

~ 2023 Annual General Meeting ~
Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network
(WIDECAST)
Hilton Cartagena Hotel ~ Guacamayo Meeting Room
Cartagena, Colombia
19-20 March 2023

~ PROVISIONAL AGENDA ~

DAY 1 ~ Sunday, March 19

Session I: Opening Remarks

8:00 **Open Room**

9:00 **Welcome** - *Karen Eckert, WIDECAST Executive Director*

- Announcements, Logistics, List of Participants

Session II: Keynote Address

9:15 **Sea Turtles in Colombia** - *Karla Barrientos M., WIDECAST Annual Meeting Host, and Directora Científica, Fundación Tortugas del Mar, Colombia*

9:45 **~ Coffee Break / Social Space ~**

Session III: The Power of Connectivity

10:15 **Staying Connected: Is our Social Media Working?** - *Kate Charles, Project Manager, Ocean Spirits, Grenada and WIDECAST Conservation Impact Officer*

10:30 **Sea Turtles in Aruba!** - *Richard and Edith van der Wal, Turtugaruba Foundation, Aruba*

10:45 **Recovery Planning Together in the Dutch Caribbean** - *Kaj Schut, Manager, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire*

11:00 **Collaborating for Conservation: Research, Bycatch, Poaching, Bekko** - *Félix Moncada G., Biologo Pesquero y Jefe, Programa de Tortugas Marinas, Centro de Investigaciones Pesqueras (CIP), Cuba*

11:30 **~ Lunch Break ~**

1:00 **Open Room:** please return to the room to socialize so we can start Session IV on time 🕒

Session IV: Regional Conservation Updates

- 1:30 **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's International Marine Turtle Program** - Ann Marie Lauritsen, Office of International Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 1:45 **Regional Action Plan for the Leatherback Sea Turtle** - Soraya Wijntuin, Oceans Coordinator, WWF-Guianas (Suriname)
- 2:00 **IAC: Interamerican Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles** - Veronica Càceres, Convention Secretariat
- 2:15 **SPAW: Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife** - Géraldine Conruyt (Deputy Director) and Claire Pusineri (Biodiversity Project Officer), Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW), Guadeloupe
- 2:30 ~ **Coffee Break / Social Space** ~
- 3:00 **CAMAC Project: Caribbean Marine Megafauna and Anthropogenic Activities** - Géraldine Conruyt (Deputy Director) and Claire Pusineri (Biodiversity Project Officer), Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW), Guadeloupe
- 3:15 **CAMAC Round Tables**

Session V: Caribbean Island Updates I

- 4:00 **Turks & Caicos Islands' Habitat Survey and Compliance Review** - Katharine Hart, Environmental Officer, Department of Environment and Marine Affairs
- 4:15 **Sea Turtles in Curaçao: Keeping our Turtle Community Safe and Healthy!** - Ard Vreugdenhil, Field Coordinator, Sea Turtle Conservation Curaçao
- 4:30 **Sea Turtle Research in Cuba: A University Perspective** - Julia Azanza Ricardo, Instituto Superior de Tecnologías y Ciencias Aplicadas, Universidad de La Habana
- 4:45 **Sea Turtle Recovery Planning: Updates from Trinidad & Tobago** - David Mahabir, Assistant Conservator of Forests and Head of the Wildlife Section, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries - Forestry Division, Trinidad
- 4:45 **Open Mic, Announcements ...**
- 5:00 **Closing Remarks**

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DAY 2 ~ Monday, March 20

Session VI: Opening Remarks

8:30 **Open Room**

9:00 **Welcome** - *Karen Eckert, WIDECAST Executive Director*

- Announcements, Logistics, List of Participants

Session VII: Caribbean Island Updates II

9:15 **Index Beach Monitoring: Where are our Hawksbills?** - *Alexandra Fireman, Marine Conservation Programme Coordinator, Environmental Awareness Group, Antigua*

9:30 **Satellite Tracking Post-Nesting Hawksbills** - *Andrew Maurer, Research Associate, Jumbo Bay Hawksbill Project, Antigua and NRC Postdoctoral Research Associate, NOAA*

9:45 **Debrief: Ghost-Net Workshop** - *Kenrith Carter, Dr. Carter Vet Services, Grenada*

10:00 **Community Science and New Initiatives at Sandy Point NWR** - *Kelly Stewart, St. Croix Sea Turtle Project and The Ocean Foundation*

10:15 **~ Coffee Break / Social Space ~**

Session VIII: Caribbean Mainland Updates I

10:45 **Fundação ProjetoTamar: An Overview** - *Bruno Giffoni, Fundação Pró-Tamar Brazil*

11:00 **Sea Turtle Nesting and Conservation on the Southeast Coast of Nicaragua** - *Edgar Coulson¹, Adonis Coulson¹, Cathi Campbell^{1,2}, and Cynthia Lagueux^{1,2}*

¹Caribbean Nicaragua Marine Turtle Program, ²Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research, University of Florida

- 11:15 **ProTECTOR Inc. : Updates from Honduras** - Lidia Salinas, Honduras National Coordinator
- 11:30 **Macuro: 20 Years of Experience with Sea Turtles in the Gulf of Paria, Venezuela** - Clemente Balladares Castillo, Minec-UCV-Provita (Presented by Hedelvy Guada, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Central de Venezuela)
- 12:00 ~ **Lunch Break** ~
- 1:30 **Open Room:** please return to the room to socialize so we can start Session IX on time ☺

Session IX: Caribbean Mainland Updates II

- 2:00 **Updates from French Guiana** - Mathilde Lasfargue, *Coordinateur du Plan National d'Actions Tortues Marines en Guyane, Office français de la biodiversité*
- 2:15 **SMART in Suriname** - Soraya Wijntuin, *Oceans Coordinator, WWF-Guianas (Suriname)*
- 2:30 **Opportunities to Connect** - Stephen Dunbar, *ProTECTOR (Honduras) and Loma Linda University (USA)*

Session X: MTSG "Burning Issues" Conservation Priorities & Working Groups

- 2:45 **Species Teams** (3-5 persons each) will complete a [SURVEY FORM](#) to provide RMU-specific status assessments to the IUCN/MTSG for priority-setting exercises and to help identify resource needs. Our most recent [ATLAS](#) and [THREAT ASSESSMENT](#) will help. The "Burning Issues" framework is based on a priorities portfolio developed previously (see [Wallace et al. 2011](#)) - and now updated using [feedback](#) from MTSG members. The update is designed to allow the MTSG to more easily compare changes in status over time, as well as update global conservation priorities and information gaps. Please use the survey form to evaluate a series of criteria organized in 3 sections: (i) Risk, (ii) Threats, (iii) Conservation Capacity. (We can skip any sections we don't have the expertise or knowledge to evaluate.)
- 2:45 **Roundtables I - Topics to be Decided!**
Examples: Conservation using Drones; Community Science; Veterinary Protocols; Leatherback Regional Action Plan (RAP): Next Steps; Stranding Networks; Bycatch; Working with Fishers; Declining Hawksbills; Making the most of Social Media; ... anything you would like to share, need support with, would like to learn more about ...
- 3:00 ~ **Coffee Break / Continue with "Burning Issues" survey and Working Groups!** ~
- 4:30 **Reports/Recommendations from Working Groups**
- 5:00 **Closing Remarks**