

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



Report on the Sixth Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, 26-27 June 2013

PUBLISHED BY:

Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), Washington D.C., USA

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Executive Summary

The Sixth Meeting of the IAC Conference of the Parties (COP6) was held in Galapagos, Ecuador, from June 26-28, 2013. The meeting was run by the Chair of the COP6, Alexis Gutierrez, NOAA representative and IAC Focal Point for the United States. The Government of Ecuador through its Ministry of Environment and the Galapagos National Park generously supported the organization of this meeting.

Ten Party countries were officially represented at the COP6, along with representatives from the Scientific and Consultative Committees as well as observers from inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

The three day meeting generated ample discussion, exchanging ideas on the near future of the consolidation of the Convention's Secretariat, addressing priority issues for sea turtle conservation within the range of action of the IAC and to ally with non-Party countries in order to recover the Eastern Pacific leatherback turtle population. The meeting also addressed relevant topics like the formal revision and recommendations for managing the exceptions presented by Panama and Guatemala, the review of the progress made in implementing the Convention through compliance with its resolutions reported in the Annual Reports of the Party countries and implemented reporting of nesting on index beaches in order to perform an analysis on the state of sea turtle populations.

Dr. Laura Sarti provided the meeting participants with an update on the critical state of the Eastern Pacific leatherback turtle population and actions that can be taken in the IAC region to improve this situation. The presentation provided the opportunity for participants to discuss concrete priority actions that must be implemented in accordance with the IAC leatherback resolution, especially regarding measures to reduce bycatch of this species in fisheries carried out both in international and national waters. It was also agreed that it is necessary to continue monitoring and protecting the main nesting sites for this species in Mexico and Central America. The importance of creating alliances with relevant regional management fisheries organizations in order to strengthen protection measures for this population in their marine environment was highlighted. These actions are drawn from the recommendations presented to the COP6 by the Scientific and Consultative Committees in the document CIT-COP6-2013-Inf. 4.

The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat presented its biannual summary of activities highlighting efforts to attract new Parties. The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat noted that substantial progress has been made with the Dominican Republic, as they are close to ratifying the Convention. In addition, Colombia is also seriously considering joining the Convention. COP6 identified outreach to Colombia as a priority and asked for the Parties to support the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat in this task. During the intersessional period, the Scientific and Consultative Committees met twice. These meetings produced several technical documents, such as the “Manual of Management Techniques for Sea Turtle Conservation at Nesting Beaches”, and the “Guidelines for Preparing Sea Turtle Action Plans.” The Committees have suggested that Parties circulate these documents amongst their technical offices.

The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat successfully fundraised during the intersessional period. The Convention was awarded funds for two project proposals from the USFWS Marine Turtle Conservation Fund. These funds provide additional support in helping meet the needs of organizing the IAC meetings and participation in regional events that strengthen synergies between the IAC and other international Conventions. For example, cooperation with other inter-governmental organizations was achieved through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ramsar Convention and current negotiations with the Sargasso Sea Alliance and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

At the end of day one, the Parties had a brief remembrance of a young Costa Rican biologist, Jairo Mora, who recently lost his life to criminal hands while patrolling a nesting beach in Limon, Costa Rica. In response to this tragic event, COP6 expressed their concern for the need for justice in this case and increased security measures for volunteers and others working on nesting beaches in the Convention area.

Reports from the Scientific and Consultative Committees were presented. Dr. Joao Thomé, Consultative Committee Vice-Chair, reported on the status of compliance with IAC resolutions, highlighting that submission of annual reports has improved and the majority of the Party countries are currently implementing or in the process of preparing sea turtle action plans. In addition, all countries are implementing protection measures to help reduce mortality of females, eggs and hatchlings on nesting beaches and many countries have eliminated or are monitoring and working on controlling fisheries practices that cause negative impacts to turtles at sea. The areas in need of improvement in terms of implementation are those relating to mitigating impacts from climate change and better reporting of information on fisheries bycatch, especially in gillnets.

The meeting formally adopted “Resolution on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eggs in Guatemala and Panama” that provides recommendations to each country on how to improve management in their specific case as well as indicators with a timeframe to monitor the implementation of this resolution.

The Parties also reviewed the report from the Legal Framework and Permanent Secretariat Working Group that presented three options to resolve the issue of establishing a permanent Secretariat. Of the options presented, the Parties leaned towards the negotiation of a hosting agreement in one of the member countries of the IAC. The Working Group will further explore this option intersessionally, before COP7, by working with those entities and countries interested in hosting the Permanent Secretariat. While this is being resolved, COP6 agreed to renew the contract of the current *Pro Tempore* Secretary and maintain the status quo of the Secretariat through approval of the Resolution “Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat”.

The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat presented the work plan for the next biennium and IAC financial report reflecting the current country contributions, showing an increase in Party countries that have made their financial contributions to the IAC as well as in-kind donations by offering to host and provide necessary logistical support for Convention meetings. The Parties approved the 2013-2015 work plan and budget, including the attached table indicating contribution amounts. It is understood that these contributions are voluntary and, therefore, performing the activities listed in the budget is dependent on the amount of contributions received. The meeting elected the delegate of Mexico, Mr. Luis Fueyo MacDonald as Chair of the COP7 and Mexico also offered to host the meeting in 2015.

The meeting concluded with a field trip to North Seymour Island and Bachas Beach, a main sea turtle nesting beach in Galapagos, sponsored by the Galapagos National Park. This was an excellent opportunity to share experiences and get to see the excellent conservation being carried out at a local level, guaranteeing that Galapagos Islands continue to be a true nature sanctuary.

Veronica Caceres Chamorro

Pro Tempore Secretary

July 2013

IAC COP6 Minutes

Meeting: Sixth Conference of the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)

Meeting Place: Ismael Sifuentes Visitor's Center of the Galapagos National Park, Santa Cruz Island, Galápagos, Ecuador

Date: June 26-28, 2013

COP6 Chair: Alexis Gutiérrez, United States of America

COP6 Vice-Chair: Eduardo Espinoza, Ecuador

Rapporteur: Yasmania Llerena, Ecuador and IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretariat

Opening Ceremony

1. The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. with opening words from the Vice-minister of the Ministry of the Environment, Ms. Monica Hidalgo, recognizing the importance of protecting sea turtles and their habitat through an international instrument that unites countries of the Americas. Ms. Hidalgo also mentioned what an excellent opportunity it is to hold the IAC Conference of the Parties in the Galapagos Islands and welcomed the delegations present, wishing them a successful meeting. Subsequently, the IAC *Pro Tempore* (PT) Secretary, Ms. Veronica Caceres Chamorro, expressed her gratitude to the Government of Ecuador for their generous hospitality and the support provided by Galapagos National Park staff. The opening ceremony ended with a presentation by the Director of the Galapagos National Park, Biologist Edwin Naula, talking about the Galapagos Islands and the activities carried out with sea turtles and other emblematic species of the Islands.
2. The COP6 was attended by delegations from ten countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the United States, Guatemala, Panama, Mexico and the Netherlands). Representatives from the following NGOs and institutions participated as observers: Humane Society International, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Network (WIDECASST), Charles Darwin Foundation and Stetson University. One inter-governmental organization, the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS), also attended the meeting.

Introductions of Focal Points and delegation members

3. Each member of the delegation and observers participating in the meeting introduced themselves ([Annex I: CIT-COP6-2013-Inf.1](#)). Each delegation expressed gratitude to the Government of Ecuador for their hospitality.

Election of COP6 Rapporteur and Adoption of the Agenda

4. The Chair presented the draft agenda and it was approved with two changes: the Legal Working Group discussion was moved to the afternoon and, at the request of the PT Secretary, a remembrance in memory of Jairo Mora, a young environmentalist who was killed while carrying out a nesting beach patrol in Costa Rica, was included in other business. Ms. Yasmania Llerena from Ecuador's delegation was appointed rapporteur and assisted by the PT Secretariat. A copy of the Agenda can be found in [Annex II: CIT-COP6-2013-Doc.1](#).

Presentation on Status of Eastern Pacific Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) Turtle

5. Dr. Laura Sarti presented the current status of the Eastern Pacific leatherback turtle. During her presentation, she provided data on the dramatic decline of this population on its main nesting beaches in Mexico and Central America, and presented recommendations for joint actions to help reverse this critical situation, highlighting the need to continue protecting nesting beaches and increase international collaboration to mitigate incidental capture at sea.
6. The Mexican delegate commented that the Resolution for leatherback conservation is a high priority at this time, but it does not seem to be enough, since efforts carried out on beaches are not sufficient to stop the population decline of this species. It is, therefore, important that we make every effort to mitigate incidental capture in fisheries. México assumes responsibility to increase efforts made in national waters to mitigate capture in longline fisheries at a local level. However, tremendous damage is happening in international waters and we must urge conventions operating in the Eastern Pacific to implement mitigation measures and establish an onboard observer system on longline fleets. He added that this must be addressed soon and data must be available. If we do not mitigate this incidental capture, the leatherback will go extinct and it is the responsibility of the IAC Party countries to prevent this from happening.
7. The delegate of the United States agreed with what Mexico expressed and pointed out that many different institutions would have to intervene. She recommended that the COP6 agree on specific actions and commit to working together on mitigating bycatch

and mentioned that the United States delegation is available to meet and talk with the IAC Parties present to identify these actions.

8. The delegate of Ecuador recommended using existing MOUs to influence the decision making process of other conventions to favor the recovery of this species. Furthermore, he recommended carrying out additional studies to look at further causes that might be affecting this species in addition to bycatch.
9. The delegate of Chile clarified that the IATTC only has observers in the purse seine fishery; they would need to have observers in longlines. He asked Dr. Sarti questions on when the leatherback reaches sexual maturity (20 years) and how to identify migration patterns (use metal tags and microchips). He also mentioned the need to develop some kind of system that would allow an observer to identify what species of turtles it is from a distance while onboard the boat. Chile has historical data available on bycatch since 1991.
10. The Chair reiterated that the COP6 must identify concrete actions to address the case of the leatherback. The plenary agreed to include these actions in the IAC work plan.

***Pro Tempore* Secretariat June 2011- June 2013 Report**

11. The IAC PT Secretary presented the Report of the 2011-2013 Activities of the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat. The following activities were accomplished as a part of the 2011-2012 Work Plan (CIT-COP5-2011-Doc.03): increasing IAC membership, highlighting that the Convention text was sent to the Congress of the Dominican Republic in October of 2012 and it is currently awaiting ratification procedures. Over the past two years, outreach efforts have been made to new countries such as Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica and France (French Guyana).
12. The PT Secretary mentioned that participation of the IAC in international forums has also increased, resulting in increased collaboration with inter-governmental organizations with which the IAC has MOUs such as the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Convention (IATTC). In regard to the latter, the PT Secretariat informed the plenary that the IAC presented the technical document "Conservation status and habitat use of sea turtles in the Eastern Pacific Ocean" at the 3rd Meeting of the IATTC Advisory Committee in May 2012. A new MOU was signed with the Ramsar Convention and a new MOU with the

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is being negotiated.

13. The PT Secretariat has been very successful at obtaining funds to support its activities. Most recently it was awarded a grant from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (MTCF) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in March of 2013 for a total of \$24,000.00 USD, most of which is earmarked for the Travel Fund to support delegate participation at the COP6 and meetings of its subsidiary bodies as well as cover the salary of the part time assistant of the PT Secretariat.
14. The PT Secretary proceeded by saying that the Scientific and Consultative committees have been very active, producing four technical documents that can be found online. "Conservation status and habitat use of sea turtles in the Eastern Pacific Ocean" (CIT-CC8-2011-Tec.1); the "Manual of Management Techniques for Sea Turtle Conservation at Nesting Beaches" (CIT-CC8-2011-Tec.2); "Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*): a Summary of Current Conservation Status, Challenges and Opportunities" (CIT-CCE5-2012-Tec.3); and the "Guidelines for Preparing Sea Turtle Action Plans for IAC Party Countries" (CIT-CCE5-2012-Tec.4).
15. The PT Secretary concluded by mentioning that over the past two years the PT Secretariat has organized five meetings (the COP and subsidiary bodies) and has supported various activities for the working groups that have been formed by the COP and/or its committees. The PT Secretariat has helped these groups fulfill their tasks by organizing conference calls, video conferences and e-mails. In this respect, it was concluded that the 6th meeting of the Consultative Committee was successfully held through the use of video conferencing. This was suggested at the COP5 in order to reduce meeting costs and its result was a very favorable experience that allowed greater participation of Party countries and a significant savings in terms of financial resources.
16. At the end of the presentation, the delegates congratulated the staff of the PT Secretariat for all of its hard work over the past two years; they have made noticeable progress by fulfilling the work plan and strengthening the Convention in the region.
17. The delegate of México mentioned that funds obtained through external donors should not be used to maintain the operation of the PT Secretariat, but rather for conservation projects. He then pointed out the importance of financial contributions by the Parties

and asked Parties to continue contributing so that the PT Secretariat may carry out its functions.

18. The delegate of Ecuador expressed the importance of creating synergies with other Conventions, establishing goals and activities that allow the IAC to inform the general public on information being generated by the Convention in the form of important documents (manuals).
19. The delegate of Brazil mentioned that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is assisting in the adhesion of new countries and have begun connecting with Guyana and Suriname, as well as inquired with Colombia, which stated that they have begun analyzing the IAC and are interested in becoming members. He referred to the MOU with ICCAT and mentioned that Brazil will continue to offer their support in promoting this MOU at the next ICCAT meeting. Brazil also offered to continue to help with Colombia and consider it to be a priority country for IAC to focus their membership efforts.
20. The Chair mentioned that we should exchange dialogue with fishing representatives from the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) in order to identify measures/activities within the framework of these MOUs.
21. The delegate of Argentina stated that, through the corresponding technical agencies, they are currently exploring what possibilities the Sanborombon Bay (Province of Buenos Aires) Ramsar site can offer in terms of sea turtle conservation.

Analysis of the use of sea turtles or their products, the exceptions submitted by Panama and Guatemala

22. The Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE), Mr. Paul Hoetjes, explained how each exception was analyzed, including two exhaustive reviews by the Scientific and Consultative Committees, respectively. Afterwards, he went over the recommendations for Guatemala in the draft resolution that was presented to the COP6 and opened the floor to comments and suggestions from the plenary.
23. The delegate of Guatemala explained that different governmental entities have reviewed the topic of exceptions and they are aware of the responsibilities Guatemala must adopt in the future. Guatemala has been monitoring their sea turtles for over 10 years and this year they are working on updating their national sea turtle strategy. They are aware and agree that the percentage of eggs donated to the hatchery should be increased to 20%, since this donation is currently at 12%, and will work on increasing the quota as well as increasing the number of personnel working in hatcheries. The delegate

requested that the timeframe for fulfilling with the activities requested in the draft resolution be extended.

24. The plenary discussed the use of the words sustainable and economic needs within the resolution in order to better explain them and clarify the resolution. The plenary heard and compiled alternative texts from the Netherlands, Argentina, Chile, the United States and México.
25. The delegate of the United States expressed that the actions carried out under the resolution will help us better understand the current state of the *L. olivacea* population in Guatemala and, as a result, the levels of harvest will be adjusted as more information becomes available on the population, which will eventually demonstrate what the sustainable level of harvesting would be.
26. The delegates of México, Brazil and the Netherlands made suggestions to the text that were included in the final resolution.
27. The delegate of Panama continued with a presentation on the exception they presented for the Isla Cañas Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is a protected area where the olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) sea turtle comes to nest on its beaches from June to December. The Island has a population of about 200 people. An area of the nesting beach has been designated as a “natural hatchery” where nests are protected *in situ*. In this 500 meter stretch of beach, it is prohibited to harvest any eggs laid by sea turtles. However, outside of this natural hatchery, eggs are harvested for consumption by the inhabitants. The problems they face are due to poaching of eggs on the beaches, in addition to unregulated tourism. A year ago some of the mangroves were deforested in order to access the Island, which caused a great impact on the area. Some agricultural products like sugar cane and watermelon are being produced within the wildlife refuge. He asked the COP to recommend that Isla Cañas be included as a priority area for sea turtle protection. Panama would like to gather further information in order to determine whether or not it is viable for the community to use sea turtle eggs.
28. The delegate of Ecuador asked if illegal activity like egg harvesting is being regulated. The delegate of Panama expressed that he is trying to work with Isla Cañas as a wildlife refuge where egg harvesting is prohibited.

29. The Chair recommended that a percentage of eggs to be harvested in the case of Panama be identified; just like in the case of Guatemala define a percentage of eggs/nests to be protected. The delegate of the Netherlands mentioned that it is important to establish the main sea turtle nesting protected area where the majority of the nesting occurs.
30. The delegate of Panama commented that there is no reliable long term data available on the number of sea turtle nests and, therefore, requested that the COP make a resolution that urges the Government of Panama to carry out this necessary research.
31. The delegate of Brazil recommended that the first thing Panama needs is to have a management plan that includes indicators to help them make decisions. The delegate of Ecuador indicated that the plan must include base line data in order to determine the nesting activities. The delegate of Panama responded that they are currently in the process of creating a management plan for Isla Cañas. The plenary agreed that the IAC Scientific Committee support this process and review the proposed management plan.
32. The delegate of Panama expressed his concern regarding how to manage the recommendations of the COP6 with the Environmental Authority of Panama, since no permits have been issued at this time by the Environmental Authority to harvest eggs at Isla Cañas. However, due to pressure from the Island's population, they could enter into a contract with the locals, which might go against the terms of the IAC resolution.
33. Modifications were made to the Resolution on the Exceptions for Guatemala and Panama and it was presented in plenary. The resolution was adopted ([Annex III: CIT-COP6-2013-R1](#)).
34. The observer from Humane Society International called attention to the fact that Costa Rica has not reported its exceptions to the IAC and they have not submitted their 2011 and 2012 annual reports either. It is recommended that they comply with this mandate of the Convention.

Presentation of the Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat

35. The Chair introduced the report from the IAC Legal Working Group (LWG) made up of Peru, México, the United States and Brazil. The objective of the LWG was to provide the COP with alternatives for establishing a Permanent Secretariat. She then explained the three options presented by the LWG in their report to the COP6 ([Annex IVa: CIT-COP6-2013-Doc.2](#)). Option 1: The Secretariat or the Convention is granted international legal

personality through a Complementary Protocol to the Convention; option 2: The Secretariat of the Convention is recognized as having domestic legal personality within the country hosting it, provided for in a headquarters agreement that would be approved by the COP; and option 3: maintain the status quo of the Secretariat without express legal personality. Comments were heard from the plenary and the Parties present were asked to mention what option they prefer and explain any analysis done in order to reach their conclusion.

36. The delegate of México congratulated the LWG for all of their hard work in trying to resolve the topic of legal personality and expressed that México is inclined to choose option 2. However, if we do not reach consensus they would prefer option 3 and maintain the current operating status.
37. The delegate of Brazil asked if any other countries would be able to negotiate a hosting agreement for the IAC Secretariat under option 2. The delegate of the Netherlands clarified that they still do not have an official answer from their government on the possibility of negotiating a hosting agreement, but he believes it is possible.
38. The delegate of Ecuador stated that option 2 is the most convenient option due to the limited amount of time we have to resolve this topic. He expressed that it is important for the development of the IAC to establish and settle its legal aspect. The delegate took this opportunity to formally present Ecuador's proposal supporting option 2 and offered to host the IAC Secretariat in Ecuador, specifically in the Galapagos.
39. The delegate of Argentina thanked the Government of Ecuador for their generous offer. He expressed that Argentina is open to consider any of the options presented; however, if option 2 is elected they suggest using the host agreement used by ACAP (Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels) as a model.
40. The delegate of Chile expressed that their Ministry of Foreign Affairs instructed him to choose option 1, however, in order to not disrupt consensus they would accept option 2 - a hosting agreement.
41. The delegate of Costa Rica expressed that they did not have the opportunity to consult their Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, therefore, cannot offer a consensual position at this time. However, the topic was discussed within MINAET and they are leaning towards option 2. The position for now would be option 3 until they have an answer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

42. The delegate of the United States stated their preference for option 2, the establishment of a hosting agreement.
43. The delegate of Panamá consulted with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and their preference is for option 2, however, for the time being they accept option 3 until the matter of legal personality is resolved.
44. The delegate of Guatemala stated that even though he does not have an answer from the ministry of foreign affairs, CONAP internally supports option 2. Since there is not answer from the Ministry he prefers option 3 for the time being.
45. The Chair asked those countries that are still waiting for a response from their Ministries of Foreign Affairs on what option they prefer, as in the case of Costa Rica and possibly Guatemala that they report back as soon as they have them.
46. The delegate of México pointed out that there are some countries that are not able to agree to this topic at this time and, according to article 5.5 of the Convention, a decision cannot be made without consensus. Therefore, he proposed allowing more time for those countries to properly consult and conclude their internal processes and that a final decision be made at the next meeting. In the meantime he proposed taking option 3, which is maintaining status quo of the PT Secretariat as the interim mechanism.
47. The Chair proceeded with the discussion on the hosting proposals received and asked that Ecuador present their proposal to the plenary.
48. The delegate of Ecuador proposed that the Secretariat be hosted in Galápagos, Ecuador, specifically within the offices of the Galapagos National Park. He said that this offer would include the backing of a legal framework that would legalize the creation of the Permanent Secretariat and its legal affairs. A team from the Secretary of Environment would work on the legal framework and regulations of the hosting agreement. This proposal was warmly accepted and appreciated by the delegates present. Ecuador agreed to present the table providing additional details on its hosting proposal in the format requested by the legal working group. This table was sent to the PT Secretariat during the COP6.

49. The delegate of the Netherlands explained that Bonaire's proposal offers 20,000 Euros per year for the operation of the office of the Secretariat and a hosting agreement. He highlighted that even though they would be delighted to host the Permanent Secretariat in Bonaire, they do not want the Netherlands proposal to interfere with the other options presented, rather it is something that can be perused if there are no other offers on the table. The delegate reminded the plenary that independent of what option we choose, we must continue with option 3 until a hosting agreement can be finalized. In addition, other factors like the amount of money needed to invest in establishing the host location must be taken into consideration.
50. The delegate of Guatemala commented that he has no presentation on the ARCAS proposal, but that it would be an honor for Guatemala to have the Permanent Secretariat. He clarified that Guatemala could not offer any additional technical or financial support than that presented by ARCAS. The ARCAS proposal (an NGO) does not have any affiliation with the government of Guatemala.
51. The observer from Stetson University (Tampa, Florida, USA) described the hosting proposal presented by the Stetson University College of Law, which is explained in detail in the documents that were circulated to the COP and in the LWG report.
52. The Chair suggested using annex 4 of the LWG report to move forward in this discussion and choose our preferences among the hosting proposals presented in order to shorten the list.
53. The delegate of Brazil does not agree with choosing preferences from annex 4 since we still need more information on the different proposals and that we should first define the location of the Secretariat in order to make further decisions. The delegate from the United States added that it is important to have more information from the government of Ecuador since they presented their proposal at this meeting. Furthermore, she mentioned that if option 2 is preferred to establish a permanent secretariat, its location could be chosen and this information taken back to capital.
54. The delegate of México reiterated that there are some countries present that are not prepared to make a decision on the topic of Permanent Secretariat right now and, therefore, status quo or option 3 is the only option that provides us with the time needed to decide what option to choose.

55. The delegate of Ecuador agreed to the idea of using ACAP as a model as suggested so that the LWG can prepare a hosting agreement and the COP6 can approve the draft resolution that would grant the PT Secretariat the power to prepare a hosting agreement in the country selected.
56. The delegates agreed to consult with those Parties that do not yet have a formal response as well as those that were not present at the meeting as to whether they prefer option 1 or option 2. They will be given 30 working days to consult with their Ministries of Foreign Affairs and send an answer to the PT Secretariat on what option they would agree to. The PT Secretariat was requested to send a note to the absent Parties stating that there is a general consensus to select option 2, but we would like each Party to voice their opinion and indicate which one they prefer.
57. The delegates agreed to maintain the status quo of the PT Secretariat and renew the mandate of the legal framework working group in order to prepare the hosting agreement to be approved at the COP7.
58. The Chair reminded the plenary that contract of the current PT Secretary must be reviewed. She informed the plenary that in her role as COP Chair she asked Focal Points to present candidates for the Secretary position. No candidates were received, thus indicating that the Parties are satisfied and happy with the work being done by our current Secretary.
59. The delegates in plenary agreed to continue working with the current PT Secretary and proceeded to renew her contract for an additional two years.
60. The plenary agreed to renew the mandate of the LWG and the details on the matter are included in the approved resolution ([Annex IV b: CIT-COP6-2013-R3](#))

Remembrance to Jairo Mora, Beach Monitor, Costa Rica

61. Dr. Karen Eckert, Executive Director of WIDECASST and accredited IAC observer read a biography on the life, work and unfortunate death of the young biologist Jairo Mora, who worked as a beach monitor on a sea turtle nesting beach along the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica. This young man was assassinated while patrolling the beach in May of 2013. The meeting observed a moment of silence in memory of this terrible loss that deeply impacted the conservationist community worldwide. The delegates extended their condolences to the delegate of Costa Rica and family members of the Jairo Mora.

62. The delegate of México stated that these sad events should not happen and feels it would be appropriate to make a statement expressing the sentiments of the COP6 to be considered and adopted by the meeting and include it as an annex to the minute. The Netherlands, Panama and Ecuador supported this proposal. Costa Rica thanked and accepted the concern and condolences expressed. A draft text was presented for consideration of the delegates present and was approved in plenary ([Annex V](#)).

Report from the Scientific Committee

63. Belinda Dick, representative of the PT Secretariat, proceeded with a presentation summarizing the work done by the Scientific Committee (SC) from 2011-2013, including the results of the four inter-sessional working groups (fisheries, climate change, hawksbill turtle and annual reports) as well as inter-sessional work done on creating a database for the internal use of the PT Secretariat with help from our Brazilian delegates. During this time the Committee has produced two technical documents that can be found on the IAC website (<http://www.iacseaturtle.org/documentos-eng.htm>): the “IAC manual of management techniques for sea turtle conservation at nesting beaches” and the document on the “Conservation status and habitat use of sea turtles in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.” They designed forms to collect data on sea turtle bycatch in gillnets and made technical recommendations on the exceptions presented by Panama and Guatemala to be presented at the COP6 at the request of the Consultative Committee. Information provided in the 2005-2012 annual reports on important nesting sites was analyzed and they recommended changes that could be made in the information requested by the IAC to better report on nesting. Detailed information on these activities can be found in the 8th and 9th SC meeting reports (http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/comite-cientifico/Informe_CC8-CIT_dec_12_ENG_Final.pdf) and (http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/comite-cientifico/9reunion/CIT-CC9-2012-Doc_7_Report_Final.pdf).

64. The delegate of the United States suggested that the SC assist in writing project proposals so that the PT Secretariat can look for funding to implement them. These can be, for example, projects to implement concrete actions for the leatherback resolution or to carry out pilot projects with data collection forms on sea turtle interactions with gillnets.

65. The PT Secretary added that the gillnet forms will be field tested in Peru and Chile in order to determine if any additional modifications must be made.

66. The delegate of Chile stated that they are testing the forms by including them as part of the national data that observers must collect in their fisheries. He believes countries could use these forms by incorporating their formats into the country's day to day operation. The Scientific Committee has designed these forms as a tool to be used by the IAC Party countries in any way possible in order to document incidental capture of sea turtles interacting with gillnets since there is little information available on this issue.
67. Following the presentation, the informative document CIT-COP6-2013-Inf.3 was presented and the importance of using index beaches to collect data on nesting beaches was explained. The Scientific Committee recommends to the COP that they use index beaches and real numbers to report nesting in the IAC annual reports. This will allow the Committee to analyze population trends.
68. The delegate of Ecuador expressed the need to maintain regional criteria and in terms of monitoring, not only index beaches should be monitored, but other sea turtle habitats like foraging grounds should be monitored as well. This will help determine population trends for different important habitats.
69. The plenary discussed the changes to the table on important nesting sites in the IAC annual report in order to incorporate the use of index beaches and report real numbers. It was agreed that the countries must have criteria for choosing and defending the index beaches they selected and they can use existing manuals to do this, for example manuals from WIDECAST and SWOT.
70. The delegate of México stated that the recommendations of the Scientific Committee are clear and come from experts with many years of experience on nesting beaches.
71. The plenary agreed to change the annual report in order to incorporate the use of index beaches and real numbers and agreed that each country would send their list of index beaches to their Scientific Committee delegates to be presented at the Committee's 10th meeting, which will be held this year.

Report from the Chair of the Consultative Committee

72. Mr. Paul Hoetjes, Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) presented the report on the 2011-2013 activities of the CCE, mentioning the progress made on the tasks assigned since the COP5, which can be found in detail in their respective reports. They have held two meetings, the CCE5 (http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/comite-consultivo/5reunion/CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc_8_REPORT_ENG_FINAL.pdf) and the CCE6

(http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/comite-consultivo/6reunion/CIT-CCE6-2013-Doc.03_Report_may_9_ENG.pdf). The CCE6 was the first videoconference, which successfully increased the number of Party countries in attendance. During these meetings the exceptions presented by Panamá and Guatemala were reviewed and they made recommendations to the COP6 based on the technical support of the Scientific Committee. The 2011 and 2012 IAC annual reports were reviewed and, as a result, they analyzed the level of compliance with IAC resolutions and implementation of the Convention, which will be presented during this meeting. An Eastern Pacific Leatherback Task Force was formed in order to identify concrete actions that will help conserve this critically endangered population. The group prepared an informative document with recommendations to the COP6. Lastly, the CCE prepared the document CITCIT-CCE5-2012-Tec.3: Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*): a Summary of Current Conservation Status, Challenges and Opportunities (http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/tecnicos/CIT-CCE5-2012-Tec.3_EPO_Leatherbacks_ENG_aug_15_Final.pdf) and in order to provide those Parties that do not yet have sea turtle management plans with a tool to help them do so, the CCE prepared the document Guidelines for Preparing Sea Turtle Action Plans for IAC Party Countries (http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/tecnicos/CIT-CCE5-2012-Tec.4_Guidelines_Action_Plan_ENG_Final.pdf) that was presented to the COP6. He concluded by saying that the technical documents are tools that the Committees provide to assist Parties in fulfilling their commitments to the IAC.

73. The plenary congratulated the hard work of the CCE and agreed that the videoconference was an effective way to save money and is also very effective for working groups, but it should not replace meeting in person, which permits a more in-depth discussion of agenda items. The delegate of the United States said that the State Department would be more than happy to facilitate these conferences whenever necessary. The PT Secretary recommended that the CCE could meet via videoconference in the same year that a COP is held in order to alleviate some of the work the PT Secretariat has to do in order to organize three meetings in the same year. Argentina agreed with this procedure.
74. The delegate of Ecuador suggested reminding the Parties to use the IAC Manual for Nesting Beaches and take into consideration the document on guidelines for preparing action plans for those countries that still do not have them.

75. The plenary agreed to recommend that the guidelines for action plans proposed by the CCE be used as the foundation for preparing (for those countries that do not yet have) and/or periodic review of existing national plans in IAC Party countries.

Work Plan 2013-2014 Secretariat *Pro Tempore* and Subsidiary Bodies

76. The PT Secretariat presented the 2013-2014 Work Plan for the consideration of the plenary. The plenary suggested that activities to strengthen collaboration with those entities with which we have MOUs as well as activities for the renewed legal working group and concrete actions to address the critical situation of the Eastern Pacific leatherback be included in the Work Plan. These actions were taken from the informative document CIT-COP6-2013-Inf. 4 [Annex VI](#).
77. The observer and representative of Stetson University, in his role as Chair of the Ramsar Advisory Committee, proposed joint activities to carry out under the MOU with Ramsar as well as collaborative activities to be carried out directly with Stetson University's college of environmental law, in particular the participation of the IAC in the Mock Trials competition that will be held at Stetson University and will focus on the topic of sea turtles and their habitats. He requested that the IAC participate as either a judge or advisor in this competition that will involve law students from Latin America, United States and other parts of the world. The delegates agreed to include these activities in the work plan and thanked the representative of Stetson for the opportunity to collaborate with them. In addition, they offered to host one of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the IAC.
78. The observer from WWF summarized the support offered to the IAC from his organization in regards to Colombia's ratification process and they hope to have funds made available from the Colombian government to carry out the necessary internal consultations with Colombia's indigenous communities in order to raise awareness on the IAC and continue with the adhesion process. He also reiterated the technical support offered by WWF on topics like climate change and conservation of the Eastern Pacific leatherback turtle, emphasizing the latter with the project proposal that they will help write, which is to be presented to the MTCF of the USFWS.
79. The delegate of the United States proposed forming a fundraising working group to search for funds for projects. The United States is the only member of this working group and it is included in the work plan.
80. The 2013-2014 work plan was adopted ([Annex VII: CIT-COP6-2013-Doc.3](#)).

Analysis of Party Countries Compliance with IAC Resolutions

81. Mr. Joao Thomé, CCE Vice-Chair, presented the document [CIT-COP6-2013-Inf.5 \(Annex VIII\)](#) that included the analysis done by the Consultative Committee on compliance with the IAC Resolutions based on the information reported by the Parties in their 2011 and 2012 annual reports. He clarified that the Leatherback and Hawksbill Resolutions apply to all IAC Party countries. Mr. Thomé stated that in order to perform this type of analysis on compliance it is imperative that the countries answer all questions in the annual report and none are left blank. It was noted that all countries periodically carry out activities to comply with the resolutions, however, the least compliance was found with the climate change resolution. He believes that notable progress has been made and more countries are participating since the IAC came into force 10 years ago, the number of action plans has increased and the interest in the region to conserve sea turtles has been strengthened due to cooperative actions carried out with other organizations with which we have signed MOUs. He called attention to the need to produce concrete actions under the leatherback resolution that address the needs in the Eastern Pacific and urges Parties to review this document in detail to better guide their activities in order to comply with the objectives of the IAC. He also noted that this is a dynamic document that will be updated for the next COP.
82. The plenary expressed their appreciation to the Committee for this report, especially for their attempt to organize all the information that has accumulated from yearly reports by the Parties.
83. The PT Secretariat presented the activities proposed by the delegates of the leatherback working group on how to comply with the leatherback resolution, focusing on the Eastern Pacific. The delegates in this group are: Earl Possardt, Francisco Ponce, Diego Amorocho and Laura Sarti. It was agreed that the PT Secretariat in collaboration with WWF and Chile will send a project proposal to the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund, entitled: *Emergency actions to mitigate leatherback turtle bycatch in coastal fisheries of Chile and Peru*. The objectives include: a) providing observers onboard artisanal fleets with training on best management practices on resuscitation and release of captured turtles, as well as training them on how to collect data in situ on direct and incidental capture of leatherbacks; and b) compiling existing historical and relevant data on bycatch in IAC and non-IAC countries.
84. It was agreed that WWF (Diego Amorocho) and CONANP (Laura Sarti) will prepare the first draft of the proposal and circulate it with Chile and Peru. México, Chile, WWF and

perhaps Peru - who must be consulted - will provide matching funds in the form of an in-kind donation for this proposal.

85. It was also agreed that the IAC Party countries would identify a Focal Point in each country within the government's fishing sector that will act as a liaison between the IAC and other national stakeholders to promote regional cooperation. The IAC Party countries will hold a meeting with environmental and fisheries institutions as well as other interested institutions to disseminate the results of the COP6 and the commitments the country has adopted to comply with this resolution.

86. The delegate of Ecuador stated that it is very important to incorporate fisheries into this matter and asked that once they begin preparing the documents that Ecuador be included so they can also work on this issue.

87. The delegates in plenary approved these activities and agreed that they be included in the IAC work plan.

Collaboration with International Organizations

Memorandum of Understanding between the IAC and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

88. The Chair presented the document Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles ([Annex IX: CIT-COP6-2013-Doc.4](#)).

89. The PT Secretariat explained that IAC focal points have already commented on this document and it has also been submitted to the Executive Director of ICCAT for their consideration along with the request what the internal procedures are for ICCAT in this case. The Executive Director of ICCAT indicated that since they have never signed an MOU with any other organization, this could be a very long process; however, in the meantime it is important that the two organizations continue collaborating at a technical level. The PT Secretary asked the Party countries for their help in coordinating with their ICCAT representatives to promote the review of this document.

90. The delegate of Brazil agreed to continue supporting this negotiation with its ICCAT representatives.

91. The MOU was approved in plenary and it was recommended that the PT Secretariat submit it to the Executive Director of ICCAT for their consideration requesting that it be

distributed among ICCAT members and included as an agenda item of their next meeting in 2013.

Collaborative Arrangement IAC-Sargasso Sea Alliance

92. Dr. Karen Eckert, Executive Director WIDECAST and IAC accredited observer, presented the Draft Collaborative Arrangement between the Secretariats of the IAC and Sargasso Sea Alliance (SSA). She talked about the importance of the Sargasso Sea as a developmental and feeding ground for hatchling and juvenile sea turtles. The floor was opened for comments from the plenary on this arrangement.
93. The United States, México, the Netherlands, Brazil and Ecuador commended this initiative and offered their support of this collaborative arrangement. Furthermore, it provides the IAC with the opportunity to do more outreach with the government of Bermuda. The delegate of Ecuador stated the need to have more details on the proposal and time to analyze it.
94. The delegate of Argentina expressed that in order to begin an internal formal analysis of this collaborative arrangement, they would need to have a formal note for the SSA Director requesting that the IAC formally review this agreement.
95. The Chair asked the delegates for their comments on the text recognizing that some delegates are not prepared to do so since the document was presented as an informative document and did not comply with the deadlines established within the IAC rules of procedure. The plenary proceeded with the first review of the text of the collaborative arrangement and made some change in its reference to United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The modified draft collaborative arrangement that was worked on during plenary can be found as [Annex X: CIT-COP6-2013-Inf.8](#).
96. It was agreed that the IAC PT Secretariat would request a formal note from the SSA Director and submit it with the draft document presented to the COP6 to the IAC Focal Points for further study and consideration. Once this happens we can begin negotiating the proposal received by SSA.
97. The PT Secretariat announced that it recently signed a new collaborative agreement with CITES to work on updating the status of the hawksbill turtle in the Wider Caribbean, which will include information on the Eastern Pacific population as well. In order to do this, a consultant will be hired with the funds provided by CITES.

98. The WIDECASST observer mentioned that they would like to explore the possibility of having an MOU with the IAC and asked that the PT Secretariat work with the WIDECASST Director on a first draft.
99. The plenary decided to explore the possibility of a cooperative agreement or MoU with the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP), since the same types of fishing gear impact both groups of species (birds and sea turtles). In addition, productive conversations were maintained with ACAP representatives throughout 2012 in order to unite efforts in mitigating bycatch measures for these species. This was included in the work plan.

Election of Sectorial Members for the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts

100. The Chair proceeded with the voting and election of new IAC sectorial members of the CCE that will last for a period of two years (until the next COP). The Chair reminded the plenary that the members are elected on a personal basis rather than for their organization or institution. The voting ballots were distributed to each delegation and resulted in the following votes: members elected to the Non-Governmental Sector: Diego Amorocho (World Wildlife Fund), Alejandro Fallabrino (Karumbé), Joanna Alfaro (ProDelphinus) and replacement Miguel Donoso (Pacífico Laúd); Scientific Community: Maria Angela Marcovaldi (Fundação Pró-TAMAR), Bryan Wallace (The Oceanic Society), Hedelvy J. Guada, (Centro de Investigación y Conservación de Tortugas Marinas), and Replacement Emma Harrison (Sea Turtle Conservancy); and Private and Productive Sector Fernando Medrano Freeman (Cámara Nacional de la Industria Pesquera y Acuícola – México), Les Hodgson (Marco Sales, USA) and Giovanni Monteiro (SINDIPI, Brazil). There is no replacement for the private and productive sector.

IAC 2013-2015 Budget and Finances

101. The PT Secretary presented the draft finances resolution with its proposed budget for 2013 and estimates for 2014 and 2015.
102. The delegate of the United States recommended including in the informative finance document an estimated amount of the in-kind donations when a Party country hosts a meeting.
103. The Chair of the COP mentioned to the plenary that the amount of contributions being received does not cover the entire budget required for the operation of the PT Secretariat and meetings, and recognized that the PT Secretariat has been fundraising to raise additional funds to cover its needs. She also reminded the delegates that the

amount shown in the resolution for salary is not the total amount received by the Secretary, but rather she receives only part of it, since the rest belongs to the contracting agency that is in charge of taking out expenses for medical insurance, retirement, visa and contractual fees.

104. The delegate of Chile announced an increase in its annual contribution and asked to have it changed in the contribution table to \$8,000.00 USD. This announcement was welcomed and applauded by the delegates.
105. The delegate of México agreed with the adjustment made to the Secretary's salary in order to reflect the cost of living increase. He also stated his concern for the elevated costs for the IAC's subsidiary bodies to meet and recommended modifying point 6 of the finance resolution so that sectorial members of the CCE can cover the cost of their participation at the meetings and thus make an important contribution to the IAC budget. He also expressed that governments could help support the cost of the participation of their Scientific Committee delegates.
106. The delegate of the United States asked for a breakdown of the expenses for a typical Scientific Committee meeting. The PT Secretary shared numbers for the most recent meeting held in Argentina for \$30,000.00 USD pointing out that the majority of the expense is buying plane tickets for the 15 IAC delegates.
107. The delegate of Brazil expressed concern in requesting sectorial members to cover their expenses, especially in regards to the small NGOs since we risk losing their attendance at the meetings. Likewise, Argentina pointed out that delegates of the Scientific Committee are not always governmental representatives. In practice this could mean that a Party would not be able to cover these costs. The Chair agreed with this concern and asked the NGOs present for their thoughts.
108. The observer from Humane Society International mentioned that they would continue to cover the costs of their participation at meetings and the delegate of WWF indicated that they have covered their costs in the past, but he would have to consult with WWF to see if they can continue to do so.
109. The delegate of México proposed a change to the text of the Finance Resolution to reflect these opinions approved by plenary. He requested that the PT Secretary consult with Focal Points and sectorial members regarding their ability to help cover some of the participation costs of their delegates at the meetings. However, he clarified that this should not become a limiting factor for the participation of smaller organizations.

110. The delegate of the Netherlands requested that the IAC send separate invoices to Curaçao and St Maarten in addition to the Caribbean Netherlands, since the contribution of the Netherlands is strictly on behalf of the Caribbean Netherlands, and Curaçao and St. Maarten are responsible for their own contributions. The contributions table was changed to reflect this.
111. The delegate of Ecuador requested that the COP6 report reflect the intention of Ecuador to make its financial contribution to the IAC, but since the PT Secretariat does not have legal personality it is not possible for Ecuador to do so until this issue is resolved.
112. The delegate of Guatemala requested that the COP6 state that Guatemala has been regularly making its contributions since 2009, but has experienced some problems over the past few years, however, it has every intention of continuing to make these contributions.
113. The delegate of Argentina expressed their willingness to pay \$2,000.00 USD as their annual contribution to the IAC in a note provided by the Secretary of Environment.
114. The delegate of Panamá mentioned that they accept their commitment and agree to do everything possible to make their annual contribution to the IAC.
115. The observer of Stetson University mentioned that in their hosting proposal they would act as the fiscal agent for the IAC at a cost of 8%, which is less than what the IAC is currently paying.
116. The delegate of the United States proposed a fundraising working group to help the PT Secretariat write proposals to search for contributions to the IAC. It was agreed that it would be included in the work plan.
117. The Resolution Finances 2013-2015 was approved ([Annex XI: CIT-COP6-2013-R2](#)).

Elect Chair /Vice-Chair and Location of the COP7

118. The meeting proceeded with the election of the COP7 Chair. Mr. Luis Fueyo, delegate of México, was elected as Chair and Mr. Paul Hoetjes, delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands, was elected as Vice-Chair. The delegates thanked the participants for their nominations and the plenary welcomed them to their new positions.
119. The PT Secretariat gave remarks in appreciation and recognition to Ms. Alexis Gutiérrez on behalf of the IAC Party countries for her excellent leadership and efforts over the

past four years as Chair of the COP. The plenary gave her a round of applause and many joined in thanking her for her dedication.

120. The delegate of México proposed México for the location of the COP7, the exact place will be decided on afterwards, but one possibility is to hold it in México DF or rather to hold it close to one of the many nesting sites.

Closing Remarks and Field Trip

121. The PT Secretariat expressed her gratitude to the Government of Ecuador for their hospitality, especially the personnel from the Galapagos National Park, the students of the Galapagos Gastronomy Institute for all of the wonderful first class lunches and the interpreters all of whom supported the IAC PT Secretariat and worked hard many months prior to and during the COP6. A special thanks to the COP6 Chair for her leadership and outstanding work to effectively accomplish all of the meeting's agenda items.

122. The day after the meeting concluded, the delegates took a field trip to North Seymour and Bachas Beach, a sea turtle nesting site, courtesy of the Galapagos National Park. This was a fantastic opportunity to get to know firsthand the natural beauty of the Galapagos Islands and create a stimulating environment that allowed meeting participants to build bonds and continue sharing interesting experiences. A final word of thanks to the Government of Ecuador for this unforgettable visit.

Annex I: CIT-COP6-2013-Inf.1. COP6 Participant List

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Annex II: CIT-COP6-2013-Doc.1. Agenda Sixth IAC Conference of the Parties (COP6IAC)

June 25th

Delegates Arrive and Registration

June 26th

1. Opening ceremony -*Magister Monica Hidalgo, Vice Minister of Environment*
Biol. Edwin Naula, Director of Galapagos National Park
2. Introductions of Focal Points and delegation members
3. Elect COP6 Rapporteur and Adoption of the Agenda
4. Presentation on Status of Eastern Pacific Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
5. *Pro Tempore* Secretariat 2011-2013 Report
6. Analysis of the use of sea turtles or their products, the exceptions submitted by Panama and Guatemala (Recommendations SC9 and CCE6)/CCE Chair
7. Presentation of the Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat IAC Legal Working Group
 - a.) Presentation of the Legal Working Group report
 - b.) Presentation of the IAC Secretariat Hosting Proposals
 - c.) Location of Secretariat
 - d.) Contract for Secretary/or the IAC
8. Other business
9. Remembrance and observance of a minute of silence in memory of Jairo Mora, Beach Monitor, Costa Rica
10. Welcome reception and cultural presentation courtesy of the Government of Ecuador

June 27th

11. Report from the Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC)
 - a.) Review of 2011-2013 Work
 - b.) Presentation of Work Plan for 2013-2014
 - c.) Presentation on use of index beaches to collect data on nesting beaches
12. Report from the Chair of the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE)
 - a.) Review of 2011-2013 Work
 - b.) Presentation of Work Plan for 2013-2014
13. Work Plan 2013-2014 Secretariat *Pro Tempore* and subsidiary bodies
14. Presentation IAC Parties compliance with Resolutions (Results from CCE analysis from IAC Parties annual reports)
15. Collaboration with International Organizations

- a.) Presentation and discussion of the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
- b.) Presentation of Draft Collaborative Arrangement between the Secretariats of IAC and Sargasso Sea Alliance

16. Other business

June 28th

17. Election of Sectorial Members for the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts
18. IAC 2013-2015 Finances (proposed budget and IAC Parties country contributions)
19. Resolutions
20. Review and finalize meeting documents
21. Other business
22. Select place and dates for the IAC COP7 in 2015
23. Elect next Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur
24. Closing remarks

June 29th

Field trip to North Seymour Island and Bachas Beach at Santa Cruz Island, the most important sea turtle nesting site, organized by the Galapagos National Park and courtesy of the Government of Ecuador.

Annex III: CIT-COP6-2013-R1. Resolution on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* Eggs in Guatemala and Panama

RESOLUTION ON EXCEPTIONS UNDER ARTICLE IV (3A AND B) FOR SUBSISTENCE HARVESTING OF LEPIDOCHELYS OLIVACEA EGGS IN GUATEMALA AND PANAMA

Recalling that Article IV of the Convention, paragraph 2a states that the Parties have prohibited the intentional capture, retention or killing of, and domestic trade in, sea turtles, their eggs, parts or products;

Further recalling that Article IV, paragraph 3a states that each Party may allow exceptions to satisfy economic subsistence needs of traditional communities, taking into account the recommendations of the Consultative Committee of Experts established pursuant to Article VII, provided that such exceptions do not undermine efforts to achieve the objective of this Convention;

Noting that at the fifth Conference of Parties that procedures for cases where exceptions exist was adopted (CIT-COP5-2011-R2);

Considering that *Lepidochelys olivacea* is classified as vulnerable, a status recently given to the species by the IUCN;

Acknowledging that all other species of sea turtles classified as “endangered,” must be protected from any negative impacts resulting from an exception;

Recognizing that *Lepidochelys olivacea* on the beaches of the Eastern Pacific (Mexico to Panama) is the only turtle species that can tolerate a carefully controlled amount of egg harvesting, and only when the population to be harvested has demonstrated a status of “recovery or verifiable stability;”

Considering that these exceptions existed prior to Panama and Guatemala joining the IAC, and that today they remain under the control of the different relevant governmental organizations;

Considering that the review of the technical information presented by the IAC Scientific Committee in their 9th meeting and Consultative Committee of Experts in their 5th meeting revealed insufficient data to determine the sustainability of use of turtle eggs in these countries.

PROTECTION MEASURES RECOMMENDED TO GUATEMALA AND PANAMA TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE IV (3) REGARDING EXCEPTIONS:

- 1) The COP recommends that Panama and Guatemala apply the precautionary approach by implementing the Protection Measures below, in accordance with the national laws

governing the exceptions, and to continue to consult with the IAC Committees while the countries gather the suggested technical information and implement actions in the recommendations below so that the exceptions meet the requirements of article IV (3) of the Convention.

- 2) The level of sea turtle eggs being harvested under an exception must be proven to be sustainable and therefore, monitoring protocols must be in place to assess the stability of the population in the long-term. These protocols must include nesting trends in order to support the sustainability of the harvesting proposed. The IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees can provide proper guidance on how to prepare or review a monitoring protocol, if requested by the Party.
- 3) Each country must continue to report on their exception in their annual reports as well as on the implementation of the measures described below. The Scientific and Consultative Committees will continue to review the progress of the implementation of this resolution and report to the Conference of Parties the progress of the implementation.
- 4) In addition to the recommendations below, specific to Guatemala and Panama, the CCE concurs with the guidance provided by the Scientific Committee to both countries contained in the Annex I.

On the exception presented by Guatemala:

- 1) Immediate Actions (1-2 Years)
 - a. The Government of Guatemala promotes appropriate legislation to ensure that the harvesting of olive ridley sea turtle eggs (*L. olivacea*) is sustainable in the long term and conforms to the text of the Convention.
 - b. In the interim, increasing the percentage of eggs that must be deposited in hatcheries to at least 30%, preferably 40%, until more detailed data on population size is available.
 - c. The Government of Guatemala must ensure that the harvesting of olive ridley (*L. olivacea*) eggs proposed in the exception does not impact other species, thus adopting appropriate legal measures and policies to avoid this.
- 2) Midterm Activities (1-5 Years): the government of Guatemala develops a management plan that contains, among other items, the following:
 - a. Using the best available information, identify the level of sustainable harvesting that does not negatively impact the exploited population, and that must be achieved in the medium term through a gradual reduction of the current level of harvesting.
 - b. With technical guidance from the IAC, establish a program for long term monitoring of the population that includes goals and indicators.
 - c. Considering that egg harvesting responds to an economic subsistence need of the coastal traditional communities, economic alternatives must be sought that address these subsistence needs in order to reduce the harvest to sustainable levels.
 - d. Gather additional technical information

- i. Data should be included on monthly nest activity, nest predation, and natural nest mortality and survivorship on the nesting beach.
- ii. Information on the organizations participating in and the resources allocated to the management of the exception.
- iii. Information should be provided on all hatcheries, with full descriptions of egg handling, nest density, and other hatchery procedures.
- iv. Additional information on the economic aspects of turtle egg harvesting in Guatemala is requested with a socio-economic study of the beneficiaries of the egg harvest and justification for traditional use.
- v. The effects of increased nearshore predation caused by hatchling release from hatcheries and ways to reduce this effect should be identified.
- vi. An evaluation of the impact of illegal trade on the exception presented is recommended.

On the exception presented by Panama:

1) Immediate Actions (1-2 Years)

- a. Increase the size of the “natural hatchery” stretch of beach and/or move it to encompass more of the nesting while ensuring that this protected area fulfills the standard technical requirements of a hatchery. Quantify and report in real numbers of total nesting, how many nests are being protected by this method.
- b. Increase and document the control and protection of nests in the designated hatchery zone of Cañas Island.
- c. Strengthen co-management of the harvest with the Cañas Island community, including training of participants.
- d. Promote protection efforts, non-consumptive use and operation of hatcheries in communities surrounding Cañas Island.
- e. Provide data on hatchlings that specifies whether they represent actual numbers of hatchlings released or estimated numbers of hatchlings from counting whole shells.

2) Midterm Activities (1-5 Years): the government of Panama together with the IAC develops a management plan for Cañas Island, including objectives and indicators.

Annex I

Additional guidance suggested for Guatemala and Panama

- Use published biological data on sea turtles to interpret abundance trends, thereby reducing the possibility that the changes in numbers observed nesting are being wrongly attributed to hatcheries.
- Consider the possibility that there might be mixing of animals with those from other nesting colonies in the Eastern Pacific and that increases in numbers of nesting turtles may result from conservation measures being implemented at other locations.

- Maintain the management of nests as close as possible to natural conditions.
- Handling of eggs must be avoided to the greatest extent possible. Time outside of the sand should be minimized, since prolonged exposure to elements outside of their natural incubation environment significantly reduces the embryos' chance of survival. Therefore, eggs must be buried within the shortest time possible and with the least amount of handling. Eggs received as donations or confiscated eggs that might be contaminated must be reported and managed outside of any hatcheries.
- Use existing technical manuals to manage the exception in order to implement the suggestions mentioned. A technical institution of the country requesting the exception should endorse these manuals. It is up to the Party country presenting the exception, if they wish that the IAC SC review their manual.
- Establish the control, registration and management of hatcheries, which must include a full survey and identification of all the nests collected.
- Develop and apply strict inspection, surveillance and control measures in order to ensure that all egg collectors comply with the required mandatory submission of eggs and try to get them to submit complete nests instead of only a fraction of them.
- Establish spatial or seasonal closures on exploited beaches to protect the rest of the turtle species from exploitation.
- Establish partnerships with other organizations, institutions and NGOs in order to guarantee sea turtle conservation and research.
- Implement training and education campaigns in order to better manage and reduce egg consumption.
- Propose alternative economic activities, including those that use sea turtles in a non-consumptive manner. Countries with exceptions should strive to present at least one model community where this is being done successfully and is technically appropriate.
- Designate or allocate sufficient human resources and funds to succeed in correctly managing the exception.

Annex IV:
A- CIT-COP6-2013-Doc.2 Working Group on the Legal Personality and Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)

Purpose and Background

In April 2009, the 4th Conference of the Parties (COP4) established a Working Group on the Legal Framework of the Convention and Permanent Secretariat (LWG) in Resolution CIT-COP4-2009-R2 (see Annex 1). The LWG's stated purpose was to analyze and present at COP5 alternatives to the Parties for the selection of the most appropriate framework for the operation of the IAC Permanent Secretariat, including an analysis of whether the Secretariat should be provided with legal personality. COP5 directed the LWG to consider relevant practical experiences from other environmental agreements.

At the 5th Conference of the Parties in June 2011, the COP4 LWG presented a draft Protocol to the Convention to the Parties for consideration. Consensus, however, was not reached and the Parties agreed to continue the LWG in Resolution CIT-COP5-2011-R3 "Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat". The Parties broadened the COP5 LWG mandate to include:

- a) Identify possible host international organizations and solicit formal hosting proposals from these international organizations as well as the Parties of the Convention including the terms and conditions of the location arrangements.
- b) Review and analyze the hosting proposals received and submit a report with recommendations to the Parties through the Pro Tempore Secretariat for the consideration of the COP6.
- c) Analysis of the alternatives for the operation of a Permanent Secretariat, including, in regards to its legal structure, an analysis of whether or not the Secretariat needs to be provided with legal personality.

The Secretariat consulted with the IAC Focal Points to identify Parties interested in participating in the LWG. The LWG participants include representatives from the following Parties: Brazil, México, Peru and the United States of America.

The LWG met eight times intersessionally between October 2011 and March 2013 via teleconference. In this document, the LWG reports to the Parties a summary of the research and analyses performed and alternatives/options discussed. In its deliberations, the LWG

considered previous discussions by the Parties as noted in COP Final Reports (see Annex 3) and the experiences of other organizations (see Annex 4).

This report includes the different options that have been suggested by the members of the LWG for the Secretariat, and presents those options to the Parties below for the Parties' consideration. Finally resolving these pending matters will allow the IAC to focus its time, energy and financial resources on matters relating to the purpose of this Convention -- the conservation and protection of sea turtles.

To provide more background information for this report, Annex 1 provides a summary of all discussions related to the establishment of a permanent secretariat found in the Minutes of the IAC Conference of the Parties (COP1-COP5).

LWG Results for Tasks Assigned

Locations for the IAC Secretariat

1. a) Solicitation of International Entities for Possible Hosting of IAC Secretariat

At the LWG's request, the Secretariat consulted with the following international organizations regarding the possible hosting of the IAC Secretariat. A summary and outcome of those discussions follows below.

- a. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) / United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- b. Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)

The two organizations mentioned above were consulted, obtaining the following results:

CMS/UNEP: The IAC Secretariat contacted the CMS Secretariat in Bonn, Germany in February 2012 to discuss the possible hosting of the IAC Secretariat at one of the UNEP locations possibly the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America in Panama. The CMS agreed to consider the proposition if the IAC would agree to place the Convention under the CMS umbrella as a CMS binding agreement. A condition of co-location of the IAC Secretariat in one of the UNEP offices is that the IAC Secretariat would need to be compensated according to the United Nations' pay scale. Discussions with CMS regarding the possible hosting of the IAC Secretariat did not continue further because the current level of IAC budget contributions is insufficient to fund a UN pay scale salary for the Secretariat staff. The UNEP office in Jamaica was contacted in previous years with the same result.

CPPS: At the Secretariat's request in February of 2012, the CPPS Executive Secretary presented to its Conference of Parties in August 2012 a proposal to offer to host the IAC Permanent

Secretariat and provide administrative guardianship. After discussion of the proposal, CPPS declined to offer to host the IAC Secretariat at this time. The CPPS Executive Secretary noted, however, that the CPPS Parties are willing to explore this possibility again in the future.

1.b) Solicitation of IAC Parties for Possible Hosting of IAC Secretariat

In December 2012, the Secretariat PT solicited IAC Focal Points for hosting proposals from Parties and/or other institutions. To facilitate Party consideration of hosting the Secretariat, the LWG developed a spreadsheet indicating items to be provided for Secretariat operation by the Convention and items that should be provided for Secretariat operation in the hosting arrangement. The following Parties and institutions presented hosting proposals (see Annex 2):

- a) Lima, Peru -- Government of Peru
- b) Washington, DC -- Government of the United States of America
- c) Bonaire -- Government of the Caribbean Netherlands
- d) Tampa, Florida, USA -- Stetson University College of Law
- e) Guatemala -- ARCAS-Non-Governmental Organization

2) Analysis of alternatives for the selection of the most appropriate framework for the operation of the IAC Permanent Secretariat, including an analysis of whether the Secretariat should be provided with legal personality

The LWG discussed various alternatives with the goal of identifying the most appropriate framework for the operation of the IAC Secretariat. In these discussions, the LWG considered whether the IAC Secretariat needed or should be provided with some type of legal personality, and if so, the mechanism by which such status might be conferred. The LWG reviewed examples existing in other agreements, particularly the Headquarters Agreement in the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) which provides the basis for Option 2 below. The LWG analyzed the different options with internal consultation with legal advisors and presents three alternative options to COP6 for consideration and selection.

Option 1: The Secretariat or the Convention is granted international legal personality through a Complementary Protocol to the Convention.

Explanation:

One legal Opinion states that:

Similar to many other international treaties and, in particular environmental ones, the IAC has a Conference of the Parties (COP) as its highest entity, which is supported by a Consultative

Committee and a Scientific Committee that have an intergovernmental nature. However, this treaty does not assign the IAC or any of its bodies, international legal personality, but rather empowers the Parties to consider the possibility of establishing a secretariat (article VI) or to assign these tasks to some existing international organization that is willing to assume them, whose means of financing would be determined by the Parties (article VI.2).

Recognizing the possibility of being in the presence of an international organization, in spite of the fact that its constituent texts do not expressly state it in this way and, according to that recognized by international practice and the jurisprudence of the Court of The Hague; the elements and criteria established by this Court were analyzed in order to determine if the IAC lacks international legal personality (*to review the abovementioned criteria check the Advisory Opinion of 11 April 1949 of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on "Reparation for Injuries Suffered in the Service of the United Nations"*).

The conclusions of this legal opinion were the following:

a) Intergovernmental Association: in most cases, an International Organization is comprised of States that share a similar need and similar interest in forming an organization to achieve a particular purpose.

It can also be the case that an International Organization constitutes and it is a part of another International Organization together with other States or merely with other International Organizations. In the case of the IAC, we do in fact find ourselves in an intergovernmental conformation. The IAC entered into force in the year 2001 and now has 15 Party States and one that is still in the process of ratifying.

b) Conventional Foundation: all International Organizations must establish themselves through a fundamental agreement that brings legal life to the organization and makes their operation a reality. The IAC treaty, for lack of another instrument, must establish this conventional foundation through the creation of an organization, however, the way it is now does not establish a fundamental agreement since it does not assume *per se* nor does it imply, the creation of an International Organization, but rather it is limited to establishing a framework that enables the countries to consider this topic in the future.

c) Permanent Organizational Structure: International Organizations have a series of bodies and human, financial and legal resources that are constant over time, essential elements to performing the acts and objectives outlined by their constitution. The IAC has a provisional and embryonic organizational structure made up of a Conference of the Parties (COP), a Pro Tempore Secretariat, a Consultative Committee and Scientific Committee, all of which are intergovernmental in nature with the exception of the secretariat. Add to all of this, the fact that it lacks a headquarters as well as an obligation to provide the organization with its own financial resources.

Note: The similarities between this structure and that what is normally assigned to international organizations (management, technical and advisory bodies), can cause some confusion. However, it is important to note that none of these bodies operate in coordinated fashion within a unique organizational structure, hierarchically organized, permanent, and stable and representation with regard to third parties. Although each body responds to the authority of the COP, they are relatively autonomous, with the pro-tempore secretariat providing only the task of logistical coordination.

d) Legal personality distinct from its members: an International Organization is a subject of international law and, therefore, has a distinct legal personality and legal capacity from its members so that it can act independently when carrying out its mandate. The IAC legislative text does not afford any international legal status to any of its bodies nor does it assign them any rights, obligations or their own objectives and de facto. It also does not allow it to have the ability to function autonomously within the international realm.

e) This confirms that a lack of international legal personality makes the IAC, at this time, an intergovernmental forum.

That said, with the adoption of Resolution COP1/2002/R-1 the first Conference of the Parties opted for a temporary solution, establishing a *pro tempore* secretariat and the two committees aforementioned. Due to the fact that the IAC, for a lack of international legal personality, is unable to receive funds in its own name, it was also found a temporary solution by establishing a scheme for voluntary quotas that are administered through an appropriate non-governmental organization; a situation that has continued to date.

However, this situation has led some of the Parties to ponder the Convention's legal status. With legal status, the secretariat would have the capacity to exercise more permanent functions with a greater scope in order to address the new challenges faced by the Convention and accomplish to the best of its ability its work plan.

Along these lines, the main obstacles to be addressed were identified: (i) the possibility and convenience of granting the IAC international legal personality; (ii) identify its headquarters; and, (iii) financial scheme. Although other issues were also identified, they were of less importance and can be addressed at a later date so they do not unnecessarily complicate the discussion.

In regard to the legal personality of the IAC the preceding results confirm that such status is currently nonexistent. The granting of legal personality could serve to **strengthen the IAC as an institution**. The practical advantage of this situation is that by granting all of its bodies a new dimension, the fear of creating an overly powerful secretariat and the disadvantage of focusing the discussion on the Secretariat is reduced.

Taking into consideration the practical needs to make the change, in a logical order one must first verify the convenience of making it permanent and consequently; establish its permanent headquarters and resources.

For this purpose, this framework could be encompassed in the form of a Complementary Protocol that includes all of the essential elements highlighted below. This would become a draft project, which would be later sent to the COP for its consideration. The following is a list of minimum items to be included:

(i) Granting the IAC international legal personality.

(ii) Establishment of a permanent secretariat (that does not have to be executive if the proposal does not advise it), designating its secretary as a legal representative of the entity and giving it the power to sign contracts and lay down the obligation of Party contributions. For the purpose of certainty and transparency it is advisable to consider the possibility of adding a non-exhaustive list of functions to be performed by this Secretariat, with the obligation of developing them in further detail within the institution's statutes and/or regulations. If some type of late fee for paying contributions is to be included, it is recommended that it is also included in the Protocol.

(iii) The secretariat will have its main headquarters in one of the member countries since its exact location and specific regulations applicable will be included in the bilateral hosting agreement which would be signed at the time.

(iv) The general provision on privileges and immunities, although this topic is not essential to develop here, it can be an object of the hosting agreement, is always important to discuss since it is the way in which the legal personality granted will be expressed and exercised.

(v) Include the clauses relative to entering into force, amendment, and denunciation of the Protocol.

It is up to the Parties if they wish to include in the proposal, the possibility of establishing the legal structure of the IAC.

Annex 3 includes a draft of the complementary protocol for the consideration of the COP. It must be taken into consideration that each country must ratify the proposed protocol according to its respective domestic procedures and legislation, which in some cases may only require an Executive Agreement instead of the Legislative approval.

Option 2: The Secretariat of the Convention is recognized as having domestic legal personality within the country hosting it, provided for in a headquarters agreement that would be approved by the COP.

Explanation:

One legal Opinion states that:

The Parties can agree that the Secretariat should be granted domestic legal personality under the laws of the country hosting the Secretariat (rather than international legal personality) pursuant to a Headquarters Agreement signed by the host country government. The Headquarters Agreement can also specify parameters or limitations on the scope of the Secretariat's legal personality. This framework could be approved by the Parties in a resolution at COP6.

The Headquarters Agreement, to be drafted if this framework is selected by the Parties, could include the following, inter alia:

(i) Legal Capacity: The Secretariat has such legal personality and such legal capacities as necessary to perform its functions in the territory of (insert country). It has, in particular, the capacity to contract, to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property, and to institute and be a party to domestic legal proceedings. The Secretariat may exercise its legal capacity only to the extent authorized by the COP.

(ii) Establish the location of the Secretariat: mentioning the country and city

(iii) Potentially include privileges and immunities, according to the legislation of the host country

The COP must subsequently approve the Agreement reached with the host country.

Providing legal personality to the Secretariat pursuant to a Headquarters Agreement accomplishes the objective of providing the Secretariat with the legal capacity to contract and to acquire, own and dispose of property as authorized by the COP (as opposed to the current framework where these actions are performed by a the host Foundation]).

Annex 4 in accordance with option 2, includes a draft "Resolution for the Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat" for consideration by the COP.

Option 3 (Status quo of the Secretariat): The LWG presents a third option to the Parties of maintaining the status quo of a Secretariat without express legal personality. Option 3 is the default option if consensus cannot be reached on Option 1 or Option 2. The Parties can also decide to choose Option 3 instead of choosing Options 1 or 2.

Explanation: Under Option 3, the Secretariat would continue operating in the same way that it currently operates and has operated for the last approximate ten years, that is, with assistance from a foundation to carry out those duties requiring legal personality (signing contracts, etc.). Through a Memorandum of Understanding, the IAC Special Fund would continue to be

administered by a Foundation that receives contributions from the IAC Party countries and acts as its fiscal agent and provides the Secretariat with the capacity to perform its functions.

Implications of the three options

The Secretariat consulted with the Parties and organizations that submitted proposals and provides the following additional information for consideration as the Parties review the alternative frameworks provided to the Parties for consideration and selection.

Option 1: Having consulted the IAC Parties and organizations that submitted proposals to host the IAC, in all cases except the Caribbean Netherlands, whose final answer is to be confirmed, it is required that, in order to conclude a headquarters agreement with the respective establishment of privileges and immunities, the agreement is celebrated with an international organization. Therefore, choosing not to provide international legal personality, means having to decline almost all the proposals for hosting the IAC so far received.

Option 2: Caribbean Netherlands/Bonaire whose final answer is to be confirmed could possibly sign a Headquarters Agreement. The Secretariat is waiting to receive more information in this regard.

Option 3: The USA proposes to continue hosting the Secretariat under same terms and conditions as currently agreed [until another option is agreed by parties]. The Parties could also select any of the hosting proposals that do not require legal personality to be provided for.

The United States has donated \$25,000 to an IAC Special Fund specifically earmarked to cover expenses associated of moving the Secretariat office files, etc. and to pay for expenses associated with on-the-job training by the current Secretariat.

Request to the 6th Conference of the IAC Parties:

The Legal Working Group asks each Party to consult with their legal advisors, review these options, outline if they can or cannot agree to each option, and to send their comments /opinions to the IAC Secretary PT no later than April 16th 2013. The Legal Working Group requests this information in advance of COP6 so that the Parties are able to fully discuss the issues raised in this Report and take final decision on these matters at COP6.

Annex 1

Background: Summary of the COP1-COP5 Minutes on the topic regarding IAC Permanent Secretariat

This information was taken from COP Minutes about the Permanent Secretariat Topic.

IAC Section VI (1) provides that the Parties shall consider the establishment of a Secretariat at its first meeting. IAC Section VI (2) further provides that, when making the decision to establish the Secretariat, the Parties shall consider the possibility of appointing the Secretariat from among competent international organizations and, at the same time, determine the means of financing necessary to carry out Secretariat functions.

Costa Rica generously hosted the Secretariat Pro Tempore from 2001 until 2009, and during that time they made two offers to host the Permanent Secretariat.

- COP1 in August 2002: The Parties decided it was not possible at that time to take a decision regarding a permanent Secretariat, and instead agreed to establish a Pro Tempore Secretariat.
- COP2 in November 2004: The Parties declined to establish a permanent Secretariat at that time, and instead formed a Working Group to draft Secretariat Terms of Reference for discussion and approval at COP3. The Parties agreed to extend the term of the Pro Tempore Secretariat.
- COP3 in September 2006: The Parties declined to consider the resolution presented regarding consideration of a permanent Secretariat because it did not comply with the timeframe in the Rules of Procedure for presenting resolution and agreed to reintroduce the topic at COP4, established another Working Group on Secretariat Terms of Reference, and agreed to extend the term of the Pro Tempore Secretariat. The Parties also agreed to hold the First Extraordinary Meeting to discuss financial aspects and defining a permanent Secretariat. At this meeting Peru presented protocol to address the legal personality issues.
- COP1E in October 2007: The Parties approved CIT-COPE1-2007-R1 “Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat,” which includes Secretariat Terms of Reference on functions (Annex 1) and Procedure for Selecting the Secretariat (Annex 2). The Resolution did not decide the Secretariat’s structure or legal status, but rather provided that the Parties consider analyzing the adoption of a framework for the Secretariat that provides the Secretariat with international legal status. At this time Peru and Costa Rica noted they will be unable to commit to paying mandatory contributions until the legal framework establishing a Permanent Secretariat exists. Peru renewed their proposal to amend the Convention in order to provide the legal framework for establishing a permanent Secretariat, and the Parties agreed to include this as an agenda item at COP4.
- COP4 in April 2009: The Parties did not decide the issue of the Secretariat’s framework and legal status and approved Resolution CIT-COP4-2009-R2 to create the “Working Group on the Legal Framework of the Convention and Permanent Secretariat”. The Working Group is to

analyze different alternatives for the establishment of the Secretariat to find the most appropriate methods to confront the aspects relating to the operation of a permanent Secretariat, including the Secretariat's legal status, contracting personnel and Party contributions. The Parties agreed to extend the term of the Pro Tempore Secretariat. Peru proposed for second time an additional protocol to the IAC to deal with legal personality issues that defines the Secretariat's legal framework and provides for mandatory contributions. Peru offered that it is not possible to create a hosting agreement because the IAC does not sufficiently define its legal framework. Ecuador noted the importance of reconsidering the issue of legal status since by resolving the issue of the Secretariat's legal status, so that Parties would be able to make contributions.

- COP5 in May 2011: The working group created at COP4 meet during intercessional period before COP5 and analyzed the protocol presented by Peru at COP4 as well as other mechanisms used in international agreements to establish a Permanent Secretariat and the legal personality. As a result at COP5 the United States presented a Resolution proposing an amendment to the IAC Convention to include an Annex providing the Secretariat with legal personality. The Parties did not approve the proposed Annex to the IAC to establish and provide legal status for a permanent Secretariat. Several parties indicated that they are unable to approve because they did not have sufficient time to make the necessary consultations prior to the commencement of the meeting. Several parties also remarked that an amendment to the IAC would be very time-consuming and should be considered the last option. The Parties asked/made specific questions/comments in relation to the necessity to have legal personality to complete basic functions, if this should be domestic or international, explore domestic personality through headquarter agreement, explore granting legal personality for the Secretariat through a resolution. The Parties agreed to extend the term of the Pro Tempore Secretariat and approved Resolution CIT-COP5-2011-R3 entitled "Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat," that renewed the mandate of the working group as described at the beginning of this document.

Annex 2

Hosting Proposals for IAC Secretariat

- a. Proposal from Government of Peru
- b. Proposal from Government of the Caribbean Netherlands
- c. Proposal from Government of the United States of America
- d. Proposal from Stetson University College of Law
- e. Proposal from ARCAS-Non-Governmental Organization-Guatemala

Each proposal has a table below. You can find additional document for proposal from Stetson University and ARCAS on the IAC web site.

a. Proposal presented by Peru

Proposal Submitted by (Country or/entity): Peru

Date: 08-02-2013

IAC Party or Entity	Time frame for Hosting agreement	IAC Secretariat Physical Location	Legal requirements for hosting	Logistics and services for the Operation of IAC Secretariat provided by the Host Country (Please check yes/no)			Administration of IAC Special Fund	Additional Financial Contribution for the Operation of the Secretariat provided
				Item	Yes	No		
Perú	Indefinite	Lima	Subscription of hosting agreement	2 office spaces (2 people) includes rent, electricity and water	X		1) Name of entity administering IAC Special Fund. _____ 2) % Administrative Fee (Overhead)._ 3) Administrative services included (attach draft agreement). Other activities list here.	
				Office furniture for 2 offices (desks, chairs, filing cabinets, access to conference room)	X			
				Registration of IAC Secretariat staff in Foreign Relations Ministry Cancillería	X			
			Registration of the power of attorney of the legal representative to the effect to perform contract with vendors, banking procedures, and other of internal nature.	Repair/maintenance of office equipment	X			
				IT Support/Access to networks	X			
				High speed internet for 2 computers	X			
				Costs for local phone calls				
				Costs for International calls and conference calling		X		
				Office supplies (paper, pens, ink cartridges)	X			
				Provide contract for IAC Secretary that should include: medical insurance, benefits and describe the mechanism for the contract	X			
			Other internal registration	Provide work visa for the IAC Secretariat staff (if necessary)	X			
				Administer IAC Special Fund		X		
				Describe any other logistics/services the host country will provide here. (Example: provide temporal internships)				

b. Proposal presented by Caribbean Netherlands

Proposal Submitted by (Country or/entity): Caribbean Netherlands

Date: Feb. 15, 2013

IAC Party or Entity	Time frame for Hosting agreement	IAC Secretariat Physical Location	Legal requirements for hosting	Logistics and services for the Operation of IAC Secretariat provided by the Host Country (Please check yes/no)			Administration of IAC Special Fund	Additional Financial Contribution for the Operation of the Secretariat provided	
				Item	Yes	No			
The Netherlands	Indef.	Bonaire	establishment of Foundation according to local Dutch law (done by a notary and requires a minimum of two board members and 'starting capital' of \$100)	2 office spaces (includes rent, electricity, water)	Y		4) Name of entity administering IAC Special Fund. _____		
				Office furniture for 2 offices (desks, chairs, filing cabinets, access to conference room)	Y				5) % Administrative Fee (Overhead). _
				Office equipment (photocopier, printer, scanner desktop computer, telephone)	Y				
				Repair/maintenance of office equipment	Y		6) Administrative services included (attach draft agreement).		
				IT Support/Access to networks		N			
				High speed internet	Y		Other activities list here.		
				Costs for local phone calls	Y				
				Costs for International calls and conference calling		N			
				Office supplies		N			
				Provide contract for IAC Secretary that should include: medical insurance, benefits and describe the mechanism for the contract	Via Foundation				
				Provide work visa for the IAC Secretariat staff (if necessary)	Via Foundation				
				Administer IAC Special Fund	tbd				

				Describe any other logistics/services the host country will provide here.(Example: provide temporal internships)		
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c. Proposal presented by The United States (Option 3)

Proposal Submitted by (Country or/entity): United States of America

Date: 15-Feb-2013

IAC Party or Entity	Time frame for Hosting agreement	IAC Secretariat Physical Location	Legal requirements for hosting	Logistics and services for the Operation of IAC Secretariat provided by the Host Country (Please check yes/no)			Administration of IAC Special Fund	Additional Financial Contribution for the Operation of the Secretariat provided
				Item	Yes	No		
United States of America	Continuation of the Secretariat Pro Tempore while the legal personality issues are resolved	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters , Arlington, Virginia	None	2 office spaces (includes rent, electricity, water)	Y		7) Name of entity administering IAC Special Fund. National Marine Sanctuary Foundation 8) % Administrative Fee (Overhead). ___10 %__ 9) Administrative services included (attach draft agreement). CONTINUE EXISTING ARRANGEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL MARINE SANCUTARY	The United States will continue to make every effort to contribute its voluntary contribution and additional resources to ensure the success of the IAC Secretariat and the Convention as a whole.
				Office furniture for 2 offices (desks, chairs, filing cabinets, access to conference room)	Y			
				Office equipment (photocopier, printer, scanner desktop computer, telephone)	Y			
				Repair/maintenance of office equipment	Y			
				IT Support/Access to networks	Y			
				High speed internet	Y			

						FOUNDATION	
				Costs for local phone calls	Y		Other activities list here.
				Costs for International calls and conference calling	Y		
				Office supplies	Y		
				Provide contract for IAC Secretary that should include: medical insurance, benefits and describe the mechanism for the contract		N The United States cannot provide this directly but we will facilitate a working arrangement with a National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and Ocean's Associates to continue the current agreement.	
				Provide work visa for the IAC Secretariat staff (if necessary)		N The Secretariat Pro Tempore's work visa just extended last year.	
				Administer IAC Special Fund		N See above	
				Describe any other logistics/services the host country will provide here.(Example: provide temporal internships) <i>The United States will facilitate agreements between local universities and the IAC Secretariat for interns and fellows.</i>			

d. Proposal presented by Stetson University College of Law

Proposal Submitted by (Country or/entity): Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, Florida, USA Date: 30 January 2013

IAC Party or Entity	Time frame for Hosting agreement	IAC Secretariat Physical Location	Legal requirements for hosting	Logistics and services for the Operation of IAC Secretariat provided by the Host Country (Please check yes/no)			Administration of IAC Special Fund	Additional Financial Contribution for the Operation of the Secretariat provided
				Item	Yes	No		
Stetson University College of Law	2013-2016, with extension by mutual agreement	Stetson University College of Law, 1401 61 st Street South, Gulfport, Florida, USA	MOU with Chairperson of the COP on behalf of the COP	2 office spaces (includes rent, electricity, water)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		10) Name of entity administering IAC Special Fund: Stetson University College of Law Business Office 11) % Administrative Fee (Overhead): 8% 12) Administrative services included (attach draft agreement): Yes* . *See MOU in IAC web site	We are engaged in an ongoing dialogue with local stakeholders to increase the level of support we can provide. For example, we may be able to offer a furnished house to the Secretary within walking distance to campus (if desired) and provide some support to defray expenses associated with meetings and training sessions. We can report on the precise level of any additional support prior to COP6.
				Office furniture for 2 offices (desks, chairs, filing cabinets, access to conference room)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
				Office equipment (photocopier, printer, scanner desktop computer, telephone)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
				Repair/maintenance of office equipment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
				IT Support/Access to networks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
				High speed internet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
				Costs for local phone calls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
				Costs for International calls and conference calling (*up to \$1,000 per year; Skype is also available)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	*		
				Office supplies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
				Provide contract for IAC Secretary that should include: medical insurance, benefits and describe the mechanism for the contract (*through Ocean Associates)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	*		
Provide work visa for the IAC Secretariat staff (if necessary) (*through Ocean Associates)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	*						
Administer IAC Special Fund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Other activities list here. *Stetson can incorporate the IAC's work into the Biodiversity Institute's ongoing activities. For example, the International Wildlife Law Conference can regularly include special sessions on sea turtles and the International Environmental Moot Court Competition (which					

			<p>Describe any other logistics/services the host country will provide here. (Example: provide temporal internships)</p> <p>*Stetson can provide student research and administrative assistance through Biodiversity Fellows, student interns, and/or student volunteers.</p> <p>*Conference and meeting rooms are available to be reserved for IAC meetings and events.</p> <p>*Stetson's Office of International Programs has experience with facilitating visa applications for entry to the United States for visiting international researchers, professors, and students. We could assist the IAC in this regard for any meetings held in the United States.</p>	<p>involves students from all over the world) could be focused on sea turtle issues one year. The Secretary and IAC visitors would be invited to guest lecture in classes such as International Environmental Law or Ocean and Coastal Law and Policy. We can also make use of our Foreman Biodiversity Lecture Series to highlight regional sea turtle conservation efforts.</p>	
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e. Proposal presented by ARCAS

Proposal Submitted by (Country or/entity): ARCAS-Guatemala Date: 28 January, 2013

IAC Party or Entity	Time frame for Hosting agreement	IAC Secretariat Physical Location	Legal requirements for hosting	Logistics and services for the Operation of IAC Secretariat provided by the Host Country (Please check yes/no)			Administration of IAC Special Fund	Additional Financial Contribution for the Operation of the Secretariat provided
				Item	Yes	No		
ARCAS-CONAP Asociación Rescate y Conservación de Vida	Indefinite	Km. 30 Calle Hillary Lote 6 Casa Villa Conchita, San Lucas Sacatepequez, Guatemala	MOU	2 office spaces (includes rent, electricity, water)	X		13) Name of entity administering IAC Special Fund. <u>ARCAS</u>	
				Office furniture for 2 offices (desks, chairs, filing cabinets, access to conference room)	X			
				Office equipment (photocopier, printer, scanner desktop computer,	X			

Silvestre/Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Association		<p>Telephone: (502)7830-1374 (Phone/Fax), 7830-4273, 5704-2563 (Column cell)</p> <p>E-mail: arcasguatemala@gmail.com, arcasvolunteers@gmail.com</p> <p>Página web: http://www.arcasguatemala.com/</p>	telephone)			(Overhead). <u>10%</u> —	<p>15) Administrative services included (attach draft agreement). Attached</p> <p>Other activities list here.</p>
			Repair/maintenance of office equipment	X			
			IT Support/Access to networks	X			
			High speed internet	X			
			Costs for local phone calls	X			
			Costs for International calls and conference calling		X		
			Office supplies	X			
			Provide contract for IAC Secretary that should include: medical insurance, benefits and describe the mechanism for the contract	X			
			Provide work visa for the IAC Secretariat staff (if necessary)	X			
			Administer IAC Special Fund	X			
Describe any other logistics/services the host country will provide here. Provide interns and volunteers from ARCAS's volunteer program, accounting services of W. Garcia Asociados, use of ARCAS vehicles, meeting space at Parque Hawaii							

Annex 3

Draft Complementary Protocol (Option 1)

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION – ORIGINAL DOCUMENT IN SPANISH

“The Parties,

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

Considering that in Resolution COP1/2002/R-1, the First Conference of the Parties opted for a temporary solution, creating an ad-hoc Secretariat, without granting the IAC legal personality that would allow it to work in a more permanent nature and support the accomplishment of its work plan;

That for the operational reasons expounded, it suits the IAC secretariat to be granted a permanent nature taking into consideration the terms of reference that were established by COP 3, as well as to provide the IAC with the necessary guarantees so that it has the independence needed to develop its objective;

That the mentioned temporary situation, also contemplated the establishment of a voluntary contribution system that is managed through a non-governmental organization, a situation that impedes certain Parties from contributing to the operation of the IAC and prevents the IAC from administrating them directly, which needs to be corrected;

Have agreed to adopt the following,

Complementary Protocol to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles.

Article 1.- The Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) will obtain international legal personality with the capacity to perform the acts and contracts necessary to achieve its mandate.

For this purpose, it will have the privileges and immunities within the territory of the Parties needed to achieve its mandate, agreeing to assign their staff immunity from jurisdiction and inviolability for official acts carried out to achieve its functions, the privileges contemplated or granted in national legislations and the ability to enter, exit and stay within the respective territories of the Parties.

The Hosting Agreement will provide the details on the applicable privileges and immunities.

Article 2.- Replace the Pro Tempore Secretariat established by the decision of COP 1 with a Permanent Secretariat headed by an Executive Secretary who will act as the legal representative of the IAC. The offices of this Secretariat will be established within the territory of the Party with which the Hosting Agreement is subscribed.

The functions and attributions of the Secretary, the process for nomination and removal, as well as the functions of the Secretariat and all other conditions for its operation, will be developed in the by-laws of the Secretariat, which must be approved by the COP through the qualified majority of its members.

Article 3.- The IAC will finance its activities based on the contributions and support received from the Parties in accordance with the procedures and conditions that will be established by the COP in the regulations for its operation, which will be approved by the qualified majority of its members. The Parties may include other means of financing and ways to manage the resources in these regulations.

Final Provisions

1. The present protocol does not allow for reservations.
2. The protocol will enter into force on the date in which all of the instruments of ratification have been deposited with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and it will be effective as long as the Inter-American Convention continues effective. The denouncement of the later will imply the denouncement of the present Protocol.

Transitory Provisions

1. The Pro Tempore Secretariat will continue working up until the Permanent Secretariat established by the present Protocol becomes operational. The COP will select the permanent executive secretary within the first seventy days after the present Protocol enters into force.
2. The Pro Tempore Secretariat will be in charge of preparing drafts of the statutes and regulations for the operation referred to in the present Protocol, with assistance from the Consultative Committee, for consideration of the COP within the timeframe indicated in the preceding paragraph.

Made in”.

Annex 4

Resolution Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat (Option 2)

Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat

CONSIDERING that Article VI of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) contemplates the establishment and functions of a Secretariat by the Parties;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that at the First Conference of the Parties, through Resolution CIT-COP1-2002-R1, a *Pro Tempore* Secretariat was established for a period of two years, which has been extended at every successive Conference of Parties and continues to function;

RECOGNIZING the need to have a permanent administrative body that has the necessary resources to carry out the functions as established in Article VI of the Convention;

TAKING ALSO INTO ACCOUNT the terms of reference for the IAC Permanent Secretariat approved at the First Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties, through the Resolution CIT-COPE1-2007-R1;

RECALLING the Resolution CIT-COP4-2009-R2, which established a Working Group on the Legal Framework of the Convention and Permanent Secretariat to evaluate the most appropriate means to establish the Permanent Secretariat and to present to the Parties the possible alternatives;

FURTHER RECALLING the exchange of different viewpoints that occurred during the COP5IAC and Resolution CIT-COP5-2011-R3 in which the Parties renewed and revised the mandate of the Working Group on the Legal Framework of the Convention and Permanent Secretariat to include the tasks of identifying potential hosting options for establishment of the Permanent Secretariat.

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that the Parties agreed by consensus that the Permanent Secretariat should have a legal identity in the Secretariat host country

THANKING Costa Rica and the United States for successively hosting the Pro Tempore Secretariat since the signing of the Convention;

and

NOTING that [state name] offered to host the Permanent Secretariat and that the Parties agreed by consensus to take the actions necessary to establish a Permanent Secretariat;

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

RESOLVE:

1. To establish a Permanent Secretariat in [name location];

2. To request the Pro Tempore Secretariat, working with [name host], to negotiate a headquarters arrangement [with xxx], which will be subject to review and approval by all the Parties prior to its conclusion;
3. To request that the United States of America continue hosting the Pro Tempore Secretariat arrangements until the headquarters arrangement is implemented.

B- CIT-COP6-2013-R.3. Resolution Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat

CONSIDERING that Article VI of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) contemplates the establishment and functions of a Secretariat by the Parties;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that at the First Conference of the Parties, through Resolution CIT-COP1-2002-R1, a *Pro Tempore* Secretariat was established for a period of two years, which has been extended at every successive Conference of Parties and continues to function;

RECOGNIZING the need to have a permanent administrative body that has the necessary resources to carry out the functions as established in Article VI of the Convention;

TAKING ALSO INTO ACCOUNT the terms of reference for the IAC Permanent Secretariat approved at the First Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties, through the Resolution CIT-COPE1-2007-R1;

RECALLING that Resolution CIT-COP4-2009-R2 established a Working Group on the Legal Framework of the Convention and Permanent Secretariat to evaluate the most appropriate means to establish the Permanent Secretariat and to present to the Parties the possible alternatives;

FURTHER RECALLING the exchange of different viewpoints that occurred during the COP5IAC and Resolution CIT-COP5-2011-R3 in which the Parties renewed and revised the mandate of the Working Group on the Legal Framework of the Convention and Permanent Secretariat to include the tasks of identifying potential hosting options for establishment of the Permanent Secretariat;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that the Parties agreed by consensus that the Permanent Secretariat should have a legal identity in the Secretariat host country;

RECOGNIZING that whereas the Parties would prefer making an immediate decision on the process towards a Permanent Secretariat by selecting option two¹, we are obligated to consult the Parties not present at the COP6 or otherwise not prepared to make a decision at the meeting;

THANKING Costa Rica and the United States for successively hosting the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat since the signing of the Convention;

NOTING that multiple offers to host the Permanent Secretariat have been received by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat and that the Parties agreed by consensus to take the actions necessary to establish a Permanent Secretariat;

DESIRING to adopt a headquarters arrangement for the Secretariat to clarify its legal personality, capacity, privileges and immunities in the territory of the hosting location.

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

RESOLVE:

1. To request those IAC Parties that have not yet indicated whether they concur in using option two to resolve the question of the Secretariat's legal personality to do so within thirty (30) calendar days of the IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretariat's request for intersessional decision-making according to paragraph 5.5 of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (CIT-COP1-2003-R4-Rev.1). If any objection is made to the use of option two (2), the Parties agree to nullify the mandates in the following paragraphs two (2) and three (3).
2. To entrust the IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretariat together with the Legal Working Group to prepare, in agreement with article VI of the Convention, a model hosting arrangement to establish the Permanent Secretariat and the process for selection of the host, building upon existing ranking procedures as outlined in CIT-COP5-2011-R1 and CIT-COPE1-2007-R1 within ninety (90) days of the conclusion of the process established in paragraph one (1).
3. Request potential host candidates, in consultation with the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat and Legal Working Group, to draft a hosting arrangement based on the model above and

¹ The Report from the Working Group on the Legal Personality and Permanent Secretariat of the IAC (CIT-COP6-2013-Doc.2) defines option two (2) as the Secretariat of the Convention is recognized as having domestic legal personality within the country hosting it, provided for in a headquarters agreement that would be approved by the COP.

send a final draft to the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat no later than May 15, 2014. These documents will be translated and distributed to the Parties by June 1, 2014, for consideration for a decision by the Parties according to the intersessional decision making process as outlined in the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Parties to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (CIT-COP1-2003-R4-Rev.1) and the ranking process developed by the Legal Working Group.

4. To request that the United States of America continue hosting the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat until a headquarters arrangement is agreed and implemented, and extend the contract of the current *Pro Tempore* Secretary for an additional two years.

[Annex V: COP6 Statement – Remembrance to Jairo Mora](#)

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

Sixth Conference of the Parties, June 26-28, 2013 – Isla Santa Cruz, Galápagos, Ecuador

We the assembled Parties to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Jairo Mora Sandoval, a young Costa Rica biologist attacked and killed by masked gunmen while patrolling Moín Beach with a group of international volunteers near the Caribbean city of Limón last month.

The objectives of the IAC cannot be fulfilled if biologists, wildlife managers, volunteers and ecotourists are unable to safely and consistently monitor the region's most important sea turtle nesting grounds. As sea turtles are a shared resource, criminal activity that prevents in situ protection efforts from taking place in one country presents an urgent concern to all range States. We therefore stand in solidarity with Costa Rica in our desire to send a strong message to those involved in this terrible crime that their actions will not be tolerated.

Making sea turtle nesting beaches safe for sea turtles and people is a priority for all IAC Parties. We trust that justice will be swiftly served in this case, that essential long-term monitoring programs in Costa Rica will resume, and that a measure of peace will be restored to Jairo's family.

Annex VI: CIT-COP6-2013-Inf.4. Report and Recommendations for Compliance with the
Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP2-2004-R1) from the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Task Force
to the 6th IAC Conference of the Parties

Background:

After the Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) analyzed the level of compliance by the IAC Parties with the Leatherback Resolution CIT-COP2-2004-R1 during its 5th meeting held in West Virginia in May of 2012, and took into consideration the critical state of this species, the CCE decided to form a Task Force of Experts made up of members from the Scientific and Consultative Committees, which will operate inter-sessionally. The objectives of this Task Force are to monitor the implementation of the Leatherback Resolution and to advise the Parties in those areas they feel the need to improve its implementation with recommendations on priority actions in favor of the recovery of this population.

The work plan and activities of this group can be found in the 5th CCE meeting report (CIT-CCE4-2012-Doc.08), which was updated during the 6th meeting of the CCE held in March of 2013. The Task Force will take into consideration the priority actions described in the ***Regional Action Plan for Reversing the Decline of the Pacific Leatherback*** that was prepared by regional experts of the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) Marine Turtle Specialist Group.

This report to the COP6 includes a summary of the activities the Task Force has been carrying out since 2012 in order to fulfill its work plan, activities included in its 2013-2014 work plan and recommendations for priority actions to the Parties.

The Task Force is comprised of the following members: Bryan Wallace (USA), Laura Sarti (Mexico), Earl Possardt (USA), Jorge Zuzunaga (Peru), Francisco Ponce (Chile) and Eduardo Espinoza (Ecuador).

Activities carried out from June 2012 -April 2013:

1) *Preparation of the Technical Document CIT-CCE5-2012-Tec.3:*

The technical document "*Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtles (Dermochelys coriacea): a Summary of Current Conservation Status, Challenges and Opportunities*" was prepared during the Consultative Committee's 5th meeting in 2012. The purpose of this document was for it to be used in an outreach strategy among IAC Party and non-Party countries regarding the critical state of the EPO leatherback population and to serve as a tool to raise awareness on the concern for the recovery of this species and the need for regional collaboration especially among those countries within the distribution range of this species. The document was

circulated with the IAC Scientific Committee for its review and their comments were included. The final version of the document can be found on the IAC website and is available for use by the general public at the following link:

<http://www.iacseaturtle.org/eng-docs/tecnicos/CIT-CCE5-2012-Tec.3 EPO Leatherbacks ENG aug 15 Final.pdf>

2) *Outreach and dissemination strategy on the current situation of the EPO leatherbacks to be implemented by the Pro Tempore Secretariat. Visits to Diplomatic Missions in Washington DC:*

In February of 2013, the *Pro Tempore* Secretary visited the following diplomatic missions: Embassy of Peru, Chilean Embassy, Costa Rican Embassy and the Nicaraguan Embassy. Letters were also sent to Mexico's IAC Focal Point. Those diplomatic missions were selected by the Task Force because those are the countries where most of the nesting and feeding occur.

The visits were made to follow-up on the recommendation of the CCE5 to raise awareness on the technical document "*Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtles (Dermochelys coriacea): a Summary of Current Conservation Status, Challenges and Opportunities*" and talk about the level of compliance with the IAC Leatherback Resolution in those countries sharing the Eastern Pacific population. The visits were very successful at raising awareness on the critical status of this species and at establishing opportunities for collaboration among these countries to aid in the recovery of this population. As a result of these activities, Chile, Peru and Mexico submitted information regarding their compliance with this resolution, which was included as informative documents during the 6th meeting of the CCE.

3) *Evaluation of Compliance with the Leatherback Resolution based on the IAC Annual Reports*

After an analysis of the Leatherback Resolution in the 2011 and 2012 Annual Reports, the following observations were made:

Overall compliance:

From the 15th IAC Parties, only Caribbean Netherlands reported that the Resolution does not apply to their territory. Costa Rica (2011 and 2012) and Belize (2012) are not included in the analysis since they did not turn in their annual report on those years. The table below shows the level of compliance with the Resolution in percentages.

Resolution	Number of Countries
------------	---------------------

Compliance (%)	2011	2012
≥ 90%	3	2
75 a 89.9%	3	4
30 a 50%	3	2
≤ 29.9%	4	4
Total	13	12

In general the average compliance of countries for all activities sin the Resolution for 2011 was 54.1% and for 2012 54.2%.

Due to the status of the EPO Leatherback it is considered to be relevant that countries y that has obtained values below 50.9% during the last two years, to increment compliance in actions in the Resolution so that they increase to 75% compliance or higher.

2013-2014 Task Force Work Plan:

Activity 1: Evaluate compliance with the Leatherback Resolution based on the IAC 2013 and 2014 Annual Reports. Prepare a report for the Consultative Committee (CCE7).

Activity 2:

- a) Provide technical support by reviewing project proposals for donors that might be prepared by Governmental and Non-Governmental entities of IAC Party countries that take into consideration the priority actions for leatherback recovery.
- b) The Task Force will provide feedback on these proposals.
- c) The Task Force will ask the IAC Secretariat to prepare letters of support to these entities when necessary. Support will also be provided by helping establish the necessary connections within the government entities in favor of these proposals when appropriate.

Activity 3: Prepare Project proposals for a regional characterization of fisheries interacting with this species in order to evaluate incidental capture in IAC Party countries.

Activity 4: Data sharing, analysis and identify priority areas for bycatch monitoring with relevant organizations that the IAC has MOUs with (ex. IATTC, CPPS). Identify activities to be carried out with existing MOUs for EPO Leatherbacks.

Recommendations

The Task Force recognizes that the actions for recovering this population must occur at two levels, at nesting beaches and at sea. However, it is important to recognize that measures directed towards protecting nests and females on the primary nesting beaches have been carried out quite successfully for over 15 years in both Costa Rica and Mexico, where the majority of the nesting occurs and in Nicaragua more recently where a smaller but significant nesting population occurs. In addition, these successful nesting beach programs are improved each year to increase hatchling production. The Task Force believes these actions taken at nesting beaches are critical to continue for the foreseeable future.

Despite these protection activities, however, the population continue to decline and it is clear that the greatest gaps for conservation of this population lie with bycatch reduction from industrial and artisanal fisheries throughout the East Pacific. It is for this reason that the Leatherback Task Force draws attention to the following priority actions drawn from the “Regional Action Plan for Reversing the Decline of the East Pacific Leatherback.” for the Parties urgent attention.

1) Reduce bycatch in artisanal and industrial fisheries already identified as high bycatch

1.1. Continue assessments of bycatch at ports and/or on-board observers (when possible).

1.2 Expand a radio communication program on vessels as a way to promote best practices for handling turtles caught and reporting bycatch.

1.3 Promote best practices to ensure safe handling and release of sea turtles and hold workshops to disseminate this information.

1.4 Promote exchanges between fishermen to share experiences on how to reduce bycatch with low cost mitigation measures.

2) Identify other areas of high bycatch or important for leatherback survival

2.1 Increase efforts for monitoring bycatch (through surveys, observers and radio communication) at new ports throughout the region and ensure that the information is collected in a standardized way so that it is comparable at the regional level.

2.2 Determine distribution of juvenile leatherbacks with respect to oceanographic conditions in the region.

2.3 Perform an analysis of the distribution of jellyfish and leatherback bycatch along with oceanographic conditions in order to identify possible areas of high leatherback concentrations.

3) Promote coordination of activities between different stakeholders and implement policy action at a regional level.

3.1 Develop and/or maintain national and international networks to facilitate information exchange and sharing experiences.

3.2 Perform regional assessment of artisanal and industrial fleets by country, characterizing the types of fishing gear and its relation to bycatch.

3.3 IAC Parties encourage/promote actions through existing MoU between the IATTC and IAC to strengthen agreements between the IAC Parties and create alliances with foreign fisheries.

3.4 Identify a Focal Point in each country involved with the fisheries sector who can act as the liaison for IAC with other stakeholders within the country to promote collaboration.

The Task Force recommends that the IAC Conference of the Parties, specifically those Parties that are found within the distribution range of this species review and consider which actions beyond the current and ongoing nesting beach and other actions their country can commit to implementing during the next year in order to promote the recovery of the Eastern Pacific Ocean leatherback turtle. We also reiterate that ongoing levels and improvements of nesting beach programs in Mexico, Costa Rica and Nicaragua are critical to maintain for the recovery of these population.

Annex VII: CIT-COP6-2013-Doc.3 2013-2014 Work Plan

1. ADHESION OF ALL COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS TO THE CONVENTION

STRATEGIC PLANNING	WORK PLAN GOALS – SCOPE - REQUIREMENTS							
	Verifiable Goals	Indicators	Program year 2013		Program year 2014		Responsible	Not Financed
			I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
1.1 To continue with the efforts to achieve the adhesion of new countries.	Products							
	a. Send informative bulletins non-Party countries in order to keep them updated on the activities of the Convention.	Number of documents sent		X		X	Secretariat	
	b. Inform and invite non-Party countries to the Conference of the Parties and technical meetings.	Number of documents sent	X	X	X	X	Secretariat	
	c. Participate in meetings of regional organizations with the purpose of providing information about the IAC, and contacting non-Party country delegates in order to invite them to collaborate in achieving the IAC objectives.	Number of meetings	X	X	X	X	Secretariat	
	d. Visit accredited diplomatic representatives in the host country.	Number of visits made	X	X	X	X	Secretariat	
e. Provide follow-up on progress in countries that have been visited/contacted to motivate them to become part of the IAC: Colombia, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Cuba. WWF-Colombia and	Number of communications sent or countries visited	X	X	X	X	Secretariat		

Ecuador will help reach out to Colombia.							
f- Assist the PT Secretariat in outreach with Colombia, Suriname and France (French Guyana) by way of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	Number of communications sent	X	X	X	X	Secretariat Brazil, and United States	
g- Assist the PT Secretariat in following-up on the ratification process for Dominican Republic by way of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	Number of communications sent	X	X	X	X	Secretariat and Party Countries	
h- Assist the PT Secretariat in outreach with Canada and Bermuda.	Number of communications sent	X	X	X	X	Secretariat and United States	

2. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

STRATEGIC PLANNING	WORK PLAN GOALS – SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS							
	Verifiable Goals	Indicators	Program year 2013		Program year 2014		Responsible	Not Financed
			I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
Activities	Products							
2.1 To promote synergies with other relevant conventions and international and regional organizations.	a. Sign at least one cooperation agreements with organizations related to the objectives of the Convention.	One agreement in progress	X	X	X	X	Contracting Parties, Secretariat and COP Chair	

b-Facilitate negotiation of an MOU with ICCAT	Request sent to ICCAT Secretary to include the MOU as an agenda item at their next meeting	X	X			Secretariat Brazil, México and United States	
c-Send IAC Parties the draft Sargasso Sea Alliance collaboration agreement along with the formal note from the SSA Director to begin internal consultation process and comments on the document by IAC Party countries	SSA –IAC Collaboration Arrangement signed	X (IAC will have 90 working days after PT Secretariat circulates document to comment)	X Sign arrangement			Secretariat Party Countries	
d- Implement IAC-CITES Project to update the 2008/2009 hawksbill population status in the Wider Caribbean presented at the regional hawksbill workshop in México, and include the current conservation status of the Eastern Pacific hawksbill in accordance with CITES Project No. S-428	Report with consultant's results presented to CITES and IAC		X	X	X	Secretariat Consultants hired to prepare document Scientific Committee	CITES Funds \$15,592
e-Explore the possibility of a collaborative agreement or MOU with the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) and, if possible, prepare first draft of agreement for circulation.			X	X	X	Secretariat Consultative Committee	

	f-Prepare a draft MOU with WIDECAST			X			Secretariat Consultative Committee	
	g- Implement actions to increase collaboration with Ramsar MOU	Webcast presentation for Ramsar STRP highlighting sea turtles and wetlands Provide materials on IAC for the Ramsar STRP website or newsletter		X	X	X	Secretariat Party Countries Scientific and Consultative Committees	
2.2 To promote the exchange of information, technical knowledge and lessons learned.	a. Participate in technical meetings or workshops and IAC publications.	Number of meetings attended and IAC publications	X	X	X	X	Scientific and Consultative Committees and Secretariat.	
	b. Promote the celebration of world sea turtle day each year with Party countries.	Number of presentations, activities and/or documents sent	X		X		Secretariat and Contracting Parties	
2.3 To identify the entities and persons with the capacity to commit to and/or support the IAC.	a. Promote and establish strategic alliances with entities and persons able to commit to and/or support the IAC.	Number of alliances established or in progress	X	X	X	X	Contracting Parties, Secretariat and Committees	

3. ACTIVITIES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

STRATEGIC PLANNING	WORK PLAN - GOALS – SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS							
	Verifiable Goals/ Products	Indicators	Year 2013		Year 2014		Responsible	Not Financed
			I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
3.1 To elaborate and update its Work Plan following the guidelines of the Convention and the agreements and resolutions of the Conference of the Parties (COP's).	a. Prepare the committee's bi-annual work plan with actions to be performed, chronogram and those responsible.	Updated Work Plan				X	Scientific Committee	
	b. Complete this work plan at the next Scientific Committee meeting, identifying the tools and mechanisms necessary to carry out their work with help from Focal Points and other organizations like SPAW, IATTC, CPPS, OSPESCA, WIDECAS, ASO and SWOT.	Mechanisms proposed by Annual Report Working group		X		X	Scientific Committee	
3.2 To evaluate the conservation status of the sea turtle populations in the region, based on the most reliable scientific data and considering the environmental, socioeconomic and cultural characteristics of the Parties.	a. Prepare yearly technical report on annual reports.	Report submitted		X		X	Scientific Committee	
	b. Yearly maintenance and update IAC database with the information provided in the annual reports.	Updated database	X		X		Scientific and Consultative Committees and Secretariat	
	c. Review database format and contents when necessary	Updated database	X	X	X	X	Scientific and Consultative Committees and Secretariat	
	d. Report on progress made in applying technical guidelines adopted by the Parties (Annual Reports).	Report submitted	X		X		Scientific Committee	

e. Analyze the technical information presented in the annexed Tables of the Parties' Annual Reports referring to important nesting sites.			X		X	Scientific Committee	
f. Carry out inter-sessional work groups formed by the Scientific Committee.	Reports on the results of working group(s)		X		X	Scientific Committee	
g. Prepare a strategy for reporting index beaches	Mechanisms proposed by Annual Report Working group	X	X			Annual Report WG/ Scientific Committee	
h Update list of different types of TEDs used/approved.	Updated list of TEDs.	X		X		Fisheries WG/ Scientific Committee	
i Information compiled on best practices and procedures for handling sea turtles onboard that were incidentally caught in coastal fisheries.	Document/Manual on best practices	X	X	X	X	Fisheries WG/ Scientific Committee	
j. Inter-sessional working group on climate change to provide recommendations on actions to help IAC parties better implement the climate change resolution.	Document with recommendations	X	X			Climate Change WG/ Scientific Committee Ecuador	
k. Make recommendations on high-priority projects that need financing and other types of support needed to achieve intended objectives.	Number of high priority project profiles.		X		X	Scientific Committee	

l. Promote actions within the IAC hawksbill and leatherback Resolutions.	Improved compliance and implementation of actions in resolutions by IAC Parties. EPO Leatherback project reviewed.		X		X	Scientific Committee	
m. Prepare a model to analyze index beaches in order to demonstrate the importance of standardization and reporting data in the Annual Reports with the objective of determining the status and trends of nesting sea turtles.	Technical document and reports from workshops and/or meetings if relevant.	X	X			Annual Report WG/Scientific Committee	
n. Identify synergies with other organizations related to the IAC to share information (SPAW, IATTC, CPPS, WIDECAS, ICCAT, RAMSAR, SWOT, ICAPO, ASO, WWF).	Present a summary of possible activities/synergies with other organizations in meeting report		X		X	Scientific and Consultative Committees	
o. Identify and provide Ramsar Secretariat with information on sea turtles at Ramsar sites (i.e. benefits, population status) to include in their 'State of World's Wetlands and their Services to people' report.	Number of documents sent		X		X	Scientific Committee	

	p. Identify and where appropriate inform the relevant Party and the Ramsar Secretariat when the ecological character of a Ramsar Site providing sea turtle habitat has changed, is changing or is likely to change.			X		X	Scientific Committee Secretariat	
3.3 To address requests from the Conference of the Parties and the Consultative Committee and make recommendations accordingly.	a. Send recommendations to the Consultative Committee and COP, as requested.	Number of documents with recommendations sent		X		X	Scientific Committee	
3.4 To foster alliances and synergies with competent specialists and organizations that shall facilitate the achievement of the IAC objectives.	a. Make recommendations that promote synergies and coordination mechanisms with entities relating to achieving the IAC objectives.	Specialists and organizations identified and/or contacted. Number of meetings at which members of the SC promoted the IAC by presenting its activities.	X	X	X	X	Scientific Committee	
	b. Update and maintain a directory of scientists and/or experts in fields related to the IAC.	Directory on the IAC web site updated.	X	X	X	X	Scientific and Consultative Committee	

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

STRATEGIC PLANNING	WORK PLAN - GOALS – SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS					
Activities	Verifiable Goals/ Products	Indicators	Year I (2013)	Year II (2014)	Responsible	Not Financed
4.1 To elaborate and update the CCE Work Plan following IAC Guidelines, agreements and resolutions of the Conference of the Parties (COP's).	a. Prepare biennial Consultative Committee work plan with actions to be performed, timeline, responsible entity and funding requirements.	2013-2015 Work Plan submitted	1. Review and update work plan with 2013-2014 Consultative Committee activities and goals.	1. Review and update work plan with 2015 Consultative Committee activities and goals.	Consultative Committee	
4.2 To work with the Secretariat to promote IAC objectives by submitting recommendations, draft resolutions, and advice to the COP.	a. Present the report to the Conference of the Parties.	Report with recommendations and/or draft resolutions presented at the COP6	1. Present Draft Resolutions to the COP6 on necessary topics.	1. Present Draft Resolutions to the COP7 on necessary topics.	Consultative Committee	
	b. Review Annual Reports specifically regarding compliance with resolutions.	Number of documents presented to the COP	1. Review Parties' compliance according to information provided in 2012. Resolutions working group will work inter sessionally before CCE6 to analyze the 2012 annual reports. This report will be presented to the COP.	1. Review Parties' compliance according to information provided in 2013. Resolutions working group will work inter sessionally before CCE7 to analyze the 2013 annual reports.	Consultative Committee and Secretariat	

4.3 To work with the Scientific Committee to promote IAC objectives.	Report on status of sea turtles	1. Develop indicators for each activity.	1. Review and evaluate the results of sea turtle conservation with the actions/activities carried out, recommended by the COP and prepare recommendations to help improve progress and compliance with IAC objective [as necessary]. 2. Submit the guidelines for Sea Turtle National Conservation plans (Action Plans) to the COP6 for their approval.			
4.4 To analyze the exceptions submitted by the Parties.	a. Make recommendations to the COP6 based on the Annual Reports and/or the requests sent by the Parties, previously analyzed by the Scientific Committee.	Report to the COP6	1. Provide recommendations to COP6 and relevant Party 2. Assist countries that have presented exceptions in implementing recommendations.	1. Review exceptions currently in place and provide recommendations to COP7 and relevant Party. 2. Assist countries that have presented exceptions in implementing recommendations.	Consultative Committee	
4.5 To facilitate outreach to non-member countries and promote alliances and synergies with other international organizations related to IAC objectives.	a. Make recommendations for promoting synergies and coordination mechanisms with entities associated to the IAC.	Number of international organizations identified	1. Identify organizations, draft MOUs and assist Secretariat with outreach to: ICCAT, CRFM, CARICOM, COFI- FAO. 2. Brazil will assist the Secretariat in outreach efforts with ICCAT and CBD to draft an MOU.	1. Identify activities to increase collaboration with current MOUs. 2. Promote non-Party accession to IAC.	Consultative Committee and Secretariat	

			<p>3. Honduras will assist with outreach to CCAD for an MOU.</p> <p>4. Identify activities to increase collaboration with current MOUs.</p> <p>5. Promote non-Party accession to IAC.</p>			
<p>4.6 To establish a working group/task force to promote the recovery of Eastern Pacific Ocean Leatherbacks in accordance with document CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc.04.</p>	<p>a. WG/task force will prepare a technical document and outreach strategy to raise awareness on the problems facing EPO leatherbacks.</p> <p>b. Regional characterization of fisheries interacting with this species.</p> <p>c. Report of the working group to COP6.</p>	<p>Technical document and outreach strategy produced.</p> <p>Number of visits to embassies and outreach activities.</p> <p>Working group report.</p>	<p>1. Visit embassies and other relevant groups with the information to raise awareness on the problems facing EPO leatherbacks.</p> <p>2. Prepare an outline of the activities the WG will do over the next two years and present it at the COP6.</p> <p>3. Data sharing and analysis and identify priority areas for bycatch monitoring and reduction with relevant organizations that the IAC has MOUs with (ex. IATTC, CPPS).</p> <p>4. Identify activities to be carried out with existing MOUs for EPO Leatherbacks.</p> <p>4.a The EPO leatherback task force will review the project proposal for the MTCF prepared by WWF,</p>	<p>1. The WG/task force will present progress made on preparing or implementing (depending on which one it is) on the Project proposal for a characterization of regional fisheries that interact with this species.</p> <p>2. Continue with 2013 activities.</p> <p>3. Prepare a report on the WG activities to be presented at the next COP.</p>	<p>Consultative & Scientific Committee, Secretariat</p>	

			Mexico, Chile, Peru and Ecuador. 5. Prepare a project proposal for regional characterization of fisheries interacting with this species.			
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5. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

STRATEGIC PLANNING	WORK PLAN GOALS – SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS								
	Activities	Verifiable Goals	Indicators	Program year 2013		Program year 2014		Responsible	Not Financed
				I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
5.1 To identify projects and activities subject to external financing with possible sponsors.	a. Make a list of priority projects and possible sponsors to look for funding.	Number of projects Identified		X		X	Fundraising Working Group (USA), Secretariat, Contracting Parties and Committees		
5.2 To create and negotiate project proposals.	a. Create and negotiate at least one project proposal	One proposal submitted to a sponsor/funding agency	X	X	X	X	Leatherback Task Force, Secretariat, Contracting Parties and Committees		
5.3 To carry out financed project/activity.	a. One project/activity financed.	Project/activity in execution	X	X	X	X	Secretariat, Contracting Parties and/or interested NGOs		

5.4 To prepare reports on the projects implemented.	a. Prepare technical and financial reports.	Reports submitted in a timely manner to sponsors		X		X	Secretariat Contracting Parties and/or interested NGOs	
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6. TRAINING, COMMUNICATION AND KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION

STRATEGIC PLANNING:	WORK PLAN GOALS SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS								
	Strategic Activities	Verifiable Goals	Indicators	Program year 2013		Program year 2014		Responsible	Not Financed
				I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
	Products								
6.1 To publish and disseminate the recommendations and decisions adopted at the COP.	a. Edit and send COP6 Report for its distribution.	Reports sent to Parties and committee members		X			Secretariat		
	b. Hold internal meeting with environmental and fisheries authorities to diffuse COP6 commitments made to conserve sea turtles	One meeting in each Party country		X			Party Countries		
	c. Select a point of contact for governmental fisheries sector that can act as liaison with IAC	15 point of contacts established	X	X			Party Countries		

6.2 To disseminate and promote the exchange of information and educational material on the efforts being made by the Parties in order to increase public awareness concerning the need to protect and conserve sea turtles and their habitats.	a. Prepare a digital bulletin on IAC activities as well as information related to the IAC objectives.	Quarterly bulletin placed on the IAC web site	X	X	X	X	Secretariat, Party Countries and Committees	
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7. IMPROVEMENT OF EXECUTION ABILITY

STRATEGIC PLANNING:	WORK PLAN GOALS – SCOPE – REQUIREMENTS								
	Activities	Verifiable Goals Products	Indicators	Program year 2013		Program year 2014		Responsible	Not Financed
				I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester		
7.1 To prepare and implement the IAC's bi-annual work plan.	a. Approve the IAC's 2013-2014 work plan at the COP6.	Secretariat's Annual Report presented		X		X	Secretariat and Committees		
7.2 Organize the Conference of the Parties (COPs) and Committee meetings as well as the working groups they establish.	a. Prepare for COP7 and its subsidiary body meetings.	COP7, Consultative and Scientific Committee Meetings held	X	X	X	X	Secretariat, COP Chair and Committee Chairs and established working groups		
7.3 Send Secretariat Annual Reports from each Party, where they report on the programs adopted to protect and conserve sea turtles and their habitat.	a. Receive Annual Reports from all Parties.	Annual Reports submitted to the Secretariat and placed on the IAC website		X	X		Party Countries		

7.4 To inform the Parties on the regional conservation status of sea turtles in order to achieve the objectives of the IAC.	a. Send report to the COP by the Scientific Committee on the conservation status of Sea Turtle Populations.	Document presented				X	Scientific Committee	
	b. Report to the COP from the Consultative Committee with regard to compliance of the Parties with the IAC resolutions and agreements made – adopted - applied by the COPs	Document presented				X	Consultative Committee	
	c. Send report to the COP from the Consultative Committee concerning the use of sea turtles or their products by the Parties Exceptions (when exceptions are presented).	Document presented	X	X	X	X	Consultative Committee	
7.5 To promote activities with organizations that have signed MOUs with the IAC and other multilateral agreements.	a. Participate in the meetings of these organizations as established in the MOUs (for example, IATTC)	Number of activities or meetings attended	X	X	X	X	Secretariat and Committees	
7.6 Carry out activities needed to implement Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R3 “Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat”	a. Assist Parties and follow-up on the activities needed to implement Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R3	Establishment of a Permanent Secretariat for the COP7		X	X	X	Conference of the Parties and Working Group with assistance from the Secretariat	

	b. Confirm countries participating in the Permanent Secretariat working group (Ecuador, Brazil, USA, México and Peru)	Working Group report, mechanism and hosting agreement presented at COP7		X	X	X	Working Group with assistance from the Secretariat	
	c. Support activities of the Permanent Secretariat and Legal Personality Working Group according to the mandate established in document CIT-COP6-2013-R3.							

Annex VIII: CIT-COP6-2013-Inf.5. Report on Resolution Compliance Analysis of the Consultative Committee of Experts on the Compliance with the IAC Resolutions by the Party Countries

Report to the 6th Conference of Parties

This report was compiled by the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts (CCE) to provide the IAC Parties with a succinct overview of progress made on implementing the Convention. According to the Terms of References for the IAC Consultative and Scientific Committees (CIT-COP5-2011-R1) it is the task of the Consultative Committee to review and analyze the annual reports, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee, for the purpose of compliance with the obligations of the Convention.

This report was prepared using the information provided by the IAC Parties in their 2011 and 2012 Annual Reports; specifically using the data reported in Part II (c.1) on the IAC Resolutions. Information on Costa Rica (2011, 2012) and Belize (2012) is not included in this analysis since they did not submit their Annual Report for those years.

Overall compliance with IAC Resolutions

The CCE calculated the percentage of IAC Parties complying with each specific action as well as their overall compliance for all four IAC technical resolutions.

Below is a table representing the overall compliance per resolution, combining the 2011 and 2012 IAC annual reports. The excel spreadsheets used to calculate this information can be found in Annex I.

IAC Resolution	% yes	% no	% Did not answer (ND)	% Does not apply (NA)
CIT-COP2-2004-R1 Leatherback Turtle Conservation	35	32	7	26
CIT-COP3-2006-R1 Hawksbill Turtle Conservation	42	24	15	19
CIT-COP3-2006 R-2 Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles	45	41	6	8
CIT-COP4-2009-R5 Adaptation of Sea Turtle Habitats to Climate Change	41	58	1	-

Table. 1 Overall compliance by IAC Parties with IAC Resolutions (2011 and 2012 combined)

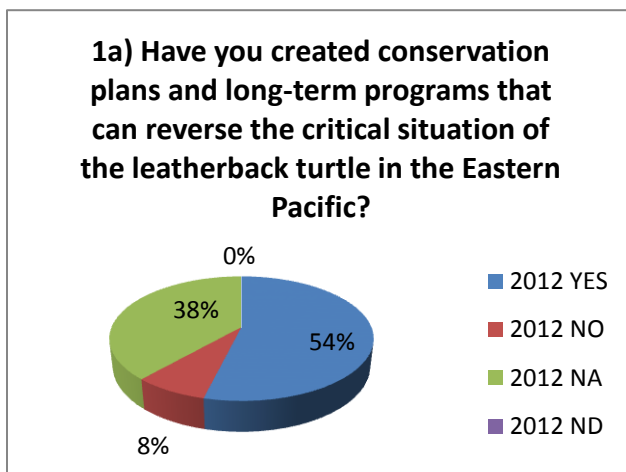
Compliance with specific actions of the IAC Resolutions

The CCE highlights below the specific actions with the highest compliance (>50%) for both 2011 and 2012 and least compliance for each IAC Resolution, which remained consistent in both the 2011 and 2012 IAC Annual Reports. Graphs break down the percent compliance for a specific action as reported in the 2012 Annual Reports.

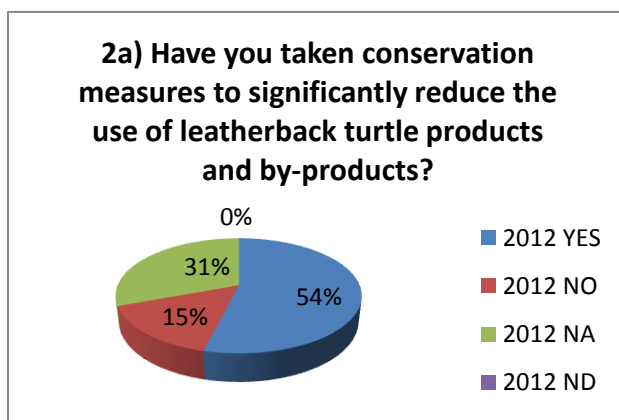
a. CIT-COP2-2004-R1 Leatherback Turtle Conservation

Specific actions reporting highest compliance

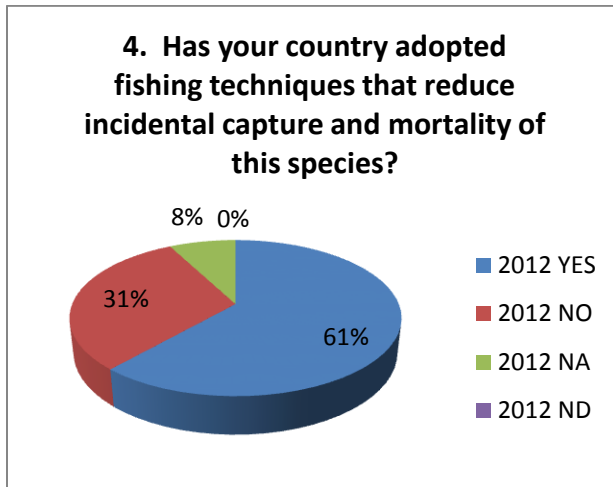
- Action 1a: Have you created conservation plans and long-term programs that can reverse the critical situation of the EP leatherback?



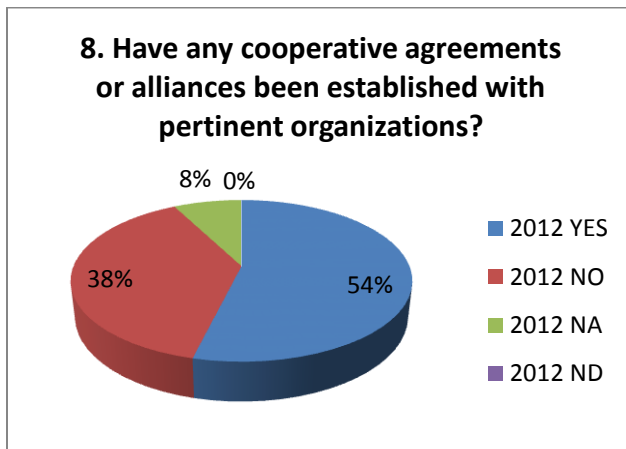
- Action 2a: Have you taken any conservation measures to significantly reduce the use of Leatherbacks?



- Action 4: Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?



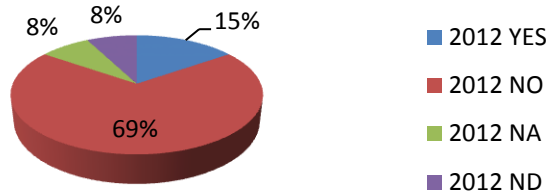
- Action 8: Have any cooperative agreements or alliances been established with pertinent organizations?



Specific actions reporting lowest compliance

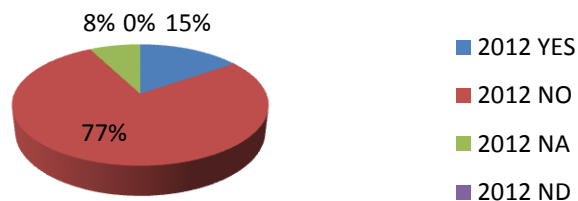
- Action 6: Have you established agreements and/or understandings with countries fishing within international waters to adopt fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture of leatherback turtles?

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



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

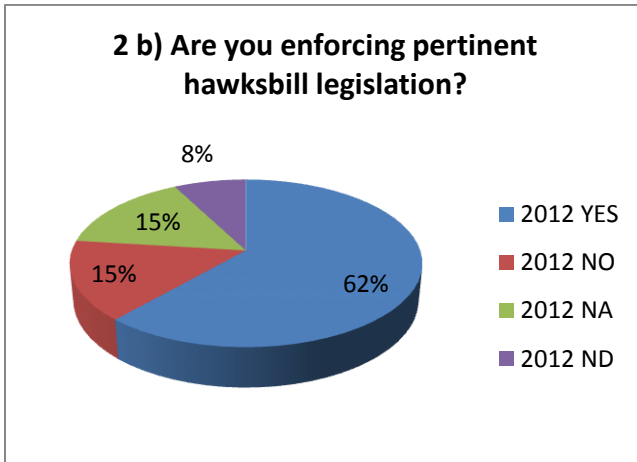
7. Have you encouraged other non-Party states to the IAC, carrying out activities that affect leatherback turtles, to adopt measures in favor of their conservation, by means of bilateral, multilateral or regional contacts?



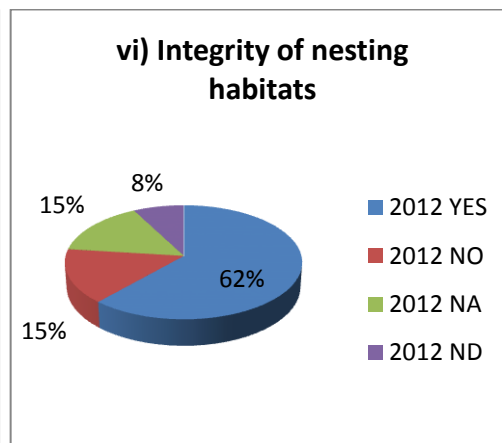
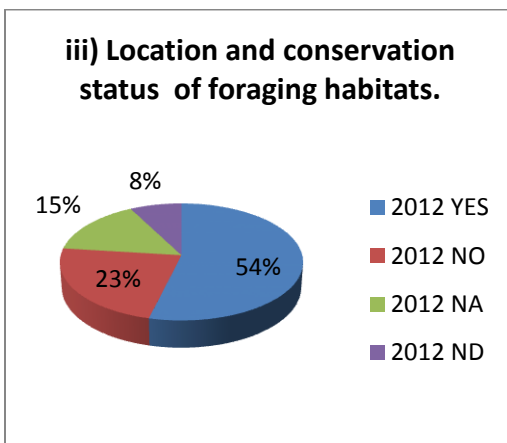
b. CIT-COP3-2006-R1 Hawksbill Turtle Conservation

Specific actions reporting highest compliance

- Action 2 (b): Are you enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation?



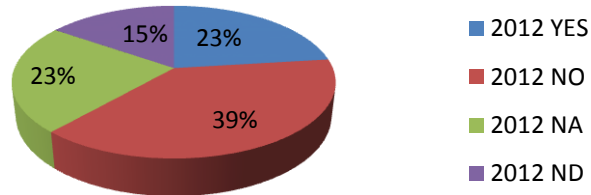
- Action 3 (iii and vi): Does your country support and strengthen the research and monitoring activities required to improve the scientific basis of conservation measures for the hawksbill turtle?



Specific actions reporting lowest compliance

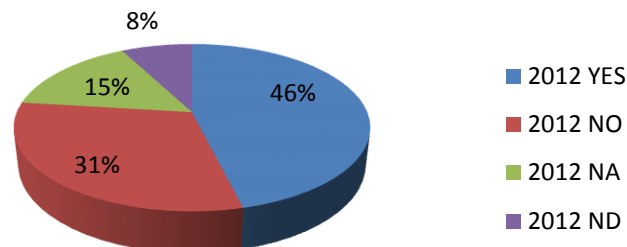
- Action 5: Does your country apply the precautionary approach when considering proposals for seismic exploration on priority marine habitats of the hawksbill turtle?

5. Does your country apply the precautionary approach when considering proposals for seismic exploration on priority marine habitats of the hawksbill turtle?



- Action 7: Does your country promote exchange of technical capacity and collaborative research on hawksbill habitats among Parties as well as non Parties and other involved organizations in the Area of the Convention?

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

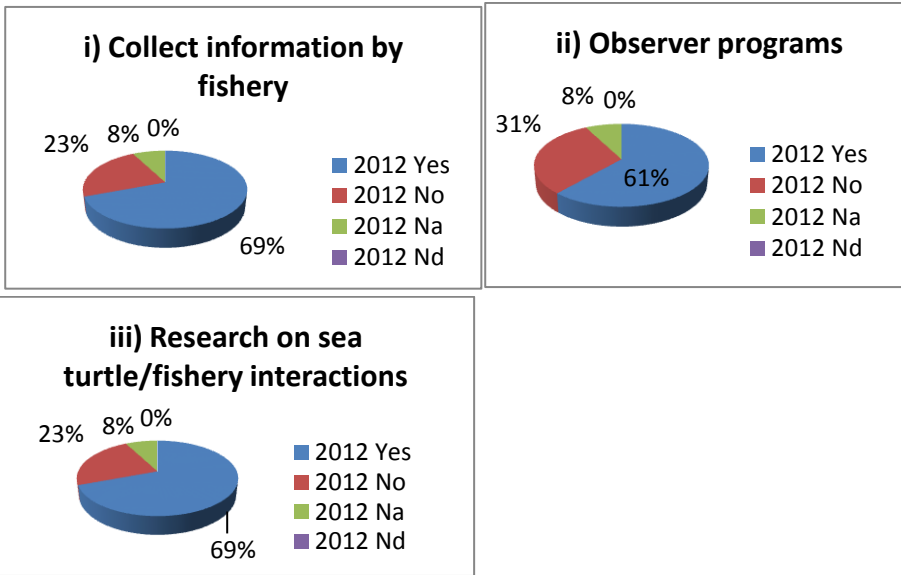


c. CIT-COP3-2006 R-2 Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles

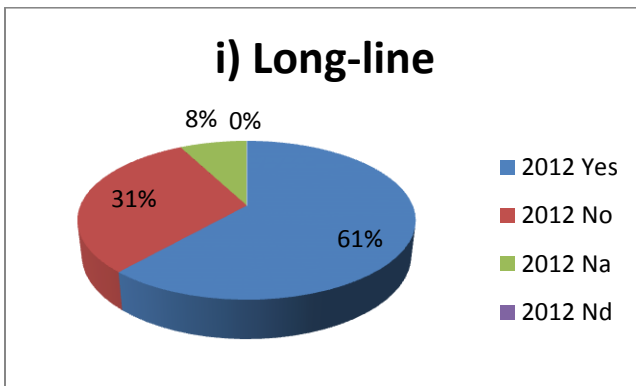
Specific actions reporting highest compliance

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

A) Research and monitoring of adverse impact of fisheries on sea turtles:

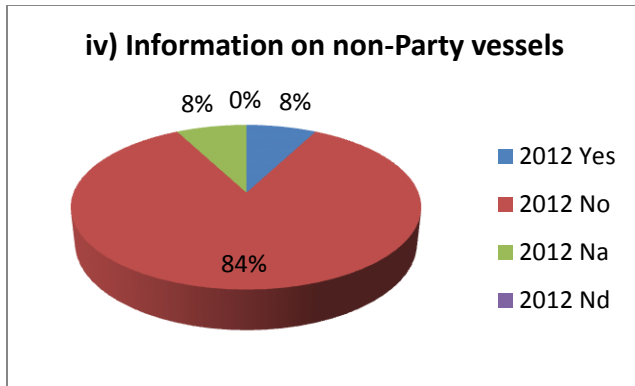


B) Mitigation measures for the following fisheries:

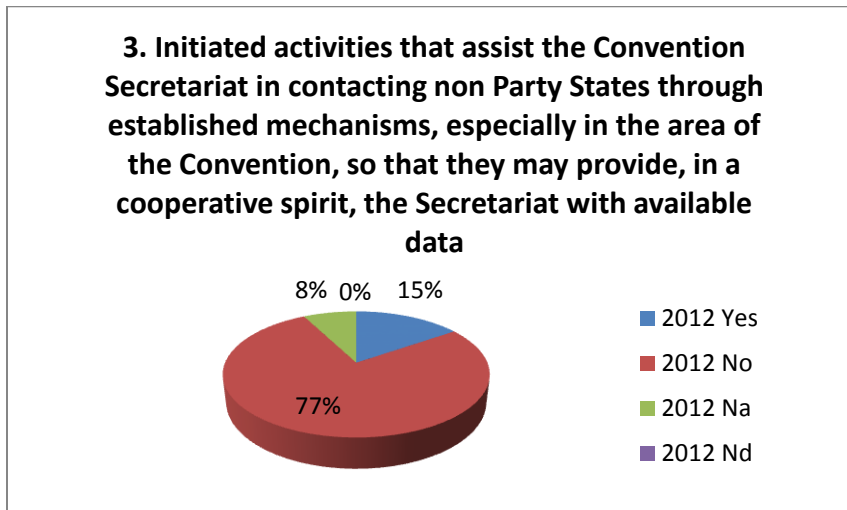


Specific actions reporting lowest compliance

- Action 1 a (iv): Adopted the “Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality induced by fisheries operations”, of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), including:
 - A) Research and monitoring of adverse impact of fisheries on sea turtles:



- Action 3: Initiated activities that assist the Convention Secretariat in contacting non-Party States through established mechanisms, especially in the area of the Convention, so that they may provide, in a cooperative spirit, the Secretariat with available data.

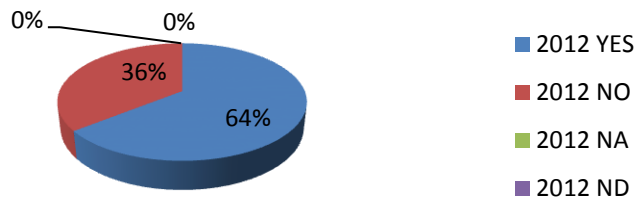


d. CIT-COP4-2009-R5 Adaptation of Sea Turtle Habitats to Climate Change

Specific actions reporting highest compliance

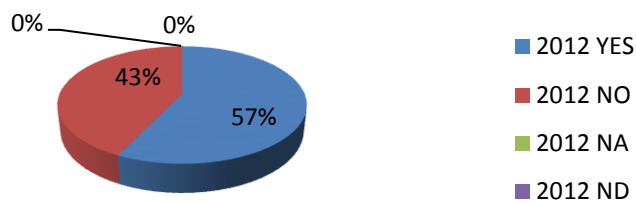
- Action 3: Have you identified any organizations or pertinent expert groups as possible partners to work on the topic of adaptation by sea turtles to climate change?

3. Have you identified any organizations or pertinent expert groups as possible partners to work on the topic of adaptation by sea turtles to climate change?



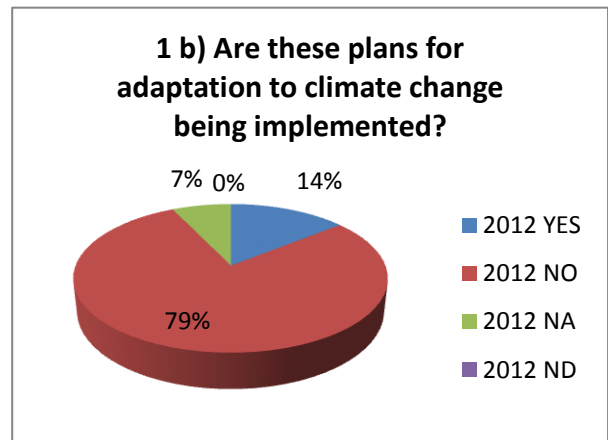
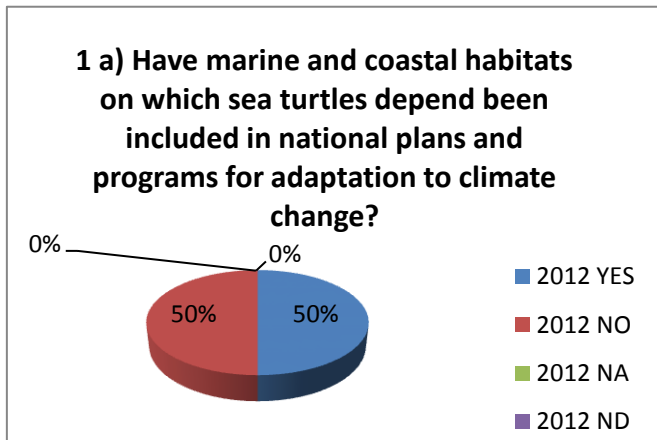
- Action 4: Have you carried out research and monitoring to improve knowledge of the effects on, and vulnerability of sea turtles and their habitats, to climate change?

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

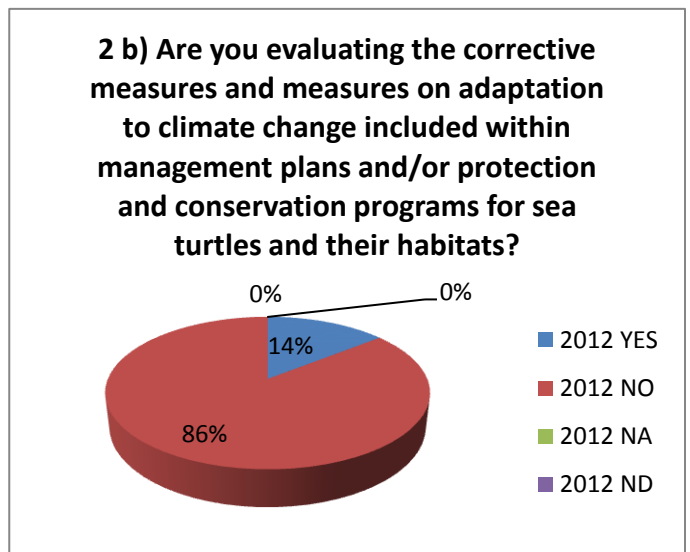
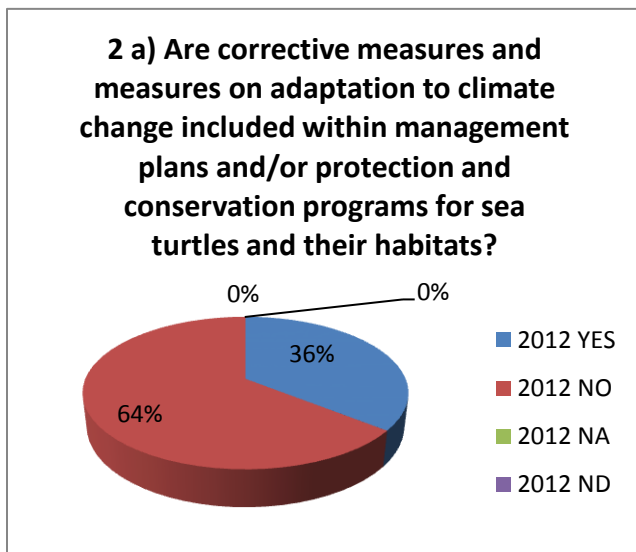


Specific actions reporting lowest compliance

- Action 1a and b: A) Have marine and coastal habitats on which sea turtles depend been included in national plans and programs for adaptation to climate change? B): Are these plans for adaptation to climate change being implemented?



- Action 2 a and b:A) are corrective measures and measures on adaptation to climate change included within management plans and/or protection and conservation programs for sea turtles and their habitats? B) Are you evaluating the corrective measures and measures on adaptation to climate change included within management plans and/or protection and conservation programs for sea turtles and their habitats?



General Recommendation on Compliance with the IAC Resolutions

The CCE recommends that the IAC Parties review the informative document presented and it's Annex in order to guide their efforts to improve implementation of IAC Resolutions, taking into

special consideration the IAC resolutions with the lowest compliance. Furthermore, the CCE requests that the IAC Parties not leave any answers in the resolutions tables of the Annual Report in blank, since this affects the final result of the compliance analysis.

We believe that some countries understood that the IAC leatherback resolution applies only to the Pacific Coast and as a consequence many answers in the Annual Reports were NA (does not apply). We would like to clarify that the Resolution applies to all countries where leatherbacks are found and the oceans where they are reported.

The idea is to keep this material online on the IAC website so that we can better monitor the compliance with the Resolution by the IAC Committee and y by the IAC Parties.

[Annex IX: CIT-COP6-2013-Doc.4. Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles](#)

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (hereafter ICCAT) and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (hereafter IAC); hereafter jointly called “the Parties”;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the objective of the IAC is to promote the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and the habitats on which they depend, based on the best available scientific evidence, taking into account the environmental, socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the Parties;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the objective of ICCAT is to maintain the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes found in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable, catch for food and other purposes;

AWARE that the feeding, mating, migration and inter-nesting habitats of some sea turtles may coincide with areas where fishing for ICCAT species occurs;

ACKNOWLEDGING FURTHER that ICCAT is committed to mitigating and reducing sea turtle bycatch and mortality in their fisheries across all fishing areas and has taken steps to improve data collection and reporting on bycatch, including sea turtle species, in ICCAT fisheries;

NOTING that Article XII of the IAC states that the IAC Parties shall promote bilateral and multilateral cooperative activities to further the objective of this Convention and, when they deem it appropriate, shall seek the support of relevant international organizations;

NOTING FURTHER the IAC's adoption of the Resolution "Reduction of the adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles" (COP3/2006/R-2) that requests the IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to commence discussions with regional fishery management organizations in order to develop Memoranda of Understanding;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that Article XI of the ICCAT Convention calls upon the Commission to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with other relevant organizations;

FURTHER RECALLING the recommendation from the ICCAT independent performance review in September 2008 that ICCAT "develop a stronger approach generally to by-catch and develop and adopt appropriate mitigation measures including reporting on the effectiveness of these measures throughout the fisheries;"

FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Recommendation by ICCAT on the By-Catch of Sea Turtles in ICCAT Fisheries [Rec. 10-09] calls on the Commission, as appropriate, "to engage in cooperative activities to support the effective implementation of this recommendation, including entering into cooperative arrangements with other appropriate international bodies;"

CONSCIOUS that some members of the ICCAT are Parties to the IAC;

RECOGNIZING that ICCAT and the IAC will benefit from cooperation and collaboration in areas of mutual interest and that this cooperation will enhance the conservation of sea turtles;

JOINTLY DECIDE, as follows:

1. OBJECTIVE OF THIS MEMORANDUM

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter Memorandum) is to facilitate cooperation between ICCAT and the IAC ("the Participants") with a view to supporting efforts to minimize the incidental bycatch and enhance the conservation of sea turtle species within ICCAT's Convention area.

2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The ICCAT and the IAC Secretariats may consult, cooperate and collaborate with each other on areas of common interest that are directly or indirectly relevant to the recovery and conservation of sea turtles. In particular, this may include scientific collaboration regarding data and expertise exchange, techniques and knowledge relevant to the interactions of sea turtles with ICCAT fisheries, education and awareness programs, participation in relevant ICCAT and IAC meetings, and any other topics that the IAC and ICCAT Parties consider of interest.

3. REVIEW, MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS

This Memorandum can be reviewed, modified and amended at any time by the mutual consent of both Participants. The modifications or amendments must be done in writing, specifying the date they become effective.

4. LEGAL STATUS

The Participants acknowledge that this Memorandum is not legally binding between them.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION

This Memorandum will come into effect upon the date signed by the Executive Secretary of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the *Pro Tempore* Secretary of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles.

Either Participant may terminate this Memorandum by giving six months written notice to the other Participant.

Signed at the city of [], on the [DAY] of [MONTH] two thousand [] in four originals, in [English and in Spanish] languages, both texts being equally authentic.

ICCAT Executive Secretary

IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretary

Annex X: CIT-COP6-2013-Inf.8. Draft Collaboration Arrangement between the Secretariats of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and the Sargasso Sea Alliance

Whereas the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (Inter-American Convention) is the mechanism by which fifteen governments² of the Americas cooperate to promote the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and of the habitats on which they depend;

Whereas the Sargasso Sea Alliance is a partnership led by the Government of Bermuda, in collaboration with scientists, international marine conservation groups and private donors, all of whom share a vision of protecting the unique and vulnerable ocean ecosystem of the Sargasso Sea;

Whereas the area of application of the Inter-American Convention comprises the land territory in the Americas of each of the Parties, as well as the maritime areas of the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, with respect to which each of the Parties exercises sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction over living marine resources in accordance with national law, and international law, including where reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

Whereas the Sargasso Sea Alliance is concerned with protection of the whole Atlantic Sargasso Sea ecosystem, including those areas beyond national jurisdiction;

Whereas the Inter-American Convention and the Sargasso Sea Alliance understand that, in accordance with the best available scientific evidence, species of sea turtles in the Americas are threatened or endangered, and that sea turtles migrate widely throughout marine areas and that their protection and conservation require cooperation and coordination among States within the range of such species;

Whereas both the Inter-American Convention and the Sargasso Sea Alliance have a shared interest in the conservation of sea turtles, particularly those that use the Sargasso Sea as essential habitat, namely, green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*), leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Kemp's Ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys kempii*);

² Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, The Netherlands, Panama, Peru, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela

The *Pro Tempore* Secretariat of the Inter-American Convention and the Secretariat of the Sargasso Sea Alliance (“the Participants”) herein state their intention to establish a “Collaboration Arrangement” between the two organisations to maximise opportunities for the sharing of research, expertise and practical experience in seeking to protect and manage the essential sea turtle habitats of the Atlantic;

This Collaborative Arrangement is not legally binding. Instead, this Collaborative Arrangement reflects the clear intention of the signatories and their organisations to foster cooperation on activities of mutual interest and to exchange information through co-ordination of research and experience concerning the conservation, stewardship and management of the sea turtle habitats with which each is concerned;

The Participants share the understanding that the cooperation between their two bodies, should be based on scientific evidence that confirms the value and vulnerability of the sea turtles and sea turtle habitat within their respective areas of concern.

To this end the Participants intend, within the framework of their respective mandates and legal and logistical competence, to:

- a. Inform each other of any relevant scientific information, environmental assessment and monitoring data;
- b. Notify and inform each other of each other’s activities;
- c. Consult regularly to review their respective objectives in relation to the conservation of sea turtles and sea turtle habitats within their respective areas, the status of the areas concerned, and the appropriateness of existing management measures and, where necessary, develop proposals for improvement of either;
- d. Cooperate to obtain a better knowledge of the areas concerned through, where appropriate, developing exchange of data, sharing of databases and collecting data in standardised formats;
- e. The promotion of environmental education and dissemination of information in an effort to encourage the participation of government institutions, nongovernmental organizations and the general public, especially those communities that are involved in the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and their habitats;

The individuals acting as points of contact for the Collaboration Arrangement shall be as follows:

- Verónica Cáceres Chamorro, Secretary *Pro Tempore*, Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles

- Dr. David Freestone, Executive Director, Sargasso Sea Alliance

This Collaboration Arrangement will come into effect on the date of both signatures to this correspondence and will continue in operation until terminated by either Participant (on one month's written notice to the other Participant).

Verónica Cáceres Chamorro
Secretary *Pro Tempore*
Inter-American Convention for the
Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
4401 N Fairfax Drive, Suite 100
Arlington, VA 22203 USA

Date

Dr. David Freestone
Executive Director
Sargasso Sea Alliance
1630 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20009 USA

Date

Annex XI: CIT-COP6-2013-R2 IAC Finances 2013 - 2015

CONSIDERING Article XIII of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) regarding financial resources;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that resolution CIT-COP1-2002-R-2 adopted by the First Conference of Parties established the IAC Special Fund;

FURTHER RECALLING the guidelines for financing the activities of the IAC established in Resolution CIT-COPE1-2007-R2 adopted during the First Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties;

RECOGNIZING the legal limitations under which the IAC Parties can provide financial contributions;

CONSIDERING that the total amount of voluntary contribution goals does not cover the budget need, and that additional funding will need to be obtained; and

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

RESOLVE TO:

1. Adopt the 2013, 2014 and 2015 budgets included in Annex I.
2. Authorize the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat to forward an invoice to each of the Parties for an amount equal to the contribution goal identified in Annex II.
3. Recognize that countries have different abilities to make financial contributions.

ANNEX I

Presupuesto Julio 2013-2015 de la CIT / IAC July 2013-2015 Budget (Montos expresados en \$US /Amounts expressed in US\$)			
Rubro/Items	2013	2014	2015
1- Staff /Personal	149,473	154,302	158,751
Secretary <i>Pro Tempore</i> / Secretario <i>Pro Tempore</i> (base salary \$76,128 -depends on host country, in this case USA- and costs for dental and health insurance, retirement, cost of contracting agency and visa process and 3.5% annual increase in cost of living)/ (rubro incluye salario base \$76,128 –depende según país sede, en este caso es USA- y seguro médico, pensión, costos de contratista, trámite de visa y 3.5% incremento anual por costo de vida)	\$130,273	134,832	139,551
IAC PT Secretariat Technical assistant full time estimated cost (based in Latin America)/Asistente técnica de la Secretaría PT de la CIT tiempo completo estimado (con base en América Latina)	19,200	19,200	19,200
2- Other Professional Services /Otros Servicios Profesionales	4,000	4,000	4,000
Traducciones/Translations			
3- Communications /Comunicaciones	2,000	2,000	2,000
Sitio web/Website/ Computer Software			
4- Travel /Viaje	10,000	10,000	10,000
6- IAC Meeting Support /Apoyo Reuniones CIT	70,000	64,000	94,000
Scientific Committee/ Comité Científico*	38,000	38,000	38,000
Consultative Committee/ Comité Consultivo**		26,000	26,000
Conference of the Parties/Conferencia de las Partes ***	32,000		30,000
Subtotal	235,473	234,302	268,751
8- Overhead Costs/Costo Administración (10%)	23,547	23,430	26,875
TOTAL (US\$)	259,020	257,732	295,626

* 2013 Budget approved by the COP5 and 2014-15 budgets estimated based on the participation of 20 participants taking into consideration the increase in the number of IAC Parties. In order to decrease these costs, the IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretariat will ask IAC Focal Points if they could help cover the participation costs of their delegate in Scientific Committee meetings.

** Budgets estimated for 2014-15 for this meeting is based on paying the participation expenses of 13 participants. The IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretariat will ask the sectorial members of the CCE if their organizations could help cover the cost of their participation in Consultative Committee meetings.

*** Includes COP6 budget for 2013 (approved by COP5) and proposed COP7 budget for 2015.

Additional Funds raised by IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretariat

From 2010 to 2012, the IAC PT Secretariat had submitted and was awarded two grants from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (MTCF) of the USFWS for a total of \$94,435 USD. These funds were used to help meet the requirements of the budgets approved by the COP. They were an important contribution in addition to the amounts received as country contributions, which allowed us to meet our budget requirements. Below is a general break down of how the funds were used:

- MTCF Grants from 2010-2013 (up to March 2013) have covered the salary of a part time IAC Technical Assistant in the amount of \$30,494 USD
- MTCF Grants from 2010-2012 have covered travel expenses for the IAC Secretariat over the past three years in the amount of \$23,378 USD
- MTCF Grant in 2012 covered some of the COP5 expenses in the amount of \$16,454 USD
- MTCF Grant in 2012 covered travel expenses for four delegates to the IAC CCE5 Meeting in the amount of \$4,191 USD as provided for in the IAC Delegate Travel Support Resolution

ANNEX II

Invoice for financial contribution

In accordance with:

1. The financial rules (CIT-COPE1-2007-R2) adopted October 2007 by the Parties of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) in Lima, Peru;
2. The US\$2,000 suggested minimum financial contribution established during the first Conference of Parties in San José, Costa Rica;
3. The 2013 budget adopted in Ecuador, the budget for 2014 and 2015; as well as;
4. The table of contribution goals developed by the 4th Conference of Parties in San José, Costa Rica that was updated at COP5 in Bonaire and updated in COP6 Ecuador;

The IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* hereby presents this invoice to the Government of [insert country].

INVOICE

Party/Country	Year	Suggested Contribution (\$US)	Date

FINANCIAL HISTORY

[insert country] history of financial contributions to the IAC is included below for your reference.

Party/Country	Year	Suggested Contribution	Amount Contributed	Date Received

FUTURE CONTRIBUTIONS

In accordance with the budget for 2013 presented in Ecuador the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* suggests the Government of [insert country] plan for and include in your 2013 [insert year] budget, a financial contribution for the IAC totaling US\$XXXX.

ANNEX III

IAC Contributions Goals for 2013	
Member Country	Contribution Goal³
Argentina	\$2,000
Belize	\$3,500
Brazil	\$7,056
Costa Rica	\$2,000
Chile	\$8,000
Ecuador	\$2,000
Guatemala	\$2,000
Honduras	\$2,000
Mexico	\$15,000
The Netherlands	
Caribbean Netherlands	\$5,000
Curacao	\$5,000
St Maarten	\$5,000
Panama	\$2,000
Peru	\$2,000
The United States	\$65,000
Uruguay	\$2,928
Venezuela	\$3,653
TOTAL	\$134,137

³ Noting the Convention does not provide for mandatory contributions, the amounts presented here are suggested contributions and do not imply a legal obligation.

Annex XII: IAC COP6 Document List

Document Number	Title of Document
Resolutions	
CIT-COP6-2013-R1	Resolution on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and b) for Subsistence Harvesting of <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> Eggs in Guatemala and Panama
CIT-COP6-2013-R2	IAC Finances 2013-2015
CIT-COP6-2013-R3	Resolution on the Establishment and Operation of a Permanent Secretariat
Working Documents	
CIT-COP6-2013-Doc.1	Agenda Sixth IAC Conference of the Parties (COP6IAC)
CIT-COP6-2013-Doc.2	Working Group on the Legal Personality and Permanent Secretariat of the IAC Report to the 6th Conference of the Parties
CIT-COP6-2013-Doc.3	2013-2104 IAC Work Plan
CIT-COP6-2013-Doc.4	Memorandum of Understanding between the ICCAT and IAC
Informational Documents	
CIT-COP6-2013-Inf.1	COP6 Participant List
CIT-COP6-2013-Inf.2	Report on the 2011-2013 Activities of the <i>Pro Tempore</i> Secretariat to the COP6
CIT-COP6-2013-Inf.3	Report of the Scientific Committee's Annual Report Working Group of the IAC
CIT-COP6-2013-Inf.4	Report and Recommendations for Compliance with the Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP2-2004-R1) from the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Task Force to the COP6
CIT-COP6-2013-Inf.5	Analysis of the Consultative Committee of Experts on the Compliance with the IAC Resolutions by the Party Countries Report to the COP6
CIT-COP6-2013-Inf.6	Nominations Received for the Sectorial Representatives on the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts
CIT-COP6-2013-Inf. 7	Finances Informative Document
CIT-COP6-2013-Inf. 8	Draft Collaboration Arrangement between the Secretariats of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and the Sargasso Sea Alliance

Annex XIII: COP6 Photos



Ms. Monica Hidalgo, Vice-minister of the Ministry of Environment – Ecuador



Eduardo Espinoza (Ecuador), Monica Hidalgo (Vice-minister of the Ministry of Environment – Ecuador), Alexis Gutierrez (COP6 Chair), Verónica Cáceres (IAC PT Secretary)



COP6 Plenary Session



COP6 Participants