



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

CIT-COP-Inter-sesion-2015-R1

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

CONSIDERING that Article VI of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles includes the establishment and functions of the Secretariat;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties on the matter;

RECALLING that by Resolution CIT-COP-Inter-sesion-2014-R1 Parties requested the Working Group on the Legal Framework of the Convention and Permanent Secretariat to continue its functions to assist IAC Parties for the establishment of a Permanent Secretariat.

FURTHER RECALLING that by Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R3 and CIT-COP-Inter-sesión-2014-R1, Parties asked the United States of America to continue hosting the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat until a headquarters agreement is agreed and implemented;

THANKING the intentions for hosting the Secretariat expressed opportunely by Caribbean Netherlands, Peru and Ecuador, and also by Stetson University (Tampa, Florida, USA) and the Non-Governmental Organization ARCAS (Guatemala);

CONSIDERING that the United States of America have been hosting the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat since 2009 and have presented to IAC Parties a proposal to establish the Permanent Secretariat in their territory (Annex I);

CONSIDERING that this is an important matter that requires a decision to be adopted between sessions using Rule 5.5 of the Rules of Procedures for the Meetings of the Parties to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles Resolution CIT-COP1-2003-R4-Rev.1.

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

RESOLVE:

1-To accept the United States Government's proposal (Annex I) to start the internal process for the probable establishment and permanent hosting of the Secretariat pursuant to Article VI of the Convention.

2-To authorize the Chair of the Conference of the Parties to send the necessary documents to the United States Government to start the process mentioned above.



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

ANNEX I

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

I. A. Proposed/Current Location: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Division of International Conservation, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia 22041. USFWS will provide office space at this location at least through September 30, 2020. In the event that USFWS is no longer able to provide space after that date, it will assist in the search for a new location.

B. Office Space: 11 square meters with locking door

C. In-Kind Support: Desk, desk top computer, printer and scanner, filing cabinets, phone with unlimited free international telephone calls, and access to meeting rooms with international video conferencing capability.

D. Financial Support: USFWS provides annual funding of approximately \$43,000 from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund to support part-time administrative and technical support, delegates' attendance at the Conference of the Parties (COP) and subsidiary committee meetings, translation services, and regional workshops.

E. Financial Management: The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, which currently provides financial management services to the IAC, will continue do so pursuant to appropriate arrangements with the IAC.

II. Application for Designation under the International Organizations Immunities Act

Should the IAC Parties wish for the IAC to be considered for designation pursuant to the International Organizations Immunities Act (IOIA, 22 U.S.C. 288), which could make it eligible for certain privileges and immunities in the United States, the IAC may submit an application to the Department of State demonstrating that it meets the five requirements set forth in the Department of State Bulletin, Vol. XIV, No. 348, pp. 348-49 (March 3, 1946). Designation of qualified organizations under the IOIA, including the extension of any applicable privileges and immunities, is by Executive Order of the President of the United States and is discretionary.