

**- 2007 Annual General Meeting -
Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network
(WIDECAST)**

Meeting Room: "Kensington D"
Embassy Suites at Kingston Plantation
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina USA
23-24 February 2007

**AGENDA
Friday, 23 February 2007**

Session I: Welcome

08:30 Opening Remarks - *Karen Eckert, WIDECAST Executive Director*

08:40 Introductions

08:50 Announcements

- Meeting Secretary (Julia Horrocks, Barbados)
- List of Participants
- Accommodations, transportation, meals
- Symposium registration / Other

Session II: Executive Director's Report

09:00 Executive Director's Report - *Karen Eckert, WIDECAST Executive Director*

Session III: Country Reports (12-15 minutes each)

09:30 **Aruba** - *Edith and Richard van der Wal, Turtugaruba*

Dominican Republic - *Yolanda León, Universidad INTEC*

St. Vincent - *Lucine Edwards & Sophia Punnett, Fisheries Division*

Sint Maarten - *Dominique Vissenberg, Sint Maarten Nature Foundation*

WWF Guianas Sea Turtle Programme - *Marie-Louise Felix, WWF (Suriname)*

11:00 ~ Coffee Break ~

Session IV: Treaty Updates

11:30 **Inter-American Convention (IAC COP3)** - *Didiher Chacón, WIDECAST*

11:45 **SPAW** - *Melina Roth, UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife ('SPAW RAC')*

12:00 ~ LUNCH ~

Round Table Discussion - Sea Turtles and Electronic Technologies - *Ann Rupley and Todd Lindstrom, Wildlife Computers and Scott Eckert, WIDECAST*

Grab a sandwich and return to the meeting room for a lively discussion of the latest technologies being used to monitor sea turtle activities, everyone is welcome!

13:30 **Open Room - Displays and Sharing**

Session V: Genetic Studies of Caribbean Sea Turtles

14:00 **Genetics Primer: Stock Identification on Foraging Grounds** - *Alberto Abreu G., UNAM Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología, Mazatlán, México*

14:30 **Conservation Genetics of the Caribbean hawksbill: The Case Study of Mona Island and New Tools for a Regional Approach** - *Ximena Velez-Zuazo, Lab. Molecular Ecology, Evolution and Conservation, Univ. Puerto Rico*

15:00 **Caribbean Green Turtle Metapopulation Initiative: A Proposal Based on Annual Genetic Variation, Mixed Stock Analyses, and Predicting Population Trends** - *Alan Bolten and Karen Bjorndal, Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research, University of Florida*

15:30 ~ Coffee Break ~

Session VI: Regional Initiatives - Progress and Updates

16:00 **STTRC: 'Sea Turtle Trauma Response Corps'** - *Karen Eckert, WIDECAST*

16:15 **Project GLoBAL: Caribbean Bycatch Assessment** - *Rhema Kerr Bjorkland, Center for Marine Conservation, Duke University*

16:30 **Bycatch Reduction Experiments on Coastal Gillnets in Trinidad: Directions and Progress** - *Scott Eckert, WIDECAST*

Session VII: Regional Initiatives - New Partnerships and Opportunities!

16:45 **IUCN Red List: the Status of the 2007 Global Hawksbill Assessment** - *Marydele Donnelly, Caribbean Conservation Corporation*

17:15 **Mongoose Depredation of Caribbean Sea Turtle Nests: A Proposed Survey of Impact and Control Methods** - *Patrick Leighton and Donald Kramer, McGill University and Julia Horrocks, University of the West Indies*

17:30 **"WIDECAST DVD"** - *Nagore Zaldua-Mendizabal, Stéphane Kirchhoff, and Thomas Grüninger, Under The Blue Pictures*

17:45 **RARE Pride: Inspiring People to Embrace Conservation** - *Sharon Price, Rare Pride*

18:00 **Closing Remarks and Adjourn**



Thank you for joining us! Enjoy your evening 😊

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Saturday, 24 February 2007

08:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks - *Karen Eckert, WIDECAST Executive Director*

08:40 Introductions

08:50 Announcements

- Meeting Secretary
- List of Participants
- Accommodations, transportation, meals
- Symposium registration / Other

Session VIII: Country Reports (12-15 min each)

09:00 **Cuba** - *Félix Moncada G., Programa de Tortugas Marinas, CIP*

México - *Eduardo Cuevas, CINVESTAV-IPN (Yucatán)*

Nicaragua - *Cynthia Lagueux and Cathi Campbell, Wildlife Conservation Society*

Session IX: Creating Community-Level Economic Incentives to Support Conservation Efforts

10:00 **'Beads for a Better Future'** - *Converting Waste Glass to Cash* - *Karen Eckert, WIDECAST and JoBean Chambers, JoBean Glass Art Studio*

10:15 **'Tamarins, Turtles and Trash'** - *Converting Waste Plastic to Cash* - *Didiher Chacón C. and Karen Eckert, WIDECAST & Anne Savage, Disney Animal Programs*

10:30 ~ Coffee Break ~

Session X: Monitoring Sea Turtles and Safeguarding Critical Habitat

11:00 **Informing Policy and Enabling Conservation Action: Creating the First Spatial Database of Essential Nesting Habitat for Caribbean Sea Turtles** - *Wendy Dow, WIDECAST*

12:00 **TNC 'Decision Support Tools'** - *Steve Shill, The Nature Conservancy*

12:30 ~ LUNCH ~

Round Table Discussion - Caribbean Decision Support System - *Phil Kramer, Steve Shill and Mike Palmer, The Nature Conservancy*

Grab a sandwich and return to the meeting room for a lively (and colorful) discussion of the latest GIS tools designed to support conservation action and policy, everyone is welcome! (On-site training can be arranged. Take advantage of it!)

13:30 **Open Room - Displays and Sharing**

14:00 **Special Presentation: International Sea Turtle Conservation Fund** - *Michelle Pico, Director of Marine Programs, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)*

Session XI: Working Groups - 2007-2008 Workplan Priorities

14:15 **Introduction and Objectives** - *Karen Eckert, WIDECAST*

14:30 **Working Group I - Environmental Education**: Public Awareness and Outreach, Curriculum Development and Activities for Teachers/ Students, widecast.org (including an "Educator's Page"), DVD project ... where are the gaps & opportunities?

Working Group II - Spatial Databases: Ongoing/updating data collection, data sharing (agreements?), publication (web presence?), assessing foraging habitat(!), mapping and prioritizing threats, future directions, gaps & opportunities

Working Group III - Genetics & Foraging Turtles - Metapopulation Initiative for the Caribbean: regional data collection/analysis (role of the WIDECAST network?); priority questions; logical partners/donors; gaps & opportunities

Working Group IV - Index Beach Monitoring: moving toward a unified approach to estimating abundance for hawksbills nesting in the Caribbean, including methods and analytical tools, as well as data collection/reporting/analysis/sharing/use ...

Working Group V - Creating Wealth: how do we move community products to international markets? creating a retail network, building a product line, developing a business plan, identifying partners (donors, retailers, producers), ensuring coordination, exploring online options, where do we start?

Working Group VI - Sea Turtles and Fisheries: developing a Caribbean-scale perspective on incidental catch of seabirds, sea turtles, and marine mammals, role of the WIDECAST network, filling data gaps, partners, how to facilitate collaboration and coordination of bycatch mitigation and management as a critical component of sustainable fisheries

Working Group VII - Sea Turtle Trauma Response Corps: involving veterinarians and animal rescue practitioners in sea turtle conservation; facilitating collaboration among range States with regard to sea turtle injury response, rehabilitation and release; training needs; gaps and opportunities

16:00 ~ **Coffee Break**~

Session XII: Conclusions

16:30 **Working Group Conclusions and Recommendations**

17:30 **Open Forum**

- 2007 - 2008 Work Plan: Final Thoughts
- Decisions/Resolutions of the Meeting

18:00 **Closing Remarks and Adjourn**



Thank you for joining us!

Enjoy the Symposium 😊

