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Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP)
to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected
Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider
Caribbean Region

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 November 2006

REPORT OF THE MEETING

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW), in the Wider Caribbean Region held in Kingston, 15 to 18 January 1990, adopted the SPAW Protocol to the Cartagena Convention, which came into force on 18 June 2000. Article 23 of the SPAW Protocol provides for the convening and functioning of the Meetings of the Parties and calls for these ordinary meetings to be held in conjunction with the ordinary meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Convention. In light of the above, this Meeting was convened by UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme, in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on 28 November 2006, immediately preceding the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting and Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 29 November to 2 December 2006).
2. The main objectives of the Meeting were to:
 - review and adopt the Recommendations of the Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC3) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Caracas, Venezuela, 4 – 8 October 2005);
 - review the progress made by the electronic Working Group on the Revised Final Draft Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol and decide on adoption of the Final Draft;
 - review the progress made by the electronic Working Group for the Revised Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region and decide on further actions;
 - review the major outcomes of the SPAW Workplan and Budget for the 2004 – 2005 biennium, including the activities of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW; and
 - review and approve the Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Programme for the 2006 - 2007 biennium.
3. The twelve Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol nominated their respective representatives to participate in the Meeting. Representatives of governments that are non-Contracting Parties and of international, regional, inter-governmental, and non-governmental organizations, were also invited to attend the Meeting as Observers. The List of Participants appear as **Annex IV** to this Report

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

4. The Meeting was opened by the secretariat on Tuesday, 28 November 2006, at 9:00 a.m. in Montego Bay, Jamaica, at the Wyndham Rose Hall Resort and Country Club. The Coordinator of UNEP-CAR/RCU, Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, welcomed the

participants and highlighted the considerable progress made within the SPAW Protocol and its regional Programme since the last Conference of Parties. Progress included among others, capacity-building for managers of Marine Protected Areas; promotion of best practices within relevant communities and the private sector, in agricultural and coastal tourism activities in the Mesoamerican subregion; and wide dissemination of the comprehensive Reefs at Risk study. Other achievements included fundraising and coordination of Programme activities, which resulted in increased cooperation and Memoranda of Understanding being signed with partner Conventions and Organizations.

5. Mr. Andrade thanked the Governments of Sweden, the United States, France and Venezuela, as well as the UN and MacArthur Foundations, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), and CropLife, for providing financial support for various activities of SPAW. The Coordinator stressed that no additional Governments had become Party to the SPAW Protocol in the last 4 years. He expressed his hope that this COP would provide the opportunity for reflection and discussion in this regard, and reiterated that the secretariat will continue to support the Governments of the region in their process toward ratification of the SPAW Protocol.
6. Mr. Andrade further stated that the SPAW Protocol, the only legal agreement on biodiversity conservation in the Wider Caribbean Region, offers a unique mechanism to governments of the region to fulfill their commitments and targets set at the global level to reduce the loss of biodiversity by the year 2010, and establish MPA networks by the year 2012, but that it was not being fully utilized. He encouraged the governments to be committed in their work toward regional cooperation and integrated action in order to achieve these global millennium goals.

Agenda Item 2: Election of Officers

7. The Meeting elected the following officers from among the participants:

Chairperson:	Mr. Hamlin Jordan Smith	(Venezuela)
Vice-Chairperson	Ms. Marisol Dimas	(Panama)
Rapporteur	Mr. Neemedass Chandool	(Trinidad and Tobago)

Agenda Item 3: Organisation of the Meeting

(a) Rules of Procedure

8. The Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council for UNEP (UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3) were applied *mutatis mutandis*, for the conduct of the Meeting.

(b) Organisation of Work

9. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in these languages was provided, and the working documents of the Meeting were available in all the working languages. The List of Documents appears as **Annex III** to this report.
10. The secretariat convened the Meeting in plenary sessions and working groups were not required

Agenda Item 4: Adoption of the Agenda

11. The Meeting adopted the Provisional Agenda of the Meeting prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the Recommendations of the STAC3 and COP3 decisions, and evolving issues relevant to the implementation of the SPAW Protocol. The Provisional Agenda appears as **Annex I** to this Report.

Agenda Item 5: Recommendations of the Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC3) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region

12. The secretariat presented the Recommendations of the Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (STAC3) (Caracas, Venezuela, 4 – 8 October 2005) as outlined in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.29/6, Annex II. The Meeting reviewed and adopted the Recommendations with the clarifications noted in the decisions of the Meeting (Annex II to this report).

Agenda Item 6: Reports of the Working Groups on: a) Final Draft Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol and b) Revised Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region

13. The secretariat and the SPAW/RAC presented the report of the Protected areas guidelines Working Group, and made reference to the revised document “Final Draft Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol” as outlined in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/3, prepared in keeping with Recommendation II of the STAC3 (Caracas, Venezuela, 4 – 8 October 2005). The Final Draft Guidelines were presented for adoption. The “Revised Draft Annotated Format for the Presentation Reports for the Areas proposed for inclusion in the SPAW List” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.29/4), was also presented to the participants for their consideration.
14. The SPAW/RAC as Coordinator of the Working Group explained the approach undertaken by the Group to review the documents. It was noted that the text of the Guidelines was considered first, secondly the Glossary and lastly the Annotated format. It

was noted that the Glossary was initially developed as a list of terms only and definitions were added as the Group made progress. However it was highlighted that several definitions were provided late and hence had not benefited by full discussions by the Group.

15. The SPAW/RAC also explained the time-frame under which the group operated and outlined the number of messages that had been circulated in the electronic forum. They indicated that comments received after the final deadlines had been inserted in the document in italics and brackets.
16. The delegate of France thanked the secretariat and the Regional Activity Centre for the SPAW Protocol (SPAW/RAC) for the presentation and development of the three documents and commended the hard work of the SPAW/RAC team. He took the opportunity to inform the Meeting that the SPAW/RAC had been accorded the status of an "Association" under French law, at the end of 2005, named "Plan Mer des Caraïbes" a non-governmental organization which enables it to operate independently to the French Government. He noted that the Association is at the disposal of all Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol. He stressed that the new status will not affect the support that France provides to the RAC, which will continue in accordance with their commitments. However, this new status also allows for funding from external sources wishing to contribute financially to the functioning of the RAC and for the RAC to manage the funds in coordination with the Parties and the secretariat.
17. The delegate from France also commented on the documents under review, and mentioned that France had supported this work for a number of years. He further noted that the document was compliant with the mandate given to the Working Group. He thanked all the experts who had contributed to the text, and informed the participants that the Government of France supported the approval of the document by the COP4. Minor remarks on the English version were submitted for consideration. He stressed that the adoption of this document by this COP would not make the text final. He suggested that if the COP would take a decision in favour of an adoption, that this includes a revision clause which could be tied to, for example, the COP 6, to allow for sufficient time to evaluate and modify it according to the results obtained and difficulties encountered during implementation.
18. Other Delegates expressed concern indicating that the document could be improved, and additional time allowed in order to do so. They were of the opinion that the document could not be adopted as presented. It was pointed out that the document did not reflect the points of view of all Parties, since only a few countries participated in the Working Group, and that more input from the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was needed. It was proposed that another meeting be held to further discuss and finalize the document, and focus given primarily to the issues in brackets in the current version. The secretariat pointed out that there were high costs associated with holding such a meeting, but that if funds could be raised or contributions provided by a government wishing to work with the secretariat, then a one-day meeting could be held, prior to the next meeting of the STAC. The secretariat was requested to explore the possibility of holding a one-day

meeting immediately before STAC4 to facilitate the completion of the Final Guidelines prior its approval by the STAC4

19. It was agreed, that in order to move forward with the finalization of this important document, the mandate of the Working Group should be extended for a final time and the work focused solely on those areas in the relevant documents which required further clarification or definition. To this end, it was emphasized that Parties which had not previously participated in the Working Group be invited to contact the SPAW/RAC to do so. The secretariat and the SPAW/RAC were requested to provide the current revised draft of the Guidelines to all Parties through the National Focal Points, for a rapid internal consultation process on the issues on which consensus had not been reached. Suggestions from the participants included that the Final Guidelines once reviewed and approved by the STAC4, be applied on an interim basis, until their adoption by COP5.
20. The secretariat and the SPAW/RAC also presented the report of the Marine Mammals Working Group and made reference to the “Revised Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/4). It was explained that as per Recommendation III of the STAC3 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.29/6), the secretariat and the SPAW/RAC were asked to: i) continue the work of the electronic Working Group, and include other interested Parties; ii) develop a timetable with specific actions, at the national and regional levels in the revised draft MMAP; iii) give priority to Recommendation III (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.27/3) of the Regional Workshop of Experts on the Development of the Marine Mammal Action Plan (MMAP) for the Wider Caribbean Region (Bridgetown, Barbados, 18 – 21 July 2005); iv) consider additional recommendations from the Barbados Workshop, the Working Group and countries for implementation as appropriate; and v) encourage countries to develop National Action Plans to the extent possible.
21. Representatives from the Governments of Colombia and Venezuela joined the Working Group in March 2006. As outlined in the Recommendations of STAC3, the Group worked from March 2006 until October 2006, with a total of 111 messages exchanged. The US Government proposed that a “Draft List of Priority Actions” for the MMAP be a subset of the “framework” MMAP (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.27/2.Rev.3). This suggestion was accepted and the SPAW/RAC developed a “Priority Activities” document retaining all eleven major issues. A comparison document between the “Priority Actions” and the original “Actions Needed” within the framework MMAP was also prepared and presented as Appendix 1 in the report of the Working Group and revised draft of the MMAP (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/4). This the revised draft presented included:: “Priority Actions” (at regional and national levels) for the next five years, including “Key Objectives”, as well as “Major Expected Outputs” and “Main Partners”, proposed for each of the “Priority Actions”. Changes proposed by the Working Group and not yet agreed upon, were kept in italics, with the name of the proposer. Additional documents produced as per Recommendation III of the Barbados Workshop were the “Marine Mammal Bibliographic Compilation for the Wider Caribbean Region” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.7) and “Guidelines and Criteria Associated with Marine Mammals in Captivity” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.8) prepared by the Whale and

Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) as a contribution to the work of SPAW/RAC and the secretariat. Other products which are being finalized are: compilation of relevant conservation, education and public awareness materials; Protocols and techniques for responding to strandings; research protocol; compilation of capacities, capabilities of countries, and institutional support.

22. The Working Group was commended for its work, however, a number of delegates expressed concern that the current document still needed substantive work and review before it could be adopted, and that the lack of participation from many Parties in the Working Group was regrettable, mainly from the SIDS. The delegate from the United States reiterated the view about the usefulness for Parties to make a prioritized list of activities they would want to see funded in order to facilitate discussions with the donors. It was agreed, that the mandate of the Working Group on the draft MMAP be extended until the STAC4 to continue refining the document, in particular with regard to i) identifying and prioritizing concrete, achievable and realistic actions for the region, as well as timetables and responsible actors; and ii) promoting a wider participation from Parties in the Working Group. The secretariat and the SPAW/RAC will again approach the relevant National Focal Points encouraging them to participate as it had done in the past.

Agenda Item 7: Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2006-2007 Biennium

23. The secretariat presented the revised draft "Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2006 - 2007 Biennium" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG. 25/5), prepared by the secretariat based on the inputs and Recommendation IV of the STAC3. The presentation included a brief update on major outputs of the 2004 – 2005 Workplan and Budget for SPAW, and the relevant information documents were presented in this regard. The SPAW Programme Officer presented the Projects under the SPAW Regional Programme. She outlined the background decisions leading to the proposed workplan and the coordination activities under the SPAW framework. She mentioned the joint activities undertaken and planned with the Regional Activity Centre for the SPAW Protocol in Guadeloupe, and with the relevant Conventions, programmes and organizations, as well collaborative arrangements with existing and emerging regional or global initiatives relevant to SPAW.
24. During the biennium, major focus will be placed on the implementation of the Protocol, through the finalization of the guidelines for listing protected areas and on continued strengthening of MPAs towards the achievement of the 2012 goals within the region. The development of guidelines to assess the exemptions under Article 11(2) were also highlighted, as well as the guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened and endangered and to initiate identification of threatened and endangered species which require listing under the SPAW Annexes, in keeping with COP3 decisions. The SPAW Programme Officer also noted that the designation of 2007 as the Year of the Dolphin, and 2008 as the Year of the Reef, will provide excellent opportunities to further promote the objectives of the Protocol and to develop relevant supporting activities within the Programme to the extent feasible.

25. It was noted that by mid 2007, the ICRAN MAR Project will have been successfully completed, providing new opportunities for additional synergies with partners to ensure the sustainability and expansion of the activities developed under the Project. It is also expected that the draft action plan for the conservation of marine mammals will be further refined for adoption at COP5 in 2008. In concluding, she also highlighted the importance of promoting sustainable tourism within the context of SPAW, given that the continued expansion of this income-earning activity, is still one of the major threats to coastal and marine resources in the region. She noted that while it might be difficult within SPAW to implement specific activities due to limited financial resources, the Programme will continue to explore, coordinate, and develop synergies with relevant regional and global initiatives.
26. The Meeting reviewed the revised Workplan and Budget and provided specific comments and recommendations. The delegate of France thanked the secretariat for the clear presentation and referred to the development of the manatee plan which France is supporting, and expressed the wish for the recommendations to be finalized promptly. He also stressed that the Government of France is interested in the protection of sea turtles and informed the Meeting of the recently finalized sea turtle recovery action plan for the French Antilles. He further stressed the urgency and need to protect coral reefs from the various threats that they face and that the Government of France was in the process of submitting an application to UNESCO to designate the coral reefs of New Caledonia as a World Heritage Site. He informed the Meeting of the work of IFRECOR, the French initiative for coral reefs in the 8 overseas Territories which include Guadeloupe and Martinique, which has been reinitiated for the period 2006-2010. He also mentioned France's participation in ICRI, commended the Government of Mexico on the hosting of the Third International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS3), and expressed their support to the Year of the Reef. In this regard, he called for other countries to initiate activities for the Year of the Reef. The meeting of the national committee of the IFRECOR will take place in 2008 in Guadeloupe. If other coral reef events could be synchronized with that meeting it would provide an excellent opportunity for exchange with coral reef "actors" from the regions of the Pacific and Indian Oceans.
27. The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles commended the secretariat on a strong Workplan and pointed out that the secretariat stands out in comparison with many others. He further applauded the work of the secretariat. NatureServe commented on possible standardization of communication and information tools and highlighted that web services could notably increase information exchange among interested Parties and Institutions.
28. The Meeting provided specific comments on the Workplan to be incorporated by the secretariat in the final version. With regard to harmonizing reporting with other Conventions, WIDECASST announced that the format developed for reporting under the Interamerican Sea Turtle Convention would be made available to SPAW Parties.

29. The representative from the OECS informed of ongoing preparation on a reporting format for the St Georges declaration. This is another initiative that can be used to further the work of the SPAW Protocol which is sensitive to the restrictions within the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which are Parties to the SPAW Protocol.
30. The Meeting discussed the many working groups planned under the Workplan and were of the opinion that five was too many. It was suggested that an order of priority be used to postpone the activities of some of the working groups until the next biennium. During the process of prioritizing the working groups, it was agreed that the ongoing working groups that have already advanced considerably, namely the one for the Guidelines and Criteria for the Listing of Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol, and on the development of the Marine Mammal Action Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region, should continue their work up to STAC4, where their progress and results would be presented. The situation could be re-evaluated after the STAC4, as it is expected that discussion on protected areas will be finalized. At that time, additional groups, primarily the Working Group on Developing Guidelines to Prevent Species from becoming Threatened or Endangered (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.4), could come on stream. The Meeting requested that the secretariat establish this Working Group as soon as feasible. Concerns were raised however regarding the feasibility of revising such a long document through an electronic working group. The Working Group would first discuss the process and working document to be reviewed, and would follow normal procedure for working groups as established by STAC1. The Delegate of the Netherlands Antilles proposed that countries bring the name of their representative to the species guidelines Working Group to the next STAC in order to continue the process.
31. The Working Group on the exemptions under Article 11(2) while not an immediate priority at this time, was kept in the Workplan for the biennium. The Contracting Parties were urged to respond to the requests from the secretariat to join and participate more actively in the working groups established by the Parties. The representative of the Humane Society commended the secretariat on its work.
32. The delegate of the United States commented on the initiatives under the section on sustainable tourism and requested additional information or presentations at the next STAC on the Quebec Declaration and the OECS-ESDU initiatives. Relevant areas of cooperation within their respective workplans could be highlighted, to better understand the direction of the SPAW Workplan.
33. The representative from NatureServe stressed the importance of sharing information between SPAW and Programmes such as the OECS initiative on protected areas, and their project on alternative livelihoods and protected areas. He further recommended that the secretariat link with these initiatives. The delegate of France asked for more information under the section on sustainable tourism and made reference to the existing EU programme on sustainable tourism.
34. The delegate of France requested that a more detailed budget for each activity be presented for future meetings of the Contracting Parties, as this would provide greater

visibility and facilitate prioritizing, in the event of insufficient financing. He further requested that a similar detailed budget be presented for the activities implemented by the SPAW/RAC, to provide clarity for potential donors. The secretariat took note of all comments made on the Workplan and Budget.

35. The Meeting endorsed the revised Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2006-2007 biennium, with the modifications and priorities reflected herewith, and requested that it be submitted to the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting and Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties for final approval.

Agenda Item 8: Other Business

36. The Government of Belize pointed out that cabinet papers had been developed in respect of the SPAW Protocol as part of the process to become a Contracting Party in the near future.
37. The Executive Secretary from the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Mr. Robert Hepworth, made a presentation to the Meeting. He stressed that migratory species constitute an important component of the biodiversity of the Caribbean region and that besides their intrinsic value, they provide numerous benefits and services to humankind and to ecosystems. He further stated that many of these species are crucial elements in the subsistence and culture of numerous human populations and were the basis for several activities of economic, cultural and social value.
38. He noted that as a Contracting Party to the Convention on Migratory Species, governments of the Wider Caribbean Region could call on the experience of the CMS in tailoring UN-based regional agreements addressing migratory species such as, small cetaceans, manatees, bats, wildfowl and seabirds.
39. Mr. Hepworth also indicated that as the specialized instrument for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Migratory species provided internationally concerted and coordinated conservation, making these activities more appropriate and cost-effective. He stated that to date, 8 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean (including Panama), were Parties to the CMS, and that a number of others had expressed their interest in joining. Membership in the CMS would complement membership in other key wildlife Conventions in particular Ramsar, with its focus on wetlands, CITES and the CBD. Migratory species, he indicated, have an important role to play in sustainable development and participation on the CMS would help to ensure the sustainable use of migratory animals shared with other countries of the region.
40. The representative of the Humane Society provided comments on behalf of the Windsor Research Center, in Jamaica informing about the plan to develop bauxite mining in the

unique natural environment and ecosystem of the Cockpit Country which serves as habitat to many endangered and rare species found nowhere else in the planet.

Agenda Item 9: Adoption of the Decisions of the Meeting

41. The Rapporteur presented the draft Decisions of the Meeting, which the participants reviewed and adopted with amendments and corrections, as reflected in **Annex II**. The report of the Meeting was circulated to participants following the Meeting for their review and comments.

Agenda Item 10: Closure of the Meeting

42. The Meeting was closed on Tuesday, 28 November 2006, at 5.10 p.m., by the Chairperson of the Meeting and the secretariat. The Chairman thanked all participants and noted that he was grateful for their cooperation in following the Agenda efficiently. The Coordinator of UNEP-CAR/RCU thanked all Contracting Parties and Observers for making the Meeting productive. He also welcomed the efforts of the Government of Belize towards becoming a Contracting Party to the SPAW Protocol. Mr. Andrade also thanked the NGOs for their participation and support, and the SPAW/RAC, acknowledging them for being a very productive partner, and once again, expressed his appreciation to the Government of France.

ANNEX I**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Organisation of the Meeting
 - a) Rules of Procedure
 - b) Organisation of Work
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Recommendations of the Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region
6. Reports of the Working Groups on the: a) Final Draft Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPA Protocol and b) Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region
7. Workplan and Budget of the SPA Regional Programme for the 2006-2007 Biennium
8. Other Business
9. Adoption of the Decisions of the Meeting
10. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX II

DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

The Contracting Parties:

Having convened the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region;

Having reviewed the Recommendations of the Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG. 29/6 (Annex II);

Taking note of the Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the SPA Regional Programme for the 2004-2005 biennium (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/INF.3);

Having reviewed the Final Draft Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPA Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/3), including the Report of the Working Group;

Having reviewed the Revised Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MAM) in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/4), including the Report of the Working Group; and

Having reviewed the Revised Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPA Regional Programme for the 2006 – 2007 biennium (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/5);

Decide to:

1. **Urge** the governments of the region, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, including the SPA Protocol.
2. **Approve** the Recommendations of the Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, with the following clarifications:

- i) the SPAW Programme of work should give priority to Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol, taking into consideration regional conservation needs, as well as donor partnerships that may, on occasion, necessitate the participation of non-Parties.
 - ii) the STAC should initiate discussion and provide a preliminary analysis of the process required for identification of those threatened and endangered species of the region that are not yet included in the Annexes to the Protocol.
3. **Extend** for a final time, the mandate of the Working Group on the Guidelines for protected areas to be listed under SPAW and **request** the Group to continue its work on the bracketed and undefined texts, and invite all Parties who wish to participate in the Working Group to contact the SPAW/RAC;
4. **Request** that the secretariat and the SPAW/RAC, through the National Focal Points, provide the current revised draft of the Guidelines to all Parties for a rapid (one-month maximum) internal consultation process on the issues on which consensus has not been reached, and **further request** the secretariat to explore the possibility of holding a one-day meeting immediately before STAC4 to facilitate the completion of the Final Guidelines prior to their approval by the STAC4;
5. **Agree** that the Final Criteria approved by the STAC4 could be applied on an interim basis until their adoption at the COP5;
6. **Extend** the mandate of the Working Group on the draft MMAP until the STAC4 to continue refining the document, in particular with regard to i) identifying and prioritizing concrete, achievable and realistic actions for the region, as well as timetables and responsible actors; and ii) promoting broader participation from Parties in the Working Group and, to this end, the secretariat will again approach the relevant National Focal Points;
7. **Endorse** for final approval by the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting and Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the revised Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2006-2007 biennium, with modifications and priorities introduced by the Meeting;
8. **Prioritize** in the 2006-2007 Workplan, that the existing Working Groups on protected areas Guidelines and on the MMAP should continue working to present results and progress at the

STAC4, and **further decide** to ask the secretariat to establish the Working Group on the Guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.4) as soon as feasible. This Working Group will first consider discussing the process and working document to be reviewed.

9. **Maintain** as an important activity of the SPAW Workplan, the discussions regarding Article 11 paragraph 2, including the draft Criteria for the assessment of exemptions. To this end, the Working Group will begin its work in the near future;
10. **Urge** Contracting Parties to respond to the requests of the secretariat to join and participate more actively in the Working Groups established by the Parties;
11. **Take note of** the proposal to designate 2007 as the Year of the Dolphin, and **invite** the secretariat and governments to further develop this campaign at both the national and regional levels to raise awareness for the protection of dolphins throughout the region;
12. **Take note of** the designation of 2008 as the Year of the Reef, and **invite** the secretariat and governments to actively work at both the national and regional levels on the preparatory and follow-up activities for this initiative.
13. **Request** that the secretariat provide a more detailed budget for each area of work of the Programme which will facilitate fundraising and decision-making in the event of insufficient Programme funding.
14. **Request** that the secretariat provide a provisional detailed budget of activities undertaken by the SPAW/RAC which will facilitate fundraising and decision-making in the event of insufficient Programme funding.

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Documents

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/1 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/2 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/3	Provisional Agenda Provisional Annotated Agenda Final Draft Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed under the SPAW Protocol (<i>includes the report of the Working Group</i>)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/4	Revised Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP), in the Wider Caribbean Region (<i>includes the report of the Working Group</i>)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/5	Revised Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2006-2007 biennium
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.29/6 (Annex II)	Recommendations of the Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Caracas, Venezuela, 4 – 8 October 2005)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/4	Revised Draft Annotated Format for Presentation Reports for the Areas proposed for inclusion in the SPAW List
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/6	Decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (<i>to be prepared during the Meeting</i>)

Information Documents

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.1 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.2 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.3 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.4	Provisional List of Documents Provisional List of Participants (<i>to be finalised during the Meeting</i>) Directory of members of the SPAW Protocol listserve (English only) Guidelines to Prevent Species from becoming Endangered or Threatened (English only)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.5	A proposal for bird species to be added to Annexes II and III of the SPAW Protocol (English only)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.6	Assessment of the Implementation of the Protocol to the Cartagena Convention Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW), with a Special Focus on Sea Turtles Listed in Annex II (English only)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.7	Marine Mammal Bibliographic Compilation for the Wider Caribbean Region (English only)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.8	Guidelines and Criteria Associated with Marine Mammal Captivity (<i>prepared by WDCS as a contribution to the work of SPAW/RAC and the secretariat</i>) (English only)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/5.Rev.1	Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2004 – 2005 Biennium
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.26/4	Draft Grid for the Objective Evaluation of Proposals for inclusion in the SPAW Protected Areas List
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/3	Final Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Criteria for the Listing of Species in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/4	Report of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 27

UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.27/2.Rev.3	September 2004) Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of the Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/INF.5	Exemptions to the SPAW Protocol Under Article 11(2): A Legal Review
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/INF.7	Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Strategic Plan and Progress towards the 2010 Target
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/INF. 10	The new Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its major activities
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/INF.11	The Mesoamerican Reef Alliance (MAR) of the International Coral Reef Activities Network (ICRAN): Status and Planned Activities

Conference Room Paper

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/CRP.1	Draft Resolution submitted by CMS Secretariat. <i>CMS Membership including Year of the Dolphin initiative</i>
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Reference Documents

UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/INF.3	Status of Implementation of the Decisions of the SPAW COP 1 and COP 2 and of the Recommendations of the First Meeting of STAC
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.26/5	Report of the Workshop on the Draft Guidelines for the Listing of Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol (Gosier, Guadeloupe, 19 – 23 April 2004)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/INF.4	Report of the Activities of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW/RAC) in Guadeloupe for the period 2004 - 2005
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.27/3	Recommendations of the Regional Workshop of Experts on the Development of the Marine Mammal Action Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region (Bridgetown, Barbados, 18 – 21 July 2005)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/INF.9	Harmonizing Reports on International Biodiversity related Conventions: Pilot Project, Panama (English only)
ICRI/UNEP 2002	Report of the Regional Workshop for the Tropical Americas. (Cancun, Mexico, 12 to 14 June 2002) (English only)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/4	Structure and Scope of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the SPAW Protocol
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/5	Relationship between the SPAW Protocol, the STAC and the work undertaken by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/6	Priorities for implementation following the entry into force of the SPAW Protocol: responsibilities for the Contracting Parties, for the STAC and for the Secretariat
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/7	Report of the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Havana, Cuba, 24-25 September 2001)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/INF.7	The International Coral Reef Activity Network (ICRAN): A global partnership for coral reefs - A summary (English only)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.23/6	Report of the First Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Havana, Cuba, 27 – 29 September 2001)
UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.22/5	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean

UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.19/6	Region (Havana, Cuba, 3 – 6 August 1999) Report of the Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Kingston, 11 – 13 October 1995)
UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.11/7	Report of the Second Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean, Region. (French Guiana, 3-5 May 1993)
UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.5/1	Report of the First Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean, Region. (Kingston, Jamaica, 4-8 May 1992)
UNEP, 2006	Directory of Focal Points of the Caribbean Environment Programme. CEP Information Paper. (English only)
UNEP/Ramsar, 2000	Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean (Cartagena, 1983) and the Bureau of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, 1971) (English only)
UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3, 1998	Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP
UNEP(WATER)/CAR WG.11/INF.6	Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Convention of the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena, 1983) and its Protocols, including the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Nairobi, 1992) (English only)
UNEP, 1991	Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption of the Annexes to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region. Final Act
UNEP, 1990	Conference of Plenipotentiaries Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region. Final Act
UNEP, 1983	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)

ANNEX IV

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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