

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



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

Mexico City, Mexico, 24-26 June 2015

PUBLISHED BY:

Secretariat *Pro Tempore* of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), Virginia, USA

<http://www.iacseaturtle.org>

Verónica Cáceres Chamorro

Secretary *Pro Tempore*

secretario@iacseaturtle.org

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

Mailing address:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Att: IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore*

5275 Leesburg Pike,

Falls Church, VA 22041-3803 USA

Tel: (703) 358-1828

INDEX

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
REPORT IAC COP7.....	6
ITEM 1. OPENING CEREMONY	6
ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	6
ITEM 3. INTRODUCTION OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS	7
ITEM 4. ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR OF COP7	7
ITEM 5. SECRETARIAT <i>PRO TEMPORE</i> REPORT 2013-2015.....	7
ITEM 6. REPORT FROM THE IAC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE.....	8
ITEM 7. ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON EXCEPTIONS UNDER ARTICLE IV (3A AND 3B) FOR SUBSISTENCE HARVESTING OF LEPIDOCHELYS OLIVACEA EGGS IN COSTA RICA. CIT-COP7-2015-R.1	9
ITEM 8. REPORT OF THE IAC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE	9
ITEM 9. ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON CONSERVATION OF THE EASTERN PACIFIC LEATHERBACK TURTLE (DERMOCHELYS CORIACEA). CIT-COP7-2015-R.2	10
ITEM 10. ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON CONSERVATION OF LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE (CARETTA CARETTA). CIT-COP7-2015-R.3	11
ITEM 11. WORK PLAN OF THE SECRETARIAT <i>PRO TEMPORE</i> AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES FOR 2015-2016. CIT-COP7-2015-DOC.2	11
ITEM 12. IAC'S FINANCES 2015 -2017 AND RENEWAL OF THE MOU WITH THE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION. CIT-COP7-2015-R.4	11
ITEM 13. REVIEW OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS BY IAC'S SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE, CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS AND/OR ANY OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES	12
ITEM 14. REPORT OF THE RESOLUTION COMPLIANCE WORKING GROUP ON CHANGES TO THE IAC ANNUAL REPORT. CIT-COP7-2015-DOC.3 ..	12
ITEM 15. RESOLUTION ADOPTIONS AND FINAL EDITIONS OF THE MEETING DOCUMENTS.....	12
ITEM 16. COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ..	13
ITEM 17. OTHER BUSINESS	13
a. <i>Proposals for IAC Permanent Secretariat (theme proposed by United States)</i>	13
b. <i>Update on the status of the building of a mining port on a leatherback nesting beaches in Espirito Santo, Brazil (theme proposed by Caribbean Netherlands) .</i>	14
c. <i>Status of financial contributions of IAC Parties (theme proposed by Ecuador) ...</i>	14

d. Strategy to increase the IAC membership (theme proposed by Mexico).....	15
e. Publication of a book with the Parties actions for the protection of sea turtles (theme proposed by Mexico)	15
ITEM 18. ELECTION OF PLACE AND DATES FOR IAC COP8 IN 2017	15
ITEM 19. ELECTION OF THE NEXT CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.....	15
ITEM 20. CLOSING REMARKS	16
ANNEX I AGENDA COP7 CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.1.....	17
ANNEX II List of Participants CIT-COP7-2015-Inf.1.....	19
ANNEX III Resolution on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and 3b) for subsistence harvesting of <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> eggs in Costa Rica. CIT-COP7-2015-R.1	22
ANNEX IV Resolution on Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>). CIT-COP7-2015-R.2.....	24
ANNEX V Resolution on Conservation of Loggerhead Sea Turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>). CIT- COP7-2015-R.3	29
ANNEX VI Work Plan of the Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> and subsidiary bodies for 2015- 2016. CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.2.....	31
ANNEX VII IAC Finances 2015 -2017. CIT-COP7-2015-R.4.....	41
ANNEX VIII Report of the Resolution Compliance Working Group on changes to the IAC’s Annual Report. CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.3.	46
ANNEX IX. List of documents COP7.....	50
ANNEX X. Photos IAC COP7	51

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP7) of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) was held on June 24-26, 2015 in Mexico City. The Government of Mexico hosted and chaired the meeting. The IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* received the support from the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and the Mexican Focal Point in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

We thanked the Government of Mexico, the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund of US Fish and Wildlife Service and the IAC Special Fund, for their financial support for COP7.

The meeting was attended by representatives of 11 IAC member countries, and accredited observers from local and international NGOs.

COP7 adopted an important Resolution for the conservation of the Eastern Pacific leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) whose population classified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as "critically endangered" urgently needs concrete actions from the countries in the distribution range of this species. The Resolution contains a guide of activities that countries working individually and together can implement to focus their efforts to reverse the decline of this population.

Likewise, the Resolution for the conservation of the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) was adopted. It is the first resolution for this species adopted by the IAC, and calls on the cooperation between IAC member countries, with non-member countries, and relevant inter-governmental agreement, to monitor and report on the status of the sub-populations of this species.

The establishment of a permanent location for the IAC Secretariat was discussed and significant progress was made; the discussion will continue during the inter-sessional period. The IAC Parties showed interest in supporting actively the recruiting of new members to the Convention and the preparation of promotional material such as publications to help this purpose.

COP7 was led by Mr. Alejandro del Mazo Maza, Commissioner of Natural Protected Areas as Chair, and Mr. Paul Hoetjes from Ministry of Economic Affairs as Vice Chair. We appreciate the excellent leadership that led us to achieve all the objectives for this meeting.

Veronica Caceres Chamorro
IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore*
July 2015

REPORT IAC COP7

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

Meeting Location: Camino Real Pedregal Hotel, Mexico City, Mexico

Date: 24 - 26 June 2015

COP7 Chair: Alejandro del Mazo Maza, Mexico

COP7 Vice Chair: Paul Hoetjes, Caribbean Netherlands

Rapporteur:

- Priority Species Group of the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas
- Coordinating Unit for International Affairs of the Environment and Natural Resources Secretariat
- IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore*

English Translation of Report: Ingrid Yanez, IAC Secretariat Assistant

ITEM 1. OPENING CEREMONY

1. COP7 began at 9:00 am with opening remarks by the authorities of the host country, Government of Mexico. The Chair of the IAC COP7, Mr. Alejandro del Mazo Maza, National Commission of Natural Protected Areas welcomed the delegations wishing them a successful meeting. Mr. del Mazo briefly reviewed the history and conservation efforts for sea turtles in Mexico that has a history of 49 years. Mr. Mario Aguilar Sánchez, National Commission of Aquaculture and Fisheries, highlighted the importance of responsible fisheries to mitigate impacts on sea turtles through training workshops on the use of circle hooks and Turtle Excluder Devices among others. Mr. Juan Jose Guerra Abud, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources delivered the message from the President of Mexico wishing delegates a productive meeting and a pleasant visit in Mexico. He also said sea turtles are a priority and a most important issue for the country, and the only way to protect resources is by making countries work together. The opening ceremony ended with the presentation of a video about Mexican biodiversity.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. Mr. Alejandro del Mazo Maza (COP7 Chair) presented the draft agenda for consideration. The agenda was adopted with the inclusion of the following items under the Other Business section: a) Proposals for IAC Permanent Secretariat, and Secretariat legal status b) Update on the status of the building of a mining port in Brazil c) Status of financial contributions of the IAC Parties d) Strategy to increase the IAC membership e) Publication of a book with the IAC Parties actions for the protection of sea turtles. Adopted agenda in Annex I: CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.1

ITEM 3. INTRODUCTION OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

3. The meeting continued with the presentations of the heads of delegations from 11 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, United States, Honduras, Mexico, Caribbean Netherlands, Peru and Uruguay.

4. IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore*, Ms. Veronica Caceres, read the list of accredited observers: Humane Society International, Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA), Defenders of Wildlife, Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental (CEMDA), Flora, Fauna y Cultura de México A.C., Grupo Tortuguero del Caribe, Stetson University, The Leatherback Trust, and Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Network (WIDECAST). List of participants, in the Annex II: CIT-COP7-2015-Inf.1

ITEM 4. ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR OF COP7

5. In the absence of a candidate for rapporteur from the attending delegates, the host country, Mexico, and the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* performed this task.

ITEM 5. SECRETARIAT *PRO TEMPORE* REPORT 2013-2015

6. Ms. Veronica Caceres, IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore*, provided an overview of the activities that the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* has implemented in the last two years in fulfillment of the Convention work plan. The subjects reported were: a) IAC Membership, b) Fundraising and ongoing projects, c) Support for working groups of the Scientific and Consultative Committees, d) Organization of meetings e) Negotiation of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and, f) Relations with other international organizations.

7. The delegations commended the IAC Secretariat work highlighting that it is done with limited funds and staff. The coordination that takes place under the leadership of the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* to facilitate collaboration among the Parties during inter-sessional period was also recognized.

8. The delegate from Argentina thanked the IAC support for organizing a workshop for the development of a National Action Plan for Marine Turtles (PAN-Sea Turtles), held in Buenos Aires in 2014. He also noted that the PAN-Sea Turtles includes two National Action Programs: one for reducing sea turtle interaction with fisheries; and another to reduce sea turtle interaction with marine debris. Also, he commented that they used the IAC guidelines for the preparation of Action Plans for Marine Turtles. Regarding the field work related to this action plan, Argentina is collecting information on the interaction of marine turtles with fisheries in the coastal towns of Buenos Aires using the data collection forms prepared by the IAC subsidiary bodies. Argentina is also ready to implement the recommendations made by the IAC Scientific Committee on best practices for safe handling and release on board for sea turtles incidentally caught in coastal fisheries. Finally, Argentina reported they are planning activities to reduce sea turtle interactions with marine debris included in the PAN-Sea Turtle. These actions will be undertaken jointly with various organizations of civil society with the objective of promoting education and outreach activities, beach clean ups and coastal debris census in different sectors including government, education, businesses and the community.

9. The delegate from Argentina expressed that the Meeting of the Parties of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) approved the Resolution 5.3 to commence the negotiations to sign a MoU ACAP- IAC. The delegate from Costa Rica suggested to open the dialogue with the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD); sea turtles are a priority on CCAD and it would be an opportunity to approach Nicaragua and El Salvador who are members of CCAD.

10. The delegate from Ecuador highlighted the usefulness of the newsletters produced by the Secretariat *Pro Tempore*. He also mentioned that the Action Plan of sea turtles in Ecuador was based on the guidelines prepared by the IAC, and also national workshops have been held to promote this information. He mentioned that World Sea Turtle Day, on June 16, is celebrated each year with activities throughout the country.

11. The delegate from Costa Rica requested an update on the activities of the IAC legal working group. The Secretary *Pro Tempore* explained that in November 2014, the Resolution CIT-COP6-Inter-session-2014-R1 was adopted. This Resolution approves the extension of the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* location in the United States and the renewal of the Secretary *Pro Tempore* current contract until the next COP or December 2017.

12. The delegate from Caribbean Netherlands thanked the work of the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* that has proven to be substantial for the operation of the Convention and welcomed the steps taken to great effect in the installation of the sea turtle monitoring program in Curacao.

13. The delegate from Mexico (PROFEPA) reported the activities with Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) through the training program for 7,000 fishermen in the use of TEDs. He commented on the ongoing monitoring efforts on Mexican nesting beaches, and also mentioned that there have been few cases where they have been penalized for not being in compliance with TEDs.

14. The delegate from Honduras asked about the progress of efforts to integrate Nicaragua and El Salvador to the IAC due to the presence of sea turtles in the Gulf of Fonseca. The Secretary *Pro Tempore* commented that there have been approaches to both countries, and requested support from neighboring countries in this effort.

15. The delegate from Chile referred to the support of the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* in fundraising for projects in the IAC Parties, particularly for the project with the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund of the USFWS to mitigate the impact the fisheries with leatherback turtles in Chile. This project is being implemented jointly with the Government of Chile and the NGO Pacifico Laud, and it has been the result of a collaborative effort where Chile prepared the proposal and the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* presented it to the MTCF.

ITEM 6. REPORT FROM THE IAC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

16. IAC Scientific Committee Chair, Mr. Diego Albareda, gave a presentation on the committee's activities at its previous meetings SC10 (Honduras 2013) and SC11 (Peru 2014). He highlighted the work with index beaches, strandings, interactions with fisheries and marine debris.

17. The delegate from Brazil suggested that maps showing the index nesting beaches should be developed. The maps will use the coordinates that countries have provided. He offered help in preparing the maps for IAC index beaches.

18. The delegate from Ecuador commented that marine debris is a serious issue in marine ecosystems. He also mentioned that the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) already has a resolution on this, and coordinated work would be appropriate. He mentioned the problem involving plastic bags, which are already prohibited in the Galapagos Islands.

ITEM 7. ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON EXCEPTIONS UNDER ARTICLE IV (3A AND 3B) FOR SUBSISTENCE HARVESTING OF LEPIDOCHELYS OLIVACEA EGGS IN COSTA RICA. CIT-COP7-2015-R.1

19. The COP Chair made an introduction of the proposed resolution indicating that this resolution was drafted with the recommendations of the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committee of Experts after analyzing the technical information of the exception presented by Costa Rica in its 2014 Annual Report.

20. The delegate from Costa Rica was asked about the situation of turtle eggs commerce and the effectiveness of the traceability method to which he replied that the method used in Ostional is reliable. He added that it is probable that this activity won't prevail -in the future- due to the low profit margin for the local communities, and it is very likely that the egg commerce will be replaced with tourism activities.

21. Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R.1 was adopted without changes to the original text. See Annex III: Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R.1

ITEM 8. REPORT OF THE IAC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

22. The Chair of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts, Mr. Paul Hoetjes presented the results of its meetings CCE7 (Gulfport, 2014) and CCE8 via videoconference (2015), and the work plan for 2015-2016. He stressed that the CCE has worked in the inter-sessional period in collaboration with other organizations in the preparation of technical documents and has made recommendations for the proposed resolutions under discussion at COP7. He also mentioned that the work that has been done in collaboration with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is very valuable, and hopes this collaboration will continue.

23. The delegate from Brazil presented the document on the Compliance of the IAC Resolutions (CIT-COP7-2015-Inf.3).

24. COP7 recommended that the Analysis on Compliance of the IAC Resolutions (CIT-COP7-2015-Inf.3) be sent to the IAC focal points with a summary of the important issues for each country. At the same time countries should circulate this report to their respective government agencies and national authorities.

ITEM 9. ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON CONSERVATION OF THE EASTERN PACIFIC LEATHERBACK TURTLE (DERMOCHELYS CORIACEA). CIT-COP7-2015-R.2

25. The COP Vice Chair, the delegate from Caribbean Netherlands, gave an introduction to the topic by mentioning that based on the contributions of the IAC Scientific and Consultative Committees, the East Pacific Leatherback Working Group prepared the draft resolution that addresses the critical status of the Eastern Pacific leatherback turtle population, urging the attention of the IAC Parties.
26. The delegate from Costa Rica requested that the NGO The Leatherback Trust present information on the status of the leatherbacks in Las Baulas National Marine Park in Costa Rica. Representatives of that organization, Mr. George Shillinger and Ms. Bibi Santidrián reported the number of females registered during the last season, confirming the dramatic decline of the population, from 1,500 females in 1990 to only 22 in 2015.
27. The delegate from Chile recommended inviting Mr. George Shillinger of The Leatherback Trust to provide information and support to the IAC Scientific Committee.
28. The delegate from Brazil suggested text changes in reference to national jurisdictions where every country holds the right to fish. The delegate from Argentina suggested changes in the order of paragraphs in the resolution.
29. Delegates of Chile and Costa Rica suggested including a text on forming alliances with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to collect bycatch information.
30. Delegates voiced their opinions regarding the responsibilities of identifying funds for the implementation of the resolution. Delegates from United States, Mexico and Ecuador expressed that the responsibility for identifying financial support for the execution of actions in the Resolution falls mainly on the IAC Parties with the support of the IAC subsidiary bodies and in coordination with the Secretariat *Pro Tempore*.
31. There was discussion about the identification of individual countries in the annex of the resolution. Delegates from Chile, Ecuador, Uruguay and Argentina considered that the actions of this resolution should not be extended to countries not members of the IAC.
32. The delegate from Costa Rica did not agree that the title of the annex of the resolution includes the term "Work Plan" as it does not contain details of budget, and urged the delegates to find language with which all are satisfied. It was clarified that an estimated budget was presented to the COP as an information document. The delegates agreed on the use of the term "Strategic actions" instead of "Work Plan" for the resolution's annex. Also, the delegates agreed that a working group formed by the Scientific and Consultative Committees will monitor the implementation of the resolution.
33. Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R.2 was adopted with the changes suggested by the COP. See Annex IV: Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R.2.

ITEM 10. ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON CONSERVATION OF LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE (CARETTA CARETTA). CIT-COP7-2015-R.3

34. The COP Chair presented the proposed resolution submitted by the United States for the consideration of the IAC Parties.
35. The delegate of Mexico (CONAPESCA) read a statement on the actions taken by the Government of Mexico to mitigate the bycatch of *Caretta caretta*. Among these, he mentioned design traps (for fishing), fishing nets and hook replacement, and implementation of training programs for the release of turtles accidentally caught in fisheries.
36. The delegate from United States requested the inclusion of mining as one of the threats to the loggerhead turtle. The delegate from Argentina requested the replacement of the term "work together" with "work in coordination" and the Brazilian delegation suggested to include Argentina in the Resolution.
37. Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R.3 was adopted with the changes suggested. See Annex V: Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R.3

ITEM 11. WORK PLAN OF THE SECRETARIAT *PRO TEMPORE* AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES FOR 2015-2016. CIT-COP7-2015-DOC.2

38. The Secretariat *Pro Tempore* and the Scientific and Consultative Committees work plans were presented by Ms. Veronica Caceres (IAC's Secretary *Pro Tempore*). Editorial changes, and the inclusion of new tasks that correspond to the new resolutions adopted at this meeting for the eastern Pacific leatherback and loggerhead turtle were made. See Annex VI: CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.2

ITEM 12. IAC'S FINANCES 2015 -2017 AND RENEWAL OF THE MOU WITH THE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION. CIT-COP7-2015-R.4

39. The Secretariat *Pro Tempore* presented the proposed budget for the next two years, and funds that were raised through the project proposals submitted to Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (MTCF), which is of valuable support to ensure the compliance with the Convention work plan.
40. The delegate from Argentina asked what happens to funds that are not used in the meetings where expenses and costs are lower, and asked if it is possible to allocate these funds to other areas. The Secretariat *Pro Tempore* indicated that this is not a possibility because the IAC works with a budget deficit, as the annual contributions of the Parties are not sufficient to cover all expenses of the annual budget.
41. The MoU with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) was reviewed, and it was mentioned that this MoU has been renewed every two years at the COP. It was also noted that the work relationship with NMFS as administrator of the IAC Special Fund has been satisfactory over the years.
42. COP7 agreed to the renewal of the MoU with the NMFS for a period of two years.

43. Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R.4 was adopted without changes to the original text. See Annex VII: Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R.4

ITEM 13. REVIEW OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS BY IAC'S SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE, CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS AND/OR ANY OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

44. No more resolutions were presented at the meeting.

ITEM 14. REPORT OF THE RESOLUTION COMPLIANCE WORKING GROUP ON CHANGES TO THE IAC ANNUAL REPORT. CIT-COP7-2015-DOC.3

45. The delegate from Brazil on behalf of the Resolution Compliance Working Group presented the recommendations of changes to the IAC Annual Report that were approved during the 8th meeting of the CCE. Delegates suggested reducing the number of questions in Part II (Policy and Management) in the tables for assessing compliance with each resolution. Only questions that help assess more objectively the IAC resolution compliance were kept. The changes approved for the IAC Annual Report are in Annex VIII: CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.3.

46. COP7 agreed on the following in relation to the IAC Annual Report:

a) The 2014 report using the new format adopted at COP7 will be sent to the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* on September 15, 2015. Countries that have already submitted their reports using the previous format will send only the information on the three new questions about the leatherback and fisheries resolutions. The Secretariat *Pro Tempore* will include the information in these countries report in the new format. In this way, all reports will be submitted in the new format.

b) The Scientific Committee in their upcoming meeting will recommend submission dates of the IAC Annual Report taking into account the temporal variability in nesting of the species. These dates will be consulted with the Consultative Committee of Experts to decide the submission date for the IAC Annual Report.

c) The Scientific Committee in their upcoming meeting will prepare questions for the IAC Annual Report that apply to the new loggerhead turtle resolution. These questions will be submitted to the Consultative Committee of Experts for its approval. These questions will be approved during inter-sessional period by the IAC Focal Points giving one month for these consultations, so that the IAC Annual Report containing these questions is complete by April 30th, 2016.

d) When changes are made to the IAC Annual Report, the report will always be submitted on the date that was already set, and the report using a new format will be submitted on the year after the COP approval date of the new format.

ITEM 15. RESOLUTION ADOPTIONS AND FINAL EDITIONS OF THE MEETING DOCUMENTS

47. The Secretary *Pro Tempore* read the adopted resolutions by COP7 including the text modifications made at the meeting.

ITEM 16. COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

48. The Secretary *Pro Tempore* described the mechanisms and results from the work carried out with different organizations with which the IAC has alliances. She highlighted the preparation of technical documents in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention, CMS, Sargasso Sea Commission, and CITES.

49. Delegates suggested approaching the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD). Costa Rica and Honduras will help the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* with this outreach.

50. Regarding the progress of the MoU with the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* indicated that she is waiting for ACAP Secretariat to send a revised draft MoU. Then, she will share it with the IAC Parties and it will be signed inter-sessionally.

51. Regarding the collaboration IAC-CITES, the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* informed the meeting that recommendations from the hawksbill turtle status document prepared in collaboration with CITES, with respect to domestic and international traffic, will be presented at the next CITES COP. She also stated that IOSEA MoU (Indian Ocean - South-East Asian Marine Turtle MoU) has an interest in making recommendations on the issue of sea turtle traffic in Asia and preparing a joint recommendation document to the CITES COP would be desirable. The delegate from Costa Rica commented that hawksbill international traffic information has been included in the IAC Annual Report, and warned that it is a threat that is still present.

52. The delegate from United States suggested to present the report with recommendations to CITES in conjunction with IOSEA. The meeting approved this motion.

53. The delegate from Caribbean Netherlands explained that there is evidence of illegal hawksbill capture in many areas. He also highlighted the importance of the IAC report, because it had an impact on the decisions of other international organizations, such as SPAW Protocol which has adopted a recommendation calling on the SPAW Protocol Parties not to allow any kind of legal or illegal capture of sea turtles.

ITEM 17. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Proposals for IAC Permanent Secretariat (theme proposed by United States)

54. The delegate from United States stated that the work of the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* has been effective in part due to the advantages offered by the current location of the office in the United States. He expressed the intention of the United States Government to submit a proposal to host the IAC Secretariat if there was sufficient support and interest within the Parties. There have been previous consultations with the USFWS and they have guaranteed office space for at least five more years with financial support for the IAC Secretariat. After this, the IAC Secretariat location will be guaranteed by U.S. Government in Washington DC general area. The delegate said that the United States domestic process for this negotiation requires the identification of the IAC as an international organization, and that would take about nine months. He requested the Parties initial thoughts about this proposal recognizing

that this discussion and opinions will guide the beginning of the domestic consultation process in the United States.

55. The delegate from Caribbean Netherlands commented that although the Caribbean Netherlands proposal to host the IAC Secretariat proposed at COP6 continues on the table, the process of formalizing the proposal with the authorities has been slow. Also, he acknowledged that the availability of resources for the IAC Secretariat would not be as extensive as it is at its current site. Further, after hearing the United States proposal, he believes that it is more advantageous for the optimal operation of the Convention; therefore Caribbean Netherlands have no objection to withdraw their offer.

56. The delegate from Ecuador explained that the proposal presented by Ecuador remains in discussion. They have held consultations on the legal capacity to manage IAC funds to make the proposal viable and they are waiting for an official response from the Ecuadorian government on the decision to continue or not with the hosting proposal. The government response will not take more than one month.

57. Delegates from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Peru and Uruguay thanked the generous proposals of the United States and Ecuador, and they will wait for their official proposals to be presented in order to carry out the necessary consultations in their countries to provide an opinion.

58. The mechanism to make the decision on the IAC Permanent Secretariat location was discussed. Due to the importance of the subject, it was asked if it should be done at the COP, or if it is more practical to use the decision-making process during inter-sessional period to expedite the process. The delegations of the United States, Honduras, Caribbean Netherlands, and Mexico agreed that the issue needed to be solved at the earliest opportunity, by the inter-sessional decision making process.

59. On this matter COP7 agreed: That both Ecuador and the United States will send their official proposals three months after the COP to the Secretariat *Pro Tempore*. Proposals then will be sent to the IAC Focal Points for review. Proposals will be reviewed electronically, and the decision-making process will be defined, taking into account the possibility of arranging a videoconference for this purpose.

b. Update on the status of the building of a mining port on a leatherback nesting beaches in Espirito Santo, Brazil (theme proposed by Caribbean Netherlands)

60. The delegate from Brazil reported the progress on this issue and the support of the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* to communicate the message of concern to the Focal Point in Brazil about the situation in the nesting beach. He informed that the Brazilian government has not authorized the building of the port, and that the developers have not filed an appeal, a possibility allowed by the Brazilian law.

c. Status of financial contributions of IAC Parties (theme proposed by Ecuador)

61. The delegate from Ecuador suggested organizing a high level ministerial meeting at the next COP to discuss the issue of contributions to the IAC and to urge the Parties to make commitments to comply with their contributions.

62. It was discussed that a high level meeting will require the inclusion of additional items on the agenda, besides a lot of logistics, security and resources, and it would represent a high commitment by the host country. It was suggested that the framework of other meetings such as the COP13 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) be used to organize a side meeting.

63. The delegate from Chile explained that the irregularity in the payment of the contributions by the Parties would be resolved when the headquarters and legal personality of the IAC Secretariat are resolved.

d. Strategy to increase the IAC membership (theme proposed by Mexico)

64. The delegate from Caribbean Netherlands mentioned the need to increase the participation of the Caribbean region and the approach to Canada.

65. The delegate from United States proposed Cuba as a country in the Caribbean that might be interested. The delegate from Mexico agreed with the proposal and suggested supporting the coordination of a visiting delegation comprised by the Secretariat *Pro Tempore*, Scientific Committee Chair and delegates from the United States, Mexico and the Caribbean Netherlands.

66. Delegates agreed to provide support for the ratification of new members. The Parties will send notes of support to the Dominican Republic and Colombia, so they continue moving forward with the IAC the ratification.

e. Publication of a book with the Parties actions for the protection of sea turtles (theme proposed by Mexico)

67. The delegate from Mexico offered to collaborate with the preparation of a book on the activities carried out by the Parties around the protection and conservation of sea turtles, which will be used to increase visibility for the Convention. Mexico offered to set aside funds in the 2016 budget of the Endangered Species Conservation Program of the country. The budget would include layout, editing and printing of the book. Also, he requested the collaboration of the Parties for the book contents.

68. An Editorial Committee was formed with the participation of Mexico, United States and Brazil; they will present the draft of the book to the IAC Focal Points for their review.

ITEM 18. ELECTION OF PLACE AND DATES FOR IAC COP8 IN 2017

69. The delegate from Argentina presented the formal proposal of the Argentine government to host the 8th IAC Conference of the Parties (COP8).

70. The delegates welcomed and accepted the generous offer of Argentina that will host COP8 in Buenos Aires in June 2017.

ITEM 19. ELECTION OF THE NEXT CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

71. Argentina was proposed as Chair and Brazil as Vice Chair for COP8. The delegations of both countries accepted and appreciated the trust placed in them. Argentina's Focal Point in a communication after the meeting nominated Mr. Antonio de Nichilo as IAC COP Chair.

ITEM 20. CLOSING REMARKS

72. COP7 concluded with the closing remarks by the COP Chair, Mr. Alejandro del Mazo Maza, who appreciated the good work done during the three days where significant progress was made in international collaboration for the protection and conservation of sea turtles.

73. The delegations thanked Mr. Alejandro del Mazo Maza for his excellent work as COP Chair and for his wise leadership of the discussions, respecting the allocated times and allowing all items proposed on the agenda to be covered satisfactorily.

ANNEX I
AGENDA COP7 CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.1

Day 1: Wednesday, 24 June

Item	Document
1. Opening ceremony Mr. Alejandro del Mazo Maza. National Commission of Natural Protected Areas. Mr. Mario Aguilar, National Commission of Aquaculture and Fisheries. Mr. Juan José Guerra Abud, Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT).	
2. Adoption of the agenda.	CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.1
3. Introduction of the head of delegation of IAC's Parties, and reading of the list of participating observers.	
4. Election of the Rapporteur of the COP7.	
5. Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> Report 2013-2015.	CIT-COP7-2015-Inf.5
6. Report of the IAC's Scientific Committee Chair:	
a. Review of the 2013-2015 work.	
b. Presentation of the Work Plan for 2015-2016.	CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.2
c. Presentation of the report "Data Analysis of Index Nesting Beaches (2009-2013)".	CIT-CC11-2014-Tec.7
7. Analysis of the proposed Resolution on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and 3b) for subsistence harvesting <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> eggs in Costa Rica.	CIT-COP7-2015-R1
8. Report of the IAC's Consultative Committee of Experts Chair:	
a. Review of the 2013-2015 work.	
b. Presentation of the Work Plan for 2015-2016.	CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.2
c. Presentation on compliance with IAC's Resolutions.	CIT-COP7-2015-Inf.3

Day 2: Thursday, 25 June

9. Analysis of the proposed Resolution on Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>).	CIT-COP7-2015-R2 and CIT-COP7-2015-Inf.4
10. Analysis of the proposed Resolution on Conservation of Loggerhead Sea Turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>).	CIT-COP7-2015-R3
11. Work Plan of the Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> and subsidiary bodies for 2015-2016.	CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.2
12. IAC Finances 2015-2017 and Renewal of the MoU with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.	CIT-COP7-2015-R4 CIT-COP7-2015-Inf.2
13. Review of proposed resolutions by IAC's Scientific Committee, Consultative Committee of Experts and /or any of the contracting parties.	

Day 3: Friday, 26 June

14. Report of the Resolution Compliance Working Group on changes to the IAC's Annual Report.	CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.3
15. Resolution adoptions and final editions of the meeting documents.	

16.	Collaboration with International Organizations.	CIT-COP7-2015-Inf.5
17.	Other business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Proposals for IAC Permanent Secretariat. b. Update on the construction status of a mining port on leatherback nesting beaches in Espirito Santo, Brazil. c. Status on financial contributions of the Parties. d. Strategy to increase the IAC's membership. e. Publication of a book with the Parties actions for the protection of sea turtles. 	
18.	Election of place and dates for IAC COP8 in 2017.	
19.	Election of the next Chair and Vice Chair.	
20.	Closing remarks.	

ANNEX II
List of Participants CIT-COP7-2015-Inf.1

COUNTRY	NAME	INSTITUTION	E-MAIL
MEXICO, IAC COP7 CHAIR	ALEJANDRO DEL MAZO MAZA	COMISIONADO NACIONAL DE ÁREAS NATURALES (CONANP)	adelmazo@conanp.gob.mx
Delegates			
ARGENTINA	MARTIN MAINERO	SECRETARIO EMBAJADA DE LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA EN MÉXICO	emexi@cancilleria.gob.ar
ARGENTINA	RODOLFO SÁNCHEZ	DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE ASUNTOS AMBIENTALES. MNISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES Y CULTO	zrf@mrecic.gov.ar
ARGENTINA	ANTONIO DE NICHILLO	COORDINADOR GRUPO DE TRABAJO SOBRE RECURSOS ACUÁTICOS. SECRETARIA DE AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO SUSTENTABLE DE LA NACIÓN	ajdnichilo@ambiente.gob.ar
BRAZIL	JULIANA SOARES SANTOS	MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES	juliana.santos@itamaraty.gov.br
BRAZIL	JOÃO THOMÉ	ANALISTA AMBIENTAL. COORDINADOR REGIONAL PROJETO TAMAR-ICMBio	joao.thome@icmbio.gov.br
CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS	PAUL HOETJES	POLICY COORDINATOR. MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS	Paul.Hoetjes@rijksdienstCN.com
CHILE	FRANCISCO PONCE	SUBSECRETARÍA DE PESCA Y ACUICULTURA	franciscoponce@subpesca.cl
COSTA RICA	MARCO SOLANO	MINISTERIO DE AMBIENTE Y ENERGÍA	masolano@minae.go.cr
ECUADOR	EDUARDO ESPINOZA	PARQUE NACIONAL GALÁPAGOS. MINISTERIO DEL AMBIENTE	eespinoza@galapagos.gob.ec
ECUADOR	VICENTE MEDINA	TERCER SECRETARIO DEL SERVICIO EXTERIOR. MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES	mvmedina@cancilleria.gob.ec
HONDURAS	JOSÉ MARIANO CASTILLO MERCADO	EMBAJADOR. EMBAJADA DE HONDURAS ANTE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS	emhonmex@gmail.com, 220castillo @gmail.com
HONDURAS	RITZA ARDÓN	CONSEJERA. EMBAJADA DE HONDURAS ANTE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS	ritzaardon@yahoo.com
HONDURAS	KAREN JOHANNA CERRATO	ANALISTA DE POLÍTICA MULTILATERAL. SECRETARÍA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES Y COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL	karen.cerrato@gmail.com
MEXICO	ENRIQUE LENDO FUENTES	TITULAR UNIDAD COORDINADORA DE ASUNTOS INTERNACIONALES (UCAI). SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES (SEMARNAT)	enrique.lendo@semarnat.gob.mx
MEXICO	LUZ MARÍA ORTIZ ORTIZ	DIRECTORA GENERAL ADJUNTA DE ACUERDOS AMBIENTALES MULTILATERALES UCAI - SEMARNAT	luz.ortiz@semarnat.gob.mx
MEXICO	AÍDA PEÑA JARAMILLO	DIRECTORA DE LA AGENDA AZUL UCAI -SEMARNAT	aida.pj@semarnat.gob.mx
MEXICO	ALEJANDRA RETA LIRA	DIRECTORA DE REGULACIÓN DE RECURSOS MARINOS Y COSTEROS	alejandra.reta@semarnat.gob.mx

MEXICO	VICTOR MANUEL ARRIAGA HARO	DIRECTOR GENERAL DE ORDENAMIENTO PESQUERO Y ACUÍCOLA. CONAPESCA	varriagah@conapesca.gob.mx
MEXICO	RAÚL VILLASEÑOR TALAVERA	DIRECTOR GENERAL ADJUNTO ORDENAMIENTO PESQUERO Y ACUÍCOLA. CONAPESCA	
MEXICO	OSCAR MANUEL RAMÍREZ FLORES	DIRECTOR DE ESPECIES PRIORITARIAS PARA LA CONSERVACION. CONANP	oramirez@conanp.gob.mx
MEXICO	SANTOS ROBERTO HERNÁNDEZ LÓPEZ	SUBDIRECTOR DE MEDIO AMBIENTE. DIRECCIÓN GENERAL PARA TEMAS GLOBALES. SECRETARÍA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES	shernandez@sre.gob.mx
MEXICO	ANTONIETA RICOY POLIDURA	SUBDIRECTORA DE AGENDA AZUL UCAI – SEMARNAT	antonieta.ricoy@semarnat.gob.mx
MEXICO	ADRIANA LAURA SARTI MARTÍNEZ	COORDINADORA DEL PROGRAMA N ACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE TORTUGAS MARINAS. CONANP	lsarti@conanp.gob.mx
MEXICO	CHRISTOPHER DUIFHUIS RIVERA	SUBDIRECTOR DE NORMALIZACIÓN Y SANIDAD ACUÍCOLA. DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE ORDENAMIENTO PESQUERO Y ACUÍCOLA. CONAPESCA	cduifhuis@conapesca.gob.mx
MEXICO	MIGUEL ANGEL DÍAS ARREDONDO	DIRECCIÓN GENERAL ADJUNTA DE OCEANOGRAFÍA, HIDROGRAFÍA Y METEOROLOGÍA. SECRETARÍA DE MARINA	subdirbiol@gmail.com
MEXICO	TEODORA JOSEFINA LEÓN GARCÍA	DIRECCIÓN GENERAL ADJUNTA DE OCEANOGRAFÍA, HIDROGRAFÍA Y METEOROLOGÍA. SECRETARÍA DE MARINA	subdirbiol@gmail.com
MEXICO	GUSTAVO XICOTENCATL LÓPEZ RASINE	JEFE DE DEPARTAMENTO DE COOPERACIÓN CON AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE	glopezr@conapesca.gob.mx
MEXICO	LILIA ESTRADA	SUBDIRECTOR DE GESTIÓN DE LICENCIAS, REGISTROS Y APROVECHAMIENTO INTENSIVO. DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE VIDA SILVESTRE. SEMARNAT	lilia.estrada@semarnat.gob.mx
MEXICO	YOLANDA ALANIS	ASESORA DEL SUBSECRETARIO DE GESTIÓN. SEMARNAT	yolanda.alaniz@semarnat.gob.mx
MEXICO	JOEL GONZÁLEZ	DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE INSPECCIÓN Y VIGILANCIA DE VIDA SILVESTRE, RECURSOS MARINOS Y ECOSISTEMAS COSTEROS. PROFEPA	jgonzalez@profepa.gob.mx
MEXICO	LAURA MARTINEZ PEPIN LEHALLEUR	COORDINADORA PARA LA ATENCIÓN DE HUMEDALES Y ZONAS COSTERO MARINAS. CONANP	
MEXICO	NINEL GARCÍA TELLEZ	JEFE DE DEPARTAMENTO DE ASISTENCIA TÉCNICA Y GESTIÓN DE TORTUGAS. CONANP	ngarcia@conanp.gob.mx
MEXICO	CHRISTIANE AGUILAR GIRÓN	ENLACE PARA LA GESTIÓN DE LAS ACCIONES DE CONSERVACIÓN DE LAS TORTUGAS MARINAS. CONANP	cagiron@conanp.gob.mx
PERU	SERGIO ZAPATA HUAMÁN	SEGUNDO SECRETARIO. EMBAJADA DEL PERÚ DE MÉXICO	szapata@rree.gob.pe

UNITED STATES	EARL POSSARDT	US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	earl_possardt@fws.gov
	MANJULA TIWARI	NOAA	manjula.tiwari@noaa.gov
	STEPHEN WILGER	US STATE DEPARTMENT	wilgersj2@state.gov
URUGUAY	CRISTINA MANSILLA	FUNCIONARIA DE LA EMBAJADA DEL URUGUAY EN MÉXICO	embajada@uruguaymex.com.mx
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE	DIEGO ALBAREDA	IAC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE CHAIR PARQUE ZOOLOGICO BUENOS AIRES	diego.albareda@gmail.com
Observers			
MEXICO	ANTON AGUILAR	HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNACIONAL - DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO MÉXICO	aaguilar@hsi.org
MEXICO	GRETTEL DELGADILLO	HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNACIONAL	gdelgadillo@hsi.org
MEXICO	GLADYS MARTINEZ DE LEMOS	ASOCIACIÓN INTERAMERICANA PARA LA DEFENSA DEL AMBIENTE (AIDA)	gmartinez@aida-americas.org
MEXICO	CARLOS CANTU	DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE	JCcantu@defenders.org
MEXICO	ALEJANDRO OLIVERA BONILLA	CENTRO MEXICANO DE DERECHO AMBIENTAL (CEMDA)	aolivera@cemda.org.mx
MEXICO	GUADALUPE QUINTANA	FLORA, FAUNA Y CULTURA DE MÉXICO, A.C.	dgeneral@florafauyacultura.org
MEXICO	GINA ESCOTO TABOADA	FLORA, FAUNA Y CULTURA DE MÉXICO, A.C.	
MEXICO	GISELA MALDONADO	GRUPO TORTUGUERO DEL CARIBE	gpotortuguerodelcaribe@gmail.com
UNITED STATES	ROYAL GARDNER	STETSON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW, AND RAMSAR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL	gardner@law.stetson.edu
UNITED STATES	GEORGE L. SHILLINGER	THE LEATHERBACK TRUST - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	george@leatherback.org
COSTA RICA	MARIA DEL PILAR SANTIDRIAN	THE LEATHERBACK TRUST	
COSTA RICA	DIDHER CHACON	WIDECAST	dchacon@widecast.org
IAC Secretariat Pro Tempore			
	VERÓNICA CÁCERES	SECRETARY PRO TEMPORE	secretario@iacseaturtle.org
	INGRID YANEZ	ASSISTANT SECRETARY PRO TEMPORE	Ilyc4@yahoo.com
Interpreter			
	PAUL SCHIFTAN	INTERPRETER	pschiftan@yahoo.com
	DARIO PALMA	INTERPRETER	dariopalma@yahoo.com
Logistic Staff			
MEXICO	CARLOS SALAS	KUTZARI, A.C.	puravvida@yahoo.com
MEXICO	ANA REBECA BARRAGÁN	DEPC – CONANP	
MEXICO	MARCO ANTONIO CASTRO	CONANP	marco.castro@conanp.gob.mx

ANNEX III

Resolution on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and 3b) for subsistence harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs in Costa Rica.

CIT-COP7-2015-R.1

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 5th Conference of the Parties, procedures for cases where exceptions exist were adopted (CIT-COP5-2011-R2);

ACKNOWLEDGING that all species of sea turtles classified as “endangered, vulnerable and critically endangered” must be protected from any negative impacts resulting from an exception;

CONSIDERING that the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has recently classified *Lepidochelys olivacea* as vulnerable;

RECOGNIZING that *L. olivacea* on the beaches of the Eastern Pacific Ocean (Mexico to Panama) is the only turtle species that can tolerate a controlled amount of egg harvesting, and only when the population to be harvested shows a status of “recovery or verifiable stability;”

CONSIDERING that this exception existed prior to Costa Rica becoming a Party of the IAC, and today remains under the control of the different relevant governmental organizations;

CONSIDERING that the technical information presented by Costa Rica in its 2014 Annual Report was reviewed by the IAC Scientific Committee in their 11th meeting and the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts in their seventh and eight meetings, determined that Costa Rica has well organized information in their five-year plan to manage this exception.

THE 7TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING MEASURES TO COSTA RICA TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE IV (3) REGARDING EXCEPTIONS:

- 1) The COP recommends that one standardized sampling method to quantify the nesting population at Ostional Beach be selected. Since there is not currently one method it is recommended that a study be conducted to assess the accuracy and precision of the two methods currently used (Chávez-Morera *unpublished*; Valverde & Gates, 2000) and to choose the most statistically robust method. Costa Rica should provide a report of this study to the IAC Scientific Committee and Consultative Committee by the end of 2017.
- 2) In the interim, Costa Rica should continue to manage its exception as described in its five-year plan.
- 3) To prevent illegal trade of eggs from other *L. olivacea* populations and from other sea turtle species, Costa Rica should develop and implement a system for traceability from the beach to the final distributor.
- 4) In order to determine the status of the nesting population of Ostional *L. olivacea* and the impact of the egg harvest on it, Costa Rica should monitor for additional indicators including: number of neonates (a recruitment index), and number/percentage of viable and non-viable clutches. Costa Rica should implement the monitoring of these indicators no later than the end of 2017. After this monitoring, there should be an evaluation to make adjustments to ensure the egg harvest is sustainable.

ANNEX IV
Resolution on Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle
(Dermochelys coriacea).
CIT-COP7-2015-R.2

WHEREAS leatherback sea turtles have existed on Earth for millions of years;

WHEREAS leatherback sea turtles are an important component of marine ecosystems of the Pacific Ocean;

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

CONSIDERING that the Eastern Pacific leatherback population is listed as *Critically Endangered* by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and that this species is listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), and Appendices I and II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), and furthermore, is considered among the conservation priorities of various intergovernmental organizations such as the FAO;

RECOGNIZING that the nesting data obtained along the coast of the Eastern Pacific has shown a decrease in the population of more than 90% since the mid 1980s, and the population's status in the Eastern Pacific is dire and may be near the point of irreversibility;

CONSIDERING that the principal threats to leatherback turtles have been identified as incidental capture in fishing activities, unsustainable exploitation of eggs and turtles, as well as the destruction or alteration of nesting habitat;

RECOGNIZING that the countries where nesting occurs make extensive efforts to prevent egg exploitation and that the regional fisheries management organizations in the IAC Convention area have adopted measures to better understand the impact of their fisheries on sea turtles but that the decline of the Eastern Pacific population has continued;

CONSIDERING that the adoption and implementation of additional bycatch mitigation measures such as gear modifications and closed areas are necessary to protect leatherback sea turtles;

CONSIDERING the Memorandum of Understanding between the IAC and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) to collaborate on sea turtle conservation, and the approval of the IATTC Resolution C-O7-03 directly relating to sea turtle conservation, which was created during the 75th Meeting of the IATTC, carried out in 2007;

CONSIDERING that the decline in leatherback sea turtle populations is undermining the ecological stability and the cultural and economic benefits to coastal communities.

THE 7TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES TO:

URGE the Parties to prioritize the following conservation actions in their work programs that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback sea turtle in the Eastern Pacific;

- 1) That all IAC Parties whose fishing fleets operate in the Eastern Pacific submit their leatherback bycatch information in the annual report to the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* in order for it to be reviewed by the IAC committees so they can provide recommendations to the Parties.
- 2) That all IAC Parties whose fishing fleets operate in the Eastern Pacific improve the leatherback turtle monitoring results through the use of on board observers, interviews, and reporting fisheries bycatch and stranding data in their annual report.
- 3) That all IAC Parties whose fishing fleets operate in the Eastern Pacific report annually the measures that they have taken to reduce leatherback bycatch in the fisheries.
- 4) That all IAC Parties enhance actions for leatherback nest identification and protection in the Eastern Pacific to increase hatchling survival and take measures to protect leatherback habitat, as well as urge non-parties to cooperate with the IAC to report about conservation measures taken on their leatherback nesting beaches.
- 5) That all IAC Parties with fishing fleets operating in the Eastern Pacific establish and evaluate national programs fostering safe handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught in all fisheries, training fishermen with the best handling practices.
- 6) That all IAC Parties agree to the five year strategic actions containing the key activities identified in Annex 1, and to submit an annual progress report to the IAC's Secretariat *Pro Tempore*.

REQUEST the IAC's Scientific and Consultative Committee of Experts, in cooperation with the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* and the other IAC Parties:

- 7) To evaluate the implementation of the five-year strategic actions, through annual meetings of the working group appointed by the Scientific and Consultative Committees of Experts where they will provide a consolidated summary report to the COP, Focal Points and Secretariat *Pro Tempore*.
- 8) That the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* coordinates the implementation of the strategic actions with the involved countries, and requests the cooperation of IAC's non-parties, RFMOs and existing multilateral agreements.

9) That the Parties, Scientific and Consultative Committee of Experts, through the Secretariat *Pro Tempore*, work to identify technical and financial support for the strategic actions, using all available instruments.

10) The IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* will provide copies of this resolution to other relevant Conventions and those organizations with which the IAC has a Memorandum of Understanding.

This resolution repeals and replaces the IAC Resolution on Conservation of Leatherback Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) COP2/2004/R-1 in its entirety.

ANNEX 1

Strategic Actions for Five-Years for the Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle

The Regional Action Plan for Reversing the Decline of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback (<http://savepacificleatherbacks.org>) was used as a basis for many of the activities in the five-year strategic actions below. These activities divided in five strategies all focus on mortality reduction in marine habitats and protection of nesting sites and nesting females to increase reproductive productivity.

1) Reduce bycatch of adult and sub adult leatherback turtles in fisheries

Time: 5 years (recommended as on-going activity)

IAC Parties: IAC Parties whose territorial waters host Eastern Pacific leatherback turtles or whose fishing fleets interact with Eastern Pacific leatherback turtles.

Activities:

- a) Conduct research on possible bycatch reduction mitigation measures, including testing mitigation actions in passive nets (e.g. light sticks/net illumination, reducing net soak time, lowering the net buoy line and using best practices for setting and retrieving nets), and implement appropriate mitigation methods that will be used by type of fleet and gear with emphasis in the zones with the most probability of interaction between fisheries and leatherback turtle.
- b) Promote the implementation of best practices for handling and release of incidentally caught sea turtles and hold workshops to disseminate this information.
- c) Continue and increase bycatch monitoring at ports, with on-board observers (when and where possible) throughout the Eastern Pacific region, and ensure that the information is collected in a standardized way so that it is comparable at the regional level.

- d) Expand and/or create, when possible, communication programs with fishing fleets as measures for promoting best practices for handling and releasing incidentally captured turtles and reporting bycatch.
- e) Promote exchanges between fishermen to share experiences on how to reduce bycatch with mitigation measures.
- f) Request to non-parties, using appropriate means, including RFMOs and multilateral agreements, to adhere to the development of the activities outlined in the preceding paragraphs.

2) Identify areas of high interaction with fisheries of more importance for the leatherback survival

Time: 1-2 years

IAC Parties: IAC Parties whose national waters host Eastern Pacific leatherback turtles or whose fishing fleets interact with Eastern Pacific leatherback turtles.

Activities:

- a) Compilation of fishing fleets by country that interact with the Eastern Pacific leatherback turtle that includes characterization of fisheries and their relationship with bycatch, and a regional compilation on fishing operations in areas adjacent to nesting beaches. This information should be shared with the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore*.
- b) Identify critical areas in the distribution range for the leatherback turtles that are in need of spatial and temporal management to reduce leatherback bycatch or directed take.

3) Define and protect important areas for the leatherback turtle survival in different life stages

Time: 1-5 years.

IAC Parties: Mexico, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Panama, Guatemala, and United States

Activities:

- a) Identify aggregation sites for adults and juveniles, as well as migration routes of importance or priority for the conservation of the species, as well as potential sites to be subjected to appropriate measures for spatial and temporal management.
- b) Identify locations in international waters ("hotspots") that are important for the conservation of the species.

4) Eliminate any consumption and illegal use of the leatherback turtle, including parts and derivatives, as well as all kinds of capture, transportation and trade.

Time: 2-5 years.

IAC Parties: all IAC parties on the Eastern Pacific coast.

Activities:

- a) Identify areas where poaching occurs and quantify the frequency of occurrence.
- b) Carry out awareness and enforcement campaigns to stop consumption and illegal use of sea turtles.

5) Nesting sites protection

Time: 1-5 years

IAC Parties: Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Guatemala and Ecuador

Activities:

- a) Ensure monitoring of the index nesting beaches and encourage monitoring on all leatherback nesting beaches.
- b) Search for and identify new nesting beaches for the species within IAC Parties.
- c) Maximize efforts to ensure that all nests are identified and protected.
- d) Identify and implement economic alternatives in local communities in areas adjacent to nesting beaches.

ANNEX V

**Resolution on Conservation of Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*).
CIT-COP7-2015-R.3**

RECOGNIZING that four populations of loggerheads (North Pacific, South Pacific, Northwest Atlantic, and South Atlantic) are found in the IAC Convention area;

RECOGNIZING that these populations face threats from coastal development, coastal fisheries, high seas fisheries, marine debris, pollution, mining and climate change;

RECOGNIZING the on-going regional initiatives of the Northwest Atlantic International Loggerhead Working Group and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean;

RECOGNIZING that through collaborative data sharing and conservation projects that IAC Parties can improve the conservation status of these four loggerhead populations.

THE 7TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES TO:

- 1) Work in coordination to implement the existing recovery plans and develop recovery plans as appropriate.
 - a. In the case of the North Pacific loggerhead sea turtles, Mexico and the United States commit to work with Japan to develop a Tri-National Recovery Plan for North Pacific loggerhead sea turtles. These countries will provide regular updates on their progress through their annual IAC's reports.
 - b. In the case of the South Pacific loggerhead sea turtles, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and the United States will work with the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* and the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) to implement the Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean (CMS Resolution 11-21). These countries will provide regular updates on their progress through their annual IAC reports.
 - c. In the case of the Northwest Atlantic loggerhead sea turtles, Mexico and the United States will continue to work with collaborating countries in the North Atlantic to share information on the status and trends of Northwest Atlantic loggerhead sea turtles, as well as identify collaborative

conservation actions. These countries will provide regular updates on their progress through their annual IAC reports.

- d. In the case of the South Atlantic loggerhead sea turtles, Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina will continue to work to recover the South Atlantic loggerhead population and provide regular status reports to the IAC through their annual reports. Furthermore, these countries will establish communications to develop coordinated and concurrent lines of action to achieve the above mentioned objective.
- 2) Work in coordination to find common strategies to reduce any impact that affects the subpopulations of the loggerhead turtle.
 - 3) Request to the IAC Scientific Committee to develop a summary report of the status of all loggerhead populations in the IAC Convention area every four years. This summary report should draw on existing reviews such IUCN Red List assessments, major regional status reviews and information provided in countries' annual reports. The Secretariat *Pro Tempore* will work with the Scientific Committee and other relevant organizations to identify the most efficient ways to develop this summary report. Based on this summary report, the IAC Scientific Committee in consultation with Consultative Committee of Experts will identify the main actions for the IAC Parties to undertake to improve the conservation status of all loggerhead turtles. The first report should be submitted to the IAC Conference of the Parties by 2019.

ANNEX VI
Work Plan of the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* and subsidiary bodies for 2015-2016.
CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.2

Secretariat *Pro Tempore* Work Plan (2015-2016)

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>	Adhesion of new parties to the IAC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Begin efforts to achieve the adhesion of new parties. 2) Send informative bulletins to non-Party countries to keep them updated on the IAC's activities. 3) Inform and invite non-Party countries to the Conference of the Parties and IAC's committee meetings. 4) Attend meetings of other regional organizations to share information about the IAC, and networking with non-Party country delegates to invite them to collaborate and join IAC objectives 5) Follow up on the steps already undertaken and reported to the IAC's COP7 with the parties collaboration to recruit new members to the IAC. 	Increased IAC membership.	Permanent / Ongoing
IAC Parties	Adhesion of new parties to the IAC	Support IAC Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> with the identified non-member countries in COP7 to encourage the ratification. Identify other non-members to do outreach visits with the IAC Secretary <i>Pro Tempore</i> together with a delegation formed by IAC member countries following up what was agreed in COP7.	Increased IAC membership.	Permanent / Ongoing

Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Scientific and Consultative of Experts Committees	IAC's website and newsletter. Communication and training	Countries will send to Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> relevant news on a monthly basis to be included in the IAC Newsletter.	IAC's website updated with relevant news and quarterly IAC Newsletter.	Permanent / Ongoing
Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Parties	Communication and Training	1) Publish and disseminate the recommendations and decisions adopted at the COP. 2) Increase the overall visibility of the convention. Publication (book) about the IAC implementation in member countries as agreed at COP7 with support from Mexico.	1) COP7 Report on IAC website. 2) Published book (2016)	Permanent / Ongoing
Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>	Collaboration with international organizations and strategic alliances	1) Promote synergies with other relevant conventions and international and regional organizations (CCAD, RFMO's mentioned in the leatherback resolution, and CMS). 2) Promote the signing of at least one cooperation agreement with an organization related to the IAC's objectives. 3) Prepare draft MoU (when needed). 4) Distribute within the Parties the MoU with the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) for consideration.	1) Cooperation agreement or MoU signed or in process. 2) Documents presented to the COP for consideration.	2016
Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Committees, Parties	Collaboration with international organizations and strategic alliances	1) Promote activities with organizations that have signed MOUs with the IAC and other multilateral agreements. 2) Assist in preparing technical documents and joint publications.	Technical documents and joint publications available on IAC website to promote the exchange of information, technical knowledge and lessons learned.	2015, 2016
Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Committees	Collaboration with international organizations and strategic alliances	Attend technical meetings and workshops.	Information exchange, technical knowledge and lessons learned.	2015, 2016

Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Committees, Parties	Collaboration with international organizations and strategic alliances	Promote the celebration of World Sea Turtle Day each year.	Activities in celebration of World Sea Turtle Day carried out in the Parties.	Permanent / Ongoing
Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Committees, Parties	Financial Resources	Identify projects and activities subject to external funding with possible sponsors.	Identified and prioritized projects.	2015, 2016
Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Committees, Parties, Leatherback working group or interested NGO	Financial Resources	1) Prepare and negotiate project proposals. 2) Implementation of funded projects and activities. 3) Prepare reports on the implemented projects.	1) Submitted proposal to a sponsor or funding agency per year. 2) Technical and financial reports presented in a timely manner to the funding agencies.	2015, 2016
Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Committees, Parties	Work Plan	1) Prepare biannual work plan. 2) Report activities presented at COP by Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> and Committees.	Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> and subsidiary bodies work plan approved at COP8	2015, 2016
Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Chairs of COP and Committees	Execution ability - Meeting organization	Organize the COPs and Committee Meetings as well as the working groups they establish.	COP, CCE and SC meetings held.	2015, 2016
Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Parties	Permanent Secretariat	Support activities of the Permanent Secretariat and Legal Personality Working Group and follow up on agreements at COP7	Permanent Secretariat established.	Ongoing
Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> , Consultative Committee of Experts, Parties	Drafting resolutions and recommendations to COP	Address COP requests and draft recommendations and resolutions accordingly.	Present draft resolutions and recommendations to COP as needed.	2015, 2016
Parties	IAC Annual Report	Each Party sends the Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> their Annual Reports.	IAC Annual Reports available on IAC website to be analyzed by the Committees.	2015, 2016

Scientific Committee	Sea turtle populations status	The Scientific Committee will prepare a report to the COP on the conservation status of sea turtle populations.	Report presented at COP when necessary.	2015, 2016
Consultative Committee of Experts	Exceptions	The Consultative Committee of Experts will prepare a report to the COP on the use of sea turtles or their products by the Parties Exceptions (when exceptions are presented).	Report on exceptions presented at COP for consideration.	Ongoing
Consultative Committee of Experts	Resolution compliance	The Consultative Committee of Experts will prepare a report to the COP on the compliance of the Parties with the IAC resolutions and agreements made by the COPs.	Report on resolution compliance presented at COP	2015, 2016

Scientific Committee Work Plan (2015-2016)

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
Scientific Committee	Exceptions	1) Follow up on the implementation of the recommendations made by CC11 about Costa Rica exception. 2) Follow the progress of Guatemala and Panama.	1) Report to CCE on the follow up of the Costa Rica exception. 2) Report & follow-up on Panama, and Guatemala exceptions to the CCE and feedback to the countries, if needed.	2015, 2016
Scientific Committee, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>	IAC Website & Newsletter	1) Send relevant news on a monthly basis to the Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> for the IAC's Newsletter.	Updated news in the IAC's website, and regular publication of the IAC's Newsletter.	Permanent

Fisheries Working Group	Fisheries	1) Send technical document CIT-CC11-2014-Tec.8 to IAC's Focal Points, regarding the manual's recommendations for best on board practices in handling sea turtles. 2) Request within one year, information on the transfer mechanisms used by the competent bodies for the implementation of this recommendation.	1) SC recommendation to the IAC Parties to use the technical document on manuals' recommendation as a guide in their bycatch mitigation programs. 2) Report from IAC Focal Points describing the mechanism used to transfer this recommendation to the relevant agencies and include feed back on the document	2015, 2016
Fisheries Working Group	Fisheries	1) Update list of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDS's) that have been utilized/approved	Updated list of TEDS's that have been utilized/approved	2015, 2016
Fisheries Working Group	Fisheries	1) Characterize fisheries that interact with sea turtles, by IAC Leatherback Project-Chile.	Report on the IAC Leatherback Project-Chile to be presented at the SC12.	SC12, 2015
Fisheries Working Group	Fisheries	1) Carry on the diagnosis on the interaction between sea turtles and trawl fisheries with target species other than crustaceans.	Report on Interactions to be presented at SC12.	Inter-sessional 2015, 2016
Fisheries Working Group	Fisheries	1) Define potential marine habitat for the leatherback turtle.	Report on the presence of leatherbacks in Eastern Pacific and South Western Atlantic based on geo references data from fisheries and observers and sightings.	2015, 2016
Stranding Working Group	Stranding	1) Characterize the stranding's situation in the IAC region using a survey. 2) Develop a regional protocol.	1) Survey on the stranding's characterization, which will be sent by the Secretariat Pro Tempore to the SC members. Survey results will be presented in a report. 2) Stranding protocol that includes the regional situation, existing asymmetries and a flowchart of activities for decision making to deal with stranding.	Inter-sessional, next meeting SC12 2015
Climate Change Working Group	Climate Change	1) Review of strategies to adapt to climate change impacts on nesting beaches.	Technical document on climate change adaptation strategies for nesting beaches habitats to be presented at SC12	Inter-sessional 2015

Marine Debris Working Group	Marine Debris	1) Prepare a technical document on marine debris and its impacts on sea turtles based on the information provided by the SC.	1) Technical document finalized, with information provided by the SC. 2) Recommendations to the IAC's Focal Points on the search for synergies with the Convention of the Migratory Species (CMS) to work collaboratively on marine debris issues.	Inter-sessional 2015
Nesting Working Group, Scientific Committee	Conservation status of index nesting beaches	1) Compile annual information of nesting at index beaches using the form developed for this purpose and analyze these data periodically. 2) Develop a dynamic table to analyze the nesting data. 3) Evaluate the conservation status of sea turtle populations in the region, based on the best scientific available information.	1) Compilation data updated with the information submitted by the IAC's parties. 2) Dynamic table to analyze the nesting index beaches data. Table designed by Brazil. 3) Report on the analysis of the nesting in index beaches 2009-2013 CIT-CC11-2014.Tec.6 presented at COP7.	2015, ongoing
Scientific Committee	Work Plan	1) Develop and update the SC Work Plan following IAC guidelines and the COP Resolutions.	Bi-annual SC work plan prepared with actions, timetable and responsible.	Permanent
Scientific Committee	Collaboration with other organizations	Update information of RAMSAR sites and sea turtles. Explore mechanism to collaborate with Ramsar Standing Committee to provide information for the report State of the World Wetlands	Report on the presence of sea turtles in new sites that could be designated as Ramsar sites.	2015, 2016
Scientific Committee	Collaboration with other organizations and Strategic Alliances	1) Develop recommendations to enhance synergies and mechanisms for collaborative work with other related organizations to meet the Convention objectives. 2) Review of the SC work plan to include mechanisms to improve cooperation with the Focal Points and other agencies.	1) Include in the SC work plan themes and mechanisms to improve the collaboration between IAC Focal Points and those of other organizations such as SPAW, IATTC, CPPS, Ramsar, CITES. 2) Identification of synergies with similar organizations to share information (SPAW, IATTC, CPPS, WIDECAST, ICCAT, RAMSAR, SWOT, ICAPO, ASO, WWF, CBD, CMS).	2015, 2016

Scientific Committee	IAC Annual Report	1) Analyze technical information included in the IAC Annual Report.	Analysis of technical information included in the IAC Annual Reports.	2015, 2016
Scientific Committee	Projects	1) Develop and analyze recommendations about high priority projects for funding and other resources needed to achieve the IAC objectives.	Recommendations for high priority projects when needed.	2015, 2016
Scientific Committee, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>	Draft Recommendations to COP and CCE	1) Address COP and CCE requests and make recommendations accordingly.	Make recommendations to the COP and CCE as needed.	2015, 2016
Scientific Committee	IAC technical documents	1) Develop technical documents as needed. 2) Develop the technical document on the eastern Pacific leatherback turtle.	Technical documents available at the IAC's website and shared within the IAC Parties.	2015, 2016
Scientific Committee, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>	IAC Expert Directory	1) Update and maintain the directory of experts in areas within the IAC interest.	Updated directory available on IAC's website.	2015, 2016
Scientific Committee, EPO Leatherback Working Group	Eastern Pacific Leatherback <i><u>Dermochelys coriacea</u></i>	1) Creation of a working group for the implementation of the Eastern Pacific leatherback turtle Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2.	Leatherback Working Group created with a work plan according to the Resolution.	2015-2016
Scientific Committee, Loggerhead turtle Working Group	Loggerhead turtle <i><u>Caretta caretta</u></i>	1) Creation of a working group for the implementation of the loggerhead turtle Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R3.	Loggerhead Working Group created with a work plan according to the Resolution. Begin preparation of the model for the summary report containing the status of all loggerhead turtle populations in the IAC area.	2015-2016

Consultative Committee of Experts Work Plan (2015-2016)

Actor	Topic	Proposed Action	Expected Result	Timeframe
Consultative Committee of Experts	Exceptions	1) Follow the progress of Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama exceptions.	1) Report to CCE and COP about the advances on Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala exceptions (if needed).	2015, 2016
Consultative Committee of Experts	Loggerhead turtle	Follow up on implementation of Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R3	Joint recommendation with Scientific Committee on the implementation of the tasks stated in the loggerhead turtle Resolution	2016
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat Pro Tempore	IAC's Website & Newsletter	Parties will send to Secretariat Pro Tempore relevant news on a monthly basis for the IAC's Newsletter.	IAC website updated with the IAC's Newsletter and other documents of interest.	Permanent
Eastern Pacific Leatherback Working Group	Eastern Pacific Leatherback	1) Perform the working group activities as detailed in CIT-CCE5-2012-Doc.04. 2) The leatherback working group will identify additional questions necessary to evaluate the compliance with the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP7-2015-R2) table presented in the Annual IAC's report when needed. 3) The leatherback working group will prepare cost estimates and indicate funding sources for the activities in Annex 1 of the new Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution.	Cost estimates and identification of funding sources made by the leatherback working group in the Annex 1 will be completed by July 31, 2015.	2015
Eastern Pacific Leatherback Working Group	Eastern Pacific Leatherback	1) Follow up on implementation of the new Eastern Pacific Leatherback Resolution (CIT-COP7-2015-R2). 2) Carry out annual meeting of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Working Group.	Report prepared by the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Working Group to the IAC Committees and COP.	2016

Resolution Compliance Working Group	IAC Annual Report and Compliance of Resolutions	Prepare report on Resolution compliance to CCE9 and COP8.	Recommendations presented at CCE9 and COP8 (2017)	2015, 2016
Resolution Compliance Working Group	IAC Annual Report and Compliance of Resolutions	Assess current Annual Report format.	Recommendations for changes to the format of the annual report as required.	2015, 2016
Consultative Committee of Experts	Work plan	Update CCE work plan following the recommendations of the Parties.	CCE biannual work plan updated with activities, timetable and responsible.	Permanent
Consultative Committee of Experts	Collaboration with international organizations	The CCE delegates will organize a meeting with RAMSAR Focal Points in their countries to identify activities of collaborative work under the MoU. Explore mechanism to collaborate with Ramsar Standing Committee to provide information for the report State of the World Wetlands	Report the meeting results.	2015, 2016
Consultative Committee of Experts	Collaboration with international organizations	Make recommendations, promote alliances and synergies for collaborative work with similar international organizations to meet the IAC's objectives.	Identification of synergies with similar organizations to share information (SPAW, IATTC, CPPS, WIDECAS, ACAP, ICCAT, RAMSAR, SWOT, ICAPO, ASO, WWF, CBD, CMS).	2015, 2016
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>	Collaboration with international organizations	Develop and review MoU drafts with relevant identified organizations.	Documents presented to COP for consideration.	2015, 2016
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>	Drafting Resolutions and Recommendations to COP	Address COP requests and draft resolutions and recommendations accordingly.	Resolutions and draft recommendations presented to COP as needed.	2015, 2016

Consultative Committee of Experts	IAC Technical Documents	Develop technical documents as needed.	Technical documents available on IAC website and shared within IAC Parties.	2015, 2016
Consultative Committee of Experts, Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i>	IAC Experts Directory	Review and update the IAC experts directory	Updated directory on IAC Website.	2015, 2016

ANNEX VII
IAC Finances 2015 -2017
CIT-COP7-2015-R.4

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 7TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES RESOLVES TO:

1. Adopt the 2015, 2016 and 2017 budgets included in Annex I.
2. Authorize the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* 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

IAC July 2015-2017 Budget (Amounts in US\$)			
Items	2015	2016	2017
1- Staff	159,544	164,433	169,496
Secretary <i>Pro Tempore</i> (base salary \$84,406 - 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)	139,544	144,433	149,496
	20,000	20,000	20,000
IAC Secretariat <i>Pro Tempore</i> Technical assistant full time estimated cost			

2- Other Professional Services Translations	4,000	4,000	4,000
3- Communications Website/ Computer Software	2,000	2,000	2,000
4- Travel	10,000	10,000	10,000
5- IAC Meeting Support Scientific Committee *	70,000 40,000	64,000 38,000	74,000 38,000
Consultative Committee of Experts **		26,000	6,000
Conference of the Parties ***	30,000		30,000
Subtotal	245,544	244,433	259,496
6- Overhead Costs (12%) ****	33,483	33,332	35,386
TOTAL	279,027	277,765	294,882

* Budget for 2015-2017 for the Scientific Committee is estimated based on the attendance of 20 participants. As recommended by COP6 in order to decrease these costs, the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* will ask IAC Focal Points if they could help cover the attendance costs of their delegates in Scientific Committee meetings.

** Budget estimated for 2017 for the Consultative Committee of Experts is for a meeting held by video-conference/teleconference (before the COP). The values estimated for 2016 is for in-person meeting where IAC Funds will cover for the attendance expenses of 13 participants (9 Sectorial members and Secretariat). As recommended by COP6, the IAC *Pro Tempore* Secretariat will ask the sectorial members if their organizations could help cover the cost of their attendance in Consultative Committee of Experts meetings.

*** Includes COP7 budget for 2015 (approved by COP6) and proposed COP8 budget for 2017.

**** Overhead for administrative services provided by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) for a value of 12%. The MOU between IAC COP and NMSF (CIT-COP7-2015-Inf.2) is renewed at the COP when the IAC budget is approved.

Additional Funds raised by IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore*

From 2013 to 2014, the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* had submitted and was awarded two grants from the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund (MTCF) of the USFWS for a total of US\$92,700. These funds were used to help meet the requirements of the budgets approved by the COP and implementation of sea turtle conservation projects in IAC Parties (Chile, Guatemala and Argentina). The funds were an important contribution in addition to the amounts received as country contributions, which allowed us to meet our budget requirements.

In addition to this the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* in 2013 also was awarded a grant from the CITES Secretariat in the amount of US\$15,592 for the project: Update on the

Conservation Status of Hawksbills turtles *Eretmochelys imbricata* in the Wider Caribbean and Western Atlantic.

Below is a general break down of how the funds were used to date:

- MTCF Grant awarded in June 2014 (US\$57,500) covered partially expenses of the following IAC needs and meetings:

IAC Assistant: US\$13,760 for part time salary.

CCE7 Meeting (2014): US\$12,456 this includes: travel for sectorial delegates, interpreter/translation costs and travel for 3 country delegates as provided for in the IAC Delegate Travel Support Resolution.

SC11 Meeting (2014): US\$2,854 this includes interpreter Spanish /English services.

COP7 Meeting (2015): US\$6,314 to cover partially attendance expenses for 4 country delegates as provided for in the IAC Delegate Travel Support Resolution and simultaneous translation expenses.

Capacity building in IAC Countries: US\$4,000 was used to support activities for sea turtle conservation in Argentina and Guatemala.

Administrative expenses NMSE: \$5,750 based of the total amount received

The remaining balance as of June 2015: \$12,366 this grant is still in execution

- MTCF Grant IAC- Chile awarded in 2014 provided US\$35,200 in funds for the project titled: Characterization of Fishing gear that has an impact on the capture of Eastern Pacific Leatherback turtles in artisanal fisheries in Chile. The Chilean government contributed matching funds of US\$7,338.
- Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) (CITES –Project No. S-428) concluded between the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and IAC Secretariat for the project: Update on the Conservation Status of Hawksbills turtles *Eretmochelys imbricata* in the Wider Caribbean and Western Atlantic in the amount of US\$15,592 provided funds for consultant to prepare the study, translation to Spanish, and graphic design of document.

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 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 2015 budget adopted in Mexico, the budget for 2016 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, COP6 Ecuador and COP7 in Mexico;

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 2015 presented in Mexico the IAC Secretariat *Pro Tempore* suggests the Government of [insert country] plan for and include in your [insert year] budget, a financial contribution for the IAC totaling US\$ [insert amount].

ANNEX III

IAC Contributions Goals for 2015	
Member Country	Contribution Goal¹
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

¹ Noting the Convention does not provide for mandatory contributions, the amounts presented here are suggested contributions and do not imply a legal obligation.

ANNEX VIII
Report of the Resolution Compliance Working Group on changes to the
IAC Annual Report.
CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.3.

The CCE7 Resolution Compliance Working Group (WG on Compliance) in their meeting in 2016, after analyzing the data from IAC Annual Reports 2013-14 made the following recommendations of changes to Part II Policy and Management in the section c.1 IAC Resolutions in the Annual Report format, which were endorsed by the CCE in its 8th meeting:

- a) The WG on Compliance recommends the COP evaluate any updates needed to the Resolutions to improve conservation and recovery of sea turtles in the IAC Convention area.
- b) Using fewer questions but choosing the ones that are the most important will provide more robust strategic information, and will reduce mistakes that have been observed when the Annual Report is being completed and which are in most cases caused by the complexity of the current tables and questions and duplication of information in the Annual Report.
- c) All fisheries information should be located in the section on the Fisheries Resolution.
- d) To match the Eastern Pacific leatherback Resolution adopted at COP7 the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Task Force included questions to the Annual Report in this Resolution.
- e) It is recommended to eliminate the Climate Change Resolution from the IAC Annual Report; the information in this resolution can be collected per request from the Committees to IAC Parties when necessary.

Below you will find the proposed tables and questions for each Resolution for your consideration. The questions are those that the WG on Compliance has identified (from the original IAC Annual Report) and recommended as important to evaluate the compliance with each Resolution.

Taken from the IAC Annual Report

Part II (Policy and Management)
c.1 IAC Resolutions

Fill in the following tables for each of the IAC Resolutions listed below. In the case that a Resolution does not apply to your country, please mark the box RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY, and if a specific question does not apply, please mark the column DOES NOT APPLY. If you need more space to describe these actions, please attach additional pages and note the resolution and question number to which you are responding.

Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2: Resolution on Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*).

ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP7-2015-R1, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY		DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
	YES	NO		
1a) Have you created conservation plans and long-term programs that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback turtle in the Eastern Pacific?				
1b) Are you implementing these conservation plans and monitoring programs?				
2. Have you taken conservation measures to eliminate poaching of leatherback turtles? (new question)				
3. If your country has leatherback turtle nesting beaches in the Eastern Pacific: Have you taken conservation measures to protect the nesting sites and their associated habitats?				
4. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?				

(*) Specify actions implemented, name of the project or relevant document, location, objective(s), institutions responsible, contact, financial or other support (optional), results (both positive and negative) and duration.

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

ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP3-2006-R1, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPLY		DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
	YES	NO		
1. Are you strengthening monitoring of the illegal use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products?				
2. Are you enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation?				
3. Are activities being carried out in order to stop illegal trade of hawksbill products?				

4. Indicate if your country is strengthening the protection of important nesting and foraging habitats by declaring protected areas and regulating anthropogenic activities that adversely impact these habitats.	a) Protection of nesting habitats				
	b) Protection of feeding habitats				

(*) Specify actions implemented, name of the project or relevant document, location, objective(s), institutions responsible, contact, financial or other support (optional), results (both positive and negative) and duration.

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

ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION CIT-COP3-2006-R2, REPORT WHETHER YOUR COUNTRY:

IS COMPLYING WITH THE FOLLOWING:	YES	NO	DESCRIBE ACTION (*)	DOES NOT APPLY
Adopted the “Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality induced by fisheries operations”, of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), including:				
A. Research and monitoring of adverse impact of fisheries on sea turtles				
• Collect information by fishery				
• Observer programs				
• Research on sea turtle/fishery interactions				
• Information on non-Party vessels				
• Cooperation with non-Party states to obtain information				
B. Mitigation measures for the following fisheries:				
i) Long-line				
ii) Gillnets				
iii) Trawling (e.g., 1. TEDs: specify legally approved TEDs, their dimensions, material, and target species for that fishery, 2. time-area closures: specify geographical area, time of closure and target species for that fishery, 3. tow times and/or 4. other measures)				
iv) Other fishing gear (indicate which one(s))				
v) Training programs for fisherman about best practices for safe handling and release of sea turtles incidentally caught (New question)				

C. Socio-economic considerations				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles 				

(*). Specify actions implemented, name of the project or relevant document, location, objective(s), institutions responsible, contact, financial or other support (optional), results (both positive and negative) and duration.

ANNEX IX
List of documents COP7

- CIT-COP7-2015-R.1 Resolution on Exceptions under Article IV (3a and 3b) for subsistence harvesting of *Lepidochelys olivacea* eggs in Costa Rica.
- CIT-COP7-2015-R.2 Resolution on Conservation of the Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*).
- CIT-COP7-2015-R.3 Resolution on Conservation of Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*).
- CIT-COP7-2015-R.4 IAC Finances 2015 -2017.
- CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.1 Agenda COP7.

- CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.2 Work Plan of the Secretariat *Pro Tempore* and subsidiary bodies for 2015-2016.
- CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.3 Report of the Resolution Compliance Working Group on changes to the IAC's Annual Report.
- CIT-COP7-2015-Doc.4 COP7 Report.

ANNEX X Photos IAC COP7



Group photo COP7 © Carlos Salas



IAC Secretary *Pro Tempore*, Secretary SEMARNAT and IAC COP7 Chair CONANP © Carlos Salas



CONANP support team, COP7 © Carlos Salas



Delegates from Uruguay, Mexico, Ecuador, Chile and Argentina © Carlos Salas



Delegates from Costa Rica, USA and Honduras © Carlos Salas



Delegates from Brazil © Carlos Salas



Delegate from Caribbean Netherlands / COP7 Vice chair © Carlos Salas



Delegates from Honduras, Peru and Uruguay © Carlos Salas