

~ 2012 Annual Meeting ~
**Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network
(WIDECAST)**

Hotel Reef Yucatán, México
10 - 11 March 2012

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Dates:

The Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST) will convene its Annual Meeting on 10-11 March 2012.

Meeting Host:

The meeting is hosted by Pronatura Peninsula de Yucatán A.C. and Area de Proteccion de Flora y Fauna Laguna de Terminos (CONANP). Dr. Eduardo Cuevas Flores, WIDECAST Country Coordinator and Academic Advisor to Pronatura's Sea Turtle Program, and Blanca Idalia González, Pronatura's Sea Turtle Project Coordinator, Chair the local Organizing Committee.

Objective:

The aim of the Annual 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 typically includes national reports, regional issue reviews, working groups, and technical presentations with related discussion. WIDECAST Country Coordinators, biologists, policy-makers, and educators from more than 20 nations throughout the Caribbean region will attend.

Location:

The all-inclusive Hotel Reef Yucatán <http://www.reefyucatan.com/>, located about 40 minutes by car from the Merida International Airport (MID) in Yucatán, México.

Address for Immigration:

Km. 32 Carretera Progreso-Telchac Puerto

Yucatán C.P. 97407

Tel/Fax: 01 991-9175000

Toll free: 01800 000 7333

Visas:

If you are traveling on the following passports - Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Brazil, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, or Trinidad and Tobago - you may need a Mexican visa. If you have a valid US visa, please travel with it. If you have a valid US visa, you do not need a Mexican visa. We have issued an Invitation Letter to all participants to promote an easy entry through Immigration, whether or not you require a visa. If you did not receive this letter, please contact Dr. Karen Eckert, WIDECAST, at keckert@widecast.org

Ground Transport (Merida International Airport to/from the Hotel):

Participants will be welcomed upon arrival by personnel recruited for this purpose. Upon arrival at the airport you will clear Immigration, collect your luggage, clear Customs, and then pass through glass doors. Look for our driver holding a "WIDECAST" sign. You will be guided to a shuttle that will take you to the meeting hotel. There will be no cost for this service.

Note: To organize ground transport, please send your flight information as soon as possible to Dr. Karen Eckert (keckert@widecast.org), Dave Gulko (gulkod001@hawaii.rr.com), and our local coordinator, Blanca Gonzalez (bigzzg@gmail.com).

Meeting Expenses:

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

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

Registration fee: None.

Hotel: For most of you, "none." WIDECAST is paying for most WIDECAST meeting participants to stay in a shared (double) room at the hotel on March 10 and March 11, with a departure on March 12. For those of you staying for the "CSI" training, your room is paid through your departure on March 18. If you are paying for your own room (e.g., coming early or staying late ... or prefer not to have a roommate), Pronatura has negotiated a very good all-inclusive rate for our meeting. A shared (double) room is \$1,850 MXN (ca. US\$ 145), or \$925 MXN (ca. US\$72) per person per night. The cost of the single room is \$1,125 MXN.

Note: The hotel accepts major credit cards, Mexican pesos, or US\$ cash (but the exchange rate for US\$ at the hotel is not very good so exchange currencies before you arrive).

Meals: None. The Hotel Reef Yucatán is an all inclusive resort. Meals are served in the main dining room. We will have a special buffet dinner in a private room after our first full meeting day (March 10).

Personal Expenses:

The Meeting will *not* be providing per diems or reimbursing in-transit expenses such as shuttle or taxi fees (see Ground Transport), airport parking, meals en route, visa or departure fees, other personal expenses (phone calls, laundry) or items purchased or charged through the hotel or any of the vendors used by the workshop. Our hosts have invited local handcrafters to display their crafts during the meeting, so please exchange a little money before you arrive and be prepared to support the artists!

Electrical and Internet:

Electrical: Voltage: 110-120 (same as U.S./Canada). However, multi-voltage appliances (e.g., laptop computer) may need a plug adapter. Visit http://www.adaptelec.com/index.php?main_page=document_general_info&products_id=271 for details.

Internet: There will be free Wi-Fi Internet available in the meeting room and in the hotel lobby. Internet will not be available in individual hotel rooms.

Contact Information:

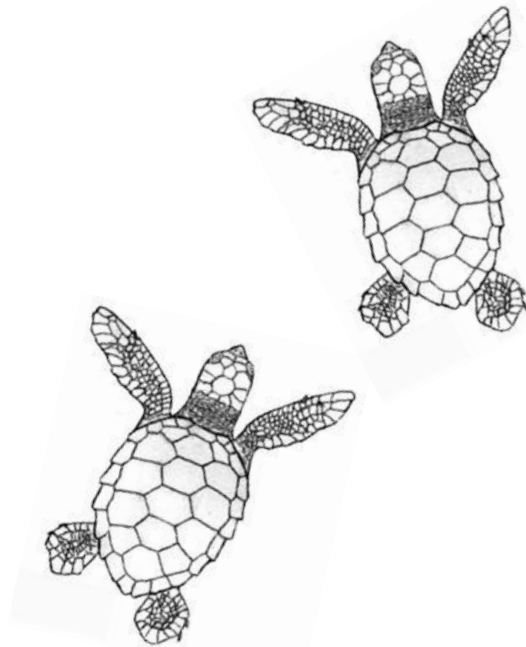
If you have any questions, please let us know!

Dr. Karen Eckert

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~ Sea Turtle Field Forensics Training Workshop ~

CORAL, International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), and the
Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network
(WIDECAST)

Hotel Reef Yucatán, México
12 - 17 March 2012

WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

Dates:

The Sea Turtle Field Forensics Training Workshop will take place from 12-17 March 2012. Please be on site no later than 11 March (see Location). The workshop will end right after breakfast on Sunday, March 18. Please arrange to depart from Merida in the afternoon.

Meeting Host:

The meeting is hosted by Pronatura Peninsula de Yucatán A.C. and Area de Proteccion de Flora y Fauna Laguna de Terminos (CONANP). Dr. Eduardo Cuevas Flores, WIDECAST Country Coordinator and Academic Advisor to Pronatura's Sea Turtle Program, and Blanca Idalia González, Pronatura's Sea Turtle Project Coordinator, Chair the local Organizing Committee.

Objective:

The "crime scene investigation" (CSI) workshop will focus on investigations to assist in enforcement actions associated with impacts to sea turtles and/or their habitats. The workshop will not be based on any one country's laws, rules or regulations, but instead will focus on the field techniques and protocols involved with investigating, documenting and collecting evidence from a site of impact.

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Travel and Meeting Expenses:

The cost of the workshop training, workshop materials, accommodation and food will be covered by us through the generous support of the primary funder, the U.S. Department of State. However, you are responsible for your own travel costs to and from Merida (MID), México. We will arrange your ground transport from MID to Merida (see Ground Transport). There are no meeting registration fees.

If you are paying for your own room (e.g., coming early or staying late ... or prefer not to have a roommate), Pronatura has negotiated a very good all-inclusive rate for our meeting. A shared (double) room is \$1,850 MXN (ca. US\$ 145), or \$925 MXN (ca. US\$72) per person per night. The cost of the single room is \$1,125 MXN.

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Internet: There will be free Wi-Fi Internet available in the meeting room and in the hotel lobby. Internet will not be available in individual hotel rooms.

**** What You Need to Bring ****

Generous grants from project donors cover all standard workshop costs, including field forensic packs for each participant, training materials, course certificates, accommodation, food (see Travel and Meeting Expenses), and the opportunity to work fin-to-fin with a range of international marine and coral reef investigative professionals!

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING:

- Swimsuits, t-shirts and other wetwear (including footwear that can get wet)
- Clothing that can get very soiled
- Dive skin or wetsuit
- Snorkeling gear is essential! Mask, fins, booties (if needed for the fins) & snorkel. Snorkeling activities will take place in shallow water immediately adjacent the hotel.
- Dive gloves
- Gear bag for dive gear
- Sunscreen, sunglasses, hat
- Insect repellent
- Torch light
- Personal toiletries, medications, disinfectants, etc.
- **Passport** (if not a Mexican citizen) and other form of identification; and visa if necessary (see Visas)
- Money for incidentals, drinks, etc.
- International power adapters for your electronics, if necessary (see Electrical and Internet).

ATTIRE:

- Attire for the workshop will be comfortable clothing that can be worn both outside on the shore and in the classroom. No formal clothing (suits, dresses, etc.) are required. The emphasis is on function and comfort as we will go between the classroom and shoreline field environment frequently. Classrooms are air conditioned, so you might want to bring something that can be layered for warmth, if necessary.

Luggage Considerations:

You will be receiving numerous materials at the workshop, including a rather heavy slate, a 0.5 m underwater photo scale, a field forensic pack full of materials, and a 278-page large-format textbook, all of which occupy considerable space in a standard piece of luggage. LEAVE ROOM in your bags for your return, or check an empty suitcase or duffel for this purpose.

Workshop Instructors:

The CSI workshop will be conducted by a team of experienced Instructors from Barbados, México, and the USA:

NAME	ROLE	AFILIATION	EMAIL
Dave Gulko	Lead Trainer	ICRI (USA)	gulkod001@hawaii.rr.com
Patricia Ramirez Romaro, PhD	Instructor	UNAM (MEXICO)	pattdf@gmail.com
Nancy Mettee, DVM	Instructor	Loggerhead MarineLife Center (USA)	cheloniamac.com
Angelique Brathwaite	Instructor	Coastal Zone Mgmt Unit (Barbados)	seaeggz@yahoo.com
Karen Eckert, PhD	Instructor	WIDECAS (USA)	keckert@widecast.org
Adam Eckert	Course Assistant	WIDECAS (USA)	aeckert@widecast.org
Blanca Idalia González	Local Coordinator	Pronatura (MEXICO)	bigzzg@gmail.com

Contact Information:

If you have any questions, please let us know!

Dave Gulko

Lead, ICRI Working Group on
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Investigation Coral Reef CSI
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Ewa Beach, Hawai'i 96706 USA
Tel: (808) 294-4280
gulkod001@hawaii.rr.com
http://www.coral.org/coral_reef_csi

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