

~ 2010 Annual Meeting ~
Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network
(WIDECAST)

Karibea Resort Sainte-Luce
http://www.karibea.com/martinique/hotel_sainteluce.php
Meeting Room: Fregate
Martinique, French West Indies
2-4 March 2010

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Date:

The Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST) will convene its annual meeting on 2-4 March 2010 in Martinique, French West Indies.

Meeting Host:

The meeting is co-hosted by the Ministry of Environment of Martinique (DIREN) and the Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS). Rozenn Le Scao, WIDECAST Country Coordinator and Coordinateur, Plan d'actions des Tortues Marines de Martinique, and Cyrille Barnerias (DIREN) Chair the local Organizing Committee.

Objective:

The aim of the meeting is to feature updated information on national and regional-level sea turtle conservation and research program, to learn from shared experiences, to facilitate networking and partnerships, and to strengthen science-based conservation programming at the local level. The agenda includes national reports, regional issue reviews, working groups, and technical presentations with related discussion.

The meeting will include a Special Session on Climate Change and Caribbean Sea Turtles to be organized in partnership with the Latin American and Caribbean office of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), a special focus session on sea turtle recovery planning, research, and conservation in the French Overseas Departments, and, hopefully, a feature presentation on Crime Scene Investigation by Dave Gulko, Senior Instructor for the ICRI Committee on Coral Reef Enforcement and Investigation. WIDECAST country coordinators, biologists, policy-makers, and educators from more than 20 nations throughout the Caribbean region will attend.

Location:

The meeting will be held at the beautiful Karibea Resort (http://www.karibea.com/martinique/hotel_sainteluce.php). Participants will stay at the Amyris and Amendiers hotels within the Resort (see Meeting Expenses). We will meet in "la salle de réunion Fregate" (http://www.karibea.com/martinique/reunion_sainteluce.php).

Visas:

French: If you are traveling on the following passports - **Belize, Bermuda, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, Suriname** - you may need to purchase a visa at the airport in Martinique for the cost of 60 € (ca. US\$ 85) per person. We will be in contact with you individually if you have indicated to us that you are traveling on one of these passports. Our hosts (DIREN, ONCFS) will issue a general letter to all participants to promote an easy entry through Immigration, whether or not you require a visa.

USA: As of August 2009, you will need a US visa to travel through Miami or San Juan, *even if only in transit*.

Airport Transport:

Participants will be welcomed upon arrival by personnel recruited for this purpose. Please look for someone holding a "WIDECAS" sign, and you will be guided to a shuttle that will take you to the meeting hotel. There will be no cost for this service.

Meeting Expenses:

Each participant is responsible for his or her own expenses, as follows:

Transportation from the Airport to the Hotel in Martinique: None (see Airport Transport).

Registration fee: None.

Hotel: DIREN and ONCFS have negotiated extremely favorable hotel costs for our meeting. A shared (double) room is 41.76 € (ca. US\$58) + 2.10% tax per PERSON per night at the Amyris hotel. Persons in a single room stay at Amendiers hotel at 70.76 € (ca. US\$100) + 2.10% tax per night. (We have reserved 35 double rooms and 10 single rooms and will be in contact with confirmed participants regarding roommates. Rooms must be paid at Check-In. Please do **not** call and make your own hotel reservation unless you talk to Rozenn or Karen first, see Contact Information.) If you plan to arrive early (prior to 1 March) or stay late, you will be responsible for the extra hotel nights. *Note*: The hotel will accept a credit card, or euros or US\$ cash.

Meals: None. Our hosts (DIREN and ONCFS) have shown us a great kindness by offering to cover the cost of all meals served during the Annual Meeting (lunch: 22€ per person; dinner: 28 € per person). Meals will be served on-site, buffet style at the La Pélican or La Yole restaurants (http://www.karibea.com/martinique/restauration_sainteluce.php). On Thursday

we will dine as guests of the Government at the beachfront restaurant "Ti Bateau" at Grande Anse d'Arlet. If you plan to arrive early (prior to 1 March) or stay late, you will be responsible for the extra meals.

Electrical and Internet:

Electrical: Voltage: 220-240 Volts (U.S./Canada are 110-120 Volts). Primary Socket Type: Europlug, Schuko. Multi-voltage appliances (e.g., laptop computer) will need a plug adapter. 110-120V electronics will need a plug adapter + step-down transformer. Hair dryers, curling irons, etc. will need a plug adapter + voltage converter. Visit http://www.adaptelec.com/index.php?main_page=document_general_info&products_id=114 for details.

Internet: There will be free Internet available in the hotel lounges, as well as in the meeting room. Internet will not be available in individual hotel rooms.

Entertainment:

The acclaimed dance troupe of Kristen McArdle (<http://kristinmcardledance.com/>) will travel from New York to present a dance performance created especially for our meeting! And on the last night, there will be a special performance by a local band at the "Ti Bateau" restaurant!

Contact Information:

If you have any questions, please let us know!

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