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Fifth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory
Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially
Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider
Caribbean Region

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 22 October 2012

REPORT OF THE MEETING

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ACRONYMS

CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Area Managers Network and Forum
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLME	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem
COP	Conference of Parties
CORALINA	Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Archipelago of San Andres, Old Providence and Santa Catalina
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IOCARIBE	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
MMAP	Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammal
MoC	Memorandum of Cooperation
MMARN	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NFWF	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
NOAA	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
OSPESCA	Organization for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus
Ramsar	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
SCSCB	Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
SPAW RAC	SPAW Regional Activity Centre
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
STRAPs	Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plans
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TOT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region
WG	Working Group
WHMSI	Western Hemispheric Migratory Species Initiative
WIDECAS	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network
WRI	World Resource Institute
WWF	World Wildlife Fund for Nature

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 20 of the SPAW Protocol establishes the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). This Article provides that each Party shall appoint a scientific expert appropriately qualified in the field covered by the Protocol as its representative on the Committee, who may be accompanied by other experts and advisors appointed by that Party. Article 20 also provides that the Committee may also seek information from scientifically and technically qualified experts and organizations.
2. In light of the above, and in keeping with Decision No. 1 of the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Havana, Cuba, 24-25 September 2001) and Decisions Nos. 4, 5, 10 and 17 of the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 5 October 2010), this Meeting was convened by UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP), in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic on 22 October 2012.
3. The objectives of the Fifth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC5) to the SPAW Protocol were to:
 - **Review** the status of activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2010-2012, including activities of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe;
 - **Assess** the reports on protected areas presented by Parties for listing under the SPAW Protocol and **make** recommendations on their listing to the SPAW COP7;
 - **Review** the list of species proposed for listing under the SPAW Protocol by the Ad Hoc Working Group and **make** recommendations to the SPAW COP7 on the listing process;
 - **Review** the draft guidelines for exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol, and **make** recommendations to the SPAW COP7 for further action; and
 - **Develop** the 2013-2014 Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Subprogramme for subsequent approval by the Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol and Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan of the Caribbean Environment Programme and Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 23 October 2012 and 25-27 October 2012, respectively.
4. The Sixteen (16) Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol were invited to the Meeting to nominate their respective representatives to be part of the SPAW STAC5 in keeping with Article 20 of the Protocol. Other member Governments of CEP, United Nations agencies and non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations were invited to participate as Observers. The list of participants is presented in Annex IV to this Report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. Opening statements were provided by Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme and of the Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention, by Ms. Jacqueline Alder, Coordinator, Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Achim Steiner, and by Mr. Daneris Santana, Vice-Minister of Biodiversity and Protected Areas, of the Government of the Dominican Republic, who declared the Meeting opened at 9:15 am at the Dreams Palm Beach Resort in Punta Cana.
6. In his remarks Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares thanked the Government of the Dominican Republic for its financial and logistical support which made possible the convening of this Meeting in Punta Cana as well as three other intergovernmental Meetings of CEP also held in Punta Cana during the same week. He congratulated the Governments of The Bahamas and Grenada for becoming new Parties to the SPAW Protocol, noting progress made in advancing the objectives of the Protocol during the last biennium, particularly referring to its articles 7, 11 and 21. Among other significant results he highlighted the financial contributions of the GEF and donor Governments, such as Spain and Italy, which although not Member Countries to the CEP or Parties to SPAW, have seen the value in supporting the programme and its activities.
7. Mr. Andrade Colmenares also expressed its gratitude to the staff of the SPAW-RAC for their dedication and technical inputs, and the Government of France for its valuable financial contribution, to the SPAW Sub-programme and the consequently to the goals of the Cartagena Convention and its SPAW Protocol.
8. In closing he acknowledged the constructive participation of the many partners of SPAW, from the academic, non-governmental and private sectors, which have made possible the implementation of a dynamic and responsive programme for the conservation of fauna, flora and the biodiversity of the Wider Caribbean.
9. Ms. Alder addressed the Meeting, conveying the focus being accorded by UNEP on the development of an Ecosystem-based Approach to the conservation and sustainability of coastal and marine areas, including spatial planning processes, as a new tendency in various parts of the globe. She emphasized the role that CEP has in sharing lessons learned in the implementation of the SPAW Protocol with the other 17 Regional Seas Programmes, many of which also count with such similar Protocols for the protection of wildlife and specially protected areas. Another innovative role being played by the Wider Caribbean Region is the lessons learned being shared under the LifeWeb Project: "Broad-scale Marine Spatial Planning of Marine Mammal Corridors and Protected Areas in Wider Caribbean and Southeast & Northeast Pacific".
10. On behalf of the Government of the Dominican Republic, Vice-Minister Santana welcomed participants, expressing his Government's appreciation for the selection of Punta Cana as the venue for such relevant intergovernmental Meetings for the Wider Caribbean marine and coastal environments, as one the megadiverse areas of the world. He noted that the Dominican Republic has developed a Strategy for Biodiversity Use encompassing a legal and institutional framework and has strived to consolidate its system of protected areas, which cover, to date, 25% of its national territory, including marine protected areas. The goal is to restore and maintain vital biodiversity and ecosystem services which are crucial to human and social development.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

2.1. Rules of Procedure

11. The Meeting agreed to apply *mutatis mutandis* the Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention), as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/4/Rev.2.

2.2. Election of Officers

12. The Meeting elected from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties to SPAW, the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, and the Rapporteur for the conduct of the Meeting:

Chairperson:	Vice-Minister Daneris Santana (Dominican Republic)
Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. Anthony Jeremiah (Grenada)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Maurice Isaacs (Bahamas)

2.3. Organization of Work

13. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting and simultaneous interpretation in these languages was provided. The working documents of the Meeting were also available in all the working languages. The Provisional List of Documents of the Meeting was presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.1, and as Annex II to this report. The Meeting was convened in plenary session.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

14. The Meeting was invited to review and adopt the Agenda of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/1) as prepared by the Secretariat based on inputs received from the Contracting Parties during preparations for the Meeting, on relevant recommendations and decisions from previous STAC and COP Meetings of the SPAW Protocol, as well as on emerging issues of relevance to the biodiversity of the Wider Caribbean. The Agenda as approved by the Meeting, is contained in Annex I.

AGENDA ITEM 4: STATUS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE SPAW SUBPROGRAMME FOR 2010-2012, INCLUDING ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPAW (SPAW RAC) IN GUADELOUPE

15. The Chairperson invited Ms. Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury of the Secretariat to present the “Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2010-2012” (UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.34/INF.3), drawing attention to its three (3) Annexes:
 - Annex I: Status of Budget for the SPAW Programme for 2010-2012;
 - Annex II: Summary of Funds Provided by the French Government through SPAW-RAC for the Implementation of SPAW Activities; and
 - Annex III: Status of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol).

16. In her presentation, Ms. Vanzella-Khouri, Programme Officer for SPAW, recalled that the Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Programme for 2010-2012 was approved by the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP6) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (5 October 2010, Montego Bay, Jamaica) and the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 6-9 October 2010).
17. She reiterated that during the period 2010-2012, activities focused on assisting countries with the management of marine protected areas (MPAs) and a number of protected species, as well as coordinating with other environmental agreements and programmes dealing with biodiversity issues of particular relevance to the SPAW Protocol such as CBD, Ramsar, WHMSI, IAC and ICRI.
18. The day-to-day coordination for implementation of the programme activities continued to be overseen by the SPAW Programme Officer, who is responsible for the overall coordination of the SPAW Programme, with support from the SPAW Programme Assistant and the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. Specific activities for the 2010-2012 Workplan fell under five major programme elements (sub-programmes):
 - (a) Programme Coordination;
 - (b) Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (including training and capacity building for marine protected areas management);
 - (c) Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management;
 - (d) Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species; and
 - (e) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (including ICRI and invasive alien species activities).
19. During the presentation the Secretariat also briefly referred to the following on major areas of work:
 - Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe: RAC Operations and Budget for the period 2010-2012 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.4);
 - Update on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its Major Activities (*includes supplement on the Caribbean Challenge Project*) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.5);
 - Report on the Implementation of Activities in Support of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.6), including the Regional Workshop on Marine Mammal Watching in the Wider Caribbean Region, Panama City, Panama, 19-22 October 2011 and the LifeWeb project;
 - The GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Reef Biodiversity and Reef Fisheries Pilot Project: An Update of its Major Achievements (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.7); and
 - Status of Development of the Regional Strategy for the Control of the Lionfish Invasion in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.8).
20. The Meeting was informed that since the SPAW COP6, with the accession of Grenada and The Bahamas in 2012 there are, to date, sixteen Governments that are Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol (The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Grenada, Guyana, The Netherlands, Panama, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Venezuela).

21. In keeping with the objectives of developing synergies, promoting the Protocol and optimizing resources, the following activities were implemented during the biennium:
- Collaboration with UNEP's Division of Environmental Policy Implementation's (DEPI) Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Branch for the implementation of the LifeWeb project "Protecting Habitats and Migration Corridors for Marine Mammals in the South and Northeast Pacific and the Wider Caribbean through Marine Protected Area Networks", began 17 January 2011 (USD\$285,000);
 - Agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) for the development of overarching principles and best practice guidelines for marine mammal watching in the Wider Caribbean Region and a marine mammal database, signed 1 November 2010 (USD\$78,515);
 - Project Cooperation Agreement with the Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Archipelago of San Andres, Old Providence and Santa Catalina (CORALINA) for the implementation of activities at the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve, Colombia pilot site under the Management and Conservation of Reef Biodiversity and Reef Fisheries Pilot Project under the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project, signed 11 March 2011 (grant for USD\$260,000 provided to CORALINA);
 - Project Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MMARN) for the implementation of activities at the Montecristi National Park, Dominican Republic pilot site under the Management and Conservation of Reef Biodiversity and Reef Fisheries Pilot Project under the GEF CLME Project, signed 20 April 2011 (grant for USD\$200,000 provided to MMARN);
 - Project Cooperation Agreement with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for the implementation of activities at the Pedro Bank, Jamaica pilot site under the Management and Conservation of Reef Biodiversity and Reef Fisheries Pilot Project under the GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME), signed 3 May 2011 (grant for USD\$336,850 provided to TNC/Government of Jamaica); and
 - Project Cooperation Agreement with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute for the implementation of CAMPAM activities under the Caribbean Challenge Initiative project, signed 19 October 2011 (grant for USD\$273,000 provided to GCFI).
22. Ms. Vanzella-Khoury, informed the Meeting about activities undertaken to strengthen marine protected areas in the Region through CaMPAM (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.5). These were primarily implemented under the project "Regional Support for the Caribbean Challenge Initiative: Networking, consolidation and regional coordination of MPA Management". The project, funded by the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, supports the overarching Caribbean Challenge, which aims to protect 20% of marine and coastal habitats in 8 Caribbean countries (The Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis) by 2020.
23. In December 2011 the SPAW Secretariat invited Governments to present their protected areas for listing under the SPAW Protocol, as a result an additional nine protected areas were proposed and reviewed based on the guidelines for the evaluation of protected areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol (see Agenda Item 5). The Report of the Working Group on the Evaluation of Protected Areas Proposed for Listing under the SPAW Protocol is contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/3.

24. Under the guidance of the SPAW-RAC, the Working Group to Develop the Criteria and Process to Assess Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol was established and the draft guidance document was produced for review by the STAC5 and recommendations for approval at SPAW COP7 (see Report of the Working Group -UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/5) (see Agenda Item 7).
25. The Working Group on the Application of Criteria for Listing Species under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol was reactivated, with Mr. Paul Hoetjes, from the Netherlands, as the Chair. The draft list of species proposed for protection under the SPAW Protocol was presented for review and recommendations for approval at SPAW COP7. This includes information provided in collaboration with the IUCN and Birdlife International. (see Report of the Working Group - UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/4) (see Agenda Item 6)
26. The Secretariat invited Ms. Hélène Souan, Director of SPAW-RAC, located in Guadeloupe, FWI and supported by the Government of France, to present an update on the additional support received from the SPAW-RAC to meet the objectives of this sub-programme.
27. In her presentation she reiterated that since early 2009, the SPAW-RAC has been hosted by the National Park of Guadeloupe. Its staff consists of a Director, three Project Coordinators, and an Assistant, as of 2011, fully supported by the Government of France currently to the order of USD 500,000 per year.
28. Ms. Souan highlighted that the RAC supported the Secretariat with various activities, especially the coordination of actions mandated by COP6: the implementation of the listing of protected areas under SPAW; the implementation of priorities within the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region (MAMP) including participation in the Lifeweb project; coordination of the Working Group to design criteria and a procedure to assess exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol; support to the Working Group on the application of criteria for listing species under the Annexes to the Protocol; the listing process of PAs under the SPAW; participation in and support to activities implemented under CaMPAM, including those carried under the Caribbean Challenge Initiative; as well as the review and translation of a number of documents. A website is maintained in three languages (English, French and Spanish) and a trimestral newsletter issued, with seven issues to date (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.4).
29. She finally summarized additional activities developed by the RAC upon request and funding from the Government of France, and that are complimentary to the objectives and actions of the SPAW Workplan.
30. The Chairperson thanked the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC for their comprehensive and informative presentations and invited the Meeting to provide any comments on the activities implemented and to make the necessary recommendations.
31. The delegate of the Netherlands complimented the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC for the impressive work reported for the biennium and applauded the progress made in the implementation of the MAMP. He draw attention of the Meeting to the cooperation being developed in the Region among the Netherlands, the Dominican Republic, France and the United States of America, towards coordination of marine mammal research, surveys and management in light of the protected areas, known as Marine Mammal Sanctuaries, established or planned under their national jurisdictions. He further informed the Meeting about the Action Plan resulting from the Dutch Caribbean Marine Mammal Sanctuaries Cooperation Workshop held in St. Maarten (Philipsburg, 4-5 June 2012,

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.12), as an example of transboundary cooperation for the conservation of marine mammal populations in the Region.

32. The delegate from the United States of America thanked the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC for their presentations and noted that his delegation was pleased with the advancements made in the biennium 2010-2012 towards more on the ground implementation of the SPAW Sub-programme. He further expressed support to the on-going work on marine spatial planning for marine mammal transboundary management under the LifeWeb Project in the Wider Caribbean and South and Northeast Pacific Regions, and stated that he would like to be considered SPAW Focal Point as far as the Wider Caribbean aspects of this work were concerned.
33. The delegate of the Dominican Republic expressed the importance that capacity building for the sound management of marine protected areas has for the Wider Caribbean Region and for the Dominican Republic, reiterating that this is key work of the Secretariat and the SPAW Sub-Programme and wishes that it is strengthened in the coming years.
34. The Secretariat responded that there is no limitations in the scope of this work which responds to the SPAW objectives and approved workplan by the SPAW Parties, being only limited by the availability of financial resources to accomplish approved and planned activities at the regional level.
35. The Coordinator of CaMPAM, Dr. Georgina Bustamante, complemented prior interventions stating that the work of the Secretariat through CaMPAM has benefited the Dominican Republic in several ways, highlighting that two (2) regional MPA Training of Trainers courses (2010 and 2010) were held in that country under CaMPAM. This was followed-up by a local training courses delivered in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and the local chapter of Reef Check, as well as small grants provided to strengthen MPAs and governance of management of coastal and marine resources in the Dominican Republic.
36. The delegate from Panama highlighted that it has also benefited from support from CaMPAM, benefiting not only the Caribbean but the Pacific coast of Panama as well.
37. The delegate of the United States of America informed the Meeting that NOAA-US has a capacity building programme on marine protected areas and that they stand ready to cooperate with different countries if so invited to do .

AGENDA ITEM 5: PROTECTED AREAS PROPOSED BY PARTIES FOR LISTING UNDER THE SPAW PROTOCOL

38. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat and Ms. Hélène Souan, Director, SPAW-RAC, as coordinator of the Working Group to report on the protected areas presented by Parties for inclusion under the SPAW Protocol list, as contained in the document "Report of the Working Group on the Evaluation of Protected Areas Proposed for Listing Under the SPAW Protocol" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/3). This report reflects the work undertaken by the Group following the SPAW COP6 (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 5 October 2010).
39. In her report Ms Souan outlined the process for listing Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol, indicating that it has proceeded by the respective Working Group established with this purpose

and that this work has enabled the nomination of the first 18 Protected Areas by Parties to be listed under the Protocol as follows:

- **Belize:** Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Glover's Reef Marine Reserve;
- **Colombia:** Sanctuary Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta and the Regional Seaflower Marine Protected Area in San Andrés and Providencia Archipelago;
- **Cuba:** National Park of Guanahacabibes, in Pinar del Río;
- **France:** Grand Connétable Island Nature Reserve (French Guiana), the National Park of Guadeloupe, the Réserve Naturelle Nationale of Saint-Martin, the Lagoon Ponds of St. Martin, the National Reserve of "Petite-Terre" (Guadeloupe), and the Agoa Sanctuary ;
- **The Caribbean Netherlands:** Bonaire National Marine Park, the National Park the Quill and Boven on St. Eustatius and the Saba Marine Park; and
- **United States of America:** Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, the Dry Tortugas National Park (www.nps.gov/drto), the Everglades National Park in Florida, and the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (www.flowergarden.noaa.gov) in Texas (Gulf of Mexico).

40. She further reported that nine (9) out of the eighteen (18) Protected Areas had been already approved for listing under the Protocol by SPAW COP 6, pending a positive assessment by the STAC, whereas the other 9 Protected Areas were presented for the first time in 2012;
41. The Meeting was invited to review the report and to endorse its recommendations for approval by the SPAW COP7 (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 23 October 2012).
42. The delegate of Colombia expressed its appreciation for the work being carried out by the Secretariat to advance sound conservation of protected areas in the Region and to achieve the objectives of the SPAW Protocol, recommending that the 18 proposed protected areas for listing be endorsed and submitted for approval by the SPAW COP7.
43. The Governments of Cuba and of the United States of America endorsed the recommendation of the Government of Colombia, with the USA stating that it would be important to recognize the connectivity between human and cultural dimensions of such protected areas, as well as their biological connectivity as exemplified well in the case of marine mammals.
44. The delegate of France congratulated countries for their efforts in proposing their respective protected areas for listing under the SPAW Protocol and urged other Parties to do the same.
45. The delegate of the Netherlands supported the approval of the protected areas proposed, highlighting that this is a great beginning for the SPAW Protocol as it will strengthen connectivity among such protected areas, strongly supporting further listings of protected areas in the future under the SPAW Protocol.
46. The delegate of Costa Rica, invited to participate in the Meeting as Observer, indicated that her Government has initiated the process for ratification of the SPAW Protocol and suggested that a map would be useful to illustrate the location and connectivity among the protected areas in the Region being proposed for listing under the SPAW Protocol. The map of the 18 Protected Areas and the presentation reports for each of them are available on the SPAW-RAC's Website. (see <http://car-spaw-rac.org/?Presentation-of-the-18-PAs-listed,412>)

AGENDA ITEM 6: SPECIES PROPOSED BY THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP FOR LISTING UNDER THE ANNEXES OF THE SPAW PROTOCOL

47. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat and the Coordinator of the Ad Hoc Working Group, Mr. Paul Hoetjes to present the list of species proposed for listing under the SPAW Protocol as contained in the document “Report of the Working Group on the Application of Criteria for Listing Species Under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol (includes species proposed for listing into the Annexes)” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/4). This report reflects the work undertaken by the Group since its re-establishment following the SPAW COP6 (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 5 October 2010).
48. In his presentation he outlined the process undertaken by the Ad Hoc Working Group for assessing the 100 species proposed for listing, highlighting that for endemic species, special consideration be given for cooperative efforts among Member States, as well as to identifying species that are not yet assessed or that could benefit from such cooperative efforts.
49. He stated that species were assessed as per IUCN’s Red List criteria, suggesting that IUCN be requested to prioritize plants in the Wider Caribbean Region.
50. The Chairperson, invited the Meeting to review the report, and to provide recommendations on further actions to be considered by SPAW COP7 (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 23 October 2012).
51. The delegate of Colombia informed the Meeting that her Government will be a co-proponent of a proposal for inclusion in the Appendix II of the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) of the scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*), the Great hammerhead shark (*S. mokarran*) and the smooth hammerhead shark (*S. zygaena*), as well as will lead the proposal for inclusion of the Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) in this Appendix.
52. The delegate of Cuba recommended that the mandate of the existing Working Group be extended to further complete its work with the goal of increasing the number of representatives from SPAW Parties with their active participation and reengaging a nomination process. She also noted that the report submitted by the Government of Cuba, which given time limitations, could not be previously considered, be taken into account in the future work by the Working Group. She further recommended that face-to-face Meetings be encouraged with participation of all Parties and that Cuba would be willing to host such a Meeting. She also mentioned that each Member State should be responsible for the management of its own exclusive endemic species, as opposed to regionally.
53. The delegate of France stated that its Government is in the process of internal consultation regarding the species proposed by the Working Group and no position has been taken yet in this regard.
54. The delegate of the United States of America commended the work carried out by the Working Group, recommending that Annexes be developed as a stand-alone format, so as to allow for changes by Member States and not be made in block. He also expressed caution that, given the financial limitations of CEP, the budget and time required to undertake further work may not be readily available. The US delegate noted with concern that in their opinion proposing species was outside the mandate of the Working Group.

55. The delegate of Panama supported the recommendation of the Government of Cuba suggesting that the Working Group be extended so that its work may be completed seeing that not all Parties may be ready to adopt a final list of species.
56. The delegate of the Dominican Republic also voiced the same sentiments as that of the Government of Panama, and further stated that not all Parties can readily fund the work required nationally to complete such process of review .
57. The observer from the IUCN, draw attention of the Meeting to the available information in the recently completed report “The Nassau Grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*)”: The urgent Case for Regional CC onservatyion and Management”, as summarized in Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.13, being an important species for the Region given its status as the most threatened commercial reef fish and a predator of the invasive lionfish. Further she offered, on behalf of the IUCN Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group, to provide additional information and assist in future assessment of the species.
58. In reacting to the interventions made, Mr. Hoetjes indeed agreed that a new process for nomination of representatives from Member States to the Working Group would be valuable as well as considering the report provided by Cuba which could not be done previously due to time constraints. He further expressed the view that additional costs may not necessarily be needed to further the work of the Working Group as much could be accomplished through enhancement of cooperation, coordination and drawing from expertise from partners of CEP and from Member States.
59. On behalf of the Government of the Netherlands he also stated that his Government would be willing to consider the possibility of supporting a Meeting of the Working Group as per the recommendation made by the Government of Cuba.

AGENDA ITEM 7: GUIDELINES FOR EXEMPTIONS UNDER ARTICLE 11(2) OF THE SPAW PROTOCOL PROPOSED BY THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP

60. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat and Ms. Hélène Souan, Director, SPAW-RAC, as coordinator of the Working Group to present the document “Report of the Working Group to Develop the Criteria and Process to Assess Exemptions Under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/5). This report reflects the work undertaken by the Group since its establishment following the SPAW COP6 (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 5 October 2010) and includes the “Guidance Document” to assess exemptions.
61. Ms. Souan drew attention to the process developed for the elaboration of the guidance document. She also proposed that consideration be given by Member States in extending the mandate of the Working Group to the biennium 2013-2014 in order to finalize completion of the reporting formats.
62. The Chairperson invited the Meeting to review the report and Guidance Document, and to provide recommendations on further actions to be considered by SPAW COP7 (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 23 October 2012).
63. The delegate of France voiced its support to the adoption of the Guidance Document which was followed by a similar endorsement by the Government of the Netherlands, which having participated in the work of the Working Group, asked that it be submitted to SPAW COP7 for

approval. Other delegations expressed their support to the work carried out by the Working Group, but requested additional time to conduct internal reviews of the Guidance Document before its adoption.

AGENDA ITEM 8: WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE SPAW SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE 2013-2014 BIENNIUM

64. The Chairperson invited Ms. Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury, SPAW Programme Officer from the Secretariat to present the “Draft Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Subprogramme for the 2013-2014 Biennium” (contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/6), prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the recommendations of the previous STAC and COP Meetings, as well as on the outcome of activities of the 2010-2012 Workplan for SPAW.
65. In her presentation, Ms. Vanzella-Khoury recalled the objectives of the SPAW Sub-programme, including its Coordination component and each Sub-programme element of SPAW. She highlighted emerging areas of work with UNEP Regional Seas, such as the proposed Ecosystem-based Approach (EBA) and Ecosystem-based management pilot project on Climate Change adaptation, the Coral Reef Partnership with other Regional Seas Programmes, and the reactivation of linkages with the tourism private sector (e.g. cruise ship industry) in close cooperation with SPAW-RAC.
66. The main coordination will continue to be provided by the Programme Officer along with an Assistant with support from the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. The Secretariat will also continue to seek support through cost-effective means such as the use of interns. The Programme elements will remain the same as the previous biennium; however prioritization of the elements will need to be undertaken based on emerging needs and the human and financial resources available. In particular, in light of the forecasted limited resources and funding for the upcoming biennium. She also indicated that the SPAW Programme will continue to promote the activities relevant to the development of guidelines for protected areas and species and continue to promote protected areas for listing under the SPAW Protocol to complement the eighteen (18) being recommended for approval to the SPAW COP7, as well as the supporting cooperation programme for the listed areas.
67. The Programme Officer further stated that the Working Group established for the development of the Guidance Document on exemptions to Article 11(2) of the Protocol was expected to continue its work in order to finalize a draft reporting formats for subsequent consideration by the Parties. She highlighted that the process of review of species to be listed under the SPAW Protocol is also planned to continue utilising the Working Group and the IUCN Caribbean Red List.
68. She noted that species conservation will focus primarily on the MMAP priorities (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.34/INF.6), and lauded the successful convening of the Interregional Marine Spatial Planning and Marine Mammal Workshop, Panama, 21-24 May 2012 for which follow-up actions are expected during 2013.
69. The Chairperson invited the Meeting to review the draft Workplan and provide relevant recommendations to assist with its finalisation prior to being adopted by the Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to SPAW and the Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean

Region, in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 23 October 2012 and 25-27 October 2012, respectively.

70. The delegate of Colombia reiterated to the Meeting the commitment of her Government to the establishment of marine protected areas and the conservation of fauna such as sharks, sea turtles, marine mammals and other migratory species. She also advised of the newly established Department of Marine and Aquatic Resources within the Ministry of Environment of Colombia, in line with the objectives of SPAW.
71. The delegate of the United States of America emphasized his Government position on a zero budget growth and urged the Secretariat to maintain the same levels of budget of the previous biennium. He indicated that the US Government has every interest in supporting sound management of marine protected areas, highlighting the importance of CaMPAM, as well as the conservation of marine mammals, particularly the beneficial concept of sister sanctuaries for marine mammals, and it is willing to assist the Secretariat, including in joint work with the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to the extent possible.
72. On behalf of the government of France, Dr John Reynolds gave a brief presentation on the progress made with the project of reintroducing West Indies manatees (*Trichechus manatus*) in Guadeloupe, FWI as contained in the document "Report from the Government of France on the manatee reintroduction project in Guadeloupe, French West Indies" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.11). In his presentation he made an overview of the progress achieved since 2010, including the establishment of an international expert group to provide guidance to the project, local stakeholders involvement and awareness programmes in Guadeloupe, contacts with Caribbean countries in view of obtaining animals, a preliminary assessment of the feasibility of using manatees from French Guiana, and communications in a number of conferences and events. He pointed out that, further to the recommendations of the expert group, the government of France is giving priority to reintroducing animals from captivity. He also provided answers to the main questions that had been raised on the project during SPAW COP 6. He concluded his presentation by pointing out that, considering that significant progress has been made since 2010 to address most of questions and concerns and that this project has the potential to affect conservation of all species of manatees globally, as reintroduction of animals into well-protected locations with suitable habitat might become a standard tool for conservation. The government of France thus wishes that the project move forward to its operational stage, while always paying due attention to maintaining research and protecting the individual animals involved in the project.

AGENDA ITEM 9: OTHER BUSINESS

73. The Chairperson invited participants to raise any other issues not covered by the preceding agenda items, but which were relevant to the scope of the Meeting. No other issues were raised.

AGENDA ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

74. The Rapporteur presented the draft recommendations of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/7). The Meeting was invited to adopt the recommendations, with amendments and corrections introduced as appropriate based on comments by the Governments of Colombia, the Netherlands and the United States of America.

75. The recommendations were approved with the comments provided (*see Annex III of this Report*) and made available to the SPAW COP7 (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 23 October 2012) for final adoption.

AGENDA ITEM 11: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

76. The one-day SPAW STAC5 Meeting was closed on Monday, 22 October 2012 at 6:00 p.m., by the Chairperson of the Meeting and the Secretariat.
77. In his remarks, the Chairperson, Vice-Minister Santana, expressed its appreciation for his election to chair the Meeting, and for the quality of documents prepared by the Secretariat, as well as for the productive deliberations in support of the SPAW Protocol.
78. On behalf of the Secretariat and UNEP, the Coordinator, Mr. Andrade Colmenares, thanked the Chairperson and the Rapporteur for their dedication and efforts during the Meeting. He equally thanked the valuable contribution of Member Governments, partners and observers. In closing, Mr. Andrade Colmenares expressed his gratitude to the personnel servicing the Meeting from the Dominican Republic, as the host Government.

ANNEX I PROVISIONAL AGENDA

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organisation of the Meeting
 - 2.1. Rules of Procedure
 - 2.2. Election of Officers
 - 2.3. Organisation of Work
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2010-2012, including activities of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe
5. Protected Areas proposed by Parties for listing under the SPAW Protocol
6. Species proposed by the Ad Hoc Working Group for listing under the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol
7. Guidelines for Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol proposed by the Ad Hoc Working Group
8. Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Subprogramme for the 2013-2014 Biennium
9. Other Business
10. Adoption of the Recommendations of the Meeting
11. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX II LIST OF DOCUMENTS

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
<u>Working Documents</u>		
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/1	Provisional Agenda	1-3
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda	3
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/3	Report of the Working Group on the Evaluation of Protected Areas Proposed for Listing Under the SPAW Protocol	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/4	Report of the Working Group on the Application of Criteria for Listing Species Under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol <i>(includes species proposed for listing in the Annexes)</i>	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/5	Report of the Working Group to Develop the Criteria and Process to Assess Exemptions Under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol <i>(includes draft guidance document)</i>	7
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/6	Draft Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Subprogramme for the 2013-2014 Biennium	8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/7	Recommendations of the Fifth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 22 October 2012 <i>(to be prepared during the meeting)</i>	10
<u>Information Documents</u>		
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.1	Provisional List of Documents	1
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.2	Provisional List of Participants <i>(to be prepared during the meeting)</i>	1
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.3	Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2010-2012	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.4	Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe: RAC Operations and Budget for the period 2010-2012	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.5	Update on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its Major Activities <i>(includes supplement on the Caribbean Challenge Project)</i>	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.6	Report on the Implementation of Activities in Support of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP)	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.7	The GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Reef Biodiversity and Reef Fisheries Pilot Project: An Update of its Major Achievements	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.8	Status of Development of the Regional Strategy for the Control of the Lionfish Invasion in the Wider Caribbean Region	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.9	Report of the Regional Workshop on Marine Mammal Watching in the Wider Caribbean Region <i>(includes the Overarching</i>	4

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
	<i>Principles and Protection Guidelines for Marine Mammal Watching in the Wider Caribbean Region</i>), Panama City, Panama, 19-22 October 2011	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG. 34/INF.10	Annotated Format for Presentation Reports for the Areas Proposed for Inclusion in the SPAW List	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR.WG. 34/INF.11	Report from the Government of France on the Manatee Reintroduction Project in Guadeloupe, French West Indies	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.12	Report of the Meeting of the Caribbean Marine Mammal Sanctuaries Cooperation Workshop, Philipsburg, St. Maarten, 4-5 June 2012 (<i>English only</i>)	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.13	The Nassau Grouper (<i>Epinephelus Striatus</i>): The Urgent Case for Regional Conservation and Management (<i>English and Spanish</i>)	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.29/INF.5	Exemptions to the SPAW Protocol Under Article 11(2): A Legal Review	7
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/5	Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Montego Bay, Jamaica, 5 October 2010	4-8
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 September 2004	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.14	Directory of Members of the SPAW Protocol (English only)	
<u>Reference Documents</u>		
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.6	IUCN Caribbean Red List of Threatened Species – A Proposal	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/4	Report of the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 9-12 September 2008	4, 8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/4	Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2010-2011 Biennium	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.5	A Proposal for Bird Species to be Added to Annexes II and III of the SPAW Protocol (<i>English only</i>)	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.27/6	Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 8 September 2008	4-8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/6	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Gosier, Guadeloupe, 2-5 July 2008	4-8

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.26/4	Draft Grid for the Objective Evaluation of Proposals for Inclusion in the SPAW Protected Areas List	5
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/INF.3	Decisions of the SPAW COP2 and Recommendations of the First and Second Meetings of the STAC and Status of their Implementation (English and Spanish)	4, 7
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/4	Structure and Scope of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the SPAW Protocol	1-3
UNEP(OCA)/CAR IG.11/7	Draft Proposed Legal Framework for the Administrative Technical and Financial Operations of RACs and RANs	4
CEP Technical Report 48	Regional Management Plan for the West Indian Manatee (English and Spanish)	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/4 Rev.2	Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules for the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)	2.1
UNEP, 2008	Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region. United Nations Environment Programme – Caribbean Environment Programme, Kingston, Jamaica. 2008. (English and Spanish).	5-7
UNEP, 1991	Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption of the Annexes to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region	5-7
UNEP, 1990	Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Caribbean Region	5-7
UNEP, 2012	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities	5-7

ANNEX III RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

Having convened the Fifth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region;

The Meeting,

RECOMMENDATION I

Having reviewed the “Status of Activities of the SPA Subprogramme for 2010-2012” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.3) and commending the work undertaken by the Secretariat and the SPA-RAC;

Taking note and welcoming the “Update on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its Major Activities” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.5), and **gratefully acknowledging** the generous support of the Government of Italy in support of the MPAs of the region and the Caribbean Challenge Initiative;

Having reviewed the “Report of the SPA Regional Activity Centre (SPA-RAC) in Guadeloupe: RAC Operations and Budget for the period 2010-2012” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.4); and **gratefully acknowledging** the generous contribution of the Government of France for SPA activities through the SPA RAC;

Having reviewed the “Report on the Implementation of Activities in Support of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MAMAP)” (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.6);

Taking note of the Report of the Regional Workshop on Marine Mammal Watching in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG. 34/INF.9), which includes the Overarching Principles and Protection Guidelines for Marine Mammal Watching in the Wider Caribbean Region;

Further noting the Report from the Government of France on the Manatee Reintroduction Project in Guadeloupe, French West Indies (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.11);

Recognizing the contributions of the LifeWeb Government of Spain/UNEP Project “Broad-scale marine spatial planning of mammal corridors and protected areas in the Wider Caribbean and Northeast and Southeast Pacific” in generating new regional perspectives through mapping and modeling of data on cetaceans and the manatee, furthering the goals of the MAMAP in the Wider Caribbean region;

Having reviewed the “Draft Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Subprogramme for the 2013-2014 Biennium” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/6);

Further recognizing the developing, broad and growing work programme of the SPA Protocol, necessitates the setting of priorities and increased capacity of the Secretariat and the SPA-RAC;

Acknowledging the ambitious workplan of the Secretariat and the limited budget available; and

Welcoming the ratification of the SPA Protocol by the Governments of Grenada and The Bahamas;

Recommends that:

1. Governments of the region join the SPAW Protocol as Contracting Parties and **further recommends** that the Secretariat continue efforts to secure ratification with Governments which have initiated or are in the process of joining;
2. The Contracting Parties (COP7) provides further guidance to the Secretariat regarding the priority actions on the ground for the Workplan, as well as accessing increased resources for both activities and the Secretariat;
3. The Secretariat emphasizes:
 - (i) the activities of CaMPAM as proposed in the Draft Workplan supported by the United States of America's contribution of USD 120,000 for CaMPAM coordination and GCFI/CaMPAM Partnership.
 - (ii) the activities in support of the Marine Mammal Action Plan, including follow-up to the work and recommendations emanated from implementation of the LifeWeb Project
4. The Secretariat continue to collaborate and to identify synergies, to the extent possible with relevant partners and MEAs and strengthens collaboration with the International Whaling Commission (IWC) through the possible conclusion of an Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC).
5. The Secretariat amend the proposed Workplan in accordance with the editorial comments provided by the Meeting including scaling down activities and budget to the level of 2010-2011 and **further recommends** that the Workplan and Budget be presented to COP7 for approval.

RECOMMENDATION II

Having reviewed the "Report of the Working Group on the Evaluation of Protected Areas Proposed for Listing Under the SPAW Protocol" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/3) including the Parties reports on the protected areas proposed for listing;

Taking Note of the Annotated Format for Presentation Reports for the Areas Proposed for Inclusion in the SPAW List (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.10);

Recognizing the contribution from the SPAW-RAC and the experts participating in the working group;

Recommends that:

1. The SPAW-RAC continue to maintain and improve the dedicated database to house the national reports on the protected areas to be listed, as well as the web-based tool for Parties to prepare and submit the protected areas reports on-line;
2. The COP7 confirm the listing of the 9 Protected Areas approved by COP 6 and further approves the additional 9 protected areas submitted by Parties for listing on the basis of the review provided by the SPAW-RAC and the Working Group experts;
3. Parties which have not done so consider submitting protected areas to be listed under the Protocol;

4. The Secretariat work with Parties towards the development of the cooperation programme in support of the protected areas listed as per Article 7 and in keeping with the comments provided by the Meeting, with particular attention to maximizing connectivity among such areas from a biological, cultural and human perspectives, and **further recommends** that the Secretariat present to STAC6 and/or COP8 the elements of such a programme for review and further action; and
5. The Secretariat reflect the list of Protected Areas in a map, so as to assist with its visual connectivity within the region.

RECOMMENDATION III

Having reviewed the “Report of the Working Group on the Application of Criteria for Listing Species Under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol”, including its recommendations (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/4);

Taking note of the species reviewed by the Working Group as presented in Annex 2 of the Report;

Taking note of the announcement by the Government of Colombia that it will be a co-proponent of a proposal for inclusion in the Appendix II of the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) of the Scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*), the Great hammerhead shark (*S. mokarran*) and the Smooth hammerhead shark (*S. zygaena*), as well as will lead the proposal for inclusion of the Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) in this Appendix;

Recognizing the IUCN Caribbean Red List on-going efforts towards identifying threatened and endangered species in the region;

Recognizing the challenge in time and resources for thoroughly and scientifically assessing the most threatened and endangered species to be listed under the Annexes of the Protocol; and

Further recognizing the alarming population trends or threatened status of several species in the region and thus the urgent need to raise awareness and promote their protection;

Recommends that:

1. The mandate of the existing Working Group be extended during the upcoming biennium under the leadership of the SPAW RAC to further assess and shortlist the species preselected by the Meeting, provided that a further nomination process is started with the goal of increasing the number of representatives from SPAW Parties with their active participation in the Working Group;
2. The report submitted by the Government of Cuba as reflected in Annex 3 to Working Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/4 with recommendations for listing of species under the SPAW Annexes, which given time limitations, could not be previously considered, be taken into account in the future work by the Working Group.
3. Endemic species be considered for listing when conservation can benefit from cooperative efforts and if in agreement by the range country;

4. Available information in the recently completed report “ Status Update: the Nassau Grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*)”, as summarized in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.13, receives further investigation regarding conservation and fisheries status in the region **and further recommends** that the kind offer from the IUCN Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group for provision of additional information is considered;
5. The COP 7 will invite SPAW Parties to propose species for listing in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol, using as appropriate, the results contained in the Report of the Working Group or based on other relevant sources, taking into account the provisions of Article 11 (4) of the SPAW Protocol; and
6. The Secretariat explores with the Governments of Cuba and the Netherlands their kind offer to support the work of the Working Group, in particular the possibility of hosting a face-to-face meeting of the Working Group tentatively in Cuba.

RECOMMENDATION IV

Having reviewed the “Report of the Working Group to Develop the Criteria and Process to Assess Exemptions Under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/5);

Taking note of the draft guidance document contained in the Report of the Working Group, as well as the “Exemptions to the SPAW Protocol Under Article 11(2): A Legal Review” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.29/INF.5);

Recommends that:

1. Parties which so required, conduct internal legal consultations and provide comments on the Guidance document to the Secretariat within the next 60 days. If no comments are received within 60 days, the Secretariat will assume that Parties approved the document. Comments received then be incorporated by the Working Group and the revised Guidance document will subsequently be submitted electronically to all Parties for approval within the next 30 days.
2. The Working Group be extended to develop the formats for both requesting exemptions and for reporting on exemptions granted in keeping with the recommendations of the Working Group.

ANNEX IV LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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