous MARN personnel that provided the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat with all the necessary support. In particular, the Secretariat would like to thank Minister Ana Elisa Osorio Granado (who Chaired the meeting) as well as Directors Aleidi Sangroni (COP2 Rapporteur), Jesús Ramos and Edis Solórzano. Finally, we thank COP2 Vice-chair Liliana Gómez from Perú for her support.

The Conference of the Parties represents the periodic event where Contracting Parties come together to evaluate compliance with existing dispositions, examine reports, give recommendations to the Scientific and Consultative Committees, adopt conservation and regulation measures, among others, in order to facilitate the achievement of the Convention's objectives. It is the highest instance for analysis, decision-making and follow-up of the mandates given in the text of the Convention. As such, the meeting generates a number of documents (in the working languages of the Convention, English and Spanish) – some prepared before, some during and others following the meeting, as is the case with the present Final Report of COP2IAC.

Every organization, based on its own experience, has developed different methods for the handling of documents. In our case, COP2IAC documents have been organized in the following manner:

- Working documents, identified with the prefix **CIT-000-04**
- Information documents, identified with **INF-000-04**
- COP resolutions, identified as **Resolution COP2CIT-000**
- Meeting reports, referred to as **Minutes**

The present document does not include all the information documents (INF), taking into consideration that said documents can be found on the Convention's Web page, <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/iacseaturtle/English/conf.asp>, as well as the additional space and cost that their inclusion would entail on this publication. Digital copies of the Report will also be made available on compact disc. This document also includes the list of all documents related to the Inter-American Convention from COP1 and COP2, in order to inform readers about the existence and availability of these materials.

We hope that the "Final Report for COP2IAC" will be of use to all interested parties. The Minutes of the Meeting, two approved Resolutions, working documents and Report of the I Meeting of the Scientific Committee are found within. Additionally, the list of participants and their contact details are enclosed.

Marco A. Solano
Pro Tempore Secretariat

Index

List of IAC Documents	5
Minutes COP2IAC	11
Agenda COP2IAC	23
Annexes:	
I Resolution COP2CIT-001	26
II Resolution COP2CIT-002	28
III CIT-017-04 First Annual Report Form	32
IV CIT-019-04 Work Plan Project for the Scientific Committee	40
V CIT-020-04 Nominations for the Sectorial Representatives of the Consultative Committee of Experts	43
VI CIT-022-04 <i>Pro Tempore</i> Secretariat 2005-2006 Work Plan	45
VII Timetable of 2005-2006 activities in accordance with Work Plan	53
VIII CIT-023-04 Report of the <i>Pro Tempore</i> Secretariat on the 2004 Work Plan	54
IX CIT-024-04 Memorandum of Understanding between the Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development (OLDEPESCA) and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)	65
X INF-022-04 Report on the I Meeting of the Scientific Committee.....	67
XI List of Participants	71
XII Photos.....	78

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

DOCUMENTS OF THE CONFERENCES OF THE PARTIES (COPs) AND APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Refers to the minutes of the Conferences of the Parties and to resolutions approved during the meetings. The numbering for Resolutions follows the form: COPXCIT-YYY, where:

X = Conference of the Parties number

YYY = number (consecutive) of approved resolutions during the corresponding COP

Minutes Conferences of the Parties (COPs)

Code	Name and language availability
N/A	COP1-Minutas (1ª Parte) COP1-Minutes (Part 1)
N/A	COP1-Minutas (2ª Parte) COP1-Minutes (Part 2)
N/A	COP2-Minutas COP2-Minutes

COP1IAC and COP2IAC Resolutions

Code	Name and language availability
COP1CIT-001	Establecimiento de la Secretaría <i>Pro Tempore</i> Establishment of the <i>Pro Tempore</i> Secretariat
COP1CIT-002	Directrices para la Operación del Fondo Especial de la Convención Interamericana Guidelines for the Operation of the Inter-American Convention Special Fund
COP1CIT-003	Cooperación y Sinergia entre la Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas y la Convención Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestres (CITES) Cooperation and Synergy between the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and the Convention on the International Trade of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

COP1CIT-004	<p>Reglas de Procedimiento para las Reuniones de la Conferencia de las Partes de La Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas</p> <p>Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles</p>
COP1CIT-005	<p>Términos de referencia del Comité Consultivo de la Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas</p> <p>Terms of Reference for the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles</p>

COP2IAC Resolutions

COP2CIT-001	<p>Conservación de las tortugas “baula” (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)</p> <p>Conservation of leatherback turtles (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)</p>
COP2CIT-002	<p>Términos de referencia para el Comité Científico de la Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas</p> <p>Terms of reference for the Scientific Committee of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles</p>

CIT DOCUMENTS

The “CIT” documents correspond to work documents, including draft Resolutions. They are identified as: CIT-XXX-YY, where:

XXX = yearly consecutive number

YY = year

Code	Name and language availability
CIT-1/1	<p>Agenda COP1 – Primera Parte</p> <p>Agenda COP1 – First Part</p>
CIT-1/2	<p>Agenda Provisional COP1 – Segunda Parte</p> <p>Provisional Agenda COP1 – Second Part</p>
CIT-001	<p>Normas de Procedimiento para las Reuniones de las Partes a la Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas y sus Órganos Subsidiarios(Propuesta CR/USA)</p> <p>Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the Parties to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and its Subsidiary Bodies (Proposal CR/USA)</p>

CIT-002	<p>Reglas de Procedimiento para las Reuniones de la Conferencia de las Partes de la Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas (Propuesta de México)</p> <p>Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (Mexican Proposal)</p>
CIT-003	<p>Directrices para la operación del Fondo Especial de la Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas</p> <p>Guidelines for the Operation of the Inter-American Convention Special Fund</p>
CIT-004	<p>Programa de Trabajo para las Partes a la Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas</p> <p>Program of Work for the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles</p>
CIT-005	<p>Establecimiento de la Secretaría Interina</p> <p>Establishment of an Interim Secretariat</p>
CIT-006	<p>Propuesta de Resolución sobre la Conservación de la Tortuga Baula (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>), en el Pacífico Oriental</p> <p>Proposed Resolution for the Conservation of the Leatherback Sea Turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>), in the Eastern Pacific</p>
CIT-006 Rev.1/26-08-04	<p>Propuesta de Resolución sobre la conservación de las tortugas “baula” (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)</p> <p>Proposed Resolution for the Conservation of Leatherback Turtles (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)</p>
CIT-007	<p>Informe de Ecuador sobre la Resolución de Cooperación y Sinergia entre la Convención Interamericana y la CITES</p> <p>Report from Ecuador on the Proposal for Synergy and Collaboration between the IAC and CITES</p>
CIT-008	<p>Términos de Referencia del Comité Científico de la Convención Interamericana para la Conservación y Protección de las Tortugas Marinas</p> <p>Terms of Reference of the Scientific Committee of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles</p>
CIT-009	<p>Términos de Referencia para el Comité Consultivo de la Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas. <i>NOTA: Se convirtió en COPICIT-005</i></p> <p>Terms of Reference for the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles. <i>NB: Became COPICIT-005</i></p>
CIT-010	<p>Directrices para la Cooperación Internacional</p> <p>Guidelines for International Cooperation</p>

CIT-011	<p>Plan de Trabajo del Año 2004</p> <p>Proposal Work Plan for the Year 2004</p>
CIT-012	<p>Informe de la Secretaría <i>Pro Tempore</i> Agosto 2002-Agosto 2003</p> <p>Report of the <i>Pro Tempore</i> Secretariat August 2002-August 2003</p>
CIT-013	<p>Plan de Trabajo del Año 2003 de la Secretaría <i>Pro Tempore</i></p> <p><i>Pro Tempore</i> Secretariat Work Program for 2003</p>
CIT-014	- ELIMINATED DRAFT DOCUMENT -
CIT-015	<p>Propuesta para la Constitución del Comité Consultivo de Expertos</p> <p>Proposal for the Constitution of the Consultative Committee</p>
CIT-016	<p>Propuesta para Constituir el Comité Científico</p> <p>Proposal for the Constitution for the Scientific Committee</p>
CIT-017-04	<p>Formulario para el Informe Anual</p> <p>First Annual Report Form</p>
CIT-018-04	<p>Agenda Primera Reunión Comité Científico</p> <p>Agenda of the I Meeting of the Scientific Committee</p>
CIT-019-04	<p>Proyecto de Plan de Trabajo del Comité Científico</p> <p>Work Plan Project for the Scientific Committee</p>
CIT-020-04	<p>Nominaciones para los Representantes Sectoriales del Comité Consultivo</p> <p>Nominations for the Sectorial Representatives of the Consultative Committee of Experts</p>
CIT-021-04	<p>Agenda para la Segunda Conferencia de las Partes Contratantes (COP2CIT)</p> <p>Agenda for the Second Conference of the Parties (COP2IAC)</p>
CIT-022-04	<p>Plan de Trabajo 2005-2006 de la Secretaria <i>Pro Tempore</i></p> <p><i>Pro Tempore</i> Secretariat 2005-2006 Work Plan</p>
CIT-023-04	<p>Informe de la Secretaría <i>Pro Tempore</i> sobre el Plan de Trabajo del año 2004</p> <p>Report of the <i>Pro Tempore</i> Secretariat on the 2004 Work Plan</p>
CIT-024-04	<p>Memorando de Entendimiento entre la Organización Latinoamericana de Desarrollo Pesquero (OLDEPESCA) y la Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas (CIT)</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding between the Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development (OLDEPESCA) and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)</p>

INF DOCUMENTS:

The “INF” documents correspond to information documents. They provide diverse information on the work of the Convention. They are identified as INF-XX-YY, where:

XX = yearly consecutive number

YY = year

Code	Name and language availability
INF-001	<p>Condición Global de las Tortugas Marinas, por Peter C.H. Pritchard</p> <p>Global Status of Sea Turtles, by Peter C.H. Pritchard</p>
INF-002	<p>Informe Nacional de Acciones de Protección y Conservación De Tortugas Marinas Guatemala (Spanish only)</p>
INF-004	<p>Proyecto de Resolución Para la Cooperación y Sinergia entre la Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas y la Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestres (CITES) (Spanish only)</p>
INF-005	<p>OLDEPESCA (Spanish only)</p>
INF-006	<p>Crisis de las Tortugas Baula del Pacífico Oriental (Spanish only)</p>
INF-007	<p>Reporte Reunión de ONGs</p> <p>NGO's Meeting Report</p>
INF-008	<p>Informe de las ONGs ante las Partes de la Convención Interamericana para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas (Spanish only)</p>
INF-009	<p>XXIV Simposio Anual de Biología y Conservación de Tortugas Marinas (Spanish only)</p>
INF-10	<p>Información Fechas Entrada en Vigor de la Convención Interamericana Para la Protección y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas</p> <p>Information of Dates of the Coming into Force of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles</p>
INF-11	<p>Resumen de Resolución del Vigésimo Tercero Simposio Anual sobre la Biología y Conservación de las Tortugas Marinas - Kuala Lumpur, Malasia, Marzo 17-21, 2003</p> <p>Summary of the Resolution of the Twenty-Third Annual Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles of the International Sea Turtle Society – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. March 17 through 21, 2003</p>
INF-12	<p>Listado General de Documentos de la COP1CIT</p> <p><i>Nota: lista de documentos para las dos COP1CIT en Informe Final</i></p> <p>General List of Documents</p> <p><i>N.B.: list of documents for both parts of COP1IAC in Final Report</i></p>

INF-13	Declaration of the Non-governmental Organizations before the CIT Delegates on the Conservation of Sea Turtles (English only)
INF-14-04	Comisión Interamericana del Atún Tropical (CIAT): Resolución C-04-05 – Resolución Consolidada sobre Captura Incidental Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC): Resolution C-04-05 – Consolidated Resolution on Bycatch
INF-15-04	Comisión Interamericana del Atún tropical- Documentos de la 4ª Reunión del Grupo de Trabajo sobre Captura Incidental Enero 2004 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission 4th Meeting of the Bycatch Working Group BYC-4-04 Condición de poblaciones de tortugas BYC-4-05a Interacciones con cerco BYC-4-05b Interacciones con palangre BYC-4-08 Enmiendas a la resolución BYC-4-09 Manejo de tiburones BYC-4-04 Status of turtle populations BYC-4-05a Purse-seine interactions BYC-4-05b Longline interactions BYC-4-08 Amendments to resolution BYC-4-09 Handling sharks
INF-16-04	Sinopsis sobre la Tortuga Baula (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>) Synopsis on the Leatherback Turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)
INF-17-04	Lista de documentos de trabajo para la COP2CIT List of working documents for COP2IAC
INF-18-04	Comisión Interamericana del Atún Tropical (CIAT): Resolución C-04-07 – Resolución sobre un Programa de Tres Años para Mitigar el Impacto de la Pesca Atunera sobre las Tortugas Marinas Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC): Resolution C-04-07 – Resolution on a Three-Year Program to Mitigate the Impact of Tuna Fishing on Sea Turtles
INF-19-04	Perfil de Propuesta” Fortalecimiento de la Capacidad para la Conservación en las Playas de anidamiento de las Tortugas Marinas” Proposal for “Capacity-building for Conservation in Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches”
INF-20-04	Inventario de Playas de anidamiento de las Américas Inventory of Nesting Beaches in the Americas
INF-21-04	Informe Final II Reunión Sobre Investigación y Conservación de Tortugas Marinas del Atlántico Sur Occidental – ASO Final Report of the II Meeting on Research and Conservation of Sea Turtles of the Southwestern Atlantic (ASO)
INF-22-04	Informe sobre la I Reunión del Comité Científico Report on the I Meeting of the Scientific Committee

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

MINUTES COP2IAC

Place: Isla Margarita, Venezuela
Date: November 16th – 18th, 2004

Tuesday, November 16th, 2004

Opening of the Meeting

Owing to the invitation of the Government of Venezuela, the Second Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles took place in Isla Margarita, with the participation of Contracting Party delegates from Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Peru, the United States of America, and Venezuela; the Chairman and Rapporteur of the Scientific Committee; government representatives from observer states Nicaragua and Panama; as well as the United Nations Caribbean Environment Program (UNEP-CAR), OLDEPESCA, and nine non-government organizations (Caribbean Conservation Corporation, Defenders of Wildlife-México, FUNDATUN, Humane Society International, Sea Turtle Restoration Project, The Ocean Conservancy, TRAFFIC-México, WIDECAS, and WWF).

The Governor of the State of Nueva Esparta, Mr. Morel Rodríguez Ávila, mentioned the importance that his administration will give to environmental conservation, particularly the protection of sea species that inhabit the State of Nueva Esparta.

The IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretary, Mr. Marco Solano Martínez, alluded to the importance of this second meeting in Isla Margarita, because the key decisions to be made will strengthen the future of the Convention.

The Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources of Venezuela and Chair of the COP2IAC, Dr. Ana Elisa Osorio Granado, expressed her appreciation for holding this meeting in Venezuela, particularly in Isla Margarita, one of the regions with the largest populations of sea turtles in Venezuela. Additionally, she highlighted the willingness and commitment of the Venezuelan government to contribute to the efforts of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to implement the Convention.

Election of Rapporteur for COP2IAC

The Rapporteur for the COP2IAC was not elected during COP1IAC, so this item of the agenda was postponed until the next meeting. Immediately after the opening ceremony of this second Meeting, that pending point was addressed in the Plenary. Since Member Parties had no nominations, the Government of Venezuela, as host, took up this position and

proposed Lic. Aleidi Sangroni (Director of International Affairs, MARN) as Rapporteur. The Contracting Parties accepted and thanked Venezuela for its offer.

Approval of Agenda

The Chair asked the Delegates for comments on the draft Agenda, and proceeded to approve it.

Creation of a Working Group for the Annual Report

As previously agreed by the Heads of Delegation, a working group was appointed to review the Annual Report form, consisting of delegates nominated by their own countries. Venezuela selected Aurora Sanz and Begoña Mora; Mexico appointed Laura Sarti; the United States chose Earl Possardt; Brazil designated Joao Carlos Thomé; and Belize elected Rennick Jackson. The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles proposed that members of the Scientific Committee and observer countries also participate. Peru refrained from participating and offered to send its comments in writing.

Report of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat August 2003-October 2004

The IAC Secretary presented document CIT-023-04 “Report of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat on the 2004 Work Plan.” He then presented the Financial Report of the IAC Special Fund for the period covering August 2003-October 2004.

Venezuela insisted that data collected by NGOs should be channeled to the Secretariat through the Parties.

The Netherlands Antilles urged the Secretariat to double its efforts to invite countries of the Greater Caribbean to join the Convention. Costa Rica insisted on the importance of prioritizing those countries that are more likely to become Parties. Regarding work in the Caribbean, the Secretariat highlighted the contacts initiated with the governments of Cuba and the Dominican Republic, and recognized that greater efforts are needed.

The representative of UNEP-CAR underlined the link between the IAC and the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (“Cartagena Convention”) and its Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (“SPAW Protocol”). He also urged the Secretariat to contact the Network of Wider Caribbean Protected Areas Managers (“CaMPAM”) to exchange Website information, and to plan the development of tools to make this knowledge available to indigenous and local communities in their own languages, since they are strong users of the resource. Additionally, he invited the Parties to explore the possibility of developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Caribbean Environment Program.

Brazil, Belize, Honduras and Peru supported the report of the Secretariat, as well as its efforts over the last few years, particularly emphasizing the strict control of its resources. They also acknowledged the benefits that the recently created Website will bring to the Parties.

Mexico asked to receive the Meeting documents in a more-timely manner, to streamline the internal consultations of all Parties. The Secretariat explained the difficulties arisen prior to the Meeting, and urged the Parties, in turn, to respond promptly to its questions, particularly on financial matters. Costa Rica suggested that, to solve problems regarding the approval of Convention meeting budgets, some mechanism be established to give the Secretariat greater flexibility, and proposed a Resolution. Venezuela supported the Costa Rican proposal.

Before discussing the report of the Scientific Committee, the United States asked that the Chairman of the Scientific Committee be allowed to sit at the table with the Parties, and that this should also apply to the Chairperson of the Consultative Committee, once established, to facilitate their participation in the deliberations.

Presentation of the 2005-2006 Work Plan and Budget of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat

The Secretariat presented document CIT-022-04 “*Pro Tempore* Secretariat Work Plan 2005-2006”, including the Schedule of Activities, which lists the meetings to be held in this biennium, particularly of the subsidiary bodies. The Secretary reminded the Parties to submit their Annual Reports no later than April each year (2005 and 2006). Concerning the Work Plan budget, he explained that the increases basically relate to organizing the scheduled meetings.

The Parties discussed different elements in the Plan. Costa Rica urged the Secretariat to make

greater efforts to standardize data collection, and suggested that this task be entrusted to the Scientific Committee.

Peru underlined the need to create an on-board observer program, and to strengthen links with the fishing fleets.

Guatemala insisted on giving priority to contact Surinam and Guyana and invite them to accede the Convention, given their important sea turtle populations.

The Parties then proceeded to approve the Work Plan and the corresponding budget.

Report of the First Meeting of the Scientific Committee and Comments

The Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Dr. Jack Frazier, presented the Report of the First Meeting of the Scientific Committee, emphasizing the main points discussed in four working groups, namely:

- ✦ CIT-006 Rev.1/26-08-04: Proposed Resolution for the Conservation of the Leatherback Sea Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) (Annex I of the Minutes of the Committee), supported by document INF-16-04, produced by Biol. Didiher Chacón.
- ✦ CIT-019-04: Draft Work Plan for the Scientific Committee (Annex II of the Minutes of the Committee).
- ✦ CIT-017- Rev.1/26-08-04: First Annual Report Form (Annex III of the Minutes of the Committee). .
- ✦ CIT-008: Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles

The Chairman of the Scientific Committee summarized that the revision of the *Dermochelys coriacea* resolution yielded a more general proposal, given the complexity of the subject; and concluded that the Draft Work Plan is ambitious; in relation to the proposed First Annual Report Form, he underlined the importance of the subject of standardization of data collection (subject discussed in a presentation by Laura Sarti, M.Sc.) as a key for a better interpretation, and insisted on the need to apply an ecosystem approach and incorporate socio-economic issues in Convention actions.

Dr. Frazier spoke about the need to undertake training and information activities within the fishing sector, teaching bycatch reduction techniques. He acknowledged the enormous efforts carried out by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), dealing directly with the users through workshops and development of on-board observer programs, and supported by their collaboration with the private sector, different levels of government and NGOs. He also summarized the situation related to the Terms of Reference, where the majority of the Committee members recommend the simplification of the Terms in order to facilitate the constitution of a multidisciplinary and politically independent Committee; additionally mentioning that in the aftermath of the Committee's deliberations a Meeting Report was put together, including seven annexes. Finally, he highlighted the importance of having an agile and trustworthy mechanism that can include competent and impartial advisory on a wide range of subjects,

in particular those that are not contained in the natural sciences, and the fact that the discussions do not always arrive at a consensus during the deliberations.

He ended by recommending the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean – South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding, and underlined the importance of ensuring that Canada becomes Party to the Convention, in view of its work with *Dermochelys coriacea*.

The Parties thanked Dr. Frazier for his thorough report, and consulted how the activities described in the Scientific Committee Work Program would be carried out. The Parties insisted on prioritizing activities that could lead to future projects. This point is further elaborated in the section on the Scientific Committee Biannual Plan.

Presentation and Analysis of Document CIT-008 “Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee of the IAC”

After the Secretariat presented the document, several delegations made comments. The United States reminded the Parties of the agreement reached during COPIAC, where the pending items included the section on structure and consensus-based selection (aside from representatives appointed by each Party to the Committee), so as to fill in possible gaps of expertise in the Committee.

Several delegations expressed their views and concerns on the current status of the Scientific

Committee, especially considering that it had already met once without having approved terms of reference. Some delegations disagreed with the comments of the United States, indicating that they could not assume that representatives are politically biased, or that if representatives were elected as result of a political proposal, they would not be biased.

Next, several delegations spoke about the need to explore possibilities to agree on a Committee structure. Since consensus is required, after informal consultations among the Delegations, the Chair of the COP2IAC proposed to approve the draft terms of reference, leaving the Committee structure in brackets for further discussion at the next COP. Thus, the current Scientific Committee can continue to work. In the event of structure-related procedural doubts, the current text in brackets will serve as reference. This proposal was approved by consensus.

Several delegations supported the creation of an electronic Working Group, with the collaboration of the Secretariat, to share comments and remarks on the proposed structure for the Scientific Committee. Guatemala presented a work plan, which will be used as input for discussion. The Group consists of Guatemala, Peru, United States, the Netherlands Antilles, Brazil, Belize, Mexico and Venezuela.

With the approval of the Parties, the “Terms of Reference of the Scientific Committee” became Resolution COP2CIT-002.

Wednesday, November 17th, 2004

Biannual Work Plan for the Scientific Committee

The Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Dr. Jack Frazier, presented document CIT-019-04, listing the priority lines of action.

Venezuela congratulated the Chairman of the Scientific Committee for the thorough and vast work plan, and asked how the Committee would implement it and what recommendations would be forwarded to the Conference in this sense. The United States requested that during its next meeting the Committee make concrete recommendations identifying priority areas for funding, including standardization, data collection, and inventory of organizations, and concludes that the Parties must give instructions to the Committee.

Mexico thanked the Scientific Committee for a complete list of issues relevant to the Convention. Mexico requested that during its next meeting, the Scientific Committee match the list of issues with research groups already operating in the region. Once these are identified, synergies should aim at favoring standardization. Likewise, these groups could be encouraged to undertake matters of interest that they are currently not dealing with. Mexico supported working on items 11 and 12, particularly the interaction with fishing fleets.

Venezuela expressed preference for training, and for items 6 and 7. As to standardization, Venezuela asked for the support of the Scientific Committee to develop a methodology that could

be disseminated through workshops. It also requested that specific activities be recommended, as well as activities related to on-board observers, synergies, and collaboration with ongoing national programs. Venezuela was pleased to announce its contribution of \$10,000 for next year.

Peru stated that the presentation clearly reflected the spirit with which the Scientific Committee worked. The report is not limited only to biological aspects, but also to socio-economic issues and to the development of management tools. Concerning implementation, they recommend coordinating further with the focal points, which are aware of activities carried out by NGOs, universities, training events, etc. For the next meeting, the COP should ask the Scientific Committee to provide more details on forms of action. Peru supported prioritizing activities such as standardization (suggesting that the Secretariat also organize a related workshop next year), and ongoing programs to mitigate the impact of fisheries on populations.

In the framework of Article XIV, the UNEP-CAR representative mentioned synergies with the Caribbean Environment Program, supporting the participation of the Chairs of both Conventions in its meetings. This will foster the exchange and dissemination of mutual objectives, and support the accession of Caribbean island States. He also informed of the possibility to collaborate with the Program that, together with WIDECAS, has developed 12 national sea turtle conservation plans that need to be updated. With such collaboration, plans could be reviewed jointly.

Guatemala agreed to seek support for its national strategies, and informed that a Central American strategy is currently under development.

Costa Rica recommended that each Party commit to the plan, and help find resources for the most important activities by approaching NGOs and other organizations. Matters of priority are sea turtle populations, standardization, assessing the impact of fishing activities, and empowering the Chairman to report the progress made by the Parties in implementation, and to inform the Convention and the Consultative Committee.

The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles supported setting priorities in the Scientific Committee and requested that funds be sought through the Parties and international organizations. He additionally supported the standardization of methods, as well as the comments made by the UNEP-CAR representative. Moreover, he suggested elaborating a Memorandum of Understanding with the SPAW Protocol and the Cartagena Convention.

Brazil supported the idea to ask the Committee to prioritize its actions, and also requested to push the on-board observer program for fishing vessels. Brazil expressed its interest to share information with the Committee on its current sea turtle- and albatross-monitoring program.

The Parties recognized that the Consultative Committee must review the Annual Reports, and asked the Scientific Committee to express its views about the Report, without disregarding the contents of Article VII of the Convention.

The Chairwoman of the meeting requested that the Delegations send in their suggestions on the Scientific Committee Work Plan in writing.

Presentation on the On-Board Observer Program for Shrimp Vessels, FUNDATUN

Mr. Carlos Jiménez, President of FUNDATUN, explained the on-board observer program for shrimp vessels. He spoke about the IAC background, and shared details specifically regarding the on-board observer program implemented in Venezuela.

Presentation by the Caribbean Conservation Corporation (CCC): Where Do Turtles Go After Nesting?

The next speaker was Sebastian Troëng, Research Director of the CCC. His comments focused on collecting data regarding the migration of sea turtles after nesting on Central American beaches.

OLDEPESCA-IAC Memorandum of Understanding

The Secretariat explained that the draft agreement is based on Article XII and Annex 1 of the COP1IAC Minutes. Venezuela clarified that Article XIV specifies that the Parties must coordinate, but does not specify the relevant mechanisms. Mr. Ángel Rivera, Executive Director of OLDEPESCA, highlighted the significant progress made by the Convention since its inception, and added that the Memorandum of Understanding responds to the need that both entities have to coordinate joint sea turtle protection actions, and to strengthen synergies to reach common goals.

After discussing the contents of the draft Memorandum of Understanding, the relevant changes were made and the Parties authorized the *Pro Tempore* Secretary to sign on their behalf, pursuant to Article XII of the Convention. It was also authorized to sign the international cooperation agreement approved during the second part of COP1IAC, included as Annex I to the Minutes of said Meeting.

Election of the Consultative Committee

To discuss this item, the Parties agreed to follow the provisional procedure described in Resolution COP1CIT-005 “Terms of Reference for the Consultative Committee of Experts of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles.” The Secretary reminded the Delegates that said document summarizes their preferences on the nomination of sectorial members to the Consultative Committee of Experts. The Chair explained that Brazil and Ecuador were tied for the third slot of the Private and Productive Sector. After more discussions, the Parties appointed Brazil. The final composition of the Committee, therefore, is as follows:

Scientific Community: María Ángela Marcovaldi, Scott A. Eckert and Hedelvy J. Guada.

Private and Productive Sector: Víctor Abraham Elías (Mexican fishing sector), Lee Hodgson (U.S. seafood industry) and José Kowalsky (Brazilian fishing sector).

Non-Governmental Organizations: Sebastian Troëng (Caribbean Conservation Corporation), Carlos Drews (WWF) and Juan Carlos Cantú (Defenders of Wildlife).

Mexico insisted that the list of nominees should not be amended once submitted together with the background documents for COP2IAC.

(Mexico requested that its comments be reflected in the Minutes.)

The WWF representative expressed his appreciation for having been appointed as representative of the NGOs, and reiterated that they are not appointed personally but instead on behalf of their organizations. Hedelvy Guada, on behalf of WIDECAST, also expressed gratitude for her appointment, and the Brazilian representative did the same. Lastly, the Chairman of the Scientific Committee urged the Parties to diversify the Committee membership as much as possible in the future, without pretending to undervalue the members already chosen.

Discussion and Analysis of Document CIT-006 Rev.1/26-08-04: “Proposed Resolution for the Conservation of the Leatherback Sea Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*)”

Biologist Didiher Chacón, of the Scientific Committee, opened the agenda item with a presentation entitled “Synopsis of Leatherback Turtles *Dermochelys coriacea*,” based on background document INF-16-04, distributed to the Parties beforehand. The Secretariat summarized the evolution of the draft Proposal on *Dermochelys coriacea*, including the recommendations of COP1IAC and the I Meeting of the Scientific Committee.

After analyzing the text and gathering comments and changes, the Parties approved the text as Resolution COP2CIT-001

“Conservation of Leatherback Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*).”

Thursday, November 18th, 2004

Presentation and Agreement on the Future of the Convention Secretariat

The Secretariat spoke of the agreements reached during COP1IAC, Parts One and Two, concerning the tasks entrusted to the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat. The Government of Costa Rica took the floor to request that the Permanent Secretariat be established in that country. The Costa Rican delegate spoke in detail of the interest expressed by the Ministry of the Environment and Energy, considering the track record and efforts of his country in favor of sea turtle conservation.

Brazil, Honduras and Peru were pleased to hear the proposal and expressed their support. Venezuela was also in agreement, and asked Costa Rica for clarification on the Terms of Reference (including the powers of the Secretary General and the operation of the Secretariat), and proposed that this matter be taken up during the next meeting of the Consultative Committee, or in an extraordinary Meeting. Mexico and the Netherlands Antilles supported the Venezuelan proposal. United States offered to help draft the Terms of Reference, and considered that an extraordinary meeting would be useful. That same delegation suggested that, if not be concluded prior to the following COP, this matter be taken to COP3 as a working document on the “Terms of Reference for the Permanent Secretariat,” and proposed that the mandate of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat be extended until that time.

The Chair summarized the options, and opened the discussion to the Delegates. Peru, considering the cost of holding an extraordinary meeting, offered to help draft the Terms of Reference, taking a complete and revised document to COP3 for its final discussion and approval. The Netherlands Antilles agreed and suggested that the Consultative Committee use this same process in the initial analysis of its terms. Mexico agreed and supported the US proposal to also include the issue of operating funds in the discussion.

The United States explained that for procedural reasons the site of the Secretariat could not be decided until the Terms of Reference are agreed, including this information. However, the US delegate suggested that note be taken of the offer made by the Government of Costa Rica, and used as a basis when drafting the Terms of Reference. Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, Mexico and the United States agreed to participate in an electronic working group to develop such Terms of Reference.

Costa Rica also informed that its Government has fostered this initiative through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Environment and Energy, and indicated that, as proponent, it would also participate in the electronic working group.

Mexico asked the Secretariat to systematize this process in order to take this proposal forward in an orderly manner.

The Chair validated the creation of the Working Group and called for a resolution to extend the mandate of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat. The

United States suggested extending such appointment until the next COP, when the decision would be made to either give it a permanent status or to extend its temporary mandate again.

The Second Conference of the Parties (COP2IAC) agreed by consensus to extend the term of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat, based on Resolution COP1CIT-001 “Establishment of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat,” so it can continue operating under the same terms until the Third Meeting of the Parties (COP3CIT), and ratified Mr. Marco Solano as *Pro Tempore* Secretary. The Delegation of Venezuela reiterated its commitment to support the present and future efforts of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat, and pledged a voluntary contribution of US \$10,000 for 2005, to support the Convention work program.

Review and Analysis of the Annual Report Form

As spokesperson of the Working Group on the Annual Report, Ms. Laura Sarti, Mexican delegate, presented the revised document, with its corresponding instructions.

The United States thanked the group for its efforts, and indicated that the document review process should continue as new areas of interest arise. He also proposed that the draft be approved at that Meeting to begin collecting data. Honduras and Venezuela supported the US position.

Mexico and Brazil urged the other delegates to approve the report, highlighting the possibility

to revise and improve such document. Nicaragua suggested that in the future the document could consider data standardization, particularly concerning the number of hatchlings. Costa Rica supported the Nicaraguan proposal, and suggested that this be considered during the next Conference of the Parties.

The Chairman of the Scientific Committee suggested that, when submitting their Annual Reports, since this is a living document, the Parties also share suggestions and comments on it. The Chairwoman agreed with this observation and the Parties approved the Annual Report form, including the attached instructions.

Place and Date of COP3CIT / Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur for COP3CIT

Mexico offered to host COP3CIT, and was supported by the Parties by acclamation, and appointed Mexico to act as Chair. According to the 2005-2006 Work Plan, the Meeting would be scheduled for September 2006. Venezuela nominated Brazil as Vice-Chair, and was accepted by acclamation.

Other Business

United States commented about a document circulated by the NGOs Sea Turtle Restoration Project and PRETOMA, expressing reservations on its contents, and differing with the criteria and data interpretation therein. The Delegation stated it was open to receiving questions or comments on the matter.

Mexico requested that the Secretariat ask the Scientific Committee to include the hawksbill turtle on the agenda of its next meeting, and offered to share the relevant information it has gathered to date. It also asked about the status of Resolution COP1CIT-003 concerning the CITES Convention. The Secretariat informed that the Delegations of Ecuador and Costa Rica took the draft Memorandum of Understanding contained in said Resolution to the CITES meeting in Santiago, Chile, but it was not approved.

The Netherlands Antilles proposed building synergies with the Caribbean Environment Program through a Memorandum of Understanding. That same Delegation presented a base text that was adopted as an agreement:

“The Parties, recognizing the shared objectives between the IAC and the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention concerning the conservation of sea turtles and their habitats, welcome the offer made by the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the IAC. The Parties instruct the IAC Secretariat to begin developing an agreement to formalize and specify such cooperation, for consideration during the next Conference of the Parties.”

Similarly, the United States Delegation proposes developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Ocean – South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA), under similar terms as the previous MOU.

“The Parties, recognizing the shared objectives between the IOC and the Indian Ocean – South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA) concerning the conservation of sea turtles and their habitats, instruct the Secretariat to begin developing an agreement to formalize and specify such cooperation, for consideration during the next Conference of the Parties.”

Mexico reiterated its concern for the status of the hawksbill turtle in the Gulf of Mexico, and proposed that an agreement be reached in this sense.

The Second Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP2IAC) agreed by consensus to ask the Scientific Committee to review the status of hawksbill turtles and their habitats in the area of the Convention and, if appropriate, to forward a draft resolution to the next Conference of the Parties.

WWF supported the Mexican hawksbill proposal, as well as the recommendation of the Parties to take this matter up in the Scientific Committee, and offered, as Observer, to share its technical and scientific expertise, within its possibilities.

The Netherlands Antilles asked the Secretariat to contact CITES concerning follow-up to the “Dialogue Meetings” on hawksbill turtles in the Caribbean. Venezuela supported these efforts, in view of the many turtle sites in their country.

The Netherlands Antilles announced the “Southern Caribbean Eco-Region Partnership,” an initiative dealing with the management of

marine and coastal zones in the Caribbean, which requires follow-up for possible joint efforts in the future. The Representative asked the Parties to consider the importance of this initiative in the light of the Convention objective.

The Chairman of the Scientific Committee shared information about the II Meeting on Research and Conservation of Sea Turtles of the South-Western Atlantic, celebrated in Argentina from September 31 through October 2, 2004, mentioning that two resolutions pertinent to the Convention were approved there: the first, urging the region’s governments to search for measures to mitigate incidental capture, and second, urging the governments of Argentina and Uruguay to become Parties to the Convention. The Chairman additionally asked the Parties to support the Secretariat in its efforts to seek the accession of Canada to the Convention. The Secretariat reported the status of its contacts with Canada, and the United States encouraged it to continue with its efforts. The United States also informed about the upcoming FAO Technical Consultation on the Conservation of Sea Turtles and the Fisheries (Bangkok, Thailand, November 29 – December 2, 2004).

The Observer from Panama thanked the organizers and the Secretariat for the invitation to participate, and informed that his country would double its efforts to join the Convention.

Presentation and Approval of Final Report

The Rapporteur, Lic. Aleidi Sangroni, summarized the Final Report, and indicated that

pursuant to the Rules of Procedure, the Parties would receive the report within 15 days for review and approval.

Adjournment

All delegations and observers thanked the Government of Venezuela for its hospitality and support in organizing COP2IAC. They also congratulated the Secretariat for the arrangements and support, as well as for preparing the documents.

Lic. Aleidi Sangroni
Rapporteur COP2IAC

Mr. Marco Solano
Pro Tempore Secretary

Agenda for the COP2IAC

Meeting location: Isla Margarita, Venezuela

Date: 16th -18th of November, 2004

Tuesday the 16th

8:30 am

Registration

9 am

Opening Ceremony

Nueva Esparta State Governor

Pro Tempore Secretariat

Venezuelan Environmental Minister and COP2IAC President

9:45 am

Coffee Break

10:00 am

- **Election of COP2IAC Rapporteur**
- **Agenda approval**
- **Conformation of Annual Report Working Group**
- ***Pro Tempore* Secretariat Report August 2003-October 2004**

11:00 am

Coffee Break

11:15 am

- **Presentation of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat 2005-2006 work plan and budget**
- **Presentation and comments on the Report from the First Meeting of the Scientific Committee**

1:00 pm

Lunch

3:00 pm

- **Continue comments on the Report from the First Meeting of the Scientific Committee**
- **Presentation and examination of the document CIT-008 “Terms of reference for the Scientific Committee of the IAC”**
- **Scientific Committee Project Bi-annual Work Plan**

4:30 pm

Coffee Break

4:45 pm

- **Presentation on the observer program onboard shrimp boats, FUNDATUN**
- **Presentation by the Caribbean Conservation Corporation: Where do sea turtles go after nesting?**

6:00 pm

Meeting adjourned

Wednesday 17

9:30 am

- **Discussion and analysis of the document CIT-006 Rev.1 “Proposed resolution for the conservation of the leatherback sea turtles *Dermochelys coriacea*”**
- **OLDEPESCA-CIT agreement**

11:15 am

Coffee Break

11:30 am

- **Election of the 9 sectorial members of the Consultative Committee**
- **Analysis and agreement on the future of the secretariat of the Convention**

1:00 pm

Lunch

3:00 pm

- **Revision and examination of the Annual Report Form**
- **Examination of the proposed Resolutions and Agreements to be adopted by the COP2IAC**

4:30 pm

Coffee Break

4:45 pm

- **Examination of the proposals on decisions to be adopted by the COP2IAC**

6:00 pm

Meeting adjourned

Thursday 18

9:30 am

- **Examination of the Final Report**
- **Date and place for the COP3CIT**
- **Election of the President, Vice-president and Rapporteur of the COP3CIT**
- **Other matters**

11:15 am

Coffee Break

11:30 am

- **Approval of Final Report**
- **Closing**

ANNEX I

Resolution COP2CIT-001

Conservation of Leatherback Turtles (Dermochelys coriacea)

WHEREAS leatherback sea turtles have existed on the face of this Earth since approximately ten million years ago;

WHEREAS leatherback sea turtles are an important component of marine ecosystems of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and the Caribbean Sea;

WHEREAS leatherback sea turtles are valued for cultural, socioeconomic, ecological and scientific reasons;

CONSIDERING that this species is listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), Appendix II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW) of the Cartagena Convention, Appendices I and II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), furthermore, is considered among the conservation priorities of various intergovernmental organizations such as the FAO, as well as being listed as critically endangered by IUCN (The World Conservation Union);

CONSIDERING that the nesting data obtained along the coast of the Eastern Pacific has shown

a decrease in the population of more than 90% from 1980 to 2004;

RECOGNIZING the existence of data that suggest a decrease in some nesting colonies in the Wider Caribbean;

CONSIDERING that the principal threats to the leatherback turtles have been identified as long-line and gillnet fisheries, unsustainable exploitation of eggs and turtles, as well as the destruction or alteration of nesting habitat;

RECOGNIZING that the international community has expressed concern over the use of flags of convenience, as well as illegal fishing, lacking control, and lacking regulation, including pirate fishing, which are just some of the problems faced by the marine ecosystems on which the leatherback sea turtle depends;

CONSIDERING that the implementation of responsible fishing measures to protect leatherback sea turtles at sea may also benefit a broad spectrum of marine species of economic value to the fishery, tourism and other sectors;

CONSIDERING the approval of resolutions C-04-05 and C-04-07 directly relating to sea turtle conservation, which were created during the

72nd Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission of (IATTC), carried out in Lima from June 14th to the 18th, 2004;

CONSIDERING that the decline in leatherback sea turtle populations is undermining the cultural and economic benefits to the coastal communities which have a religious nature or represent a tourist attraction; and

RECALLING that the first Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, taking into consideration the critical state of the leatherback sea turtle, agreed to “request each one of the Parties to consider as a matter of high priority whining their territories, the immediate search for solutions that could revert this situation, following the mandates included in the text of the Convention”.

THE SECOND CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES TO:

REQUEST that as a priority, Parties elaborate and/or implement conservation plans and long-term programs that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback sea turtle in the Eastern Pacific;

URGE the Parties to acquire and evaluate the pertinent measures of conservation to significantly reduce the use and consumption of the products and by-products of the “leatherback” sea turtle;

URGE the Parties with “leatherback” sea turtle nesting beaches in the Eastern Pacific to acquire

and evaluate the pertinent conservation measures for the protection of the nesting sites and their associated habitats, in accordance with Articles IV and Annex II of the Convention;

EXHORT the Parties to adopt fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and the mortality of this species, in accordance with Article IV(h) of the Convention;

EXHORT the Parties to collect and facilitate information to the Convention, regarding the incidental capture of the leatherback sea turtle in long-lines, gillnets, and other fishing gear used by the artisanal as well as industrial fisheries, in order to evaluate and adopt fishing techniques that reduce their impact on this species;

REQUEST that the Parties establish agreements and/or understandings with countries fishing within international waters, so that they receive the initiative of this Convention to adopt fishing techniques that reduce the incidental capture of leatherback sea turtles;

URGE the Parties to encourage other non-Party states to IAC, whose activities affect the “leatherback” turtles, to adopt measures similar or equal to those encompassed in the present Resolution, by means of bilateral, multilateral or regional contacts, or other mechanisms; and

EXHORT the Parties, in accordance with Articles XII and XX of the Convention and by means of the Secretariat, to establish and strengthen cooperative agreements and alliances with pertinent organizations that help in the conservation of the leatherback sea turtle.

Isla Margarita, Venezuela, November, 2004.

ANNEX II

Resolution COP2CIT-002 Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles

The mandate given to the Scientific Committee is established in Article VIII (2) of the Convention text.

OBJECTIVE

To provide technical and scientific advice to 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.

FUNCTIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The Scientific Committee will have, in addition to the duties established in Article VIII (2) of the Convention, the following functions:

1. Prepare and update its Work Plan, pursuant to the guidelines of the Convention, and the accords and resolutions of the Conferences of the Parties (COPs), establishing the priority
2. Elaborate, in collaboration with the Consultative Committee of Experts, the format of the Annual Report for the Parties, prior to the next Conference. This format shall include, in addition to the information required in Annex IV of the Convention, basic indicators for evaluating the status of sea turtles populations and their habitats, especially under those circumstances subject to the exceptions indicated in the Article IV (3) (b).
3. Periodically evaluate, in collaboration with the Consultative Committee of Experts, the format of the Annual Report for the Parties, and, if considered necessary, recommend modifications.
4. Support the Secretariat in the creation and maintenance of an up-to-date directory of scientists, which will be available to the Parties and for whoever else requests. In this task it will, among

of the issues to be addressed. The Work Plan shall be presented to the Contracting Parties for its approval.

other things, issue a public call for nominations, and should incorporate specialists who have a wide range of knowledge and experience in matters pertaining to the Convention, as well as in the geographic area that it covers.

5. Analyze the Annual Reports of the Parties, as well as the scientific investigations (including sociological and economic research), projects and initiatives conducted by Parties or other relevant organizations or entities.
6. Develop technical guidelines for the preparation of bilateral, multilateral and regional management plans.
7. Develop and improve methodologies for the evaluation of environmental, socioeconomic and cultural impacts resulting from the measures adopted within the frame of the Convention.
8. Support actions directed towards development, use, training and transfer of socially and ecologically sustainable technologies, taking into account the guidelines for international cooperation agreed by the Parties.
9. Present annually to the Parties, through the Secretariat, a report on its work, which reflects the different points of view and opinions of its members. This report shall include observations and recommendations on measures additional to those described in the Convention, to promote its objective.

STRUCTURE OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE*

*This point was not approved during COP2.

Procedure for representatives designated unilaterally by the Parties

1. *[Each Party may designate one representative to the Scientific Committee, who may be accompanied at each meeting by up to three advisors. The Party will notify the Secretariat, through diplomatic channels or via its designated focal point, the name of this representative. The Secretariat will circulate the list of these representatives to all the Parties.]*
2. *[The representatives who comprise the Scientific Committee should have an academic degree and/or proven experience in any of the relevant thematic areas.]*
3. *[The term for representatives designated by the Parties shall be 2 years, at the end of which the Party may renew the designation. In case the designated representative of a Party cannot complete this term, the Party shall immediately provide the Secretariat with the name of the representative who will complete it. The Secretariat shall inform all the Parties the name of the new representative.]*

[Procedure for representatives designated by consensus]

4. *[In addition to the unilateral designations made by the Parties, the Parties shall also appoint by consensus representatives with recognized scientific expertise in matters pertaining to the Convention. The representatives to the Scientific Committee designated unilaterally by the Parties shall recommend these additional designations in order to take into account the needs of the Committee and its Work Plan; these recommendations will be based on the Directory (referred to in paragraph 4 of Functions of the Committee) or other appropriate sources.]*

5. *[The Secretariat, in coordination with the Parties, will issue a public call for nominations at least 120 days before the COP to receive nominations from the Parties, individuals or entities. The nominations shall include the following information, which will be provided in the working languages of the Conference of the Parties:*

- a. *Name of candidate;*
- b. *Affiliation; and*
- c. *Curriculum vitae, profile or other documentation that shows his/her qualifications and/or recognized expertise.]*

6. *[Nominations for the representatives to be designated by consensus shall be transmitted to the Parties, by the Secretariat, no later than 90 days before the Conference of the Parties in which new designations will be made.]*

7. *[The Parties, when making their decision on designations, shall take the following factors, inter alia, into account:*

- a. *Scientific, academic and/or practical expertise that reflects and complements the variety of disciplines and other matters pertaining to the Convention;*
- b. *Relevance of the candidate's scientific discipline to the duties of the Scientific Committee, specifically with its Work Plan;*
- c. *Capacity of the candidate to complement the expertise and knowledge base among the existent Committee members.]*

8. *[The period of the representatives designated by consensus to the Scientific Committee shall be two years, and may be renewed with the accord of the Parties.]*

MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

1. The meetings of the Scientific Committee will be conducted in

accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the Convention (Resolution COP1CIT-004), except when an additional specific rule for better operation of the Committee has been approved by the Conference of the Parties, pursuant to Rules 14.1 and 14.2.

2. The meetings of the Scientific Committee will take place, preferably prior to the meetings of the Consultative Committee, at least once a year, taking into account, *inter alia*, financial resources available for this purpose in the Inter-American Convention Special Fund.

3. In general, members of the Scientific Committee shall conduct their work through electronic communication, tele/videoconferences, virtual fora and networks. The Secretariat shall facilitate these forms of communication, depending of the resources available for these purposes.

4. The Conference of Parties may request that the Scientific Committee convene an extraordinary meeting.

5. The Scientific Committee, to perform its tasks, may establish sub-committees or working groups, as appropriate.

6. The Chairman and/or Rapporteur of the Consultative Committee of Experts shall be invited to participate in the meetings of the Scientific Committee, as well as in the Conferences of the Parties.

7. The Scientific Committee may invite to

its meetings any scientific institution or individual experts on matters pertaining to the objective of the Convention.

8. Observers may participate in the meetings of the Scientific Committee, in accordance with Rule 11 of Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the Convention (Resolution COP1CIT-004).

CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

Members of the Scientific Committee of Experts shall maintain as reserved all information that they may have obtained or had access to during their tenure, which is categorized by the Parties as confidential. Likewise, they must abstain from using that information for objectives different or contrary to those established in the Convention.

Isla Margarita, Venezuela, November, 2004.

ANNEX III

CIT-017-04 *First Annual Report Form*

Directory

Country	
Agency or institution responsible for preparing this report	
Name of the person in charge of this form	
Address	
P.O. Box	
Telephone(s)	
Fax	
E-mail	
Website	

Others who participated in the preparation of this form

Name	Affiliation	Contribution/ E-mail	Topic	Telephone

Focal Point

Institution:						
Name:						
Signature:						
Date:						

1. Biological information

1.1. Species present

Species	Pacific Ocean Phase(s)	Atlantic Ocean Phase(s)	Caribbean Sea Phase(s)
<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>			
<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>			
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>			
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>			
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>			
<i>Caretta caretta</i>			

Phases: R = Reproduction; F = Foraging; M = Migration; D = Phase Unknown

1.2. Important sites for sea turtle conservation

	Name of Site	Species (s)	Season	Geographic Location (Lat/Long)	Area (km or hectares, if applicable)	Protection Category	Observations*
Nesting Site							
Foraging Site							
Migratory Route							

* include a brief and concise summary of relevant information regarding the population status on a separate page (for further information see the instructions)

2. Information regarding the use derived from sea turtles

	Types of use	Specie	Products	Ocean Basin	Origin*		Estimated annual quantity	Information source	Actions
					L	I			
Consumptive Use									
Non-consumptive									

* L = legal, I = illegal

3. Main threats

3.1 Habitat and other threats

Threats	Specie(s) Affected	Size of Impact	Geographic Region(s) Affected	Information Source	Actions

3.2 Capture (Intentional/incidental)

Threats	Specie(s) Affected	Size of Impact	Geographic Region(s) Affected	Information Source	Actions

4. Legal Framework

4.1. International instruments

Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding	Year signed and/or ratification

4.2. National legislation

Type and name of legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanction(s) Imposed

4.3. Indicate any legal instruments that are currently in the process of being approved.

4.4. Public and private institutions involved in sea turtle conservation

Institution/ Entity	Responsibilities

5. Exceptions

Programs involving extractive use (include Management Plan)

6. Conservation Efforts

6.1 General description of the sea turtle protection and conservation program

6.2 Relevant Projects and Activities

Project/Activities	General objective	Results obtained	Duration	
			From	Until

7. International Cooperation

8. National Directory

Name	Institutional affiliation	Line of work / Specialty	Telephone	Fax	E-mail	Website

9. Sources of Information

10. Annexes

Instructions for completing the First Annual Report Form

Following the provisions laid down in annex IV of the Convention text, each Contracting Party shall hand in an Annual Report. Once this Report has been reviewed and approved by the Scientific Committee by mandate of the COP1, this form is to be submitted to the Second Conference of the Contracting Parties for its revision and approval so that it can be used for the preparation of the first report. This format will be reviewed and adapted to the needs that come up to be used in the future to write the annual reports.

General Information:

1. Use the following codes to list the different species: Cc = *Caretta caretta*; Cm = *Chelonia mydas*; Dc = *Dermochelys coriacea*; Ei = *Eretmochelys imbricata*; Lk = *Lepidochelys kempii*; Lo = *Lepidochelys olivacea*.
2. For information on nesting, fill in the form using the latest nesting season. For other information, fill in the form according to the information of the latest calendar year.
3. Write NA in the respective blanks when information is not available
4. Fill in the blanks using the best information available.
5. Add more lines if necessary.

1. Biological Information

1.1. Species present

Fill in the respective blanks depending on the oceanographic basin (according to the provisions in Art. III of the Convention) for each species, using the following codes for the different phases: R = reproduction; F = foraging; M = migration; D= phase unknown.

1.2. Important sites for the conservation of sea turtles

- a. For each phase, indicate the names of priority sites mentioning the species present in each site and its season.
- b. Geographic location: provide one or two points for nesting places (if available). For migratory routes, please describe them briefly in the observations column.
- c. Extension:
 - Nesting sites, provide the total length in Kilometers of the beach used by the turtles.
 - Foraging sites (or feeding areas) provide the extension in Hectares (if available).
 - Migratory Routes: not applicable
- d. Category of protection: Write down the name of the category and define it briefly in terms of use and protection in the observations column.
- e. On a separate sheet, provide a brief description/justification on why each site that was mentioned is considered important (sites with greater abundance, endemism, genetic, others). Include historical information (graphic and/or tables) showing the population

status of each species present in the site. If available, provide information on the species for a wider region than the specific nesting place.

2. Information on the derived use of sea turtles

- a. The types of use (non consumptive/consumptive) may be, among others:
Domestic (for subsistence), cultural, commercial, medicinal, tourism, scientific.
- b. Products or *parts used*: eggs, skin, carapace, meat, oil, craftsmanship, etc.
- c. Pacific, Atlantic or Caribbean
- d. Origin: make reference to the law that forbids/allows it from chapter 4 (Juridical framework) of this form.
- e. Estimated annual quantity:
 - Legal: refer to chapter 5 (Exceptions) of this form
 - Illegal: total amount of eggs, total animals (per sex, per stage)
- f. Actions: refer to chapter 6 (Actions for conservation) of this form

3. Threats

Add impacts not listed here. Add sheets with additional observations whenever necessary.

3.1. Habitat and other threats:

- a. Using the following list, select the main threats and list the species affected, considering reproduction and foraging sites and migratory routes.
 - Accumulation of sand or presence of contention structures (please indicate)
 - Sand mining
 - Beach Erosion
 - Construction and infrastructure on the beach
 - Inadequate management of tourism
 - Other human activities
 - Beach driving
 - Noise pollution (explain)
 - Artificial light
 - Depredation of eggs and hatchlings by domestic or feral animals
 - Agricultural, industrial waste and residual/sewage waters
 - Oil pollution
 - Obstacles on the beach (logs, plastic, etc.)
 - Impact on other associated habitats (reefs, mangroves, etc.)
 - Waste in the ocean (ropes, fishing gear, bags, etc.)
 - Diseases
 - Natural phenomena (indicate types)
 - Other (indicate)
- b. Size of impact: use the same as in the section above: total number of eggs, total animals (per sex, per stage)
- c. Geographic region(s) affected: make the most accurate reference, if possible use lat/long of the affected area.
- d. Make reference to the full quote in Chapter 9 (Source of information) of this form
- e. Actions: briefly explain the threat and mention the actions that are under way to prevent

the threat or minimize its effect; if relevant, refer to chapter 6 (Actions for conservation) of this form.

3.2. Intentional / incidental capture:

- a. Using the following list, pick the main threats and list the affected species
 - Capture of sea turtles in the ocean
 - Capture of sea turtles on the beach
 - Egg collection
 - Purse sein fisheries
 - Gill net fisheries
 - Longline artisanal fisheries
 - Longline commercial fisheries
 - Bottom Trawling
 - Pelagic Trawling
 - Fishing nets
- b. Size of impact: whenever possible provide Capture values per Unit of Effort (CPUE) making reference to the unit of effort (number of boats, lances, man hours, etc), or the total amount of animals or eggs captured/collected.
- c. Geographic region(s) affected: make reference as accurate as possible, if possible use lat/long of the affected area.
- d. Refer to the full quote in Chapter 9 (Source of information) of this form.
- e. Actions: briefly describe the threat and mention the actions that are under way to prevent the threat or minimize its effect; if relevant, refer to chapter 6 (Actions for conservation) of this form.

4. Juridical framework

- 4.1. List international instruments related to sea turtles and their habitat signed or ratified by your country.
- 4.2. List the national legislation in force related to the protection, conservation and use of sea turtles and the habitats on which they depend. Provide a brief description including the sanctions faced when violated.
- 4.3. Provide a brief explanation of the instrument in process.
- 4.4. Based on the national juridical framework, list any public or private institutions with responsibilities and actions in the conservation and protection of sea turtles and their habitat. Briefly describe the responsibilities of each of them.

5. Exceptions

Attach the management plan including limits on the levels of intentional capture and include information regarding such program based on article IV, item 3(a,b,d) of the text of the Convention. According to the provisions in Annex 4, the reports of the exceptions shall include follow up and mitigation measures, specifically relevant information on the number of turtles, nests and eggs affected and on the habitat areas affected by the implementation of this action.

6. Conservation efforts

6.1 Make a brief general description of the national plan for the protection and conservation of sea turtles and of their habitat.

6.2 List the most relevant public or private projects/activities for the conservation of sea turtles in your country; please include general objective or objectives, and the results obtained and the duration of each. Including projects/activities like the enhancement and development of new fisheries to reduce incidental capture and mortality of sea turtles, scientific research, environmental education actions, creation of databases, national plan, management plan, community participation or other kind of planning for the conservation and protection of sea turtles. Add more sheets if necessary.

7. International Cooperation. List the programs or projects involving cooperation of other states or international bodies within the area of the Convention.

8. National Listing: *List the contacts (persons and/or institutions, public or private) related to the objectives of this Convention (specialists in fisheries, economy, statistic or others). Include at least name, specialty, telephone number, fax and e-mail address.*

9. Sources of information: Include all the references used to fill in this form.

10. Annexes: Include the data gathering forms (methodology) and any piece of information considered relevant (maps, figures, protocols, additional publications, reports, etc.).

ANNEX IV

CIT-019-04

Work Plan Project for the Scientific Committee

Work Plan Project¹

General considerations

Under the framework of article 8, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the following work plan is proposed, oriented towards the implementation of the following fundamental objectives and “taking into account the environmental, socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the Parties”:

1. Evaluate the state of the sea turtles in the region, making use of and analyzing existing advances in protection and conservation matters,
2. Attend the requests of the Parties,
3. Recommend management actions to the COP.

Priority topics for action

(Topics 1-6: high priority)

1. Analyze and make recommendations as follow-up to Resolution CIT-006 on the *Dermochelys coriacea*.
2. Promote the evaluation of the state of sea

turtle populations in the area covered by the Convention through:

- 2.1 Estimating the trends of sea turtle abundance by species,
- 2.2 Workshops to calculate abundance indices by species,
- 2.3 Recommendations for the use of standardized methodologies derived during these workshops and other sources, taking into consideration the development of technical guides,
- 2.4 Providing the information on a website,
- 2.5 Maintaining the information up to date.

3. Promote data collection on the beaches through:

- 3.1 The comparison and harmonizing of data collection methodologies,
- 3.2 Workshops to standardize data collection,
- 3.3 The preparation of technical guides on the recommended methodologies.

1 The execution of the Work Plan requires the collaboration of the diverse institutions of the Contracting Parties, scientific community, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders involved and interested in the protection of sea turtles and their habitat, and will be subject to the availability of funds, facilities and capacity to carry out the proposed activities.

4. Promote population identification and distribution studies in order to minimize the impact of fisheries, through:

- 4.1 Studies on the genetic structure of populations,
- 4.2 Studies that complete information on female migratory routes,
- 4.3 Studies on the movements of interesting females,
- 4.4 The determination of areas/periods with a high density of individuals, feeding grounds and areas of seasonal use,
- 4.5 Studies on the depth distributions frequented by sea turtles.

5. Promote the estimation of mortality rates, through:

- 5.1 Studies identifying the causes of sea turtle mortality and estimating their respective rates, including necropsies on the beach,
- 5.2 On-board observer programs to monitor incidental capture,
- 5.3 Incidental capture studies on fisheries where little information exists (for example, bottom long lines, long lines, drift nets, and trawls),
- 5.4 Workshops to standardize the collection of incidental capture information.

6. Develop activities related to the socio-economic realm:

- 6.1 Promote socio-economic studies of the coastal communities and their activities that interact with sea turtles,
- 6.2 Encourage the development of economic alternatives that diminish unsustainable pressures on sea turtles,
- 6.3 Explore participative management

options (for example, for ecotourism),
6.4 Suggest actions that facilitate the adoption of necessary technology and practices to mitigate the impacts on sea turtle populations by fishermen in the region,

6.5 Evaluate possible measures that may be implemented by the Parties to facilitate the adoption of these technologies and practices necessary to mitigate the impacts on sea turtle populations.

7. To seek and make available existing information related to the protection and conservation of sea turtles:

- 7.1 Request the necessary information from the Parties, individuals and institutions,
- 7.2 Create a bibliographic database,
- 7.3 Place the database at the disposal of the users.

8. Develop management tools through:

- 8.1 Technical guides on the development of management plans for the protection of nesting beaches and other critical habitat,
- 8.2 Recommendations for creating national or international marine protected areas.

9. Improve communication:

- 9.1 Foster studies applying communication strategies in coastal communities and at direct stakeholders interacting with sea turtles.

10. Promote the diffusion of information:

- 10.1 Support the Secretariat in the diffusion of scientific information in

environmental education and sea turtle conservation programs.

11. Encourage the cooperation between the Convention and regional fisheries bodies as well as conservation organizations:

11.1 Promoting the coordination of actions with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), Latin American Fisheries Development Organization (OLDEPESCA), the Central American Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector (OSPESCA), Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) and others, in order to:

- compile and provide information on incidental capture of sea turtles in tuna fisheries and other related species,

- coordinate strategies to mitigate incidental capture (including training activities)
- carry out experiments applying technologies and procedures in order to mitigate incidental capture,

11.2 Developing collaborative recommendations for the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, taking advantage of invitations and opportunities to participate in the events of intergovernmental bodies,

11.3 Promoting regional working groups to encourage studies on shared sea turtle populations.

12. Obtain information on incidental capture from international floats that are not part of the regional bodies previously mentioned, in order to recommend reduction strategies.

ANNEX V

CIT-020-04

Nominations for the Sectorial Representatives of the Consultative Committee of Experts

Procedure for sectorial representatives

The Parties shall appoint, by consensus, **three representatives**, with recognized expertise in matters pertaining to this Convention, from **each of the following groups, for a total of nine representatives**: 1) The scientific community; 2) The private sector; and 3) Non-governmental organizations. Below is a list of those nominated. In Annex I you will find additional information on each candidate.

LIST OF NOMINATIONS IN EACH SECTOR

Sectorial Group: Scientific Community	Nominated by
Julián Javier Alvarado Díaz	México
Maria Angela Marcovaldi	Brazil
Mario González Recinos	Costa Rica
Scott A. Eckert	WIDECAST Organization
Randall Arauz	WIDECAST Organization
Hedelvy J. Guada	WIDECAST Organization

Sectorial Group: Private Sector	Nominated by
Asociación de Exportadores de Pesca Blanco del Ecuador Representative: Guillermo Morán Velásquez Empresas	Ecuador
UNIPESCA – Unión Independiente de Pescadores Camaroneros Representative: Gerardo Marín	Costa Rica
Pesca y Empaques Manabel, S.A. C.V. Representative: Víctor Abraham Elías	México
Empresa de Pesca Kowalsky Representative: José Kowalsky	Brazil
Industria de mariscos Representante: Les Hodgson	United States of America

Sectorial Group: Non-governmental Organizations	Nominated by
Caribbean Conservation Corporation Representative: Sebastián Troëng	Self-nominated
CID-CEUR/ Project Karumbe Marine Turtles of Uruguay Representative: Milagros López	Self-nominated
Conservation International Representative: Roderic Mast	Self-nominated
Defenders of Wildlife of Mexico Representative: Juan Carlos Cantú Guzman	Self-nominated
WWF- Latin American and the Wider Caribbean Representative: Carlos Drews	Self-nominated
Ocean Conservancy Representative: Marydele Donnelly	United States of America

ANNEX VI

CIT-022-04

Biennium Program of Work for the Pro Tempore Secretariat

Introduction:

Previously, two Programs of Work were presented in 2003 and 2004. The present document is herewith put forth before the Second Conference of the Parties (COP2IAC), for analysis, with the objective to initiate work on the tasks included herein by the first of January, and finalize them by December 31, 2006. Article V (1), regarding “Meetings of the Parties”, establishes that the Parties shall celebrate one ordinary session at least once a year during the first triennium; thereafter, the Parties will celebrate an ordinary session every two years. The above considering that the Inter-American Convention came into force in 2001 as a result of the ratification of the eighth country, thus complying with the mandate for the first triennium.

The resolutions approved during COP1IAC and included in the text of the Inter-American Convention itself, mandate the actions the *Pro Tempore* Secretary must perform. It is of the essence that we organize our work so that the activities developed advance us towards the achievement of the objectives of the Inter-American Convention.

Based on the Work Plan for 2004, the tasks exhibiting continuity into the period 2005-06 were analyzed, as well as those new tasks that give thought to resolutions and agreements which may derive from the second Conference of the Parties (COP2IAC).

Several activities and actions have not been included in the present program, as they pertain to the day to day. These include many categories; for example, attention to the administrative aspects of the office and addressing consultations presented to the IAC, which also include the constant coordination with the Focal Points.

During the First Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (COP1IAC), convened August 6-8, 2002, in San Jose, Costa Rica, it was agreed to establish an Interim or *Pro Tempore* Secretariat (Resolution COP1CIT-001).

Resolution COP1CIT-001 mentioned above regarding the *Pro Tempore* Secretary, mandates the compliance of such duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Parties, as follows:

- a) Support, organize and participate in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Organs, working together with the host country of the Conference, as appropriate;
- b) Coordinate and facilitate communications among the Parties and among these and the Observers;
- c) Make available to the Parties in the working languages of the Inter-American Convention, such recommendations, decisions and any other documents deemed necessary for the work of the Parties;
- d) Administrate the Special Fund of the Inter-American Convention (SFIAC), in compliance with the guidelines approved by the Parties (COP1CIT-002);
- e) Any other duties and responsibilities approved by the Parties.

The specific actions the *Pro Tempore* Secretary must perform are organized and annotated into five categories of tasks and responsibilities as approved by the Parties during COP1IAC. Offers for financial assistance are in place for the operation of this Plan, which is attached to Budget 2005-06, so that actions outlined in this document may be consolidated. In the same manner, it is expected that a budgetary surplus for 2004 will be generated, and such must be re-budgeted to cover expenses for the biennium undergoing discussions.

1. Support, organize and participate in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Entities, working together with the host country of the meeting, as appropriate

1.1 Perform the logistics for the third Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP3)

Three years after coming into force, the Inter-American Convention must convene the Conference of the Parties at least every biennium, as established in the IAC Treaty itself. For this reason and taking into consideration the high cost of such meetings, it is recommended that COP3CIT is convened during the third quarter of 2006 (September).

1.2 Perform the logistics for the second and third Meetings of the Scientific Committee

The Second Meeting of the Scientific Committee is scheduled for June 2005. This schedule includes gathering the day before the meeting in a preparatory executive meeting with the Committee Board. Likewise, the third meeting is scheduled for June 2006 before the second meeting of the Consultative Committee and the COP3CIT take place.

1.3 Perform the logistics for the first and second Meetings of the Experts Consultative Committee

The First Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts is scheduled sometime

between August and September 2005. The Second Meetings of the Consultative Committee is scheduled to take place in September 2006 (the first days will be devoted to the Consultative Committee meeting and the rest for the COP3CIT).

1.4 Coordination with country parties for the preparation of the agendas for COP3CIT, first and second meeting of the Experts Consultative Committee and second and third meeting of the Scientific Committee

All meetings shall have a work agenda. We must abide with the guidelines established by resolution COP1CIT-004, Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles.

1.5 2005 and 2006 yearly report to the COP3CIT and Subsidiary Entities

Once these reports have been submitted by the Parties to the Secretariat in April 2005 and 2006, they will be translated into the working languages of the Convention so that they can be handed over to the Parties and the Scientific and Consultative Committee.

2. Coordination and facilitation of communication among the Parties and between the Parties and the Observers

2.1 Facilitation of communication among the Parties

Channels for communication were established with the Focal Points of the Party States, as well

as an efficient information system. Such coordination together with the exchange of information will be strengthened with the implementation of the web site of the Inter-American Convention. Likewise, it is expected that complementary actions for this Plan may support this action in an integral manner.

It is necessary to create a technical network by means of electronics with members of the Subsidiary Organs and the technical personnel working in areas related to sea turtles, including government entities as well as research centers where different aspects of sea turtle conservation and protection are pursued.

2.2. Facilitation of communication among the Parties and among the Parties and the Observers, the private sector, the scientific community, and the local actors, *inter alia*

This last year we have been aware of the efforts conducted by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission which, in conjunction with some countries and by means of workshops, addressed the issues regarding the incidental capture of sea turtles. As a result of financial problems generated by the decline of fishing resources directly impacting the fisheries sector, especially at the local levels, and opposite to what is commonly believed, the sector is now open for the implementation of conservation measures that may in some way improve its financial incomes. Such problems as related to the different species, the characteristics of the various sea turtle species, the conservation efforts at nesting beaches, observations and sightings conducted from tuna vessels, beach statistics and the current situation, are presented during the abovementioned workshops. A series of mitigation actions recommended to avoid

incidental capture, as well as changes in baits and the use of circular fishing hooks, *inter alia*, are included in the workshops agenda.

All indicates the abovementioned actions represent the correct course to follow for the conservation of sea turtles regionally. During this period, information will be requested from the States concerning such actions, with the view to include this issue in the Strategic Plan and in this way capitalize on the expertise being generated.

With the objective of promoting a greater participation of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles in these workshops, coordination with the Focal Points shall be developed wherever this initiative is being performed.

2.3 Proceed with the pro-active communication and information efforts involving non Party States, with the view to achieve the affiliation of new members to the Inter-American Convention

More information is needed on issues related to sea turtles and the scope of the Inter-American Convention. Such information vacuum represents a discouragement for interested nations to decide and join the Inter-American Convention. It is necessary to carry on the proactive efforts in this respect on the part of the Secretariat, and to establish improved communication with the corresponding diplomatic organs that they may know the scope and the objectives of the Inter-American Convention, our work and achievements. Such knowledge may well induce them to join the Inter-American Convention.

3. Make available to the Parties all reports, recommendations, agreements and any other documents required for the work of the Parties, in the work languages

1.1 Draft the reports of COP3CIT and support drafting the reports of the subsidiary organs in the work languages, to be distributed to the Parties and to other participants

All final reports of the COPs, shall be available in both English and Spanish; these shall be delivered to the country Delegates and the participants by electronic means. At the start of each COP, paper copies of the Agreements and Resolutions of the previous COP shall be delivered to facilitate discussions during the meetings. Representing a parallel process, the above shall be included in the web site: www.iacseaturtle.org to facilitate consultation.

1.2 Actualization of the web site of the Inter-American Convention

A new web site for COP2IAC was accomplished with more than 50% of its construction completed, as foreseen in the Work Program of 2004. It is planned to complete the missing sections during 2005 and include new information regarding COP2IAC, the Scientific Committee and the Consultative Committee, *inter alia*. Likewise, to include such significant news reaching us regarding the conservation and protection of sea turtles for which dissemination is important.

One significant permanent activity for the present biennium represents the actualization of the web site of the Inter-American Convention in both English and Spanish versions, so that it remains functional for

officers from all Parties as well as persons interested in such matters.

3.3 The drafting of funding proposals for programs involving environmental education on sea turtles within the geographic scope of the Inter-American Convention

In general terms throughout the course of the present year, we have observed the Inter-American Convention is being acknowledged to some extent within the scope of the conservation community. However, preliminary data forthcoming from questionnaires pertaining to the inventory we are conducting of nesting beaches, indicate that other sectors included within the framework of the Inter-American Convention such as the fishing sector, the local communities, tourism and the private sector, to mention only a few, are at present unawares of its existence. Even among government authorities, knowledge about the Inter-American Convention is limited to those few persons who in any way are directly related to the IAC. How to participate and inform this significant sector constitutes the major challenge for the present biennium. Sea turtles, an emblematic species enjoying great respect and popularity on the part of the public at large, stand in our favor. Therefore, it is necessary to produce a series of publications including areas such as their natural history, population status in the American continent, threats and mitigation measures to be undertaken, *inter alia*, with the view to inspire the participation of the public at large.

As indicated in the Treaty of the Inter-American Convention itself, it is necessary to stimulate the participation of government institutions, non government organizations (NGOs), and the

public at large at each one of the States (Art. IV (g)).

To regionally accomplish such an action, it is necessary to seek external sources by means of funding proposals.

3.4 Accreditation of the Observers

In compliance with Resolution COP1CIT-004, Rule 11, the Secretariat must receive accreditation requests sent by the Observers to create a request registry including not only the information requested in numeral 11.4, but also the reception date of the requests. This registry should be delivered to the Contracting Parties 90 days before the following COP. Likewise, a registry must also be maintained including Observers with their corresponding accreditations.

4. Administration of the Inter-American Convention Special Fund (SFIC), in compliance with guidelines approved by the Parties (COP1CIT-002)

4.1 Search for financial and technical resources to promote and give support to such research and programs proposed as priorities by the subsidiary committees and approved by the Contracting Parties

During the first meeting of the Scientific Committee, a series of areas was identified where more knowledge is needed regarding issues related to sea turtles. For future perusal, it is deemed essential to promote such research and the establishment of programs focused on providing adequate information for the best decision making, and in this way attain the objectives of the Inter-American Convention.

In coordination with the members of the subsidiary organs, all possible efforts shall be conducted to search for funding and the support required in such cases.

4.2 Drafting of funding proposals for the implementation of the Inter-American Convention

4.2.1 Empowering the conservation capability at sea turtle nesting beaches

Associated with the protection and conservation of sea turtles, which represents the main objective of the Inter-American Convention, many successful tourism and research projects are in place in the American continent. Such projects constitute a developmental axis for many coastal communities, as they are beneficial to both, the social as well as the economic areas. However, one of the problems facing regional actors represents the lack of information on what kind of activities may be developed within this context which are congruent with their national and/or regional realities.

So that all Parties may include such activities as part of their efforts to eradicate poverty on coastal communities as well as to promote the capability for the conservation of sea turtles, it is deemed necessary to empower management actions on sea turtle nesting beaches. The above can be achieved by improving methodologies for conservation and protection as well as with the exchange of expertise and knowledge.

Likewise, with the best information at hand, the creation of a database including information about the associated projects and their cultural and socioeconomic aspects, *inter alia*. When income generating activities are developed, a greater preoccupation for the protection of the sea turtles and their habitat arises as such attitudes ensure incomes into the future, retributions for the communities, and a legacy of an improved life style for the different local actors.

4.3 Establishment of “Supporting Funds” for the Parties

The above represents one pending area for 2004 which was challenging to pursue due to time constraints. Due its significance for sea turtle conservation, it must be developed during the present period. Actions will be in place to identify funding sources and to establish the abovementioned “Support Fund” for the Parties, with the view to develop activities related to the protection and conservation of sea turtles. The “Supporting Funds”, shall include grants which objectives constitute environmental education and information projects, training and protection of nesting beaches, and other key ecosystems such as coral reefs, plus the knowledge and implementation of TEDs in the shrimp fleets, as well as those other mitigation activities where incidental capture runs very high. These funds shall be administered by the Inter-American Convention Special Fund, which operation guidelines will be presented for analysis and approval before the COP3.

5. Other Activities

5.1 Strategic Plan 2007-2011

Included as part of the evolution and consolidation processes of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, the creation of a Strategic Plan should be considered a key element. It should broaden its scope, provide guidelines in the median term for the future of the IAC, and consolidate the work previously accomplished. For its creation the participation and coordination of the Contracting Parties, the Subsidiary Organs (Scientific and Consultative Committees), and the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat, are essential. Global events and actions related to threatened species, particularly sea turtles, should be considered. It is proposed that this Strategic Plan be created the year before COP3 (2006), in such a way that it is approved during this meeting and may direct the course of the Inter-American Convention during 2007-2011.

As regards its contents, the Strategic Plan should recount the achievements of IAC to date, identify the main future challenges and define the general objectives for the period in question in accord with the text of the Convention. Likewise, for its implementation, the Strategic Plan shall include an outline of the operational objectives and actions, as well as the responsibilities for each one of the Parties and the organs involved.

5.2 Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Conservation

This event is organized every year. The coming meeting is programmed for the first week of February 2005, in the State of Georgia of the United States of America. The participation of

the Secretariat is important therein, as the Symposium brings together a great number of scientists from all over the world whose interests gravitate around sea turtles. The great majority of the discussions delivered during the Symposium, generally gravitates around the region comprised in the American continent. Parallel to the Annual Symposium, the Latin American Network of Sea Turtle Specialists (RETOMALA, by its Spanish acronym) holds its meeting, wherein specialists of countries comprising the scope of the Inter-American Convention come together.

5.3 Representation of the Inter-American Convention

In representation of the Inter-American Convention, the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat is asked to attend a series of meetings sponsored by different organisms. On occasion, the *Pro Tempore* Secretary or an associated member of the IAC must participate. Talks about our work are frequently requested. These cannot be programmed as they are being organized outside the scope of action of the Inter-American Convention.

5.4. Cooperation and coordination with other international organisms

During the Second Part of COP1IAC, the Conference of the Parties agreed to request the Secretariat to “Identify, promote and address all requests forthcoming from international organisms expressing their interest in establishing coordinating mechanisms with matters concerning the Inter-American Convention”, as regards International Cooperation (Article XII), (Annex I of the MINUTES). To comply with COP1IAC request, communication with like-minded

international organisms shall be pursued. Likewise, current contact will be maintained with other organizations such as the following: OLDEPESCA; OSPESCA; Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC); Central American Commission for the Environment and Development (CCAD, by its Spanish acronym); United Nations Environmental Program for the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP), *inter alia*.

5.5 Database for nesting beaches

Taking into consideration the best data at hand, countries included in the Inter-American Convention promote as their objective the protection and conservation of sea turtle populations and their habitat. The availability

of a centralized data base is important for decision making of the Parties and the tasks of the Scientific Committee and the Consultative Committee of Experts. This data base will also benefit other actors working with sea turtles, as they will have a trustworthy and standardized information source enabling them to develop conservation projects related to sea turtles.

This initiative took form at the start of the present year, as duly reported, and at the present time information on 36 nesting beaches located in the various countries comprising the scope of action of the Inter-American Continent, is available. To continue with such efforts is in order, by requesting the cooperation of the Parties and other entities with the view to complete the information.

Annex VII

Timetable of 2005-2006 activities in accordance with Work Plan

*Deadline for receiving Reports from Contracting Parties at the Secretariat: 30th of April.

Activities	Year 2005			Year 2006		
Make available annual reports to Contracting Parties	April*				April*	
Drafting of 2007-2011 Strategic Plan		June (Draft report)		March (Draft report)		
Scientific Committee Executive Meeting		June				
II Meeting of the Scientific Committee		June				
III Meeting of the Scientific Committee					June	
I Meeting of the Consultative Committee			August/ September			
II Meeting of the Consultative Committee						September
COP3IAC						September

ANNEX VIII

Report of the Pro-Tempore Secretariat on the 2004 Work Plan

Introduction:

During the First Conference of the Parties (COP1) of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (CITM), celebrated on August 6-8, 2002, in San Jose, Costa Rica, it was agreed to establish an interim or *Pro Tempore* Secretariat (Resolution COP1CIT-001).

The Work Plan for 2004 was approved in the second part of COP1IAC by the Parties meeting in August 2003 in San Jose, based on that which was established in the resolutions approved during COP1, as was the text for the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles.

In order to execute this work plan, a full-time *Pro Tempore* Secretary has been employed, along with two professionals that support the technical activities, each hired on a part-time basis. In total, two full-time work contracts are presently in place for the operation of all activities related to CIT at the level of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat.

According to Resolution COP1CIT-001 regarding the Establishment of a *Pro Tempore* Secretariat, the latter shall comply with all

duties and responsibilities assigned by the Parties, in the following manner:

- a) Support, organize and participate in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and Subsidiary bodies, working in conjunction with the host country of the Conference, as needed;
- b) Coordinate and facilitate communications between the Parties and the observers.
- c) Make all reports, recommendations, and decisions available to the Parties in the work languages of the Convention, as well as any other document necessary to the work of the Parties.
- d) Administer the Special Fund of the Inter-American Convention (SFIC), according to the guidelines agreed upon by the Parties (COP1CIT-002); and,
- e) Fulfill any and all other duties and responsibilities agreed upon by the Parties.

This report follows the guidelines given in the 2003 Work Plan (beginning in August) and that of 2004. The five specific duties or actions that

must be undertaken by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat based on the mandates of CIT are as follows:

1. Supporting, organizing, and participating in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the subsidiary bodies, working with the Host Country as pertinent.

1.1 Completing the logistic preparations for the Second Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP2).

In April, preparations for the Second Conference of the Parties were officially begun with the coordinating visit by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to Caracas and Isla Margarita, where COP2IAC will take place. Coordinating meetings were held with the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARN); a possible agenda for COP2IAC was analyzed, and various hotels were visited on Isla Margarita in order to have an idea of the existing tourist facilities. The MARN designated Lic. Aleidi Sangroni, Director of International Affairs, as a point of contact to coordinate all activities relating to the organization of this event. Lic. Aleidi Sangroni has coordinated all activities relating to this event in a very efficient manner.

On September 20th, a communication was received from the Embassy of Brazil in Costa Rica, requesting to explore the possibility of changing the date of the meeting to February or March of 2005. This was consulted with Venezuelan authorities, who informed us that the Meeting of the Latin American Ministries of the Environment is being held there in February, so they are not able to hold another meeting there during that time. They also indicated that the support funds for COP2IAC are budgeted to be spent by 2004 and that they

would have no available funds for 2005.

In addition, there exists an administrative limitation to consider, which is the legal and administrative mandate for the functioning of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat, ending December 31, 2004. As is established in the administrative resolutions of CIT, as of January 1st, these monies may not be used for further operations.

Problems were found with the approval of the budget for COP2IAC, which was presented for approval through electronic means. It seems some countries had doubts regarding the financial support that they should provide for this event. All responses were not received by the required deadline. Given the small amount of time available to carry out the administrative functions, and following consultation with the Presidency of COP2IAC, procedures established in Rule 5 “ADOPTIONS OF DECISIONS” were followed (Resolution COP1CIT-004 “RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES”).

Nine countries approved the budget with two abstentions on the part of Brazil and Honduras. In this manner, beginning Monday, October 18th, administrative procedures were begun with the aim of making monies available for expenses such as the purchase of tickets for the trip for the delegates of the countries, among others.

1.2 Coordinating with the Party Countries in the development of the Agendas for COP2IAC

During the meeting with authorities from the Ministry of the Environment and Natural

Resources of Venezuela in April, the Secretariat wrote up a draft of possible points for the agenda, considering a series of issues that had come forth from previous meetings and some which arose between COP1IAC and COP2IAC. This agenda was presented to the Focal Points in written form following established procedure.

In the same manner, a preliminary draft was written of the agenda to be discussed during the First Meeting of the Scientific Committee.

1.3 Establishing and supporting the creation and proper functioning of subsidiary bodies.

-First Meeting of the Scientific Committee

The First Meeting of the Scientific Committee of IAC took place on August 24-26 in Escuela Juan XXIII in Tres Rios, Costa Rica. Ten Contracting Parties and one observer country were represented. Guatemala was absent. Five observers from international conventions, national and international NGOs, and institutions of the parties also participated.

Given the fact that this was the first Meeting of the Committee, an extensive agenda was presented which primarily covered aspects that would facilitate its future functioning. Dr. Jack Frazier from the USA was named as President of the Committee; Dr. René Márquez from Mexico as the Vice-President; and MA. Jose Alió Mingo from Venezuela as Secretary.

After the Secretariat detailed the approved procedures for meetings of subsidiary bodies within the Convention, full discussion of the primary issues ensued, these being:

- The situation of *Dermochelys coriacea*, following work document CIT-006;
- The terms of reference of the Scientific Committee according to CIT-008;
- The 2005-2006 Work Plan for the Scientific Committee, to be developed according to the guidelines of CIT-008; and
- The revision of the format of the Annual Report of the Parties CIT-017-04, prepared by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat.

The discussions were enriched by the presentations of the delegate Didiher Chacón (Costa Rica - leatherback turtles) and the advisor Laura Sarti (Mexico - Standardization of Methods in Nesting Beaches). Finally, valuable presentations were added on new themes for the Convention, such as economic valuation (on behalf of Drs. Carlos Drews - WWF- and Sebastian Troëng - CCC) and incidental fisheries (on behalf of Dr. Martín Hall - IATTC).

1.4 Writing of proposals for discussion for COP2 regarding the content and format of yearly reports.

As approved during COP1, the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat, along with a few scientists which work in sea turtle conservation projects in Costa Rica, wrote up a first draft of the format of this report to be discussed during the First Meeting of the Scientific Committee in August 2004, and to be presented later at COP2 with the observations of the Scientific Committee.

2. Coordinating and facilitating communications between the Parties and between the Parties and the Observers.

Observers in the meeting of the Scientific Committee

On June 12, 2004, during the official notice of CIT-SPT033, the interested public was informed on the procedures necessary to participate as observers, as established in Rule 11 of Resolution COP1CIT-004.

Through the official communication of CIT-SPT039 of July 28, 2004, the Focal Points were informed of the preparations for the meeting of the Scientific Committee, and a list of delegates and advisors by country was attached. Likewise, the names of the persons and entities interested in participating as observers (four persons) were sent, in accordance with Rule 11. All Parties agreed to approve these persons as observers.

COP2IAC Observers

Through official announcement CIT-SPT056, dated October 12, 2004, a list of names of the entities and persons who have requested participation as observers was submitted to the Focal Points, in accordance to rule 11. A total of 11 names were presented (see attached list).

2.1 Coordinating with the Focal Points the preparation of the nominations and the register of the candidates to form the subsidiary committees.

In November 2003, using as reference the agreements of the last COP1IAC of August of that year, the following written request was presented to the Focal Points:

- a- The naming of the Representative to the Scientific Committee of each of the countries.
- b- The Official Representative to the Consulting Committee of Experts.
- c- Country nominations for the naming of the nine sector representatives. As agreed in the last meeting of August, each country would propose nine candidates, three in each of the following categories: NGOs, Scientists, and the productive sector.

Consultative Committee of Experts

Obtaining candidates for nomination of the nine sectorial representatives is not a simple process for various reasons — one being the requirements established in Resolution COP1CIT-005. In the month of February 2004, therefore, a call for nomination of candidates for sector representatives in the Consultative Committee was made to the Annual Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles and the Latin American Meeting of Sea Turtle Specialists that were meeting at the time in Costa Rica along with scientists and NGOs from all areas relating to the Convention. This call followed the requirements and procedures approved in resolution COP1CIT-005. This action, in fact, had two objectives: to make known to this forum the existence and achievements of our Convention; and promote the participation of scientists and NGOs in the Consultative Committee.

On October 8, 2004, through notice CIT-SPT-054 to Focal Points, the following document was sent: “Nominations for the Sectorial Representatives of the Consultative Committee of Experts” (Document CIT-20-04), with a total

of 17 candidates. These representatives should be elected during COP2IAC.

The nine sector representatives are divided up in the following manner according to sector: Scientific (three representatives), non-governmental organizations (three representatives), and the private and productive sector (three representatives).

2.2 Continue with the proactive effort of communicating and informing non-member countries in order to obtain the affiliation of new members to the Inter-American Convention.

We were invited to participate in the Western Conference of the Hemisphere on Migratory Species, in Termas del Puyehue, Chile, on October 6-8, 2003. Taking advantage of this trip, on Friday, October 10, we met with Lic. Francisco Devia of the Chilean chancellery in order to inform him on the Inter-American Convention and on the importance of the cooperation of his country for the conservation of *Dermochelys coriacea* turtles in the Pacific Ocean. Likewise, we provided a copy of all the information produced to date and a copy of the "Final Report" of COP1. Mr. Devia informed us of his country's interest on becoming a contracting party to this Convention. He also indicated that they will be undertaking the technical consultations respective to fisheries organizations.

During the Conference of the Western Hemisphere, we also met with Lic. Daniel Ramadori, Director of Wildlife of the Secretary of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina. We informed him on the advances attained by the Convention during COP1IAC and also of the importance of having his country as a Member Part since,

even though it does not have nesting beaches, incidental capture of turtles occurs within its fisheries activities. Ramadori knew of recent studies that are being undertaken regarding the incidental capture in Argentina. He showed great interest in our proposal.

Thereafter, in San Jose in the month of May, 2004, we met with the Ambassador of Argentina in Costa Rica, Juan Jose Arcuri, to inform him of our meeting with Mr. Ramadori and to request his support in promoting the signature of Argentina. Upon request of the ambassador, notice CIT-SPt-022 dated May 10, directed to the Ambassador Arcuri, provides technical and political justification as to why the Republic of Argentina should be a Contracting Party of the CIT. Currently, studies and consultations are being undertaken within the governments regarding these cases.

Upon return from our visit to Caracas between April 29 and 31, 2004, we spent a day in Panama City to meet with environmental and fisheries authorities. Due to the approaching change of government, the atmosphere was not appropriate to discuss these issues at this time. We had an appointment with the Director Arnulfo Franco of the Maritime Authority of Panama; however, he did not participate as he was recovering from a recent medical procedure. We met with officers of the Legal Department, to whom we explained the achievements attained during COP1 and the future scope of IAC. We were not able to meet with Mr. Ricardo Rivera of the National Authority of the Environment of Panama (ANAM), but we were able to meet with the Biologist Kruskaya Díaz, who in that moment managed issues related to wildlife. We also provided her with pertinent documentation on this theme.

An informative presentation on incidental capture was given during the last day of the Annual Symposium on Sea Turtles in February 2004, in which representatives from the fisheries sector of Central America participated. The need for coordination and for the exchange of information on this theme was evidenced. **The Central American System of Integration**, known as SICA, which exists on a regional level, has offices in charge of directing and coordinating specific themes for the region.

Within this framework, OSPECA, the Regional Union of Fisheries and Aquaculture, is in charge of coordinating all activities related to the Central American Fisheries Sector and to which belong the Vice Ministers (Sub-Secretaries) of Agriculture of the seven countries of the region. The institution in charge of coordinating environmental aspects is the Central American Commission of Development and the Environment (CCAD), which includes the Council of Ministers of the Environment. Each country has a focal point which coordinates the different national commissions. By invitation from Lic. Mario Gonzales, Regional Coordinator of OSPESCA, we visited El Salvador on September 13th to meet with him and inform him of the Inter-American Convention and determine the types of activities we might coordinate with OSPESCA. According to the discussions, the idea has been planted within OSPESCA that all the countries of the region should do everything possible to integrate themselves as Contracting Parties of CIT. The fisheries organizations are aware of the difficult situation that sea turtles currently face. In addition, the Secretary was invited to participate in a meeting with the Vice Ministers in order to directly inform them on the issue and exchange impressions and ideas with them.

We met with the Engineer Bruno Bustos of the

Central American Commission of Development and the Environment (CCAD). We informed him on the achievements of the Inter-American Convention and of the need to coordinate activities between fisheries and environmental organizations on a regional level in an integrated manner. In the afternoon we met with Cesar Funes and Celina Dueñas, officials of the Ministry of the Environment of El Salvador (MARN), who are responsible for overseeing coastal/marine issues, and therefore, sea turtles. They commented that environmental authorities are interested in analyzing the possibility of their becoming Contracting Parties in the future. They believe this issue needs to be discussed with the authorities of the fisheries sector in order to achieve a technical position on this matter.

3. Making available to the Parties all the reports, recommendations, agreements, and other documents needed for the work of the Parties, in their work languages.

3.1 Write reports of the COP2 and collaborate with the writing of the reports of the subsidiary bodies in the work languages of the Convention, and distribute them to the Parties and other participants.

Meeting of the Scientific Committee

With regards to the Scientific Committee meeting on August 24-26, 2004, the editing of the documents has been coordinated with the President of the Committee, although some details remain unfinished. The minutes of the meeting can be found on the IAC's web page, to which other documents need to be added as annexes. Nevertheless, those documents

resulting from the meeting of the Scientific Committee, and which need to be analyzed in COP2IAC, can be found within COP2IAC's documents as CIT-006.Rev.1 **Proposed resolution for the conservation of Leatherback Sea Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*)**. We hope that, following COP2IAC, we will have enough time to finish the report of this meeting.

As previously indicated, the various documents of the Second Conference of the Parties have been included in the web site www.iacseaturtle.com in the work languages of the Convention.

3.2 Update the Web Site of the Inter-American Convention.

Through official notice CIT-SPT-059, dated October 15, 2004, the launching of the official web site of the Convention was announced. The web site is www.iacseaturtle.com and it can be found in both English and in Spanish. The site is, and will continue to be, a work in progress and some sections are still under construction. Greater importance has been given to those aspects relating to the Second Conference of the Contracting Parties, as is the case with the information regarding logistical aspects of the meeting and the possibility of having on-line the documents that are to be discussed in COP2IAC. This web site represents a great effort on the part of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat and various persons and institutions that helped to collect all the necessary information and present it in a useful and attractive manner to the Contracting Parties, conservation organizations, the scientific community, and the general public.

As indicated in point 3.3, the proposal presented to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

regarding the development of various documents and the updating of the web site was not approved, which is why these have been carried out bit by bit with funds from the budget approved for 2004 and with the support of the two professionals that have worked part-time for CIT.

3.3 Writing of proposals for the financing of information programs and environmental education programs on sea turtles and the geographic scope of the Inter-American Convention.

1. Proposal presented to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

On January 27, 2004, a project titled "Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles: Information and Environmental Education Program" was presented for financing to the International Sea Turtle Conservation Program of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, in Washington, USA, as established in the Work Plan for 2004. This project proposed the writing in the work languages of the Inter-American Convention (English and Spanish) the following informative brochures and pamphlets:

- a. The Inter-American Convention
- b. Sea Turtles
- c. Protection and Conservation
- d. Incidental capture of sea turtles
- e. Booklet: The Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles: An Introduction, 2004
- f. Updating the web site.

A total amount of US \$13,400.00 was requested in order to finance the publishing of these brochures and update the web site. The proposal qualified for examination and analysis.

However, we were informed some time after that it was not possible to finance it.

2. Request for support from the Dutch Embassy in Costa Rica to publish the brochure “An Introduction to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles”.

One year after the preparation of the first document to be presented in the second part of COP1IAC on August 2003, the issues evolved, and it was necessary to develop a second edition with updated themes. This document facilitates the entry of interested persons into the legal and thematic scope of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles. It will also make available to countries of the American Continent information to motivate their joining to our international organization, and will help promote a dialogue with other interested sectors, national and international organizations, civil society, private business, scientists, and coastal communities. The second edition of this publication has been elaborated with the collaboration of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF-Central America) and the Caribbean Corporation for Conservation (CCC), with 1000 samples in Spanish and 500 in English recently published. The total donation is US \$5,670.00.

3. Student Support from Worcester Polytechnic Institute

As informed on notice CIT-SPT030 of June 23, 2004, we received the valuable support of three students from WPI of the USA for six weeks. During this time, they aided the Secretary in a project titled “Sea Turtle Nesting Beach

Identification and Conservation Development Program”. Included within this work was a survey of different investigators and government authorities in order to identify the most important nesting beaches and their primary problems or challenges. The aim was to identify the conservation projects that have a community-based component, where local communities participate and receive benefits from such projects. A system for creating a data base was developed with this information.

4. Administer the Special Fund of the Inter-American Convention (SFIC), in accordance with the guidelines agreed on by the Parties (COP1CIT-002).

4.1 Seek financial and technical resources to undertake investigations and implement the measures adopted within the framework of the Inter-American Convention.

The meeting of the Scientific Committee took place in August of this year, and we therefore do not have a work plan approved by the countries. We hope to initiate these procedures in coordination with the Scientific Committee after COP2IAC.

4.2 Development of proposals in search of financing for the effective implementation of the Inter-American Convention.

To fulfill this point, the development of a profile to be presented during COP2IAC has been developed with the aim of listening to the observations of the Parties on this matter. A summary of this work is presented as follows:

Profile for the strengthening of the capacity for conservation of nesting beaches of sea turtles

In many countries of the American continent, several successful tourist and investigative projects exist which are connected to the protection and conservation of sea turtles, which is the primary objective of the Convention. These projects have constituted the core development for many coastal communities, providing both social and economic benefits. One of the problems faced by the region, however, is the lack of information on initiatives which can be developed in this way that are congruent with people's national and regional reality. These initiatives are important in that all Party Countries may include such activities as part of their efforts to eradicate the poverty of coastal communities and thereby strengthen the conservation of sea turtles.

It is important to improve the management capacity of nesting beaches of sea turtles, developing local abilities through the exchange of experience and knowledge as well as by making the most trustworthy information available. Needed for this is the creation of a data base that includes information of projects in development, cultural and socioeconomic aspects, among others. When initiatives exist that generate income for the communities, a great preoccupation for the protection of the sea turtles and their habitat has been observed since this guarantee a future income, which leads to a better quality of life for those involved and for the local communities.

4.3 Establishment of a "Support Fund" for the Party Countries.

This is a very important point if we are to count

on the financial resources to support the Party Countries in the implementation of the Convention. This year this was not possible due to the many activities to work on for its development. It should be programmed for the year 2005.

5. Other tasks and responsibilities approved by the Parties.

A series of extraordinary activities that are outside the general routine of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat are to be carried out, primarily related to the representation of the Convention and the development of joint projects with other entities. Among these are the following:

5.1 World Symposium on Sea Turtles

Report on the participation of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat in the XXIV Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles.

To take advantage of the scope of the symposium, a series of meetings are usually held before and after the event, such as the Meeting of the Network for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Greater Caribbean (WIDECAST). This year, a workshop was held on Saturday, February 28, titled "How to Organize Fishers Workshops on the Mitigation of Sea Turtle Bycatch". The meetings began on the 19th of February in the Ostional National Wildlife Refuge and ended on the 28th in San Jose.

Meeting of the Network of Specialists of Sea Turtles of Latin America (RETOMALA).

From the 19th to the 21st of February.

It is important to point out that approximately 150 persons participated in this meeting,

coming not only from countries in the Americas, but also from Europe and Australia. Among the participants were biology students, scientists, the interested public, and government representatives. This event took place in the Ostional National Wildlife Refuge, which is five hours from San Jose by car. This area is characterized by frequent arrivals of thousands of turtles during three or four days (“arribadas”) to a relatively small beach, where nesting itself actually destroys the eggs that were just recently laid. This is the only place in which the extractive use of sea turtles is permitted in Costa Rica.

On the 19th and 20th of February, the workshop titled “Latin American Workshop on the Sustainable Use of Sea Turtles” took place. Three main discussions were presented on the criteria to be considered regarding the sustainable use of sea turtles in relation to social, biological, and economic aspects. Furthermore, four case studies were presented which illustrated the various uses of sea turtles in the Latin American region. Afterward, work groups were formed to attempt to establish criteria and indicators of sustainability in each area. Most groups were able to establish certain interesting criteria. Nevertheless, there was not enough time to further investigate these criteria. In sum, one may conclude that there is much experience regarding biological information of sea turtles. However, when we move into the social and economic areas, doubts are much greater and it is not quite so easy to find a theoretical frame of reference with which to address these issues.

On Saturday the 21st, within “Various Points”, a presentation was given on the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles. This presentation explained the content and achievements of the

Convention, as well as the agreements obtained during the last COP11AC.

Meeting of the Network for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in the Greater Caribbean (WIDECAST)

On Sunday the 22nd, we were invited to present a talk on the Inter-American Convention during the meeting of this Network, primarily made up of scientists that investigate the different coasts of the countries of the Greater Caribbean. We explained the achievements of the Convention and the agreements reached regarding both the Scientific Committee and the Consultative Committee. Though the number of persons present was less than that of the RETOMALA meeting, it constituted a very important opportunity to provide information on IAC to an audience whose majority coming from non-Party countries. It was a good opportunity to make the Inter-American Convention for Sea Turtles known.

XXIV Symposium on the Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles

The mechanics of this symposium is based on a series of presentations and investigative reports, organized around different themes. For example, on the morning of Tuesday the 24th, the session focused on “sea turtles and socioeconomics”, while the one in the afternoon was focused on issues relating to the “evaluation and monitoring of sea turtles”. Approximately 700 persons participated from some 75 countries. In our case, one of the most serious limitations is the fact that we do not have a summary of each of the presentations. This would have facilitated our ability to inform the Parties of those presentations that relate to the objectives of the Convention. On the other hand, there is a great advantage in

being able to dialogue with so many people that are connected to the conservation and investigation of issues related to sea turtles on a continent-wide level, thereby attaining a more global vision of the existing problem.

As an important piece of information for our purposes, Mr. Miguel Donoso of the Institute for the Promotion of Fisheries in Chile announced that his country was engaged in the process of becoming part of the Inter-American Convention.

5.2 Representation of the Convention

The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat participated in the 72nd meeting of the Inter-American Commission of Tropical Tuna (IATTC) which took place in Lima, Peru on June 14-18, during which one of the points addressed was the issue of incidental capture and its relation to sea turtles. Two resolutions which are of great importance to attaining the objectives of the Convention came out of this meeting relating to the issue of sea turtles. (Resolutions C- 04, - 05, and C-04-07). In addition, details of the proposal of the agreement between the Convention and OLDEPESCA were coordinated with Angel Rivera, Executive Delegate of OLDEPESCA. Also of importance was the space provided for dialogue with some official delegates which also participated as representatives of their country in the meetings of CIT.

On October 6-8, 2003, a Conference of the Western Hemisphere on Migratory Species took

place in Termas de Puyehu, Chile, in which 33 delegates from the Ministries of the Environment of the countries of America participated, all of them involved with wildlife. This meeting was in response to a suggestion of the Action Plan of the Summit of the Americas, which took place in Québec in 2001. The Secretariat, as well as other international organizations, was invited to participate in this event, which established a series of priorities on the distinct actions required for the conservation of migratory species. It was also agreed that in the first years the primary issue for action would be migratory birds. The objective of this conference was to develop cooperative strategies on a hemispheric level for the conservation of migratory species and to gain greater cooperation in a wide area of diverse issues relating to conservation and wildlife. An interim directive committee was established with official representatives from the countries, and all representatives of International Conventions were directly invited to participate, including the IAC.

The First meeting of the Interim Directive Committee of the Conference of Migratory Species of the Western Hemisphere took place in Costa Rica on August 9-14, organized by the Ministry of the Environment, WWF, and the IAC. One result of this meeting was a draft document which describes the vision, mission, operative principles, objectives, and structure of its Steering Committee, membership, etc, which will be presented before the end of the year to the Ministries of the Environment of the Western Hemisphere.

ANNEX IX

CIT-024-04

Memorandum of Understanding between the Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development (OLDEPESCA) and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)

RECOGNIZING that it is highly desirable for the development of Latin American and Caribbean countries to coordinate the projects and activities of their regional bodies with those of international organizations in a way that the results establish a positive impact in achieving their respective objectives;

CONSIDERING that the Latin American Organization for Fisheries Development, hereinafter referred to as OLDEPESCA, has as its objective to meet Latin American food requirements adequately, making use of Latin American fishery resource potential for the benefit of Latin American peoples, by concerted action in promoting the constant development of the countries and the permanent strengthening of regional cooperation in this sector;

CONSIDERING that the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, hereinafter referred to as IAC, is dedicated to promoting the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and of the habitats on which they depend, based on the best scientific information, while taking into account the environmental, socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the Parties;

BASED ON THAT ESTABLISHED in Article VI and Article XII of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, plus in accordance with the accord on international cooperation undertaken during the Second Part of COP1IAC (Minutes, Annex 1) and with the agreement of the Contracting Parties taken during COP2IAC;

TAKING NOTE that the Conference of Ministers of OLDEPESCA has expressed interest in creating a synergy between both organizations with the purpose of supporting responsible fishery activities within the region;

CONSCIOUS that it is necessary to develop all concurrent efforts to prevent sea turtles species from being in danger of extinction;

RECALLING that the feeding, migration and inter-nesting habitats of the sea turtles coincide with areas where industrial and artisanal fishing activities are carried out;

CONSIDERING that sea turtles fulfill important ecological roles in marine ecosystems and the well being of sea turtle populations is necessary to sustain populations of other

species, some of the latter having economic importance to the fisheries sector;

CONSCIOUS that the formal bond established should be based on the norms established by the Constitutive Conventions of OLDEPESCA and IAC;

OLDEPESCA AND IAC, henceforth referred to as the Parties,

HAVE RESOLVED THAT:

1. BOTH PARTIES agree to establish links in cooperation within the scope of their general objectives and work programs, by way of executing specific actions that will be agreed upon and executed through operative agreements between their administrative bodies, with special attention to the cooperation between the subsidiary and technical bodies of both organizations.
2. BOTH PARTIES promise to exchange and disclose information that will aid in identifying opportunities of cooperation aimed at carrying out activities for the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitats.
3. BOTH PARTIES agree on the importance of participating, within the measure of their possibilities, in meetings organized by the other, on topics of common interest, and on the need for collaboration in order to obtain positive results from such meetings.
4. This Memorandum of Understanding can be modified by common accord if the Parties decide to do so.
5. Both organizations will periodically examine the application of the present

Memorandum of Understanding and adopt the necessary measures in order to facilitate or broaden their cooperation.

6. The present Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect upon the date of signature and will have an indefinite duration, unless one of the Parties decides to terminate it, effective six months after the date of notification. The termination or resignation of the present Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the culmination of the work programs and operative agreements unless the Parties agree to the contrary.

SIGNED in the city of Porlamar, Venezuela on the 19th day of the month of November of 2004,

ON BEHALF OF OLDEPESCA

Mr. Angel Rivera
Executive Director

ON BEHALF OF IAC

Mr. Marco Solano Martínez
Pro Tempore Secretary

ANNEX X

INF-22-04

Report of the First Meeting of the Scientific Committee

INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION
AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES
First Meeting of the Scientific Committee
San José, Costa Rica August 24-26, 2004

November 10, 2004

REPORT OF THE MEETING*

* Report by Dr. Jack Frazier, President of the Scientific Committee.

The First Meeting of the Scientific Committee was held from August 24 through 26, 2004, in Tres Rios-San Jose, Costa Rica. The meeting had the attendance of the unilateral delegates from ten out of eleven of the Countries Party to this Convention (the Netherlands Antilles, Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the United States of America, Honduras, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela; there was no representation from Guatemala), two advisors (Mexico and Brazil), and eight observers.

Jack Frazier was unanimously chosen by the delegates as President of the Committee, Rene Marquez as Vice-President and Jose Alio as Rapporteur. The meeting took place in a direct and cooperative environment, since the interventions were opened to all attendees. Concerning the consensual decision-making process, it was necessary to clarify that, by itself, the Committee is not the body that makes the decisions, but merely issues an array of opinions and recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, and that the Parties are the ones that, eventually, make the political

decisions regarding the responsibilities and commitments they need to fulfill.

The agenda was approved following the application of the modifications that were in agreement with the priorities of this meeting. After that, an analysis of the transcendental topics was performed, and based on them the annexed documents were produced. A series of recommendations was submitted to the consideration of the Parties to the Convention. The details of the aforementioned recommendations can be found in the Minutes of the Meeting. In order to efficiently achieve the proposed objectives and for the sake of time, it was decided to finish the work on the main documents by setting up 4 voluntary work groups:

1. Proposal of a Resolution on the Conservation of “Leatherback” (*Dermochelys Coriacea*) Turtles: R. Arauz, D. Chacón, C. Drews, L. Sarti and M. Solano (5).
2. Draft Work Plan of the Scientific Committee: J. Alio, J. Azueta, B. Donaire, M. Hall, J. Montes de Oca, J. Thome, and J. Zuzunaga (7).
3. Form Proposal for the First Yearly Report: A. Chavez, B. Dick, C. Lageux,

- N. Marcovaldi, W. Tapia and G. van Buurt (6).
4. Analysis and Recommendations vis-à-vis the draft Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee: J. Frazier, R. Marquez and S. Tröeng (3).

Following plenary discussions, the proposals on the *Dermochelys* Resolution, the Work Plan and the Yearly Report Form were agreed upon. Concerning the proposal related to the Recommendations on the Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee, two of the attendees did not agree with some of the issues, a situation fostered by misunderstandings vis-à-vis the structures, functions and competencies of the different bodies of the Conventions and, in addition, by the lack of information concerning the thematic areas of priority for the Scientific Committee, taking into account that the Work Plan was not available but until the end of the meeting.

Due to the lack of time, it was agreed to leave under the responsibility of the Chairmanship the review of the proposal on the Terms of Reference. Aiming at clarifying the misunderstandings, the Chair also drafted a document that reflects the thematic areas of priority for the Committee, based on the Work Plan proposal. In order to support the Secretariat in its tasks, the Chair also carried out the review, correction and detailed wording and edition of the Minutes and other documents produced during this meeting.

The Chairmanship electronically submitted all the above-mentioned documents to the delegates for their review, but neither proposals of amendments nor changes were received in reply.

Proposal of Resolution on the Conservation of the *Dermochelys Coriacea*

Fulfilling the agreements made at the COP 1, the Scientific Committee considered the analysis of the proposal of Resolution for the Conservation of the Leatherback Turtle with a view to submit it to the Parties consideration. To enrich the discussion, Didiher Chacon made a presentation concerning the status of this species' conservation, making an emphasis in the Area of the Convention (Inf.16-04). In conclusion, the population trends are clearly different in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, with a severe decline of the nesting populations in the latter. There are clear feeding and migrating passageways in both oceans, and also the female egg-laying turtles go to other beaches (see the Minutes for the recommendations to the Committee of the Parties).

Proposal for the Work Plan of the Scientific Committee

The work group, made up by seven out of the 21 assistants, analyzed the mandate of the Convention (Objective, Measures, and Functions of the Scientific Committee), the diverse informative presentations made during the Meeting, and held discussions concerning the different topics related to the Committees' task. Based on this information and on experiences of other international organizations, a proposal for Committee's work period of two years was made.

Analysis and Recommendations on the "Yearly Report" Form

Based on the document prepared by the Pro Tempore Secretariat (Ref. CIT-017-04), discussions were held on the complexity of the form and the information involved, the need to present the most comprehensive information

possible, the possibility of simplifying the form for the first year, and the need to have clear and accurate instructions, the methodologies used in the data collection process, the sources of information, responsible entities, etc.

Laura Sarti held a presentation on the difficulties that arise in the comparison of field studies to find out the trends followed by the majority of sea turtles' populations, pointing at the need of standardizing data collection methods in nesting beaches, and the importance of training in these topics.

Several key issues for the preparation of the form arose: the importance of having clear-cut objectives; the period pertaining to the information presented; raw data collection for the Scientific Committee to undertake an analysis of "stocks" (management units); and the risk of generalizing conclusions, among others (see the Minutes for the recommendations to the Committee of the Parties).

Analysis and Recommendations on the CIT-008 document "Draft Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee"

According to this draft document (CIT 008), the Scientific Committee would be made up by a unilateral delegate from each Party, who could be accompanied by up to three advisors; other representatives appointed by consensus would be added to the above. If the Committee were to be made up by delegates unilaterally appointed by each party, the Scientific Committee would turn into a third political body of the Convention. Notwithstanding, the text of the Convention does not mandate that the Scientific Committee is to have a political nature, but rather one of scientific and technical consultancy; however, it does explicitly mandate for both the Conference of the Parties

and the Consultative Committee to be political in nature, for they both depend on national representations.

To comply with the mandate of the Convention, and based on the experiences of other international instruments (IATTC, IOSEA, SPAW, etc.), it is fundamental to have an efficient and effective committee with responsibilities of scientific consultancy and interdisciplinary representation, but not necessarily national representation (see the Minutes for the recommendations for the Committee of the Parties).

Sea Turtles Incidental Fishing

Martin Hall made a presentation on the advances accomplished within the Interamerican Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), with the introduction of the fishing techniques that have the least impact on sea turtles and other species incidentally captured during gillnet fishing in Ecuador, a program that has recently expanded to Peru, with expectations of following to Guatemala, Mexico and Panama.

Based on this presentation and the discussions derived there from, it was concluded that the Parties were to be informed of the severe problem of incidental capture and the pressing need to develop measures to solve this problem. There is a need for an innovative approach to the topic, fostering alliances among nations, governmental institutions and NGOs (the experience of the IATTC highlights the importance of developing inter-institutional cooperation mechanisms). The problems of incidental fishing present many uncertainties, and this in addition to the current drop in the productivity of some fisheries and the dynamic characteristic of the fishing effort – which in a period of few years can change completely –

renders it even more difficult to lessen its negative impacts. This situation implies an unforeseen and superficial reaction in the face of the problems that arise, instead of complying with measures planned previously and efficiently. There is a lack of basic information on the impacts of the use of diverse fishing techniques, including bottom gillnet fishing and several types of nets, not to mention the impacts of trawling, which have not yet been mitigated. The management of resources and the settlement of problems on open sea are very complex, but the Convention –because of its mandate- has to promote appropriate measures adopted from other international instruments. In many situations it is already too late to revert the reduction of the sea turtles' populations, and yet it might not be reverted. Therefore, IT IS COMPELLING in some cases to undertake actions, there is a need for political decisions

at a regional level to solve the problem of incidental fishing. The Scientific Committee cannot censor the sovereign States, but it is its duty to highlight the responsibilities established in the international instruments (see the Minutes for the recommendations of the Committees of the Parties).

General Recommendation

- To foster the communication cooperation among the two Subsidiary Bodies that are a Party to the Convention, the three representatives from the scientific sector appointed by the Parties -by consensus- to make up the Consultative Committee could be three members of the Scientific Committee, once said Committee is created.

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Photos



Edis Solorzano (VEN), Liliana Gomez (PER), Marco Solano (IAC) and Jorge Zuzunaga (PER)



Pre-COP2 meeting



Observers to COP2IAC



Inauguration of COP2IAC



Welcome address by Venezuelan Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources, Mrs. Ana Elisa Osorio Granado



Delegation from Guatemala: Mario Roberto Jolon and Maria Mercedes Lopez



Start of COP2IAC plenary meetings



Observer countries (Nicaragua and Panama), regional and non-government organizations



Delegation from the United States: David F. Hogan and Alexis Gutierrez



Delegation from Costa Rica: Marvin Mora and Marco Vinicio Araya



Delegation from Brasil: Maria Ercilia Muracami and Andre Misi



Discussions in the plenary



Delegacion from Peru: Jorge Zuzunaga and Liliana Gomez de Weston



Presentation by Scientific Committee President, Dr. Jack Frazier



IAC Secretary with Belizean delegates Isaias Majil and Rennick Jackson



Reception with typical venezuelan music



Book presentation by Minister Ana Elisa Osorio Granado, «Turtles of Venezuela»



Delegates from Mexico: Aida Pena Jaramillo, Laura Sarti Martinez and Luis Fueyo Macdonald



COP2IAC Rapporteur, Aleidi Sangroni Delgado from Venezuela with IAC Secretary Marco Solano



Presentations before the COP2IAC plenary



Julio Montes de Oca (IAC) and Sebastian Troeng (Caribbean Conservation Corporation)



Belinda Dick (IAC), Sebastian Troeng (Caribbean Conservation Corporation), Agustin Quijada (VEN, IAC support team), Marco Vinicio Araya (CR) and Marco Solano (IAC)



A view of Porlamar, Isla Margarita



Coastal view of Isla Margarita, Venezuela



Participants of COP2IAC, Isla Margarita, Venezuela